



UKOTCF

Wider Caribbean Working Group (WCWG) eBulletin

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Welcome, Meetings and Themes

Discussions at the “*Sustaining Partnerships*” conference at Gibraltar in July 2015 resulted in suggestions that WCWG in the future give more focus to themes and issues of particular relevance to members, as well as updates from territories. The WCWG Skype meeting on 28 June, the first with our new Chairman Dace Ground, also agreed with Dace’s suggestion of shorter, more frequent meetings. To streamline the agenda for shorter, more focussed meetings, it was agreed that the eNewsletter morph into a monthly eBulletin, of 1-2 pages, so that issues and information sharing could continue, and be more relevant. So here is our first eBulletin. We welcome contributions for this.

A theme for the next meeting will be on proposed development that could have adverse environmental impacts and tools for fighting them. If you have any concerns, suggestions, examples, strategies etc please send them to me at any time so that we can focus discussions.

TCReef Fund Dolphinarium Petition

Turks and Caicos Reef Fund are petitioning the CEO of Carnival to stop the development of a Dolphinarium in Grand Turk, so please sign the petition, and get all your friends and colleagues to do the same. The link is from the TC Reef Fund Facebook page (www.facebook.com/TCREEF/), or directly at



www.thepetitionsite.com/269/123/327/demand-that-carnival-corporation-oppose-the-proposed-grand-turk-captive-dolphin-facility/?taf_id=26725800&cid=fb_na#

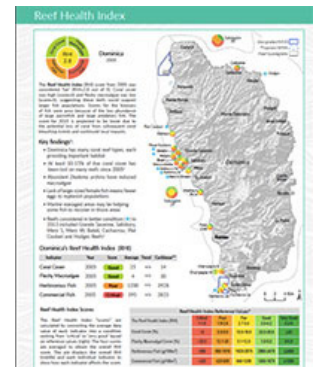
Bermuda - new Department of Environment and Natural Resources

The Bermuda Departments of Conservation Services and Environmental Protection have been merged to form the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, under a new Ministry (Health, Seniors and Environment). It is expected that the merger will create a more cohesive and coordinated approach to the management of Bermuda’s environment and use of its natural resources, under the guidance of a single director. The new department will be responsible for all matters related to animal and plant management, pollution control, marine resources, agriculture support services, conservation of Bermuda’s most sensitive habitats, protected species recovery and administration of the Bermuda Aquarium Museum and Zoo. For further information see www.gov.bm/department/environment-and-natural-resources

Caribbean Coral Reef Report Cards

In June 2016, with support from the Nature Conservancy, 6 Eastern Caribbean countries launched coral reef report cards. These report cards combine over 250 reef surveys to create a concise, visual tool that allows diverse audiences from policy makers to school teachers to quickly access and assess the health of their country's reefs. An article about the report cards, with links to the cards, can be found at

www.caribjournal.com/2016/06/23/caribbean-coral-reef-report-cards/#



Zika Virus

The Zika virus could be a major economic and medical problem throughout the Caribbean. There are reports that it is currently spreading rapidly across Puerto Rico. Is this something that is affecting your region, or is of concern in your area. Please let us know.

New Edition of the Ramsar Handbooks

The Secretariat of Ramsar Convention has launched the first Handbook in the 5th Edition Ramsar Handbook Series. It is entitled *An Introduction to the Convention on Wetlands* and replaces *The Ramsar Convention Manual*. *An Introduction to the Convention on Wetlands* is aimed at a diverse and extensive audience and explains the role of the Convention and how it works. The Handbook is currently being translated into French and Spanish. The 5th Edition Handbooks will be organized under three sub-series, covering International Cooperation on Wetlands; Wise Use of Wetlands; and Wetlands Conservation and Management.

These resources are available from: www.ramsar.org/resources/ramsar-handbooks-and-manual



Darwin Plus call Announced

The Darwin Initiative are now inviting applications for Darwin Plus Round 5 projects and fellowships.

The Overseas Territories Environment and Climate Fund (also known as Darwin Plus) provides funding for:

- * environmental projects in UK Overseas Territories
- * fellowships for UK Overseas Territories (OT) Nationals to train in the UK

More information on Darwin Plus is available online

www.gov.uk/guidance/darwin-plus-applying-for-projects-in-uk-overseas-territories

Deadline for applications: 29th August 2016

