



**Webinar: Terrestrial
Restoration and Invasive
Non-Native Species in UK
Overseas Territories and
Crown Dependencies
Date: 6th & 7th March 2023
(with a special workshop on
8th March)
By Zoom**

First announcement

UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (UKOTCF) will hold an online webinar on a challenge facing conservationists across the globe: invasive species. This will be held on 6th & 7th March, 2023 on 2 blocks of 2 days each, with an optional special workshop on 8th March.

Introduction

At the most recent UKOTCF organised conference in 2021, participants asked UKOTCF to organise webinars on topics of interest in intervening years to keep the momentum going between its main conference for practitioners (see: <https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/our-conferences>). Suggestions from UKOTCF regional working groups highlighted invasive species as a topic of significant interest. Many of the UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) and Crown Dependencies (CDs) are islands and so are particularly vulnerable to local extinctions, given the unique island setting in which the native and endemic species evolved. Invasive non-native species (INNS) are one of the five main drivers of global biodiversity loss. Across the UKOTs, there are teams of passionate, talented people working on reducing this threat, with their work being underpinned by research and innovation. This seminar brings together some of those inspiring people working in the UKOTs. Organised by UKOTCF supported by the UKOTCF network, project partners and other technical specialists, it fulfils several functions: to outline issues, to demonstrate some of the excellent work being undertaken across the UKOTs on INNS, to share knowledge and best practice on INNS research and management, and to further expand networks of researchers and practitioners. The subject also has a pleasing overlap with some aspects both of *From blue iguanas to blue vervain: sharing the colonial histories from the UK Overseas Territories* project where UKOTCF is working jointly with UKCEH, Montserrat National Trust, National Trust for the Cayman Islands, Meise Botanic Garden and Leeds Museums and Galleries, as well as other projects of UKOTCF and others.

Aim

The aim of the webinar is to support conservation groups across the UKOTs by sharing gathered information on how they and others deal with the threats from invasive species. This will provide a collection of their research and a supportive and beneficial discussion of new and innovative ways of thinking in order to deal with the issues and challenges which invasive species cause.

2nd Sir Richard and Lady Dace Ground Lecture

This special lecture series was inaugurated at our 2021 conference, with an acclaimed lecture by Gina Ebanks-Petrie, Director of Environment for the Cayman Islands. We are pleased to announce that the second lecture of this series will be given during this webinar. The 2nd Ground Lecturer is Bryan

Naqqi Manco, Assistant Director for Research and Development in the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources of the Turks and Caicos Islands. He was also the leader of the Caicos Pine Recovery Programme, following the almost total loss of this tree due to an introduced disease.

Structure of webinar

To allow for live participation from as widely as possible across the UKOTs, CDs and others interested (including overseas entities of other nations, several of which have participated in previous UKOTCF conferences), we plan to run the webinar on two days from noon to about 6pm GMT. This will allow participation at not totally unreasonable hours from almost all UKOTs and CDs (with apologies to Pitcairn and BIOT!).

With help from some of those partners working in this field and knowing something of the work being undertaken across the UKOTs, the webinar will consist of the following topics (sequence and distribution between the two days is provisional):

Day 1: 6th March 2023

Topic 1: Introduction and key concepts

Topic 2: What are UKOTs prioritising?

Topic 3: Legislating

Topic 4: Better Biosecurity

Topic 5: 2nd Sir Richard & Lady Dace Ground Lecture

Day 2: 7th March 2023

Topic 6: Control; Prioritising efforts

Topic 7: Data gaps and citizen science and conservation

Topic 8: Toolkits etc.

Day 3: 8th March 2023

Topic 9: Cane Toad Workshop

With the exception of the Ground Lecture and the cane toad workshop, each talk will be limited to a maximum of not more than 15 minutes (some may be slightly shorter), with up to 5 minutes of questions and introduction of the next speaker. Speakers will not be allowed to over-run their speaking slot into the question period. Indeed, to avoid the delays and difficulties that can impact online gatherings of this nature, the talks will be pre-recorded, but the questions (and general discussion sessions) will be live. (This arrangement worked very well at UKOTCF's 2021 conference.)

Information and Registration

UKOTCF will act as overall conference coordinators. Contact details are as follows:

Jack Hayes (Conservation Assistant, Secretary Southern Oceans Working Group) jhayes@ukotcf.org

Registration is via:

<https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/webinar-invasive-species/>

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in March, online at the webinar.