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

Gibraltar
11ᵗʰ to 15ᵗʰ 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 NGOs

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 NGOs. 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.

C. Environmental Education and Awareness

C1. Requirements of CBD and other MEAs, and influencing decision makers

008. Actions of NGOs which deliver important conservation work should be supported by governments. Partnerships, either informal or via Memoranda of Understanding or Co-operation are effective, both for cash-strapped NGOs and Government Environment Departments. (To: **UKOT/CD Governments and NGOs**) (13)

C3. Schools Curricula

019. Attempts should be made to integrate Environmental Education topics into the National Curricula at all levels. Environmental Education materials need to be curriculum-linked, and included in the assessment process. Consider introducing a certificate of achievement which recognises student achievements and can assist with job applications. (To: *UKOT/CD Government Departments of Education and of Environment, NGOs and project designers and managers*) (13)

021. Classroom-based activities need to be supported by hands-on involvement and investigation, including outdoor classrooms and field-trips. (To: *UKOT/CD Government Departments of Education and of the Environment, project designers and managers, NGOs*) (13)

022. There should be clear methods of communication between education departments, and those people producing environmental education materials for schools and colleges. Local educators and teachers should be involved in the development of environmental education materials. (To: *UKOT/CD Government Departments of Education and of the Environment, project designers and managers, NGOs*) (13)

C4. Using broadcast media, social networking and multi-media apps (games)

026.   Opportunities for using TV, radio, social networking and the development of Apps should be considered when planning future environmental education and public awareness programmes. (To: *NGOs, project designers and managers, UKOT/CD Government departments*) (13)

027.   Share what is going on in UKOTs/CDs using the Forum Website or Facebook page and other media (as stated in UK's Commitment 6 in the Environment Charter). (To: *NGOs, project designers and managers, UKOT/CD Government departments*) (13)

C5. Other public awareness raising actions (including field trips, outdoor classrooms, exhibitions and open days)

034.   Identify opportunities for open days, outdoor classrooms and activities, and timetable these into the work programme. Link where possible with internationally designated days, such as biodiversity day. (To: *NGOs, UKOT/CD Government Departments of Environment and of Education*) (13)

035.   Plan and run a volunteer programme, but identify the human and cash resources available for this to ensure that the programme runs smoothly and effectively – work within your means. (To: *NGOs*)

036.   Reach out to possible partners. (This could / should include developers.) (To: *NGOs*) (13)

037.   Communicate regularly with stakeholders. (To: *NGOs, UKOT/CD Government Departments of Environment and Education, Project designers and managers, Governors' Offices*) (13)

D. Renewable Energy

058.   Capacity building, including ensuring that soundly based and well-rounded advice is provided and that expertise and support is developed to ensure the options are well evaluated and the best combination taken forward (10)

059.   Sharing best learning outcomes, e.g. work in the Eastern Caribbean on regulatory reform (10)

060.   Coordination of regional programmes, e.g. in the Caribbean, Pacific, to enhance the potential for scale across a number of islands (10)

061.   Development of island-specific templates to support the development of bankable projects, e.g. Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) templates, bankable criteria (10)

062.   Development of territory-specific guidelines for retro-fitting buildings, e.g. schools, hospitals (10)

E. International agreements

086.   *UKOTCF* was asked:
   i)   to compile a list of benefits of association with MEAs and
   ii) examples of positive outcomes and activities associated with each of the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Aichi targets. (4)

087.   It is not always easy to get the word out on progress in monitoring the implementation of the Charters and CBD, if, for example, (1) the progress is published in scientific journals to which not all other UKOT stake-holders subscribe and (2) because it is very easy for there to be impediments to progress in those UKOTs where a change in staff of one person can mean the end of a biodiversity programme actually functioning (and thus there being nothing more to report or monitor). The first point is often satisfied through the Working Groups and *Forum News*, but perhaps this can be expanded. As for the second point, again a more programme-based, rather than project-based, method may result in a better way to report and monitor progress. (***Part to UKOTCF; part to UKOT Governments and programme & project managers***) (4)

088.   Everyone in the Territories (*UKOT Governments, NGOs*) is encouraged to identify how their existing and proposed activities meet CBD's Aichi targets (including via UKOTCF's current exercise). This will
   i)   assist in the completion of National Reports for those territories that have had the CBD extended and assist in preparing encouraging evidence for those territories still considering extension,
   ii) support and demonstrate relevance in funding applications, and
   iii) identify gaps in delivery. (4)

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

F2. Requiring EIAs and standards of best practice
113.   *UKOTCF* should investigate putting together a list of all the regulations and derive a set of best practices that we could all ultimately aspire to. It would be good to have statements from across *the territories* to see what issues come up in common, and to identify where the most serious revision of their EIA guidelines are needed so that this can act as an effective tool in terms of environmental impacts and better planning. (12)

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)

121.   *Managers* must develop creative ways to engage the public, and to make complex technical information accessible to both the public and decision makers. (12)

123.   Small jurisdictions can sometimes face particular challenges in making the best use of science and other information for decision-making. Staff in government and NGOs are often particularly stretched, with very diverse roles, and may lack technical expertise across the whole range of issues. Help is needed from *umbrella and linking NGOs* to facilitate exchange of experience on how to rise to these challenges. (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)

H. Legislative Framework

147.   NGOs, such as *UKOTCF*, can assist (as above) in the development of legislative frameworks by bringing UKOTs together (e.g. in the WCWG) to discuss what has worked and what has not worked. (7)

150.   Cross-territory experiences with Environmental Funds should be mapped, shared, and used as examples of frameworks for environmental conservation revenue generation. (*?UKOTCF*) (7)

I. Economic and Intrinsic Value of Sustainable Use

166.   In the Eastern Caribbean Region in particular, there is much concern about the sharing of information in the Government agencies. The *UKOTCF* has played a leading role in information

sharing. It will be beneficial if this Forum designates some time to discussing establishing protocols for data-sharing. (7)

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)

196.   *UKOTCF* was recommended as a focal point for sharing ideas, information and experiences of invasives management. (4)

K. Biodiversity data

201.   Development of biological indicators to measure progress. The UK indicators tend to focus on certain groups (farmland and woodland birds, bats and butterflies) where there are well defined monitoring schemes, but historically 'BAP reporting' used a slightly more subjective 'expert view' approach to assess the priority species. A basket of key species and/ or habitats could be selected and trends measured using various surveillance approaches. An example of such surveillance is remote sensing. Assessment of whether trend analysis would be useful and, being really ambitious, 'target statuses' could be set for a range of species against which progress could be assessed. *UK and UKOT Governments and NGOs* need to discuss and research what could be considered achievable short term, and what might be needed to develop more ambitious approaches could be instructive. (4)

202.   It is recommended that territories' data are shared with UK, regional and global databases, particularly in relation to the highest priority species such as endemics. (*UKOT and other Governments, NGOs, other researchers*) (4)

203.   There is a need for partnerships, collaboration and information-sharing to progress priorities for action. *UKOTCF* may be able to play a role in this. (4)

L. Other aspects of Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Resources

217.   Recognition by international bodies of often limited resources in the UKOTs/CDs is critical, and the need for the *UK Government and international institutions* to engage in full dialogue with UKOT governments and NGOs to understand priority issues and align research with the specific environmental needs of the territories is essential. UKOTs/CDs to develop catalogue of data needs and disseminate (*through UKOTCF*). (8)

219.   *UKOTs/UKOTCF* should explore opportunities for establishing/strengthening existing regional/international collaboration (e.g. 'sister' sanctuaries being established by French MPA Agency), particularly where migratory species are concerned, and the possibility of whale sanctuaries linked to those of neighbouring territories and countries should be given some priority. (8)

223.   Mechanisms should be developed or established and resourced for easy, effective sharing of examples of value/success of multiple management tools (e.g. *UKOTCF* conferences and website). (8)

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)

250. A particular problem is the short-term nature of projects that build up experience and capacity which is then lost from territories at its completion. In line with the views expressed at the conference, *UKOTCF should promote the benefits of programmes, rather than short-term projects, to maintain and build skills,* knowledge and experience. (4)

251. The scarcity of capacity and resources is a continuing handicap to implementing biodiversity conservation in UKOTs and CDs. *UKOTCF* should continue to address this constraint through developing partnerships in the metropolitan UK and the territories. (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)

256. A comprehensive checklist of environmental needs should be developed for all territories, with funding targeted preferentially to fill gaps. This need not be a whole new exercise. Existing initiatives such as the UKOTCF review of progress against Environment Charter Commitments and Aichi Targets, reviews of legislation and local reviews can provide much of the analysis. (*UKOTs/CDs; UKOTCF*) (7)

258. The Sustaining Partnerships Conference itself provides an important format for the exchange of ideas and the development of future collaborations, Mr Victor Brownlees, Alderney's Chief Executive, noting "Knowledge is at its most powerful when shared." All conference delegates were encouraged to focus on the development of future projects during and following the event. (*Conference participants*) (11 & 15)

N. UKOTCF and its Regional Working Groups

265. *UKOTCF* should, alongside its existing approaches, develop further the more thematic approach it has been developing across UKOTs/CDs, e.g. looking at invasive species, use of GIS, coral reef issues. (2)

266. *UKOTCF* should map the engagement of universities and other research bodies with the UKOTs and CDs, with a view to establishing closer links/partnerships. UKOTCF and partners should then consider how to exploit this engagement for mutual benefit, including through extending UKOTCF's current work student attachments/ secondments/ sabbaticals. (2)

267. *UKOTCF* should also (re-)engage stakeholders more effectively, aiming to build closer sustainable partnerships with other bodies with cross-cutting interests. (2)

268. *UKOTCF* should do more to raise its profile and that of the UKOTs/CDs, not least with a view to fund-raising. (2)

269. *UKOTCF* should aim to secure funding, not just for projects, but for feasibility and follow-up work. (2)

270. *UKOTCF* should consider holding more smaller conferences and workshops, on a regional basis, and/or with thematic focus in between the full UKOTCF conferences, ideally in concert with partners and perhaps in the UK as well as in territories. (2)