

Environment Charter


TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS



Guiding Principles

*For the UK government, for the government of the Turks and Caicos Islands
and for the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands.*

- 1 To recognise that all people need a healthy environment for their well-being and livelihoods and that all can help to conserve and sustain it.
- 2 To use our natural resources wisely, being fair to present and future generations.
- 3 To identify environmental opportunities, costs and risks in all policies and strategies.
- 4 To seek expert advice and consult openly with interested parties on decisions affecting the environment.
- 5 To aim for solutions which benefit both the environment and development.
- 6 To contribute towards the protection and improvement of the global environment.
- 7 To safeguard and restore native species, habitats and landscape features, and control or eradicate invasive species.
- 8 To encourage activities and technologies that benefit the environment.
- 9 To control pollution, with the polluter paying for prevention or remedies.
- 10 To study and celebrate our environmental heritage as a treasure to share with our children.


Derek H. Taylor
TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS
26 September 2001


Valerie Amos
UNITED KINGDOM
26 September 2001

Commitments

The government of the UK will:

- 1 Help build capacity to support and implement integrated environmental management which is consistent with the Turks and Caicos Islands' own plans for sustainable development.
- 2 Assist the Turks and Caicos Islands in initiating, reviewing and updating environmental legislation.
- 3 facilitate the extension of the UK's ratification of Multilateral Environmental Agreements of benefit to the Turks and Caicos Islands and which the Turks and Caicos Islands has the capacity to implement (and a desire to adopt).
- 4 Keep the Turks and Caicos Islands informed regarding new developments in relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements and invite the Turks and Caicos Islands to participate where appropriate in the UK's delegation to international environmental negotiations and conferences.
- 5 Help the Turks and Caicos Islands to ensure it has the legislation, institutional capacity (technology, equipment, procedures) and mechanisms it needs to meet international obligations.
- 6 Promote better cooperation and the sharing of experience and expertise between the Turks and Caicos Islands, other Overseas Territories and other states and communities which face similar environmental problems.
- 7 Use UK, regional and local expertise to give advice and improve knowledge of technical and scientific issues. This includes regular consultation with interested non-governmental organisations and networks.
- 8 Use the existing Environment Fund for the Overseas Territories, and promote access to other sources of public funding, for projects of lasting benefit to the Turks and Caicos Islands' environment.
- 9 Help the Turks and Caicos Islands identify further funding partners for environmental projects, such as donors, the private sector or non-governmental organisations.
- 10 Recognise the diversity of the challenges facing Overseas Territories in very different socio-economic and geographical situations.
- 11 Abide by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (See Annex 2) and work towards meeting International Development Targets on the environment (See Annex 3).

The government of the Turks and Caicos Islands will:

- 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. (See Annex 1).
- 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.
- 3 Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes; promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the territory.
- 4 Ensure that environmental and environmental health impact assessments are undertaken before approving major projects and while developing our growth management strategy.
- 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.
- 6 Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Turks and Caicos Islands and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.
- 7 Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.
- 8 Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for prevention or remedies; establish effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.
- 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.
- 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.
- 11 Abide by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (See Annex 2) and work towards meeting International Development Targets on the environment (See Annex 3).