



## Sustaining Partnerships: a conference on conservation and sustainability in UK Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and other small island communities

Gibraltar  
11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Organised by:

UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum and HM Government of Gibraltar Department of Environment, with the support of Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society

### Conference recommendations to other Funding Bodies

The full set of conference conclusions and recommendations are at:

<http://www.ukotcf.org/pdf/2015conf/SustainingPartnerships2015Concl&Rec.pdf>. Here are reproduced those directed to other Funding Bodies. For more context, see the full document. Because this document is an extract of that, the numbering here includes gaps.

It is important to note that not all conclusions and recommendations will apply to every territory. They all differ and any kind of “one-size-fits-all” approach would be unlikely to be successful.

The conclusions and recommendations have been grouped into sections, some fairly closely related to the conference sessions, but others cutting across several. The categories of organisations to which recommendations are directed are indicated in bold italics in the text or after it. The session(s) in which the conclusion or recommendation arose is indicated by the session number(s), as indicated in the programme.

#### F. Using informed decision making to manage development sustainably, including Environmental Impact Assessments

##### **F5. Role of Civil Society**

120. It is worth *NGOs, UKOT Governments* and others investing valuable time and resources in informing and engaging stakeholders to assist in decision-making. Their input can really influence the outcome of a project. A good way to ensure a high level of stakeholder engagement in decision-making is to offer a variety of ways to get involved. If stakeholders can be given more responsibility, e.g. fishermen given a role in managing a particular fishery or site, they are more likely to become actively involved. Sometimes small jurisdictions are able to be more flexible in their approach to accommodate stakeholder input and achieve good conservation outcomes. (12)
124. Organisations that bring together UKOT and CD representatives and member organisations and individuals could help with informed decision making by sharing case studies of good and bad practice, and *UK & UKOT Governments and other funding bodies* should resource this. (12)

#### G. Stakeholder and User Stewardship

136. A model of a systematic approach for engaging the community in stakeholder stewardship is being devised, e.g. with TCI’s Community Conservation Partner Program and UKOTCF; however, initial funding is needed to establish project protocols, procedures, legislative framework and training for all participants. Once developed, this model can be applied across territories. Funding could be provided by *UK or UKOT governments or other funding agencies*. (7)

137. NGOs working in and for the UKOTs should come together to develop cross-territory sustainable tourism guidelines/certification programme for tourism operators (for example, dive operators, tour guides, etc.), and take advantage of the IUCN publication *Guidelines on development in sensitive areas*. Such a certification program will have wide recognition and could prove to be more successful than single-territory certification schemes. NGOs can play a key role in building capacity and training. (To: *NGOs and Funding Agencies*) (7)

## I. Economic and Intrinsic Value of Sustainable Use

167. NGOs, such as UKOTCF should be resourced so as to be able to continue to play the role of sharing positive outcomes, new methods and lessons learned among territories. (To: *UK Government and other funding bodies*) (7)

## J. Invasive species

193. Promote prioritising system(s) to determine which islands or areas across territories have the highest priority for eradication as this is of strategic importance to determining the allocation of limited resources to achieve maximum conservation benefit. (*NGOs, UK Government & other funding bodies*) (4)
195. Secure funding to conduct eradication/control of invasive species that are impacting on key biodiversity sites and endangered species, and to develop/enhance capacity in the UKOTs to manage such invasive species. (*UK Government and other funding bodies*). (4)

## M. Capacity and resource issues

249. A greater understanding of the role of organisations like UKOTCF should be shared. *Funding bodies* need a better understanding of UKOTs and conservation challenges there, and the facilitation and assistance roles that some governmental and NGO bodies in the UKOTs look to in locally experienced umbrella conservation bodies. (4)
252. The Conference acknowledged the importance of continued funding for research, education and implementation of conservation measures for the environment of the UK Overseas Territories. Difficulties of access to UK and EU funding streams were highlighted as there are restrictions because of the constitutional position of both funders and the Territories. Specific Overseas Territory funding was therefore particularly supported by the Conference. (To *UK Government, EU, other funding bodies*) (11)
255. A checklist of environmental infrastructure (e.g. sustainable physical development plan, habitat and ecosystem services mapping, legislative framework, etc.) should be developed for each UKOT. Rather than allocating scarce funding resources on a “winner takes all” basis, UKOTs can advocate allocation of funding where it is most needed. In some cases, this will be UKOT governments (which will anyway be involved re permits etc.), but in other places, funding will be better allocated to NGOs that can work among and between governments effectively. (To: *UK and UKOT Governments and other Funding Bodies*) (7)