

Strategy for Action to Implement the Environment Charter of the Turks & Caicos Islands

Extracted from:

Facilitating the development by an example UK Overseas Territory (Turks & Caicos Islands) of a strategy for action to implement the Environment Charter undertakings



A joint project of the Turks & Caicos Government and the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, with funding from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office

GUIDELINES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGY FOR ACTION TO IMPLEMENT AN ENVIRONMENT CHARTER

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

From late 2002 until late 2003, the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum worked with stakeholders in the Turks and Caicos Islands to facilitate the development of a Strategy for Action to implement the Environment Charter agreed between the UK and TCI Governments. The first commitment by UKOT Governments under these charters signed in late 2001 is to produce such strategies for action. The TCI exercise was intended also as a model to investigate ways of developing the strategy, so that this experience would be available to other UKOTs.

In December 2003, the Executive Council of the Turks and Caicos Islands adopted this strategy to guide future actions. The full Guidelines are available at www.ukotcf.org. That document is a summary of the procedures used (and some considered but not used), with comments as to their potential applicability more widely.

The present document extracts the substantive output of that exercise, the Strategy for Action to implement the Environment Charter of the Turks and Caicos Islands. This is given as an introduction and the three, progressively more detailed, versions that were submitted to Executive Council:

Background and description of process

An executive summary of the Initial Priorities for Action

A fuller description of the Initial Priority Projects from the Strategy

The full Strategy for Action to implement TCIG's commitments under the Environment Charter

Background and description of process

I Purpose

On 26 Sept 2001, the UKOTs and HMG signed Environmental Charters which include statements of principles and undertakings by both parties in respect of integrating environmental conservation into all sectors of policy planning and implementation. TCIG's first commitment under the Charter was to formulate a detailed strategy for action to implement the Charter. Over the last year, senior government officials, along with representatives of NGOs and the private sector, have been meeting to develop such a strategy. This paper proposes that ExCo adopt this Strategy for Action as governmental policy, thereby fulfilling TCIG's first Commitment under the Environment Charter.

II Background

As noted above, all Overseas Territories signed Environmental Charters in September 2001. A year later, informal feedback from the Territories both to the FCO and the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum indicated that for almost all the UKOTs, the first need was for facilitation in developing these strategies for action. Following discussions between the Forum and the FCO, it was agreed that the Forum would carry out a facilitation exercise for a first example UKOT, to serve as a model to others.

Consultations facilitated in 2002 by H.E. the Governor of Turks & Caicos Islands and the Hon. Minister for Natural Resources resulted in approval by the Executive Council of TCI that the TCI should be the pilot, and confirmed the facilitators as Dr Mike Pienkowski and Mrs Dace Ground of UKOTCF (who have wide experience of working in both official and NGO situations), working with a local Working Group, chaired by Michelle Fulford-Gardiner, Deputy Director DECR.

IIA Description of process to date

The facilitation exercise comprised a series of activities covering 2-3 week periods in TCI, between which the facilitators analysed the results of consultations and discussions, clarified points as necessary with TCI colleagues, and prepared for the next round of consultations.

In October/November 2002, the emphasis of work was on (a) analysis of the Environmental Charter documents to produce a structure for planning; (b) undertaking interviews with stakeholders in order to identify current activities which contribute to Environmental Charter commitments and any perceived gaps; (c) a workshop of key stakeholders to verify the approach, check and further collate the information on current relevant activities, and start formally to identify gaps, both substantive and of information.

During January/February 2003, the emphasis was on (a) filling the major information gaps identified in the first round, particularly undertaking major work on legislative aspects and multilateral environmental agreements, (b) using a workshop-centred approach to develop headline action points from a matrix developed in the previous round, and (c) presenting the approach to Executive Council and agreeing the proposed timetable of the stages involving ExCo.

During the April/May 2003 period, a workshop open to wider participation was held on 29th April at the National Environment Centre in Providenciales. The main purpose was to take the initial strategy for action produced as a result of the previous workshops, and begin to assign priorities within this, resulting in the attached document "Strategy for Action: Initial Priority Projects".

It had originally been intended that during the August 2003 visit, the Working Group would report to ExCo on the Strategy. However, the timing of by-elections made that infeasible, so facilitators worked on evolving the documents, detailing the elements of each priority project and meeting with local officials to bring the project forward. In October, working with the Core Committee of the Working Group, the facilitators integrated the

publicly articulated policies of the new Government into the Strategy, so that it now reflects the priorities of this Government.

Also in October, a delegation from HMG met with the Working Group to discuss the new funding programme, the Overseas Territories Environment Programme, which will fund projects to implement the Charter in each UKOT, and the Working Group identified the top priority projects for which we should be seeking funding through the OTEP.

IIB How the documents relate to each other:

The full *Strategy for Action*, the *Initial Priority Projects* and the *Executive Summary* are essentially “nested” documents. The *Strategy* was the first document created, and it lays out all the projects and activities which have been identified as needed for full implementation of the Charter. The next step was to set priorities amongst these projects; these are shown in the *Strategy* in green, and the *Initial Priority Projects* is simply a compilation of those projects, with the non-priority projects dropped out. The *Executive Summary* summarises the priority projects to give an easy overview of all the elements of implementation being recommended as priorities; as one reads through the *Summary*, if more information on any element is wanted, one simply refers to the same reference number in *Initial Priority Projects*.

III Matter to be decided

Executive Council is requested to indicate its general support for the Strategy subject to any comments that it wishes to make, and to adopt it as Government’s policy on the environment. This would not, of course, constitute approval for any specific action. Those actions within the Strategy which require Executive Council decisions would, in due course, become the subjects of individual papers put to Executive Council by the relevant Ministries for detailed consideration. At this point we are seeking the approval of this Strategy, with any direction ExCo wishes to make for amendments to it, so that the document can amended accordingly and then be made public for wider discussion.

Turks and Caicos Environment Charter Project

Strategy for Action v 1.3: Initial Priority Projects

Executive Summary

Environment Charter Commitment 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.

2 I Protect, manage, improve and extend the Protected Areas System created under the National Parks Ordinance

2.b.1 **Lodge the boundaries** of existing Protected Areas in the Governmental GIS system, Planning and Land Registry.

2.b.2 To ensure that there is no further erosion of the PAS through inappropriate development, use the National Trust Ordinance to **put the Protected Areas System into inalienable conservation ownership**, in trust for the future of the country.

2.b.3 Complete development of a **Protected Areas Policy** with agreement at highest level.

2.b.4 Continue **revitalising our National Parks system** and extend management throughout all Protected Areas. Set aside additional areas for **the creation of more Protected Areas**. Review the needs for amendments to the boundaries and/or the categorisation of existing Protected Areas, and the need for additional Protected Areas

2.c.1-3 **Management plans:** Develop and implement a five-year rolling strategic plan for the management of the Protected Areas System, including the setting of priorities for parts of PAS most urgently in need of management plans. Develop management plans for every site in the PAS in priority order and finalise, adopt and periodically update existing management plans

2.a.4. Review and amend **National Parks Ordinance** to bring it up to date in light of experience and new information.

2.c.11 **Ensure proper management of the Conservation Fund**, including ensuring that the management authority for the Fund is representative of both governmental and non-governmental stakeholders and has transparent procedures.

2 II Protect and where necessary, restore key habitat such as coastal areas, wetlands, the Salinas and woodlands

2.c.6 **Ensure the proper protection of our coastal resources.** Develop and implement Coastal Zone Management Policy to deal with coastal works, flooding and disaster management and wise allocation of our valuable and very limited supply of coastal land.

2.c.7 **Protect vital wetlands:** Make wetlands a specific focus of protected areas protection, including zoning for sustainable wise use, proper management and wardening.

2.c.8 **Protect, manage and restore Salinas in all three of the Salt Islands.**

2.c.9 Identify **degraded areas in all islands which will benefit from reforestation or other restoration**, determine the optimal restoration approach for each, ensuring that only native plants are used, and carry out restoration works.

2.c.12 Develop and implement an **Agriculture Policy**, and establish and staff an Agriculture Department, ensuring that environmental considerations are fully integrated into both policy and

practice. Develop means of assistance to local farmers and **increase the amount of home-grown produce in supermarkets and the hospitality sector.**

2 III Protect Important Species

2.c.4 and 2.a.6/7 Develop **fisheries policy** to develop the fisheries sector of the economy while ensuring protection of the target and non-target species on which both the fishing and tourism industries are based. Review and amend Fisheries Protection Ordinance to update protection of sea turtles and other key species.

2.a.8 Develop and adopt a **new Wildlife Protection Ordinance** to protect important fauna such as iguanas, other endemic reptiles, rare butterflies etc.

2.c.14 Implement the **TCI Rock Iguana Conservation** and Management Plan. Ensure that ongoing species-specific conservation programmes are carried out and that logical successor projects follow on for turtles, whales, whistling ducks and other priority species.

2.a.9 Amend the **Plant Protection Ordinance** to protect important native plant species such as the Turks Head cactus, and deal with invasive species.

2.d.1 To control invasive species and for other environmental health reasons, carry out a major project to implement **port environmental security.**

2.c.16 Ensure the **proper control of mosquitoes** and other disease-carrying insects and animals using programmes which avoid adverse impacts on other species.

Environment Charter Commitment 3 Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes; promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the territory.

3 I Carry out planning processes which integrate environmental, social and economic needs

3.a.1-3 Establish **development policies which take into account poverty, unemployment and inequality**, in order to create real economic development by developing better ways to measure quality of life, and building on previous work such as the Standard of Living Assessment.

Prepare a Ten-Year Comprehensive Development Plan. Elements of the Plan identified through the Environment Charter process include:

3.a.4. The development of **growth scenarios** which plainly illustrate the impacts of different levels and rates of development on such future factors as the composition of the population of the TCI, the relative economic power of Belongers versus incomers, and other quality of life factors.

3.a.5 The Sustainable Development Planning Initiative, which is to be the new National Development Plan.

3.a.6. a **National Strategic Development Policy** with clear criteria against which to assess proposals and guidelines to aid Ministerial decisions.

3.a.7 A **Crown lands policy for our most non-renewable resource**, based on an accurate assessment of the Crown lands which remain available for potential alienation without jeopardising those Crown lands which are identified to support other aspects of the future development of the country.

Review existing land policies to develop a framework for allocation of Crown lands both to Belongers and inward investors in a sustainable manner.

- o Ensure proper planning of new settlements.
- o Change regulations and policies to allow more efficient use of land for residential use
- o Adopt a policy of long-leases rather than outright sale of Crown lands.

3.a.8. A **population policy** based on carrying-capacity analysis and the spread of required skills between Belongers and incomers.

3.a.9. A **re-evaluation of the tourism industry**, placing greater emphasis on the socio-economic and environmental effects of tourism on our country.

3.a.10. A **biodiversity country study**, building on the Habitat Mapping project (7.1), the Biodiversity Management Project for Middle and North Caicos, DECR marine studies, UK Conservation Forum Important Bird Areas analysis, and using the proposed Biological Records System (7.2).

3 II Make all laws and policies effective by enforcing them

3.a.9 Foster a culture amongst the authorities that **they must enforce the laws** and provide resources to Government departments to enable them to carry out enforcement activities.

3 III Enact genuine “good government” policies

3.a.11 Increase transparency and public accountability. Ministers must make choices on the merits when carrying out the business of the public. Once policies are set, they should be administered by technical staff and not by Ministers.

3 IV Ensure that the benefits of development are spread equally and sustainably to Turks and Caicos Islanders.

3.b.1 **In order to ensure diversity of economic opportunity, high quality of life and sustainability of prosperity for Belongers, urgently need to develop commercial activities which promote real Belonger prosperity other than the construction business.**

3.b.2 As part of the expansion of the agriculture and fishing sectors, **develop mariculture/aquaculture projects** to produce food animals such as conch and lobster to supply the tourism industry in a sustainable way, and develop nurseries to grow valued local plants such as the Turks Head cactus.

Environment Charter Commitment 4 Ensure that environmental and environmental health impact assessments are undertaken before approving major projects and while developing our growth management strategy.

4. I Ensure that environmental issues are considered before key approvals are made

4.1 Amend laws and procedures so that **environmental review is carried out at the earliest possible stage in the application process**, so that it can inform critical early decisions rather than coming at the end of the process, when it can only be used to correct fairly minor aspects.

4 II Ensure that EIAs give complete and unbiased information to aid decision makers

4.2 Follow international best practice by ensuring that the **Director of Planning maintains control over all aspects of EIAs**, and make EIAs subject to both public review and peer review by scientific bodies.

4.4 Develop policies and practice to ensure that conditions attached to development permission adequately require that **total costs are built into development**, rather than being picked up by TCIG later.

Environment Charter Commitment 5 Commit to open and consultative decision-making on developments and plans which may affect the environment; ensure that environmental impact assessments include consultation with stakeholders.

5 I Ensure that the public has meaningful opportunities to review and comment on proposals before decisions are made.

5.a.1 Amend Physical Planning Ordinance and relevant Regulations to **establish procedures which ensure public notice for all projects and meaningful opportunity for input before decisions made.**

5.a.2 Design and carry out a project to initiate the regular informing of different sectors of society to **empower local people so that they can participate in informed democratic decision-making** on matters which affect their future. **Reintroduce District Boards** to give local people a voice.

5.b.1 Amend Physical Planning Ordinance and relevant Regulations to establish EIA procedures which **make EIAs subject to both public review and peer review** by scientific bodies.

Environment Charter Commitment 6 Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Turks and Caicos Islands and work towards extension of other relevant agreements.

[Note that action items necessary to carry out MEAs which have already been extended to the TCI are integrated throughout the Strategy]

6.f.1 Request UK Government to add TCI to its ratification of **CITES and the Convention on Biological Diversity**

Environment Charter Commitment 7 Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.

7 I Develop systems to use more effectively the information we have and means to acquire the information we need for good environmental management practice.

7.1 **Bring all the information we have on our terrestrial, wetland and marine systems into the GIS system** so that land managers, planners and decision makers have ready access

7.2 Establish a **biological records system** to make effective use of observations from various sources.

Environment Charter Commitment 8 Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for prevention or remedies: establish effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.

8 I Deal with the urgent issues of waste disposal, litter and trash

8.b.1 Produce and implement a **proper solid waste collection and disposal plan**, including incinerator systems for the proper disposal of waste throughout the TCI

8.b.2 To deal with chronic problems of litter and trash, develop and extend public awareness, **create ticketing system for littering and residential violations of the Public and Environmental Health Ordinance**, amend Road Traffic Law to require trucks to cover their cargoes or loads and require all landlords to provide animal-safe facilities for trash disposal and collection at all premises

8.b.4 Establish programme for **removal of large waste objects** such as cars, construction equipment; develop incentives to ensure proper disposal of such objects in future.

8 II Enhance public health and a healthy environment by giving Government departments and task forces the tools and authority they need to monitor and prevent pollution

8.b.7 **Deal with illegal immigration and substandard housing** as they have enormous negative environmental impacts

8.b.8 Establish **national laboratory** to facilitate environmental monitoring

8.b.9 Establish **discharge standards** which can be enacted as Regulations for appropriate Ordinances

8.b.12 Establish **monitoring programme for environmental impacts of major projects**, including baseline studies and ongoing monitoring.

8 III Give Government departments and task forces the tools they need to enforce pollution laws

8.a.1 Amend Sec 106 of the Water and Sewer Ordinance to provide strong penalties and the power to compel mitigation. Add explicit procedures and standards for decisions on how sewage is to be disposed of.

8.a.3 Amend the Physical Planning Ordinance to **vest Enforcement Notices and other appeals from decisions of the Physical Planning Board in an independent technical body**, commission or inspectorate with expertise in planning, pollution and related issues, with process open to the public

Environment Charter Commitment 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

9.1 Ensure that the publicly funded school system is adequately resourced and sufficiently encouraged to continue **developing and expanding the environmental and scientific curriculum**, develop ongoing, regular **teacher training** in environmental issues and draw on the resources of NGOs to achieve these.

- 9.2 **Ensure that the National Trust is adequately resourced** to carry out its extensive environmental education programmes, and arrange for Government approval for the sites identified on each island and the resources to be made available to the Trust for the Living Classrooms programme.

Environment Charter Commitment 10 Promote publications that spread awareness of the special features of the environment in the Turks and Caicos Islands; promote within the Turks and Caicos Islands the guiding principles set out above.

- 10.a.1 Fund one of the NGOs to carry out a **large-scale, multi-year, nation-wide awareness programme** centred on the adult population.
- 10.a.4 Facilitate the securing of funding by NGOs for the **development of ecotourism facilities**. Use these as one means to **integrate local culture into the tourist product**.
- 10.b.1 Encourage and support the further development of **high-quality publications which spread awareness of the TCI's special environmental features**.
- 10.c.1 Carry out **high-profile launch** to raise awareness of the Charter.

Environment Charter Commitment 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.

- 1.3 **Complete, adopt, implement and report regularly** on this Strategy for Action.

Strategy for Action: Initial Priority Projects

Turks and Caicos Environment Charter Project Strategy for Action v 1.3: Initial Priority Projects

This document is drawn from the “Strategy for Action to Implement the Environment Charter for the Turks and Caicos Islands” and comprises the elements of that Strategy proposed to be of first priority. [Note: Agencies in brackets are suggested lead agencies]

Environment Charter Commitment 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.*

Desired outcome: Key habitats, key species and landscape features are protected, and where necessary, restored.

2 Protect, manage, improve and extend the Protected Areas System created under the National Parks Ordinance

2.b.1 Lodge the boundaries of existing Protected Areas in the Governmental GIS system, Planning and Land Registry by resourcing translation where digitised boundaries are already available and digitising of remaining boundaries. [Chief Min Office]

2.b.2 To ensure that there is no further erosion of the PAS through inappropriate development, use the National Trust Ordinance to put the Protected Areas System into inalienable conservation ownership, in trust for the future of the country. [Chief Min Office]

2.b.3 Complete development of a Protected Areas Policy with agreement at highest level. Where appropriate, policy must be embedded in the legislation to make it binding. [DECR PAD/TCNT]

2.b.4 Continue revitalising our National Parks system and extend management throughout all Protected Areas. Set aside additional areas for the creation of more Protected Areas. Review the needs for amendments to the boundaries and/or the categorisation of existing Protected Areas, and the need for additional Protected Areas (or for Prohibited Areas under the Fisheries Ordinance) in the light of new information, especially regarding habitat of migratory species, and in light of habitat value and threat status. Facilitators have initiated process by collating the recommendations already supplied by National Trust and others. Recommendations to be processed where sufficient information exists and information needs identified in other cases. Enact regulations accordingly, as cases reach the appropriate stage. [Implements Convention on Migratory Species.] Review should include recommendations regarding designating the Mouchoir Banks as a Protected Area. [DECR PAD/TCNT]

2.c.1 - 3 Develop and implement a five-year rolling strategic plan for the management of the Protected Areas System, including the setting of priorities for parts of PAS most urgently in need of management plans. Develop management plans for every site in PAS in priority order [Implements World Heritage Convention] Finalise, adopt and periodically update existing management plans. [DECR PAD/ TCNT for their sites]

2.a.4. Amend National Parks Ordinance to:

- incorporate opportunities for public notice and input re the designation, changing designation or de-designation of areas protected under the ordinance;

- clarify the purposes for each category of Protected Area to include conservation of high-value scenic amenity as well as biodiversity, history and other purposes
- review carefully the types of development permitted in National Parks, to ensure that permitted development does not compromise individual parks
- formalise the Protected Areas Advisory Committee and develop a mechanism that groups, including community groups, may manage protected areas or parts of protected areas, as well as other means of public participation in the park
- establish the role of management plans within the National Protected Area System
- provide improved descriptions of existing protected areas
- recommend the identification and correction of gaps, including specific sites and habitats and inclusion of further protected areas including Wades Green and Little Ambergris Cay and extensions to Lake Catherine Nature Reserve and the Middle, North and East Caicos Nature Reserve.

[DECR PAD/AG's Chambers]

2.c.11 Ensure proper management of the Conservation Fund, including ensuring that management authority for the Conservation Fund is representative of both governmental and non-governmental stakeholders and has transparent procedures. [Chief Minister/Finance]

2 II Protect and where necessary, restore key habitat such as coastal areas, wetlands, the Salinas and woodlands

2.c.6 Ensure the proper protection of our coastal resources. Develop and implement Coastal Zone Management Policy to deal with coastal works, flooding and disaster management and wise allocation of valuable and very limited supply of coastal land. This policy should recognise the value of natural features such as coral reefs, beaches, mangroves, and sea grass beds as natural defences and the utility of soft engineering approaches to encourage such natural systems.

[Planning/DECR]

2.c.7 In order to implement the Ramsar Convention, wetlands must be a specific focus of protected areas protection:

- Use the SDPI to ensure environmentally sustainable wise use of all wetlands in the TCI
- For those areas already parts of the PAS which comprise wetlands, ensure proper management and wardening
- Identify and designate other valuable wetlands as Nature Reserves or Sanctuaries and provide adequate wardening
- Identify and designate suitable additional wetlands for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance
- Develop biological records system to enable research and exchange of data
- Train personnel in the fields of wetlands research, management and wardening

[Planning/DECR PAD/TCNT]

2.c.8 Recognising the importance of the Salinas (constructed salt pans) of Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos to both wildlife and cultural heritage, drainage and storm protections, as well as the proximity of these features to centres of population, and in keeping with the Dept of Planning Advisory:

- Give protected status to the Salinas of Grand Turk and Salt Cay, as they exceed the standards for Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance and Important Bird Areas. Enforce Development Manual requirement that any development in a Salina requires an EIA.

- Implement management of the Salinas in all three Islands and in particular, restore tidal flow in the South Caicos Salinas.
- Integrate the Salinas into the TCI tourism product, both to demonstrate the economic history of the islands and to take advantage of the extraordinary birdwatching opportunities they provide.

[DECR /PWD/TCNT]

2.c.9 Identify degraded areas in all islands which will benefit from reforestation or other restoration, determine the optimal restoration approach for each, ensuring that only native plants are used, and carry out restoration works. [DECR]

2.c.12 Develop and implement an Agriculture Policy, and establish and staff an Agriculture Department, ensuring that environmental considerations are fully integrated into both policy and practice. Develop means of assistance to local farmers and increase the amount of home-grown produce in supermarkets and the hospitality sector. [Chief Min Office]

2 III Protect Important Species

2.c.4 Develop fisheries policy including the review of the Fisheries Management Plans in order to develop the fisheries sector of the economy while ensuring protection of the target and non-target species on which both the fishing and tourism industries are based. [DECR]

2.a.6/7 Review and amend Fisheries Protection Ordinance to:

- provide a mechanism for regulating taking of turtles, to enable conservation of the populations
- ensure proper conservation of other marine species, with particular emphasis on multi-species breeding aggregations, with Nassau Groupers as the flagship species.

[DECR/AG's Chambers]

2.a.8 Develop and adopt a new Wildlife Protection Ordinance to protect important, native, threatened, etc fauna such as iguanas, other endemic reptiles, butterflies, etc, which:

- creates a process for identifying species for which protection is appropriate
- creates appropriate management authority and criminal provisions
- creates means to identify exotic animal species which could become invasive
- creates means to prohibit import of such species
- creates ability to identify and extirpate harmful invasive species already here.
- incorporates Wild Birds Protection Ordinance into the new law
- extends special protection measures for rare and endangered species to Kirtland's Warbler, West Indian Whistling Ducks and other vulnerable and/or geographically restricted populations

[DECR/AG's Chambers]

2.a.9 Amend the Plant Protection Ordinance to:

- Put in place a process for identifying species such as the Turks Head cactus and local orchids for which protection is appropriate and establish appropriate management authority and criminal provisions
- deal with invasive plant species, both the identification of species for which import should be banned and the ability to identify problem species already here and eliminate them.
- Create the means to prohibit import of such species
- One Government department should have lead responsibility for this, whether it be DECR, Environmental Health or a new Dept of Agriculture.

[DECR/DEH/AG's Chambers]

2.c.14 Implement the TCI Rock Iguana Conservation and Management Plan. Ensure that ongoing species-specific conservation programmes are carried out and that logical successor projects follow on for turtles, whales, whistling ducks and other priority species. [DECR/TCNT]

2.d.1 To control invasive species and for other environmental health reasons, carry out a major project to implement port environmental security including:

- o Restricting ports of entry
- o Necessary legislation in addition to the Wildlife and Plant Protection Ordinances (above)
- o Establishment of quarantine facilities for both plants and animals
- o Technical training for Customs and other officials, starting with CITES training in 2003

[DEH/Customs]

2.c.16 Ensure the proper control of mosquitoes and other disease-carrying insects and animals using programmes which:

- o avoid adverse impacts on other species
- o effectively address the problem
- o affect target species proportionately

[DEH]

Environment Charter Commitment 3 Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes; promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the territory.

Desired Outcomes: Social and economic planning ensures a healthy environment; production and consumption are carried on in a sustainable manner.

3 I Establish development policies which take into account poverty, unemployment and inequality, in order to create real economic development.

3.a.1 Identify existing or potentially easily gatherable data sets which could, if tracked, give meaningful indication of quality of life parameters. Use these to institute a system of indicators, ideally with annual reporting. The indicators should relate to health, literacy, pollution levels, natural resources, natural and cultural heritage, social stability and other real indicators of the effects of development decisions. Integrate with ongoing efforts to develop domestic GDP capacity to integrate sustainable measures of GDP. Some of these data sets will come from other organisations, but Government, too, needs to develop a more integrated approach to collation of statistics.

3.a.2 Become familiar with, and contribute to, the international effort to develop meaningful measures of natural, human, social and financial capital. (Note that this is a new and rapidly developing field and the TCI is in no way behind in this new approach.)

3.a.3 Build on the Standard of Living study to go back to the original respondents and begin working on the practical implications of the issues they raised.

3 II Prepare a Ten-Year Comprehensive Development Plan which builds on current initiatives such as the SDPI and which encompasses transport, education, land development, procurement of goods, provision of services, growth models and conservation of the natural environment and cultural heritage. Elements of the Plan identified through the Environment Charter process include:

3.a.4. The development of growth scenarios which plainly illustrate the impacts of different levels and rates of development on such future factors as the composition of the population of the TCI, the relative economic power of Belongers versus incomers, and quality of life factors.

3.a.5 The Sustainable Development Planning Initiative, which is to be the new National Development Plan. This was begun in Grand Turk, and is to be carried out in every inhabited island. Key SDPI goals to be met include:

- Protection of environmental resources by establishing target growth capacity that sustains quality of ecosystems, human health and economic prosperity
- Improvement of quality of life by providing for a diverse economy which balances foreign investment and local enterprise enabling a lasting prosperity
- Strengthen the community by involving them in the decisions which affect their quality of life.
- Develop a zoning scheme which provides the framework for individual decisions; good zoning should reduce the costs of proper EIAs
- Develop zoning strategy to set aside lands for conservation. (2.a.3) [Planning/DEPS]

3.a.6. a National Strategic Development Policy with clear criteria against which to assess proposals and guidelines to aid Ministerial decisions. Decisions should be published with reasons explained against these criteria. Policy should lay out which kinds of development are good for the country and why. Each Development Agreement made by TCInvest should also lay out how the proposed development fits with the National Strategic Development Policy. [DEPS]

3.a.7 A Crown lands policy for our most non-renewable resource

- Assess accurately the Crown lands which remain available for potential alienation without jeopardising those Crown lands which are identified to support other aspects of the future development of the country. This includes the Protected Areas System and other lands which underpin the high value tourist industry as well as the quality of life for Turks and Caicos Islanders.
- Review existing land policies to develop a framework for allocation of Crown lands both to Belongers and inward investors in a sustainable manner, recognising that the land supply is finite:
 - The policy needs to look beyond the point when there is no longer appropriate Crown land to alienate, and a sustainable approach requires that this Policy is developed well before reaching that point.
 - To ensure consistency with land use plans, Planning Department should have input on decisions regarding allocation of Crown Land.
 - Ensure proper planning of new settlements: rather than allocating one plot at a time, take account of consultative exercises such as the SDPI to allocate land in a manner which will create viable communities with public facilities, greenspace, etc
 - The policy must include an assessment of the percentage of the reserve that can be released at any time, and a process for exceeding that percentage.
 - Develop clear policy for capital reserve derived from land sales to ensure sustainability of Government's budgets. Revenue from the disposal of Crown Lands should be used to expand the Reserve Fund and never for recurrent expenditure.
 - Review existing land policies to improve institutional arrangements and efficiency.
 - Adopt a policy of long-leases rather than outright sale of Crown lands.

- Change regulations and policies to allow more efficient use of land for residential use, including clustered development, small lot sizes where appropriate, and further subdividing of lots which have previously been subdivided. When Crown land is allocated for Belonger housing, consider smaller lot sizes, more related to the space needs of the housing to be built. [Chief Minister/Planning/DEPS]

3.a.8. A population policy based on carrying-capacity analysis, the spread of required skills between Belongers and incomers, and reasonable treatment of those contributing to the country's development, whether Belongers or incomers. [DEPS/Immigration]

3.a.9. A re-evaluation of the tourism industry, placing greater emphasis on the socio-economic and environmental effects of tourism on our country and undertake measures to ensure that the negative impact is minimised. [Tourist Board/DEPS]

3.a.10. A biodiversity country study, building on the Habitat Mapping project (7.1), the Biodiversity Management Project for Middle and North Caicos, DECR marine studies, UK Conservation Forum Important Bird Areas analysis, and using the proposed Biological Records System (7.2). [Planning/DECR]

3 III Carry out genuine “good government” practices and make all laws and policies effective by enforcing them

3.a.11 Increase transparency and public accountability. Ministers must make choices on the merits when carrying out the business of the public. Once policies are set, they should be administered by technical staff and not by Ministers.

3.a.12 In every area covered by the Charter, develop a culture amongst the authorities that they must enforce the laws and to make sure that Government action must also fall within the law, adequately resource Government departments to enable them to carry out enforcement activities, and raise public awareness of the purpose and value of laws which protect our environment [All TCIG]

3 IV Ensure that the benefits of development are spread equally and sustainably to Turks and Caicos Islanders.

3.b.1 In order to ensure diversity of economic opportunity, high quality of life and sustainability of prosperity for Belongers, urgently need to develop commercial activities which promote Belonger prosperity other than the construction business. Through the SDPI, identify opportunities on each Island appropriate to that Island, and develop low-interest loans to enable Belongers to develop their own businesses. In order to ensure that tourism-led development is spread across the entire country, establish a Hotel Development Corporation to take the initial risk of building hotels in the less developed islands. Establish Hotel Training School to ensure Belongers have skills to compete for best jobs. Establish categories of businesses available only to Belongers. Provide duty concessions to Belongers to build small inns and hotels. Ensure that adequate infrastructure is provided evenly throughout the islands as a necessary condition for sustainable economic and social development. [DEPS/Planning/TCInvest/Tourist Board]

3.b.2 As part of the expansion of the agriculture and fishing sectors, develop mariculture/aquaculture projects to produce food animals such as conch and lobster to supply the tourism industry in a sustainable way, without depleting wild stock. Equally, develop nurseries to grow valued local plants such as the Turks Head cactus, but strictly control how any operations collect from the wild. [DECR]

Environment Charter Commitment 4 *Ensure that environmental and environmental health impact assessments are undertaken before approving major projects and while developing our growth management strategy.*

Desired Outcome: Growth and development have a minimal negative impact on both the environment and public health.

4 I Ensure that environmental issues are considered before key approvals are made

4.1 Ensure that all major development projects are subjected to proper Environmental Impact Assessments, carried out with the input of stakeholders. Amend procedures and laws to ensure that environmental scrutiny is carried out at the earliest possible stage in the application process, so that it can inform critical early decisions rather than coming at the end of the process, when it can be used to correct only fairly minor aspects.

- o TCInvest should be the main focal point through which all major project proposals are initially considered. The agency should ensure that environmental review, as well as any other reviews, are carried out before any presentation of the project proposal is made to Ministers, so that Ministers have the benefit of technical advice on environmental aspects.
- o Amend Sec 3 of the Encouragement of Development Ordinance to add a requirement that a Strategic EIA be submitted as a part of the application for a Development Order in any project meeting threshold criteria on size, location, potential impact, etc. Dept of Planning to develop: (a) the threshold criteria, and (b) guidelines for the preparation of Strategic EIAs, which are intended to place proposed developments in context. The Strategic EIA would become a part of any subsequent Development Agreement.
- o At each stage of permission, all documents from the TCIG must contain strong and evident language indicating that the project is not “approved” until all steps have been taken and permissions granted. In this context, review the role of the Minister’s Certificate of Approval; if the procedure is to be maintained, it should be re-named “Permission to Apply.”
- o Development Agreement provisions must be enforced – the developer should lose tax concessions if the agreement is violated.

[Planning/TCInvest/AG’s Chambers]

4 II Ensure that EIAs give complete and unbiased information to aid decision makers

4.2 Follow international best practice in respect of EIA procedures:

- o Director of Planning maintains full control over EIAs, including scoping, screening and methodology agreed by the dept before any field work is carried out, appointing, contracting and paying the consultants (funding supplied by the Developer, but paid through the Planning Dept), identifying issues to be addressed, level of detail, qualitative indicators to be used to permit cost/benefit analysis, and ensuring that all field reports are submitted to Planning unchanged from the form submitted by the field consultant sub-contractor. [Implements Cartagena Convention]
- o Specify in Sec 32 of the Physical Planning Ordinance that all EIAs must describe existing conditions, identify potential impacts of the project and propose mitigation strategies, and must address cultural impacts in addition to any other elements the Director may require. Potential impacts on the marine environment must be addressed in any development in coastal areas. [Implements Cartagena Convention]
- o Provide environmental inspectors who can monitor development as it occurs and ensure that conditions are being followed and adverse impacts being monitored and mitigated

[Planning/DEPS]

4.4 Develop policies and practice to ensure that conditions attached to development permission adequately require that total costs, including damage to primary resources, are built into development, rather than being picked up by TCIG later. Develop statistical framework, including a set of ratios which allow calculation of total costs of developments of various sizes. Develop process for monitoring and enforcing agreed payments/projects by developers. Note that these can be non-physical, such as commitment to enhance educational advancement. [Planning]

Environment Charter Commitment 5 *Commit to open and consultative decision-making on developments and plans which may affect the environment; ensure that environmental impact assessments include consultation with stakeholders.*

Desired Outcome: Decisions regarding growth and development are taken in open consultation with the community and reflect the shared values of the community.

5 **I Ensure that the public has meaningful opportunities to review and comment on proposals before decisions are made.**

5.a.1 Amend Physical Planning Ordinance and relevant Regulations to establish procedures which ensure public notice for all projects and meaningful opportunity for input before decisions made. These amendments should ensure:

- advocacy takes in broader issues, rather than focusing only on narrow legal procedural points
- all members of the public, including associations and NGOs, have standing to make representations
- representations are either made at a hearing or are fully conveyed to decision-makers
- any planning decision by the Board or the Minister is considered against the Development Policy criteria (see 3.a.6) with advice from technical officers, and reasons (relating to those criteria) are published with the decision
- Advertising should be required for all major projects; replace or revise Schedule 2 of the Planning Regulations and sec 2.7.5 of the Development Manual to require this

[Planning/AG's Chambers]

5.a.2 Design and carry out a project to initiate the regular informing of different sectors of society to empower local people so that they can participate in informed democratic decision-making on matters which affect their future. Reintroduce District Boards to give local people a voice. Essential that people's right to be informed is honoured in this process. Important, also, because an informed electorate can support difficult political decisions. Implement with laws, regulations as needed and with adequate funding to ensure continuity. Should encourage NGO and private sector involvement.

5.b.1 Amend Physical Planning Ordinance and relevant Regulations to establish EIA procedures which:

- Make EIA subject to both public review and peer review by scientific bodies, and in major projects, make the scoping process also subject to public review
- Create deadlines in Planning Regulations which allow adequate time for public review and input

[Planning/AG's Chambers]

Environment Charter Commitment 6 *Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Turks and Caicos Islands and work towards extension of other relevant agreements.*

Desired Outcome: The TCI implements its shared responsibilities to the world environment.

[Note that action items necessary to carry out MEAs which have already been extended to the TCI are integrated throughout the Strategy]

6.f.1 Request UK Government to add TCI to its ratification of CITES

6.f.4 Request UK Government to add TCI to its ratification of CBD, and consider whether the Cartagena Protocol to the CBD regarding biosafety should also be extended to the TCI.

[Min Nat Res/Governor's Office/AGs Chambers]

Environment Charter Commitment 7 *Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.*

Desired Outcome: Good scientific and technical information is available to ensure well-informed, sustainable, reasonable decisions consistent with international standards.

7 | Bring all the information we have on our terrestrial, wetland and marine systems into the GIS system so that land managers, planners and decision makers have ready access.

7.1 Establish programmes and progressive integration of databases to provide baseline and monitoring information on natural resources, including:

- ground-truthed satellite imagery of terrestrial and wetland ecosystems, built environment and habitat mapping for all islands, extending and developing the mapping of Middle and North Caicos done by the TCNT and UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, under the Darwin Initiative project, to so that planners and decision makers can readily identify areas of important flora, fauna, historic, cultural and archaeological value
- make available for integration into the GIS system the DFID-funded marine habitat mapping
- integrate land parcel and other related information with these

[Min Nat Res/ Env Charter Working Group]

7.2 In order to follow best international practice in securing survey and monitoring information in a cost-effective manner, establish computer-based biological records system. This will allow collation, checking, input, handling and recovery of observations from many potential observers, both formal and informal, and make this data available for conservation and planning as noted in 3.a.10.

[DECR/TCNT]

Environment Charter Commitment 8 *Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for prevention or remedies: establish effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.*

Desired Outcome: Economic activity is carried out in a manner which does not pollute the environment and ensures that the developer or operator carries the costs, rather than TCIG.

8 | Deal with the urgent issues of waste disposal, litter and trash

8.b.1 Produce and implement a proper solid waste collection and disposal plan, including incinerator systems for the proper disposal of waste throughout the TCI

[DEH]

8.b.2 To deal with chronic problems of litter and trash:

- Invest more money in cleaning up our streets and public areas
- Build on programmes of “Clean Up TCI” to develop and extend public awareness regarding disposal of other categories of waste.
- Create ticketing system and increase penalties for littering and residential violations of the Public and Environmental Health Ordinance
- Amend Road Traffic Law to require trucks to cover their cargoes or loads.
- Require all landlords to provide animal-safe facilities for trash disposal and collection at all premises

[DEH/NGOs/Police/AG's Chambers]

8.b.4 Establish programme for removal of large waste objects such as cars, construction equipment; develop incentives to ensure proper disposal of such objects in future. [DEH]

8 II Enhance public health and a healthy environment by giving Government departments and task forces the tools and authority they need to monitor and prevent pollution

8.b.6 Build on work of Provo Pollution Task Force, applying this successful model to other problem areas. [PPTF/DEH]

8.b.7 Deal with illegal immigration and substandard housing as they have enormous negative environmental impacts:

- consider this as a project for the Provo Pollution Task Force
- consider changes to regulations to allow alternative sanitation solutions such as high-tech composting toilets
- reactivate the initiative on “Informal Housing” by recirculating the report and reactivating the task force

[PPTF/DEH/Immigration/ Coordinate with DEPS Population Policy Project]

8.b.8 Establish national laboratory to facilitate environmental monitoring [DEH]

8.b.9 Establish discharge standards which can be enacted as Regulations for appropriate Ordinances [DEH/PWD]

8.b.12 Establish monitoring programme for environmental impacts of major projects, including baseline studies and ongoing monitoring. [DEH/DECR]

8 III Give Government departments and task forces the tools they need to enforce pollution laws

8.a.1 Water and Sewer Ordinance

- Amend Sec 106 (prohibiting discharge of pollution into all controlled waters) to provide strong penalties with a range appropriate to individuals, businesses and international shipping, and also the power to compel mitigation. (Penalties should be comparable with the largest of those of neighbouring states to avoid TCI waters becoming a bargain dumping zone.)
- Add explicit procedures and standards for decisions on how sewage is to be disposed of.

[DEH/PWD/AGs Chambers]

8.a.3 Amend Secs 45, 46, 51 and 82 of the Physical Planning Ordinance to vest Enforcement Notices and other appeals from decisions of the Physical Planning Board in an independent technical body,

commission or inspectorate with expertise in planning, pollution and related issues, with process open to the public [Planning/AGs Chambers]

Environment Charter Commitment 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*

Desired Outcome: Our children learn to value their natural and cultural heritage, and respect the TCI's role in the global environment

Begin a campaign in the schools to promote environmental conservation in order that we may save our environment and ecosystems.

9.1 Ensure that the publicly funded school system is adequately resourced and sufficiently encouraged to:

- o promote environmental health and safety
- o allow greater capacity in career guidance
- o allow environmental study in the field as well as the classroom
- o to develop greater regional focus in the environmental curriculum
- o continue developing and expanding environmental curriculum
- o develop science education to draw more students to that as a career option
- o enable schools to join the National Trust and for teachers to access Trust and Tourist Board educational resources year-round
- o raise awareness of the Environment Charter in all schools, and related to all relevant subjects
- o work with local NGOs and regional bodies to develop ongoing, regular teacher training in environmental issues
- o Increase the number of Belongers who choose teaching for a career.

[Dept of Education]

9.2 Ensure that the National Trust is adequately resourced [including by the Conservation Fund] to:

- o carry out environmental education programmes
- o develop and distribute educational materials
- o conduct programmes like summer camps and the Living Classrooms
- o take on work-experience students
- o extend good working relationship with primary schools to secondary and tertiary levels
- o develop teachers workshops at the conclusion of every successful project in order to maximise value and maintain the ongoing relationship with teachers

Arrange for Government approval for the sites identified on each island and the resources to be made available to the National Trust for the Living Classrooms programme. [Min Nat Res/NPEAC/TCNT/DEPS/Tourist Board]

Environment Charter Commitment 10 *Promote publications that spread awareness of the special features of the environment in the Turks and Caicos Islands; promote within the Turks and Caicos Islands the guiding principles set out above.*

Desired Outcome: Our citizenry values their natural and cultural heritage, and respects the TCI's role in the global environment

10.a.1 Fund one of the NGOs (CleanUpTCl or the Trust, for example) to carry out a large-scale, multi-year, nation-wide awareness programme centred on the adult population. Use the RARE model which carried out the successful iguana campaign and the Feral Dogs Project as models of how to change public attitudes. [Env Charter Working Group/NGOs]

10.a.4 Recognising that ecotourism facilities are both an education tool and an economic engine, facilitate the securing of funding by NGOs (especially the Trust and the Museum) for the development of such facilities, so that staff time in seeking funding does not unduly impact the ability to carry out projects. Use these facilities as one means to integrate local culture into tourism product. [DEPS/Min Nat Res/Tourist Board/NPEAC/NGOs]

10.b.1 Encourage and support the further development of existing initiatives by the Trust, Museum, Tourist Board and others, including private individuals, to produce and use high-quality publications which spread awareness of the TCl's special environmental features. [Tourist Board/NPEAC/listed organisations]

10.c.1 Carry out high-profile launch to raise awareness of the Charter. [Env Charter Working Grp]

Environment Charter Commitment 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.*

- 1.1 Complete this Strategy for Action, and ensure that its post-adoption version is cross-referenced, eg by subject area, government department, ordinance, etc to maximise utility.
- 1.2 Establish Environment Charter Working Group with ongoing responsibility for implementation of the Strategy, including making recommendations on priority projects for funding. ECWG's primary responsibility is to ensure that the comprehensive view of environmental planning established in this Strategy continues to drive decisionmaking. Also responsible for monitoring sustainability impacts of policies and practices in any economic sector. (see 3.b.1 and Convention on Biological Diversity.)
- 1.1 Establish Secretariat in the Chief Minister's office which oversees ongoing implementation of the Environment Charter and the evolution of this Strategy as elements are completed.
- 1.2 Allocate a block of funding from the next budget cycle to ensure that the top priority projects identified through this process can start as soon as possible
- 1.3 Ensure incorporation of project into Departments' recurrent budgets, both to provide staff to participate in the Charter implementation and to fund priority projects.
- 1.4 Continue integration into Strategic Country Plan Process [Env Charter Working Grp]

22 November 2003

Element of Commitment	Actions/Programmes	Lead agency(ies)
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Strategy for Action to implement TCI Government’s commitments under the Environment Charter

TCIG Charter Commitment 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.

Desired Outcome: Environmental considerations are integrated into all policies and plans, public and private, ensuring that the quality of the environment is maintained in the TCI.

<p>1. Develop strategic plan for action</p>	<p>1.1 Complete this Strategy for Action, and ensure that its post-adoption version is cross-referenced, eg by subject area, government department, ordinance, etc to maximise utility.</p> <p>1.2 Establish Environment Charter Working Group with ongoing responsibility for implementation of the Strategy, including making recommendations on priority projects for funding. ECWG’s primary responsibility is to ensure that the comprehensive view of environmental planning established in this Strategy continues to drive decision-making. Also responsible for monitoring sustainability impacts of policies and practices in any economic sector. (see 3.b.1 and Convention on Biological Diversity.)</p> <p>1.3 Establish Secretariat in the Chief Minister’s office which oversees ongoing implementation of the Environment Charter and the evolution of this Strategy as elements are completed.</p> <p>1.4 Allocate a block of funding from the next budget cycle to ensure that the top priority projects identified through this process can start as soon as possible</p> <p>1.5 Ensure incorporation of project into Departments’ recurrent budgets, both to provide staff to participate in the Charter implementation and to fund priority projects</p> <p>1.6 Continue integration into Strategic Country Plan Process</p>	<p>1.5 Facilitators /ECWG</p> <p>1.6 Ministry/ Exco</p> <p>1.3 Ministry</p> <p>1.4 DEPS/ExCo</p> <p>1.5DEPS/All Depts</p> <p>1.6 All Depts with HMG</p>
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TCIG Charter Commitment 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.

Desired outcome: Key habitats, key species and landscape features are protected, and where necessary, restored.

<p>2.a. Have in place effective legislation for protection of key habitats, species</p>	<p>Habitat/Landscape</p> <p>2.a.1 Use Conservation Areas, Building Protection Orders, Plant Preservation Orders in Physical Planning Ordinance as mechanism for conservation of specific features, including biodiversity, landscape, amenity, etc, in areas of privately owned land. Update Sec 4 of the Development Manual, “Special Provisions Relating to Conservation” and ensure that it is being followed, for example, in requiring thorough EIAs before any development in salina areas.</p>	<p>2.a.1 Planning</p>
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Element of Commitment	Actions/Programmes	Lead agency(ies)
and landscape features	<p>2.a.2 Amend Physical Planning Ordinance sec 88 to include penalties for violation of Conservation Area Orders, and to increase penalties for violation of all conservation orders, including, in appropriate cases, confiscation of land.</p> <p>2.a.3 Develop zoning strategy to set aside lands for conservation as part of SDPI, and transfer into conservation ownership. [This project shown as part of 3.a.5 in Priority Projects document.]</p> <p>2.a.4. Amend National Parks Ordinance to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ incorporate opportunities for public notice and input re the designation, changing designation or de-designation of areas protected under the ordinance; ○ clarify the purposes for each category of Protected Area to include conservation of high-value scenic amenity as well as biodiversity, history and other purposes ○ review carefully the types of development permitted in National Parks, to ensure that permitted development does not compromise individual parks ○ formalise the Protected Areas Advisory Committee and develop a mechanism that groups included community groups may manage protected areas or parts of protected areas, as well as other means of public participation in the park ○ establish the role of management plans within the National Protected Area System ○ provide improved descriptions of existing protected areas ○ recommend the identification and correction of gaps, including specific sites and habitats and inclusion of further protected areas including Wades Green and Little Ambergris Cay, and extensions to Lake Catherine Nature Reserve and the Middle, North and East Caicos Nature Reserve. <p>2.a.5 To implement the World Heritage Convention, consider amendment of National Parks Ordinance to broaden the purposes of Areas of Historic Interest beyond “protecting an object of historic interest” to take in other kinds of sites of cultural importance.</p> <p>Species:</p> <p>2.a.6 Amend Fisheries Protection Ordinance to provide mechanism for regulating taking of turtles, to enable conservation of the populations. [Implements Convention on Migratory Species]</p> <p>2.a.7 Review Fisheries Ordinance to ensure proper conservation of other marine species, with particular emphasis on multi-species breeding aggregations, with Nassau Groupers as the flagship species.</p> <p>2.a.8 Develop and adopt a new Wildlife Protection Ordinance to protect important, native, threatened, etc fauna such as iguanas, other endemic reptiles, butterflies, etc, which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ creates a process for identifying species for which protection is appropriate ○ creates appropriate management authority and criminal provisions ○ creates means to identify exotic animal species which could become invasive ○ creates means to prohibit import of such species ○ creates ability to identify and extirpate harmful invasive species already here. 	<p>2.a.2 Planning/ AG’s Chambers</p> <p>2.a.3 Ministry/ Planning</p> <p>2.a.4 DECR/ AG’s Chambers</p> <p>2.a.5 DECR/ AG’s Chambers</p> <p>2.a.6 DECR/ AG’s Chambers</p> <p>2.a.7 DECR/ AG’s Chambers</p> <p>2.a.8 DECR/ AG’s Chambers</p>

Element of Commitment	Actions/Programmes	Lead agency(ies)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ incorporates Wild Birds Protection Ordinance into the new law ○ extends special protection measures for rare and endangered species to Kirtland’s Warbler, West Indian Whistling Ducks and other vulnerable and/or geographically restricted populations <p>2.a.9 Amend Plant Protection Ordinance to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Put in place a process for identifying species such as Turks Head cactus and local orchids for which protection is appropriate and establish appropriate management authority and criminal provisions ○ Deal with invasive plant species, both the identification of species for which import should be banned and the ability to identify problem species already here and eliminate them. ○ Create the means to prohibit import of such species ○ One Government department should have lead responsibility for this, whether it be DECR, Environmental Health or a new Dept of Agriculture. 	<p>2.a.9 DECR/DEH/ AG’s Chambers</p>
<p>2.b. Develop Protected Areas Policy [Implements Cartagena Convention]</p>	<p>2.b.1 Lodge the boundaries of existing Protected Areas in the Governmental GIS system, Planning and Land Registry by resourcing translation where digitised boundaries are already available and digitising of remaining boundaries.</p> <p>2.b.2 To ensure that there is no further erosion of the PAS through inappropriate development, use the National Trust Ordinance to put the Protected Areas System into inalienable conservation ownership, in trust for the future of the country.</p> <p>2.b.3. Develop a Protected Areas Policy with agreement at the highest level. Where appropriate policy must be embedded in the legislation to make it binding. The following will be included in the policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Policies related to objectives of the protected areas system, the use of a strategic plan, annual report, institutions managing the protected area and their roles, the use of management plans ○ Policies related to the safeguarding of terrestrial protected areas through land banking and using the National Trust mechanism for safeguarding land for the nation. ○ Policies related to planning, island and area master plans, environmental impact statements ○ Public Participation and the establishment of the Protected Areas Advisory Committee ○ Policies related to the distribution and management of the Conservation Fund ○ Core Values of the Protected Area system ○ Land management outside protected areas the development of support zones and corridors linking protected areas ○ Policies regarding public awareness and publicising the Protected Areas and their boundaries ○ Human resource development and succession planning policies <p>2.b.4 Continue revitalising our National Parks system and extend management throughout all protected Areas. Set aside additional areas for the creation of more Protected Areas. Review the needs for amendments to the boundaries and/or the categorisation of existing Protected Areas, and the need for additional Protected Areas (or for Prohibited Areas under the Fisheries Ordinance) in the light of new information, especially regarding habitat of migratory species, and in light of habitat value and threat status. Facilitators have initiated process by collating the recommendations already supplied by National Trust and others. Recommendations to be processed where sufficient information exists and information needs identified in other cases. Enact regulations accordingly, as cases reach the appropriate</p>	<p>2.b.1 Min Nat Res/ DECR/Land Registry/Lands Surveys/ Planning</p> <p>2.b.2 DECR PAD</p> <p>2.b.3 MinNatRes/ DECR PAD/ TCNT</p> <p>2.b.4 – DECR PAD</p>

Element of Commitment	Actions/Programmes	Lead agency(ies)
	<p>stage. [Implements Convention on Migratory Species.] Review should include recommendations regarding designating the Mouchoir Banks as a Protected Area.</p> <p>2.b.5 To implement the World Heritage Convention, take the appropriate legal, scientific, technical, administrative and financial measures necessary for the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and rehabilitation of the heritage of the TCI</p> <p>2.b.6 National Trust work with Museum and TCIG to complete and adopt Heritage Register of significant built and natural sites required by National Trust Ordinance, building on 1988 UN study. Review this list for potential nominations to World Heritage Sites status before 2004/6. [Implements World Heritage Convention]</p>	<p>2.b.5 Env Chrt Working Group</p> <p>2.b.6 TCNT/ Museum/DECR PAD</p>
<p>2.c. Have in place effective management structures for protection of key habitats, species and landscape features</p>	<p>2.c.1 Develop and implement a five-year rolling strategic plan for the management of the Protected Areas System, including the setting of priorities for parts of PAS most urgently in need of management plans.</p> <p>2.c.2 Develop management plans for every site in PAS in priority order [Implements World Heritage Convention]</p> <p>2.c.3 Finalise, adopt and periodically update existing management plans; integrate with Planning where useful:</p> <p>DECR/PAD management plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Princess Alexandra Land and Sea National Park West Caicos Marine National Park Northwest Point Marine National Park Pigeon Pond and Frenchman’s Creek Nature Reserve West Caicos Master Plan <p>Trust’s management plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North, Middle & East Caicos Nature Reserve (International Ramsar Site) (inc. Vine Point, Man O’War Bush & Ocean Hole) Nature Res. To implement the Ramsar Convention, this Ramsar site must be monitored and managed in such a way as to ensure biological conservation, using the Darwin Initiative Management Plan as the basis Conch Bar Caves National Park Princess Alexandra Nature Reserve – Little Water Cay; plans needed for Donna and Mangrove Cays Boiling Hole AHI Cheshire Hall AHI <p>Trust’s management plans/process for areas outside PAS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wade’s Green Woodland between Lorimers & Bambarra including Haulover Plantation, Nanny & Garden Ponds Crossing Place Trail and Fish Ponds, Middle Caicos Indian Cave, Middle Caicos Little Ambergris Cay Old Govt House, Salt Cay Bird Rock Point, Providenciales, linking in with adjacent Princess Alexandra NR 	<p>2.c.1 DECR PAD</p> <p>2.c.2 DECR PAD</p> <p>2.c.3 DECR PAD</p> <p>TCNT</p> <p>TCNT</p>

Element of Commitment	Actions/Programmes	Lead agency(ies)
	<p>Dept of Planning: Northwest Point Master Plan</p> <p>2.c.4 Develop fisheries policy including the review of the Fisheries Management Plans in order to develop the fisheries sector of the economy while ensuring protection of the target and non-target species on which both the fishing and tourism industries are based.</p> <p>2.c.5 Identify habitats/areas which may need some protection, but are not appropriate for inclusion in PAS and develop strategy for protecting them, using the Conservation Area and other provisions of the Physical Planning Ordinance.</p> <p>2.c.6 Ensure the proper protection of our coastal resources. Develop and implement Coastal Zone Management Policy to deal with coastal works, flooding and disaster management and wise allocation of valuable and very limited supply of coastal land. This policy should recognise the value of natural features such as coral reefs, beaches, mangroves, and sea grass beds as natural defences and the utility of soft engineering approaches to encourage such natural systems.</p> <p>2.c.7 In order to implement the Ramsar Convention, wetlands must be a specific focus of protected areas protection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use the SDPI to ensure environmentally sustainable wise use of all wetlands in the TCI ○ For those areas already parts of the PAS which comprise wetlands, ensure proper management and wardening ○ Identify and designate other valuable wetlands as Nature Reserves or Sanctuaries and provide adequate wardening ○ Identify and designate suitable additional wetlands for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance ○ Develop biological records system to enable research and exchange of data ○ Train personnel in the fields of wetlands research, management and wardening <p>2.c.8 Recognising the importance of the Salinas (constructed salt pans) of Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos to both wildlife and cultural heritage, drainage and storm protections, as well as the proximity of these features to centres of population, and in keeping with the Dept of Planning Advisory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Give protected status to the Salinas of Grand Turk and Salt Cay, as they exceed the standards for Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance and Important Bird Areas. Enforce Development Manual requirement that any development in a Salina requires an EIA. ○ Implement management of the Salinas in all three Islands and in particular, restore tidal flow in the South Caicos Salinas. ○ Integrate the Salinas into the TCI tourism product, both to demonstrate the economic history of the islands and to take advantage of the extraordinary birdwatching opportunities they provide. <p>2.c.9 Identify degraded areas in all islands which will benefit from reforestation or other restoration, determine the optimal restoration approach for each, ensuring that only native plants are used, and carry out restoration works.</p> <p>2.c.10 TCIG develop (with National Trust) a policy for preservation of historic buildings, appropriate legislation and funding; amend sec 34 of the Public and Environmental Health Ordinance to afford protection to historic structures</p>	<p>Planning</p> <p>2.c.4 DECR</p> <p>2.c.5 Planning/ DECR/TCNT</p> <p>2.c.6 Planning/ DECR/TCNT</p> <p>2.c.7 DECR/Planning/ TCNT</p> <p>2.c.8 DECR/ TCNT/PWD</p> <p>2.c.9 DECR</p> <p>2.c.10 DECR/TCNT/ DEH/Museum</p>

Element of Commitment	Actions/Programmes	Lead agency(ies)
	<p>To implement the World Heritage Convention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ extend review of cultural sites and extend detailed specification and protection needs to all new sites identified, natural or cultural. ○ incorporate into SDPI effective and active measures for the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage <p>2.c.11 Ensure proper management of the Conservation Fund, including ensuring that management authority for the Conservation Fund is representative of both governmental and non-governmental stakeholders and has transparent procedures.</p> <p>2.c.12 Develop and implement an Agriculture Policy, and establish and staff an Agriculture Department, ensuring that environmental considerations are fully integrated into both policy and practice. Develop means of assistance to local farmers and increase the amount of home-grown produce in supermarkets and the hospitality sector.</p> <p>2.c.13 Using tools and resources developed under Commitment 7, develop and implement biological monitoring programme which</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ensures <u>regular</u> ongoing monitoring of high-value coral reef systems, ○ monitors wetlands in accordance with Ramsar Convention requirements; ○ monitors dry lands, especially in relation to the impacts of built development, and ○ monitors Protected Areas in relation to the objectives of their protection <p>2.c.14 Implement the TCI Rock Iguana Conservation and Management Plan. Ensure that ongoing species-specific conservation programmes are carried out and that logical successor projects follow on for turtles, whales, whistling ducks and other priority species.</p> <p>2.c.15 Carry out systematic evaluation of other species requiring conservation action and develop action plans to address these.</p> <p>2.c.16 Ensure the proper control of mosquitoes and other disease-carrying insects and animals using programmes which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ avoid adverse impacts on other species ○ effectively address the problem ○ affect target species proportionately <p>2.c.17 In order to implement the Convention on Migratory Species, establish Protected Areas for the Kirtland's Warbler in the Caicos Islands and designate turtle nesting beaches throughout the TCI as Nature Reserves or Sanctuaries.</p>	<p>2.c.11 Ministries of Nat Res and Finance</p> <p>2.c.12 Min Nat Res</p> <p>2.c.13 DECR/DEH</p> <p>2.c.14 DECR w/ NGOs</p> <p>2.c.15 DECR/TCNT</p> <p>2.c.16 Dept Env Hlth/DECR</p> <p>2.c.17 DECR PAD</p>
<p>2.d. Prevent new invasive species</p>	<p>2.d.1 To control invasive species and for other environmental health reasons, carry out a major project to implement port environmental security including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Restricting ports of entry ○ Stronger legislation ○ Establishment of quarantine facilities for both plants and animals ○ Technical training for customs and other officials, starting with CITES training in 2003 <p>2.d.2 Review and list exotic flora and fauna which pose greatest potential problems to either environmental health or biodiversity conservation; enact legislation to prohibit entry</p>	<p>2.d.1 Dept Env Hlth/Customs</p> <p>2.d.2 Dept Env Hlth/DECR</p>

Element of Commitment	Actions/Programmes	Lead agency(ies)
2.e. Eradicate problem invasive species	2.e.1 Continue Feral Dogs Project and extend to other islands as needed. 2.e.2 Task the agencies for environmental health, environmental conservation, agriculture, etc, to monitor invasive species, identify problems, develop appropriate plans to eradicate or otherwise control and carry these out.	2.e.1 TCSPCA/ DEH 2.e.2 Dept Env Hlth/DECR/Min Nat Res

TCIG Charter Commitment 3. Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes; promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the territory.

Desired Outcomes: Social and economic planning ensures a healthy environment; production and consumption are carried on in a sustainable manner

3.a. Integrate environmental considerations within social and economic planning processes	<p>Establish development policies which take into account poverty, unemployment and inequality, in order to create real economic development.</p> <p>3.a.1 Identify existing or potentially easily gatherable data sets which could, if tracked, give <u>meaningful</u> indication of quality of life parameters. Use these to institute a system of indicators, ideally with annual reporting. The indicators should relate to health, literacy, pollution levels, natural resources, natural and cultural heritage, social stability and other real indicators of the effects of development decisions. Integrate with ongoing efforts to develop domestic GDP capacity to integrate sustainable measures of GDP. Some of these data sets will come from other organisations, but Government, too, needs to develop a more integrated approach to collation of statistics.</p> <p>3.a.2 Become familiar with, and contribute to, the international effort to develop meaningful measures of natural, human, social and financial capital. (Note that this is a new and rapidly developing field and the TCI is in no way behind in this new approach.)</p> <p>3.a.3 Build on the Standard of Living study to go back to the original respondents and begin working on the practical implications of the issues they raised.</p> <p>Prepare a Ten-Year Comprehensive Development Plan which builds on current initiatives such as the SDPI and which encompasses transport, education, land development, procurement of goods, provision of services and growth models. Elements of the Plan identified through the Environment Charter process include:</p> <p>3.a.4. The development of growth scenarios which plainly illustrate the impacts of different levels and rates of development on such future factors as the composition of the population of the TCI, the relative economic power of Belongers versus incomers, and other quality of life factors.</p> <p>3.a.5 The Sustainable Development Planning Initiative, which is to be the new National Development Plan. This was begun in Grand Turk, and is to be carried out in every inhabited island. Key SDPI goals to be met include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Protection of environmental resources by establishing target growth capacity that sustains quality of ecosystems, human health and economic prosperity ○ Improvement of quality of life by providing for a diverse economy which balances foreign investment and local enterprise enabling a lasting prosperity 	<p>3.a.1 DEPS/Planning/TCInvest/Tourist Bd</p> <p>3.a.2 DEPS</p> <p>3.a.3 DEPS</p> <p>3.a.4 DEPS/ Planning</p> <p>3.a.5 Planning/DEPS</p>
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Element of Commitment	Actions/Programmes	Lead agency(ies)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strengthen the community by involving them in the decisions which affect their quality of life. ○ Develop a zoning scheme which provides the framework for individual decisions; good zoning should reduce the costs of proper EIAs ○ Develop zoning strategy to set aside lands for conservation. (2.a.3) <p>3.a.6. a National Strategic Development Policy with clear criteria against which to assess proposals and guidelines to aid Ministerial decisions. Decisions should be published with reasons explained against these criteria. Policy should lay out which kinds of development are good for the country and why. Each Development Agreement made by TCInvest should also lay out how the proposed development fits with the National Strategic Development Policy.</p> <p>3.a.7 A Crown lands policy for our most non-renewable resource</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Assess accurately the Crown lands which remain available for potential alienation without jeopardising those Crown lands which are identified to support other aspects of the future development of the country. This includes the Protected Areas System and other lands which underpin the high value tourist industry as well as the quality of life for Turks and Caicos Islanders. □ Review existing land policies to develop a framework for allocation of Crown lands both to Belongers and inward investors in a sustainable manner, recognising that the land supply is finite: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The policy needs to look beyond the point when there is no longer appropriate Crown land to alienate, and a sustainable approach requires that this Policy is developed well before reaching that point. ○ To ensure consistency with land use plans, Planning Department should have input on decisions regarding allocation of Crown Land. ○ Ensure proper planning of new settlements: rather than allocating one plot at a time, take account of consultative exercises such as the SDPI to allocate land in a manner which will create viable communities with public facilities, greenspace, etc ○ The policy must include an assessment of the percentage of the reserve that can be released at any time, and a process for exceeding that percentage. ○ Develop clear policy for capital reserve derived from land sales to ensure sustainability of Government’s budgets. Revenue from the disposal of Crown Lands should be used to expand the Reserve Fund and never for recurrent expenditure. ○ Review existing land policies to improve institutional arrangements and efficiency. ○ Adopt a policy of long-leases rather than outright sale of Crown lands. ○ Change regulations and policies to allow more efficient use of land for residential use, including clustered development, small lot sizes where appropriate, and further subdividing of lots which have previously been subdivided. When Crown land is allocated for Belonger housing, consider smaller lot sizes, more related to the 	<p>3.a.6 DEPS/ Immigration</p> <p>3.a.7 Chief Min’s Office/DEPS/Planning</p>

Element of Commitment	Actions/Programmes	Lead agency(ies)
	<p style="text-align: center;">space needs of the housing to be built.</p> <p>3.a.8. A population policy based on carrying-capacity analysis, the spread of required skills between Belongers and incomers, and reasonable treatment of those contributing to the country’s development, whether Belongers or incomers.</p> <p>3.a.9. A re-evaluation of the tourism industry, placing greater emphasis on the socio-economic and environmental effects of tourism on our country and undertake measures to ensure that the negative impact is minimised.</p> <p>3.a.10. A biodiversity country study, building on the Habitat Mapping project (7.1), the Biodiversity Management Project for Middle and North Caicos, DECR marine studies, UK Conservation Forum Important Bird Areas analysis, and using the proposed Biological Records System (7..2).</p> <p>3.a.11 Increase transparency and public accountability. Ministers must make choices on the merits when carrying out the business of the public. Once policies are set, they should be administered by technical staff and not by Ministers.</p> <p>Make all laws and policies effective by enforcing them</p> <p>3.a.12 In every area covered by the Charter, develop a culture amongst the authorities that they must enforce the laws and to make sure that Government action must also fall within the law, adequately resource Government departments to enable them to carry out enforcement activities, and raise public awareness of the purpose and value of laws which protect our environment</p>	<p>3.a.8 DEPS/ Immigration</p> <p>3.a.9 Tourist Board/DEPS</p> <p>3.a.10 DECR/Planning</p> <p>3.a.11 Chief Minister</p> <p>3.a.12 All TCIG</p>
<p>3.b. Promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption</p>	<p>Ensure that the benefits of development are spread equally and sustainably to Turks and Caicos Islanders.</p> <p>3.b.1 In order to ensure diversity of economic opportunity, high quality of life and sustainability of prosperity for Belongers, urgently need to develop commercial activities which promote Belonger prosperity other than the construction business. Through the SDPI, identify opportunities on each Island appropriate to that Island, and develop low-interest loans to enable Belongers to develop their own businesses. In order to ensure that tourism-led development is spread across the entire country, establish a Hotel Development Corporation to take the initial risk of building hotels in the less developed islands. Establish Hotel Training School to ensure Belongers have skills to compete for best jobs. Establish categories of businesses available only to Belongers. Provide duty concessions to Belongers to build small inns and hotels. Ensure that adequate infrastructure is provided evenly throughout the islands as a necessary condition for sustainable economic and social development.</p> <p>3.b.2 As part of the expansion of the agriculture and fishing sectors, develop mariculture/aquaculture projects to produce food animals such as conch and lobster to supply the tourism industry in a sustainable way, without depleting wild stock. Equally, develop nurseries to grow valued local plants such as the Turks Head cactus, but strictly control how any operations collect from the wild.</p> <p>3.b.3 Ongoing task for the Environment Charter Working Group, beyond the present project: Identify policies which affect use of resources - energy, water, fisheries, transport, land, agriculture, quarrying, sand mining, construction methods, touristic development. Evaluate in terms of sustainability and make recommendations for policy development accordingly. This should address incentives/disincentives created by public policy to ensure that policies in all sectors promote sustainable use. In this process, take account of the likely effects of climate change, which will put additional stress on natural systems and services on which local livelihoods depend for natural resources, coastal protection and water resources; it will therefore be even more important to avoid other impacts on these features (see NRI/Tyndall Centre report to DFID 2001).</p>	<p>3.b.1 Chief Min/Min Finance/DEPS</p> <p>3.b.2 DECR</p> <p>3.b.3 ECWG</p>

Element of Commitment	Actions/Programmes	Lead agency(ies)
	<p>4.3 Take forward commitments in Country Strategic Plan (j) to incorporate a Strategic Environment Assessment approach and the SDPI-developed zoning scheme (see 3.a.5) into EIA procedures</p> <p>4.4 Develop policies and practice to ensure that conditions attached to development permission adequately require that total costs, including damage to primary resources, are built into development, rather than being picked up by TCIG later. Develop statistical framework, including a set of ratios which allow calculation of total costs of developments of various sizes. Develop process for monitoring and enforcing agreed payments/projects by developers. Note that these can be non-physical, such as commitment to enhance educational advancement.</p> <p>4.5 Ensure code compliance with regard to all aspects of development and resource management</p> <p>4.6 Adopt appropriate international certification requirements for architects, surveyors, etc to ensure professional standards and facilitate local practitioners seeking international certification.</p>	<p>TCInvest/Phys Planning Board/ DEPS</p> <p>4.4 Planning</p> <p>4.5 Planning</p> <p>4.6 Planning</p>

TCIG Charter Commitment 5. Commit to open and consultative decision-making on developments and plans which may affect the environment; ensure that environmental impact assessments include consultation with stakeholders.

Desired Outcome: Decisions regarding growth and development are taken in open consultation with the community and reflect the shared values of the community.

<p>5.a. Ensure open and consultative decision making process on proposed development and plans</p>	<p>5.a.1 Amend Physical Planning Ordinance and relevant Regulations to establish procedures which ensure public notice for <u>all</u> projects and meaningful opportunity for input before decisions made. These amendments should ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ advocacy takes in broader issues, rather than focusing only on narrow legal procedural points ○ all members of the public, including associations and NGOs, have standing to make representations ○ representations are either made at a hearing or are fully conveyed to decision-makers ○ any planning decision by the Board or the Minister is considered against the Development Policy criteria (see 3.a.6) with advice from technical officers, and reasons (relating to those criteria) are published with the decision ○ Advertising should be required for all major projects; replace or revise Schedule 2 of the Planning Regulations and sec 2.7.5 of the Development Manual to require this <p>5.a.2 Design and carry out a project to initiate the regular informing of different sectors of society to empower local people so that they can participate in informed democratic decision-making on matters which affect their future. Reintroduce District Boards to give local people a voice. Essential that people’s right to be informed is honoured in this process. Important, also, because an informed electorate can support difficult political decisions. Implement with laws, regulations as needed and with adequate funding to ensure continuity. Should encourage NGO and private sector involvement.</p> <p>5.a.3 Enable participatory budgeting by reviewing and adapting the Governmental decision process for capital projects, with a view to ensuring that publicly funded projects contribute to environmental, social and financial sustainability. Process must include consultation with an informed public who understand that there are choices to be made between priorities and that there are trade-offs inherent in capital</p>	<p>5.a.1 Planning/AG’s Chambers</p> <p>5.a.2 DEPS/ Planning</p> <p>5.a.3 Planning/ DECR</p>
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Element of Commitment	Actions/Programmes	Lead agency(ies)
	<p>development decisions.</p> <p>5.a.4 As part of implementing Strategic Country Plan (k) carry out public information campaign (as part of SDPI?) about the broader positive & negative effects of development projects, and the needs for and benefits of effective EIAs. Develop resources to facilitate NGOs and other less-enfranchised groups’ participation in the planning process. Educate developers on the benefits of using EIA’s to guide the conceptual planning of a project.</p> <p>5.a.5 Adopt appropriate international certification requirements for practitioners who develop plans and EIAs. Facilitate local practitioners seeking international certification. Include training component by DFID, World Bank or similar, and registration, for example by the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM).</p> <p>5.a.6 Develop means for open review as projects are carried forward as to whether EIA was accurate, using this as feedback both to that development and to future EIAs. Set out proper notification process for feedback, resulting in advisories which go directly to ExCo .</p>	5.a.4 Planning/ DECR
5.b. Environmental impact assessments include consultation with stakeholders.	<p>5.b.1 Amend Physical Planning Ordinance and relevant Regulations to establish EIA procedures which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Make EIA subject to both public review and peer review by scientific bodies, and in major projects, make the scoping process also subject to public review ○ Create deadlines in Planning Regulations which allow adequate time for public review and input 	5.b.1 Planning/AG’s Chambers

TCIG Charter Commitment 6. Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Turks and Caicos Islands and work towards extension of other relevant agreements.

Desired Outcome: The TCI implements its shared responsibilities to the world environment.

6.a-d Implement MEAS extended to TCI	<p>a. Cartagena Convention –Main Convention and Oil Spill Protocol</p> <p>b. Convention on Migratory Species</p> <p>c. London Convention</p> <p>d. Ramsar Convention on Wetlands</p> <p>e. World Heritage Convention</p> <p>Action items needed to implement the conventions already extended to the TCI are integrated into main text and annotated</p>	
6.f. Assess the needs for joining other relevant	<p>Key Issue: Ensure that UK Government maintains full consultation with TCIG before extending its ratification of treaties to include TCI.</p> <p>CITES</p>	

Element of Commitment	Actions/Programmes	Lead agency(ies)
<p>MEAs: CITES (see Annex 19) CBD (see Annex 17) MARPOL (see Annex22)</p>	<p>6.f.1 Request UK Government to add TCI to its ratification of CITES</p> <p>6.f.2 Adopt lists from Appendices I and II (complete) in the Customs Order and update as they are amended</p> <p>6.f.3 Enact legislation which penalises possession of listed species</p> <p>CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY</p> <p>6.f.4 Request UK Government to add TCI to its ratification of CBD, and consider inclusion also in Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety</p> <p>6.f.5 Use the continuation of the current project, the SDPI and other measures to establish much higher level of awareness of the need to ensure incorporation of conservation of biodiversity into all other activities as normal practice</p> <p>6.f.6 Further identify components of biological diversity important for its conservation and sustainable use, by development of the approaches of the Darwin Initiative project and CRMP.</p> <p>6.f.7 Develop and implement biological records system and biological monitoring programme</p> <p>6.f.8 Expand the Protected Areas system by further designations or other protection mechanisms in the light of the review initiated in this project, and develop and implement management plans</p> <p>6.f.9 Use SDPI, Darwin Initiative plan and planning procedures to manage biological resources important for the conservation of biological diversity whether within or outside protected areas, with a view to ensuring their conservation and sustainable use, and to promote environmentally sound and sustainable development in areas adjacent to protected areas with a view to furthering protection of these areas</p> <p>6.f.10 Use and further develop species-based plans, including fisheries management plans, to promote the protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and the maintenance of viable populations of species in natural surroundings</p> <p>6.f.11 Use the approaches outlined in section 2.d and 2.e of this plan to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species, and include the provisions needed regarding biosafety required by the Cartagena Protocol to the CBD, if the TCI decides that extension of that Protocol to the TCI is appropriate</p> <p>6.f.12 Provide the conditions needed for compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components, and respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices, such as in the approach used in the Darwin Initiative management plan</p> <p>6.f.13 Enact and implement protection legislation for turtles, iguanas and black coral, amongst others</p> <p>6.f.14 Where appropriate for the purpose of complementing <i>in-situ</i> conservation measures, adopt measures for the <i>ex-situ</i> conservation of components of biological diversity</p> <p>6.f.15 Integrate consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making, protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or</p>	<p>6.f.1-3 Min Nat Res/Governor’s Office/ AG’s Chambers</p> <p>6.f.4 Min Nat Res/Governor’s Office/ AG’s Chambers</p> <p>6.f.5 Env Chtr Wkg Grp</p> <p>6.f.6 DECR/TCNT</p> <p>6.f.7 DECR/TCNT/ Env Chtr Wkg Grp</p> <p>6.f.8 DECR PAD</p> <p>6.f.9 Planning/DEPS</p> <p>6.f.10 DECR/TCNT</p> <p>6.f.11 Dept Env Hlth/DECR</p> <p>6.f.12 Env Chtr Wkg Grp</p> <p>6.f.13 DECR/AG’s Chambers</p> <p>6.f.14 DECR/TCNT</p> <p>6.f.15 Env Chtr</p>

Element of Commitment	Actions/Programmes	Lead agency(ies)
	<p>sustainable use requirements, and encourage cooperation between governmental authorities and private sector in developing methods for sustainable use of biological resources, using the continuation of the current project, SDPI, EIA, SEA and other appropriate measures</p> <p>6.f.16 Adopt economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity</p> <p>6.f.17 Implement measures under Commitments 9 & 10 of the Environment Charter to promote and encourage understanding of the importance of, and the measures required for, the conservation of biological diversity</p> <p>6.f.18 Implement measures under Commitments 4 & 5 of the Environment Charter to introduce appropriate procedures requiring environmental impact assessment of its proposed projects that are likely to have significant adverse effects on biological diversity with a view to avoiding or minimising such effects and, where appropriate, allow for public participation in such procedures; and introduce appropriate arrangements to ensure that the environmental consequences of its programmes and policies that are likely to have significant adverse impacts on biological diversity are duly taken into account</p> <p>6.f.19 Facilitate the exchange of information, from all publicly available sources, relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and promote international technical and scientific cooperation in these subjects</p> <p>6.f.20 Input to UK regular report to the Conference of the Parties to CBD</p> <p>MarPol Convention</p> <p>6.f.21 Establish procedures for detection and reporting of oil spills, using all appropriate and practicable measures of detection and environmental monitoring, adequate procedures for reporting and accumulation of evidence. Appoint an agency to carry these out.</p> <p>6.f.22 Report to the IMO on laws, procedures, etc, for dealing with this Convention including a description of all reception facilities for sewage, garbage, etc.</p> <p>6.f.23 Whenever traces of oil are observed near or in the wake of a vessel, carry out an immediate investigation and report.</p> <p>6.f.24 Provide reception facilities for sewage, garbage and any other substances required under the Convention for any port used by cargo or passenger vessels.</p>	<p>Wkg Grp/ DEPS/Planning</p> <p>6.f.16 DEPS</p> <p>6.f.17 Dept Education/ Tourist Board/ NGOs/GIS</p> <p>6.f.18 Planning/ TCInvest</p> <p>6.f.19 All TCIG Depts</p> <p>6.f.20 DECR</p> <p>6.f.21 Disaster Managmt/Dept Pub Hlth/ Maritime Dept</p> <p>6.f.22 Dept Env Hlth</p> <p>6.f.23 Maritime Dept</p> <p>6.f.24 Dept Env Hlth</p>

TCIG Charter Commitment 7. Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.

Desired Outcome: Good scientific and technical information is available to ensure well-informed, sustainable, reasonable decisions consistent with international standards.

7. Review baseline data for natural resources and	<p>7.1 Establish programmes and progressive integration of databases to provide baseline and monitoring information on natural resources, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ground-truthed satellite imagery of terrestrial and wetland ecosystems, built environment and habitat mapping for all islands, 	7.1 Min Nat Res/Env Chrtr Wkg Grp
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Element of Commitment	Actions/Programmes	Lead agency(ies)
biodiversity	<p>extending and developing the mapping of Middle and North Caicos done by the TCNT and UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, under the Darwin Initiative project, to so that planners and decision makers can readily identify areas of important flora, fauna, historic, cultural and archaeological value</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ make available for integration into the GIS system the DFID-funded marine habitat mapping ○ integrate land parcel and other related information with these <p>7.2 In order to follow best international practice in securing survey and monitoring information in a cost-effective manner, establish computer-based biological records system. This will allow collation, checking, input, handling and recovery of observations from many potential observers, both formal and informal, and make this data available for conservation and planning as noted in 3.a.10.</p> <p>7.3 In order to access the extensive studies already undertaken but not easily available, develop meta-database (and where practicable link into biological records system) of information held by many agencies, including dissertations done on topics relating to conditions here in the TCI, scientific studies, EIAs, and other “grey literature”.</p> <p>7.4 Keep under review the range and quality of information, once collected, and identify further needs.</p> <p>7.5 Ensure that ongoing projects are carried out and that logical successor projects follow on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TCNT Herbarium ○ Museum’s wet land core samples for pollen and seed analysis ○ Individually developed study collections ○ Further development of biodiversity studies in the Caicos Islands 	<p>7.2 DECR/TCNT</p> <p>7.3 Env Chrtr Wkg Grp by separate project</p> <p>7.4 DECR</p> <p>7.5 TCNT Museum Various TCNT</p>

TCIG Charter Commitment 8. Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for prevention or remedies: establish effective monitoring and enforcement mechanism.

Desired Outcome: Economic activity is carried out in a manner which does not pollute the environment and ensures that the developer or operator carries the costs, rather than TCIG.

8.a. Polluter pays: establish effective legislation, policies. Implementing “polluter-pays” principles required under the “London” Convention	<p>8.a.1 Water and Sewer Ordinance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Amend Sec 106 (prohibiting discharge of pollution into all controlled waters) to provide strong penalties with a range appropriate to individuals, businesses and international shipping, and also the power to compel mitigation. (Penalties should be comparable with the largest of those of neighbouring states to avoid TCI waters becoming a bargain dumping zone.) [Implements London Convention] ○ Add explicit procedures and standards for decisions on how sewage is to be disposed of. <p>8.a.2 Revoke or amend Sec 6(2) of the National Parks Ordinance which provides compensation to polluters [Implements</p>	<p>8.a.1 Dept Env Hlth/PWD/ AG’s Chambers</p> <p>8.a.2 DECR PAD/ AG’s Chambers</p>
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Element of Commitment	Actions/Programmes	Lead agency(ies)
	<p>London Convention] [This item shown as part of 2.a.4 in Priority Projects]</p> <p>8.a.3 Amend Secs 45, 46, 51 and 82 of the Physical Planning Ordinance to vest Enforcement Notices and other appeals from decisions of the Physical Planning Board in an independent technical body, commission or inspectorate with expertise in planning, pollution and related issues, with process open to the public</p>	<p>8.a.3 Planning/ AG’s Chambers</p>
<p>8.b. Establish effective monitoring and enforcement of pollution controls</p>	<p>8.b.1 Produce and implement a proper solid waste collection and disposal plan, including incinerator systems for the proper disposal of waste throughout the TCI</p> <p>8.b.2 To deal with chronic problems of litter and trash:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Invest more money in cleaning up our streets and public areas o Build on programmes of “Clean Up TCI” to develop and extend public awareness regarding disposal of other categories of waste. o Create ticketing system for littering and residential violations of the Public and Environmental Health Ordinance and enact stiffer penalties for littering. o Amend Road Traffic Law to require trucks to cover their cargoes or loads. o Require all landlords to provide animal-safe facilities for trash disposal and collection at all premises <p>8.b.3 Establish recycling programmes, including legislation, facilities and incentives, using Sec 51 of the Public and Environmental Health Ordinance, if appropriate.</p> <p>8.b.4 Establish programme for removal of large waste objects such as cars, construction equipment; develop incentives to ensure proper disposal of such objects in future. [programme about to be started.]</p> <p>8.b.5 Implement the Provo Liquid Waste Management Plan which will require centralised sewage disposal in Providenciales</p> <p>8.b.6 Build on work of Provo Pollution Task Force, applying this successful model to other problem areas.</p> <p>8.b.7 Deal with illegal immigration and substandard housing as they have enormous negative environmental impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o consider this as a project for the Provo Pollution Task Force o consider changes to regulations to allow alternative sanitation solutions such as high-tech composting toilets o reactivate the initiative on “Informal Housing” by recirculating the report and reactivating the task force <p>8.b.8 Establish national laboratory to facilitate environmental monitoring [Implements London Convention]</p> <p>8.b.9 Establish discharge standards which can be enacted as Regulations for appropriate Ordinances</p> <p>8.b.10 In order to implement the London Convention, establish mechanism for enforcement of polluting activities of cruise lines etc in international waters, including procedures regarding liability arising from the dumping or incineration at sea of wastes or other matter. [Also implements Cartagena Convention]</p> <p>8.b.11 In order to implement the Cartagena Convention, take all appropriate measures to prevent, reduce and control pollution:</p>	<p>8.b.1 Dept Env Hlth</p> <p>8.b.2 Dept Env Hlth/ NGOs/Police/ AGs Chambers</p> <p>8.b.3 Dept Env Hlth/NGOs</p> <p>8.b.4 Dept Env Hlth</p> <p>8.b.5 Dept Env Hlth</p> <p>8.b.6 PPTF/Dept Env Hlth</p> <p>8.b.7 PPTF/ Dept Env Hlth/ Immigration [coordinate with DEPS Population Policy Project]</p> <p>8.b.8 Dept Env Hlth</p> <p>8.b.9 Dept Env Hlth/PWD</p> <p>8.b.10 Dept Env Hlth/DECR/AG’s Chambers</p> <p>8.b.11 Dept Env Hlth/DECR/AG’s</p>

Element of Commitment	Actions/Programmes	Lead agency(ies)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ caused by discharges from ships ○ caused by dumping of wastes and other matter at sea from ships, aircraft or manmade structures at sea ○ caused by coastal disposal or by discharges emanating from rivers, estuaries, coastal establishments, outfall structures, or any other sources on their territories. ○ resulting directly or indirectly from exploration and exploitation of the sea-bed and its subsoil. ○ resulting from discharges into the atmosphere from activities under their jurisdiction. <p>8.b.12 Establish monitoring programme for environmental impacts of major projects, including baseline studies and ongoing monitoring.</p> <p>8.b.13 Maintain and update the Oil Spill Contingency Plan and develop contingency plans for other types of pollution emergencies [Implements Cartagena Convention]</p> <p>8.b.14 In order to implement the London Convention, designate an appropriate authority to issue permits in accordance with this Protocol; keep records of the nature and quantities of all wastes for which dumping permits have been issued; monitor the condition of the sea for the purposes of this Protocol; and report to the IMO.</p> <p>8.b.15 In order to implement the London Convention, ensure that pollution prevention methods do not transfer damage or pollution from one part of the environment to another.</p> <p>8.b.16 Cooperate with other Caribbean nations in scientific research, monitoring, and the exchange of data and other scientific information; co-ordinate research and monitoring programmes; participate in international arrangements for pollution research and monitoring. [Implements Cartagena Convention]</p>	<p>Chambers</p> <p>8.b.12 Dept Env Hlth/ DECR</p> <p>8.b.13 Disaster Mgmt</p> <p>8.b.14 Ministry Health</p> <p>8.b.15 Dept Env Hlth/ DECR</p> <p>8.b.16 Dept Env Hlth/ DECR</p>

TCIG Charter Commitment 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

Desired Outcome: Our children learn to value their natural and cultural heritage, and respect the TCI’s role in the global environment

<p>9. Support and enhance environmental education in schools</p>	<p>9.1 Ensure that the publicly funded school system is adequately resourced and sufficiently encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ promote environmental health and safety ○ allow greater capacity in career guidance ○ allow environmental study in the field as well as the classroom ○ to develop greater regional focus in the environmental curriculum ○ continue developing and expanding environmental curriculum ○ develop science education to draw more students to that as a career option ○ enable schools to join the National Trust and for teachers to access Trust and Tourist Board educational resources year-round ○ raise awareness of the Environment Charter in all schools, and related to all relevant subjects 	<p>9.1 Dept Education</p>
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Element of Commitment	Actions/Programmes	Lead agency(ies)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ work with local NGOs and regional bodies to develop ongoing, regular teacher training in environmental issues ○ Increase the number of Belongers who choose teaching for a career. <p>[implements the World Heritage Convention]</p> <p>9.2 Ensure that the National Trust is adequately resourced [including by the Conservation fund] to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ carry out environmental education programmes ○ develop and distribute educational materials ○ conduct programmes like summer camps and the Living Classrooms ○ take on work-experience students ○ extend good working relationship with primary schools to secondary and tertiary levels ○ develop teachers workshops at the conclusion of every successful project in order to maximise value and maintain the ongoing relationship with teachers <p>Arrange for Government approval for the sites identified on each island and the resources to be made available to the National Trust for the Living Classrooms programme.</p> <p>9.3 Build on successful TCIG education programmes such as the Junior Warden Programme which works at secondary level</p> <p>9.4 Encourage the development and/or revival of other NGOs such as PRIDE to offer high-quality environmental educational opportunities which will encourage children towards careers in conservation. Ensure greater access for more students to the resources and facilities of the School for Field Studies.</p>	<p>9.2 Min Nat Res/NPEAC/TC NT/DEPS/ Tourist Board</p> <p>9.3 NGOs</p> <p>9.4 NGOs/ TCIG</p>

TCIG Charter Commitment 10. Promote publications that spread awareness of the special features of the environment in the Turks and Caicos Islands; promote within the Turks and Caicos Islands the guiding principles set out above.

Desired Outcome: Our citizenry values their natural and cultural heritage, and respects the TCI’s role in the global environment

<p>10.a. Promote Environmental Charter principles within the TCI by developing and implementing programmes to increase public awareness</p>	<p>10.a.1 Fund one of the NGOs (CleanUpTCI or the Trust, for example) to carry out a large-scale, multi-year, nation-wide awareness programme centred on the adult population. Use the RARE model which carried out the successful iguana campaign and the Feral Dogs Project as models of how to change public attitudes.</p> <p>10.a.2 Use the Strategy for Action developed through the current process as the basis of Government’s development/ environment policy and make it widely known.</p> <p>10.a.3 Establish web site as means of disseminating information.</p> <p>10.a.4 Recognising that ecotourism facilities are both an education tool and an economic engine, facilitate the securing of funding by NGOs (especially the Trust and the Museum) for the development of such facilities, so that staff time in seeking funding does not unduly impact the ability to carry out projects. Use these facilities as one means to integrate local culture into tourism product. [implements the World Heritage</p>	<p>10.a.1 Env Charter Wkg Grp/NGOs</p> <p>10.a.2 Env Chrtr Wkg Group</p> <p>10.a.3 DECR</p> <p>10.a.4 DEPS/ Min Nat Res/ Tourist Board/ NPEAC/ NGOs</p>
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Element of Commitment	Actions/Programmes	Lead agency(ies)
	<p>Convention]</p> <p>10.a.5 Educate tourists in conservation issues, as they are, in fact, the largest sector of our population</p> <p>10.a.6 Work with commercial interests such as hotels and beer distributors to develop and implement their environmental policies and programmes</p> <p>10.a.7 To implement the World Heritage Convention, further develop the current programmes of the Tourist Board's Cultural Officer, the Education Dept, the National Trust, the National Museum, DECR and other educational and information programmes, to strengthen appreciation and respect of the cultural and natural heritage, and keep the public broadly informed of the dangers threatening this heritage</p>	<p>10.a.5 Tourist Board</p> <p>10.a.6 DECR/ Tourist Board</p> <p>10.a.7 listed agencies</p>
<p>10.b. Create and promote publications which spread awareness of TCI's special environmental features</p>	<p>10.b.1 Encourage and support the further development of existing initiatives by the Trust, Museum, Tourist Board and others, including private individuals, to produce and use high-quality publications which spread awareness of the TCI's special environmental features.</p>	<p>10.b.1 Tourist Board/NPEAC/ NGOs and bodies listed</p>
<p>10.c. Promote awareness of the Environmental Charter itself</p>	<p>10.c.1 Carry out high-profile launch to raise awareness of the Charter.</p>	<p>10.c.1 Env Chrtr Wkg Grp</p>

TCIG Charter Commitment 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 .

Desired Outcome: The choices made by our government are informed by an understanding of their impact on the environment, both local and global, now and in the future.

<p>11.a. Abide by Rio Principles</p>	<p>Principles of the Rio Declaration Most Relevant to the TCI Environment Charter</p> <p><i>If this Strategy is implemented, these principles will be met.</i></p> <p>1 Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.</p> <p>3 The right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations.</p> <p>4 In order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it.</p>	
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Element of Commitment	Actions/Programmes	Lead agency(ies)
	<p>5 All States and all people shall cooperate in the essential task of eradicating poverty as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in order to decrease the disparities in standards of living and better meet the needs of the majority of the people of the world.</p> <p>8 To achieve sustainable development and a higher quality of life for all people, States should reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and promote appropriate demographic policies.</p> <p>10 Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available.</p> <p>11 States shall enact effective environmental legislation.</p> <p>13 States shall develop national law regarding liability and compensation for the victims of pollution and other environmental damage.</p> <p>16 National authorities should endeavour to promote the internalisation of environmental costs and the use of economic instruments, taking into account the approach that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution, with due regard to the public interest.</p> <p>17 Environmental impact assessment, as a national instrument, shall be undertaken for proposed activities that are likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment and are subject to a decision of a competent national authority.</p> <p>21 The creativity, ideals and courage of the youth of the world should be mobilised to forge a global partnership in order to achieve sustainable development and ensure a better future for all.</p>	
<p>11.b. Work towards meeting International Development Targets</p>	<p>The International development target for the environment:</p> <p><i>If this Strategy is accepted and implementation is in progress by 2005, the target will be met</i></p> <p>There should be a current national strategy for sustainable development in the process of implementation, in every country by 2005, so as to ensure that current trends in the loss of environmental resources are effectively reversed at both global and national levels by 2015.</p>	

