



# Staying Connected for Conservation in a Changed World:

## UKOTCF's 6th conference on conservation and sustainability in UK Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and other small island states

By Zoom  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021

### Note for poster-presenters (version 2) – January 2021

#### Introduction

Consistently over several years, one of the most frequent enquiries from UKOTs and CDs to UKOTCF has been “when is the next UKOTCF conference?” This is because, as reported by UKOT participants, the conferences have proved invaluable in enabling successful conservation initiatives which would not otherwise have occurred.

For those new to the topic, UKOTCF organised conferences for conservation practitioners in the UKOTs, CDs and a few territories of other states or small independent states in 2000 (Gibraltar), 2003 (Bermuda), 2006 (Jersey), 2009 (Cayman) and 2015 (Gibraltar). UKOTCF also helped FCO in organising and running a conference arranged at short notice in London in 1999. The conferences until 2009 received major financial support from UK Government, as well as from the host territory (with major in-kind work contributions from UKOTCF). It took UK Government over 2 years from 2009 to decide that it would not fund a conference in 2012, and in fact has not provided majority funding since. HM Government of Gibraltar funded the 2015 conference, with a small contribution from UK Government (and a very large donation of work-time by UKOTCF). We were to have had conferences in 2018 or 2020 but the host territories were struck by the severe 2017 hurricanes just as these were about to be confirmed, and the resulting financial, structural and social damage made these impossible. We have been investigating other possibilities but then Covid-19 intervened.

Whilst not abandoning the idea of physical conferences in the future (because they clearly add elements still not possible remotely), it is clearly going to be months at least before large physical meetings become practicable again. UKOTCF officers have, over recent months, been participating in various webinars and online meetings (by a variety of bodies, not just conservation), to review techniques and possibilities. UKOTCF has opened a Zoom account and switched to that, from the failing Skype, for our regional working groups, Council meetings and other working meetings.

Putting this together, UKOTCF intends to hold an online conference using Zoom – and undertook a wide consultation with our member and associate organisations, members of our regional working groups and others in our network the options to seek their views on both logistics and topics.

#### Structure of conference based on consultations

Amongst respondents, there was unanimous support for a conference. Without the travel and accommodation dimensions, we could choose whether to hold the conference as a block of 4 days (as for the most recent physical conference) or split into blocks of 2- or 1-day, with gaps. On the basis of quite diverse views, we have opted to hold the conference as two blocks of 2-days in adjacent weeks, on the most popular days of the week indicated (Tuesdays and Wednesdays).

We offered several conference subject areas, based on recent discussions in UKOTCF regional working groups and other discussions, and invited other ideas. There was general support for these, as well as useful suggestions for other topics and ideas for splitting or combining some subject areas. As a result, we are now including 8 main topics in the conference (2 per day), with a 2.5-hour session on each. (Note that we also have a shorter session each day. The short sessions may be used for a variety of functions but at least one

will be a poster session (more explanation of the logistics later) without a restriction on topics, other than relevance to UKOTs/CDs (as is usual at our conferences.) The topics for the main sessions are:

1. Progress (or otherwise) in reaching environmental targets
2. Engaging people; the wider benefits of conservation and healthy ecosystems
3. Facilitating local leads in conservation
4. Coping with recovery after hurricanes and natural disasters by building resilience
5. Nature-based solutions for the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration: Terrestrial
6. Nature-based solutions for the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration: Marine
7. Funding mechanisms – tourism and alternatives
8. Plugging the gap: innovative approaches and capacity-building

The overall title for the conference was also drawn from several of the suggestions.

We plan that the conference will produce proceedings, as did previous UKOTCF conferences (see [www.ukotcf.org.uk/our-conferences/](http://www.ukotcf.org.uk/our-conferences/)). Both spoken presentations and posters (in both cases rewritten in book/journal format) will be included in the proceedings.

We propose to model our approach on that used successfully in the 2015 conference, itself evolved from that used in our previous conferences. That is that topic sessions are structured to reach useful conclusions or recommendations, rather than just present interesting and potentially useful studies (as occurs in conferences of scientific and some conservation organisations). Hence, speakers have been selected and invited in relation to relevance to themes (and will include, wherever possible, contributions from the territories themselves – so that all territories will be represented across the conference although, for practical reasons, not within every topic session).

There are links to the full conclusions and recommendations from the 2015 conference, as well as to sub-sets of these for particular target audiences in the article at <https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/our-conferences/sustaining-partnerships-gibraltar-2015/>. These have since been used for a wide variety of purposes, including evidence to UK Parliamentary inquiries, UK Government calls for evidence etc, and were adopted by a later meeting of the UKOT/CD Environment Ministers Council.

To ensure that we have good involvement from those closest to the issues and with relevant experience, for each topic session at the conference, a small team is helping prepare for that topic at the conference. We are inviting appropriate personnel to join these topic session teams, and managed to arrange it that persons from or closely associated with all 21 UKOTs and CDs are being invited to join these teams (although they are acting in individual capacities, not as representatives).

Talks have been invited, on the basis of consideration by a widely drawn session topic team and the conference organisers to inform and generate discussion towards reaching conclusions and recommendations to encourage conservation progress on the topic. In selecting speakers, the conference team takes account of:

- Current important issues and priorities for conservation in the UKOTs/CDs;
- The importance of inviting workers from the territories wherever possible, supplemented by outside speakers where necessary;
- Conference organisers moderating this to ensure that, across the conference, as many territories as possible are included;
- A maximum of 5 presentations (of up to 15 minutes, with 5 minutes – not available to the speaker to extend the talk – of questions) will be possible within each topic session;
- Posters will be included on the conference (with fewer constraints on numbers); these will be allocated to topic sessions (but viewable longer term) where appropriate and a general section where not (see below).

## **Posters**

Posters are particularly welcomed on the conference themes indicated above, but also posters may be offered on any other theme relevant to conservation in UK Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies, the overseas entities of other states or small independent states.

It is planned that posters will be available to view online throughout much of the conference, and that conference participants will be able to post questions (viewable by other participants) to which the poster presenter can later post answers (also viewable by other participants). In addition, it is planned that there will

be at least one 1-hour session at which poster-presenters are asked to be online, so that response to the text comments can be made live.

Posters may be submitted by the following:

- UKOTCF member and associate organisations;
- members of the topic session teams;
- invited speakers who have accepted the invitation to speak and supplied the abstract and any ideas of conclusions or recommendations on the topic for consideration by the topic drafting team;
- approved financial sponsors of the conference or those who have paid a poster fee (this route is required for any posters which include advertising material, items for sale or other commercial material);
- any others who have registered to participate in the conference and, where required, paid the appropriate conference fee.
- in some circumstances we may allow posters outlining work in the UKOTs without the author(s) participating in the conference; this is subject to space, layout and approval by conference organisers (In any event please contact the organisers to discuss this).

We hope to be able to offer a small prize for the best student poster. If you wish your poster to be considered for this, please indicate when you submit the poster application.

### Timetable

<p><del>8 January 2021</del> Extended to 15 January 2021</p>	<p>Deadline for submission of poster offers, accompanied by title, abstract (up to 300 words), brief profile of poster author (up to 250 words), and any ideas of conclusions or recommendations on the topic for consideration by the topic drafting team – see form at: <a href="https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/ukotcf-online-conference-2021-poster-form/">https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/ukotcf-online-conference-2021-poster-form/</a></p>
<p>16 February 2021</p>	<p>Receipt of poster (in pdf or jpeg format), and written version for the proceedings (text in journal format including appropriate sub-headings, references, tables, illustration captions and credits as MS Word or OpenOffice file; illustrations separately as jpeg files). The authors are responsible for ensuring that use of any material, especially images, is either not constrained by copyright or that approval for use in this way has been secured; any necessary credit should be included in the text file with the captions. The poster should be in ISO216 A-series format (most commonly met as A4), preferably in portrait (rather than landscape) mode. These are standard throughout the world, except for North and Central America. We are prepared to accept Letter-format from there. However, noting that we are not working with physical documents, you should be able to select one of the A-sizes on your design programme on which you build your poster. Plus, optionally, [separate from poster] photo(s) of authors, which we may include in the conference programme.</p>
<p>16 March 2021</p>	<p>Any final author revisions of written version (formats as above)</p>

Please see <https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/ukotcf-online-conference-2021-poster-form/> for the form for submission of posters, which indicates the material that you need to submit by 15<sup>th</sup> January.

If your poster is included, you will later (by 16<sup>th</sup> February) supply the further material indicated above.