

The Environment in the United Kingdom's Overseas Territories: UK Government and Civil Society Support

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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



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Contents

Foreword by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.....	4
Chapter 1: Introduction.....	5
1.1 Summary of environmental issues.....	5
Chapter 2: Delivering environmental policy in the UKOTs	8
2.1 What the UK Government provides	8
2.1.1 The UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	8
2.1.2 The Joint Nature Conservation Committee	9
2.1.3 Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences	9
2.1.4 The Food and Environment Research Agency	9
2.1.5 The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew	9
2.2 What civil society provides	10
Chapter 3: How Defra is currently meeting its environmental objectives in the UKOTs	12
3.1 Engagement with the UKOTs	12
3.2 Technical advice for the UKOTs	12
3.3. Direct support for the UKOTs	13
3.4 The UK’s relationship with Gibraltar	16
Chapter 4: Future plans for the UKOTs: Working together	18
4.1 Priority action going forward	18
4.2 Our commitments to the UKOTs on the environment	18
Table 1: Defra and its Agencies’ commitments towards meeting our environmental objectives in the UKOTs.....	19
4.3 Starting how we mean to go forward	20
4.4 Funding available on environmental issues in the UKOTs	20
4.4.1 Darwin Initiative.....	20
4.4.2 The Flagship Species Fund	21
4.4.3 BEST – Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories	21
4.4.4 Research funding.....	21
4.5 Defra’s commitment to NAO 2007	21
4.6 Contact point for environmental issues in the UKOTs	22
Annex 1 – Local, Regional and International Organisations working on environmental issues in the UKOTs	23

Annex 2 – Defra’s and its Agencies support to the UKOTs in meeting the demands of international agreements and instruments 34



Foreword by Caroline Spelman, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

The United Kingdom's Overseas Territories are extremely important in many ways, and especially from an environmental perspective. From the unique ecosystems to their endemic species, they play host to a vast array of irreplaceable and valuable resources. Our Overseas Territories contain a real asset playing host to an estimated 90% of the UK's biodiversity.

However, the environmental challenges which our Overseas Territories face are becoming increasingly apparent, threatening the future security and safety of our Territories, and in particular the people and the biodiversity that they support.

This paper describes our environmental objectives and a set of strong commitments for engaging with the Territories.

We are committed to working in partnership - across government, with the Territories themselves, and with non-government organisations - to ensure that their valuable natural resources are protected and sustainably used. These commitments include managing two funding streams that are available for environmental work in the Territories. The Darwin Initiative and the Flagship Species Fund both support projects that deliver the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in the Territories. Since 1998 Darwin has provided around £3.8 million for projects in the Territories, and they will remain a priority for us in the allocation of future Darwin funds. In addition, we continue to support projects which help provide the evidence base for future conservation action in the Territories.

Meanwhile, we also need to facilitate mainstreaming of the natural environment and ensure its value is considered in decision-making by Governments, businesses and communities in the Territories, as we have initiated in the UK. By making sure that the natural environment is properly considered in decision-making and by providing advice and support to the Territories on environmental issues, we want to help them develop the skills and policies needed to secure their precious environments for the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caroline Spelman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Caroline Spelman, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Chapter 1: Introduction

The United Kingdom has responsibility for 14 Overseas Territories (UKOTs)¹, which are spread throughout the globe. Eleven of the 14 UKOTs are permanently populated (Figure 1). They are diverse in size, economic and social development and systems of governance.

The UKOTs are British, but are not constitutionally part of the United Kingdom. This means that they have their own identity and governing structure and are not represented in the UK Parliament. The UKOTs all have separate constitutions made by Order in Council. All have Governors or Commissioners who are normally UK - appointed Civil Servants. They represent both Her Majesty the Queen in the Territory and the Territory's interests to Her Majesty's Government in London. The Overseas Territories Directorate in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) takes the overall lead on managing the UK's relationship with its Overseas Territories, but all Government Departments have a responsibility towards the Overseas Territories.

This paper describes support available to the Territories on environmental issues from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), its Agencies and civil society.



Figure 1 Map showing the location of the UKOTs
Map provided by JNCC

1.1 Summary of environmental issues

The UK's Overseas Territories support a diverse range of unique ecosystems and habitats, and sustain a large number of rare and threatened species. It is estimated that over 90% of the UK's biodiversity is located in its Overseas Territories, with

¹ Anguilla, British Antarctic Territory, Bermuda, British Indian Ocean Territory, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, St Helena and Dependencies (Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha), Turk and Caicos Islands, Pitcairn Island, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, Sovereign Base Areas on Cyprus.

more priority ecosystem types (including mangrove, coral, sea-grass beds, peatlands etc) occurring in the UKOTs than in the metropolitan UK. As they are mostly small, oceanic islands, their biodiversity has evolved in isolation, resulting in a high proportion of endemic species, found nowhere else in the world. To date, over 340 endemic species have been found in the UK's Overseas Territories. A review in 2005² noted 61 sites in the UKOTs that met the criteria for Ramsar designation, indicating the significance of the UKOTs for wetland habitats in the world.

Invasive alien species (IAS) are a real threat to biodiversity and they are a major cause of biodiversity loss globally. Their impacts are often most severe on the island environments typical of UKOTs. A review of non-native species in the UKOTs³ indicated that there are a minimum of 2261 non-native species recorded as occurring across the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies. Linked to this, issues of adequate biocontrol in the UKOTs are also important in order to minimise the risk of new IAS becoming established. The impacts of IAS are often wider than just on biodiversity; economic damage often goes hand in hand with IAS.

The marine environment is an important natural resource to many of the UKOTs, with the economies of the Territories heavily dependent on their biodiversity. Fisheries are one of the UKOTs' main sources of external income. A number of the UKOTs support large coral reefs⁴ and mangroves⁵. So far one UKOT has a designated Marine Protected Area (MPA), around the Indian Ocean archipelago, the Chagos Island Marine Reserve. It is in exceptionally good environmental condition while being surrounded by some of the poorest countries in the world which suffer from some of the most over-exploited marine habitats. By establishing the world's largest no-take marine reserve around BIOT in 2010, the UK is ensuring the on-going protection of the unique environment of the Territory.

A major threat to biodiversity in the UKOTs is climate change. With the exception of the British Antarctic Territory, Gibraltar, and the Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas – Akrotiri and Dhekelia), all are small islands and are among those that the IPCC⁶ has identified as “*most vulnerable*” and “*virtually certain to experience the most severe ecological impacts*” of climate change. Climate change is likely to impact on communities on populated UKOTs. Sea-level rises, changes in the frequency and/or intensity of extreme weather events (heat waves, extreme temperature and heavy precipitation, tropical cyclones, storm surges, and coastal, river and rain-induced flooding) constitute the components of climate change that are the impacts of most concern. There are large uncertainties about the future direction and magnitude of these changes, so a range of risks from climate change must be considered. The Foresight Report on the International Dimensions of Climate Change⁷ highlights that some islands could be completely cut off from communication with the outside world

² Review of existing and potential Ramsar sites in UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies (2005). Defra.

http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/PDF/framsar_ukOT_Crowndep_reportfinal_0205.pdf

³ Non-native species in UK Overseas Territories: a review (2006). JNCC. http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/jncc372_web.pdf

⁴ Spalding, MD, Ravilious, C and Green EP (2001). *World Atlas of Coral Reefs*. University of California Press, Berkeley. 424pp.

⁵ Spalding MD, Blasco F and Field CD (eds.). (1997). *World Mangrove Atlas*. International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems, Okinawa, Japan. 178pp.

⁶ Parry, M.L., O.F. Canziani, J.P. Palutikof, P.J. van der Linden and C.E. Hanson (eds.) (2007), *Climate Change 2007 (AR4): Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*, Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, UK, pp.976.

⁷ International Dimensions of Climate Change – Final Report (2011). BIS.

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/bispartners/foresight/docs/international-dimensions/11-1042-international-dimensions-of-climate-change.pdf>

owing to their remoteness, potential impacts of sea-level rise and more intense storms, including damage to infrastructure such as ports, harbours, airport structures and facilities. There could also be significant health impacts arising from both sea-level rise and extreme weather events. Some of the UKOTs, such as Pitcairn, also suffer from long periods of drought and this issue could become more widespread in the light of climate change. Mangroves and coral reefs provide protection from severe weather events. However a large number of these habitats are being lost due to pollution and habitat destruction for development.

As UKOTs are predominantly small islands, waste management is a real issue, with Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Turks and Caicos, Anguilla, Tristan da Cunha, the Cayman Islands and Montserrat highlighting this as an issue of concern for their islands. Few UKOTs have developed a Waste Management Strategy to ensure effective sustainable waste management.

A cross-cutting aspect of sustainable environmental management is the application of sustainable consumption and production practices, ensuring that natural resources are sustainably used and that production minimises impacts on the environment. The UKOTs, mostly being small islands, are not large producers of goods, but tourism is one of their main economies and can be viewed as a service which they produce. Tourism is important to the local economy of the UKOTs but can also deplete and damage local natural resources. It is also intrinsically linked with development to serve the needs of tourists to the UKOTs, and development pressures can result in negative changes in land use. Some UKOTs have developed independent Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), ensuring that the public are fully consulted, before making decisions on new developments.

Issues related to food security and agriculture may be important in the UKOTs, but since the 1960s most UKOTs have diversified away from their traditionally agriculture-based economy towards tourism. There is limited evidence of agriculturally based environmental issues in the UKOTs, with a large number of UKOTs not keeping records on the land area that is used for agriculture.

Chapter 2: Delivering environmental policy in the UKOTs

The responsibility for environmental management in the UKOTs has been devolved to the UKOTs' governments, but the UK Government recognises that many UKOTs lack sufficient funding and / or personnel capacity to ensure the protection of the local environment and therefore require additional support.

Each of the UKOTs has developed an Environmental Charter, which is a formal, individual agreement, listing commitments to develop and implement sound environmental management practices in the UKOTs and clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the UK Government, Overseas Territory Governments, the private sector, NGOs and local communities.

2.1 What the UK Government provides

The FCO leads on overall policy on the UKOTs, the exception being the Sovereign Base Areas of Cyprus, where responsibility rests with the Ministry of Defence. The FCO is planning to bring all aspects of the Government's policies on the Overseas Territories together in a new White Paper in early 2012. The overarching main objectives of the White Paper are:

1. To ensure the safety and security of the Overseas Territories
2. To ensure the good governance of the Overseas Territories
3. To promote and enhance the UK's role within the Polar Regions.

Three government departments are primarily responsible for providing support to the UKOTs on environmental issues: the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Department for International Development (Dfid) and the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC). The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), Defra's statutory adviser on environment issues, the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera), and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) are the key Defra Agencies that work with the Department to deliver environmental policy in the UKOTs. Further to this the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (RBG Kew) a non-departmental public body, also plays a role in providing support to the UKOTs

2.1.1 The UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Defra have two key objectives for its work with the UKOTs on the Environment to align with the FCO's overarching objectives as follows:

- **To engage with the UKOTs, and provide technical advice and direct support, to secure a healthy and properly functioning natural environment; ensuring the value of this natural resource guides decision making by Government, business and communities**

- **To accurately represent the needs and concerns of the UKOTs at international and regional meetings on environmental issues.**

The risks of not considering the value of the natural environment in decision-making may lead to unsustainable economies. Risks of not being prepared for the future impacts by not considering environmental issues such as climate change could lead to security and safety issues. By engaging with the UKOTs on these environmental issues and providing technical and direct support to ensure that the natural environment guides decision making, Defra will help deliver better governance in the UKOTs and reduce the impacts of future environmental risks. Further to this, representing the needs and concerns of the UKOTs at international and regional meetings on environmental issues will assist with the governance of the UKOTs, as agreements made in such fora will reflect the needs and circumstances of the UKOTs.

2.1.2 The Joint Nature Conservation Committee

JNCC is Defra's statutory adviser on environment issues and has an Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies Programme which aims to give advice and support to UK, OT and CD governments on nature conservation. JNCC supports an OT network which assists the Territories to identify and support their own biodiversity research and training priorities. It is also currently piloting and co-funding, on behalf of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, environmental mainstreaming projects in the Falkland Islands and British Virgin Islands. The objective of the mainstreaming work is to determine the ways and means whereby existing institutions and processes can be used to integrate environmental issues into decision making in the OTs. The pilot projects will identify priorities for future action within the two Territories and their results will be extended to others.

2.1.3 Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences

Cefas does not have specific objectives for the UKOTs but supports Defra in achieving their objectives towards the UKOTs.

2.1.4 The Food and Environment Research Agency

Fera's objective is to encourage the UKOTs to accede to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) as part of the UK's acceptance, in order to give them the basis on which to protect their Territory from plant pests and diseases, whilst at the same time ensuring that they can trade safely in plants, plant products and other goods which may carry plant pests and diseases.

2.1.5 The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

RBG Kew provides policy advice, technical and practical botanical support for UKOTs, with the overall aim of helping UKOTs to implement the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) under the Convention on Biological Diversity. RBG Kew also provides specific support for the botanical aspects necessary for UKOTs to meet their commitments under specific Multilateral Environment Agreements

(MEAs), principally the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

2.2 What civil society provides

A number of non-government organisations work with the UKOTs on environmental issues. These range from international to local organisations. Defra is committed to working with partners across government, and with non-governmental organisations. An example of what can be delivered by partnership working can be seen from Defra's contribution towards the RSPB's work on Henderson Island and RGB Kew's work on Anegada (see boxes below).

A summary of some of the civil society organisations that work in the UKOTs on environmental issues, their areas of expertise and contacts can be found in Annex 1.

Delivering in Partnership with Civil Society **The Henderson Project**

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/projects/details.aspx?id=tcm:9-241934>

Henderson Island, in the central South Pacific Ocean, is 3,000 miles from the nearest large land mass and is a World Heritage Site. It is the largest pristine raised coral atoll in the world and contains over 55 species found nowhere else on Earth. It is a critical nesting site for marine turtles, as well as for 12 different seabird species, including four types of petrel.

Research has shown that most of the chicks of Henderson Island's four species of petrel are eaten alive by rats within the first week of hatching; these birds are now in long-term decline. Pacific rats are not native to Henderson. Defra contributed £200,000 towards a large project led by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) to eradicate the rats. The expertise of RSPB in delivering this type of project means that Defra is confident that the funding provided will deliver real biodiversity benefits. The project used helicopters guided by GPS equipment to drop poisoned bait methodically across the island. The bait was designed to be as attractive as possible to the rats and of minimal interest to Henderson Island's birds. As the bait was dropped in August and September 2011 the results of this work are not yet certain, although initial indications suggest it has been extremely successful. If this is the case the key threat of extinction faced by the Henderson Petrel and other species will have been eliminated, and the project will have helped to protect the biodiversity of this important island.

Delivering in Partnership with Civil Society

Assessment of the Coastal Biodiversity Assessment of Anegada, British Virgin Islands, to support the development of a Biodiversity Action Plan for the island

<http://www.kew.org/science-research-data/directory/projects/DarwinCoastAnegadaBV.htm>

Anegada, one of the largest unspoilt islands in the Caribbean (area: 32km²; coastline 48.3 km; population 250), is under extreme development pressure. It hosts a globally important coral reef system (area greater than 60 km²), and regionally significant nesting and foraging populations of threatened marine turtles, is of regional importance to birds, and supports globally important endemic plants. The main objective of this highly collaborative three-year project was to carry out a detailed assessment of the coastal biodiversity of Anegada leading to a Biodiversity Action Plan and the creation of the capacity for its implementation. The project outputs also assisted the British Virgin Islands (BVI) to meet its commitments to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and to implement the targets of the CBD's Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

Major achievements of the project were:

- Integrated scientific documentation and monitoring of three important taxa (marine turtles, plants and birds);
- Institutional strengthening and capacity building;
- Environmental awareness for the general public and key stakeholder groups.

Major botanical outputs of this project were:

- The development of a vegetation map and characterisation of the constituent plant communities on Anegada
- A conservation checklist and preliminary red-listing assessment of all plant taxa
- A collecting programme of herbarium specimens of the plants of Anegada and DNA collections for key species and the establishment of a small herbarium facility at the J.R. O'Neal Botanic Garden on Tortola
- Continued support for the re-development of the nursery at the J.R. O'Neal Botanic Garden on Tortola to enable the development of an Anegada threatened plants display
- Establishment of *ex situ* collections of Anegada's key endemic and threatened species
- Support for the continued development of botanical skills for National Parks Trust staff by providing training workshops and field experience
- Provision of training for and starting a seed collecting programme.

RBG Kew produced awareness-raising materials including a series of conservation posters (BVI Conservation Poster Series) highlighting key endemic and invasive species and an exhibition *Caught in Time* at Wakehurst Place, in Sussex in the UK, as well as two exhibits for the Chelsea Flower Show; *Treasured Islands* and *Message in a Bottle*. RBG Kew also contributed to the regular production of a dedicated project newsletter and articles for local newspapers.

Chapter 3: How Defra is currently meeting its environmental objectives in the UKOTs

3.1 Engagement with the UKOTs

Defra and its Agencies represent the needs and concerns of the territories at regional and international meetings, and provide advice and financial support in meeting the requirements of international agreements and instruments (Annex 2).

Defra leads on developing and implementing a biodiversity strategy with the UKOTs; as outlined in the UKOTs Biodiversity Strategy⁸. The Strategy sets out clear objectives on biodiversity and ensures co-ordinated working between Defra, FCO and Dfid on biodiversity. Defra chairs an Overseas Territories' Biodiversity Group (OTBG) which meets quarterly to discuss progress on the UKOT Biodiversity Strategy. Following a recent request from civil society organisations closely engaged with some of the Overseas Territories, Defra will be looking into the elaboration of an implementation plan for the strategy, where appropriate, and subject to the views and wishes of the Territories themselves.

Defra recently held a workshop with UK representatives for the UKOTs to introduce them to existing Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements, build networks of contacts and to develop an understanding of the support available from civil society.

RBG Kew has a full and active programme of engagement with UKOTs⁹ – at both government level and with local NGOs. Since 2000, RBG Kew has had a dedicated UKOTs Science Team who provide ongoing botanical and horticultural support as well as capacity building. This comprises technical support in primary botanical inventory in order to maintain up-to-date plant checklists for each Territory. These data are used together with habitat-level information to produce vegetation maps and identify Important Plant Areas. Based on these data RBG Kew also undertake conservation assessments of UKOT plants in order to provide a Red List of Threatened Species for each UKOT¹⁰.

3.2 Technical advice for the UKOTs

Defra recently provided £100,000 (~30% of the total funding) towards a Foresight Project on the International Dimensions of Climate Change¹¹. The project looked at climate change impacts overseas which could have an impact on the UK. A section of this report considered climate change impacts on the UKOTs, giving further insight into this important environmental issue. Defra officials are providing technical advice

⁸ UK Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy (2009). Defra. <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13335-uk-ot-strat-091201.pdf>

⁹ The UK Overseas Territory Programme. RBG Kew <http://www.kew.org/science/ukots/index.html>

¹⁰ UKOTs online Herbarium. RBG Kew. <http://dps.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/UKOT/Home/Index>

¹¹ International Dimensions of Climate Change – Final Report (2011). BIS. <http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/bispartners/foresight/docs/international-dimensions/11-1042-international-dimensions-of-climate-change.pdf>

to a DFID-led project to develop a programme to address climate change impacts in the UKOTs.

Accurate and rapid identification is fundamental for the enforcement of quarantine measures to prevent the introduction of, or to effectively control, invasive species in the UKOTs. Entomologists at Fera are conducting a Defra-funded project to provide a free Invertebrate Pest Identification Service¹² for government authorities and conservation bodies in the UKOTs.

Following a recent request from the British Virgin Islands (BVI), Defra provided advice on sustainable waste-management. The Islands were considering procuring an alternative to their existing incinerator as a means of disposing of its solid waste and contacted Defra for advice. In response to this request, Defra were able to provide BVI with advice on developing a long-term waste policy, technology alternatives and best practice in the procurement and funding of waste facilities and associated contracts.

Cefas have provided technical assistance to the UKOTs on a wide range of scientific disciplines in the marine and fisheries field, including marine biodiversity, marine protected areas, fisheries, monitoring the marine environment, aquaculture etc. They have also been involved in training fisheries scientists from the UKOTs, responding to oil spills, and contamination testing of fish and shellfish.

As well as policy advice on the IPPC, Fera provides a range of services to the OTs on a commercial basis. These range from advice on air-strike avoidance, culling of feral cats, to diagnosis of plant pests and diseases. Fera diagnosticians have a contract to identify potentially invasive invertebrates for UKOTs in support of their plant health services.

RBG Kew's Millennium Seed Bank Partnership (MSBP) has a dedicated seed conservation programme in UKOTs which comprises training in seed collection and storage techniques. The MSBP provides long-term storage for UKOTs seeds held under terms and conditions agreed between Kew and the UKOT Government. In terms of directly financing projects/activities in the UKOTs, RBG Kew has limited access to funds that can be dedicated to initiating projects in UKOTs.

3.3. Direct support for the UKOTs

Defra has provided funding for a number of different research projects related to biodiversity in the UKOTs. A recent research project on the Falkland Islands is looking to understand and address the threat of invasive non-native plants. There are now more introduced plants than native plants in the Falkland Islands. Thistles and ragwort species are examples of competitive invaders that have been introduced deliberately or accidentally through trade, tourism and travel. Research on environmental issues in the UKOTs is critical if effective policy is to be designed and delivered. The JNCC Research and Training Project¹³ brings together UKOT

¹² Improving bio-security in the UK OTs: identification service for invasive invertebrate plant pests. JNCC. http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Invertebrate_id_service_flyer.pdf

¹³ UK Overseas Territories & Crown Dependencies -Training and Research Programme <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5130>

representatives into a common forum to identify research and training needs and priorities for the environment, helping to define future direction for work and to focus funding and technical assistance where it is most needed.

JNCC has provided project support for a wide range of conservation projects in the UKOTs. Important work strands in recent years include: developing guidelines for the use of economic analysis in biodiversity; habitat mapping in the Caribbean; and marine and terrestrial invasive alien species control projects in the Caribbean and South Atlantic.

In the past five years, RBG Kew's Millennium Seed Bank Partnership has provided direct funding to the Falkland Islands (£1,500), Turks and Caicos Islands (£14,000) and Cayman Islands (£5,000) to enable seed-collecting activity. MSBP have also supplied collecting equipment and supplies, of varying values, to Ascension, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Montserrat, St Helena, South Georgia, Tristan da Cunha, and Turks and Caicos Islands. RBG Kew has undertaken fund-raising activities to support specific activities - for example, scholarships for UKOT technical staff to attend courses.

Defra committed £250,000 to a wide range of projects on biodiversity in the UKOTs in 2009-10 as part of its contribution towards the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity. The funding provided the scope for a range of projects, and has also helped to enhance research capacity in the Territories, and support small conservation projects identified as priorities by Territory governments (see box below).

International Year of Biodiversity

<http://www.cbd.int/2011-2020/>

A wide range of activities was supported in the UKOTs during International Year of Biodiversity; from survey work to public-awareness campaigns, from eradication and control projects to prevention plans.

Projects included:

- On St Helena, the bastard gumwood tree, *Commidendrum rotundifolium* is on the brink of extinction. There was only one known pure tree. The funding provided supported its recovery by the removal of invasive plants and the propagation and planting of pure bastard gumwood trees in their place. Mass planting of this tree will allow it to re-establish, hopefully saving it from extinction.
- In the Caribbean, the Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands, and the British Virgin Islands will develop efforts to monitor and control lionfish. These lionfish, with few known natural predators, pose a major threat to coral reefs by significantly reducing the young populations of a wide range of native reef fish - for example, cardinalfish, parrotfish and damselfish. There is the potential that this can have a negative impact on the tourism industry, a key source of income for Caribbean Islands.
- Funds will also be used to determine the extent of marine invasive alien species at key points around South Georgia, Falklands and Tristan, and to eradicate and control high priority invasive alien species, including plants and rodents, in the Falklands, Ascension, and St Helena.

The Darwin Initiative (joint-funded by Defra and Dfid) provides funding for biodiversity conservation and sustainable-use projects in countries that are rich in biodiversity but poor in other resources to meet their objectives under one or more of the three major biodiversity Conventions: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES); and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).

Although the majority of funding goes to developing countries the Darwin Initiative has a specific funding stream for the UKOTs. The Darwin Challenge Fund (launched in 2009) provides funding for scoping potential projects in the UKOTs, and UKOT applications for main projects are considered separately in the Darwin sift process to ensure that some OT projects will be successful in each application round.

Since 1998 Darwin has provided around £3.8 million for scoping projects and main projects in the UK OTs. Recent projects in the UKOTs supported by the Darwin Initiative include: contributing to the eradication of house mice in the South Atlantic (responsible for decimating breeding colonies of endangered seabirds); saving the critically endangered Mountain Chicken (a species of frog) in Montserrat; mapping marine biodiversity around South Georgia and building conservation expertise and capacity in St Helena).

The Flagship Species Fund (FSF) is a joint initiative between Defra and Fauna and Flora International (FFI), and was set up in 2001 to provide practical support for small-scale projects to conserve endangered species and their habitats in developing countries. From 2009 the FSF remit was widened to encourage applications from the UKOTs. A few examples of the types of projects the FSF has supported in the UKOTs include: strengthening sea turtle conservation measures in Anguilla; conservation monitoring of, and research on, the Northern Rockhopper penguin at Tristan da Cunha and Gough Island; and of Cobb's wren as a flagship for rat-free islands in the Falkland Islands.

3.4 The UK's relationship with Gibraltar

Gibraltar is the only Overseas Territory located within the EU, and as such the Government of Gibraltar is subject to certain European Union (EU) obligations, including most EU environmental legislation, the exceptions being the Common Agricultural Policy and the Common Fisheries Policy.

Although Gibraltar it is not constitutionally part of the UK, the UK is still responsible for ensuring that the Government of Gibraltar complies with its obligations under EU (including environmental) law. This includes taking account of implications for Gibraltar in negotiations on EU legislation, advising Gibraltar on transposition and implementation, and notifying the Commission.

In Ivan's Wake: Darwin Initiative project to produce a Biodiversity Action Plan for the Cayman Islands

'In Ivan's Wake' was a project led by the Marine Turtle Research Group of the University of Exeter in conjunction with the Cayman Islands Department of Environment and a variety of partners including the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Following the devastating Hurricane Ivan, which hit the Cayman Islands in 2004, the natural ecosystems and native species of the islands were profoundly affected. Indications were that a substantial amount of natural vegetation had been lost, native bird populations decimated and marine habitats severely compromised. A need for a post-hurricane monitoring was identified, and on the basis of data collected, the urgent development of practical conservation management strategies followed.

Thus the purpose of this project was to carry out an assessment of the key biodiversity elements of the Cayman Islands; create the capacity for its future monitoring and conservation; and increase environmental awareness including the following substantial elements:

- Biodiversity mapping of marine and terrestrial habitats based on remotely sensed imagery;
- Research into key endemic and threatened taxa, invasive species and aggregations of regional importance;
- Institutional capacity building in key areas highlighted by pre-bid consultation between local partners and taxon specialists;
- Environmental awareness activities for the general public and key stakeholder groups.

The project was successful, and an on-line 386-page Biodiversity Action Plan for the islands was produced.

Chapter 4: Future plans for the UKOTs: Working together

It is clear that UKOTs face environmental challenges now and in the future. UKOTs offer large returns on environmental investment, as they contain natural resources of global significance. Moreover, the positive aspects of the relationship between natural resources and the growing tourism industry, with natural resources attracting visitors and also the opportunities to further educate and mainstream messages on the importance of these natural resources to global audiences, represent a real opportunity for the natural capital of UKOTs. However, tourism is also a real pressure on the environment in the UKOTs and can itself be a driver of biodiversity loss, e.g. land-use change, mechanical damage to coral reefs, disturbance of animals. So this delicate relationship needs to be sustainably managed to ensure a healthy future.

4.1 Priority action going forward

When considering the current risks to the natural environment in the UKOTs and the value of natural resources, in addition to the lack of funding and/or capacity in some of the UKOTs, the following three overarching priorities for action are essential to ensure that natural resources are sustainably used and conserved. These overarching actions recognise the need for both direct support and capacity-building, and the need to consider the natural environment at all levels of decision making. The actions underpin our objectives for the UKOTs on the environment.

- 1. Continued and improved coordination, cooperation and knowledge sharing on environmental management between the UK and its Territories, and between the Territories themselves.**
- 2. Continued delivery of UK technical advice and direct support on environmental issues within the UKOTs to where it is most needed.**
- 3. Supported and facilitated mainstreaming of the value of the natural environment into the decision making of Governments, businesses and communities of the UKOTs.**

4.2 Our commitments to the UKOTs on the environment

Defra and its Agencies are committed to ensuring that they contribute to meeting the demands of our objectives for the UKOTs on the environment and support our priorities for action. We are committed to continuing with the current level of support that we offer the UKOTs. However to underpin the three overarching priorities for action we have outlined 10 key commitments to address and provide support for environmental issues in the UKOTs (Table 1).

Table 1: Defra and its Agencies' commitments towards meeting our environmental objectives in the UKOTs¹

	Commitment	Supports the following Overarching Priorities for Action
1.	We will provide technical and policy advice to the UKOTs in our areas of competence.	1, 2 & 3
2.	We are dedicated to ensuring that key research in the UKOTs is delivered	2
3.	We will continue to ensure that UKOT biodiversity strategy is implemented and the OTBG will oversee this process, including where appropriate the strategy's further elaboration into an implementation plan.	1, 2 & 3
4.	We will ensure that Darwin Initiative projects within the UKOTs are considered appropriately within the scheme.	2 & 3
5.	We are committed to working with partners across government, and with non-governmental organisations, to ensure that work delivered in the UKOTs is co-ordinated and the expertise of partnership organisation is utilised.	1
6.	We will continue to represent the needs and concerns of the Territories at regional and international meetings.	1 & 2
7.	We will continue providing advice and financial support in meeting the demands of key international agreements.	1 & 2
8.	We are committed to pursuing the extension of external sources of funding to the UKOTs for environmental issues.	2
9.	We will continue to provide active fora for UKOTs to engage with UK officials on environmental issues.	1
10.	We will continue to provide advice on the extension of our ratification of MEAs to the UKOTs	1 & 2

¹These commitments are without prejudice to future financial considerations

4.3 Starting how we mean to go forward

The Overseas Territories Consultative Council (OTCC) is a yearly forum which brings together UK Government Ministers and the elected leaders from the UK Overseas Territories. The UK Government were pleased to be able to demonstrate its commitment towards addressing the environmental issues which are becoming increasingly prevalent in the UKOTs at the meeting in 2011. Specifically, the Parliamentary Undersecretary for Natural Environment and Fisheries, announced that £394,000 would be dedicated towards four new projects which aim to address key environmental issues in the UKOTs and take into account several of the commitments, in particular items 2, 3, 5, 7 and 8 in the table above that Defra and its agencies have made towards meeting our environmental objectives in the UKOTs.

Gough Island, in the Tristan group of islands, is a World Heritage Site. It is uninhabited by humans and is arguably one of the most important seabird colonies in the world. There are several species resident there which are globally threatened and the island also hosts almost the entire world population of the Tristan Albatross and the Atlantic Petrel. However, due to predation by invasive mice on seabird chicks, bird populations on Gough Island are declining and without action face a real threat from extinction. To address this, £250,000 has been given to a project which aims to eradicate mice from Gough Island. The project itself is estimated to cost a total of £3 million, and we expect this contribution to act as a lever for securing other funds.

The Chagos Island Marine Reserve in the British Indian Ocean Territory is the UK's greatest area of marine biodiversity and includes the world's largest no-take marine reserve. Defra have provided funding for a research project which will look at the effects of large marine reserves on pelagic, migratory species. The Chagos Island Marine Reserve is uniquely placed to allow such research to take place.

In recent years there have been serious declines in globally important albatross and petrel populations. Therefore Defra have funded two further projects to 1) test "hook pods" with an aim to reduce seabird by-catch in pelagic long-line fisheries; and 2) analyse aerial photographs of breeding Black-browed albatrosses in the Falkland Islands.

4.4 Funding available on environmental issues in the UKOTs

4.4.1 Darwin Initiative

<http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/>

The Darwin Initiative (Defra and Dfid) has a specific funding stream called the Challenge Fund for UKOTs. The Challenge Fund offers an opportunity for UKOTs, either on their own or in partnership with institutions from the metropolitan UK or other UKOTs (including Crown Dependencies), to carry out longer-term and more ambitious scoping projects, designed both to assess the likely degree of success of a main project, and to carry out pilot implementation work as well. This is intended to ensure that main projects are better grounded, and have a much greater chance

of sustained success. Further to this UKOTs are also able to apply to the main project funding stream.

Round 18 of the Darwin Initiative was launched in April 2011. It is now jointly funded by DfID and Defra. UKOT applications for main projects are considered separately in the Darwin sift process, to ensure that some OT projects are successful in each application round, and several new projects in the UKOTs will be funded under Round 18.

4.4.2 The Flagship Species Fund

<http://www.fauna-flora.org/initiatives/flagship-species-fund/>

The Flagship Species Fund (Defra and Flora and Fauna International) supports projects focussing on flagship species, with a key taxonomic focus on primates, sea turtles and trees. Since 2009, UKOTs have been encouraged to apply for funding from this scheme.

4.4.3 BEST – Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/finansup_11_best.htm

This programme is for European Overseas Countries and Territories and UKOTs as well as UK institutions working for UKOTs are eligible to bid for this funding. The European Commission recently announced it was committing an additional €2 million to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services in its Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories. Known as BEST, the voluntary scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas will fund pilot projects in these areas that focus on supporting the designation and management of protected areas and the restoration of degraded ecosystems, promoting natural solutions to fight climate change, including the restoration of mangroves and the protection of coral reefs.

4.4.4 Research funding

As well as specific funding streams Defra is also able to provide funding from its research budget for research projects related to biodiversity in the UKOTs.

4.5 Defra's commitment to NAO 2007

Defra is committed to the National Audit Office's 2007 recommendations, as follows. This paper describes our arrangements for dealing with Overseas Territory issues within our area of competence and an official has been nominated as a contact point to ensure that these responsibilities are being addressed. Defra will ensure that we consult with the FCO and the Territories at the earliest possible stage of extending legislation to the Territories. Defra will ensure that, where relevant, legislation and programmes are developed and delivered with the practicalities of their application in the Territories in mind. Defra is committed to providing specialist advice and other input into FCO and DFID development projects in Territories, where necessary and appropriate.

4.6 Contact point for environmental issues in the UKOTs

Work on environmental issues in the UKOT by Defra and its Agencies is coordinated by the International Biodiversity Programme in Defra (E-mail: UKOTenquiries@defra.gsi.gov.uk).

Annex 1 – Local, Regional and International Organisations working on environmental issues in the UKOTs¹⁴

Organisation	Mission / Vision	Support currently available to UK OTs	Principal Contact
CABI	CABI's work focuses on three major objectives: to improve food security, to protect biodiversity and to support farmers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands and St Helena are all CABI member countries. Each member country has an equal role in the organization's governance, policies and strategic direction, in addition to enjoying a number of privileges and services relating to CABI's scientific expertise, products and resources, including disease identification, capacity building and information products. • Membership of CABI gives national governments a leadership role in directing and influencing the global development agenda through the work of the organization and its international network of partners. • A major focus of the activities conducted by CABI staff on the UKOTs has been on combating the impact of Invasive Alien Species (IAS); currently CABI is assessing the feasibility of biological control of IAS on the South Atlantic UKOTs and this project will finish in March 2013. • CABI intends to continue with its current assistance, but equally offers its policy and scientific support in relation to its other objectives on food security, biodiversity conservation and support for farmers. 	<p>Dr. Norbert Maczey</p> <p><i>Senior Ecologist/Entomologist</i></p> <p>+44 (0)1491 829029</p> <p>n.maczey@cabi.org</p>
Falklands Conservation (FC)	In partnership with government, industry and the global community, Falklands Conservation engages and	<p>Engagement</p> <p>Falklands Conservation is a member-based, non-governmental wildlife charity working to protect all the wildlife in the Falkland Islands for future generations. It</p>	<p>Sarah Brennan</p> <p><i>UK Executive Officer</i></p>

¹⁴ This list is comprised of those NGOs who were consulted by Defra and responded to questionnaires circulated during the initial consultation.

	<p>empowers the people of the Falkland Islands to take action with us to conserve biodiversity and manage landscapes and seascapes for the benefit of nature and people.</p>	<p>undertakes practical conservation projects; surveys and scientific studies; conducts annual monitoring of seabird populations; rescues wildlife in trouble; publishes guides and information on many aspects of the Falkland Islands environment; and involves Islanders of all ages in its activities, including running a WATCH group for children. It relies on donations and public support to carry out its work.</p> <p>Recent and ongoing major projects Falklands Conservation has coordinated many research projects over the years gaining funds from many sources, including the Darwin Initiative, OTEP, Defra, JNCC, WWF and the Falkland Islands Government (FIG). These projects have helped fill gaps in understanding of the ecology of the Islands and the surrounding seas. They have included terrestrial plants, seabirds at sea, invertebrates, invasive species, marine mammals, seabird diet and foraging, and protected areas.</p> <p>Support Falklands Conservation also works at all levels of FIG. FC has a seat on the Environmental Planning Department's Environmental Committee, and on the new Falkland Islands Offshore Hydrocarbons Environmental Forum.</p> <p>FC has a Memorandum of Understanding with FIG running up to 2014. One of the key roles identified in this Memorandum is to provide the government with independent environmental advice.</p>	<p>+44 (0) 1767 650639</p> <p>sarah.brennan@conservation.org.fk</p> <p>www.falklandsconservation.com</p>
<p>The Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society (GONHS)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To foster the study and enjoyment of, and interest in, Natural History in Gibraltar and its hinterland and surrounding waters. 2. To educate its members 	<p>The majority of GONHS's work is carried out within the territory of Gibraltar, although they have attended meetings in other OTs when organised by the UKOTCF and they have good links with other UK organisations and with BirdLife International.</p>	<p>Dr John Cortes</p> <p><i>General Secretary</i></p> <p>00350 20072639</p>

	<p>and the public in general on matters which are related to natural history and the environment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. To safeguard Gibraltar's natural assets and to further conservation of the natural and living environment. 4. To further the dissemination of information on the flora and fauna and ecology of Gibraltar, its hinterland and its surrounding waters. 5. To be consistent with the Society's obligations as Partner of BirdLife International and a member of other international organisations. 6. To provide a social forum for members. 	<p>They work independently and also engage with the Government of Gibraltar, providing technical advice and carrying out a number of contractual obligations.</p> <p>Their work includes research into biodiversity, bird migration and invertebrates with advocacy also forming a large part of our activity.</p> <p>GONHS would be able to provide support to other OTs on such matters as NGO administration, advocacy, running of research and conservation projects in small territories, with particular reference to biodiversity conservation and species inventories</p>	<p>icortes@gonhs.org</p>
<p>The Marine Reserves Coalition</p>	<p>Achieving the effective conservation of the world's biodiversity</p>	<p>Members of the MRC are or have been active in a number of UKOTs over the past 5 years, including Pitcairn, Chagos, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and Bermuda. MRC always work with UKOT Governments, local communities and NGOs as is most appropriate in the local circumstances.</p> <p>Advice on the establishment of marine reserves; MRC are currently working with the Bermudian Government and civil society on marine reserves around their island and they have facilitated Bermudians to attend meetings in London.</p> <p>The Pew Environment Group, a member of the MRC, helped fund the publication of the scientific report by the Southampton Oceanographic Centre on the Chagos</p>	<p>Alistair Gammell</p> <p>02073 885370</p> <p>agammell@pewtrusts.org</p>

		<p>marine area.</p> <p>MRC organisations, as their individual finances permit, are willing to commission specific reports or analyses, and/or convene meetings on policy, scientific, economic or other topics as appropriate and which will inform managers and others in their decision making. They are also willing to engage in direct scientific activities to generate information necessary for management, as well as carrying out conservation actions which will improve the environment.</p> <p>Specifically, in relation to South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, the Pew Environment Group has commissioned a detailed report on the marine biodiversity of the territory, to examine the current and possible future economic and biodiversity outlook for the territory under the present and alternative management regimes.</p>	
National Trust for the Cayman Islands	To preserve natural environments and places of historic significance in the Cayman Islands for present and future generations.	<p>The National Trust holds annual general meetings every year, and publishes a quarterly newsletter. District Meetings are held on a regular basis to inform decisions made by the district committees. The National Trust has also held stakeholder meetings when starting new projects.</p> <p>The Blue Iguana Recovery Programme has received funding from the National Trust in the form of salaries for two Blue Iguana Wardens. Partner organizations contribute expertise by sending visiting scientists to assist with health screenings and monitoring.</p> <p>Cayman Wildlife Rescue receives funding from the National Trust which is used to purchase medication and feed for injured wildlife. The Trust, as of last year, also funds the salary of a veterinary intern to treat and rehabilitate wildlife.</p> <p>The Trust will be adding a Sister Islands Rock Iguana</p>	<p>Paul Watler</p> <p><i>Environmental Programmes Manager Designate</i></p> <p>pwatler@nationaltrust.org.ky</p> <p>345-749-1121</p>

		Conservation initiative, and, dependant on funding, the Trust will commence a research project which will research the life history of the Cayman Brac Parrot (<i>Amazona leucocephala hesterna</i>).	
The Natural History Museum (NHMUK)	Vision: to advance our knowledge of the natural world, inspiring better care of our planet	<p>NHM holds (and makes available for study) significant collections of specimens from most if not all Overseas Territories, including terrestrial and marine mammals, freshwater and marine fish, insects, echinoderms, crustacean, corals and other marine organisms, plankton (in particular from the Falklands, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands), and plants including lichens. The entomological collections are particularly rich and contain a significant number of 'type specimens', the ultimate reference point for the species concerned. A number of collections are the result of extensive surveys, including insect survey material from South Georgia, marine and terrestrial surveys from Chagos., and the Institute of Oceanographic (IOS) collections from the Falklands (70,000 jars (over 5 million specimens) and in particular 27, 000 jars of plankton). These collections hold necessary reference material used in historic and modern treatments of the biota, and are necessary for future studies.</p> <p>NHM holds very extensive literature relating to the biodiversity and environment of all OTs, and very significant holdings of original drawings, paintings, engravings, pattern plates, notebooks, observations, letters, catalogues and manuscripts relating to exploration and historical voyages for: Antarctic, Cayman Islands, Ascension, Tristan da Cunha, Elephant Island, St. Helena, South Georgia, Gough Island, Falklands, Gibraltar, Malta & Bermuda. We also hold archival material relating to more recent studies for Anguilla, British Antarctic Territory, Bermuda, British Indian Ocean Territory, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, St Helena, Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha, South</p>	<p>John Jackson</p> <p><i>Science Directorate</i></p> <p>j.jackson@nhm.ac.uk</p> <p>+44 (0)20 7942 5257</p>

		<p>Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, Sovereign Base Areas on Cyprus and Turks and Caicos Islands.</p> <p>Current and recent work with OTs includes: Falklands: identifying marine sample material; shallow marine surveys; record of atmospheric mineral dust and trace element fluxes in the southern ocean and indicators for their sources and prevailing climate, from peat deposits; beetles of outlying islands; entomological spies list. St Helena: coordination of Central Peaks Project (2005). British Antarctic Territory: research on Antarctic cyanobacteria; research on marine ecosystems and biodiversity.</p>	
<p>The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (RBG Kew)</p>	<p>To inspire and deliver science-based plant conservation worldwide, enhancing the quality of life.</p>	<p>Since 2000, RBG Kew has had a dedicated UKOTs Science Team who provide on-going botanical and horticulture support and provide many opportunities for capacity building.</p> <p>RBG Kew's Millennium Seed Bank Partnership (MSBP) has a dedicated seed conservation programme in UKOTs which comprises training in seed collection and storage techniques. The MSBP provides long-term storage for UKOTs seeds held under terms and conditions agreed between RBG Kew and the UKOT Government.</p> <p>RBG Kew have provided specific help to develop native species nurseries that are either standalone or as part of wider support in developing a botanic garden.</p> <p>A Defra-funded workshop was held on Montserrat which enabled a Caribbean-regional approach to implementing the GSPC.</p> <p>In terms of directly financing projects/activities in UKOTs, RBG Kew has limited access to funds that can be dedicated to initiating projects in UKOTs. RBG Kew has undertaken fundraising activities to support specific</p>	<p>Dr Colin Clubbe</p> <p><i>Head of UKOTs and Conservation Training</i></p> <p>c.clubbe@kew.org</p> <p>+44 (0) 20 8332 5637</p>

		<p>activities e.g. scholarships for UKOTs technical staff to attend courses, internships or bespoke training at RBG Kew.</p> <p>RBG Kew actively engages with UKOTs as a long-term strategic priority at an institutional level. They will continue to provide the full range of engagement and support</p>	
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	To secure a healthy environment for birds and wildlife, helping to create a better world for us all.	<p>Engagement RSPB currently work in 9 of the 14 UKOTs and engage with UKOT NGOs, Governments and communities. In the UK, we meet regularly with UKOTA officials, as well as with the relevant UK Government officials.</p> <p>Technical Advice The RSPB is able to draw on a wide range of research, policy, conservation, marketing, and education expertise to provide technical advice to both UKOT Government Departments and NGOs. Recent examples lie under the such themes as biodiversity conservation, Civil Society capacity-building, ecosystem services, education and information, fisheries, invasive species and biosecurity, planning, protected areas, responsible pet ownership and scientific research.</p> <p>Direct Support The RSPB provides a wide range of direct financial and technical support, including to Territories such as Ascension Island, the Falkland Islands, Montserrat, St. Helena and Tristan da Cunha.</p> <p>Recent & Ongoing Major Projects The RSPB has lead and partnered on a number of projects in the UK OTs to address such issues as invasive species, forest conservation and island restoration.</p> <p>The UKOTs are a priority for the RSPB. At a minimum it is intended to continue with current levels of assistance.</p>	<p>Jonathan Hall <i>Project Officer</i> Jonathan.Hall@rspb.org.uk</p>

<p>South Georgia Heritage Trust (SGHT)</p>	<p>To conserve and protect those species of indigenous fauna and flora that breed and grow on South Georgia or in the surrounding seas, and to raise awareness of South Georgia's threatened species.</p> <p>To preserve the historical heritage of South Georgia, including selected historical sites of importance, and increase international awareness of the human history of the island through the South Georgia Museum, which SGHT manages.</p>	<p>Engagement SGHT manages the South Georgia Museum and its representatives staff the Museum at Grytviken from October to March of each year. SGHT attends the annual South Georgia stakeholders' meeting and meets regularly with the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI).</p> <p>Financial support SGHT has added significant artefacts to the South Georgia Museum collection, provided signage for tourists around Grytviken whaling and renovated the whaling manager's villa at Husvik so that it could be used by teams of researchers and explorers. SGHT also funds an annual internship at South Georgia Museum.</p> <p>SGHT has part funded the several research projects, some of which were recommended to the Trust by GSGSSI.</p> <p>Specific projects/initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With support from GSGSSI, SGHT has funded, staffed and managed the South Georgia Habitat Restoration Project to eradicate rats from South Georgia. The first phase of fieldwork (covering 12,500 hectares of the island) was completed in March 2011 at a cost of over £1 million. The entire project is expected to cost between 7-8 million. • SGHT held an international conference on South Georgia's Industrial Heritage in September 2011, with the primary objective to provide policy options to Government and relevant policy makers on the preservation and protection of industrial heritage on South Georgia. The proceedings of the conference will be published in 2012; • SGHT has published a booklet on the South Georgia Museum, a Guide to the Flora of South Georgia, and is 	<p>Alison Neil <i>Chief Executive</i></p> <p>+44 1382 229792</p> <p>alison.neil@sght.org</p>
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		about to publish a comprehensive Wildlife Guide to South Georgia. A publication on marine heritage (including shipwrecks) is under preparation.	
St Helena National Trust (SHNT)	The National Trust is responsible for the protection, enhancement and promotion of St Helena's unique environmental and cultural heritage. The Trust's activities include restoring the island's fragile Gumwood forests, conserving the endemic Wirebird, promoting the protection of the historic buildings and fortifications, and educating and training local people.	<p>SHNT plays an active role in UKOTs conservation, participating in cross-Territory projects on invasive species and protected areas, responding to new policy initiatives and participating in cross-Territory forums such as UKOTCF's Southern Oceans Working Group.</p> <p>SHNT is also part of an EU funded project – the Leonardo Project – which involves sharing information on climate change mitigation and how this relates to nature reserve management with other European NGOS.</p> <p>SHNT have learnt much in terms of the challenges of habitat restoration, conserving endangered species and increasing local capacity on remote islands. Recent successes have included the recovery of the Bastard Gumwood tree from a single specimen and the Darwin project, an ambitious initiative to provide local training and generate job opportunities in conservation. We are also coordinating a bid for the island to become a World Heritage Site. This is knowledge which the Trust is happy to share with other UKOTs and islands.</p>	<p>The Director</p> <p>00 290 2190</p> <p>director@shnt.org.uk</p>
The UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (UKOTCF)	<p>To promote the co-ordinated conservation of the diverse and increasingly threatened plant and animal species and natural habitats of UK's Overseas Territories (UKOTs) and Crown Dependencies.</p> <p>UKOTCF is a membership organisation which is driven by the needs of conservation organisations working and existing in the UK Overseas</p>	<p>Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing and maintaining specialist Working Groups for the Wider Caribbean, Southern Oceans and Europe Territories. • Working with HMG to develop new funding sources or improve access to existing funding mechanisms. • Working with local people to help establish conservation NGOs in those Territories previously lacking them. • Supporting capacity building in local NGOs (and some government bodies). • Providing for exchange of experience, information and 	<p>Chris Tydeman</p> <p><i>Chairman</i></p> <p>ctydeman@lineone.net</p> <p>+44 (0) 1483 548429</p>

	Territories.	<p>skills between UKOTs and others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness of the UKOTs/CDs and their biodiversity. • Informing members of funding opportunities and on their eligibility for such grants via regular circulations. <p>Technical Advice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing, with FCO, from 1998, the concept of Environment Charters. • Facilitating the development of pilot strategies for action to implement the Environment Charters, and development of an on-going system for monitoring progress in Environment Charter implementation. • Development of The Forum's website (www.ukotcf.org), including a searchable database. • Facilitating participation of UKOT representatives as part of the national delegations (or as observers) at Conferences of Parties to MEAs. • Completing in 2005 a comprehensive review of existing and potential Ramsar sites in the UKOTs/CDs. • UKOTCF has advised UKOTs on the World Heritage Convention. • Promoting links between UKOTs/CDs. • Advice and assistance to Member and Associate organisations with interpretation and design of low impact nature trails. • Assistance with designation of protected areas. • Provide assistance with bids for World Heritage status (should assistance be required). • Provide assistance with Lottery Bids should they become eligible as UK partner or other funding bids should it be required. 	
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		<p>Specific projects/initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating environmental educational initiatives. • UKOTCF provides specialist volunteers to support partner organisations in the UK Overseas Territories. <p>Policy support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UKOTCF is able to provide input in to policy, with 25 years of experience in working with and for the UKOTs. <p>Scientific support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination of bird counts censuses on Turks and Caicos with training provided • Coordination of base line data for amphibians and reptiles. <p>Education support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross territory projects building on work already done which can be transferred to other territories. • Environmental awareness campaigns which raise awareness and address problems directly. <p>Other support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UKOTCF Volunteer Programme and human resource support to UKOT organisation. Secondments or student exchanges in order to increase capacity and day-to-day running of organisations. 	
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Annex 2 – Defra’s and its Agencies support to the UKOTs in meeting the demands of international agreements and instruments

Multilateral Environmental Agreements				
International Agreement	UKOTs that have joined this agreement	Summary of obligations within this agreement	Advice available to the UKOTs from Defra and its Agencies on this agreement	Financial support from Defra and its Agencies for meeting the demands of this agreement
Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.	Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas British Antarctic Territory	Ratification means that hazardous waste generated in an UKOT can be sent to the UK without the need for a separate bilateral agreement with the UK. Without ratification of Basel the UKOTs would have to conclude a bilateral agreement before being able to send waste to any Basel party.	Defra have provided advice and support by: a) commenting and advising on their draft legislation and b) giving OTs access to the Environment Agency’s comprehensive guidance on the trans-frontier movement of waste.	
The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	None	The objective of the Protocol is to contribute to ensure adequate protection in transfer, handling and use of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs), specifically in relation to transboundary movements. Obligation include harmonising international regulations surrounding trans-boundary transport of LMOs		
The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	British Virgin Islands Cayman Islands Gibraltar St Helena, Ascension	The CBD has 3 main objectives: 1. The conservation of biological diversity. 2. The sustainable use of the components of biological diversity.	Defra and the JNCC would provide policy and technical advice (as far as resources allowed), and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darwin Initiative • Research budget

	and Tristan da Cunha	3. The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.	would be able to respond to questions about CBD. RBG Kew actively engages with UKOTs as a long-term strategic priority at an institutional level. Within resource constraints they will continue to provide a range of engagement and support to the UKOTs.	
The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)	Bermuda British Indian Ocean Territory British Virgin Islands Cayman Islands Falkland Islands Gibraltar Montserrat Pitcairn (and Dependencies) St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha	Regulates and monitors trade in flora and fauna species threatened by international trade. UKOTs that have ratified CITES are required to have legislation in place implementing the Convention.	On policy implementation, visits from UK delivery and enforcement officials have taken place to assess CITES trade and their CITES procedures. Defra has also offered legal and policy advice on their CITES legislation. Defra can also offer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical advice on issuing CITES permits. • CITES Enforcement advice from UK Customs and Police. • Policy advice on CITES implementation • Legal advice on CITES issues. • Scientific advice and support on CITES issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darwin Initiative • GSC budget • Research budget

			RBG Kew is officially the CITES Scientific Authority for a number of UKOTs who have requested them to take on this role.	
Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution	Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas Gibraltar	To protect man and his environment against air pollution to endeavour to limit and, as far as possible, gradually reduce and prevent air pollution including long-range transboundary air pollution	N/A – no specific action required under this convention.	N/A.
The 1988 Sofia Protocol to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes	Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas	To limit future emissions of nitrogen oxides or their transboundary fluxes so that these do not exceed emissions for the calendar year 1987 for the UK including OT and to implement control technologies for stationary, mobile and other sources.	N/A – no specific action required under this convention.	N/A.
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)	Bermuda British Indian Ocean Territory British Virgin Islands Cayman Islands Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas Falkland Islands Gibraltar Montserrat Pitcairn (and Dependencies) St Helena, Ascension and	Encourages international cooperation to protect migratory species across their migratory routes. The UKOTs have obligations of varying extents under the various daughter agreements and MOUs. ¹⁵	Support tends to be given on the specific daughter agreements and MoUs. Defra are able to advise on policy or scientific issues relating to the main CMS Convention or its daughter Agreements and MoUs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darwin Initiative • GSC budget • Research budget

¹⁵ CMS Indian Ocean-South East Asian Marine Turtle MOU; CMS EUROBATs Agreement; CMS Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels.

	Tristan da Cunha South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Turks and Caicos			
African- Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)	Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas Gibraltar St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha	A CMS daughter Agreement relating to the conservation of migratory waterbirds.	Defra are willing to advise on policy or scientific issues relating to this Agreement.	
Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)	British Antarctic Territory (BAT) Falkland Islands St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands	A CMS daughter agreement relating to the conservation of albatrosses and petrels.	Regular telephone conferences held with UKOTs to discuss ACAP implementation. Defra are able to advise on policy or scientific issues relating to this Agreement.	Defra jointly funds a South Atlantic UKOT coordinator post through JNCC.
Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS)	None	A CMS daughter agreement which aims to promote close cooperation amongst its Parties with a view to achieving and maintaining a favourable conservation status for small cetaceans.		
EUROBATS	Gibraltar	A CMS daughter agreement which aims to protect all 52 species of bats identified in Europe, through legislation, education, conservation measures and international co-operation with Agreement members and with those who have not yet joined.	Gibraltar are represented by the UK at meetings and Defra coordinate their 4 yearly report as part of the UK report. Defra would be able to assist any other OT in the same way providing they had population of European bats. Defra would also be	Gibraltar does not pay separately for their membership. Defra pay membership on behalf of both the UK and Gibraltar and would consider doing the same for any other OT that was eligible to join.

			willing to positively identify the species of European bat present in the OT and would sponsor their application to join Eurobats. Other technical advice would be available depending on need.	
International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)	None	To take measures to prevent the spread of pests and diseases of plants, mainly in trade in plants and plant products.	<p>vice on UK's implementation of IPPC obligations.</p> <p>vice on conforming to the international standards.</p> <p>The Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) would be prepared to provide advice to any UKOT that wishes to have ratification of the Convention extended to them, with the assistance of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, including on any actions for follow up.</p>	
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Plant Treaty / ITPGRFA)	None	Parties are committed to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA, e.g. different varieties of crop seed for breeding new varieties), including making freely available national collections of PGRFA to all for research breeding and training through the Plant Treaty's Multilateral System.	If UKOTs have ex-situ collections of PGRFA that they would be willing to share through the Treaty's Multilateral system Defra could help facilitate this.	tential to apply under the Darwin Project for funds.

			Defra would also be willing to consider plans to engage with the UK's wider PGRFA community to consider taking on any <i>ex-situ</i> genetic resources. Any <i>in-situ</i> genetic resources will be harder to tackle as may require collection and characterisation.	
International Whaling Commission (IWC)	<p>The ICRW (International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling) (the parent treaty) was ratified in 1946. At the time the ratification was on the behalf of the UK, without mention of other territories. Nonetheless, because of the date of the ratification, international treaty practice assumed automatically that Overseas Territories were included. While the Overseas Territories are not referred to specifically, the treaty covers them through a process of creeping jurisdiction.</p> <p>The UK's Overseas Territories are therefore represented at the IWC by the UK and the moratorium on commercial whaling</p>	<p>The purpose of the Convention is to provide for the proper conservation of whale stocks and thus make possible the orderly development of the whaling industry.</p>	A.	

	applies.			
The Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter: The London Convention (LC) / The London Protocol (LP)	<u>UKOTs signed to LC Only</u> British Indian Ocean Territory Pitcairn (and Dependencies) Turks and Caicos <u>UKOTs signed to both LC and LP</u> Bermuda British Virgin Islands Cayman Islands Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas Falkland Islands Montserrat St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands	The London Convention has been in force since 1975. Its objective is to promote the effective control of all sources of marine pollution and to take all practicable steps to prevent pollution of the sea by dumping of wastes and other matter. The London Protocol entered into force in March 2006 to further modernise the Convention and, eventually, replace it.	Defra and Cefas would be able to respond to questions about the operation of the protocol and its supporting guidelines; the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) may be able to assist on questions about licensing of permissible dumping	Cefas provide support for OTs through a Defra SLA.
The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits from their Utilisation to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Nagoya Protocol)	None. The Protocol is not yet in force. The UK has signed but is considering implementation options before considering ratifying.	Parties will be required to create processes to ensure that genetic resources used within their jurisdiction comply with relevant access and benefit sharing of the provider country. Those Parties wishing to assert their sovereign rights over genetic resources –and seek to claim a share of benefits from their utilisation will have to implement a minimum level of legislation or policy measures.	Currently undertaking research which will provide an initial indication of the potential of the UKOTs as a provider of genetic resources. There are currently no plans for the UK to require benefit sharing from UK genetic resources, although UKOTs may decide to set up appropriate non legislative processes.	Potential to apply under the Darwin Project for funds.

			Benchmarking of small island nation states and non-legislative approaches to implementing the Protocol could be undertaken once further countries have implemented.	
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.	Excluding British Antarctic Territory, all UKOTs are included in the UK's ratification.	Wise use of wetlands and their resources.	<p>Advice in regard to Ramsar site management issues, facilitating Ramsar site designations and the completion of Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS) in liaison with JNCC.</p> <p>Notification of Ramsar meetings (regional and Conference of the Parties), reporting obligations.</p> <p>Further advice available on site management and designation issues.</p>	UKOTs on the DAC list are eligible to apply for grants under the Ramsar Small Grants Fund (SGF). Funding is also available through the Darwin Initiative.
Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade	None	<p>The Rotterdam Convention is designed to promote shared responsibility and co-operative efforts among Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals. The Convention aims to protect human health and the environment and to contribute to the environmentally sound use of chemicals by facilitating information exchange about their characteristics.</p> <p>The Convention is designed to provide importing Parties with the power to make informed decisions on which of these chemicals they want to receive</p>	Defra would be prepared to assist any UKOT that wishes have ratification of the Convention extended to them.	As yet there is no precedent for the provision on financial support. Defra would have to consider any request received.

		and to exclude those they cannot manage safely. The mechanisms for this centre on detailed notifications from exporting countries to importing countries.		
The Stockholm Convention	None	<p>The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife, and have adverse effects to human health or to the environment, called Persistent Organic Pollutants or POPs. The Convention requires Parties to take measures to eliminate or reduce the release into the environment of POPs listed in the annexes of the treaty available here:</p> <p>http://chm.pops.int/Convention/tabid/54/Default.aspx</p>	Technical briefing, advice on chemical compliance and national implementation could be provided, but is dependent on resources available.	The OTs would not be entitled to direct financial assistance from the Convention's financial mechanism as they would not be "Parties" in their own right. Any financial support to comply would have to come from the UK directly. Defra would have to consider any request received.
Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer	<p>Anguilla Bermuda British Antarctic Territory British Indian Ocean Territory British Virgin Islands Cayman Islands Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas Gibraltar Falkland Islands Montserrat Pitcairn (and Dependencies) South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha</p>	A Framework Convention to promote co-operation through observations, research and information exchange on the effects of human activities on the ozone layer and to adopt measures against activities likely to have adverse effects on the ozone layer	N/A – no specific action required under this convention.	N/A.

	Turks and Caicos			
Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer	Anguilla Bermuda British Indian Ocean Territory British Antarctic Territory British Virgin Islands Cayman Islands Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas Falkland Islands Gibraltar Montserrat Pitcairn (and Dependencies) South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Turks and Caicos Islands	To reduce consumption and production of ozone depleting substances.	Advice on policy development, enforcement and legal issues.	

Memorandum of Understanding

Name of the Agreement	UKOTs that have joined this agreement	Summary of obligations within this agreement	Advice available to the UKOTs from Defra and its Agencies on this agreement	Financial support from Defra and its Agencies for meeting the demands of this agreement
Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptor Memorandum of Understanding).	Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas	An MoU under CMS relating to the conservation of migratory raptors.	Defra are willing to advise on policy or scientific issues relating to this MoU.	
Indian Ocean and South East Asia (IOSEA) Marine Turtle Pacific Islands Cetacean Memorandum of Understanding	British Indian Ocean Territory	This is a CMS MoU on the conservation and management of marine turtles and their habitats in the Indian Ocean and SE Asia.	Defra are able to advise on policy or scientific issues relating to this CMS MoU.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darwin Initiative • GSC budget • Research budget
Pacific Islands Cetacean Memorandum of Understanding	Pitcairn (and Dependencies)	The MoU includes plans to protect and conserve Pacific cetaceans and their habitats, including their migratory corridors.	Defra provided background brief to Pitcairn on aims/obligations for agreement. Technical assistance is available.	

Other Instruments

Name of the Agreement	UKOTs that have joined this agreement	Summary of obligations within this agreement	Advice available to the UKOTs from Defra and its Agencies on this agreement	Financial support from Defra and its Agencies for meeting the demands of this agreement
Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)	None, although UKOTs can access biodiversity data from their territories held in other European Institutes.	<p>The GBIF, established by MoU, is an organisation, which the UK is a member of.</p> <p>Its purpose is to establish a national system to collate, standardise and distribute biodiversity data</p> <p>To share this data via the GBIF portal to allow global research and biodiversity assessment.</p> <p>To provide funds for central coordination, infrastructure and capacity building.</p>	N/A.	Some resources may be available centrally, though the GBIF Secretariat, for capacity building activities.
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic tunas (ICCAT)	Bermuda British Virgin Islands Turks and Caicos St Helena Ascension Tristan Da Cunha	The ICCAT is a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation responsible for the conservation of tunas and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent seas.	Willing to provide advice.	