

# Review of performance by 2016 of UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies in implementing the 2001 Environment Charters or their equivalents and moving towards the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Targets

Edited by:

Sarah Barnsley, Emma Cary, Mike Pienkowski and Catherine Wensink  
UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum

April 2016

This is the third review, following the first in 2007 and the second in 2010.



Measures of performance by 2016 of UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies in implementing the 2001 Environment Charters or their equivalents and moving towards the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Targets

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*Front cover: masked boobies shelter from the sun under bush with noddy, Ducie Island, Pitcairn Group (Dr Mike Pienkowski).*

*Rear cover: morning view eastward from Sage Mountain over parts of Tortola and, beyond, some of the other British Virgin Islands (Dr Mike Pienkowski).*

## Contents

<b>Summary</b> .....	<b>3</b>	<b>Summary of cross-territory results on main further needs</b> .....	<b>105</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>11</b>	<b>UK Government &amp; its commitments in relation to the further needs</b> .....	<b>110</b>
<b>Methods</b> .....	<b>12</b>	<b>Appendix: Tables of more detailed collated information for each Territory</b> .....	<b>118</b>
<b>Consultations and Acknowledgements</b> .....	<b>19</b>	<b>1. Montserrat</b> .....	<b>120</b>
<b>Summary of results on progress</b> .....	<b>20</b>	<b>2. Anguilla</b> .....	<b>143</b>
<b>Montserrat</b> .....	<b>22</b>	<b>3. British Virgin Islands</b> .....	<b>164</b>
<b>Anguilla</b> .....	<b>27</b>	<b>4. Turks &amp; Caicos Islands</b> .....	<b>195</b>
<b>British Virgin Islands</b> .....	<b>30</b>	<b>5. Cayman Islands</b> .....	<b>223</b>
<b>Turks &amp; Caicos Islands</b> .....	<b>35</b>	<b>6. Bermuda</b> .....	<b>248</b>
<b>Cayman Islands</b> .....	<b>42</b>	<b>7. Ascension Island</b> .....	<b>273</b>
<b>Bermuda</b> .....	<b>46</b>	<b>8. St Helena</b> .....	<b>293</b>
<b>Ascension Island</b> .....	<b>51</b>	<b>9. Tristan da Cunha</b> .....	<b>318</b>
<b>St Helena</b> .....	<b>55</b>	<b>10. Falkland Islands</b> .....	<b>336</b>
<b>Tristan da Cunha</b> .....	<b>63</b>	<b>11. South Georgia &amp; South Sandwich Islands</b> .....	<b>348</b>
<b>Falkland Islands</b> .....	<b>68</b>	<b>12. British Antarctic Territory</b> .....	<b>360</b>
<b>South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands</b> .....	<b>72</b>	<b>13. Pitcairn Islands</b> .....	<b>370</b>
<b>British Antarctic Territory</b> .....	<b>76</b>	<b>14. British Indian Ocean Territory</b> .....	<b>381</b>
<b>Pitcairn Islands</b> .....	<b>78</b>	<b>15. Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas</b> .....	<b>392</b>
<b>British Indian Ocean Territory</b> .....	<b>81</b>	<b>16. Gibraltar</b> .....	<b>403</b>
<b>Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas</b> .....	<b>84</b>	<b>17. Isle of Man</b> .....	<b>425</b>
<b>Gibraltar</b> .....	<b>87</b>	<b>18. Jersey</b> .....	<b>437</b>
<b>Isle of Man</b> .....	<b>93</b>	<b>19. Guernsey</b> .....	<b>448</b>
<b>Jersey</b> .....	<b>96</b>	<b>20. Alderney</b> .....	<b>459</b>
<b>Guernsey</b> .....	<b>99</b>	<b>21. Sark</b> .....	<b>470</b>
<b>Alderney</b> .....	<b>101</b>		
<b>Sark</b> .....	<b>103</b>		

# Summary

This project aimed to collate information from the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies on progress towards implementing the 2001 Environment Charters signed by the Territories and the UK Government (or the equivalent international commitments for those territories without Charters). At the same time, we tried to assess progress towards the Aichi Targets, internationally agreed by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and other Conventions. Late in the year-long process of collecting and checking information, the UN Sustainability Goals became available, and we have tried to relate to the relevant ones of these also; however, for reasons of timing outlined above, it was not practicable to relate directly to these in all parts of this report. Tables linking the Goals, Targets and Commitments of these three international agreements are provided.

To minimise the loading on very busy colleagues in the territories, UKOTCF personnel (working most of the time in an unpaid voluntary capacity) gathered the initial drafts using published material, information gathered by UKOTCF and the working knowledge of the UKOTCF network. Clearly, it was important that those working on-the-ground should check this and so, for 9 months, we have undertaken several rounds of consultations, by email, remote communications and using the gathering of the Gibraltar conference in July 2015. We are grateful for this input. However, we have to acknowledge that limitations on time available to territory partners mean that this report will include some errors and omissions despite best efforts to minimise these.

There is a great deal of information to summarise. We do it here at three levels. To keep as full a set of

information as possible openly available, the Appendix shows our working tables. These are organised in relation to the Environment Charter Commitments, with some subdivisions to relate also to the Aichi Targets. This structure, and also its relation to the related Sustainable Development Goals, are explained in the main part of the report.

The main part of the report includes also: some background to this review and its predecessors; the derivation of another way of summarising the results, based on the Environment Charter/Aichi Targets classification, together with the structure of the conclusions and recommendations of the UKOTCF/ Gibraltar *Sustaining Partnerships* conference July 2015, and areas of shared interest identified by a series of meetings between NGOs and UK Government in 2014-5. The main part of the report then goes on to summarise the results for each territory using this classification. The territories are taken in a geographical sequence. This is followed by a summary of cross-territory results on main further needs, an analysis requested by some of the territories to aid future common planning. We do not attempt a formal analysis of progress by UK Government in meeting its own Commitments under the Environment Charter. This is because, in both previous reviews, UK Government found it difficult, partly because of the structure of those Commitments, to assemble information on progress. Instead, we hope that this review, and the discussions that it will assist, will help UK Government to support the priority needs that are identified.

In the Table on the following pages, we attempt an even more condensed version of the results. This is structured on a selection of the Environment Charter

Commitments/ Aichi Targets used in the working tables shown in the Appendix. This is not complete but we hope that it gives an overview and also provides another way to identify some general patterns of progress made and areas where common opportunities to progress further could be made. To aid visual impressions, a simple colour-coding is used, as explained at the top of the Table.

Some aspects are apparent from this summary, including:

1. Most elements have shown at least some progress in most territories in the nearly 15 years since the Environment Charters were signed between UK Government and most UKOTs.
2. Almost all cases of progress have depended on cooperation between UKOT governments and UKOT NGOs, in many cases with support from UK NGOs and UK Government.
3. A few isolated aspects in a few territories have seen significant set-backs but, for some of these, there has been some recovery since.
4. For some aspects, spread unevenly across all territories, work is effectively complete; for most it is in progress; a few have yet to start.
5. The scarcity of progress on some aspects which would have little cost and could even have short- or long-term cost-savings was unexpected. Examples include: polluter-pays principle; the need for best-international-practice environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments, and environment funds based on tourism taxes.

*(continued on page 10, after the Table)*

**Table: Environment Charter (EC) Commitments/ Aichi Biodiversity Targets (AT)/ Sustainable Development Targets (SDT)**

	Achieved	Progress	No progress	Set-back	Recovery from set-back																
EC Commitments/ AT & SDT Targets [See footnote to Table for full texts.]	Montserrat	Anguilla	BVI	TCI	Cayman	Bermuda	Ascension	St Helena	Tristan	Falklands	SGSSI	BAT	Pitcairn	BIOT	Cyprus SBA	Gibraltar	Isle of Man	Jersey	Guernsey	Alderney	Sark
EC1. Bring together stakeholders in a forum.	Law passed Reg. & forum awaited	Forum not yet in place.	Forum not yet in place, except for climate-change.	Forum set up & operated for several years; needs re-activating or replacing, perhaps by National Biodiversity Committee in draft Wildlife & Biodivers. Bill 2010	New law sets up fora – being set up	BSAP group established 2003	Not formalised but good collaboration.	Forum set up before Env Ch strategy. Current revisions. Env. Protection Ordinance (EPO) & Nat. Env. Mgmt Plan (NEMP) in place.	Various groups cover this function.	Group set up	Annual stakeholder meeting.	Not really applicable.	Informal groups as well as Council	No such forum	Group set up but no longer active.	Consultation in place up to Minister level.	Good collaboration in BSAP process	Jersey Biod Partners (gov, NGOs, others) at least annual	Not applicable in same way.	Govt/ NGO team in Living Islands project	Not applicable in same way.
AT17. By 2015, commence implementing an effective, participatory biodiversity strategy & action plan. (Relates also to EC5)	Law passed Plan awaited	Has BSAP	BSAP needed.	Strategy for Env Charter agreed but not fully implemented. BSAP needed	BSAP in place, with stakeholder group	2003 BSAP needs update	BAP in place & updated.	BSAP in development by SH Nat Trust	BSAP in place	BSAP in place	Draft BSAP produced	Not really applicable.	Env Mgmt Plan needs updating	Cons Mgmt Plan 2012	Not yet in place.	Env Action & Mgmt Plan 2013	Biod Strategy agreed by Parl. BAPs being devel. & impl.	Bio Strat from 2000, Coastal 2008, APs annual	BioStr 2015	Living Islands; Strat Plan in review; Env Charter in draft	Some elements
EC1. AT20. By 2020, mobilise financial resources to implement effectively Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, increased substantially from current levels. SDT1.a. SDT10.b. & SDT17.3. all refer also.	Law & fund needed  Signif. Project funding in recent years from UK Govnmt, UKOTCF, UKNGOs.	Signif. funding in recent years from UK Govnmt, JNCC, UK NGOs etc. Is there a territory fund?	Funding from EU, UK, UK NGOs etc. Looking to self-funding of NPT. BVI set up major climate-change fund.	Conservation Fund (from tourism tax) set up but later funds removed. Needs reinstating. Signif. funding in recent years from EU, UK Govnmt, JNCC, UK NGOs etc.	Env Fund (from visitor tax) not deployed. New law rectifies. Being set up. Funds from EU, UK Govt, UK NGOs	Bermuda NGOs raise major funding for cons & res. Govt fund Cons Serv	Funding from AI Govt, UK Govt, UK NGOs.	Funding from Govt, UK Govt, UK & local NGOs, & public.	Mismatch between tiny economy and huge biodiversity. Funding from Govt, UK Govt, UK & local NGOs, but inadequate.	Funding £1.8m pa FIG (incl fisheries); £2.4m 1999-2015 from UK Govt. Some resourcing from NGOs.	3% of 2014 Territory spend to Environment (plus fisheries 59%). 2010-5: £1.5m Darwin. Major funding via NGO SGHT, & other NGOs.	Research budget of BAS part of NERC.	Funding & other resourcing will continue to depend on UK Govt & NGOs	Funding of current cons initiatives depends heavily on major NGO-sourced funds.	MoD spend figures not available. Some additional suppose from Darwin, NGOs, & volunteers.	Env now relatively well resourced & Govt Gib recognises that investment in env is generally cost-effective	Biodiversity Fund under consideration	Projects & costs on website. Funds nat cons improved since 2013. Dept Env receives 0.9% Govt income.	In States of Guernsey annual budget.	Resourcing to be developed fully.	Some local funding & help from NGOs

EC Commitments/ AT & SDT Targets [See footnote to Table for full texts.]	Montserrat	Anguilla	BVI	TCI	Cayman	Bermuda	Ascension	St Helena	Tristan	Falklands	SGSSI	BAT	Pitcairn	BIOT	Cyprus SBA	Gibraltar	Isle of Man	Jersey	Guernsey	Alderney	Sark
EC2. Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, <i>species</i> [see lower row] and landscape features, <i>and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species</i> [see lower row]. AT5. By 2020, rate of loss of all natural habitats, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation/fragmentation is significantly reduced. (Relates also to EC4) AT11. By 2020, at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water, and 10% of coastal & marine areas, are conserved effectively.	Some conservtn needs identified. Some reserves exist. Apart from Centre Hills, need relisting under new laws. Working on marine mgmt & ocean governance	ANT done much restoration. New law needs Regs. Sombbrero I being listed as Ramsar Site	Network of protected areas managed by dedicated body. Further sites proposed. Law in prep for conservati on outside reserves.	On paper, TCI close to targets for site protection, but resources & will to enforce are lacking. A public consultation on protected areas in progress, but this includes proposals for losses as well as gains.	About 5% of land protected by govt or NTCI, with others targeted under new law. Some PAs added;	Land PAs managed by Govt & NGOs. More needed.	Generally good env condition. Several land PAs listed; more needed.	National Parks Ordinance 2003 not yet in force; will permit establishment of parks.	44% of Tristan's land area is PA.	Some PAs.	>10% of EEZ is PA. New law enables PAs;	S Orkney Is Southern Shelf Marine PA designated in 2010; covers 94,000 km <sup>2</sup>	Hender-son I WHS means that the numeric land target is met, and the MPA will for sea.	New MPA of all EEZ. 1 Ramsar site; (other major site of Chagos Bank needed) plus some sanctuary areas.	Work in progress on wetland restore. 1 Ramsar Site & (under laws analogous to EU) 5 SACs & 3 SPAs listed. Mgmt plan Akrotiri Pen in place.	Gib NR extended 2013 Southern waters SPA/ SAC mean that land & sea Aichi area targets met. Water catchment slope restored to nature.	1 Ramsar Site listed; others proposed	4 Ramsar Sites & 22 Ecol SSIs designated.	Govt & NGOs all own & manage PAs. Good liaison on mgmt.	Ramsar Site. Includes 10% sea area. Land PAs about 25% land area.	Gouliot Caves and Head-land Ramsar Site.
	Last lowland wetland infilled	Enforce needed of land-use & marine policies. Sci site-selection criteria, mgmt plans & coastal restoration needed	Mgmt plans needed for some sites.	Some statutory protected areas have been damaged by poor development and even government-supported projects.	some earlier PAs delisted	Update of marine system needed.	Plan for large marine PA announced. Land area target reached and sea will be.	14 'natural' National Conservation Areas established, equating to about 23% of the island.	although marine mgmt plan being worked on. Gough & Inaccess-ible Is are WHS & Ramsar, with mgmt plans.	Mainstr eaming identified need for new laws & better PA network on land & sea (where none). More mgmt plans & other action plans needed.	need to designate & make mgmt plans.	Arguabl y, the whole Antarctic is a PA.	Oeno & Ducie needed as Ramsar Sites.	Continued invasives removal needed.	Gorham's Cave proposed WHS.	4.7% of land & 2.6% of sea protected; & others in consultation. Island designated 2016 as UNESCO Biosphere Reserve	Plans for Prot Area Strat & Nat Park. NTJ restoring heathland site.	2 Ramsar Sites listed.	MPA proposed. New management plans in prep. Community woodland planting in place.	some slight halting of this recently	

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AT12. By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status has been improved and sustained.	SAPs in place & being prepared. Orioles stable. Mountain Chicken recovery still blocked by fungal infection. Both have captive breeding pops.	New law in place but implementation needed. Research on some key species undertaken.	Some SAPs in place but more & monitoring needed. Enacting draft Nat Resources & Climate Change Bill will address protection of endangered spp.	New laws waiting since 2012 for drafting time. SAPs need preparing and implementing.	Some SAPs in place but need updating under new law.	Success on cahow.	Seabird & turtle restoration successful. Laws updated and CITES-compliant.	SAP for Wirebird; others needed. Endemic invertebrates assessed Millennium Forest advancing well. Recently enacted EPO includes spp measures.	Good laws.	Good monitoring fisheries & birds. Survey & training starts for plants, inverts, shallow marine.	Pipit & probably seabirds & plants recovering.	BAS monitor's petrel, penguin, seal, krill.	Work continues on endemic plants, soil erosion & woodlands.	Extensive research on range of taxa taken place, and some restoration (see below).	Work in progress on illegal song-bird-catchin g and turtle losses. Larger fines needed. Other SAPs need implementing	SAPs in progress. Barbary Part-ridge & other reintroductions. Spp & habitat translocation s to avoid damage. Mac-aques managed	Work in progress on basking sharks, insects, plants & others, incl BAPs. Legislation to be reviewed.	Habitat restoration led to recover of spp. Reintro projects (with habitat restore) for others. Research on others.	Good survey, monitoring programmes & APs in place for several spp. Data-handling & law-revision developing.	Monitoring programmes & APs in place for several spp. Data-handling & law-revision developing.	Mixed deciduous trees to be planted in March 2016
EC2. AT9. By 2020, invasive alien species are identified, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment. SDT 15.8	Work in progress on feral animals in Centre Hills, and also initial studies on invasive plants.	Dog Island rat eradication done (major seabird & turtle site).	Several island AIS eradication done or in progress; others needed.	Major problems from feral animals, invasive plants and diseases. Lack of continuity has impeded & set back several programmes.	Pilot on removing green iguana from Gr Cayman & prevent spread to C Brac & L Cayan. Weekly lionfish cull on L Cayman.	Major problems of feral animals & plants. Some good projects by govt & NGOs, but many more needed.	Work continues on others. Many feral animals & plants.	SHNT does pest control at key sites. National Bio-security Policy needs implementing.	Eradication of mice from Gough & probably new spp from wrecks needed. Invasives major problem, incl. from wrecks.	Close gaps in bio-security and noxious weed laws. Develop & implement inv spp plans.	Rodent eradication probably achieved (in largest island so far) by SGHT. Reindeer removal achieved by GSGSSI, with Norw help	Under consideration. Guidelines in place.	2011 attempt on Henderson I unsuccessful & needs repeating. Plant work needed. Bio-security in progress.	Limited work on coconut removal & restoration of native trees, and rat removal on a few islands.	Work in progress on invasion in acacia in ESBA.	Many invasive plants, but this now regulated, & control programmes started.	Marine strategy near complete, for implementing. Terrestrial next, but already some effective bee measures & others via planning.	Project with public participation on Japanese knot-weed. Invasive Spp Strategy in draft. Collaborating with France & other Ch Is.	New law on invasion control & eradication in prep.	AWT programme in place but limited by lack of resources.	Volunteer work on invasive plants.
	Feral animals in Exclusion Zone remain major problem.	Feasibility investigated for Scrub I. & Prickly Pear Cays		The Caicos Pine recovery project has progressed well.	Law improved		Success against cats (re seabirds).	Major invasive spp threats to inverts & plants.	Eradication of flax from Gough & Inaccessible Is progressing.	Over 70 small islands now rat-free.			Feral goats removed. Ducie & Oeno now rat-free.	Needs extending to other islands & spp.	Study of other needs needed.			Survey of invasives & threats needed.			

EC Commitments/ AT & SDT Targets [See footnote to Table for full texts.]	Montserrat	Anguilla	BVI	TCI	Cayman	Bermuda	Ascension	St Helena	Tristan	Falklands	SGSSI	BAT	Pitcairn	BIOT	Cyprus SBA	Gibraltar	Isle of Man	Jersey	Guernsey	Alderney	Sark
<p>EC3. Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes, promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption.</p> <p>EC4. Ensure that environmental impact assessments are undertaken before approving major projects and while developing our growth management strategy.</p> <p>EC5. Commit to open and consultative decision-making on developments and plans which may affect the environment; ensure that environmental impact assessments include consultation with stakeholders.</p> <p>AT2. By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting &amp; reporting systems.</p>	<p>Previously, environment not effectively taken into account in planning.</p> <p>New law &amp; policy changes, and training started, but implementation needed.</p>	<p>Greening the economy analysis done, though some difficulty in deploying this info into actions. Value for tourism &amp; damage of sand-mining noted. Soil-mgmt training done.</p>	<p>Targeting 100% renewable energy. Law changed to allow renewable in Waste mgmt procedures improving Ghost- &amp; other fishing issues being addressed. Greening the economy analysis done,</p>	<p>Set early example as pilot UKOT implementing Environment Charter; since set back.</p> <p>Later greening economy exercise noted need for an effective environmental NGO, as well as the ineffective and secretive planning process without adequate EIA or SEA, this having resulted in losses to domestic and international protected areas. Important conch, lobster &amp; fin fisheries damaged by over-fishing as well as by illegal dredging for resort development. Sand-dunes (&amp; flood resilience) lost to built development, even bordering marine Protected Areas, &amp; beaches to illegal sand-mining.</p>	<p>New law good EIA/SEA measures</p>	<p>EIA/SEAs need conducting &amp; to international best practice.</p> <p>Political accountability needs strengthening in areas.</p>	<p>No Development Control Framework or EIA or SEA guidelines. Beach mining needs to stop.</p>	<p>Land Development Control Plan 2012-2022 underwent strategic &amp; environmental assessment but illegal process. Renewable energy investment. Policies on access &amp; licensing of commercial and tourism-related fishing activities being reviewed.</p>	<p>Limited Development Control Framework &amp; EIA or SEA procedures. Waste systems needed. but illegal fishing a problem. Fisheries well regulated Main-streaming practiced. Harbour repair again &amp; deepening in progress 2016, but more basic work may be needed.</p>	<p>EIA legislation now in place; not yet really tested. Waste mgmt strategies also needed.</p>	<p>EIA in place, &amp; UK has proposed improved procedures. Tourism well regulated. Primary power is hydro.</p>	<p>Work in progress on waste-mgmt, fisheries, agriculture, energy, water tourism &amp; repopulation strategies.</p>	<p>No dev or planning laws. Needs these &amp; best practice EIAs, as well as accountability of US Base. Energy inefficient. Future of marine vessel protection needs clarifying. (Replacement being arranged)</p>	<p>Implement best practice EIA &amp; planning. Energy policy needs development. Fishery, water laws need enforcing.</p>	<p>Dev Plan being revised to stress environment. Renewable energy, recycling &amp; green supply plans in place. Planning &amp; EIA processes open &amp; improving. "Green filter" in place for gov't plans. Marine (incl fisheries) policy revised in light of scientific target. Co-op approach with fisheries</p>	<p>EIAs required for certain types of dev. Work in progress to improve procedures. Cross-compliance in agric. Assistance for businesses re-environment. Waste-mgmt systems Research in progress re energy. Fisheries measures in negotiation. Sewage systems being upgraded.</p>	<p>EIAs required for certain types of development. Waste-mgmt policies in place. Renewable energy options (incl wind, tidal, wave) being reviewed. Fishing methods improve-ed.</p>	<p>EIAs required for certain types of development. Tidal energy being developed. Agric &amp; fishery have enviro. policy. Waste-mgmt policy being reviewed. Fishing methods improve-ed.</p>	<p>Proposals in place to adopt suitable planning &amp; EIA. Tidal energy being developed. Agric &amp; fishery have enviro. policy. Waste-mgmt policy being reviewed. Fishing methods improve-ed.</p>	<p>Sark designated Dark Sky Community 2011 Transport sustainable, as no cars. Renew energy option under study (with Guernsey). Marine development as Guernsey.</p>	<p>Planning/EIA system needs developing.</p>

EC Commitments/ AT & SDT Targets [See footnote to Table for full texts.]	Montserrat	Anguilla	BVI	TCI	Cayman	Bermuda	Ascension	St Helena	Tristan	Falklands	SGSSI	BAT	Pitcairn	BIOT	Cyprus SBA	Gibraltar	Isle of Man	Jersey	Guernsey	Alderney	Sark
	thermal energy, sustainable fisheries, potential forestry. Water from forest veg & soil as reservoir.	strategic planning, SEA or EIA procedures. Political accountability also lacking. Fisheries legislation needed.	procedures and update EIA procedures. Yachting strategy needs clarifying.	cheaper) energy still delayed because of monopoly. Joined Carbon War Room initiative but actions not yet apparent. TC Reef Fund, TC National Museum, UKOTCF & MCS, with DEMA, have developed some sustainable approaches in marine, water/vegetation/crops, and reserve visiting but all under-resourced relative to urgent need.	needs implementing. Ocean thermal energy being investigated. Renewable energy materials duty-free. Various green schemes being run. Some marine protections stronger.	Declaration on the Collaboration for the Conservation of the Sargasso Sea. New sust dev unit in govt. Good fishery regs.		guides. Land Planning & Development Control Ordinance 2013 requires planning & appeal decisions are made in public. NEMP: all new policies will include public consultation.		renewable. Farming moving to sustainable. Mineral extraction with strong env aspect. Fisheries certified sustainable.							working				SEA not require. Waste mgmt needs development. Vineyard mgmt causes pollution.
EC6. Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Territory and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.	In Ramsar, CITES, CMS. Not CBD. New CITES leg. & Ramsar Sites needed.	In Ramsar (listing first Site). Joined CITES. Not yet CBD, CMS.	In Ramsar (1 Site; others needed), CITES, CMS, CBD	In CMS & Ramsar. One Ramsar Site, but not managed and some damage. Not CBD, CITES (laws waiting for draftsman since 2012)	In Ramsar 1 Site; others needed), CITES, CMS, CBD	In CMS, CITES, Ramsar (some Sites; others needed)	In Ramsar, CITES, CMS, CBD.	In CBD, Ramsar, CITES, CMS.	WHS. In Ramsar (2 Sites; others needed), CITES, CMS, ACAP, CBD.	In Ramsar 2 Sites; others needed), CITES, CMS, ACAP; joined CBD in 2016.	In Ramsar, CITES, CMS, ACAP; CBD (since 2015) CCAMLR	Antarctic Treaty system	In Ramsar, CITES, CMS; Cetacean MOU.	In Ramsar (1 Site), CITES, CMS, Sharks MOU.	In Ramsar (1 Site), CMS.	In CBD, Ramsar, CITES, CMS, ACCO BAMS, Eurobats, EU Dirs; SPA/SAC listed.	In Ramsar (1 Site; others needed), CITES, CMS, CBD (since 2012).	In CBD, Ramsar (4 Sites), CITES, CMS.	In Ramsar (2 Sites), CITES, CMS.	In Ramsar (1 Site), CITES, CMS.	In Ramsar (1 Site), CITES, CMS.
						Not CBD.	Ramsar Site needed	Designate Ramsar Sites.			Ramsar Sites needed.		Not CBD. Ramsar Sites needed	Not CBD. Chagos Bank Site needed	Not CBD, CITES	wants ICCAT & Barcelona Ramsar Sites needed.	UNESCO Biosphere Reserve status awarded.	Interest in joining IntPlant Prot Conv & Cartagena Protocol Biosafety	decided to begin work on joining CBD.	may be in Guernsey process to begin work on joining CBD.	may be in Guernsey process to begin work on joining CBD.



EC Commitments/ AT & SDT Targets [See footnote to Table for full texts.]	Montserrat	Anguilla	BVI	TCI	Cayman	Bermuda	Ascension	St Helena	Tristan	Falklands	SGSSI	BAT	Pitcairn	BIOT	Cyprus SBA	Gibraltar	Isle of Man	Jersey	Guernsey	Alderney	Sark
<p><b>EC8.</b> Ensure that legislation &amp; policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for prevention or remedies; establish effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms. <b>AT8.</b> By 2020, pollution has been brought to levels not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity. (Relates also to EC3&amp;4)</p>	New laws address, to be implemented		Stronger pollution control needed.	<p>Reduced resources, due to the ending of the Conservation Fund, ended some marine monitoring.</p> <p>A brief period of effective legal enforcement (with compensation benefitting conservation) needs re-starting.</p>	Law enables compensation income to Env Pr Fund.	Some development needed.	Laws not in place.	Polluter Pays principle incorporated in NEMP. Pollution incident reporting system set up.	Whilst some compensation received re bulk carrier (& the oil-rig incident), it seems that these were inadequate to cover long-term monitoring or damage.	Procedures in place re oil pollution.	2003 shipwrecks & Grytviken cleaned-up.	In Treaty	Laws & fine levels targeted at internal incidents.	Open-ness needed in reporting of recovery work and procedures improvement following USN pollution.	Law not specific. Seas polluted. Litter a problem.	Monitoring & APs in place. Law on polluter -pays in prep.	Law based on polluter -pays. New law needed re seas.	Water law follows polluter -pay.	Laws restrict pollution, incl agric.	Polluter -pays not yet in law.	Laws do not include polluter -pays principle, giving problem in dealing with land-owners evicting tenant & converting to vineyard practices.
			Draft Nat Resources & Climate Change Bill would embed polluter-pays in waste-mgmt.	Laws & enforcement needed re terrestrial pollution. Sea-grass beds & coral reefs remain vulnerable to run-off from land-based activities as well as built development.	Better enforcement needed.		Monitoring in place.	Pollution Policy needs to be completed.		Not clear whether there is specific polluter -pays law.	Not clear whether there is specific polluter-pays law.						Has Water Pollution & Oil Spill plans, river monitoring, & enforcement bodies.	Sea & ground water monitoring regular. Farm water pollution plan in place; oil spill plan in development.	but do not include polluter -pays principle.	Oil-spill plan in place.	
<p><b>EC9.</b> Encourage teaching to promote the value of our environment. <b>EC10.</b> Promote publications that spread awareness of the special features of the environment in the Territory; <b>AT1.</b> By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.</p>	Good range of approaches; more being developed	Good range of approaches; more adult education needed.	Some material, including interpretation funded by EU & others, but more needed.	<p>Effective courses developed by Education Dept &amp; UKOTCF.</p> <p>More could be done. Other facilities developed by local &amp; UK NGOs &amp; DEMA.</p>	Effective courses developed.	Many opportunities for schools & for conserv-ation volunteering	Good materials & coop with school. Other interpretation material. More adult education needed.	Education, outreach & other facilities developed. More incorporation into curriculum & more opportunities needed for adults.	Local environment teaching has varied but training & NGO-provided materials there again; Better info availability needed.	Good materials & activities available.	No schools in territory.	No schools in territory.	2012 education policy does not mention environment.	Interpretation material by NGOs. ZSL (with UK Govt support) has outreach programme for Chagossians in UK.	Akrotiri Env Ed Cntr important in SBA & Republic, with courses etc. Also UKOTCF & other material	Envir educ & awareness materials & courses produced by Govt & NGO.	Initiatives in schools, and re marine amongst others.	Good env engagement by schools, but curriculum development needed; & more citizen science schemes.	Environment central to school curriculum. Other awareness material also available.	NGOs & involvement projects as well as sustain develop theme in schools & outside.	Local adult & junior wildlife clubs.

<p><b>EC1.</b> Bring together government departments, representatives of local industry and commerce, environment and heritage organisations, the Governor's office, individual environmental champions and other community representatives in a forum to formulate a detailed strategy for action.</p> <p><b>AT17.</b> By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan. (Relates also to <b>EC5</b>)</p> <p><b>EC1.</b></p> <p><b>AT20.</b> By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.</p> <p><b>SDT1.a.</b> Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.</p> <p><b>10.b.</b> Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes.</p> <p><b>17.3</b> Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources.</p> <p><b>EC2.</b> Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas policy, and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species.</p> <p><b>AT5.</b> By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced. (Relates also to <b>EC4</b>)</p> <p><b>AT11.</b> By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.</p> <p><b>AT12.</b> By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.</p> <p><b>EC2.</b></p> <p><b>AT9.</b> By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.</p> <p><b>SDT 15.8</b> By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species.</p> <p><b>EC3.</b> Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes, promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the Territory.</p> <p><b>EC4.</b> Ensure that environmental impact assessments are undertaken before approving major projects and while developing our growth management strategy.</p> <p><b>EC5.</b> Commit to open and consultative decision-making on developments and plans which may affect the environment; ensure that environmental impact assessments include consultation with stakeholders.</p> <p><b>AT2.</b> By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p> <p><b>EC6.</b> Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Territory and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.</p> <p><b>EC8.</b> Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for prevention or remedies; establish effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.</p> <p><b>AT8.</b> By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity. (Relates also to <b>EC3&amp;4</b>)</p> <p><b>EC9.</b> Encourage teaching within schools to promote the value of our local environment (natural and built) and to explain its role within the regional and global environment.</p> <p><b>EC10.</b> Promote publications that spread awareness of the special features of the environment in the Territory; promote within the Territory the guiding principles set out above.</p> <p><b>AT1.</b> By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.</p>
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*(continued from page 3)*

6. The wide progress on sign-up to international conventions is encouraging, especially taken with the recent and current moves by remaining territories to sign-up to the Convention on Biological Diversity (and of the very few not yet signed up to CITES and the Convention on Migratory Species). Both UK Government and NGOs, including UKOTCF, remain ready to help with this and with the designation of Ramsar Convention Wetlands of International Importance.

7. Progress on environmental education and

awareness is also good; this subject is given priority by many territories, with continued support from several organisations including UKOTCF. Much more progress could be made if UK Government re-instated eligibility of such projects for its funding to the UKOTs after removing it in 2010.

8. The start of opening up to a more environmentally sustainable approach within a wide range of economic activities has become evident. Some UKOT governments and several NGOs are taking a lead in this. The potential is great also for further empowering local communities and businesses of all

sizes to assume responsibility to drive this forward, both for the good of society and for direct economic benefit.

This is just a first pass. Some examples of identified needs shared by several or all territories are identified in the relevant section of the main part of the report. We look forward to working with partners in governments and NGOs in UKOTs and elsewhere to build further on these analyses and opportunities.

# Introduction

The Environment Charters signed in September 2001 between the UK Government and the Governments of UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) are important documents, which encapsulate the shared responsibility of the UK Government and the Government of individual territories for the conservation of the environment in the UKOTs and international commitments to this. This is particularly important, for example for biodiversity, as most of the global biodiversity for which the UK family of countries is responsible resides in the UKOTs, rather than in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

For Multilateral Environmental Agreements such as the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), it is the Government of UK, which lodges – and is accountable for – international commitments, but the legislature and executive of each territory, which are responsible for the local implementing legislation and its enforcement. This is why the Environment Charters were created, to reflect these responsibilities, but the point applies equally to the relationships between UK and those territories which do not have Environment Charters.

One of the core elements of the Charters is a set of Commitments by each territory government. These Commitments were not new with the Charters, but brought together existing commitments under other international measures. The other core was a set of corresponding Commitments by UK Government.

Not all territories signed an Environment Charter with UK Government, although most did. Gibraltar did not sign a bilateral agreement but later adopted an Environment Charter with almost identical wording as to its Commitments. Charters were not signed for the British Antarctic Territory or the Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas, but these two territories are under the direct

management of UK Government, led respectively by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Ministry of Defence (MoD). The Crown Dependencies were not invited to sign Charters, although some have explored adopting them. However, whether Charters were adopted or not, similar relationships exist between territories and UK Government in respect of international conservation commitments.

UKOTCF (as a facilitator, but not a party to, the Environment Charter establishment) had been asked by the parties to undertake a review of progress in 2005-6. UKOTCF had addressed this by collating information from stakeholders in the territories (whether or not they had Charters), and made use of the 2006 conference it organised in Jersey in 2006 to supplement the remote consultations with territories (the report can be seen at [www.ukotcf.org/pdf/charters/INDICATORS0707e.pdf](http://www.ukotcf.org/pdf/charters/INDICATORS0707e.pdf)). UKOTCF had repeated the review, linked to the 2009 conference in Cayman ([www.ukotcf.org/pdf/charters/indicatorsrev0912.pdf](http://www.ukotcf.org/pdf/charters/indicatorsrev0912.pdf)). The present review has benefitted from the 2015 conference *Sustaining Partnerships* that UKOTCF and HM Government of Gibraltar organised in Gibraltar in 2015.

In both the earlier reviews, UKOTCF attempted to assess progress in the UK Government's Commitments as well as those of the territory governments. This proved very difficult because of the way in which the UK Government Commitments were worded, which is partly a consequence of them being supportive of UKOT Commitments, rather than actions on the ground. Indeed, although UK Government had requested the review by UKOTCF and Ministers had indicated to Parliament that it expected to use this to address some of Parliament's questions, UK Government officials had eventually concluded that they were not able to report progress in meeting the UK Government Commitments.

For these reasons, we have not attempted, in the present review, to assess in the same way progress in UK Government meeting its Commitments. Instead, we use a more narrative approach and look to how best the review can point to ways in which the UK Government's Commitments can be deployed most effectively to help the territories meet theirs. We know that this is a topic which territory governments are keen to explore further in the light of the present review.

In 2010, at the tenth meeting of the CBD Conference of the Parties, held in Japan, a revised and updated Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, for the 2011-2020 period was adopted, to support CBD and other MEAs. Soon after this, UKOTCF recognised that the Aichi Targets would be relevant to UKOTs and CDs as well as to Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Accordingly, on 28 June 2011, UKOTCF organised a workshop to explore these. This involved UK Government bodies, NGOs, territory personnel, either present or contributing via telecommunications, and other stakeholders. This started to look both at how reporting under the two systems could be combined effectively and what Aichi Target measures relevant to the territories might look like. Unfortunately, at the time, UK Government did not accept that the Aichi Targets would be applicable to UKOTs and CDs, so attempts to explore possible measures could not progress. (This view was changed later and reference to the Aichi Targets was then included, for example in the Darwin Initiative guidelines and in reports to CBD.) However, progress was made at the time in identifying linkages between Environment Charter Commitments and the Aichi Targets. The report of the workshop is at [www.ukotcf.org/pdf/fNews/BiodivWorkshop1106.pdf](http://www.ukotcf.org/pdf/fNews/BiodivWorkshop1106.pdf).

The matching of Environment Charter Commitments

and Aichi Targets was pursued and forms the first two columns of the Table below, in Methods.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) signed in 2015 are a universal set of goals, targets and indicators that UN member states will be expected to use to frame their agendas and political policies until 2030. The Report of the *Ad Hoc* Technical Expert Group on *Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* (<https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/ind/id-ahteg-2015-01/official/id-ahteg-2015-01-03-en.pdf>) includes, at its Table 4, an analysis of

links between the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the targets of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals. This has been used to add the third column to the Table in Methods, below.

The present review has taken into account both the Environment Charters and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as the framework for collating and reporting progress in biodiversity conservation in the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies. The links to the Sustainable Development Goals were not available when the consultations in the present exercise

started, but the relationship was added later, via the linkage to the Aichi Targets.

The attempt made to link the Environment Charters and UN goals through this review aims to reflect on the achievements made already, but also provide the basis for ensuring that the Environment Charters remain relevant to UKOTs and CDs and are aligned with HMG's commitments as they move forward in their shared interest to protect and preserve global biodiversity.

## Methods

The review recognises that not all UKOTs and Crown Dependencies have the same commitments, local legislation etc. However, in all cases, work is being carried out which does show progress. It is our intention to highlight the progress made towards these despite not all cases being similar. Each UKOT and CD is unique, with a unique set of actions towards the conservation of biodiversity and the ecosystem services they provide at various working levels. Whilst resources may dictate how this is managed, there are dedicated workers striving to protect what is special.

The Environment Charters and the Aichi Targets contain much the same commitments overall, but divide them in very different ways. Where possible, we have matched each commitment under the Charter to the corresponding Aichi target (based on our 2011 analysis) and later, via this, to the Sustainable Development Goals, in a Table (below). The first two columns of this Table (available at the start of our review) were then used as the basis for our data collection. (Because of this, and to keep the tables of results manageable, we do not include the SDG column in the details in the

Appendix; the linkages can be seen in the Table below.)

Those who have looked through our earlier reviews will note that we have changed the reporting system. Although that system was based on a wide and supportive consultation, the relatively short times since the signing of the Charters meant that it was difficult to base these on ultimate targets, so that we had to use more interim, process ones. We can now switch to using measures more closely related to the objectives.

Previous reviews (2006 & 2009) were based on the initial inputs of partners in territory. However, knowing the heavy work-loading of our colleagues in the UKOT and Crown Dependencies, as well as wishing to avoid duplicating requests for information, we took an alternative approach. This depended on both the explosion of the world-wide-web since the 2009 review, meaning that many documents are available online, and UKOTCF's strong ongoing contacts with colleagues in the territories. We did, however require that local personnel check for errors and omissions.

Two of us (Sarah Barnsley and Emma Cary) conducted an initial desk review between January and June 2015. In June-July, forms summarising the results to date were sent out to contacts in the UKOTs and CDs for comment in the run up to the July 2015 conference *Sustaining Partnerships*, held in Gibraltar (see [www.ukotcf.org](http://www.ukotcf.org)). The conference was subsequently used as an opportunity to validate results further and gather more data from those directly involved in conservation in the UKOTs and CDs. In addition, this exercise has presented an opportunity to identify some of the gaps and needs in order to meet the commitments and targets.

The Table relating the different reporting systems is below.

<b>Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments</b>	<b>Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)</b>	<b>Sustainable Development Targets</b>
<p><b>1.</b> Bring together government departments, representatives of local industry and commerce, environment and heritage organisations, the Governor's office, individual environmental champions and other community representatives in a forum to formulate a detailed strategy for action.</p>	<p><b>17.</b> By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan. (Relates also to EC5)</p>	<p><b>15.9</b> By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts.</p>
<p><b>1.</b></p>	<p><b>20.</b> By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.</p>	<p><b>1.a</b> Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.</p> <p><b>10.b</b> Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes.</p> <p><b>17.3</b> Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources.</p>
<p><b>2.</b> Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas policy, and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species.</p>	<p><b>5.</b> By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced. (Relates also to EC4)</p>	<p><b>15.2</b> By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.</p> <p><b>15.5</b> Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.</p>

<b>Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments</b>	<b>Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)</b>	<b>Sustainable Development Targets</b>
2.	<b>11.</b> By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.	<b>11.4</b> Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage. <b>14.5</b> By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.
2.	<b>12.</b> By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	<b>15.5</b> Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species. <b>15.7</b> Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address wildlife products.
2.	<b>9.</b> By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.	<b>15.8</b> By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species.
2.	<b>15.</b> By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.	<b>15.1</b> By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements. <b>15.3</b> By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.

<b>Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments</b>	<b>Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)</b>	<b>Sustainable Development Targets</b>
<p><b>3.</b> Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes, promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the Territory.</p> <p><b>4.</b> Ensure that environmental impact assessments are undertaken before approving major projects and while developing our growth management strategy.</p> <p><b>5.</b> Commit to open and consultative decision-making on developments and plans which may affect the environment; ensure that environmental impact assessments include consultation with stakeholders.</p>	<p><b>2.</b> By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p>	<p><b>15.9</b> By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts</p>
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>3.</b> By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.</p>	<p><b>14.6</b> By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation.</p>
<p><b>3, 4, 5.</b></p>	<p><b>4.</b> By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.</p>	<p><b>8.4</b> Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead.</p> <p><b>9.4</b> By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities.</p> <p><b>12.2</b> By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.</p>

<b>Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments</b>	<b>Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)</b>	<b>Sustainable Development Targets</b>
<b>2, 3.</b>	<b>6.</b> By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.	<b>14.4</b> By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics. <b>14.7</b> By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island Developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism.
<b>3.</b>	<b>7.</b> By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	<b>2.4</b> By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality. <b>12.2</b> By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.
<b>3, 4, 5.</b>	<b>14.</b> By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.	<b>6.6</b> By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes. <b>15.4</b> By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development.
<b>6.</b> Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Territory and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)	



<b>Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments</b>	<b>Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)</b>	<b>Sustainable Development Targets</b>
7. Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.	19. By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.	17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and Small Island Developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts. 17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism.
8. Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for prevention or remedies; establish effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.	8. By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity. (Relates also to EC3&4)	14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.
8.	10. By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning. (Relates also to EC3)	14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans. 14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels.

<b>Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments</b>	<b>Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)</b>	<b>Sustainable Development Targets</b>
<p><b>9.</b> Encourage teaching within schools to promote the value of our local environment (natural and built) and to explain its role within the regional and global environment.</p> <p><b>10.</b> Promote publications that spread awareness of the special features of the environment in the Territory; promote within the Territory the guiding principles set out above.</p>	<p><b>1.</b> By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.</p>	<p><b>4.7</b> By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.</p> <p><b>12.8</b> By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.</p>
<p><b>11.</b> Abide by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and work towards meeting International Development Targets on the environment.</p>	<p>(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)</p>	
<p>Not matched specifically</p>	<p><b>13.</b> By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.</p>	<p><b>2.5</b> By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.</p>
	<p><b>16.</b> By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.</p>	<p><b>15.6</b> Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Sustainable Development Targets
	<p><b>18.</b> By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.</p>	<p><b>1.4</b> By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.</p> <p><b>16.7</b> Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.</p>

## Consultations and Acknowledgements

As we note above, this review has necessarily depended heavily on information, and particularly checking in several rounds of consultation, with partners in territory. For each territory, the conservation department of government or administration was invited to comment, as were all the territory conservation NGOs or knowledgeable individuals with whom we could make contact. Of course, UKOTCF had no control over whether these responded, although most did. In all cases several invitations were issued (and often encouragement through other routes). In a small number of cases, a few differences remained unresolved, and we have tried to reflect that in the wording.

It is not practicable here to list every source, but we would like to thank the following for their help, information and particularly contributions to the checking.

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**Sark:**

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## Summary of results on progress

The full results of the project as well as how they relate to each commitment and/or target are available in the Appendix. Below, we first summarise some main items for each territory and then take a cross-territory view of further needs.

In these sections, we use headings to group information in a convenient way, based on common groupings of the Environment Charters and the Aichi Targets. These headings are shown in the first column of the Table below.

Most classifications are somewhat asymmetric simply because of the ways that they evolve. Additionally,

in such an inter-related and holistic subject area as conservation and sustainability, most items will potentially fall into several possible headings. For convenience, in the table below we relate these to two other recent classifications, that from the Conclusions and Recommendations emerging from the *Sustaining Partnerships* conference in Gibraltar in July 2015 and the areas of priorities emerging from the series of joint meetings in 2014-5 between UK Government's Joint Nature Conservation Committee and NGOs concerned with UKOTs/CDs.

*Sustaining Partnerships* was a conference on

conservation and sustainability in the UK Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and other small island communities. It was organised by UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum and HM Government of Gibraltar's Department of the Environment and Climate Change, with the support of Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society. It followed five earlier conferences over the previous 16 years. The conference provided a forum for government environmental bodies, NGOs and commercial organisations to discuss key conservation issues, to highlight success stories, exchange ideas, and to forge partnerships. It is hoped that Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and

other small island communities that share similar environmental problems benefit from learning about one another's history and experience of planning and conservation initiatives. The overall aim was to draw on similarities and differences in experience across the territories, to provide insights into common challenges, leaving participants better equipped to

address local needs. The proceedings of the conference, the recommendations and conclusions and various other outputs are available at [www.ukotcf.org/confs/gibraltar2015.htm](http://www.ukotcf.org/confs/gibraltar2015.htm).

During 2014, conservation NGOs worked with UK Government's Joint Nature Conservation Committee to attempt to identify common priorities for the

deployment of British resources in support of the needs and requests of the UKOTs and CDs. Progress was made in identifying some key areas, and these are listed in the third column below.

<b>The following headings are used here to summarise information gathered under each Environment Charter commitment and Aichi Target:</b>	<b><i>Sustaining Partnerships</i> conference conclusions &amp; recommendations, Gibraltar 2015</b>	<b>JNCC/NGOs group on UKOTs/CDs: Proposed areas of common/shared interest</b>
1. Protected Areas	L (part). Other aspects of conservation & sustainable use of marine resources	1 (part). Restoring ... ecosystems 2 (part). Marine Conservation, including both protected areas and ...
2. Species Protection	L (part)	1 (part). Restoring threatened species ...
3. Monitoring and Baseline data	K. Biodiversity Data	4. Improving, collating and sharing evidence and knowledge
4. Invasive Species	J. Invasive Species	1 (part). ..., including by addressing Invasive Alien Species.
5. Planning, EIA & Legislation	F. Development & EIA H. Legislative Framework	3 (part). Terrestrial Planning...
6. Pollution		
7. Climate-change, Renewable Energy and Waste Management	D. Renewable Energy	
8. Environment Education	C. Environment Education and Awareness	5. Environmental education and awareness
9. International Agreements	E. International Agreements	
10. Stakeholder Stewardship	G. Stakeholder Stewardship	2 (part). ... and making sustainable users champions for conservation 3 (part). ... and complementing/reinforcing this by getting businesses depending on the natural resources to become champions
11. Economic Value of Sustainable Use	I. Economic Value of Sustainable Use	6. Ecosystem Services and Natural Capital (see also 2 and 3)
12. Funding and other resourcing	M. Capacity and resource issues	7. Resource Mobilisation [and capacity building]

In the following sections, the results from each territory are summarised, with fuller details at Appendix 1. Please note that there will be errors and omissions in these results, as eventually, after nine months of

consultations, we had to draw a line so that results could be finalised. Not all expected respondents had replied by this time despite reminders.

(For each territory, some aspect is highlighted either at the start or in the body of the chapter, in a sub-section headed in ***bold italics*** and in **blue text**.)

## Montserrat

### ***New Act to conserve and manage natural environment and action plans for some endemic species***

In 2010, a Species Action Plan was produced for the Montserrat galliwasp *Diploglossus montisserrati* (a lizard). This covers the needs to protect existing habitat, reduce invasive species impacts through both population control and predator proof fencing, and initiate an *ex situ* breeding programme.

Action plans have been developed with partners Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, to cover the three endemic plant species, and training given in skills needed to build on this (see also below).

The Montserrat Conservation and Environmental Management Act (CEMA) 2014 (passed by the Legislative Assembly on 22nd July 2014) is an Act to provide for the administration, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, natural resources and the natural heritage of Montserrat; the designation and management of protected areas; pollution control; the regulation of activities; the incorporation of international obligations with respect to the environment into national Law; and related matters. A National Conservation and Environmental Advisory Council is to be established under CEMA 2014.

Under CEMA, a National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS) will be prepared which shall include a description of the environment in Montserrat, an

analysis of environmental issues of national significance, and the environmental management strategies, to be prescribed to address the environmental issues. A National Strategy for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in accordance with the overall policy of the NEMS and the St. Georges Declaration will be prepared and submitted to the Council for review.

In early 2015, at Montserrat's request, UKOTCF organised training in the use of Environmental Impact Assessment and related strategic planning, to aid dealing with an environmentally sustainable way with the development pressures and needs.

### **Protected Areas**

Under CEMA, a Forestry, Wildlife and Protected Areas Standing Committee will be established, one function of which is to advise the Council on matters pertaining to policy, strategies, guidelines, standards, objectives and regulations for the protection and management of the environment.

In 2014, the Organisation of the Eastern Caribbean



*Exceptionally biodiverse forest of several types covers the Centre Hills, Montserrat  
(Dr Mike Pienkowski)*

States (OECS), of which Montserrat is a member, commenced a Hydrographic Scoping Study aimed at assessing maritime/marine spatial data that exists in OECS countries as part of its Ocean Governance Initiative.

In 2015, an initiative commenced to begin recording and monitoring fishing activity around the waters of Montserrat. In partnership with Succorfish, a UK-based, world-leading provider of global GPS tracking systems and marine and maritime vessel monitoring systems (VMS), the Government of Montserrat aims to promote responsible and sustainable fisheries resource management, development and conservation within the local marine environment. Succorfish VMS technology was designed to allow small scale, 3-10m fishing vessels, like those operating in Montserrat, to

record accurately, monitor and map their exact location to within two metres from every minute to every hour. It enhances significantly fisheries management activities by supporting legal frameworks for spatial planning, protecting areas of conservation by deterring illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and improving safety at sea for inshore and offshore fishing vessels.

In 2015, the Fisheries Department (working with UKOTCF and other partners) became a partner in the Blue Halo Project with the Waitt Institute which aims to “ensure ecologically, economically, and culturally sustainable use of ocean resources”. In February, the Waitt Institute announced that they would be working in 2 new sites: Montserrat and Curaçao. The project aims to take steps to manage coastal resources sustainably, undertaking activities to support the Initiative, by working collaboratively to develop and codify the Montserrat Sustainable Ocean Policy, including ocean zoning, sanctuary zones, and fisheries laws and regulations by January 2017.

Under CEMA, a draft Protected Areas Systems Plan for the establishment of a system of protected areas which is both consistent with NEMS, and which takes into consideration the National Physical Development Plan will be prepared in accordance with section 5 of the Physical Planning Act. A management plan for each protected area will also be prepared.

## Species Protection

See also some information included at the start of the Montserrat chapter.

The *Enabling Montserrat to Save the Critically Endangered Mountain Chicken (2010-2013)* project aimed to provide an evidence base for the restoration of the mountain chicken *Leptodactylus fallax* and mitigation of the impacts of the chytrid fungus. This

included a trial re-introduction of mountain chickens into Montserrat, and development and agreement with regional partners of long-term restoration strategy and Species Action Plan for the mountain chicken.

Action plans have been developed with partners Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, to cover the three endemic plant species: *Rondeletia buxifolia*, *Epidendrum montserratense* and *Xylosma serrata*. Training was given to Montserratian partners in the skills needed to prepare, publish and implement SAPs. Seeds from *Rondeletia buxifolia* and *Epidendrum montserratense* have been incorporated into the Millennium Seed Bank and horticultural protocols for germination and cultivation have been developed.

CEMA states that the species of fauna and flora specified in Schedule 2 are designated as protected species with sub-section 3 stating that any actions against protected species may be deemed an offence.

## Monitoring and Baseline data

Under CEMA, the Director shall prepare and submit annually to the Minister a stewardship report which shall include e.g. a description of the environmental management activities undertaken by the Department during the period under review. This is done as part of the work programme report.

Forestry staff, from the Department of Environment, conduct an annual bird monitoring exercise to determine the bird populations in the Centre Hills of Montserrat including the population of Montserrat oriole *Icterus oberi*.

## Invasive species

*Enabling the People of Montserrat to Conserve the Centre Hills (2005-2008)* project funded by the Darwin Initiative confirmed that populations of feral animals posed a significant threat to the values of the Centre

Hills. *Reducing the Impact of Feral Livestock in and Around the Centre Hills (2009-2011)* was a post-project, funded by the Darwin Initiative.

BEST Initiative Project: *Conserving Species and Sites of International Importance by the Eradication of Invasive Alien Species in the Caribbean UK Overseas Territories* project aimed to protect sites and species of conservation importance through the eradication of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) across 5 UKOTs (including Montserrat) in the Caribbean, sharing best practice for the prevention, control or eradication of IAS and building local capacity. In Montserrat, feral livestock control in the Centre Hills Forest Reserve has been undertaken in partnership with the DOE and support of Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA). Camera traps have also been deployed into the Centre Hills to track movement of feral livestock.

RSPB’s study *Eradication of invasive alien vertebrates in the UK Overseas Territories* reported the number of confirmed or suspected invasive alien vertebrate species for Montserrat. Key invasive alien vertebrate species are the feral pig, goat, cow, feral cat, black rat, and cane toad. The study also identified that biosecurity should be a high priority for Montserrat, to prevent the establishment of more invasive alien vertebrate species.

In 2012, a brochure on *Invasive Red Fire Ants* (first identified in 2007) was published by the Department of Environment. . The brochure provides useful information on how to recognise the fire ants and their nest and what precautionary actions one can take to avoid being stung. The brochure outlines the impact the ants can have on agriculture, health, infrastructure etc. Public service announcements are aired annually as well.

In 2014/15, the Fisheries Department began working with local fisherman and restaurants to establish lionfish as a food source, also providing a way to help manage this Caribbean-wide invasive.

## Planning, EIA and Legislation

Regarding EIA and sustainable development, there are a number of measures set out in the CEMA:

- Development must be socially, environmentally and economically sustainable.
- If there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation.
- The Planning and Development Authority shall not approve or give permission for the development of Crown or private land within a protected area, under the Physical Planning Act, unless the applicant holds a Certificate under section 17 with regard to the development.
- Where the Director is satisfied that an activity poses an environmental threat which could not have been reasonably foreseen at the time of the issuance of a Certificate or the information or data given by the holder in support of the application for a Certificate was false, inaccurate or intended to mislead, he may either direct the holder of the Certificate to submit further information/data or recommend to the Planning and Development Authority that the holder of the Certificate be required to submit an environmental impact assessment.
- Actions to be taken regarding Environmental Auditing, e.g. the Governor may establish or adopt appropriate standards and procedures for the carrying out of an environmental audit. The Director may also require a person to submit for approval an environmental management plan to manage the environmental impacts of a new or existing activity.

In 2013, The Department of Environment participated in the two workshops in Saint Lucia to address a

harmonized reporting mechanism, and the use of Integrated Environment Assessment (IEA) tools for mainstreaming Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) into national policy development.

At the request of local interests and FCO, UKOTCF organised and resourced an EIA workshop in Montserrat in January 2015 attended by government Ministers, several government departments and non-government organisations, private sector and civil society.

Following this, Montserrat is seeking to address some earlier problems regarding lack of adequate EIAs. Regulations are being prepared. In the meantime, developers are being encouraged to follow best practice.

CARICOM is now exploring the possibility of having a harmonised Environment and Natural Resources Management Policy Framework. Montserrat, as a full member of CARICOM, has participated in the consultations.

One medium-term objective under the Sustainable Development Plan (SDP) is to develop a transparent and effective accountability framework for Government and the public sector. The SDP itself was developed out of a consultative, consensus building process. CEMA also states that decisions must be taken in an open and transparent manner, and access to information must be provided in accordance with the law. For example under CEMA, in preparing a NEMS, the Director shall seek and consider comments from stakeholders including governmental entities, civil society, non-governmental organisations and members of the public. Furthermore, before an area is designated as a protected area, the Director shall publish a notice of intention to designate the protected area and submit the notice for public comment by stakeholders.

## Pollution

Principle (9) of CEMA indicates that the costs of remedying pollution, environmental degradation and consequent adverse health effects and of preventing, controlling or minimising further pollution, environmental damage or adverse health effects must be borne by those responsible for harming the environment. Furthermore, under Principle 57 (6), after a spill or accidental release of a pollutant or hazardous substance or hazardous waste, the Principal Environmental Health Officer may undertake emergency response measures as he thinks necessary or expedient to protect human health and the environment. In this situation, he may recover the actual costs from the person who owns or controls the premises from where the spill or accidental release of a pollutant or hazardous substance or hazardous waste originated. (Although CEMA falls under the remit of DOE, this area is cross-cutting and involves other Ministries and departments.)

## Climate-change, Renewable Energy and Waste Management

The Government of Montserrat, with the aid of DFID, the EU and other sources, embarked on the development of geothermal energy in 2013, with the drilling of two wells to a maximum depth of 2800m, at 250-270 degrees Celsius, each producing 3 MW of power. It is anticipated that the two geothermal wells will produce environmentally friendly, long-lasting energy, sufficient to power the island in the near future.

Montserrat National Trust received approval from EU/OECS Climate Change Adaptation Programme to do a pilot demonstration Project using Solar Energy for irrigation and lighting of the Botanic Garden.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Trade, Land, Housing and the Environment is leading the collective effort to



prepare a revised National Climate Change Policy and Action Plan for Montserrat. This is being supported under the Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Land Management Project in the Eastern Caribbean, which is managed by the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) on behalf of participating members. The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) is facilitating the process. A recent workshop on 18th June 2015 was the second in the consultation process allowing stakeholders to analyse impacts and decide on priorities. The Policy and Action Plan are drafted but not yet submitted to Cabinet.

### **Environmental Education**

Centre Hills Project implemented an outreach programme targeting diverse audiences, including politicians, teachers, students, farmers, tourists, and the general public. In 2012, the Department of Environment released a Mountain Chicken Awareness Poster, which was widely circulated. The DoE has employed an education and outreach person.

Montserrat National Trust created a new botanic garden in 2005. This provides an educational and recreational resource for schools, residents and visitors. There is a link between what is showcased in the garden and what is found in the wilds of the Centre Hills.

The National Museum of Montserrat, which is managed by the National Trust, re-opened in a new site (the previous one now being in the volcano exclusion zone) in 2012.

The National Trust and the Ministry of Environment regularly take part in Radio shows to talk about their work.

UKOTCF resourced and worked with MNT and GoM to produce *Birding in Paradise: the Caribbean Emerald Isle of Montserrat – a guide to bird-watching, nature and heritage sites*, and is working on other material,

video-based.

Through the Montserrat Reef Ball Project, a new artificial reef is being designed as an educational snorkel trail, accessible by dive tour businesses, locals and tourists.

The Montserrat Volcano Observatory provides information on the volcano to the general public. The MVO Interpretation Centre has poster displays explaining the techniques used in monitoring seismic (earthquake) activity, gas emissions, ground deformation and environmental impacts.

A National Tree Planting Day involved the distribution of plants from the nursery of the Department of Environment and its Forestry Division.

A brochure was produced on the possible impacts of climate change on Montserrat.

### **International Agreements**

Montserrat is included in UK's ratification of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (but has not yet designated any Wetlands of International Importance), the Convention on Migratory Species (Bonn), and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES, Washington) – but not yet the Convention on Biological Diversity. New CITES legislation, to make Montserrat (and therefore UK) fully compliant stalled due to lack of legal drafting capacity.

### **Still to do**

Funding needed to take forward galliwasp species action plan.

In terms of areas requiring further information gathering, little is known about the Montserrat galliwasp lizard and more scientific research into habitat (and funding for this) are necessary.

Convention on Biological Diversity sign-up and funding for this needed.

New CITES legislation (and staffing resources for this) needed to make Montserrat fully compliant

Establish National Conservation and Environmental Advisory Council and prepare regulations under CEMA 2014.

Update the National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS).

Develop frameworks/action plans for meeting the principles under CEMA.

More resourcing is needed for implementing CEMA effectively, and for almost all the actions in this section.

Develop frameworks for meeting the goals and objectives under the Sustainable Development Plan.

Is there a joint Government/NGO group to take an overview of forward conservation planning and review progress?

The Government of Montserrat and the Montserrat National Trust have identified, with UKOTCF, the need for investigations, planning and conservation management work in the southern area, and for work engaging the community more widely in conservation work in the north. Applications have been made to Darwin and BEST, the former successfully.

Drafting legislation or adding regulations that would deal with fees and trust funding. As there has been a change in financial regulations worldwide, a trust fund mechanism must be handled under a separate legislation as listed in the text regarding Public Finance (Management and Accountability Act).

Either incorporate all objectives under the Centre Hills management plan into the DoE's annual work programme, or obtain funding that allows the management plan to be implemented separately. At

present, only critical core management activities of this Management Plan are being carried out, absorbed as part of the work programme of the DoE.

Substantial work remains to be done on long-term solving of the invasives issue, management of remaining good habitat in the southern area, and involving the community. However, note that the South has restricted access issues. Safety is paramount and this must be taken into consideration.

In addition to the Montserrat Centre Hills Feral Livestock Action Plan, develop additional invasive species Action Plans for those species which have been identified as an issue, including means to fund these.

Implement biosecurity legislation.

As noted, the current plans for dealing with invasives concentrate on the Centre Hills, rather than total island eradication – because of accessibility difficulties in the south. Although the complexity of the habitat may prevent rat eradication, the current easing of volcanic activity may allow for investigation and potential planning of ambitious plans for eradication of the damaging feral animals across the island, subject to access clearance.

Both black and brown rats were highlighted as an environmental threat by a wide cross-section of stakeholders. With current technology, eradication of rats on a well populated island is next to impossible. A targeted control programme to keep numbers manageable is preferable but is expensive in the short to medium term. With education and public awareness, the cost will go down over time, but would still require some sort of injection of funds from the government.

Understanding the interactions of rats with tree regeneration and on the breeding capacity of species, would require a follow up longer-term project.

Prepare a Protected Areas Systems Plan and Management Plans for each protected area. Prepare a

monitoring framework for protected areas. Note that under CEMA only 1 protected area has been designated so far, and significant funding would be required to designate more.

Designate protected areas under international and regional agreements, including Ramsar sites, and secure capacity (staff and funding) to manage.

Carry out further survey work for identifying other wetland features of interest.

Investigation is needed on the potential reinstatement of Foxes Bay Swamp Nature Reserve, partly to compensate for the artificial total loss of lowland wetlands, due to the human infilling of Piper's Pond. Subject to investigation, this might require significant resourcing.

Protect further ghauts through designation of Ramsar Sites, etc.

Obtain additional resources (human and financial) for implementing environmental legislation and management plans.

Implement strategic physical planning and best-practice environmental impact assessment procedures. This should include consultative processes.

Obtain adequate funds for MNT to provide appropriate signage and publicity for trails in the Centre Hills and north of the Island.

Montserrat may wish to consider joining the international whale sanctuary initiative in respect of its EEZ.

Investigate and develop management for conservation of remaining forest in Exclusion Zone (see above for MNT/GoM/UKOTCF initial proposal). These plans need to bear in mind that safety access constraints need to be built into the plans and relevant agencies need to be part of the feasibility planning team.

Still a need for a whole island biodiversity assessment. Funding and expertise needed.

Have statistician on staff. Funding is needed for this.

More summer camp/activity groups for children

Environmental courses for adults.

More educational materials for use in schools.

Environmental information must be included in the school curriculum.

Maximising the use of radio in environmental and cultural education.

Secure funding for implementing the environmental education, as well as the conservation, activities.

# Anguilla

## Protected Areas

3 Marine Important Bird Areas identified.

The National Trust manages several sites donated to it (Seafeathers and Little Harbour).

## *Dog Island restoration and first Ramsar Site*

After an intensive programme of work, which involved the eradication of rats, large colonies of seabirds, including sooty terns (pictured) are recolonising Dog Island. Efforts involved many partners and have highlighted the potential for rapid recovery following the removal of introduced species.

Sombrero Island (94 acres) has been approved for designation as Anguilla's first Ramsar Convention Wetland of International Importance. It is a remote, flat-topped rocky outcrop 65 kilometres northwest of Anguilla. The cliffs and rocky areas are home to a large seabird colony including internationally important numbers of masked booby *Sula dactylatra*, brown booby *Sula leucogaster*, bridled tern *Sterna anaethetus* and brown noddy *Anous stolidus*, as well as the endemic ground lizard *Ameiva corvine*. The surrounding reefs are important for corals, sea-grass beds and foraging hawksbill turtles.

The island was formerly mined for phosphate, leaving the surface pitted with craters up to 10 metres deep. A few stark buildings from the phosphate industry remain alongside those from Sombrero's long time use as a lighthouse station. Until recently, the island was permanently inhabited by a small number of lighthouse staff who were transported by small boat across the 65km from mainland Anguilla. A new unmanned lighthouse was installed in 2002, limiting visitors to the occasional fisherman and biologists engaged in

fieldwork.

A Ramsar National Committee established and a National Wetlands Plan completed.

## Species Protection

Protection (mainly via site-management) for 11 species of seabirds.

Development and implementation of the Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan.

Conservation Action Plan for Lesser Antillean Iguana *Iguana delicatissima*.

Anguilla Bank racer snake re-assessed and identified as Critically Endangered.

A nursery for native trees, shrubs, and herbs established.

## Monitoring and Baseline data

Birds: Monitoring of terrestrial birds at 16 sites on the mainland and 10 on Dog Island. Monitoring of wetland birds on 25 mainland ponds and Dog Island's Stoney Bay Pond. Monitoring of seabirds on Anguilla's offshore cays – annually on Dog Island and every 2 to 3 years on the other offshore cays.

There is an on-going trial of BirdLife International's Framework for Monitoring Important Bird Areas.

As well as on-going monitoring for:

- Sea turtles (leatherback, hawksbill, green): nesting and foraging populations



*Sooty terns landing at their nesting colony, Dog Island, Anguilla (Dr Mike Pienkowski)*

- Land reptiles: iguanas (native lesser Antillean, invasive green); snakes (Anguilla Bank racer snake)
  - Lizards on Dog Island
  - Beaches and sand dunes
  - Landscapes (on Dog Island)
  - Heritage sites,
- there is collection and dissemination of baseline data for the following ecosystems/habitats:
- Wetlands (Anguilla Wetland Inventory; Anguilla BirdLife Wetland Assessment): on-going monitoring.
  - Coastal habitats (Anguilla Coastal Assessment Report Card 2013)
  - Marine Important Bird Areas

- Important Bird Areas
- Sombrero site data collated into Ramsar Information Sheet
- Anguilla Key Biodiversity Areas in Environmental Profile Fact Sheet.

## Invasive Species

A draft Alien Invasive Species Policy has been developed. Training was done with a range of sectors: hoteliers, Department of Customs and the Port Authority Staff. This is one method through which personnel at key entry points can recognise and act on any species being introduced to the country.

Rats have been eradicated from Dog Island and long-term monitoring sites established.

Involvement in the EU-funded BEST Initiative project *Conserving Species and Sites of International Importance by the Eradication of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in the Caribbean UK Overseas Territories* included sharing of best practice and awareness raising.

A feasibility study has been carried out indicating that eradication of rats on Prickly Pear Cays is possible.

## Planning, EIA and Legislation

The Biodiversity and Heritage Conservation Act 2009 includes public consultation procedures for establishing, disestablishing and altering protected areas.

Information produced through a Habitat Mapping (Terrestrial) project, for example the distribution of threatened species, was fed into a National GIS database which is used by the Land Development Control Committee (LDCC). This Committee is responsible for reviewing and approving development across the island. Whilst there is a Development Control Framework under the Land Development Control Act 2008, this is

fairly basic and has no strategic planning and no SEA or EIA procedures. Political accountability is also lacking. There is also no comprehensive national development plan. The Physical Planning Bill 2001 would address some of the weaker areas. However, this is not yet enacted and it is currently under review.

The Beach Control Act allows people to appeal any of the Minister's decisions to the Executive Council, whose decision will be final. Which Minister depends on the portfolio assignment given to the various Ministers. It does not necessarily stay under the Minister of Environment.

The Anguilla National Trust has an active participation within the planning process through the review of Planning Applications, development of Terms of References for Environmental Impact Assessments, and the review of Environmental Impact Assessments.

2009/2010 Trade in Endangered Species Act and Trade in Endangered Species Regulations.

Biodiversity, Heritage and Conservation Act 2009 (BHCA) lists species of seabirds as well as all species of sea turtles.

## Climate-change, Renewable Energy and Waste Management

The Anguilla National Energy Policy was approved in 2010.

## Environmental Education

The Anguilla National Trust (ANT) Resource Centre is open to the public for usage.

ANT works with schools/provides environmental education:

- School presentations at primary and high school levels

- Primary and high school field trips to wetlands, forested areas, and coastal areas
- Primary and high school heritage tours (including to Big Spring Heritage Site)
- Hikes with summer camp students (externally-organised summer camps, including the Anguilla Tourist Board's Hello Tourist! Camp, Brownies' Camp, Valley Primary School Camp, Camp Destiny, Anguilla Red Cross Camp, Teacher Petal's Summer Camp)
- Department of Youth and Culture's Youth ESCAPE programme (2005 through 2014, summer) (graphic design, photography, natural heritage, national symbols, maritime heritage) (ages 4-16)
- Where The Wild Things Are summer camp (2015-ongoing, summer) (ages 4-7)
- Adventure Anguilla outdoors camp (2006-on-going, every December) (ages 12-18)
- Environment. Research. Action. Programme (2011-on-going, school year) (environmental education afterschool programme) (ages 12-18). This is done at all schools. It is an overall conservation lobbying initiative.
- Island In Focus (2013-on-going) (nature photography afterschool programme) (ages 10-12)

The Youth Environmental Society of Anguilla (YESA) gets involved with checking the permanent bait stations installed by rat eradication volunteers on Dog Island to ensure that there is no re-invasion.

ANT publishes many peer-reviewed journal articles, books, brochures and posters.

Other ANT awareness raising activities: ANT radio programmes, social media, lectures and documentaries series, press releases, experiential learning in schools (presentations and field trips, camps and afterschool

programmes), one-on-one/community meetings, e-newsletter, coastal and pond clean-up programmes, *adopt-a-beach* programme, memos to Government agencies and partners, providing updates and insights into on-the-ground action and activities.

### **International Agreements**

In 2014, Anguilla joined UK's ratification of CITES. Anguilla is included in the UK's ratification to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention).

### **Stakeholder Stewardship**

ANT community-based restoration activities on East End Pond Conservation Area (on-going tree planting initiatives with East End Community, private sector, and youth groups).

ANT have also facilitated an *ad hoc* community group *adopt-a-beach* programme.

### **Economic Value of Sustainable Use**

In 2013, the *Anguilla National Ecosystem Assessment- A Foundation for a Green Economy* project was a scoping exercise, which looked at how the administrative, policy and legislative context encompassed Anguilla's ecosystems and whether it allowed for the development of a national ecosystem assessment and green economy strategy.

The JNCC *Greening the Economy* project, in 2013, found that there is an extensive body of knowledge available on natural resources management in Anguilla. However, the data are spread over multiple scientific studies, consultant reports, regional reports and approved and draft legislation, policies and plans. This makes it very difficult actually to use the information effectively in decision-making. The framework for

natural resource management is made up of a range of policy documents and laws and regulations that have been developed in the absence of an approved integrated approach to environmental management.

A project, the *Tourism Value of Nature in Anguilla and the Impact of Beach Erosion* was completed in 2014. The project aimed to determine the (potential) monetary value generated by ecosystems on Anguilla by assessing the 'Willingness to Pay' (WTP) of tourists for various ecosystems and aspects of Anguilla's beaches, which may guide future policy-making in terms of environmental and tourism management.

### **Still to do**

Enact the draft Environmental Protection Bill.

Develop framework for National Development Plan and NDP itself.

Better coordination is needed of science information, policies, and legislation relating to the environment/ biodiversity.

Regulations are needed for the Biodiversity, Heritage and Conservation Act (under development).

Restore coral reef, develop coastal management plans.

Produce Alien Invasive Species Policy (in draft).

Develop framework for designating sites through the Biodiversity and Heritage Conservation Act and the Marine Parks Act based on scientific criteria.

Update/develop site management plans.

Designate further protected areas based on the results of the Darwin Plus Project being carried out at present.

Obtain funding to support the eradication of rats from Prickly Pear Cays.

Create additional Action Plans for other priority species.

Legislation and policy reforms need revision to contribute towards Aichi Target 15 (under way).

Develop a plan/guidelines for hoteliers to implement sustainable practices in their businesses, based on the outcomes of the *Towards a Green Economy* project.

Develop a plan for implementing the short, medium and long term actions identified as being required through the *Greening the Economy* project.

Incorporate strategic planning, political accountability, and SEA and EIA procedures into planning legislation.

Review and enact Physical Planning Bill 2001.

Provide greater access to information regarding policy and legislation, e.g. through a portal on the Government of Anguilla website which allows you to keep track of the status of legislation.

Develop and enact fisheries legislation and management plans.

Join CBD and CMS.

Make further protected areas designations, including Ramsar Sites (see 2005 review).

Educational tours are needed for raising awareness among adults.

# British Virgin Islands

Various dated legislation available for species protection will be superseded by the draft Natural Resources Management and Climate Change Bill.

## Protected Areas

The Protected Areas System Plan for the period 2007-2017 aims “to manage important natural and historical resources in ways that will contribute to an improvement of the quality of life of BVI residents”. The Government has indicated that the Plan will be implemented in phases up to 2020.

The Government took steps to designate several areas on and around Virgin Gorda, Anegada and Jost Van Dyke as Protected Areas in 2015.

Activities in BVI under the EU-funded project *Management of Protected Areas Supporting Sustainable Economies* included: 3 visitor centres at Sage Mountain National Park, Copper Mine National Park and at the Anegada iguana headstart facility; and a patrol boat was provided, primarily for The Baths National Park.

Darwin Plus project *Conserving plant diversity and establishing ecosystem based approaches to the management of forest ecosystems in the British Virgin Islands (2013-2015)* aimed to map terrestrial ecosystems to inform gaps present within the proposed protected area network and inform the creation of a draft management plan for forests, based upon the IUCN ecosystem-based approach. This will lead to the identification of new areas for inclusion in the BVI Protected Areas System Plan and provide baseline data that will inform the creation of a dynamic decision support tool for conservation management.

## Species Protection

The Environmental Profiles prepared by Island Resources Foundation for each of the four main islands contain detailed accounts of BVI species and make a note of Species Conservation Priorities according to whether they are high, medium, or low priority. They detail also threats to particular species, and identify species and habitats of special concern, e.g. Anegada has approximately 50 plant Species of Special Concern. Many are local and regional endemics, as well as plants that have been severely reduced in numbers and distributions by feral and free-roaming livestock. On Anegada, there are 17 Animals of Special Concern, while Habitats of Special Concern include beaches and dunes. During field studies carried out for the Environmental Profile of Anegada, a new plant species was discovered. The Island Resources Foundation team collected and photographed *Sideroxylon horridum*. (Note that this is one of many new plant records for BVI.) For different issues, conflicts or areas of concern described in the Environment Profiles, the Profiles state also the impacts of not taking any action/making any changes, and provide short-term options and long-term recommendations for addressing these.

Other species conservation initiatives carried out in BVI include the following:



*Machaonia woodburyana* – a Critically Endangered plant found only in the British and US Virgin Islands (National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands)

- The National Parks Trust created a recovery plan for the Critically Endangered Anegada rock iguana *Cyclura pinguis*. To save this species from extinction, the NPT and the IUCN Iguana Specialist Group launched a “headstart programme” in 1997 to boost populations and help ensure the species’ survival in the wild. In 2012, there was a rock iguana species recovery plan meeting.
- The National Parks Trust carried out a mangrove replanting programme. This is ongoing and is focused on Tortola’s southern coastline where the majority of mangroves have been removed for coastal development.
- RBG Kew and NPTVI propagated threatened plants from BVI, and built up a collection of BVI

threatened endemic plants. They carried out also red-listing work, including a workshop in 2013.

- Following a Plant Conservation Workshop in Puerto Rico in 2012, a Plant Conservation Task Force was set up for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. This task force was to be involved with plant species red-listing and the facilitation of communication and information sharing. This involved also recording and mapping locations of rare plants in BVI, and identifying threats and dangers. The project had also contributed plants for the Botanic Garden. The *Building systems and capacity to monitor and conserve BVI's flora* is a follow-on two-year project.
- RBG Kew conducted seed collection in BVI. Its work involved seed-collecting workshops for the J.R. O'Neal Botanic Garden. They obtained also the first plant records from the privately owned island, Little Thatch Island. Since the Anegada Darwin Project, NPTVI and Kew have been involved in three additional Darwin Projects that are mapping endangered plant species using GIS.
- Geographical Information Systems are being used and data shared with the National GIS Committee to promote better understanding of the remaining distribution and condition of threatened habitats and species through the NPTVI Darwin Plus project. This is the most recent Darwin Project on plant mapping (2015-2017). NPTVI had another Darwin Project (2013-2015).

The Fisheries (Protected Species) Order of 2014 now makes it illegal to fish commercially for, sell or have for sale any shark or ray species. (A licensed fisher may kill a shark for personal subsistence only, excluding any shark listed as Critically Endangered or Endangered under the IUCN). It is also illegal to harass, feed or mutilate sharks.

Annually, the NPTVI distributes free native trees to

schools and the general public and also has tree-planting ceremonies around the Territory.

### **Monitoring and Baseline data**

Monitoring of sea turtle populations through a tagging programme.

The Darwin Plus project *Using Seabirds to Inform Caribbean Marine Spatial Planning* involved tagging frigate birds to observe their range.

Greater flamingo population monitored by National Parks Trust.

The Darwin Plus project *British Virgin Islands MPA and hydrographic survey capacity building* will result in the transfer of skills in mapping marine habitats using modern acoustic survey tools from UK organisations with proven expertise to the stakeholders in BVI. This in turn will provide essential information for spatial planning, sustainable use of marine resources, marine conservation and ensure safe navigation at sea.

New Darwin Plus project *Seabird Recovery Planning Programme* began on 1 April 2015. Fieldwork involves surveying and ground-truthing of the islands, including an assessment of each island, e.g. invasive species survey, breeding birds survey, in addition to some trapping for rats.

The Darwin Plus project *Building Systems and Capacity to Monitor and Conserve BVI's Flora* also commenced in April 2015. Mapping and GIS are to be key tools.

There were plans for studies to commence on tropic-birds and boobies in March 2016.

Conch habitat survey completed for some areas and on-going.

### **Invasive Species**

There was a mongoose control programme on Little Jost

Van Dyke and a rat eradication programme on Sandy Cay National Park.

The Environmental Profiles have compiled information on alien invasive species. They identify known invasive species, in addition to those that have been identified as potentially invasive. Those species that are of immediate concern because of the conservation challenges they pose now, or may pose in the future are also described.

Other projects that have been initiated to address invasive species in BVI are listed below:

- GIS mapping of invasive plant species across the BVI through NPTVI Darwin Plus Project.
- Lionfish *Pterois volitans* eradication project was initiated in 2009 after the Conservation and Fisheries Department received funding from JNCC. This project provides a framework to coordinate activities among government and non-governmental agencies and local businesses and organisations. An NGO (Reef Guardians) was created specifically to target lionfish population control.
- The OTEP-funded Caribbean UKOTs regional project on invasive species involved the transfer of information on UKOTs to the Global Invasive Species Database, in addition to awareness-raising posters.
- NPTVI, RSPB and JVDPS are currently involved in a BEST-funded project to eradicate goats from the Tobagos and undertake a rat eradication feasibility study. This project also looks at developing a biosecurity protocol.

### **Planning, EIA and Legislation**

In 2012, a new planning database was handed over to the Premier's Office and the Department of Town

and Country Planning Department. This provides for the collection and monitoring of all development applications by linking government departments involved in the review of development proposals, while also allowing developers and individual applicants to track their proposals in real time.

Protection of local endangered species will be covered under the draft Natural Resources Management and Climate Change Bill (NRMCC).

Draft Forest Management Plan initiated under the NPTVI and Kew Darwin Plus vegetation-mapping project (2013-2015); development is ongoing.

## Pollution

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with major grocery stores with the agreement that, from 11 March 2013, a charge of 15 cents per plastic bag will be charged at the till if customers do not bring their own bags.

Pollution control needs to be strengthened. This is particularly critical given the BVI's high population density, rapid paced development, and geographical and geological challenges for pollution control. Pollution and associated environmental risks are described in the Environment Profiles. The draft Natural Resources Management and Climate Change Bill would establish a regulatory framework for waste management and embed the polluter pays principle.

The issue of anchor damage from mega-yachts, with anchor-zones and possible mega-yacht moorings, is being discussed – but this is all in development. The main anthropogenic threats to coral reefs in the BVI are anchor damage and sedimentation. The National Parks Trust maintains a system of mooring buoys at National Parks and popular dive sites to reduce anchor damage to coral reefs. The draft Natural Resources and Climate Change Bill will significantly increase protections of

reefs from anchor damage; the existing legal framework on this is very weak.

## Climate-change, Renewable Energy and Waste Management

### *Leading voice in the Caribbean region on Climate Change and gaining greater understanding of natural resources*

BVI has been a leading voice in the region on climate change- recognising that its economy will be hit hard by its predicted impacts.

It hosted the Caribbean Challenge Initiative leadership summit in 2013, bringing together heads of government, ministers of the environment, chief executive officers of major corporations and donor agencies to take forward the management and preservation of the region's marine and coastal environment.

The Climate Change Trust Fund Act 2015 & Electricity Ordinance Amendment Act 2015 show that the Government is moving fast to turn its commitments in to a legal framework, under which, future actions will be taken.

The Environment profiles and work on collecting baseline data on flora of BVI have led to a greater understanding of the natural environment.

An independent Board of Trustees will manage the funds of the Virgin Islands Climate Change Trust Fund, established by the passage of the Virgin Islands Climate Change Trust Fund Act which was enacted in March 2015. The Act provides the framework for raising and administering local and international resources to fund activities that confront the impacts of climate change and help the Territory transition to a low-carbon economy. The sources of local funding will be established separately by regulations to support the Act.

Non-profit organisation Green VI's vision is "a green,

clean, healthy, and prosperous BVI, in which a balance is maintained between development and conservation of the natural environment". Its mission is to demonstrate the principles and benefits of sustainable living in BVI - through education and practical projects - along the themes of waste, education, energy and water.

In 2014, tenders were invited for solid waste collection services on Tortola, Jost Van Dyke and Virgin Gorda. Private, as opposed to public, operators for waste collection are now in place.

A report, entitled *A Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Strategy for the British Virgin Islands* was submitted to the Ministry of Health and Social Development in August 2013 and the House of Assembly in April 2014. The report recommends the creation of a new Solid Waste Management Authority to oversee the development of waste facilities and to improve collection, storage and disposal of waste through cost recovery methods. The report said the Authority will see to the implementation of a National Solid Waste Policy and the creation of an environment for the disposal of all waste types in an environmentally sound manner.

The draft Natural Resources Management and Climate Change Bill would regulate the dumping of all wastes in the environment.

The BVI Electricity Ordinance Amendment Act 2015 was passed in March, which allows consumers to produce energy from renewable sources, and the creation of private renewable-energy power plants.

The *Future of Reefs* project looked at new ways to manage reefs in the context of climate change, specifically, interactions of three communities in BVI with nearby coral reefs, documenting changes to the reef and how the human communities reacted. Some of the threats perceived by communities in the BVI include sewage, lack of awareness, education and



understanding, rubbish and pollution, etc. In general, communities had a good understanding of local threat to reefs, but were less clear about potential global impacts, such as climate change. Ecological surveys revealed that reefs were generally healthy in the BVI in the context of the Caribbean. Coral cover was greater than that of algae cover. Fish surveyed revealed that near shore stocks were affected by fish-trap practice as numbers were lower. Important grazer (e.g. parrotfish) numbers were generally low, but sea urchin populations were quite healthy.

### **Environmental Education**

The Conservation & Fisheries Department coordinates the celebration of Environment Month every June with a series of themed environmental awareness activities. The Department coordinates also Fisherman's Day, to celebrate the local fishery, and runs an environmental summer programme for school children. An annual coastal clean-up is also organised by the Department. The National Parks Trust organises annual Arbour Day activities. Activities for the 2012 Arbor Day included planting trees on land and mangroves.

Education initiatives have been developed also by the Department of Waste Management, using the media of television, radio and print, and centred on teaching residents how to dispose of their waste correctly.

An interactive environmental atlas was developed by the NPTVI and the Conservation & Fisheries Department.

Local schoolchildren took part in the release of Anegada Rock Iguanas from the NPTVI headstart facility in November 2013.

The Jost Van Dykes Preservation Society launched the Sloop *Endeavour II* on 5 November 2013, with goals (among others) of :

-Using the construction as a teaching opportunity for island youth in the use of modern construction methods.

-To serve as a unique platform for educational programmes in sailing and marine environmental protection.

### **International Agreements**

BVI is currently working on legislation to comply with CITES, and on the extension of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The following regional and multilateral environmental agreements have been extended to BVI: the Convention on Biological Diversity, the St George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species, the Convention on Migratory Species, the Cartagena Convention, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities, and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

### **Stakeholder Stewardship**

The Conservation and Fisheries Department through its work on educating the youth about the natural environment and the importance of conserving it, has over the years seen the programme gain the support of the local community with over 50 organisations taking the Green Pledge (<http://www.bvidef.org/1/>). The Green Pledge Programme was launched in 2012. This is an ongoing voluntary programme in which organisations pledge to make various changes in their operations to reduce their environmental impact. The programme launch was very successful, with over 50 organisations registering in the first year. The Department is currently working on further enhancing and formalising the

programme.

The Guana Island Science Programme has pioneered methods to replant broken-off pieces of elkhorn and staghorn corals. This was done in partnership with dive shops and tourists. BVI has an extensive tourism-based yachting industry, with associated anchoring and reef damage problems. The project with the dive shops not only restored coral, but also contributed towards raising awareness.

### **Economic Value of Sustainable Use**

In 2012, a study was undertaken to understand the economic value of BVI's natural environment, the threats posed and options available for managing these threats, and to enable environmental issues to be integrated into strategic decisions.

Again in 2012, a Sustainability Network Committee was established (*The Natural Step*). A British Virgin Islands Sustainability Capacity Building Programme was initiated following *The Natural Step*. This was a joint initiative between Green VI and the BVI Government (Conservation & Fisheries Department). The Natural Step is an internationally known process for building sustainability into communities. Consultants from the Natural Step offices in Canada facilitated a series of workshops with participants from Government agencies and private agencies. Following this, the private sector implemented some of the actions identified. For instance the supermarket chains have essentially eliminated plastic grocery bags, an initiative coordinated and led by a local NGO Worldhouse Caribbean.

A further study in 2014, *The Tourism Value of Nature in the British Virgin Islands*, aimed to attach an economic value to the services provided by the natural environment of the BVI to its visitors. The study concluded that BVI's beaches are their prime ecological

asset. In addition, they indicated a willingness to pay for the management of the coral reefs for their quality to be maintained. The Ministry intends to build upon this work with a study that assesses the total economic value of the environment of the Territory.

### Still to do

Develop a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

Update, approve and implement the National Environmental Action Plan.

Approve the funding sources for the Climate Change Trust Fund.

Finalise and enact the draft Natural Resources Management and Climate Change Bill.

Develop a National Physical Development Plan.

Establish an environmental NGO on the islands of Anegada and Virgin Gorda.

Very little is known about invertebrates in BVI. This is therefore an area requiring further research.

Develop invasive species action plans for those species identified, e.g. in Environment Profiles, as a threat.

Develop biosecurity protocol.

Eradicate goats on Prickly Pear National Park, rats from the Seal Dogs (a roseate tern nesting site) and control rats at Green Cay (previously the most popular roseate tern nesting site in the BVI).

Implement formal environmental monitoring regime.

Incorporate into the protected areas system the additional areas of national significance identified under the Protected Areas System Plan 2007-2017.

Continue revision of the Protected Areas System Plan (2007-2017).

Update Protection of Endangered Animals, Plants, and Articles (Removal and Possession) Ordinance 1981.

Enact Forest Management Plan. Build capacity within restructured department responsible for environmental management to deal with the specific forestry needs.

Other proposed Ramsar Sites need to be designated and the list of proposed Sites extended in the light of further information.

In the past few years there has been an increasing trend in large coastal developments (e.g. the Mega Yacht Marina and Hotel) and it is important to make sure that any large developments such as these are following strict EIA procedures, e.g. by implementing the Regulations to go with the Physical Planning Act 2004. The NGO Virgin Islands Environmental Council has been initiating legal action to seek judicial review of Government's approval for the Beef Island Development Project.

Whilst there is not a formalised Territory-wide programme, there are a number of *ad hoc* projects to repurpose and reuse glass. Plastics, especially water-bottles, continue to be a huge problem.

One area that needs to be reinforced in the Regulations is the applicability of the EIA requirement for government-sponsored projects as well as those in the private sector.

Lack of approved water quality standards. While this affects enforcement it does not hinder the actual monitoring. The main constraints relate to resources to extend the programme.

Publish digital environmental atlas.

Re-establish a Fisheries Advisory Committee to develop the industry's infrastructure and unify local fishermen.

Implement legislated Environmental Health Standards.

Recruit and train BVI nationals in the area of

Environmental Health.

Economic evaluation of marine and coastal ecosystems was carried out for marine reserve in Martinique. Complete a similar evaluation in BVI. The main aim of the project is to increase fishermen support of marine protected areas (MPAs) and to get them involved in conservation actions and sustainably using the marine resources of Caribbean MPAs.

# Turks & Caicos Islands

## Protected Areas

A small part of the internationally important but unprotected Salinas (salt pans) of Grand Turk (part of Red and Town Salinas at Grand Turk) and Salt Cay was listed as an additional area of historic interest in 2012. It should also be listed as a nature reserve, and extended to the rest.

The UK Government listed the “Turks and Caicos Islands” (actually Salt Cay, the small cays of the Turks and South East Caicos Banks, and parts of Grand Turk and South Caicos) on the World Heritage Tentative List under the State Party of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, for its outstanding natural value.

There have been several instances in the last few years of yachts anchoring outside of designated zones but in protected areas where this is forbidden, for which action has been taken.

Coral reef damage from yachts and large cruise ships is a familiar story in many of the Caribbean territories. There is often debate over the blame, but the damage sustained cannot be ignored, principally because this is what visitors come to see. Turks and Caicos has successfully prosecuted some of those responsible for the damage through the courts. Although coral reef damage cannot be reversed, restoration is possible and by working with non-government organisations that can focus on this, much can be achieved.

In the *Management of Protected Areas for Sustainable Economies* (MPASSE) project. TCI (as well as Cayman Islands and BVI) had the opportunity to benefit from major EU funding. The implementing body in TCI proposed to develop facilities for visitors at the following sites: Bird Rock Point, Little Water Cay, Wades Green and Cheshire Hall. The

European Commission procedures, and failings in the Commission’s implementation of these procedures and internal difficulties, gave major challenges to the implementing bodies and only a small part of the proposed work was achieved in TCI.

The Turks and Caicos Reef Fund (founded in 2010) are the leading non-governmental organisation for the installation and maintenance of dive boat, snorkel boat and yacht moorings throughout TCI under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs. By April 2015, 62 proper sea floor anchors and mooring lines had been installed for dive boat moorings, in addition to 10 snorkel boat moorings and 5 yacht moorings. Unfortunately, in some areas moorings have been repeatedly cut free from their anchors. The Reef Fund has been replacing them but cannot do so indefinitely. The culprits and motivation remain unknown.

UKOTCF, at the request of DEMA, provided and published guidance for visiting Big Sand Cay, in an attempt to reduce unwitting damage.

## Species Protection

Parts of the legal framework for species protection are in place, largely for marine and bird species, although such protections are not considered adequate. The proposed Wildlife & Biodiversity Conservation Bill would provide some greater protections, but is stalled at draft stage, due to lack of priority allocated on it by government re legal draftsman. Protection for key marine species has improved with closed seasons or bans introduced for Nassau groupers, turtles, stone crab and conch. Fishing on spawning aggregations has also been banned. The Bill, when passed, will

protect endemic and threatened animals and plants, and threatened ecosystems. Recovery plans would be required for endangered and threatened species.

Originally written in 2012, a draft Endangered Species Act is under review. This would ratify and implement CITES. The draft Endangered Species Act (Trade, Collection, Removal and Transport) needs to return to the House of Assembly.

There is a gap when it comes to species action plans and also monitoring and review procedures. However, a Conservation and Management Plan (2005-2009), was produced for the Turks and Caicos Iguana *Cyclura carinata*, but implementation has been problematic.

A Caicos pine recovery programme is being undertaken by DEMA and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (see below).

DEMA and the local volunteer TCI Environmental Club group operate a project to rescue endemic and endangered plant species from built development activities to re-establish them elsewhere.

Fisheries Protection Amendments Regulations 2015 came into effect on 1 June 2015.

As part of the Reef Coral Preservation and Restoration Program, an ‘adopt a coral’ programme has been established by the Turks and Caicos Reef Fund. This allows an individual to adopt a coral reef fragment, which is cared for in a special coral nursery until it is large enough to be transferred on to one of the reefs.

Policy guidelines for the protection of humpbacks and other cetaceans are in place, but these focus on whale watching operators and vessels. The Marine Mammal Protection Ordinance was unilaterally amended by the Governor during Direct Rule to allow for the development of captive dolphin attractions; these were

previously illegal, and the laws against them were the result of a great deal of effort by several NGOs and TCIG staff over the last 20 years.

The most significant commercial fisheries stocks (e.g. Caribbean spiny lobster *Panulirus argus* and queen conch *Strombus gigas*) have suffered from severe degradation due to habitat degradation and overfishing in recent years, and it is reported that near-shore finfish stocks are also in decline. Limited steps have been taken to address this problem.

There are restrictions on where and when wild conch can be collected, although work is needed on the real impacts of this fishing. A conch visual survey was conducted in 2013-2015; however, the results of this study have not been translated into conservation initiatives, and the export quota remains unchanged for this species since 2012. The existing legislative framework for queen conch conservation is also largely biologically irrelevant and is based on now-defunct maximum sustainable yield (MSY) targets rather than comprehensive management approaches. There are National Parks where no fishing is allowed, although enforcement is an issue. Lobster fishing is regulated by size of catchable lobsters and a rigorously enforced closed season when possession of a lobster is illegal. A Caribbean spiny lobster artificial habitat project, sponsored by the FCO, trained local fisherfolk to create artificial juvenile habitat. The project was successful; however, ongoing encouragement and funding to continue the initiative is needed.

RBG Kew and FERA studied insects and fungi. Both are still underway under auspices of Caicos Pine Recovery Project, with publications coming forth when identifications are complete.

A conference to review the flora of the Bahamas archipelago was carried out in October 2012. The definitive work *Flora of the Bahama Archipelago* (1982) had significant gaps and errors. The revision is

being led by Miami University of Ohio and their team visited TCI in 2012.

A JNCC-funded project was carried out to assess and monitor Nassau grouper *Epinephelus striatus* populations and spawning aggregate locations. A habitat mapping project was also funded by JNCC. The entire terrestrial area of TCI was mapped for vegetative habitats. A complete description of vegetative habitats with a numeric code was created. Unfortunately, knowledge on data manipulation and overlay with map programs is very limited within DEMA, so its use is not widespread.

A project is being carried out with funding from the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Fund. The overall aim of this project is to gather basic natural history and ecological information for the Turks Island Boa, in addition to any anthropogenic threats to the species. This information can then be considered in relation to conservation of the species. Most of the research was conducted on Ambergris. Some conservation challenges were identified in addition to long-term goals, such as getting more accurate population estimates, current range and abundance across the archipelago, and preventative measures such as invasive predator control, especially on Ambergris.

The Marine Conservation Society continues to carry out research in TCI to improve the management of the traditional turtle fishery. Satellite tracking of green *Chelonia mydas* and hawksbill turtles *Eretmochelys imbricata* is used to learn more about their movements and use of TCI's waters.

### **Monitoring and Baseline data**

UKOTCF bird monitoring expeditions have been carried out, including for important breeding sites on outer cays. This work complements the bird monitoring programme of the Department of Environment

and Maritime Affairs. Some counts have also been supported by Big Blue Unlimited and Salt Cay Divers ecotour operators.

A rapid ecological assessment and evaluation of biodiversity and ecosystem service values was conducted for East Caicos in association with RSPB. Preliminary results indicate that East Caicos is one of the most significant conservation concerns in the Caribbean Region. Further study to define rare, threatened and endangered (RTE) species population sizes and characteristics, ecosystem characteristics of coral reefs, population characteristics of migratory and RTE bird populations, characteristics of nesting sea turtle populations are needed.

### **Invasive species**

#### ***Caicos Pine Recovery Programme***

Following identification of this serious problem during a field work project by UKOTCF, Turks and Caicos conservation bodies (now led by DEMA) and Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, ran a project to look for solutions to the problem of the native pine-yards being devastated by an invasive insect. It involved various elements including: setting up and operating a pine nursery; related projects by Imperial College students for their theses; successful burns of plots in pine-yards on Middle Caicos to restore a more natural ecosystem; and other elements.

A successful burn of pilot plots was carried out in pine-yards on Middle Caicos, as part of the Caicos pine recovery programme. There were multiple reasons for the burn including to see whether there was any effect on invasive pine scale insect that was killing the trees. Note that, effects on scale insect were not the primary reason for the controlled burns; it is an ecosystem management tool. The long-term effects of the burns on the scale population will need to be monitored



Top: the Caicos Pine Recovery Programme nursery; Lower: damage to pines caused by the invasive pine scale insect. (Dr Mike Pienkowski)

over decades though. The pine tortoise scale insect is believed to have been introduced with imported Christmas trees. A few strains of the Caicos pine have shown resistance to the scale. Seedlings from surviving trees are grown at the Government Farm on North Caicos and have been transplanted back to the original environment on Pine Cay, and seem to be doing well. In 2015, a trail was opened in the Middle Caicos pine yard to provide information on the programme.

Funding for this effort ended in March 2016 and TCIG

has not yet firmly responded on the request to continue funding on the programme.

Several expert groups, including the Caribbean iguana specialist group, and others, have facilitated meetings and development of plans with local partners to address the eradication of feral cats and dogs etc., but unfortunately local bodies have not been able to implement these.

Other actions carried out to address threats/issues posed by invasive species include the following:

The BEST Initiative project *Conserving Species and Sites of International Importance by the Eradication of Invasive Alien Species in the Caribbean UK Overseas Territories* is currently working in this area.

The new Department of Agriculture introduced legislation (Plant and Animal Health Bills) which outline the phytosanitary and plant health and quarantine laws for TCI, as well as those for animal imports. Although the legislation is strong, political interference with implementation is stronger.

The draft Endangered Species Act would regulate the import of invasive species.

When passed, the Wildlife and Conservation Bill will provide for improved management of invasive alien species.

### Planning, EIA and Legislation

TCI has a weak development control legal framework, with EIA needed only for proposed commercial or industrial development within conservation areas. There are currently no established criteria that trigger an EIA, and no legal requirement for no net loss mitigation exists.

A stated key output of the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources Corporate Plan (2009-2010) is 'Environmentally Sustainable Development', e.g. through 'effective and active participation of DECR at all stages of development proposals'.

The Physical Planning Ordinance 1998 provides only that the Director of Planning may require environmental impact assessment or an economic feasibility study for a proposed development; it is not a general requirement. There is no current national development plan in place, and the relationship of other

legislation with the Encouragement of Development Ordinance (1998), is unclear. This Ordinance makes no reference to environmental or conservation concerns and seems to give the Governor great freedom to issue Development Orders. There is also a minimal capacity for enforcement and monitoring. There is a lack of accountability in decision-making.

Development Plan processes did require consultation and clear processes (Part IV Physical Planning Ordinance); however, the House of Assembly has recently (2015) overturned this requirement, in violation of the Environment Charter and international standards. Final approval/modification rests with Governor who has no duty to give reasoning (s23 PPO). Advertising applications is only mandatory for certain types of development; for the rest it is in the Director's discretion. Reasons for decisions need to be notified to applicants.

Regarding the ability to appeal decisions:

-There is a general right of appeal against Board decisions to the Minister, who can deal with appeal, e.g. by public inquiry, with final appeal to Governor.

-Decisions on public developments are made by the Governor and cannot be appealed.

-Decisions on industrial/commercial developments in a Conservation Area are made by Governor and cannot be appealed.

The Integrity Commission Ordinance, Procurement Ordinance and Public Service Ordinance, designed to strengthen accountability and integrity in public life, were introduced in 2012; however, the functionality of these in practice is as yet unclear.

The building code s109.5 states the need for a building permit, for which the Board may require an EIA or feasibility study. The Development Manual (2014) contains standards for the implementation of EIA studies and chapter 4 in particular focuses on ecology.

## **Pollution**

The Marine Pollution Ordinance (2010) is there to 'protect the marine environment by minimising intentional and negligent discharges of pollutants into the marine environment'; however, this ordinance deals largely with discharges made from vessels at sea and does not regulate land-based sources of pollutants.

## **Climate-change, Renewable Energy and Waste Management**

In 2014, the TCI joined the Carbon War Rooms Initiative, the Carbon War Rooms being an organisation which aims to support Government's long-term plan to change to renewable energy. The territory joined as part of the "Ten Island Challenge" as part of its commitment to move closer to renewable energy sources. The first specific project in TCI, which the Carbon War Rooms will advise on, is the new development at West Caicos. This major development project affecting much of a previously uninhabited island has been suspended on various occasions due the financial failure of a series of international companies.

At present, there is excessive dependence on diesel generation and monopoly constraints on generation.

## **Environmental Education**

TCI Department of Education and UKOTCF established (initially with OTEP support) a curriculum and course development project on water. The 'Wonderful Water' project involved the development of curriculum-linked materials on the theme of water. This was targeted to upper primary and lower secondary schools, but has been found to be applicable to a wider range of age groups. The materials include information about TCI wetland ecosystems, including mangroves and subsequently a module on the theme of vital water, linked also to the wise-water-use garden project.

Luke Clerveaux from TCI undertook a placement at RBG Kew, during a scholarship to study Applied Ecology & Conservation at the University of Reading.

The TCI Environmental Club was formed by DEMA in 2010 as a possible new NGO. Regular meetings were held but no funding was allocated and already-overworked staff, of the understaffed department, were expected to work longer hours to manage the Club. With further loss of staff, this became impracticable and the Club was shifted to a Facebook Group, which has worked better. The Club still meets occasionally for plant rescues and clean-ups as well as special environmental events. Essentially, it has become a clearinghouse of TCI environmental information to raise awareness and recruit volunteers.

The Turks and Caicos Reef Fund has a Reef Action Team which works with a teacher at the British West Indies Collegiate to help introduce middle and high school children to the marine world. Last period each Friday is devoted to special "clubs", which the students choose to participate in. The Reef Action Team meet and snorkel, do beach clean-ups, scuba dive, and conduct various other activities to increase knowledge and appreciation for the TCI marine environment.

The Turks and Caicos National Museum botanic garden on Grand Turk is used by residents, local schools and cruise ship visitors. The garden showcases a variety of native plants as well as those brought in by settlers. The TC National Museum is also proceeding with phase 2 of development of the botanic garden, with the aims of encouraging greater involvement of the local community, especially children, and demonstrating that fruit, vegetables and herbs can be grown locally. Phase 2 was completed; unfortunately severe drought and several westerly storms have had devastating effects on this part of the garden. The Botanical and Cultural Garden has bounced back due to a higher amount of rain since November 2015. Most of the fruit trees were

lost, so those need to be replaced. Three trees were lost - only the pomegranate survived the drought, and then westerlies that caused salt damage. The trees will be replaced in the autumn 2016, when the weather is milder. There is also additional signage that needs to be placed within the garden, but funds are limited, so they have not been put in the garden.

Furthermore, UKOTCF and TCI National Museum opened a Wise-Water-Use Garden on Provo in June 2014. The project aims to help TCI decrease dependence on water that is produced by expensive and environmentally costly diesel-powered desalination and promote awareness of the environment, as well as to use local traditional plants and methods to make the best use of this water. The new wise-water-use garden demonstrates rainwater harvesting from roofs, garden irrigation and use of native and other medicinal plants adapted to local conditions. This project is linked to the 'Wonderful Water' curriculum and course.

The Turks & Caicos National Museum replicated a section of the reef "wall", allowing non-diving visitors to experience the reef, and giving diving visitors a new perspective.

In 2013-4, TCNM and UKOTCF produced a set of booklets for: Providenciales, North & Middle Caicos, Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos. Launched in 2014, they describe where to watch birds, with some driven and walked trails, and view some of the other heritage features. Support for the production of these guides was sought from local businesses, who help sell them and create a market for low-impact ecotourism activities which they can also benefit from and hence generate more support for conservation.

In 2014, the *Caicos Pine Recovery Project* with DEMA and RBG Kew completed the Native Plant Garden in the Kew Settlement Government Offices compound, having removed several dead, damaged, or invasive trees and replaced them with marked native plants

including the three National Plant Symbols of TCI.

In 2014, the *Caicos Pine Recovery Project* with DEMA and RBG Kew completed the trail into the Diamond Jubilee Pineyard on Pine Cay, a restored habitat planted with nursery-grown pine and interpreted with signage.

In December 2015, the *Caicos Pine Recovery Project* with DEMA and RBG Kew officially opened the Caicos Pineyard Trail: National Tree Ramble in Middle Caicos. This trail will allow for public, student, and eco-tour visits to the pineyards to see the National Tree in its natural habitat. It is fully interpreted and marked.

UKOTCF has produced a series of Virtual Tours of the UKOTs. These are available on the UKOTCF website and aim to increase awareness of the UKOTs and their natural heritage. A Virtual Tour has been created for TCI.

### **International Agreements**

TCI is included in the UK's ratification of the Ramsar Convention and Convention on Migratory Species. All but one of the proposed Ramsar Sites still require designation.

When passed, the Wildlife and Conservation Bill will implement a number of international conventions.

CITES and CBD still need extending to TCI.

### **Stakeholder Stewardship**

Turks and Caicos National Museum and UKOTCF established a series of bird watching trails on Grand Turk with marker signs linked to interpretive cards. They also provided training for local people to benefit from this facility. Any money raised by marketing the tours and the guide cards would be used to maintain the trails and re-stock trail cards. DEMA, the TC Reef Fund and UKOTCF have explored also other initiatives.

### **Economic Value of Sustainable Use**

Through the *Greening the Economy* project, in 2014 an action plan review was developed which identified actions needed on priorities for establishing TCI as a Green Economy following consultations in TCI. Funding for implementation of the action plan is needed.

### **Still to do**

Continue to implement the strategy prepared for the implementation of the Environment Charters and review and revise if necessary.

DEMA to obtain resources in order to expand and meet the level of enforcement responsibilities required.

The Department of Environment and Coastal Resources/Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs Corporate Plan is still updated each year, but it is more protocol than substance.

Pass the draft Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation Bill and the draft Endangered Species Act.

Establish a Scientific Authority and National Biodiversity Committee.

Establish a sustainable funding mechanism for conservation.

Build capacity and sustainable funding mechanisms into the Turks and Caicos Reef Fund (TCI's only locally based environmental conservation NGO).

The illegal clearance of land for development prior to Planning Permission being granted must be addressed. It would help if fines were levied against heavy equipment operators and contractors who do the clearing, as well as landowners.

Take account of wide consultation and incorporate in the proposed Protected Areas Act.

Establish further Protected Areas and expand existing Protected Areas that are currently under review.

List all Salinas (salt pans) and estuarine and palustrine wetland mosaics of Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos as Nature Reserves.

Only three Protected Areas have Management Plans (Princess Alexandra National Park, Columbus Landfall National Park and West Caicos National Park), plus another with a Plan in a different form (Ramsar site & surroundings). Management Plans for all protected areas need to be produced, and existing plans updated, implemented and monitored. Obtain funds and other resources to do this.

Obtain additional resources to carry out implementation effectively.

Designate further Ramsar Sites, Important Birds Areas, Important Plant Areas (including Tropical Important Plant areas) and Key Biodiversity Areas.

Carry out appropriate planning control and EIA procedures for all lands, particularly with regard to allowing development on Protected Areas.

Develop a national EIA policy. EIA and development policies must involve openness and best international practice, and include a requirement of EIA for all government-backed developments.

Develop safeguards to prevent spillage at the fuel station that has been established on land infilled in Red Salina, Grand Turk.

Develop a comprehensive national sustainable development plan, which includes quantitative environmental evaluations of all upland, wetland and marine ecosystems, with appropriate, enforceable planning for sustainable development and use. It needs to include a strong framework outlining political accountability, appeals procedures, public consultation and enforcement and monitoring procedures.

Create and implement sustainable invasive species action plans to address each invasive species. Prioritise the creation of the action plans according to impact of the species.

Further research needed into the impact of some invasive species.

Put in place effective arrangements for restriction of live material, inspection and quarantine.

Conduct quantitative ecological assessment of all underwater ecological assets in order to establish conservation priorities.

Establish landscape-level management priorities.

Develop and implement watershed management plans.

Species and ecosystem-level conservation action plans should be produced. A list should be drawn up prioritising conservation targets.

Develop a framework for the monitoring and review of species/recovery action plans.

The population size and characteristics of many of TCI's Rare, Threatened and Endangered (RTE) species is unknown, making conservation prioritization difficult. Quantitative assessment of TCI's RTE species populations therefore needs to be conducted.

Further study is needed also to define ecosystem characteristics of coral reefs, population characteristics of migratory and RTE bird populations and the characteristics of nesting sea turtle populations.

A proposal developed by DEMA, UKOTCF and local commercial organisations working on a non-profit basis was to safeguard native tropical dry forest from illegal clearance for charcoal making by replacing this supply with wood from alien invasive species thereby also providing a control measure for the latter. Unfortunately, funding bodies have not been attracted to enable start-up funding to allow this project to move

rapidly to a self-funding basis. Therefore, resourcing is still sought to start the programme.

Implement the water quality standards that have been established.

The Encouragement of Development Ordinance (1998) needs to be updated to include provisions for the environment/conservation.

Moorings have been installed but in some areas they have been repeatedly cut free from their anchors. The culprits and motivation for this action remain to be determined.

The new Ordinances designed to strengthen accountability and integrity in public life need to be effectively implemented, monitored and reviewed.

Funding for implementation of the *Greening the Economy* action plan is needed.

Tourism strategies should include provisions for the environment/conservation.

Strengthen regulation of sand mining.

A renewable energy strategy needs to be drawn up.

Pass the energy conservation policy.

The Minerals (Exploration and Exploitation) Ordinance (revised edition 2009) needs to be updated to consider EIA, sustainability and biodiversity concerns.

Establish a biologically relevant, comprehensive management approach legislative framework for sustainable management of fisheries species.

Obtain funding to continue the spiny lobster artificial habitat project.

Work is needed to assess the real impact of fishing on current conch stocks and to re-assess current conch status.

Resources needed for proper patrolling for national parks.



Reinstitute the Blue Flag rating system for beaches (although this rating is largely symbolic.) Actual watershed management plans would have a greater real impact on coastal water quality.

The Marine Mammal Protection Ordinance must be updated to reverse the legalisation of captive dolphin attractions.

Pass the draft Fisheries Act.

Introduce cetaceans and sharks reserve throughout TCI waters, including the Mouchoir Bank, and link to those of neighbouring countries.

The UK Government should take seriously its obligation to safeguard the national security of TCI's territorial waters. UK Coast Guard presence should be continuous, with training opportunities for DEMA and the Marine Branch of the Royal Police Force.

Complete and implement Agricultural Policy.

CITES and CBD still need extending to TCI.

Areas that need further research include the following:

- Cave ecosystems have not been studied extensively, but studies have discovered endemic invertebrates.

- The dry tropical forest ecosystem has not been studied extensively. Studies that have been done indicate that there will be many endemic invertebrates. This is one of the most threatened habitats in the world.

Develop air quality standards and a strategy for monitoring emissions.

Make the rare best practice in pursuing criminal and civil cases against polluters and others damaging the environment normal practice.

Develop and implement a legislative framework for land-based pollutant sources.

Develop and implement an environmental adaptation to climate change plan.

Explorations are needed to re-establish the work on trails, visitors centre, facilities for visiting scientists, facilities for local schools, training of local personnel and other material developed by UKOTCF and TCNT, but not maintained by local partners .

Development of further modules of *Wonderful Water*.

Find resources to expand TCI Environmental Club.

Restore TC National Museum botanic garden. Replace the fruit trees that were lost. Obtain funding to put up additional signage in the botanical garden.

Make environmental curriculum mandatory in the public and private schools at all levels.

Strengthen agricultural legislation to protect local crop varieties.

Encourage commercial ventures for development of landscaping applications for native floral species.

Develop and implement sustainable policy to encourage commercial aquaculture.

Update policies to facilitate the management of restricted fund projects.

Follow-up conclusions from November 2014 *Greening the Economy* workshop, including:

- Increasing stakeholder participation and community involvement to influence key decisions

- Embedding and establishing a green economy/ sustainability ethos in government and across sectors

- Staying engaged and drawing in others to maintain momentum

- Developing a new environmental professional and independent NGO.

# Cayman Islands

## ***Conservation Law and expansion of marine and terrestrial protected areas***

The National Conservation Council was established by and to facilitate the goals of the National Conservation Law. Many of the activities carried out under the Law – issuing permits, species protection rules, national parks and other protected areas - will be conducted under the auspices, direction or permission of the National Conservation Council.

There are tremendous pressures on the natural environment in Cayman. The very existence of the Council is an achievement as it represents the interests of the natural environment.

The expansion of current protected areas to cover 40-50% of Cayman's marine habitats has been put forward by the Department of Environment to the National Conservation Council and a public consultation has been conducted. In the terrestrial environment, protected areas have been established for prime habitat for the blue iguana, which has (as well as enormous efforts by dedicated conservationists) seen its IUCN status go from Critically Endangered to Endangered.

## **Protected Areas**

A review of the Marine Parks System has been completed and an enhanced system of marine parks has been developed which, if approved, will put between 40 and 50% of Cayman's shelf area under protection in 'no-take' reserves. The proposals for an enhanced system of marine parks went out for another round of public consultation which ended on 18 December 2015. The DoE amended its proposals based on public input and these amended proposals were approved by the NCC for onward transmission to Cabinet who have the final decision to approve them.

Expansion of Salinas reserve and Colliers Wilderness Reserve key habitat for Blue Iguanas.

The National Trust lands, in addition to the Cayman Islands Government's Animal Sanctuaries, bring terrestrial protection to approximately 5% of the total land mass including the purchase of one of the few remaining wetlands in Cayman Brac, The Marshes, which consists of 10 acres of wetland on the south side of Cayman Brac.

## **Species Protection**

In 2013, the National Conservation Law was passed. Under Schedule 1 which lists all protected species, conservation plans are required.

Through the National Biodiversity Action Plan, Species Action Plans have been produced for 42 species and Habitat Action Plans have been produced for marine, shoreline and terrestrial habitats.

There has been a change in status for several species:

- In October 2012, the IUCN status for the Cayman blue iguana *Cyclura lewisi* was improved from Critically Endangered to Endangered, thanks to the efforts of the Blue Iguana Recovery Programme.
- The brown bat is present in 2 sub-species. Based upon smaller size and darker colour fur, Grand Cayman brown bat is considered to be an endemic sub-species but has not yet been named.
- A paper published in the Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club journal has proposed that the bullfinch native to Grand Cayman and Cuba, be



*Grand Cayman blue iguana (F.J. Burton, Blue Iguana Recovery Programme)*

recognised as 2 endemic species (The Cuban bullfinch on Cuba and Taylor's bullfinch *Melopyrrha taylori* on Grand Cayman).

**Stingray Legislation:** In 2012 the Marine Conservation Law was amended to provide total protection for three species of elasmobranchs deemed locally important for the tourism industry; (i) southern stingray *Dasyatis americana*, (ii) manta ray *Manta birostris*, and (iii) eagle ray *Aetobatus narinari*. Note: the Marine Conservation Law (2013 revision) is repealed under the National Conservation Law.

The Central Caribbean Marine Institute (CCMI) and DoE established a pilot coral nursery in 2012, the management of which served as the basis for the Coral Nursery Policy. Installation of coral nurseries and subsequent out-planting to natural reefs will help propagate and restore the endangered staghorn

*Acropora cervicornis* and elkhorn *A. palmata* corals.

### Monitoring and Baseline data

The DoE has monitoring programmes in place and these are widely reported. Data are used to support legislative and policy recommendations.

The first step in the development of the National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) for the Cayman Islands was the gathering together of existing information on the island's species and habitats, towards establishing baseline information on the status of the country's biodiversity, and determining key areas requiring action.

The National Trust of the Cayman Islands operates the Cayman Islands only herbarium, available internationally in digital form online. It also maintains an insectarium that includes both historic and recent collections.

Botanists have catalogued most of the wild plants of the Cayman Islands.

A Shark and Cetacean Project funded through OTEP investigated both the status and value of sharks and rays (elasmobranchs), and of whales and dolphins (cetaceans) in Cayman waters. Information outlining the results was produced for the public.

Field research (including tracking movements), captive breeding, public education, habitat protection and reintroductions continue through *Blue Iguana Recovery Programme*.

Triennial censuses of parrots are carried out on both Grand Cayman *Amazona leucocephala caymanensis* and Cayman Brac *Amazona leucocephala hesternae* Grand Cayman parrot by the National Trust with the help of Cayman Islands Bird Club. Both populations, which are endemic subspecies, appear to be stable for the time being.

A marine turtle monitoring programme has been carried out since 1998. The DoE also monitors and manages one of the largest populations of spawning Nassau groupers *Epinephelus striatus* remaining in the Caribbean.

Queen Conch *Strombus gigas* populations are monitored.

CCMI maintains a Coral Reef Early Warning System (CREWS) buoy in Little Cayman, one of four in the Caribbean which monitors environmental conditions which may cause wide-scale coral bleaching and issues alerts to the scientific community. CCMI also conducts field research related to biodiversity and conservation, shares its results with DoE, publishes in peer-reviewed journals, presents at scientific conferences, and disseminates its work to the general public through its outreach and education programs.

### Invasive Species

Invasive Coastal Plants have a Habitat Action Plan.

The RSPB study *Eradication of invasive alien vertebrates in the UK Overseas Territories*, provided one strategic assessment to rank all of the UKOTs' islands according to the greatest biodiversity benefit resulting from technically feasible invasive vertebrate eradications (IAV). In the study, Cayman Brac was ranked 3rd, Grand Cayman 5th and Little Cayman 6th for Potential Conservation Value. For Actual Conservation Value, Little Cayman was ranked 3rd out of the top 25 islands for IAV eradication. Key IAV species on Little Cayman are the feral cat, dog, black rat, and green iguana. Note that this project does not list all current key IAV species, e.g. it does not include lionfish.

There is a Species Action Plan for lionfish. Various lionfish control efforts have been put in place, e.g. the DoE is continuing work with the Reef Environmental

Education Foundation (REEF) to develop more effective methods of control.

There are threats to native species from green iguanas and lionfish. Additional non-natives include red corn snake, Brazilian pepper and Lobate Lac scale-insect.

### Planning, EIA and Legislation

Section 43 under the NCL outlines the framework regarding EIA procedures. The National Conservation Council may require an environmental impact assessment to be carried out for a proposed action. Section 43 also states that all documents relating to an environmental impact assessment shall be available for public inspection and review. Regarding EIA, the DoE would not have control over the EIA process. However, they have produced a standard recommendation document based on currently recommended EIA processes.

There is the continued use and development of environmentally relevant GIS layers for the review of planning applications.

The NCL promotes a more open and transparent decision making process, e.g. the National Conservation Council shall meet in a place open to the public, adopted conservation plans will be published in the Gazette, etc. The public will be invited also to contribute to policy development. For example, before submitting a recommendation to the Cabinet to designate a protected area, the Council shall publish a notice of the proposal in at least two issues of a public newspaper in the Islands in each of two consecutive weeks, and take into account any written objection or representation. The Government's national environmental policy will also take into account the need to simplify and streamline decision-making procedures and to make them comprehensible and, whenever possible, open to the public.

## Pollution

The Port Authority has a Zero Discharge Policy for all shipping. There is a Water Quality Monitoring Programme for North Sound and George Town Harbour.

Public moorings are located around each of the Islands to reduce anchor damage to coral. It is an offence to anchor so as to damage coral anywhere in Cayman waters.

There have been several instances in the last few years of yachts anchoring outside of designated zones, for which action has been taken.

## Climate-change, Renewable Energy and Waste Management

Aluminium recycling is available in the Cayman Islands. Cayman BECOME supports this through their Corporate Green Team Network (CGTN) which have been recycling cans within their businesses.

A paper has been completed which formed the basis for the development of a draft Climate Policy by the joint public/private sector Climate Change Working Group.

Renewable energy components and materials remain “duty-free” as an incentive for private and commercial uptake of renewable energy technology. A National Energy Policy has been developed, one goal of which is to increase environmental sustainability. The draft Energy Policy (2013) is being revised and a committee has recently been established to drive this forward.

Following discussions with Cayman Islands Government and power provider Caribbean Utilities Company Ltd, a private company, OTEC International, is set to commence an EIA for a project that proposes the phased implementation of 25mW of power, produced through ocean thermal energy conversion technology. The proposed first phase is a 6.25 mW floating power platform with an anticipated operational

date of 2017.

The major supermarkets in the Cayman Islands are working with the Corporate Green Team Network to reduce single-use plastic bag waste by gradually replacing single-use plastic bags with biodegradable alternatives, and at the same time supporting the Network in their campaign to encourage the community to bring their own reusable bags when they shop.

## Environmental Education

Work funded by grants from Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund and Deutsche Offshore (Cayman) includes the development of a series of school curriculum modules surrounding the blue iguana. These will illustrate concepts of endangerment, extinction and conservation management. The production of a professional quality documentary film about the blue iguana, is also well on its way to completion.

The National Trust has provided teacher resources tailored to the National Curriculum, e.g. “National Symbols” and “Mangroves” education packs, which together with Department of Environment’s “Coral Reefs” resources, now make up a substantial resource set for local teachers.

DoE and National Trust public education programmes include DoE local TV network ‘Environment Break’, school visits, targeted campaigns, social media, websites and newsletters. There is ongoing public education surrounding the red lionfish, as well as the Grouper Moon project, sharks, and stingrays.

The National Trust’s Heritage Heroes Youth Conservation Club (sponsored by PwC) teaches students the importance of protecting the natural environment, history and culture of the Cayman Islands.

The Ramsar approach to ‘Wise Use’ in the case of Little Cayman’s Booby Pond and Rookery includes

facilitating visitor access at selected areas in the form of observation towers on the pond’s periphery for people to watch birds come in to roost.

The National Trust runs a Summer Camp which includes activities to expand the camper’s knowledge of Cayman’s natural and cultural heritage. Thanks to a new collaboration with the DoE, two valuable educational components were added to the 2014 programme. Campers were taught the importance of conducting reef surveys and were given the opportunity to survey a Marine Park. The DoE also invited campers to observe and record information about a recently hatched turtle nest.

CCMI offers 3-day Marine Ecology Courses to grades 4-12 whereby Caymanian students stay at the field station on Little Cayman and learn about the environment. CCMI also runs a week-long Caribbean Marine Ecology Camp for teens and a Young Environmental Leadership Course (Year 11) for students who may pursue careers in water-sports, tourism, or other marine- and environment-based jobs. CCMI has citizen science programs through Earthwatch whereby the general public can participate in research activities related to coral reef ecosystems.

Strong elements of the EU-supported (and UKOTCF-facilitated) MPASSE project (*Management of Protected Areas to Support Sustainable Economies*) were concerned with environmental education.

## International Agreements

The NCL 2013 is stated as being “a law to give effect to the provisions of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region; to give effect to related provisions of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as

waterfowl habitat, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Global Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change”. Cayman is included in UK’s ratification of these and also included in the UK’s ratification of CITES.

### Stakeholder Stewardship

The Governor’s Conservation Awards (started in 2012) include a Corporate Conservation Award and a Tourism Conservation Award.

The DoE, working with interested members of the private sector, formed the Corporate Green Team Network in 2009. Together they started the Cayman BECOME initiative, encouraging Cayman to become more environmentally aware both corporately and individually. Cayman BECOME promotes a “green” lifestyle and partnerships with the Corporate Green Team Network (CGTN) and their many initiatives, which include becoming a ‘smarter consumer’, ‘eco-friendly’, and becoming ‘green’.

The Cayman SeaSense is a sustainable seafood education programme for helping restaurants and their customers make informed seafood choices that are positive for the environment. The project helps local chefs and restaurant owners reduce the number of non-sustainable food items on the menu.

CCMI is sharing the lessons learned from the pilot programme with the five dive operators who have been granted provisional approval to install nurseries on Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac. Installation of coral nurseries and subsequent out-planting to natural reefs will help propagate and restore the endangered staghorn *Acropora cervicornis* and elkhorn *A. palmata* corals.

### Still to do

Set up system to monitor whether National Conservation Law (2013) is being adhered to.

Monitor where money from the Environmental Protection Fund is going.

Revise the National Sustainable Development Framework and have Government endorse it.

Revise the Development Plan for Grand Cayman and create Development Plans for the Sister Islands.

Set up system to monitor whether National Environmental Framework Policy (2002) is being adhered to.

Set up system to ensure that environmental strategies under Vision 2008 are adhered to.

Commence Parts 5 and 7 of the NCL.

Designate Barkers area as a National Park.

Continue acquiring environmentally-important areas of land in Reserves.

Develop further invasive Species Action Plans based on priorities that have been identified.

Implement the Endangered Species Trade and Transport Law (2004).

Need project to investigate further the feasibility of eradicating key IAV species on Little Cayman.

IAV control programmes for the Cayman Islands where complete eradication is unfeasible, e.g. Cayman Brac and Grand Cayman.

Further research into impact of invasive green iguanas on native biodiversity and prevent further establishment on Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

Research into impact of red corn-snakes on native fauna and programme to prevent further spread.

Research into Brazilian pepper and programme to

prevent further spread.

Enact legislation to prevent de-designation of Animal Sanctuaries.

Achieve Ramsar designation for the proposed sites.

Approve enhanced system of marine parks.

Complete management plans for each protected area.

Complete conservation plans for each protected species whose range includes the Cayman Islands.

Designate further protected areas according to National Trust Report that was carried out and which investigated potential protected areas in the Cayman Islands.

Adopt Climate-Change Policy.

Finish revising and adopt the draft Energy Policy (2013).

Produce framework to monitor whether National Energy Policy is being adhered to.

Framework to monitor whether EIA procedures outlined under the National Conservation Law are being adhered to.

Complete school curriculum modules and documentary about blue iguana.

Keep extending educational resources for schools-design new education packs etc.

Implement more environmental awareness-raising activities for adults.

Monitor fish overspill from MPAs.

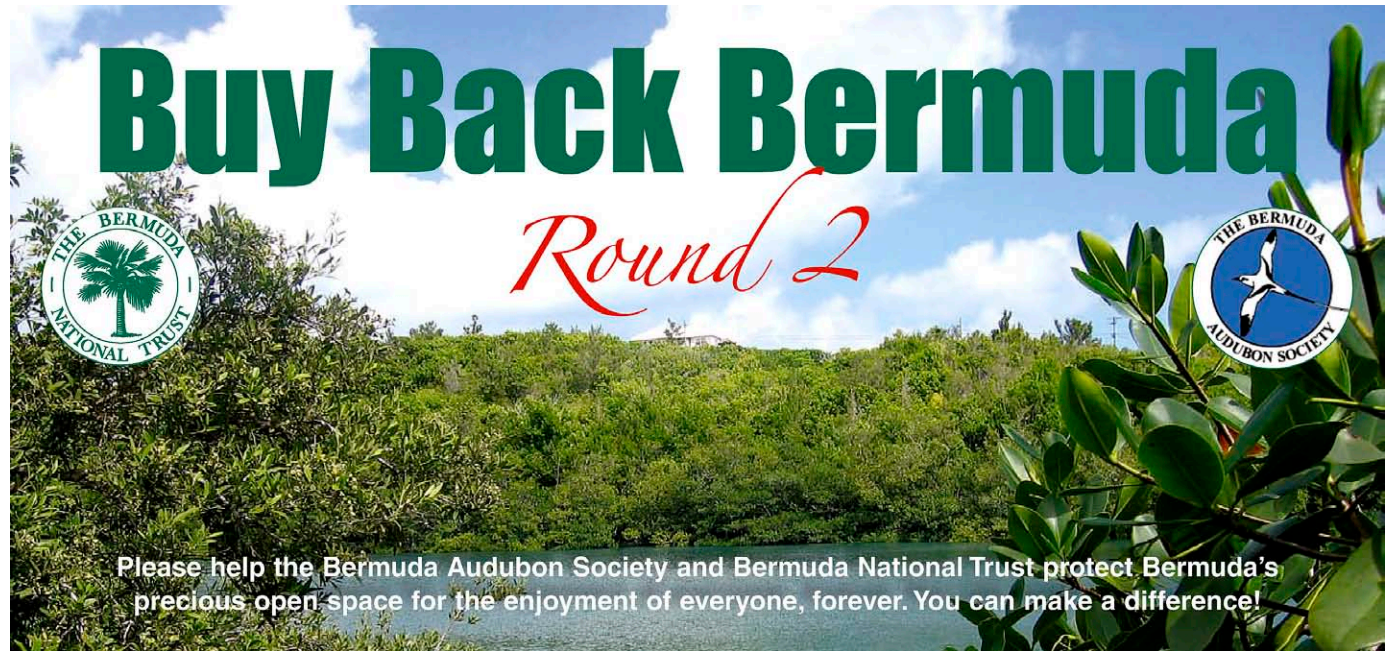
# Bermuda

## Protected Areas

### *Champions of the environment: Ombudsman & Buy Back Bermuda*

*Buy Back Bermuda* was envisaged as a way of ensuring green spaces, particularly wetland habitat, could be protected in perpetuity for the people of Bermuda as places to educate and enjoy the outdoors. *Buy Back Bermuda* is a community-wide fundraising campaign to purchase and save open space in Bermuda. A joint initiative of the Bermuda National Trust and the Bermuda Audubon Society, it has raised \$4.2 million since the beginning of the campaign and is ensuring the conservation of 14 acres of open space in total. This includes Somerset Long Bay Nature Reserve (opened in 2007), Vesey Nature Reserve in Southampton (2007) and Eve's Pond, Hamilton Parish (2012).

In 2010, the Bermuda Government granted a Special Development Order for development at Tucker's Point, a protected woodland and open space of cultural and historical interest, saying that it was in the national interest as the resort is important to Bermuda's tourism product. In 2011, The Bermuda Ombudsman published a report, which looked at the legal status of the Environment Charters. The report states that, by signing the Environment Charters in 2001, Bermuda is legally obliged to conduct Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), with public consultation, prior to approving developments that are likely to have an adverse impact on the environment. Furthermore, Bermuda's obligations are also reinforced by other commitments made under the UK Environment Charter and Rio Declaration, responsibilities imposed by the Convention on Biological Diversity, common law doctrine of legitimate expectation, recent case-law and international best practices.



*Buy Back Bermuda poster – Bermuda National Trust and Bermuda Audubon Society*

Following several challenges from Bermuda Government and responses by the Ombudsman, the Supreme Court of Bermuda, ruled that domestic legislation and policies should be consistent with treaty obligations and general international law. Accordingly, future Development Plans should abandon the notion of discretionary rather than mandatory EIA. No reasons had been advanced to depart from general international law, Charter obligations and global best practice.

At present Bermuda has no marine parks under the Parks Act, but this is set to happen in an upcoming revision.

In 2013, a consultation document produced by the Ministry of Environment and Planning *Bermuda's Exclusive Economic Zone and its Future (2013)*, sought residents' views on the possibility of creating a large

marine reserve in offshore waters around Bermuda. This document outlined the threats to the Sargasso Sea, e.g. the impacts of fishing and over-fishing. The consultation resulted in significant participation from the public who expressed support for establishing a marine reserve as well as strong support for more information that explored and evaluated the economic potential of various proposals. Interests stretched from "protect and preserve" as much of the asset as practical to "fully explore" the commercial value of the resources within the EEZ.

Currently the four major options available for Bermuda's consideration on the EEZ's future are: (i) establish a large no-take marine reserve in about 80% of the EEZ; (ii) pursue an offshore commercial fishery; (iii) explore the seabed for precious minerals; and (iv) extract precious minerals from the seabed. However, there are no sound economic profiles available for

any of these options and thus the evidence base for future decision on any of them does not exist. A comprehensive economic analysis of each should be the next step and the outcome of that work should form the basis of the second phase of stakeholder consultation.

On 11 March 2014, Governments from across the world travelled to Bermuda to sign the Hamilton Declaration on the Collaboration for the Conservation of the Sargasso Sea. The March Meeting was spearheaded by the Government of Bermuda, which leads the Sargasso Sea Alliance. It is a non-binding political statement that indicates signatories' interest in voluntarily collaborating on efforts to conserve the Sargasso Sea.

The Sargasso Sea Alliance (SSA) was founded in 2010. It is led by the Government of Bermuda and aims to find protection measures for this open ocean ecosystem through the bodies which already have regulatory authority for areas beyond national jurisdiction. These bodies include the International Seabed Authority, International Maritime Organization, the regional fisheries bodies and the Convention on Migratory Species.

Several Ramsar Sites have been designated and more proposed.

## Species Conservation

The Protected Species Act 2003 provides for the protection and recovery of threatened species. There has since been Protected Species Orders 2012 and 2016. The Protected Species Act gives the power to make orders declaring any species of plant or animal to be a protected species, based on the IUCN Red List classifications. It also provides for review of classifications. In 2015, the new Protected Species Order proposed to add the following as protected species: Kemp Ridley turtle *Lepidochelys kempii* (N)(CR) and Bermuda land snail *Poecilozonites*

*bermudensis* (E)(CR) as well as some other additions and reclassifications.

A management plan has been produced for Bermuda's resident green *Chelonia mydas* and hawksbill *Eretmochelys imbricata* sea turtles.

There are additional recovery and management plans which have been published for the following, as well as two that are in final draft versions:

- Management Plan for Bermuda's Critically Endangered Cave Fauna
- Diamondback Terrapin *Malaclemys terrapin* Recovery Plan
- Killifish *Fundulus bermudae* Recovery Plan
- Bermuda Land Snail *Poecilozonites circumfirmatus* Recovery Plan
- Fern Recovery Plan (six fern species included Governor Laffan's fern *Diplazium laffanianum*, Bermuda shield fern *Goniopteris bermudiana*, Bermuda cave fern *Ctenitis sloanei*, long spleenwort *Asplenium heterochroum*, toothed spleenwort *Asplenium dentatum*, ten-day or leatherleaf fern *Rumohra adiantiformis*)
- Skink *Plestiodon longirostris* Recovery Plan
- Flowering Plants Recovery Plan
- Queen Conch *Strombus gigas* Recovery Plan
- Cahow *Pterodroma cahow* Recovery Plan
- Yellow Wood *Zanthoxylum flavum* Recovery Plan (draft)
- Seahorse Recovery Plan (draft) (2 species longsnout seahorse *Hippocampus reidi* and lined seahorse *H. erectus*; 1 other presumed locally extinct).

## Monitoring and Baseline data

There is a long-term *Cahow Recovery Programme* for the critically endangered cahow.

Following the natural re-colonisation of Southampton Island by the cahow (after assisted recolonisation of Nonsuch Island), future plans for the newly established colony include monitoring and attempts to catch and band the adult cahows nesting there. New artificial nest-burrows were also installed close to the existing nest-sites.

The primary goal of the *Bermuda Benthic Habitat Mapping, Monitoring and Assessment Programme* (BMMAP) is to obtain data that allow the recognition of, and possible causal association of, any ongoing changes in the benthic environment. Approximately 170 sites across the Bermuda Platform will be surveyed each summer for 5 years and then, in Year 6, sites from year 1 will be re-surveyed. Initial surveys were conducted in 2006, 2007 and 2008 and then the sites were resurveyed in 2012, 2013 and 2014. The results from the initial surveys have been published. The project allows the relative suitability of Bermuda's coastal areas for marinas, in terms of benthic composition and diversity, to be determined.

Sea-grass monitoring studies are being carried out. This involves a quarterly programme at 17 permanent sites. A study was also carried out with a focus on the damaging effects that old chain moorings could have on sea-grass growth.

A lot of ground work has been done on collecting data during the past decade, especially for endemic and native species (e.g. skink, killifishes, diamondback terrapin, sea turtles, land snails, marine snails, cahow, tropic-bird). Gathering baseline data is usually included in protected species recovery plans – however this is narrowly focused on one or just a few species (e.g. mapping of endemic plants has been ongoing

since 2013). Gathering of baseline data, like species lists, is also called for in some of the nature reserve management plans – but again, narrowly focused on one site.

Bermuda is in the process of making the biodiversity database of the Natural History Museum publically accessible through an online web portal.

### **Invasive Species**

Currently, there is no legislation to deal with IAS once they have made it on to the island.

There are various on-going invasive species management programmes:

- Invasive bird control for feral pigeons, chickens and crows.
- Trapping of red-eared slider terrapins.
- Culling of lionfish. As the numbers of lionfish are growing, a new campaign has been set up which uses lionfish as a food fish. Note that this is more of a recreational fishery rather than a commercial one. The campaign licenses people to spear lionfish for their own use, and there is presently a pilot programme in which a limited number of recreational lionfish cullers have been permitted to sell their catch to restaurants and foodmarkets. The fish vendors have been selling lionfish as they get it from the cullers; typically as a ‘special of the day’. The Bermuda Zoological Society was also awarded a Darwin Plus grant for a Bermuda Invasive Lionfish Control Initiative.
- The Vector Control section of the Department of Environmental Health undertakes control of mosquitoes and rats.
- The Department of Conservation Services controls rats in critical habitats, such as the cahow nesting islands.

- Invasive plants are continuously removed from Nature Reserves by the Terrestrial Conservation Crew, within the Department of Conservation Services.
- There is a Feral Chicken Management Plan 2013

### **Planning, EIA and Legislation**

There is an obligation to conduct EIAs for development proposals that are “major” or “likely to have significant adverse effect on the environment”. Bermuda has an international treaty obligation through the Environment Charters to require EIA for major development projects. Furthermore, EIA is now general international law. Domestic legislation (such as the 2008 Bermuda Plan) must therefore be consistent with these two sources of international legal obligations to require EIA. Significant changes were made following challenges to the Tucker’s Point Special Development Order. It is at this point that it was decided that the Bermuda Environment Charter was a bilateral agreement creating an international legal obligation on the part of Bermuda. As well as the Bermuda Plan 2008, a City of Hamilton Plan 2001 was produced through a consultative process.

Special Development Orders also have no EIA requirement and substitute the Minister’s discretion for compliance with the Bermuda Plan. Special Development Orders do not require public notice/ allow appeals (other than judicial).

*A Bermuda Marine Enhancement Structure Policy: Position Statement and Evaluation Guidelines* document was produced in February 2014. Its purpose is to guide the evaluation of marine habitat enhancement structure proposals, so that any such structure will enhance marine resources and recreational uses of Bermuda’s platform and surrounding seamounts, without adversely affecting natural resources or impeding other beneficial uses. This policy is relevant

to all seamounts within the 200nm limit of Bermuda’s EEZ. The socio-economic and environmental costs are considered for proposals for marine habitat enhancement structures. Examples of the costs considered are: the primary objectives of the proposal including the target species for the habitat enhancement structure, site survey of proposed site including ecological communities and processes, biodiversity and threatened species and an environmental management plan that addresses environmental risk assessment, stakeholder needs, deployment and potential for decommissioning.

Bermuda has Fisheries Regulations 2010.

The Protected Species Act includes protection for endangered species and their habitats. Recovery or Management Plans need to be prepared for species listed under this Act, and a number of these have been done since 2007. The last update to this Act was in 2016, which included a review of the species list.

Environmental legislation in Bermuda allows the use of private acts to foster conservation of privately held land “in trust” for use by future Bermudians. The main examples of this form of legislative tool are the Walsingham Trust Act, the Bermuda Audubon Society Act, the Heydon Trust Act, and the Bermuda National Trust Act. Other than the Bermuda Government, the Bermuda National Trust is the largest owner of land and open spaces in the territory. This demonstrates the success of this conservation mechanism. Between them, the Bermuda Government, the Bermuda National Trust and the Bermuda Audubon Society are the principal nature reserve owners on the island.

### **Pollution**

The Water Resource Act 1975 prohibits the interference or pollution of any public freshwater or seawater body, with penalties of up to \$10,000 for infractions.



The Marine and Ports Authority (Berthing & Anchoring) Regulations 1967 prohibits the depositing or throwing of any ballast, rubbish or filthy water into waters of the harbour or near to the foreshore and the building of any wharf, pier, jetty or other structure below the high water mark of the harbours of Bermuda without permission of the Authority

After some well-publicised incidents of grease balls on the South Shore beaches summer 2014, the procedures for dealing with grease from restaurants and other businesses in the City have been reviewed. The roles and responsibilities with national government and city government are being ironed out. The Department of Health now has a rigorous beach monitoring programme (they had one before, but it has been strengthened).

There was a mock oil spill exercise in 2013 which was very useful for flagging areas where training and resources were needed.

### **Climate-change, Renewable Energy and Waste Management**

Waste is incinerated now and the former landfill site at Pembroke Marsh is used for composting horticultural waste.

Sustainability and sustainable consumption are ideas that have become more widely acknowledged in the last 5 years. Government now has a Sustainable Development Unit within the Cabinet Office and there is an NGO, Greenrock, which is very active in promoting sustainable lifestyles (e.g. reduction in water, electricity use, reducing plastic waste etc.).

### **Environmental Education**

Despite the lack of capacity, the Bermuda Audubon Society offers a wide range of educational programmes. Outreach to students includes an annual natural history

camp (run jointly by BAS and BZS), guided field-trips, school talks, art competitions and bird nest-box construction. A varied programme of events is offered to members and the general public, including lectures, workshops for teachers, field-trips, and introductory bird-watching courses.

Bermuda Reef Application (or App) is a guide to the marine habitats and species of Bermuda's reefs. The Bermuda Audubon Society has also encouraged citizen science through eBird which records the bird observations of participants.

Bermuda Zoological Society has various camps for different age groups based at the Aquarium from June to the end of August, in addition to a scholarship for environmental science.

Amongst other environmental education activities, the Bermuda National Trust delivers a curriculum-linked education programme to all schools in Bermuda for teachers and students, focused on science concepts and ways to care for the environment.

The international programme of the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), Eco-schools, has the aim of empowering students to be the change needed for a sustainable world, through engaging them in fun, action-oriented learning. Greenrock is the FEE representative in Bermuda, therefore offering local schools the opportunity to become Eco-schools. Each school follows a seven step change process and empowers their students to lead processes and actions where they can.

### **International Agreements**

Bermuda is included in the UK's ratification to the Convention on Migratory Species, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and CITES.

CITES is enacted locally by the Endangered Animal and

Plants Act 2006. This is currently being revised to meet obligations more effectively.

Bermuda is a member (and leading proponent) of the Hamilton Declaration on the Collaboration for the Conservation of the Sargasso Sea. Bermuda is also in the process of becoming a signatory of IAC (the Inter-American Convention for the Conservation and Protection of Sea Turtles).

Bermuda had the MOU on sharks extended to them in June 2012.

### **Stakeholder Stewardship**

*Buy Back Bermuda*, the joint initiative between the National Trust and Audubon Society, raises funds to 'buy back' land to turn into nature reserves.

Opportunities are offered to volunteer on nature reserves and to participate in citizen-science projects through the work of the Bermuda Audubon Society.

### **Economic Value of Sustainable Use**

A study to estimate the total economic value of Bermuda's coral reefs was carried out in 2010. This used a method developed by the Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM) of the Vrije University, Amsterdam.

### **Still to do**

Update Bermuda Strategy and Biodiversity Action Plan 2003. Provide framework for monitoring implementation of the plan.

Prepare recovery/management plans for species listed under the 2003 Protected Species Act.

Complete draft recovery plans.

Continue identifying species in peril.

Grant marine parks protection under the National Parks Act.

Address legislation to deal with IAS once on Bermuda.

Develop Species Action Plans for invasive species that have been identified as an issue.

Publish management plans for pigeon and crow.

Research the impact of the introduction of red-eared sliders on other pond species.

Designate other Ramsar Sites. The Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) was completed for the Castle Harbour Islands site in August 2015. Designation is not going ahead at this time for several reasons, but it will be easy to pick this up in the future, as the proposal is done.

Carry out further research into the possibility of creating a large marine reserve in offshore waters around Bermuda.

Improve EIA and SEA legislation to international best practice.

Require Special Development Orders to give public notice/ allow appeals.

In the Bermuda Strategy and Biodiversity Action Plan, provide more incentives aimed at biodiversity, and identify and remove any harmful ones.

Regulations need to be written for the Pesticide Safety Act 2009.

The threat of golf courses to water-lenses below the surface needs to be assessed.

Carry out disaster risk assessment and implement a disaster management framework to address erosion caused through tropical storms and storm surges.

Implement a Waste Management Strategy/Action Plan.

Expand lionfish food campaign and Bermuda Invasive Lionfish Control Initiative.

Include considerations of the environment in agricultural and/or forestry policy/legislation in more detail.

Join UK's ratification of CBD. Public consultation is needed to determine whether this is desired.

Finish revising the Endangered Animal and Plants Act 2006.

Carry out further baseline data studies at a wider level than individual/a few species or individual sites (e.g. ecosystem level such as the benthic habitat mapping project).

# Ascension Island

## Protected Areas

The National Protected Areas Order 2014, created seven new protected areas so as to conserve Ascension's wild and plant life, including the Island's endemic species. The six new Nature Reserves and one new Sanctuary, in addition to Green Mountain National Park, mean that 20% of Ascension's land is protected by measures for mitigating threats to vulnerable species.

Ascension Island does not have any specific marine protected areas, although approximately 0.45 km<sup>2</sup> of sandy, sublittoral habitat adjacent to major sea turtle nesting beaches are included in nature reserves designated under the National Protected Areas Order 2014 and National Protected Areas Regulations 2014.

A proposed Marine Protected Area covers 234,291 km<sup>2</sup>, just over half of its EEZ.

## Species Conservation

In 2015, Ascension published its National Biodiversity Strategy.

There are Species Action Plans for the following:

Plants: Ascension Parsley fern *Anogramma ascensioni*, *Asplenium ascensionis*, Ascension spurge *Euphorbia organoides*, *Ptisana Purpurascens*, *Pteris adscensionis*, *Sporobolus caespitosus*, *Stenogrammitis ascensionensis*,

Seabirds: Ascension Island frigate-bird *Fregata aquila*, masked booby *Sula dactylatra*, sooty tern *Onychoprion fuscatus*.

Invertebrates: Land crab *Johngarthia lagostoma*, giant pseudoscorpion *Garypus titanius*

Sea Turtle: Green turtle *Chelonia mydas*

Other actions taken to research/protect/conservate species

include: Bryophyte and invertebrate surveys

There are also invasive species and habitat action plans.

## Biodiversity Action Planning

Much of the efforts of the Conservation Department are epitomised in the Island's Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans for endemic species, habitats and invasive species. They have made strides in their work to protect the Island's terrestrial endemic flora and fauna as well as exploring how it can protect its rich marine environment. An example of one species which has an action plan is the Ascension Island parsley fern *Anogramma ascensionis*, thought to be extinct, but which was rediscovered in 2009. It is now protected under the Wildlife Protection Ordinance 2013, which prohibits the damaging, killing or possession of protected species without license. All four known sub-populations are contained

Last updated: 15/3/2015

## Ascension Island Biodiversity Action Plan ASCENSION PARSLEY FERN



### SUMMARY

**Taxonomy:** Kingdom: Plantae; Phylum: Polypodiophyta; Class: Polypodiopsida; Order: Pteridales; Family: Adiantaceae; Species: *Anogramma ascensionis*

**Nativeness:** Endemic to Ascension Island

**Description:** Tiny fern with small parsley-like fronds averaging 3-6 cm in height. Grows on moderately dry to wet banks and outcrops on the exposed south-facing slopes of Green Mountain where it is often associated with the native thalloid liverwort *Plagiochasma rupestre* (see photo).

**IUCN Red List status:** Critically Endangered

**Local trend:** Unknown

**Threats:** The major threat to *An. ascensionis* is competition with invasive plant species; secondary threats include landslips and climate change-induced habitat alteration.

Citation: Ascension Island Government (2015) *Anogramma ascensionis* species action plan. In: *The Ascension Island Biodiversity Action Plan*, Ascension Island Government Conservation Department, Georgetown, Ascension Island.



within Green Mountain National Park designated under the National Protected Areas Order 2014. The National Protected Areas Regulations 2014 restrict all forms of development within the National Park. *In vitro* propagation protocols have been developed at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, with good germination success, sporophyte production and survival rates. A living collection has been established and a stock of spores from individuals is held in cryopreservation at the Conservation Biotechnology Unit. Cultivated plants have been repatriated from Kew to Ascension and some of these have been successfully introduced into wild populations.

This adds to the great success, frequently reported, of the seabird restoration programme, with the re-establishment on the main island of the endemic frigate-bird as well as several other species.

### **Monitoring and Baseline data**

Seabirds: frigate-birds and sooty terns (monitoring of the latter by the Army Ornithological Society).

Reptiles: Green turtle monitoring carried out yearly for each of the main nesting beaches, with a complete census carried out every few years.

Invertebrates: Land crabs

Endemic plants

Marine: Monthly fish surveys

*Ascension Environmental Information Operations Utility Project*: allowed the synthesis of existing information from land jurisdiction, environmental mapping and monitoring, and geological and cultural data, with new land cover data into a single manageable framework. The project acted as a starting point for how spatial data, e.g. collected during the routine monitoring of animal or plant populations are stored, managed, displayed visually and analysed. This is now integrated

with the SAERI / JNCC data management project.

Data to support allocation of a marine protected area is being collected as part of the current *Ascension Island Marine Sustainability* project, which is being led by the AIG Conservation Department with expert input from overseas partners. The purpose of this project is to increase the marine biodiversity knowledge and fisheries science capacity of Ascension.

### **Invasive Species**

Action Plans produced for Mexican thorn (an invasive plant) and black rats, which have assessed threats to particular species through the Biodiversity Action Plan.

Ascension hosted a JNCC-led workshop in August 2015 - *Biosecurity in the South Atlantic UKOTs*. This resulted in the commissioning of a biosecurity review for Ascension Island, which is currently underway.

### **Planning, EIA and Legislation**

The Ascension Island Council is an elected body that guides decision-making and new legislation on Ascension, subject to public consultation. There is a lack of Development Control Framework and no EIA or SEA guidelines in place. In certain limited circumstances, provisions of the National Protected Areas Ordinance might be used, e.g. the Governor may order restrictions on development, deposit or discharge of wastes or harmful matter in any area he/she considers would have a direct/indirect harmful effect on the natural ecology of a protected area or living organism.

There are National Protected Areas Regulations 2014.

The Wildlife Protection Ordinance 2013, prohibits the damaging, killing or possession of protected species without license. The Endangered Species (Ascension) Control Ordinance 1967 was highlighted as inadequate and was updated.

### **Pollution**

While local threats from marine pollution are minimal to sooty terns, sub-toxic levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) have already been detected in the tissues of sooty terns nesting at Ascension Island, demonstrating that even this remote population is not immune from global marine pollution issues.

### **Climate-change, Renewable Energy and Waste Management**

Sustainable waste management systems are being developed and implemented. These will be complimented by adherence to ISO 14001 standards.

Section 41 of the 'Waste Management' section of the MOD Corporate Environmental Protection Manual, states that in addition to the Waste Shipments Regulation and the Transfrontier Shipment of Wastes Regulations, the UK has a statutory document entitled the UK Plan for Shipments of Waste. The Plan sets out Government policy on shipments of waste for disposal to and from the UK and covers the UK Overseas Territories including Ascension Island.

BBC previously transmitted its World Service from Ascension into Africa using electricity provided by a diesel power station. They commissioned AEA Technology to investigate renewable power options at the site. Following the recommendation by AEA Technology for a wind/diesel hybrid scheme, a detailed feasibility study was carried out including EIA. Five turbines on 36 m towers were constructed close to the transmission site. The site now delivers clean renewable energy and significantly reduces the carbon footprint associated with transmission into Africa. Annual carbon emissions have been cut by approximately 3,500 tonnes. Unfortunately, the turbines have become a small but consistent source of seabird mortality (30-40 annually).

## Environmental Education

There is an Education and Visitor Centre in Green Mountain NP.

An educational nature trail was instituted along Elliot's Pass.

Pupils from Year 1 upwards in Two Boats School are represented on the school council and they are able to develop a broad general knowledge of the responsibilities of citizenship, locally, in the UK and internationally. This is supported by the school's good links with the local conservation department.

An international marine turtle internship programme has been set up in order to allow monitoring and conservation goals to be met.

Through the AEIOU Project, portals were made available to the school and for public use as a learning and information resource.

Environmental Education Project: aim was to raise environmental awareness in the Falkland Islands and Ascension. Environmental resources for schools were produced, some focusing on island-specific issues and native wildlife. This project also helped to initiate Ascension Explorers, a summer holiday club for schoolchildren. Also a campaign was launched to encourage local volunteers to take part in wildlife surveys and monitoring. The outputs have been incorporated into the education delivery system in both islands.

The Museum re-opened in 2015 with new displays celebrating Ascension's natural and historical features.

UKOTCF has a Virtual Tour of Ascension on [www.ukotcf.org](http://www.ukotcf.org).

## International Agreements

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is

extended to Ascension. The recently passed Protected Areas Ordinance is in line with the CBD Aichi Targets 2011- 20. Note that Ascension is signed up as the territory of St Helena/ Ascension/ Tristan.

Ascension is included also in UK's ratification of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (although no Wetlands of International Importance have yet been designated), the Convention on Migratory Species (Bonn), and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES, Washington).

## Stakeholder Stewardship

As above, a campaign was launched to encourage local volunteers to take part in wildlife surveys and monitoring. The outputs have been incorporated into the education delivery system in both the Falklands and Ascension.

## Economic Value of Sustainable Use

AIG is looking to encourage a low level of high-end eco-tourism.

## Still to do

Develop an implementation plan for reforming Ascension Island's fishing policies and marine protection legislation. Designate MPA.

Designate a Ramsar Site on Ascension Island (information is available in the 2005 review).

Complete habitat map (due to be completed by end March 2016).

Complete revision of Green Mountain National Park management plan. Complete management plans for new nature reserves/sanctuary.

Further prickly pear and Mexican thorn and rat control.

Plant new trees to replace ageing specimens and increase the area of epiphytic habitat for *Stenogrammitis ascensionensis*.

Prevent seabird mortality from wind turbines.

Exclude Mexican thorn and other woody invasives from traditional sooty tern nesting areas.

Robust biosecurity measures to be implemented following commissioned review (due to be completed April 2016).

Carry out regular monitoring of the diet and fledging success of nesting terns.

Implement key recommendations from reports relating to Ascension Island's inshore fishery.

Prevent over-fishing and preserve foraging associations between tuna and seabirds.

Digitise the bryophyte herbarium and create a field-guide. (The field-guide is currently [2016] with the publishers – will be printed in the next few months.)

Prevent further extraction of sand.

Develop and implement EIA legislation and policy (a priority for 2016).

Complete development and implementation of sustainable waste management systems.

Research:

Potential impacts of climate change.

Invertebrates of Ascension's Montane Mist region.

Impacts of rats on native species and the feasibility and benefits of control.

Determine whether hybridisation is occurring in Ascension spurge *Euphorbia origanoides*.

Reproductive ecology of *Ptisana purpurascens*.

Resolve taxonomic status of *Pteris adscensionis*.

Monitor frigate-bird fledging success; maintain the conditions for the continuing expansion of the mainland frigate-bird nesting colony.

Study impacts of rats on sooty tern breeding success.

Determine abundance and distribution of land crabs and develop robust population monitoring protocols and improve ecological understanding of this species.

Reassess status of the giant pseudoscorpion and composition of the invertebrate community of Boatswain-Bird Island (BBI).

Collect baseline abundance data for invertebrates on BBI. Prevent introduction of non-native predators to BBI.

Continue research into fish mortality events in waters surrounding Ascension.

Research further into physical characteristics of the anchialine system and the physiological tolerances of the species that inhabit it.

Obtain more baseline data and improve monitoring of biomass and fishing mortality of target species for the shallow marine sub-littoral habitat.

# St Helena

St Helena's first comprehensive piece of environmental legislation, the Environmental Protection Ordinance 2016 was brought into force on 29 February 2016. This makes provision for the protection of the environment, including the conservation of biodiversity, the regulation of trade in endangered species and the control of pollution, hazardous substances, litter and waste.

St Helena is currently developing a Biodiversity Strategy/National Biodiversity Action Plan. It also has a *National Environmental Management Plan* (NEMP) that was developed to implement St Helena's 3rd National Goal - 'Effective Management of the Environment', as well as a *Sustainable Development Plan 2014-2017* (SDP).

## Protected Areas

The total land area of St Helena is 121km<sup>2</sup> while the marine environment includes a 200nm EEZ. An MPA is to be designated shortly. Survey work for this is being carried out at present.

In 2012, UK Government placed St Helena on its Tentative World Heritage List for its outstanding natural environment.

A network of 14 'natural' National Conservation Areas has been established. These are believed to equate to approximately 23% of the island.

The National Environmental Management Plan (NEMP) includes Management Plans for the 14 'natural' National Conservation Areas.

The Land Development Control Plan (2012-2022) outlines an area of steep cliffs and sea extending half a kilometre offshore from Long Ledge to Dry Gut Bay as a Marine Biological Reserve (MBR).

The first management plan to be developed was the Peaks National Park Management Development Plan 2013-2023, which is now ready for final approval from the Land Planning and Development Board, after which it will become a legal document. Informal consultation with stakeholders has occurred also for the Sandy Bay National Park and Man and Horse Important Wirebird Area Development Management Plans, and drafts will be available soon. A draft of the Island's Nature Reserve plan has been composed, and consultation will be conducted with key stakeholders shortly.

Principle 2.15 of the Land Development Control Plan states that the development agenda in National Conservation Areas will be led by the Management Plans for the areas concerned. Criteria for NCA development and boundary revision will be included in the development of Management Plans and will form part of the work of the Conservation Areas Working Group under the Environmental Management Directorate.

NEMP includes a Target of creating and implementing a marine management plan. A marine biodiversity and mapping project has been carried out in order to generate a marine management plan which includes long-term monitoring and protected areas.

See above for information regarding St Helena's Environmental Protection Ordinance 2016.

St Helena has 0 designated Ramsar sites, although 3 have been proposed as St Helena meets a wide range of Ramsar criteria, e.g. priority wetland types of wet grasslands and sea-grass beds:

- St Helena Central Peaks (because of cloud forest ecosystem)
- St Helena inshore waters, stacks and cliffs

- Fisher's Valley
- A fourth possible site was identified at Spring Gut – this is under further investigation.

## Species Protection

Of St Helena's 502 unique species, only a fraction had been assessed, resulting in only 26 on the IUCN Red List, despite many needing to be. St Helena submitted some species assessments to IUCN Red List as part of the Darwin- and Buglife-funded *Bugs on the Brink (2012-2016)* project.

Project Manager David Pryce started sorting existing data in order to compile and submit accounts for the 416 known endemic invertebrates on St Helena. Due to the enormity of this task, the assessments were broken down into taxonomic groups and prioritised. As of July 2015, 15 accounts had been submitted and 90 were almost ready for submission. A first estimate indicated that ~83% of St Helena's endemic invertebrates were likely to fall within Threatened IUCN Red List categories ('Vulnerable', 'Endangered', and 'Critically Endangered' categories). Prosperous Bay Plain, an arid area which is where the airport has been built, and an area known as 'the Peaks', and which consists of isolated/fragmented sections of cloud forest, cabbage tree and fern thicket, are two particularly important areas for endemic invertebrates. 119 of the 416 endemic invertebrates are limited to the latter habitat – 26% of the endemic invertebrates on ~0.5km<sup>2</sup>.

During the airport EIA process, three compensatory wirebird habitat areas were restored as part of advance mitigation works. Lessons learnt during the project included working around wirebird nesting seasons, monitoring wirebird activity, and managing actively the site through, e.g. tactics to prevent nesting in places

where construction was taking place, or was due to take place. This is because it is an offence to disturb nesting wirebirds, which on occasion, nested in active construction areas.

The area for the airport site was adapted to reduce impacts on rare lichens and invertebrate species and lichens were successfully translocated.

Various projects have been carried out/ are being carried out for species conservation (in addition to ones mentioned above):

- *Millennium Forest Initiative* has the goal of recreating up to 250 hectares of native forest on degraded wasteland. Since St Helena National Trust (SHNT) took responsibility in 2002, the Trust has coordinated the planting of 10,000 Gumwood trees and other endemic plants, covering 35 hectares of barren eroded ground. Since 2010 the Trust has increased species diversity and is recreating a functional ecosystem in the Millennium Forest. It continues to improve the nursery capacity and engage the community in activities including planting at the Millennium Forest.
- The EMD Terrestrial Conservation Section Species Team runs an endemic plant nursery and is responsible for safeguarding endemic species through wild seed collection, storage and propagation, and planting and maintenance of restoration sites around the island.
- *Supporting critical species recovery and horticultural needs on St Helena* Project- This was a capacity building programme that included specialist technical input from RBG Kew, recruitment of staff, upgrading of the nursery at the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department, and a skills development programme.
- *Mitigation for the impacts on the Wirebird Population on St Helena* project- over 150 hectares

of habitat have been improved. The wirebird population has now increased to nearly 400 birds.

- *Bastard Gumwood Recovery Project*- aims to save the Bastard Gumwood from the brink of extinction.
- Research project to develop propagation techniques for rare threatened endemic ferns on St Helena. A climate-controlled propagation unit was to be set up in the Environmental Management Division nursery for long-term propagation. The project will aim to develop successful propagation protocols for St Helena's 14 native fern species, eleven of which are globally threatened.
- Clutches of turtle eggs incubated in surrogate nests.
- *Conservation of the spiky yellow woodlouse and black cabbage tree woodland on St Helena* project.

Hunting license system has been established.

Draft *Native and Endemic Plant Propagation, Collection and Distribution Policy* enables commercial growing of selected species both for habitat restoration purposes and to increase local awareness and enthusiasm of native flora.

In terms of species status:

- The endemic giant earwig *Labidura herculeana* and ground beetle *Aplothorax burchelli*, are thought to have been driven to extinction.
- She-cabbage *Lachanodes arborea* is extinct in the wild but survives in cultivation.
- Native Madeira storm-petrel *Oceanodroma castro* known to reside on Egg Island, may actually be a separate endemic species of storm-petrel found only on St Helena.
- *Bulbostylis neglecta*, a sedge endemic to St Helena, was rediscovered after having not been seen for 200 years.

- St Helena dragonfly thought to be extinct.
- Basilewsky's crane fly thought to be extinct was rediscovered very recently.

Various projects have been/ are being carried out relating to gathering of knowledge and baseline data. These include (among others):

- The *Enabling the people of St Helena to conserve the St Helena Wirebird Project* undertook research to better understand the wirebird's ecology and assessed the extent of threats to this species and identified and tested solutions to address these.
- Red-listing project is underway to assess species conservation status (Plants).
- Marine baseline survey is underway.
- Buglife has been carrying out a lot of invertebrate research on St Helena and lots of species new to science have been discovered.
- Ornithological surveys on Egg Island are researching population dynamics and behavioural ecology of seabirds.
- Island-wide botanical survey on St Helena is being undertaken through the South Atlantic Invasive Species Project.
- Existing baseline knowledge of invertebrates is being collated and reviewed through the *Laying the foundations for invertebrate conservation* project.

### Monitoring and Baseline data

Long-term monitoring through *Marine Biodiversity and Mapping Project* (Nov 2012-Nov 2014) has expanded fish survey methods to include fish, invertebrates, and habitats.



## Invasive Species

Through the RSPB *South Atlantic Invasive Species Project*, a review of the legislation related to invasive species was carried out for each territory. Capacity was also built within the 5 South Atlantic UKOTs for dealing with adverse impacts of invasive species in the region. However, the extent of invasive issues means that addressing these will require considerable financial and human resources. Following completion of the project, a South Atlantic Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (2010) was produced, which St Helena is signed up to.

RSPB study *Eradication of invasive alien vertebrates in the UK Overseas Territories*, provides one strategic assessment to rank all of the UKOTs' islands according to the greatest biodiversity benefit resulting from technically feasible invasive vertebrate eradications. The numbers of confirmed or suspected invasive alien vertebrate species, by taxonomic order, were calculated for each territory. For St Helena this was: 3 rodents, 1 predatory mammal, 1 ungulate, 1 other mammal, 9 birds, 1 reptile, and 1 amphibian.

A study by CABI for South Atlantic UKOTs identified the highest priority species for which biocontrol was likely to provide a cost-effective and sustainable management option. Preliminary evaluation was carried out for St Helena. Uptake of classical biological control (CBC) measures is provisionally highly recommended for the fast spreading *Asparagus densiflorus* and the scale insect *Pseudococcus viburni* currently threatening the endemic gumwood trees.

The pests and diseases of arable crops in St Helena can be seen in the *Arable and Fruit Pest and Disease Status Review*.

The *Heart Shaped Waterfall – public access and amenities* project involved the clearance and control of invasives from the approach to the heart-shaped

waterfall and the cultivation of endemic plants.

The Pheasant Tail fern control programme involved the clearance of Pheasant Tail fern from priority areas in the Peaks National Park, the development of effective control techniques and the implementation of a public awareness programme.

Culling is used as a method to try to reduce the spread of grazers. There are attempts to do this in Millennium Forest on the northwest of the island.

The Trust currently (2016) carries out pest control (cat-trapping & rodent baiting) at key wirebird sites across the island. It is looking to expand on this. It forms part of a Weeds Management Stakeholder Group under the leadership of ANRD.

SHNT has identified significant invasive species threats to invertebrate fauna through the Darwin/BugLife *Bugs on the Brink* project.

The Trust manages invasive species at all of their restoration sites.

Integrated pest management (IPM) provides an effective framework for pest management on the Island. This is an approach to pest management based on prevention through integration of cultural, biological and chemical methods. A National Pesticide Policy was approved in 2014 with the purpose of providing the basis for promoting effective and sustainable pest, weed and disease management.

Protection against harmful introductions is given by the biosecurity system. In 2014, the Economic Development Committee formally approved the first National Biosecurity Policy for St Helena. An implementation plan is also in place for priority actions to be delivered by responsible agencies.

## Planning, EIA and Legislation

Primary Policy under the Land Development Control

Programme permits development which encourages, maintains, enhances and conserves the natural heritage and does not allow development which affects the natural heritage and does not encourage, maintain, enhance and conserve the natural heritage.

The Land Planning and Development Control Ordinance, 2013: stiffens the link between planning decisions and environmental impact and it places a duty on the Land Development Control Authority to make planning decisions in accordance with the adopted policies of the Land Development Control Plan. The Ordinance includes some improvements in terms of public accountability and strengthens public participation, transparency and access to justice.

One Strategic Objective under the SDP is to mainstream the environment across Government and the private sector while, similarly, an Objective under the NEMP is to 'address the underlying causes of environmental degradation by mainstreaming environment across government and society'.

St Helena pioneered work on wide consultations and what is now sometimes called "mainstreaming" when, in 2004-5, at St Helena's request and with the support of UK Government, UKOTCF facilitated the development of St Helena developing its Strategy to Implement the Environment Charter. This was the first UKOT pilot after the initial example territory. While St Helena has not yet participated in the follow-on JNCC environmental mainstreaming initiative, they are keen to do so.

Litter has been identified as a serious issue and public awareness, regulation and enforcement with respect to marine and terrestrial litter will be an important part of the implementation of the NEMP.

A key work area of the Environmental Risk Management Section of the EMD is Solid Waste Management. In order to determine what waste is being

managed at the landfill site, a compositional analysis called the 'Waste Wheel' is undertaken on a quarterly basis. A solid waste management strategy has also been produced.

St Helena Active Participation in Enterprise (SHAPE) is a social enterprise and a registered Charity founded in 2008, which hopes to reduce the carbon footprint on the island whilst providing meaningful employment for disabled and vulnerable people. The *Building capacity to develop and provide long term sustainability for St Helena's paper and card recycling unit* project aims to increase SHAPE's capability to process a significant percentage of recycled paper and card.

A water resources plan is currently being developed.

The Tourism Strategy is the overarching policy document for the development of tourism and an environmental review of the strategy has been carried out and will be fed into the development of tourism. NEMP identifies the need to consider the carrying capacity of National Conservation Areas and the Island as a whole. The National Trust supports expanding eco-tourism, improving tourism sites, developing 'voluntourism', and creating new attractions.

Through the *Increasing Local Capacity to Conserve St Helena's Threatened Native Biodiversity* project: research on the importance and potential socio-economic value of St Helena's natural resources will be produced and disseminated. The environment is also a key component of the National Economic Development Plan.

The core policy document on St Helena for land development is the *Land Development Control Plan 2012-2022*. This underwent a strategic social and environmental assessment process, and the LDCP therefore provides a policy framework for environmental considerations relating to land planning, which includes an Environmental Impact Assessment

(EIA) process.

Two major developments on the island, including the major investor Shelco, both indicate a wish to abide by 'green' practices, although some other local parties have expressed concerns. An EIA was done (against the reference design) for the airport project. EIA for the airport resulted in an Environmental Statement (ES), detail of which formed the basis of an Airport Environmental Management Plan (EMP). The EMP turns the findings of the EIA into measures that must be carried out by the contractor to avoid, minimise or offset adverse environmental impacts. The EMP was first issued in 2007 and formed part of the Employer's Requirements of the Invitation to Negotiate. It went on to form part of the Employer's Requirements of the contractor, which meant that the contractor, Basil Read, could be forced to comply with everything within the EMP. The EMP therefore had to be consulted and acted upon for the duration of the project. A Contractors Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) was then developed. This is updated biannually and describes how the EMP will be implemented.

A resourced team of environmental staff was required for implementing and monitoring compliance to the EMP and CEMP. The team grew as the realisation of the volume of work progressed. The contractor has a Contractor's Environmental Control Officer (CECO) who ensures on site compliance with, and implementation of the CEMP. The team of the CECO has a range of responsibilities, e.g. environmental monitoring, clearance of invasives, rehabilitation and waste management. An Environmental Manager not present on the island has various responsibilities including overall environmental management and preparation of the annual environmental report.

The project is overseen by the Project Management Unit which includes an Environmental Monitor and Environmental Inspector who check on site CEMP

compliance, and review designs to check that they meet environmental regulations and include environmental mitigation methods as listed in the ES. The Deputy Airport Project Director (Environment and Operations) in SHG is responsible for facilitating delivery of the Project, and in particular the environmental elements. The Chief Environment Officer plays a supporting role to this aspect of the work.

There is a Landscape and Ecological Mitigation Plan (LEMP) for the airport project, in addition to off-island technical support from DFID. Formal meetings are held each week to discuss current and upcoming issues.

Various processes have been used during the airport project to inform different groups of stakeholders regarding issues that affect them. The public is able to raise issues of concern and provide input into decision making where appropriate. The St Helena airport project has its own website which also has a webpage for information regarding public consultations. Regular airport updates were published here and in local newspapers. There were radio talks, Stakeholder Engagement Forums, door-to-door information and letter drops. There is also a Community Liaison Officer employed by the contractor, providing a line of contact for the public.

Conservation bodies (local and international) agreed not to oppose the airport because of the need and lack of alternative. (It is worth noting that they would have opposed development inevitably having such a negative impact almost anywhere in the world; this was on condition that every effort was made by the developers to minimise impact. This meant that plans for reducing impact and mitigating that which took place should have been in place and implemented long before construction work. In fact, the system was not in place until half-way through the construction and local and external experts noted that it remains under-resourced.)

The site of the airport on Prosperous Bay Plain raised

environmental issues. There was inevitably going to be the loss of habitats and species (total land area covered by the project is 200ha) but the project did also act as a catalyst for raising awareness of habitats and species previously not as well studied. Learning about what was present on site and developing mitigation against direct and indirect impacts was a key element of the project, both prior to and during construction. The project also drove the establishment of positive environmental management practices and procedures, e.g. the Environmental Impact Assessment process which is now required in the planning process by law. Following the airport EIA, EIA legislation was drafted and then adopted in 2008. EIA Regulation 2013 guides the process.

EMD set up an environmental hotline for out-of-hours and anonymous reporting.

SHG introduced, from 1 September 2014, a code of practice for public access to SHG information. The Land Planning and Development Control Ordinance (2013) requires that planning decisions and appeal decisions are made in public. NEMP states that all new policies will include public consultation, in line with the established SHG policy development processes. An environmental advisory group was established which brought in national and international expertise.

LDCP states that the development of NCA management plans will be a participatory process with all relevant stakeholders including land owners within the NCA. There will be a public consultation process before NCA management plans are agreed formally.

### ***Airport and baseline data and conservation measures***

In 2016, the first commercial flights will land at the new St Helena airport (see above). From the outset, the site for the airport on Prosperous Bay Plain, an



*Some of St Helena's very special invertebrates (from left): spiky yellow woodlouse – (Ed Thorpe); blushing snail and golden sail spider (Roger Key)*

area of immense ecological value, raised a number of significant environmental issues. Sadly, loss of habitats and species was inevitable. However the opportunity to understand more about what was actually present on the site and designing mitigation to counteract the direct and indirect impacts became a key part of the project under the Landscape and Ecological Mitigation Plan (LEMP), both prior to and throughout the construction. This included: restoration of three compensatory habitat areas for the endemic St Helena wirebird outside of the airport construction footprint, translocation of rare lichens, designs based on reducing the area of development in sensitive habitat, particularly important for unique invertebrate species.

The St Helena National Trust (together with supporting NGO Buglife) are working on a project *Bugs on the Brink* to understand and conserve the Island's unique invertebrate fauna. 502 endemic species are found here, 416 being invertebrates. Part of the project involves assessing each species for entry in to the IUCN Red List of threatened species. To date, 15 are complete and 90 are in development. Long-term conservation planning has taken place with workshops on island and in the UK, and a strategy for invertebrate conservation over the next five years will be launched in early 2016.

### **Pollution**

NEMP states that economic valuation of the environment will be considered as will the 'Polluter Pays' principle.

A pollution incident reporting system has been set up and pollution incidents are being followed up and addressed. Pollution policy is being developed.

NEMP Targets state that atmospheric, noise and light pollution policy will be created and implemented.

Salvage & Marine Operations (S&MO) organisation of Ministry of Defence (MOD) commissioned RPS Consultants Ltd to carry out marine environmental impact research on the wreck of oil tanker *RFA Darkdale*. This came about due to a larger leak of oil which occurred in 2010, which resulted in St Helena's Governor, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office calling for the MOD as the owner of the wreck to take action.

### **Climate-change, Renewable Energy and Waste Management**

More sustainable ways of building homes will be promoted via section 1.4 of the *Laying the foundation*

*for future generations – A housing strategy for St. Helena 2012-2022.*

Reduction in the creation and generation of waste will be encouraged through green guidelines for procurement, as will reduction in carbon footprint. (Support for the latter will also be encouraged through a 'buy local' campaign.). Implementation of these guidelines will contribute to green certification. The St Helena Government Corporate Procurement Strategy contains a section that references sustainability.

St Helena Government and Connect Saint Helena (utility company) are working closely to increase significantly renewable energy supplies with an operational target of 50% by 2017. Wind power currently meets the Island's entire energy demand at times of high production and low consumption and the focus is now on increased solar generation. In July 2014, DFID approved an additional £1m for investing in renewable energy – this will be used for solar panels, estimated to provide 9-10% of the Island's current needs.

An MRes *Carbon Sequestration in Community Forests Project* investigated carbon sequestration of selected endemic tree species, in order to provide a scientific basis to register a carbon off-setting scheme. The project will allow calculations of current and future carbon capacity of restoration sites on the island. This project will enable global businesses and international travellers to offset their carbon footprint by funding tree-planting initiatives on Saint Helena. The MRes is now complete. The Trust is currently working with Tourism on a local volunteer offsetting scheme.

St Helena is developing a climate change policy. The following statement is included in NEMP: Climate Change adaptation and mitigation needs to be considered in all relevant policy, planning and decision-making. There will be a requirement for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and reduction in carbon

footprint where feasible. Baseline data and regular weather monitoring data will need to be collected to feed into the development of the climate change policy.

### **Environmental Education**

The St Helena National Trust carries out a range of education and outreach through the Community Forest Schools Officer and the Invertebrate Education Officer, including a Forest Schools programme.

The Trust – through the *Community Forest Project* – manages monthly community volunteer days and runs school holiday activity days and works with the schools to support endemic mini-forests – called *Kids tree club*.

The Director of Education and Employment Directorate is a member of the National Trust Council.

The Heart Shaped Waterfall public access and amenities project is now complete. St Helena National Trust opened access to the waterfall by creating a new footpath and installing six bridges, viewpoints, walkways and interpretation boards. Endemic plant species, including the rare bastard gumwood, were planted to allow visitors to be able to experience, one day, how the area might have looked to early settlers.

NEMP outlines that working with young people through the Education and Employment directorate will be an important part of the communications and stakeholder engagement strategy, as will collaboration with youth organisations such as New Horizons and the Youth Parliament. The Youth Parliament has coordinated youth input into the NEMP, which includes a summary of youth targets.

St Helena Youth Parliament planned and instigated the *Aluminium Can Recycling Project* although due to funding difficulties the project was later handed over to New Horizons.

An environmental information system is being

established for St Helena.

*Conserving St Helena's Gumwoods* project provided infrastructure and organisational management at two key Gumwood sites to improve education and awareness.

The *Mitigation for the impacts on the Wirebird Population on St Helena* project supported a long-term wirebird conservation and awareness-raising programme within the National Trust.

Biodiversity education requirements were identified through the *Laying the foundations for invertebrate conservation on St Helena* Project.

The *Increasing local capacity to conserve St Helena's threatened native biodiversity* project involved a training programme to increase local capacity and skill base in the restoration and sustainable management of natural resources, restoration of native habitats at High peak and Blue Point, and delivery of an education programme to increase awareness and appreciation of St Helena's natural resources.

There is an annual environment week and annual marine awareness week as well as a St Helena Science seminar. Information is also being made available online on the SHG website. A Conservation Apprentice Scheme is available.

There are currently a small number of environmental courses that are run on the island; these include an Environmental NVQ course provided by the National Trust and the *Introduction to Data Management* course developed by the Environmental Management Directorate.

In July 2013, EMD work experience students undertook black bag litter collection from West Rocks to the bottom of the Run.

The Millennium Forest, managed by the National Trust, is a community initiative, and over the years hundreds

of islanders have planted trees. Visitors and overseas supporters are also able to sponsor a tree, thereby leaving a personal legacy.

The PNP Management Development Plan 2013-2023 states that wherever possible NCA management should be open to other community initiatives such as SHAPE, the Duke of Edinburgh Award and student work experience.

### **International Agreements**

CBD is extended to St Helena, as are the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, CITES, the Convention on Migratory Species, the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT).

### **Economic Value of Sustainable Use**

The St Helena National Trust considers St Helena's Biodiversity to be globally significant and central to the future development of the island's economy. They are currently submitting IUCN Red List Assessments to highlight the Threatened nature of the invertebrate fauna.

### **Still to do:**

Continue implementing robust environment and conservation frameworks as the airport project progresses.

Continue to explore financial incentives for 'going green'.

Produce, approve and implement protected area management plans. Review and update these regularly and set up framework for monitoring whether they are being adhered to. Complete management plan drafts

that have not yet been finished.

Set up the Conservation Areas Working Group if this has not been set up already.

Is the Land Development Control Plan actively followed? If not, when will this be implemented?

Create and implement marine management plan.

Enact National Parks Ordinance.

St Helena does not really implement actively the South Atlantic Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan, but a weeds action group was recently established by ANRD to address this.

Develop a Biological Control Strategy for priority species.

Continue the Peaks National Parks public awareness programme.

Does the Arable and Fruit Pest and Disease Status Review need to be updated?

Develop a culling strategy for grazing invasives – this is needed for rabbits in particular.

Strengthen environmental legislation according to the outcome of the review carried out in 2008.

Designate Marine Protected Area.

Is there a Management Plan for the Marine Biological Reserve?

Designate Ramsar Sites. Find ways of taking this forward (including possible assistance from UKOTCF and others).

Complete investigation of fourth potential Ramsar Site.

Prioritise species for action plan development and develop further action plans.

Monitor implementation of Species Action Plans – is there a framework allowing this to be done effectively?

Complete *Bugs on the Brink* project and continue Red-listing species not already on the IUCN Red List.

Develop habitat action plans for priority ecosystems.

Was the climate controlled propagation unit set up in the Environmental Management Division nursery for long-term propagation?

Enact the draft *Native and Endemic Plant Propagation, Collection and Distribution Policy*.

Develop Freshwater Ecology Management Plan.

Establish carbon off-setting scheme.

Is the Land Planning and Development Control Ordinance 2013, implemented actively?

A key lesson learnt from the airport project is that future EMPs must be clear and unambiguous, with implementable, measurable and auditable actions. Key performance indicators must be included, people responsible must be identified, and the cost of mitigations calculated properly. Once EIA has been carried out and an EMP developed, an environmental team has to be employed for the entirety of a project to guarantee implementation. Have all of the lessons learnt through the airport project been incorporated into EIA legislation and development policy?

Develop strategy for mainstreaming the environment across all sectors.

Raise public awareness regarding litter and recycling.

Complete water resources plan.

Is the environmental review of the Tourism Strategy being fed into tourism development? If not when will it be, e.g. through a sustainable tourism plan which outlines, e.g. carrying capacity for protected areas?

Carry out further research and report as to the socio-economic value of St Helena's natural resources.

Has an environmental advisory group been established

to bring in both national and international expertise?

Has the development of Management Plans for National Conservation Areas included public consultation?

Best practice EIA was not carried out for Bradleys workers camp development. EMD recommendation was that no EIA was required for change of use. This situation should be avoided in the future.

Are sustainable methods of building homes being promoted, e.g. through leaflets, presentations, etc.?

Have green guidelines for procurement been produced?

Have guidelines been produced for reducing carbon footprint?

Has a Strategy for achieving green certification been produced?

Has a Renewable Energy Strategy been produced? Have any solar panels been established?

Does the SHG exploratory pole and line fishing plan include environmental criteria?

Complete review of fisheries policy.

Continue monitoring of marine biodiversity and adapt fisheries policy as required.

Complete environmental review of the National Agriculture Policy and Implementation Strategy.

Complete integration of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets into the NCA management plan process. Incorporate the targets into species and habitat action plans as well.

Is the prevention of marine pollution incorporated into legislation?

Obtain additional resources for the continued monitoring of priority species.

Have the results of the State of the Environment Report been fed into the development of new legislation, management plans, action plans, etc.?

Is the marine sighting scheme being used effectively?

Can more be done to raise awareness of this? Can a similar scheme be established for terrestrial species as well?

Are the species and habitat inventories continuously being updated?

Carry out further research into smaller organisms, e.g. the in-faunal communities of marine and coastal soft sediments.

Is the pollution incident reporting system used?

Complete pollution policy. Incorporate idea of 'Polluter Pays' into pollution policy.

Was Environmental Impact research carried out on the wreck of the oil tanker *RFA Darkdale*? Have the lessons learnt from this incident been incorporated into legislation?

Develop an emergency strategy to deal with future oil/fuel leaks.

Complete Climate Change Policy and enact. Obtain additional resources to carry out research into baseline data and weather monitoring data.

Complete establishment of environmental information system.

Integrate the biodiversity education requirements identified through the *Laying the foundations for invertebrate conservation on St Helena* project into the school syllabus. (This was due to be complete by 31 March 2016. Further educational outreach will be carried out by a newly funded Darwin invertebrate project.)

Provide additional talks and volunteer opportunities for adults to get involved in as well.

# Tristan da Cunha

## Protected Area

Tristan has a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) which sets out the key objectives for biodiversity conservation. Targets have been established in relation to each of these objectives. The BAP 2012-2016 was updated in 2012 and the Targets contained were agreed with the Island Council and Conservation Department. The Conservation Department, Agriculture team, and Fisheries Department have all undertaken work in relation to the implementation of the BAP.

A Marine Management Plan is currently being developed for the Tristan Maritime Zone under an RSPB / Fisheries Department managed Darwin Plus project. The Marine Management Plan will be developed in line with the TdC BAP, Conservation Ordinance and the UKOT regulatory framework. The management plan will be finalised by June 2016.

44% of Tristan's land area has been set aside for conservation.

A 2010 OTEP project allowed for the development of Management Plans for Gough and Inaccessible Islands 2010-2015. These islands are a World Heritage Site. A joint *Gough and Inaccessible Islands World Heritage Site Management Plan April 2010–March 2015* was enacted in 2010.

The four islands, Tristan da Cunha, Nightingale, Inaccessible and Gough are actual or proposed Ramsar Sites, the last mentioned two having been designated already. All four are Important Bird Areas (IBA). Gough Island is also classified as an Endemic Bird Area (EBA), separate to the Northern Islands which together classify as another EBA.

The legislative framework for site protection has robust elements such as a general prohibition on non-residents entering nature reserves without a permit. It is not clear

however, whether new site designations would take place using science-based criteria. The public have a right to comment on proposed declarations of nature reserves.

## Species Protection

Under the Conservation of Native Organisms and Natural Habitats (Tristan da Cunha) Ordinance, 2006, all native organisms are protected species. The Biodiversity Action Plan and Management Plans identify priority species.

All breeding colonies of the northern rockhopper penguin *Eudyptes moseleyi* on the main island, Tristan, have been declared Nature Reserves under the Conservation Ordinance 2006.

There is a fairly robust legislative framework for the protection of native species. This is well complemented by the Biodiversity Action Plan. A Biodiversity Management Planning Project 2010-2012 was carried out.

## Monitoring and Baseline data

When many penguins were oiled following the 2011 shipwreck, the whole island community joined together to save them. The community swimming pool was converted into a rehabilitation centre.

Studies into the breeding biology and ecology of the northern rockhopper penguin *Eudyptes moseleyi* were carried out in 2012/13. These were to continue in 2013/14 so as to inform conservation management for this Endangered species.

Long-line fishing is a major threat to some Procellariiform seabirds in the Territory. Large-scale mortality of Atlantic yellow-nosed albatross *Thalassarche chlororhynchos* and sooty albatross

*Phoebastria fusca* has been recorded off the South American continental shelf near Brazil. Illegal fishing in Tristan EEZ may also contribute significant mortality although this is unquantified.

A Darwin Plus project *Assessing the conservation status of the Atlantic yellow-nosed albatross (2014-2016)* was initiated to determine robust population estimates of the Atlantic yellow-nosed albatross (AYNA) on Tristan da Cunha (TdC). The local capacity to provide standardised monitoring data on population trends will be built. By the end of the project, a global population estimate for the AYNA will be provided and a TdC population trend monitoring programme established. An existing monitoring programme for AYNA, set up by the Tristan Government Conservation Department, will be expanded.

Studies have been carried out for Wilkin's bunting *Nesospiza wilkinsi* on Nightingale.

In 2015, a whale species new to Tristan was found beached on Tristan da Cunha. This was a juvenile Antarctic minke whale *Balaenoptera bonaerensis*. Also, in January 2011, a whale was found in the harbour. It was thought to be a short-headed sperm whale (*Kogia* sp.), which had not been recorded from the Tristan area before.

Northern rockhopper penguin numbers were affected by the oil spill following the wreck of *MS Oliva* in 2011. It is estimated that only 10% of the penguins rescued survived. There was wide-scale oiling of several seabird species including the 4000 rockhopper penguins. The breeding success of these birds remains low. Following this incident, dives were planned for monitoring what was around the rock site, until the resources provided by the ship's insurers ran out. Spilt soya was also an issue following the grounding of the *MS Oliva*. A dive team was on Tristan for 2 weeks and found that

in shallow water there was no sign of oil and limited evidence of soya beans. There were concerns for the fishery as dredging in deeper water collected rotting soya from the sea-bed. Whilst the marine environment around the island appeared in a good condition, the sustainability of Tristan's economy is of great concern. Fisheries quotas have been re-modelled and have been sent to interested parties. Traditional harvest of penguin eggs has been suspended. A new counting method was used to measure the density of rockhopper penguins on Nightingale Island. Monitoring of rockhopper penguin populations has been carried out since 1992 on the Tristan da Cunha archipelago.

Many groups of taxa (plants, lichens, invertebrates) are not well documented, and the status of many species is unclear. This could mean that there are further unknown declines. Botanical surveys were carried out through the RSPB South Atlantic Invasive Species project (2006-2009). A plant survey project was also part-funded by OTEP with a baseline plant vegetation survey carried out in 2011/12 to assess the distribution and abundance of native and introduced plant species, as well as to inform future conservation management of the island's habitats.

Wildlife monitoring manuals have been developed for the Tristan Islands. Monitoring manuals published in 2009/10 and included in the BAP.

A deep-water marine survey was carried out for Gough in 2013.

The South African Government supported ornithologists to remain on Gough throughout the year to carry out research in 2013/14. A team (Gough 60) of biologists, meteorologists, a medic, radio operator, and mechanics were on Gough Island until September 2015. During the takeover from Team Gough 59, one of the tasks carried out was a Tristan albatross *Diomedea dabbenena* chick count. The 2014 albatross chick count saw the lowest ever recorded chick count for the Tristan albatross.

In 2015, the *SA Agulhas II* trip to Tristan and Gough provided an opportunity for 16 conservation specialists to travel to the islands and join the core South African National Antarctic Programme 2015/16 team also on the ship. Research includes: seabird monitoring, annual monitoring of breeding success, survival, and population counts, among other field work for 14 breeding species on Gough. Four conservation workers have also been carrying out seal research.

### **Invasive Species**

Tristan da Cunha has legislation to protect habitat outside of protected areas; the Conservation of Native Organisms and Natural Habitats (Tristan da Cunha) Ordinance, 2006, 'provides for the protection of natural habitat on Tristan da Cunha'. Tristan da Cunha's conservation legislation and policy are being reviewed and updated.

Invasive species, particularly rodents and plants, are having an ongoing impact and causing continued species declines. Particularly affected are burrowing seabirds and albatrosses on Gough Island, as well as the Gough bunting *Rowettia goughensis*.

Through the RSPB *South Atlantic Invasive Species Project*, a South Atlantic Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (2010) was produced. Through a visit to New Zealand, staff from South Atlantic UKOTs learnt about aerial eradications and restorations. Training was carried out on Tristan da Cunha. Through this project, the legislation related to invasive species was also reviewed.

The 2014 RSPB study *Eradication of invasive alien vertebrates in the UK Overseas Territories*, provided one strategic assessment to rank all of the UKOTs'. Gough Island in the Tristan da Cunha group is the top priority island restoration project in the UKOTs due to the presence of a large number of globally threatened and globally important breeding seabird species, two

endemic land birds and the high impact of predatory house mice *Mus musculus*. An eradication project is looking to start possibly in 2018. *A Feasibility Study for the Eradication of House Mice from Gough Island* was published in 2008 and the logistics for a potential eradication were trialled and assessed in 2013.

Improving biosecurity and minimising the arrival of new species is a high priority, as is preventing rats reaching Gough and other uninhabited Tristan islands. Another aim is to reduce the number of feral sheep on the Base (the high plateau) at Tristan. Biosecurity measures are in place on the smaller islands of Nightingale and Inaccessible, and are regularly reviewed. There is also a general prohibition on the transportation of native organisms between islands/islets and releasing live specimens not originally derived from an island/islet, with limited exceptions.

The arrival of new marine invasive species is a great concern. Tristan has had two recent shipwrecks both of which brought new additions to the marine fauna. One fish species, in particular a Porgy *Diplodus argenteus argenteus*, has successfully colonised Tristan Island. It is still not known what impact these new species may have.

A Baseline Vegetation Survey of the island of Tristan was carried out 2011/12 to assess the distribution and abundance of native and introduced plant species. This was to inform future conservation management of the island's habitats.

Clearance of invasive logan-berry plants was carried out at Sandy Point.

Externally funded projects that the Government Department is involved with include the control and eradication of invasive plants on all of the islands. Invasive plants control work has almost succeeded in eradicating New Zealand flax from Nightingale and almost clearing it from Inaccessible. Invasive Plant



management for selected priority species has been implemented on all 4 main islands of Tristan da Cunha. The New Zealand Christmas tree *Metrosideros excelsa* is controlled on Tristan.

See the following page for some aspects of the problems caused when the *MS Oliva* ran aground in March 2011.

### **Planning, EIA and Legislation**

Environmental Impact Assessments are to be carried out prior to new major developments. Action points in the Tristan Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) stated that policies will be produced that require infrastructure/development projects to undergo EIAs and that the construction of a new harbour will undergo EIA, in particular to mitigate the potential introduction of invasive species. However, the development control framework is limited and has not been seen as a local legislative priority. Nonetheless, under the Conservation of Native Organisms and Natural Habitats Ordinance 2006, permits are required for any construction or agricultural or horticultural activity within a nature reserve.

The *Gough and Inaccessible Island Management Plan* does have an objective on access, infrastructure management, and development and proposed priority actions e.g. 'form a single consistent zoning plan for the WHS [World Heritage Site]' (which has not been done yet).

### **Pollution**

The Conservation of Native Organisms and Natural Habitats (Tristan da Cunha) Ordinance, 2006, outlines a liability framework to be adhered to if an offence is carried out under the Ordinance.

### **Climate-change, Renewable Energy and Waste Management**

Previously, rubbish was buried underneath volcanic ash. This was unsatisfactory due to the smell and the fact that it was unsustainable and attracted vermin. An environmental impact assessment was carried out and there are plans for an incinerator, which would also help to keep the rat population down.

### **Environmental Education**

A school vegetable garden started during the South Atlantic Invasive Species project has continued and led to the development of more local horticulture with freshly grown vegetables now available in the island store.

In 2011, there was a Tristan school film festival. JNCC and University of West Scotland provided funding for the purchase of filming equipment and the children made films to be shown at a festival in Scotland. Jim Kerr, then schoolteacher on Tristan had been overseeing the project and also encouraged underwater filming.

Tristan Studies is integrated into the school curriculum. This programme includes study of Tristan's native flora and fauna and issues on conservation, biodiversity and sustainability. Expatriate Geography specialist, Richard Grundy, originally introduced the topic and taught it to the 14-16 age range in the 1980s. It was an examination subject, mode 3 Certificate of Secondary Education (CSE). The highest grades were considered the equivalent of a GCE 'O' Level. This examination ceased in the late 1980's. Jim Kerr returned to Tristan as Education Adviser in 2009. Tristan Studies was still being taught but was relying on outdated notes that Jim had previously made. By this point in time, there was a Conservation Department. It was part of their remit to get the students involved in projects, e.g. counting penguins and monitoring other seabirds. However,

school involvement was not common due in part to the dangers of reaching seabird colonies. In the last few years of Jim being at the school, some fieldwork and trips were organised, e.g. a visit to Nightingale and Inaccessible for four students. During each activity, the students were able to encounter the expertise of visiting scientists and experts.

UKOTCF produced and provided to the school a supply of a book on Tristan natural history designed to make the results of recent studies and Tristan's great international importance available to local school students. When Jim returned to Tristan, teachers were making good use of this *The Natural History of Tristan da Cunha* by Paul Tyler and Alison Rothwell, as well as the *Field Guide to the Animals and Plants of Tristan da Cunha*, edited by Peter Ryan (Percy FitzPatrick Institute, University of Cape Town).

When Jim was working in the school in 2014, IGCSE Geography was added to the curriculum and Tristan Studies topics were aligned to topics on the IGCSE course.

### **International Agreements**

Tristan da Cunha is included in the UK's ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity, CMS, CITES, the Ramsar Convention and the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels.

### **Economic Value of Sustainable Use**

#### ***Lobster fishery and sustainable approach to use of marine resources***

In 2011 Tristan da Cunha gained a Marine Stewardship Council award and international recognition as a high quality and sustainable fishery for its rock lobster. This has enabled Tristan to widen its market and develop further its fishing industry, which is vital for the

sustainable future of the community. The product goes to a variety of markets in the USA, Japan and Australia; and, in October 2014, the first Tristan lobster was imported into the European Union.

The Tristan Fishery is managed in a unique way, with the island having an agreement with a single user to guarantee that the licensee has a good incentive to invest in the long-term sustainability of the lobster. Although an exclusive concession on its own should provide enough incentive for good management, a minimum size has been added along with: seasonal closures, boat and trap restrictions, catch quotas, and a ban on taking females bearing eggs. There is a vessel-based fishery and an island-based fishery, with the two sectors closely linked as they utilise the same markets and resource. They also differ considerably in terms of catching and processing the lobster. A by-catch of octopus is usually sold in South Africa.

A project to develop a Marine Management Plan includes research on the rock lobster, and concludes in 2016. Lobster stocks around Inaccessible and Nightingale Islands seem to be recovering after being covered in soya when the *MS Oliva* ran aground in March 2011, spilling 1500 tonnes of heavy fuel oils and approximately 70,000 litres of diesel which spread

around Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands, in addition to 65,000 metric tonnes of soya beans. The situation is still fragile, with regard to setting quotas. Experts believe that the oil is most likely to have impacted juvenile lobsters (aged 1-3) which are often found on shallow vertical rocks and in tidal pools. However, the effect on the juveniles will be apparent only from approximately 2017 onwards. Thus, a conservative total allowable catch has been set. Recent catch per unit effort results from Nightingale show good signs of recovery.

The greatest threat today is posed by illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing, and there is virtually no capacity to assess, let alone control this activity in Tristan's waters.

Much of the economy of Tristan depends on the commercial lobster fishery. Total Allowable Catch (TAC) quotas for the commercial Tristan rock lobster fishery are in place and regularly reviewed with input from Marine Resource Assessment and Management (MARAM) at the University of Cape Town. Fishery independent biomass surveys have been running since 2006. These are carried out prior to the start of each fishing season. MARAM and the Tristan Fisheries Department have been working together to

produce Harvest Control Rules (HCR) and Operation Management Procedures (OMP) as part of MSC certification requirements. These are currently in place in Tristan, Inaccessible and Gough. The OMP for Nightingale will be implemented once the effects of the *Oliva* marine incident are better understood.

### Still to do

Obtain additional funds to expand the Conservation Department and support its activities. Additional funds must be obtained to carry out additional smaller projects. Sufficient resources must be obtained to maintain a continued staff presence on Gough Island. This is essential for continuing invasive plant control work. UK HMG and NGOs must provide increased support so that biodiversity does not suffer on the islands.

Does the Biodiversity Action Plan include implementation actions? If not, should these be incorporated in a revision for 2016 onwards?

The BAP 2012-2016 was an updated version of the BAP 2006. Has an advisory committee therefore been established to oversee the management of Protected Areas?

Is implementation of the management plans for Gough,

Inaccessible and Nightingale Islands being monitored/reviewed? If not set up review/reporting procedures.

Review the Conservation Ordinance and update if required.

Update Tristan da Cunha's conservation legislation and policy.

Have action plans been produced for invasive species?



Sorting and packing the lobster catch (James Glass, Tristan Fisheries Department)

If not, these should be produced. In particular priority should be given to those key invasive alien vertebrate species as identified by the RSPB study *Eradication of invasive alien vertebrates in the UK Overseas Territories*.

Strengthen biosecurity measures.

Carry out and publish research into the impact of new invasive species resulting from recent shipwrecks.

Produce action plans for urgently addressing this issue.

Develop an emergency protocol for dealing with new marine invasive species as quickly as possible.

Initiate and complete Gough Island mouse eradication.

Complete eradication of New Zealand flax from Nightingale and Inaccessible.

Are reports produced periodically to demonstrate how targets for the *Gough and Inaccessible Islands World Heritage Site Management Plan* is being met? If not reviews/ reporting should be taking place.

Update legislation to include elements for designating nature reserves based on science and including public consultation procedures.

Are reports being produced regarding meeting the objectives of the BAP? If not they should be and if they are they should be more readily available.

Produce management plans for the northern rockhopper penguin if this has not already been done.

Develop legislation addressing the threat of long-line fishing to seabirds.

Establish a TdC population trend monitoring programme which can be used for all species.

Does the Fishery Limits Ordinance need updating if it has not been updated since 2001?

Has the Strategic Sustainable Development Plan been updated? Are the objectives of the Strategic

Development Plan being met and achievements reported? If reports are not being produced, they should be and they should be widely available.

Reduce number of feral sheep on the Base [high plateau] on Tristan

Construct an incinerator for waste disposal. Develop a waste disposal strategy based on the results of the Environmental Impact Assessment.

Strengthen EIA policy and the development control framework and a more open approach generally.

Implement the Gough and Inaccessible Management Plan fully.

Extend Tristan Rock Lobster Darwin project.

Complete surveying of *Oliva* wreck and the oil rig sites for invasive species.

Has a strategy been developed for addressing future spills from ships? If not, one should be developed.

Produce an invasive Species Action Plan for the porgy.

Implement marine monitoring programme.

Complete review of data management and observer reporting.

Obtain adequate resources for effectively policing waters.

Produce a Marine Management Plan for the Tristan da Cunha Marine Zone.

Investigate options for fisheries monitoring control and surveillance within the TdC group.

Are sustainability measures included in the Agricultural Ordinance? If not, should legislation be produced addressing any impacts that agriculture may have upon biodiversity and the local environment as a whole?

Will the new Agricultural Advisor be providing guidance on implementing sustainable agricultural

practices on the island?

Designate the Nightingale Group as a Ramsar Site, and consider what work is needed to allow a site for Tristan itself to be delineated for later designation.

Data needed for taxa for which trends are unknown.

Is information collated being fed into the BAP? If not it should be and the BAP should be periodically reviewed and updated.

Increase Fishery Department's knowledge-base and understanding of the marine ecosystems, in particular lobster stock dynamics. Increase monitoring and research capacity.

Check and publish efficacy of legislation and enforcement by analysis of the two major ship-wreck incidents.

Make reports on outcomes of projects/EIAs etc. more widely available – it is hard to find reports online and many local workers are not aware of particular reports that have been recorded in various places, e.g. through the minutes of meetings. Tristan greatly requires additional external funds for future conservation work, but if reports are not easily accessible regarding what is needed, it is hard to know where to direct resources.

Provide students at the age of 16 with the opportunity to gain the equivalent of at least 5 IGCSEs including Maths, English, Geography, Science and IT. This would allow some of them to access further education in the UK or South Africa.

# Falkland Islands

In October 2015, Executive Council approved a full review of the 2008 Biodiversity Strategy and a public consultation on a new draft Biodiversity Framework; this was adopted in January 2016. The framework includes a summary of progress towards Aichi targets. (The Framework replaced the 2008 Biodiversity Strategy.) In January 2016 approval was received to request extension of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) to the Falkland Islands. The UK ratification of the CBD was extended formally to the Falkland Islands in June 2016. The principles in the CBD are to be acknowledged through the revised Biodiversity Framework.

In 2013, the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI) was founded as an academic organisation conducting research in the South Atlantic. It aims to conduct research in both the natural and physical sciences, teach students, and build capacity within and between the South Atlantic Overseas Territories. A data-curation centre established by SAERI to improve access to research and data, and SAERI science symposiums and other initiatives encourage knowledge sharing and knowledge transfer. A Geographic Information System (GIS) Centre is currently being established by SAERI.

## Protected Areas

The Falkland Islands Biodiversity Framework (2015-2030) identifies 9 habitats and species which are particularly vulnerable, and 22 threatened plants. The Framework sets out an ecosystems approach and identifies eleven ecoregions as being present in the Falkland Islands.

The Environmental Mainstreaming project (2012) identified the need to strengthen and expand the network of protected areas in the Territory, including marine areas, which may require revision of the

Conservation of Nature and Wildlife Ordinance.

National Natures Reserves (NNRs) have been declared to protect 19 mainland and island group sites of biodiversity importance. The terrestrial protected areas were reviewed in 2014.

There are no existing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), although there are some seasonal fishery restrictions to protect spawning grounds and a 3 mile 'no take' zone around the shoreline for commercial fisheries. In 2014, UK funding, through Darwin Plus, was successfully granted to the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute to consult and develop a marine spatial planning network for Falkland Islands marine waters. The project will inform discussions about how best to manage the marine environment, and whether or not MPAs provide a useful tool as part of a broader approach.

Legislation exists to designate Marine Protected Areas up to 15 nautical miles from the shore.

Management plans have been produced for Sea Lion Island, a Ramsar Wetland Sites of International Importance, and 6 of the nationally protected NNRs.

## Species Protection

In 2012, an Environmental Mainstreaming Project was launched to establish a strategic overview and identify gaps in knowledge or capacity, and barriers to action. A Biodiversity and Environmental Mainstreaming Group has also been established

Species Action Plans have been developed for the following species: southern rockhopper penguin *Eudyptes chrysocome*, Cobb's wren *Troglodytes cobbi*, ACAP-listed seabirds (black-browed albatross, southern giant petrels, white-chinned petrels), seals and sea-lions, and cetacean species.

## Monitoring and Baseline Data

The Falklands Conservation annual Seabird Monitoring Programme has been in place since 1987 and monitors the main breeding seabird species around the Falkland Islands. Island-wide 5 years census of penguin and albatross species have been undertaken by Falklands Conservation since 1995.

An annual census and behavioural assessment of the main elephant seal breeding site at Sea Lion Island has been in place since 1994.

An island-wide census of breeding southern sea lions was undertaken in 2015, following the previous 2006 census.

Monitoring programmes are underway for inshore fisheries, seaweed biodiversity and the Patagonian toothfish by the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute.

A Royal Zoological Society of Scotland project has established baseline data and monitoring of birds of prey including southern caracara *Caracara plancus*, striated caracara *Phalcooboenus australis* and turkey vultures *Cathartes aura*. This was followed by an island-wide census of striated caracara conducted by Falklands Conservation in 2014/15.

A Native Plants Programme has produced a native vascular plants checklist for nationally/globally threatened species and identified 17 internationally recognised Important Plant Areas in the Falkland Islands.

ACAP implementation guidelines for the Territory were produced in 2010. These provide recommendations for ongoing monitoring as part of the International Plan of Action – Seabirds. The Islands host major proportions of the global breeding populations of black-browed albatrosses *Thalassarche melanophris* (ca 67%) and

southern giant petrels *Macronectes giganteus* (ca 40%), and an additional nine non-breeding ACAP species have been recorded as visitors to the territorial waters of the Falkland Islands. Demographic monitoring of black-browed albatross is undertaken at 2 major breeding sites since 2003 and 2006.

Marine environment monitoring is undertaken by the Shallow Marine Surveys Group. Publications include: studies on sponge biodiversity, species ranges of cephalopods, scaled squid *Pholidoteuthis massyae* and bathyal octopus *Muusoctopus eureka*.

### **Invasive Species**

In 2010, a South Atlantic Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan was produced, and Defra funding to the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) was used for rodent eradication projects, management of invasive alien plants, marine invasive species monitoring and a zebra trout *Aplochiton zebra* restoration initiative. A Biosecurity Risk Assessment Framework is in place.

The Shallow Marine Surveys Group has produced an Invasive Species survey of Stanley and Mare Harbours (2011).

The Environmental Mainstreaming Project (2012) has identified gaps in biosecurity legislation and noxious weed legislation. In 2015 Darwin funding was secured to enhance biosecurity capacity in the Territory.

In 2013 a three-year FIG-funded project was started by CABI to look at methods of controlling invasive European earwigs *Forficula auricularia* in the Territory. This was followed by

a current Darwin-funded biological control project focussing on earwig control.

A Biosecurity and Invasive Species Strategy is proposed in the Biodiversity Framework.

Rat eradication efforts are being undertaken in the Territory, over 70 small islands are now rat-free, thanks to planned eradications undertaken locally.

### **Planning, EIA and Legislation**

The Updated Development Plan (Structure Plan and Town Plan) - has policies to protect biodiversity.

Environmental Impact Assessment legislation exists as part of the Planning Permission and Off-Shore Hydrocarbons Permitting processes. Mandatory terrestrial Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) legislation was introduced in 2015 and requires EIA to be undertaken where significant impacts on the environment are likely.

Under the Offshore Minerals Ordinance, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be submitted prior to any extractive work, as well as oil spill contingency plans and waste management plans. All EIS documents are made public and distributed to local environmental non-governmental organisations, interested government departments and other stakeholders, who are given 42 days to comment. In 2012, *Guidance Notes on the Production of Offshore Environmental Impact Statements for Field Developments* were produced in 2015 to promote compliance with Territory requirements.

### **Pollution**

Oil pollution is managed by the Environment Protection (Overseas Territories) (Amendment) Order 1997, the Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution) Act 1971, Merchant Shipping Act 1995 and Oil in Territorial Waters Ordinance 1987.



*Small- and larger-scale wind-power generators in the Falkland Islands (Falkland Islands Government)*

## Climate-change, Renewable Energy and Waste Management

### *Achieving high domestic renewable energy usage*

The Falkland Islands' location necessarily means that imported fossil fuels are expensive to use, and transporting them long distances presents risks. In Camp (everywhere outside of the capital, Stanley) small isolated farms and settlements have, until relatively recently, often been reliant on diesel generators that would provide power for a limited time each day.

To respond to the challenge of developing cheaper, more secure and (for Camp) 24-hour power, the Islands have been taking advantage of one source of energy that is potentially cheap, green and in plentiful supply – wind power. A six-turbine wind farm in Stanley the capital produces approximately 33% of total electricity requirements for Stanley. There is also the development of a wind power facility at MPA the military base.

The Islands Plan 2014 - 2018 identifies the need to implement a responsible strategy to mitigate effects of climate change, including exploring further take-up of renewables in the Territory. Currently, 40% of domestic energy requirements are from renewable sources. The Government is exploring the possible use of tax incentives to encourage further investment in renewable energy in rural areas as part of its rural development strategy. In 2013, an agreement was reached with the Ministry of Defence for the construction of additional wind-turbines to provide power to the Mount Pleasant Complex. In November 2015, the Falkland Islands adopted an Energy Strategy, the overall goals of which are to facilitate sustainable development and economic growth, and for the national greenhouse gas emissions of the Falkland Islands to be as low as possible within that framework.

A farm improvement programme places emphasis on holistic farming. Organic certification in recent years

has encouraged further improved farming practices. The energy subsidy on wind-turbines has been a success, with over 90% of farm settlements utilising wind power.

An EU-funded project entitled *TEFRA – Terrestrial Ecosystems of the Falklands – a Climate Change Risk Assessment*, which began in 2012, aims to increase understanding of and address some of the potential threats to plant community diversity, pasture growth, water availability and ultimately the potential of soils to sequester carbon as a consequence of changes in the climate. The first phase of the project is using 2020-2080 climate change predictions to model impacts on plant distributions and ecosystem services delivered by plants and grasslands. A risk assessment is being carried out as part of the second phase to evaluate the likely impacts of climate change on the plant diversity and ecosystem services of the Falkland Islands. The final phase will be to produce a National Climate Change Action Plan for the Falklands.

A Waste Management Strategy Options report was produced in 2011 for comment and a full Waste Management Strategy and Plan is due for development after this consultation. The Territory has a Tourism Development Strategy in operation and a Tourism Code of Practice to encourage sustainable behaviours and patterns of consumption by visitors.

There appears to be a good level of stakeholder engagement in the extractive industries, and the conservation of biodiversity is at the forefront of policy. A 2013 Hydrocarbon Development Policy Statement makes explicit that 'development of the hydrocarbons industry must ensure the protection and conservation of the Falkland Island's environment and biodiversity'. FIG (in partnership with the local private and voluntary sector) completed a gap analysis to identify key gaps in environmental knowledge that need to be addressed to ensure that future oil and gas exploration/production

does not adversely affect the environment. Following completion of the gap analysis, FIG and the oil companies active in the Islands agreed to jointly fund a £600,000 programme of scientific research to fill the identified gaps. Work commenced in 2013 for a two year period.

The Territory has largely sustainable extensive farming practices as well as a managed fishery with sustainable quota system and well established scientific monitoring of fishery and impacts. A Waste Action Plan has been agreed and a Co-ordinator appointed (production of a longer-term strategy is an Islands Plan Commitment).

### **Environmental Education**

Falklands Conservation provides environmental education material for schools as part of the MoU with FIG as well as community programmes. There are school children visits to Camp, i.e. Kidney Island, and there is an active Falklands Conservation watch group. Additionally there is a range of educational material relating to the heritage and natural environment of the Territory. A series of natural history documentaries featuring the Falklands are now freely available to the Territory, and others..

### **International Agreements**

The Falkland Islands are included in the UK's ratification of the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change, the Ramsar and Bonn (Migratory Species) Conventions, and CITES and the ACAP agreement.

In June 2016 the UK ratification of the CBD was formally extended to the Falkland Islands.

### **Economic Value of Sustainable Use**

See Mainstreaming project under protected areas section.

## **Still to do**

Make legislative provisions.

Make further site designations and implement stronger protection.

Produce Action Plans for each of the eleven ecosystems, and for each of the ten priority habitats and species (unless subsumed into relevant Ecoregion Action Plan).

Review the Conservation of Wildlife and Nature Ordinance in the short term (subject to wider drafting priorities) to reflect species protection changes (i.e. plant schedule).

Close gaps in biosecurity and noxious weed legislation.

Develop Invasive Species Plans.

Make further Ramsar Site designations .

Act to strengthen and expand the protected area network, which may require revision of the Conservation of Nature and Wildlife Ordinance.

Rather than designate land arbitrarily just to meet Aichi Targets (currently less than 5% of the terrestrial area is designated and there are no marine protected areas), a locally tailored approach is proposed in the Falkland Islands Biodiversity Framework (2015-2030) to implement proactively a spatial approach to conservation and, in doing so, contribute towards delivery of the CBD.

Produce National Red List (based on international criteria and best practice documents).

Produce a National Climate Change Action Plan for the Falkland Islands.

Revise Planning Ordinance.

Facilitate further take up of renewables.

Consider how best to manage the marine environment

in light of the findings of the ongoing Marine Spatial Planning Project.

Undertake Ecosystems Services Assessment.

Produce longer-term waste strategy

Produce a National Climate Change Action Plan for the Falkland Islands as part of TEFRA project.

Draft Genetic Resources Policy.

# South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was extended to SGSSI in 2015.

A draft National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) has been produced, which provides a roadmap for how GSGSSI will meet the environmental objectives outlined in the Strategy 2010-2015. This NBAP is expected to be launched shortly.

## Protected Areas

Enactment of the Wildlife & Protected Areas Ordinance 2011 has enabled the designation of Specially Protected Areas. The Strategy 2016-2020 identifies the need to develop management plans outlining their rationale and protection.

The South Sandwich Islands Sustainable Use MPA was designated in 2012, by the Marine Protected Areas Order 2012. The MPA covers 1,007,000km<sup>2</sup>. Additional restrictions were added in 2013 including a no-take zone, an area ban on all bottom fishing below 2250m and an additional closed area for Patagonian toothfish. The area has an operating Management Plan, enforcement is carried out by *FPV Pharos SG* and the levels of illegal fishing are considered to be low.

The majority of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands have been identified as potential Ramsar sites, totalling 4032km<sup>2</sup>.

## Species Conservation

The 2011 Wildlife & Protected Areas Ordinance provides protection for species and habitats and improves measures to prevent against invasion of non-native species. A legislative review is currently underway; policy proposals will be available for stakeholder comment before legislation is drafted.

Regular consultation of fisheries stakeholders has resulted in well managed and sustainable fisheries. Recently the Government implemented a 2-year licensing arrangement for toothfish and icefish fisheries, an initiative which was broadly supported by stakeholders as part of the consultation.

The fisheries of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands (SGSSI) are among the best managed in the world. The South Georgia Patagonian toothfish longline fishery been certified as a sustainable and well-managed fishery by Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) since 2004. The SGSSI Government also commissioned an independent peer review of the toothfish fishery by the MSC, which rated it as one of the best managed in the world.

These high standards are underpinned by scientific research and precautionary management practices. SGSSI fisheries have been influential in raising fishery standards and sustainability within the Convention of the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) region and beyond. Commercially fished species include: Patagonian toothfish, Antarctic toothfish, Antarctic krill and mackerel icefish.

The CCAMLR approach is used in management of fisheries and there is a high level of enforcement across the maritime zones, resulting in very low instances of illegal fishing. Reducing incidental mortality of seabirds by fisheries in SGSSI is of considerable importance. The 2008 assessment of SGSSI fisheries as part of the UN Food & Agriculture Organisation *International Plan of Action – Seabirds*, found a suite of mitigation measures had led to a reduction in by-catch, which is currently at a negligible level.

Marine biodiversity in South Georgia has been found to be extremely diverse by British Antarctic Survey researchers, and at risk from environmental change.

GSGSSI is implementing utilization of new technologies and remote sensing techniques that maximise understanding of the Territory's flora and fauna with minimal environmental impact.

## Monitoring and Baseline data

South Georgia hosts globally important breeding populations of petrel and breeding populations of 4 species of albatross (wandering *Diomedea exulans*, black-browed *Thalassarche melanophris*, grey-headed *Thalassarche chrysostoma* and light-mantled sooty *Phoebastria palpebrata*). Since the early 1960s, BAS scientists have monitored populations of albatross and giant petrel at Bird Island, South Georgia.

Comprehensive annual demographic studies of banded birds determine adult and juvenile survival rates, individual reproductive success and population trends. South Georgia Surveys carry out regular monitoring of bird species on Albatross and Prion islands.

ACAP implementation guidelines for the Territory were produced in 2010. This provides recommendations for ongoing monitoring. Review of these guidelines on a regular (5-year) basis is included in the draft NBAP.

The development of long-term monitoring sites to track the recovery (following large scale restoration project – see below) of burrowing seabird populations and monitor the changes in coastal vegetation communities following the eradication of rats, mice and reindeer, is underway.



## Invasive Species

### *Largest island restoration ever attempted*

An extensive and ambitious habitat restoration project commenced in 2009: The *South Georgia Habitat Restoration Project*, led by the South Georgia Heritage Trust (SGHT). This has involved extensive fund-raising as the costs involved were significant and nothing on this scale had been attempted previously. It was a major undertaking for a small NGO. The 3 main phases of the project were completed in 2015, the aim being to rid South Georgia of rodents. Monitoring will continue to ensure the island is rat-free. Eradication will allow breeding birds (including endemics as well as huge numbers of many seabird species) to survive and reproduce successfully, as well as the survival of plant and invertebrate species. In fact, the South Georgia pipit *Anthus antarcticus* is showing signs of recovery as a nest was found in January 2015 in an area previously overrun by rats. The task of placing at least one bait pellet (a fatal dose) into the path of every single rodent on the island took three seasons, 1000 flying hours, 300 tonnes of bait, 900 drums of aviation fuel, 13 person years in the field and a total spend of around £7m.

During the project, reindeer were removed in 2013 and 2014 by a Government initiative with the expertise of Sami herdsmen and Norwegian Government conservation agency marksmen. Almost 7,000 reindeer were removed from nearly 40,000 ha of the ice-free ground. In the presence of reindeer, large areas of coastal vegetation had become almost entirely denuded causing a shift in plant community composition and a reduction in soil stability.

In the absence of grazing pressure, both native and non-native plant species have been able to grow. However, in some areas, it is the invasive species that are responding more rapidly. A weed management project was designed to coincide with the reindeer eradication and utilise this narrow window of opportunity to assess

the distribution of non-native plant species while they are at their most visible and then instigate a control programme to reduce target populations to zero density before they spread.

The *South Atlantic Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan* was produced in 2010, with strategic aims to develop effective prevention and response measures.

Monitoring of marine invasive species in South Georgia has been conducted to address priority alien invasive species and climate change needs in the South Atlantic Overseas Territories.

A comprehensive report on weeds in South Georgia was produced in 2013. 76 non-native plants have been recorded; the report provides recommendations for their management/eradication depending on the extent of their coverage. In 2016 the government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands published a non-native plant management strategy 2016-2020.

The SGSSI government published comprehensive biosecurity protocols in 2014. Visitor-specific biosecurity information has also been provided, and all visitors are required to complete a biosecurity self-audit and checklist prior to landing. Effective implementation of biosecurity protocols is essential to maintain rodent-free areas.

BAS continues to monitor ocean temperature around



*South Georgia pintails, one of the species benefitting from the restoration project (Dr Mike Pienkowski)*

SGSSI. Surface waters near South Georgia are 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit (1.0 degrees Celsius) warmer in winter and 4.1 degrees Fahrenheit (2.3 degrees Celsius) warmer in summer than they were 80 years ago. Model projections suggest that South Georgia will experience increased stress from ocean-wide acidification over the coming decades. The marine biodiversity on South Georgia's continental shelf is particularly sensitive to environmental change.

SGSSI has allocated resources for the development of a research and evidence plan for SGSSI fisheries to enhance understanding of the marine ecosystem, fishery - environment interactions and implications of long-term environmental change.

South Georgia Heritage Trust and Dundee University will host the international conference on invasive species in 2017.

## Planning, EIA and Legislation

Environmental Impact Assessment policy requires further development; it is currently based on the Environment Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty. EIAs which have been carried out are available for view on the SGSSI government website, where most consultation is carried out. Assessments are carried out on major projects such as the Grytviken hydroelectric plant and the Prion Island boardwalk, as well as for the eradication of rodents from South Georgia. However, the Strategy 2016-2020 identifies the need to develop robust and standardised EIA procedures and mitigation measures for *all* projects in the Territory.

Implementation of the new Strategy and draft NBAP will enable improved Environmental Impact Assessment legislation, including the development of standard online application documentation and the establishment of a panel of experts to externally review projects. Consultation with groups of stakeholders (e.g. tourism, fishing) is carried out annually.

Recognising the important contribution tourism makes, GSGSSI is committed to working with industry to develop management policy and site-specific management plans that take account of the impact and benefits of tourism and integrate visitor management into the new system of Protected Areas.

A particular challenge is to maintain visitor access without compromising biosecurity. The South Georgia Tourism Management Policy 2015 currently operates to achieve this, alongside site-specific visitor management plans to identify impacts and threats to flora, fauna and biosecurity and provide codes of conduct. Tourism-related legislation is under review in the 2016-2020 Strategy. As part of this, GSGSSI plans to implement a new system of visitor management, likely to include 3 categories: standard, working and special.

The draft NBAP sets out in detail measures which review and improve biosecurity protocols, including an

annual biosecurity review, production of a biosecurity handbook which is freely available online, and the development of an early detection rapid response strategy for invasive alien species.

## Pollution

Currently GSGSSI policy for prevention of marine pollution is based on Annex IV (prevention of marine pollution) of the Environmental Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty, with Annex VI to the Protocol (the 'Liability Annex') adopted by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties in 2005.

A review into the possibility of extending the ban on the carriage of heavy fuel oil (HFO) into Territorial Waters was undertaken in 2010. As part of the Strategy 2016-2020 the government will consider the prohibition of the carriage and use of heavy fuel by all fishing vessels in the SGSSI MPA by 2020.

The government has carried out an extensive clean-up operation on South Georgia to remove oil residues, asbestos, demolition waste and other hazardous products from Grytviken. This included removing over 600 tonnes of oil from three former sealing and whaling vessels. The BAS Environmental Office also cleaned up the abandoned BAS huts, reindeer fences and former work sites on Bird Island, and ensured operational BAS huts were free from hazardous substances. Historic whaling stations remain hazardous and substances that are harmful to wildlife persist in these locations, including heavy oil contained in storage tanks, pipe-work and sunken wrecks. Removal of this oil is required but challenging due to the prohibited area status of the stations.

## Climate-change, Renewable Energy and Waste Management

The primary source of power is hydroelectric, with use

of diesel generators kept to a minimum.

The draft NBAP states that economical, fuel-efficient travel will be a requirement for the fisheries patrol vessel *Pharos SG* during routine transit, and the amount of domestic and building waste generated at King Edward Point will be minimised, with recycling where possible.

## Environmental Education

One of the pillars of the Strategy 2016-2020 is to improve public awareness of the stewardship of SGSSI by effective dissemination of information. The government website acts as a portal for consultation and also provides documentation, such as annual reports, financial reports, management plans, legislation, press releases and visitor information.

Additionally there is a range of educational material relating to the heritage and natural environment of the Territory. A series of natural history documentaries featuring territories, including SGSSI, by Stewart McPherson, recently became freely available.

## International Agreements

SGSSI is included in UK's ratification of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (but has yet to designate a Wetland of International Importance), the Convention on Migratory Species (Bonn) (under which the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, in which it is also included, is a part), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES, Washington), the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Aarhus Convention.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was extended to SGSSI in 2015.

### **Stakeholder Stewardship**

Stakeholder meeting held at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office annually.

### **Economic Value of Sustainable Use**

The South Georgia Patagonian toothfish longline fishery been certified as a sustainable and well-managed fishery by Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) since 2004. The SGSSI government also commissioned an independent peer review of the toothfish fishery by the MSC, which rated it as one of the best managed in the world.

### **Still to do**

Engage with stakeholders to develop a suite of terrestrial protected areas in line with obligations under CBD.

Develop management plans for Specially Protected Areas.

Continue monitoring to establish whether rat eradication has been successful.

Action recommendations in the 2013 non-native plant report.

Publish a weed management strategy.

Make Ramsar designations.

Monitor regularly marine biodiversity, including cetacean populations

Develop Species Action Plans for black-browed, grey-headed and wandering albatross.

Seel research council funding required for investigations into climate, glacial retreat and the upper atmosphere.

Develop and implement improved Environmental Impact Assessment procedures based on best practice.

Consider if any additional legislation is required in order to support revised environmental assessment procedures.

Continue alertness to biosecurity with regard to visitors.

Review the environmental footprint of GSGSSI operations in Stanley and develop an environmental / energy policy.

Continue raising standards in the fisheries and ensure best practice is adopted, including by developing a plan to phase out heavy fuel, restricting bunkering activity, and introducing a minimum ice-classification standard in the toothfish fishery.

Implement CBD Biodiversity Action Plan.

Enhance CCAMLR inventories of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem habitats and species.

Improve baseline data on benthic habitats (including those in benthic closed areas) and intertidal zones.

Gather data on terrestrial and marine invertebrates and plants.

Develop a plan to phase out the carriage of heavy fuel oil (HFO) in Territorial waters.

Identify suitable project partners and methodologies for removal or remediation of the risks from waste oil and other harmful substances in old whaling stations.

Continue monitoring and assessment of ocean acidification and its effects on biodiversity.

Improve public awareness of the stewardship of SGSSI by effective dissemination of information.

Review immigration legislation.

# British Antarctic Territory

## Protected Areas

Under the Environment Protocol, Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs) and Antarctic Specially Managed Areas (ASMAs) can be designated. All designated ASPAs and ASMAs are subject to operating management plans, which are regularly reviewed.

### *High sea marine protected areas*

The South Orkney Islands Southern Shelf Marine Protected Area was designated in 2010 and covers 94,000 km<sup>2</sup> after the UK put forward a proposal to the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). All fishing activities, as well as waste disposal and discharge from fishing vessels within its boundaries are prohibited. The South Orkneys MPA was the world's first entirely 'High Seas' marine protected area. This area also has huge scientific value, and the creation of the MPA has enabled more co-ordinated research activities. Scientists in the region have been conducting important research on predator ecology, biodiversity and climate change over many decades. Current research has shown exceptionally high biodiversity and is exploring the region in order to better understand the distribution and composition of the seafloor communities around islands in order to try and ascertain how animals, vulnerable to fishing and other human impacts, live. This will help to manage the region's natural resources in the future.

## Species Conservation

The Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources was adopted in 1980. The



*Pod of orcas, British Antarctic Territory (Dr Mike Pienkowski)*

Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) gives effect to the Convention's objectives, governing fisheries using an ecosystem-based and precautionary approach. The Convention also establishes a scientific Committee. The Commission meets on an annual basis, to adopt conservation measures and other decisions, which apply to harvesting activities within the Convention Area.

Conservation measures are recorded by CCAMLR 2016/17 [https://www.ccamlr.org/en/system/files/e-schedule2015-16\\_1.pdf](https://www.ccamlr.org/en/system/files/e-schedule2015-16_1.pdf)

## Monitoring and Baseline data

The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) initiates, develops and coordinates scientific research in the Antarctic region and provides objective independent scientific advice to the Antarctic Treaty. British Antarctic Survey (BAS) is a component of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). It undertakes the majority of Britain's scientific research on and around the Antarctic continent.

BAS undertakes long term monitoring and survey of petrel, penguin and seal species. In the northern Scotia Sea, BAS undertakes also annual surveys of krill in areas close to where seabird and seal monitoring occurs. Though outside BAT, this monitoring provides valuable

insights into krill stocks further south within BAT.

### **Invasive Species**

Work is being undertaken to assess the colonisation status of known non-native species in the Antarctic terrestrial environment. In 2011, Resolution 6 (2011) Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting XXXIV (ATCM) adopted a *Non-native Species Manual*. Guidance documents have also been produced, such as guidance for visitors and environmental managers following the discovery of a suspected non-native species in the terrestrial and freshwater Antarctic environment, vehicle cleaning procedures and ‘don’t pack a pest’ pamphlets. BAS has carried out research into non-native species on terrestrial and freshwater environments in the Territory, and produced a handbook of practical biosecurity measures.

### **Pollution**

The Antarctic Act 2013 and Annex VI on ‘Liability arising from environmental emergencies’ to the environmental protocol of the Antarctic Treaty, reflect the polluter-pays principle.

### **Planning, EIA and Legislation**

The aim of the Environmental Protocol is to ensure ‘the comprehensive protection of the Antarctic environment’. One of its guiding principles is that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) be carried out before any activity is allowed to proceed. Activities should be planned and conducted on the basis of information sufficient to allow prior assessments of, and informed judgements about, their possible impacts on the Antarctic environment (Article 3, Environmental Protocol). In 2014, the UK tabled a paper to the CEP on *Improvements to the Antarctic Environmental Impact Assessment process*.

### **Climate-change, Renewable Energy and Waste Management**

The Environmental Protocol and Convention on the Regulation of Antarctic Mineral Resource Activities (CRAMRA) bans all mineral resource activities in Antarctica (other than for scientific research).

BAS ensures minimal environmental impact in its operations via the use of an Environmental Management System (certified to ISO 14001 standard). BAS Environment Office has produced a waste management handbook. The FCO has commissioned the production of various guidance publications for sustainable activities in the Territory such as aircraft/cruise operations.

### **Environmental Education**

BAS produces a range of educational resources for schools, including the website ‘Discovering Antarctica’.

### **International Agreements**

The Antarctic Treaty system

### **Stakeholder Stewardship**

The Antarctic Treaty recognises tourism as a legitimate activity in Antarctica, and BAS welcomes a small number of visits to its stations from International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) affiliated companies during the austral summer.

# Pitcairn Islands

## Protected Area

### *The largest marine protected areas on the blue planet*

Pitcairn's waters are exceptionally rich. Over 1,200 marine species have been recorded around Pitcairn, including whales and dolphins, 365 species of fish, turtles, seabirds and corals. Forty-eight of these species are globally threatened and some are endemic. Researchers have over several years been collecting data to inform the scientific basis for the creation of a marine reserve.

The island community believe that a large no-take reserve, while allowing for traditional small-scale uses, conserves their unique environment, attracts scientific and conservation interest in studying and protecting the area, and also increases tourism to the islands, all of which benefit the local economy.

Plans for the MPA were outlined in the UK Government budget in 2015. The proposed MPA would total 834,334 km<sup>2</sup>. The UK Government and NGOs have provided a budget to look into a variety of matters such as monitoring systems, enforcement etc. A current Darwin-funded project is aiming to develop a marine management plan with the Pitcairn community and UK Government for fisheries and the proposed marine reserve.

Enforcement in the MPA is a major consideration. To overcome this, Pew Charitable Trusts have partnered with Satellite Applications Catapult, a UK government initiative created to help foster economic growth through the exploitation of space. The 'Eyes on the Sea' project is pioneering a system that enables government officials and other analysts to identify and monitor unlawful activities in global waters, particularly illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (IUU).



*Humpback whales off Henderson Island, Pitcairn Group (Steve Darroch)*

This cutting-edge technology merges satellite tracking and imagery data with other sources of information, such as fishing vessel databases and oceanographic data, to help monitor seas across the globe. A system that can synthesize and automate analysis of multiple data sources in near real-time to identify vessels acting suspiciously is being developed. The system can then alert users so that they can investigate and take action. It is considered much more efficient than current processes, and drastically reduces the human power required to detect and analyse suspicious activities. A virtual watch room has been established which will focus on marine reserves and will be powered by the Catapult system.

## Species Protection

Baseline data have been established for several plant species *Angiopteris chauliodonta*, *Coprosma benefice*, *Diplazium harpeodes*, *Abutilon pitcairnense* and *Myrsine* sp.

A restructure has renamed the Natural Resources Division as the Environmental, Conservation and Natural Resources Division, and has introduced a Flora Conservation Officer role. This role manages Pitcairn's endemics and natives, ensuring that plant stocks are increased and data are gathered; this role works collaboratively with the Nursery which is responsible for the propagation of flora.

In 2010, the Henderson petrel *Pterodromo atrata* was

added to the appendices of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species.

In 2009, the Governor of Pitcairn Islands signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Island Region.

### **Monitoring and Baseline Data**

Reef monitoring is ongoing as part of Polynesia Mana Coral Reef Monitoring Network.

### **Invasive Species**

In 2010, a report was produced reviewing biosecurity operations. The Territory has a Biosecurity Department dealing with all aspects of biosecurity and quarantine matters such as fruit-fly, pests, invasive plants, zoosanitary, cargo inspections, environmental impact assessments etc. An Environmental Protection Ordinance is currently being finalised. Once implemented, the Ordinance will provide some powers to the biosecurity department as well as permits for importing certain items.

There has been research into invasive plant species and forest restoration on the island, including experimental removal of *Syzygium jambos* and replacement with native tree and shrub species.

Ducie and Oeno Islands have been rat-free since a project carried out in 1997. In 2011, the eradication of rats on Henderson Island was attempted, but was unsuccessful probably due to unusual weather. There is currently an investigation into how further attempts will be made, along with eradication of rats on Pitcairn itself. A 3-year Darwin-funded project addressing the threat of non-native species ended in September 2015.

In 2014, some 440 goats were eradicated. There are no feral goats on Pitcairn but goats are managed (penned)

for pets and food.

### **Planning, EIA and Legislation**

Environmental Impact Assessments are required when applying for all construction and development projects.

### **Pollution**

Section 7 Local Government Regulations Part II B. Rubbish deals with pollution. Enforcement measures consist of fines and penalties which range from 10-20 NZ dollars.

### **Climate-change, Renewable Energy and Waste Management**

In early 2016, the *Reef to Ridge* Project was due to action the waste management activity. The objective is to improve waste management practices on Pitcairn and the project will implement a waste-management building, recycling area, glass-crusher, mulch and soil area for the community to use, as well as a wood-chipper. As part of the project, a consultant from SPREP (Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme) has been engaged and will provide waste-management policy and protocols, and a waste survey will be conducted. Sustainable development of the tourism sector is identified as important in the Strategic Development Plan 2012-2016. There is significant potential for environmentally responsible marine tourism after the creation of the MPA. The government has produced a set of conditions for visits to Pitcairn by cruise ships and other vessels. The Territory has received 2.4 million Euros from the European Development Fund SPD to develop the tourism sector and infrastructure on the island. Repopulation of the Territory is an integral part of sustainable development in the Pitcairn Islands. A Repopulation Plan 2014 – 2019 has been produced by the Pitcairn Islands Council

to promote the flow of skill and investment into the Territory.

In mid 2015, a Renewable Energy Fund was signed off for Pitcairn and is a sector of EDF 11. French Polynesia and New Caledonia have already set up some renewable energy systems and have expertise, which will prove invaluable to Pitcairn.

### **Environmental Education**

A new Education Policy was produced in 2012, but it does not mention the environment specifically.

In 2011, the RSPB developed two bird pins, the Pitcairn reed warbler *Acrocephalus vaughani* and the Henderson fruit dove *Ptilinopus insularis*, which are sold to generate income for Pitcairn conservation.

The need for continued development of promotional material on the Territory's natural environment is identified in the Strategic Development Plan 2012-2016. This would be for scientific and eco-tourism interest.

Additionally there is a range of educational material produced by UKOTCF and other collaborators relating to the heritage and natural environment of the Territory, including a Virtual Tour on [www.ukotcf.org](http://www.ukotcf.org). A series of short natural history documentaries featuring the UKOTs, including Pitcairn, by Stewart McPherson, recently became freely available.

### **International Agreements**

Pitcairn is included in UK's ratification of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (but has yet to designate a Wetland of International Importance), the Convention on Migratory Species (Bonn), and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES, Washington) – but not yet the Convention on Biological Diversity. In 2009 the Governor of Pitcairn Islands signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for

the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Island Region.

### **Still to do**

Pitcairn Environmental Management Plan 2008 document requires updating.

Environmental work has used external funding and this will need to continue.

Continue to address invasive plant species and work towards forest restoration on the islands.

Eradicate rats on Henderson and Pitcairn.

Build capacity in the Pitcairn Islands to maintain pest-free status of areas, once this has been achieved.

Designate proposed MPA.

Designate Ramsar Sites for Ducie, Oeno and possibly Henderson in the first instance

Continue to gather baseline data for under-researched species, in particular flora and invertebrates of Pitcairn Island as a priority, with emphasis on locating pockets of the original biota.

Implement best practice in EIA and other planning matters, as well as consultative strategic environmental assessment and planning.

Move towards renewable energy provision of electricity.

Develop technical partnerships in the area of research projects and applications, including innovative sustainable energy technologies.

Raise awareness to reduce energy consumption and promote energy efficiency.

The Fisheries and Marine Management Plan is in progress and has a deadline for completion in 2016.

Continue development of sustainable agricultural practices.

Extend the Convention on Biological Diversity to the Pitcairn Group.

Review priority baseline data needs.

Continue development of promotional material on the Territory's natural environment.

Continue efforts to ensure sustainable harvesting of timber for the wood carving industry.



# British Indian Ocean Territory

## Protected Areas

In April 2010 a 640,000km<sup>2</sup> no-take Marine Protected Area (MPA) was established.

The Territory is a member of the Big Ocean Network which was formed in recognition of the particular management challenges which arise from very large MPAs. Enforcement is a key focus of the network; being investigated currently is how arrests can be matched to legislation.

## Species Protection

There is a Conservation and Management Plan 2012.

Restoration of natural vegetation in place of the introduced coconut is being undertaken in three large experimental plots in Diego Garcia.

## Monitoring and Baseline data

*Annual expeditions to survey and monitor continue, as does effort to connect the community in Britain*

In 2010, the UK government designated a marine protected area around the Chagos Bank. At the time, this was the largest ever created. An international team of scientists visit Chagos frequently to carry out a variety of surveys and research. Over 200 scientific papers have been published so far from scientific exploration of the Territory. In order to make this more widely available, a new website has been created: CHIP (Chagos Information Portal). ZSL's *Connect Chagos: People and Wildlife* project is delivering an outreach and environmental education project for the Territory. Through a suite of community days, nature

taster sessions and the Connect Chagos Environmental Training Course, it aims to connect Chagossian people in the UK and overseas with their natural heritage as well as building employable skills. The project provides free training courses on the environment of Chagos.

There have been extensive research expeditions funded in the Territory and the Conservation and Management Plan 2012 makes recommendations for further science, monitoring and management activities. Several species such as turtles, crabs and birds have seen marked improvement in status over the last 40 years, since coconut farming no longer takes place.

Royal Botanical Gardens Kew has compiled a full plant species list for the Territory. Updated species lists are being formulated by ZSL as part of a long-term monitoring project. Further monitoring in the Territory is as follows:

- Coral cover, since 1996
- Juvenile coral monitoring and coral demographics



*Coral reef, anemone and fish (Chagos Conservation Trust)*

of stony and soft corals, since 1998

- Continuous sea temperature monitoring, since 2006
- Sea level and wave monitoring
- Reef fish biomass monitoring
- Coral growth changes monitoring
- Seabird research and monitoring since 1996
- Reef sharks (relative number/scientific dive), 1975
- Turtle research and monitoring, since 1996

The Conservation and Management Plan 2012 identifies further research needs.

## **Invasive Species**

A 2014 Defra-funded review into invasive vertebrate species in the UKOTs identified the house crow, common myna, bloodsucker, Madagascar today, feral donkey and cat as problem-species in the Territory.

In 2013-2014, a Darwin-funded a project eradicated rats from Île Vache.

There is an ongoing feral cat eradication programme in Diego Garcia, carried out by staff on the US military base: the method used is trapping only. The recommendation is to continue the eradication programme until total eradication is achieved, thereby preventing the risk of cats reaching other islands. There are some biosecurity measures in place, such as the *Diego Garcia Brown Tree Snake Awareness and Prevention Plan*.

## **Planning, EIA and Legislation**

There is currently no planning or development legislation in place in the Territory, and no requirement to undertake Environmental Impact Assessments. This is needed in view of the extensive works at Diego Garcia. In addition, a resettlement feasibility study published in 2014 identifies this as an area requiring strategic policy development if the Territory were to be resettled, to prevent uncontrolled development from spreading across the most valuable landscapes, coastlines and habitats. Development in the Diego Garcia military base area is controlled by the Diego Garcia Final Governing Standards 2011.

## **Pollution**

The 2012 Management Plan identified the current system of fines as being possibly too small to act as a sufficient deterrent.

In 2014 the US Navy was found to be in breach of

pollution legislation by discharging human waste from vessels into the sea. The FCO states that a comprehensive mitigation plan is now underway.

## **Climate-change, Renewable Energy and Waste Management**

An Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) system was proposed in 2009 for Diego Garcia and a renewable energy site assessment was carried out in Nov 2013. The main Diego Garcia electricity generating facility is inefficient, and a replacement programme is underway. In January 2015, a \$15 million project was completed in Diego Garcia for a new landfill facility with a leachate collection and disposal system, an incinerator facility and a recycling facility.

## **Environmental Education**

See above for ZSL's *Connect Chagos: People and Wildlife* project. Additionally there is a range of educational material relating to the heritage and natural environment of the Territory. A series of short natural history documentaries by Stewart McPherson and featuring the UKOTs, including BIOT, have recently become freely available. The Chagos Conservation Trust is very active in producing and promoting publications from research in the region. Publications are available to view on the Chagos Conservation Trust website.

## **International Agreements**

The Territory joined UK's inclusion in the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals MoU on migratory sharks in 2012.

In Ramsar, CMS and CITES; not yet CBD.

## **Still to do**

An updated Management Plan to identify areas where baseline data-gathering is still required.

Implement eradication/control programmes for already identified problem invasive species, and extend these throughout the archipelago.

Designate Chagos Ramsar Site.

Overcome the practical problems in joining CBD.

Strengthen enforcement, with arrests matched to legislation.

Re-evaluate current penalty system to increase deterrent.

Undertake further science, monitoring and management activities.

Develop planning and development legislation.

Implement international best practice in EIA and other planning matters, as well as consultative strategic environmental assessment and planning.

Continue alertness and monitoring of pollution levels, and report on the outcome of the mitigation of the US Navy pollution, so that lessons can be learned.

As identified in Conservation Management Plan 2012:

- Continue to repeat filming of reefs where possible.
- Continue to support the collection of samples of coral for genetic analysis and, in exchange, require copies of final results and publications so the data can be used to help management.
- Continue to investigate connectivity of Chagos marine life with other areas of Indian Ocean and within Chagos.
- Continue to sample coral cores for palaeo-climatology work. Results have been valuable both for Chagos and for the international community engaged in climate

change.

- Continue terrestrial & cryptic invertebrate research.
- Survey unvisited shallow areas.
- Undertake 'mesophotic' and deeper reef research.
- Monitor atmospheric gases as a key link in the global understanding of atmospheric changes and monitor alkaline levels.

# Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas

## Protected Areas

On 30 December 2015, the Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs) announced the designation of five Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in the SBA official gazette.

Now there are 5 SACs and 3 Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Due to their importance for birds, including breeding griffon vultures *Gyps fulvus* and Eleonora's falcons *Falco eleonora* as well as migratory birds, SPAs were designated at Akrotiri and Episkopi cliffs (in the Western SBA, WSBA) in 2010.

Conservation, protection and sustainable management of forests are governed by the Forest Ordinance 2014. This includes powers to declare areas to be national forest on the basis of important biodiversity, genetic diversity or landscape features. Agricultural areas, especially in Eastern SBA (ESBA), are in an area with a hugely depleted and polluted aquifer. Sustainable use of water is fundamental.

## Large wetland restoration in Akrotiri

Akrotiri Marsh (also known as Fassouri Marsh) is part of the Akrotiri wetland complex. The complex is a Ramsar site, an Important Bird Area (IBA) and the equivalent of an SPA of the EU Birds Directive, according to the mirror law (26/2007) in the Cyprus SBAs. The newly built Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre (replacing the previous site) is situated near here in order to provide education opportunities to local and Cypriot visitors, especially schools. The marsh, which covers an area of around 150 hectares, has been largely unmanaged for the last 20 years resulting in overexpansion of reeds (*Arundo donax* and mainly *Phragmites australis*) and consequent loss of bird and plant diversity. To restore the area and

its biodiversity, a team including local and international non-government organisations, the SBA Administration and Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre are implementing a conservation project.

The restoration of the marsh to a mosaic of habitats will lead to improved conditions for priority breeding species including: spur-winged lapwing *Vanellus spinosus*, black-winged stilt *Himantopus himantopus* and ferruginous duck *Aythya nyroca*.

Opening up the reed-bed for grazing livestock, a traditional activity at the site, will provide socioeconomic opportunities for the local community, as well as contributing to longer-term reed-management. In addition, traditional handicraft production is being enhanced and promoted to support the local community.

A series of baseline studies is being conducted: a topographical survey, a productivity study and population assessment for key breeding birds, and a



Livhadi Marshes, West Sovereign Base Area (Thomas Hadjikyriakou)

study on native killifish *Aphanius fasciatus*. Monitoring of water quality, and bird and plant species richness and abundance are being undertaken. A water-management regime and a site-management plan are being drafted to ensure the sustainable long-term management of the site.

Enhanced facilities for birdwatching tourism, including an observation tower, walkway for visitors and information material are being constructed.

## Species Protection

A policy instruction was produced in 2014 outlining Sovereign Base Areas Administration (SBAA) strategic objectives for tackling the illegal poaching of wild birds. This was followed by a Bird Trapping Action Plan in September 2015, which outlines information, activities and strategy for bird trapping in the SBAs. Legislation is in place that allows the SBA courts to impose penalties on those involved in the illegal killing and trading of birds – including custodial sentences. The maximum penalty for an offence is 3 years imprisonment or a fine of €17,086, although actual fines imposed are often small. Recent examples of punitive action for mist netting / use of limesticks were a 2-month prison sentence and a €700 fine for one person, and another received 3 months imprisonment. The SBAA have allocated more resources to enforcement and anti-poaching actions, and over the last 5 years (01/01/10 – 31/3/15) over 130 people have been convicted within the SBAs for mist-netting offences under the SBA Game and Wild Birds Ordinance 2008.

BirdLife Cyprus began monitoring the small population of griffon vultures *Gyps fulvus* in 2011. The GYPAS Project, which took place between 2011 and 2014, aimed to reintroduce birds from Crete and tackle illegal poisoning and lack of food to protect the remaining Cypriot population of birds.

Green and loggerhead turtles: An Action Plan was developed for the 2010 turtle nesting season. Patrols, training and enforcement by the SBAA are ongoing.

The *Red Data Book of the Flora of Cyprus* contains the basis for species action plans for threatened plants in the SBAs.

## Monitoring and Baseline data

An international species action plan was developed for Eleonora's falcon *Falco eleonora* in 1999. Episkopi and Akrotiri cliffs and Cape Aspro are important breeding sites for this species. Surveys are carried out annually and the current population is stable at ~250 birds.

## Invasive Species

Invasive *Acacia saligna* has been spreading rapidly. SBAA has been making considerable efforts to manage *Acacia saligna*, including mapping, prioritisation and clearance. From December 2014 to January 2016, a total of 54 acres of acacia have been cleared in Cape Pyla.

## Planning, EIA and Legislation

Schedules 1 and 2 of The Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance 2010 specify which developments require an EIA. Further requirements are laid out in the Game and Wild Birds Ordinance 2008 under 'Appropriate Assessment'. In January 2014 it was announced that there would be a relaxation of controls of non-military developments in the SBAs. Public consultation was carried out in July 2014. New planning zones and policy are under development, alongside a review of legislative and procedural requirements and strategic environmental assessment in the new planning regime. A policy document outlining restrictions on development in the coastal region of the SBAs was produced in 2014. Further consultation took place in August/September 2015.

## Pollution

The Chief Officer has the power to order a penalty to pay for the environmental recovery of land in instances

of an offence being committed.

## Climate-change, Renewable Energy and Waste Management

The SBAA policy encourages renewable energy schemes which improve the energy self-sufficiency of Cyprus. Legislation may change with the development of the new planning regime.

## Environmental Education

Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre has been instrumental in providing environmental education and promoting the value of the local environment and the special features of the SBAs. It receives over 10,000 visitors / year and has recently moved to new premises which will allow its programme of activities to expand further. Its work is accredited and used by the authorities in the Republic as well as the SBAs. Additionally there is a virtual tour by UKOTCF ([www.ukotcf.org](http://www.ukotcf.org)) and a range of educational material by the Centre, relating to the heritage and natural environment of the Territory. A series of natural history documentaries featuring UKOTs, including SGSSI, has recently become freely available.

## International Agreements

The Cyprus SBAs are included in UK's ratification of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and the Convention on Migratory Species (Bonn), but not CBD or CITES.

## Stakeholder Stewardship

The 2015 Darwin Initiative project to restore Akrotiri marsh and create a flagship wetland, aims to not only restore species diversity at the site, but also increases socio-economic opportunities for local villagers.

## Still to do

Formalise local forum meetings and work towards formulation of a detailed strategy for action and review of progress to date.

Translate Ordinance provisions into action on the ground, such as the implementation of the Akrotiri management plan and relevant management actions.

Sustain and target enforcement of anti-poaching legislation; allocate additional SBA police resources to enable more operations and seizures of trapping paraphernalia. Act to remove illegal activities and buildings, to start the restoration process, including intensive wardening to prevent illegalities, such as hunting, exercising dogs, driving 4x4.

Increase enforcement in the marine environment, especially with regard to illegal fishing, overfishing and sea turtle disturbance.

Assess the impact of rats and cats on birds.

Assess the extent of marine invasive species by underwater surveys.

Finalise and implement fully the management plan for Akrotiri peninsula.

Allocate additional resources for sea turtle efforts in ESBA.

Is an assessment of soil degradation required?

Implement best practice in Appropriate Assessment and EIA and other new planning rules, as well as consultative strategic environmental assessment and planning.

Increase enforcement in the marine environment, especially with regard to illegal fishing, overfishing and sea-turtle disturbance.

Increase sustainability in management of water resources in agriculture, including closing or registering

all illegal boreholes (including Cape Pyla area).

Implement fully Akrotiri Peninsula management plan of Ramsar site.

Extend the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to the SBAs.

Review range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.

Address the pollution of beaches by litter.

Assess the health of coral in SBA waters by underwater surveys, and follow by appropriate action.

# Gibraltar

## Protected areas

In 2014, HMGoG designated the entirety of British Gibraltar Territorial Waters as a Marine Nature Area.

In addition, the Southern Waters of Gibraltar Management Scheme (established under the Habitats Directive) as well as the Gibraltar Marine Monitoring Programme (established under the Water Framework, Marine Strategy, Birds and Habitats Directives) provides the relevant marine biodiversity strategy framework. A review of the Southern Waters Management Scheme was due to be published in early 2016. The Southern Waters of Gibraltar are also protected at EU level, classified as a dual Special Area of Conservation and Special Protected Area (SAC/SPA), as designated through the Designation of Special Area of Conservation (Southern Waters of Gibraltar) Order 2012 and the Designation of Special Protected Areas Order 2011.

See also the paragraphs on the Southern Waters in the following section on Species Protection.

In 2013, through the Nature Conservation (Designation of Gibraltar Nature Reserve) Order 2013, the Gibraltar Nature Reserve was extended from 1,454,457 m<sup>2</sup> to 2,370,079 m<sup>2</sup> [21% to 35% of total land area 6,800,000 m<sup>2</sup>]. The new plan contains a wide range of recommendations for the Upper Rock and other areas of ecological importance in Gibraltar.

The Gibraltar Biodiversity Action Plan and the Upper Rock Management Plan are implemented under the umbrella of the Gibraltar Nature Reserve Management Plan. This Management Plan, which includes habitat restoration and species action plans, brings together all the relevant stakeholders with regards Gibraltar's terrestrial biodiversity strategy.

Gibraltar, through the UK, has proposed that the Gorham's Cave Complex be a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Complex contains four sea caves - Bennett's, Gorham's, Vanguard and Hyena - lying at the base of the eastern face of the Rock of Gibraltar. The caves lie within the youngest of five tectonic uplift blocks of the Jurassic limestone of the Rock. This represents the last 250,000 years of the history of the western Mediterranean, including a most important site for Neanderthal Man. UK included this amongst only 13 sites on its 2012 statutory list of Tentative World Heritage Sites, from which proposed nominations over the following approximate 10 years have to be drawn.

Through the urban planting programme, a total of 158 trees have been planted around Gibraltar. The Gibraltar Commonwealth Park was created in 2014, and has become one of Gibraltar's prime recreational areas. The Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) has worked extensively on the maintenance and improvement of existing green areas. A GIS



*Commonwealth Park, Gibraltar – recently created from a town-centre car-park  
(HM Government of Gibraltar)*

mapping and assessment was due to be completed before 2016.

During 2013 the artificial reef programme was re-invigorated by the DECC with the creation of the North West Artificial Reef; the reef has proven to improve marine life in the area.

Work is being carried out also on other marine ecosystem restoration. This facet of the marine programme draws on historical sources and local expert knowledge to inform the re-introduction of species that were known to exist in the Bay such as fan mussels,

oysters and sea grasses, the latter species being a tremendously important source of food, oxygen and habitat as well as an excellent carbon sink.

## Species Protection

The Gibraltar Biodiversity Action Plan covers 5 bird species, 1 group and 5 species of mammals, all orchids, 9 species of flowering plants and 5 invertebrate species.

Actions carried out for the protection/ conservation of species are as follows:

1. On-going programme of protection of endemic vegetation and restoration of natural habitats since 2005.
2. In conjunction with the office of the Town Planner, the DECC is able to issue Tree Preservation Orders to protect endemic and established trees from development pressures.
3. Seeds of the Gibraltar campion *Silene tormentosa* are stored with the Millennium Seed Bank and many specimens are grown annually at Gibraltar Botanical Gardens. The Gibraltar campion was thought to be extinct, but was rediscovered in 1994.
4. The Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society and the Gibraltar Veterinary Clinic are responsible, under agreement with the Government of Gibraltar, for the management of the macaques, e.g. for looking after their well-being and general condition as well as monitoring their population levels.

In 2014, a species of bat new to Gibraltar, the Isabelline serotine *Eptesicus isabellinus*, was captured during a netting session conducted by the Gibraltar Bats Project team at the Gibraltar Botanic Gardens.

Surveys are being undertaken for all planted green areas throughout Gibraltar so as to ensure better management and preservation of all such areas.

The DECC is working with the University of Algarve's Centre of Marine Sciences to plant mature plants and seedlings around Gibraltar.

GONHS and the DECC are working on a programme on the Barbary partridge *Alectoris barbara*. Numbers were low due to predation, lack of habitat etc. Clearing habitat and dealing with some of the other problems have commenced, as well as a re-introduction.

Whilst there are no commercial fisheries in Gibraltar, the issue of illegal commercial fishing is covered by the Southern Waters of Gibraltar Management Scheme and under the 2013 report *The management of marine living resources in the waters around Gibraltar*. There is active and rigorous monitoring and enforcement of all marine commercial activities within British Gibraltar Territorial waters. This was used to help design new regulations:

The Marine Protection Regulations 2014, along with the Tuna Preservation Regulations 2014, are both tools of the Nature Protection Act 1991. They allow for the regulation of fishing activities carried out legally in British Gibraltar Territorial Waters, e.g. fishing with long-lines. Other activities carried out by, e.g., sports fishing operators are also regulated subject to the conditions of the relevant permit classes included in the aforementioned regulations. The Tuna Preservation Regulations specifically cater for the regulation of tuna fishing activities.

Key measures introduced in the regulations include the licensing requirements, minimum fish sizes, the creation of Marine Conservation Zones and the ability to implement designated fishing seasons and yearly quotas for species requiring additional protection such as Atlantic bluefin tuna *Thunnus thynnus*.

No-anchoring zones have also been designated and included in the regulations to protect the seabed, particularly reefs. On the eastside for example, the no

anchoring zone extends up to 1.5 nautical miles. There are currently 3 no fishing zones in Gibraltar's MCZs.

## Monitoring and Baseline data

The status and trends of the main EU-listed habitats in Gibraltar have been determined through two classification exercises carried out in 2007 and 2013 respectively. These were carried out in-line with the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive. In line with this Directive, there is continued habitat surveillance and data management.

Specific assessments of marine biodiversity have been carried out in line with the requirements of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. There is also surveillance monitoring of the Marine Special Area of Conservation.

A collaborative study of Gibraltar's bats is being carried out by the Gibraltar Museum and Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society (GONHS). The project aims to establish a better understanding of local bats' habits and monitor resident and non-resident species over the next 3 years. The GONHS bat group welcomed this study which links in with the work they have been conducting over the past 6 years in monitoring bats in Gibraltar, as well as participating in International Bat Night as part of the Eurobats Agreement.

## Invasive Species

The *Gibraltar Nature Reserve Management Plan* builds on the legislative requirements of the Nature Protection Act 1991 and all the Regulations that come under the Act. In doing so, it includes sections dealing with the introduction of fauna and flora that are not indigenous to Gibraltar. The Plan and the relevant Regulations are implemented and enforced by the Environmental Protection and Research Unit of the Department of



the Environment and Climate Change as well as the Gibraltar Nature Reserve Management team.

In support of the GNR Management Plan and through consultation with the DECC, the Ministry of Defence implemented their Integrated Rural Management Plan during 2014, for MOD estates in Gibraltar. This plan also contains an Invasive Species Control Programme. The overall direction is managed by the DoE.

## Planning, EIA and Legislation

### *A government making strides in planning with support from local NGOs*

The planning process on Gibraltar used to be chaired by the Minister for Economic Development. There was one other Minister there, as well as mainly civil servants, a representative of the Ministry of Defence, two NGOs: the Gibraltar Heritage Trust which concentrated on built heritage, and the Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society. They were secret meetings; there was no agenda published; there were no minutes published.

With the new government, elected in 2011, the representation of NGOs on the Planning Commission increased by one, by including the Environmental Safety Group, which is another environmental NGO. The Minister no longer chairs; the Town Planner now chairs the Planning Commission. The Chief Technical Officer of the Government is there. The meetings are now held in public. People can go and present their project. And people can go and sit there and say why they oppose the project. So it is completely open and completely transparent. The Deputy Chief Minister and the Minister for Environment and Climate Change often do not vote in the same direction. And it does not matter as they are there as individuals. They carry the responsibility of being Government Ministers but say what they feel. If a civil servant votes against what people might perceive as the Government's policy,

that does not matter either. So there has been a huge improvement in planning.

A command paper being produced will mean that Government projects will go through the same planning process and, if the Planning Commission throws out the applications, then they will not be developed. This is hugely important as Gibraltar has a thriving economy, and yet is still able to have great democracy.

Biodiversity issues are considered as part of the Gibraltar Development Plan. A strategic assessment (which included biodiversity issues) was carried out in 2009. The plan is now being reviewed in line with new legislative and management requirements. The plan states that all new developments must provide a minimum of 5% of total floor area as permanent green areas.

The Town Planning Act 2015 now references both the Nature Protection Act 1991 and the Environmental Protection (Trees) Act 2014, to support the 2009 Gibraltar Development Plan's references to the environment and to biodiversity. The Town Planning Act 2015 requires consideration of the impacts of any proposed development on European protected sites, such as the Gibraltar Nature Reserve: Upper Rock.

There are legislative requirements for EIAs and more stringent Appropriate Assessments (in line with the Habitats Directive) of all projects that could impact protected areas. The Town Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2000 set out EIA procedures, including for developments with significant trans-boundary effects. Through the Development and Planning Commission, all building developments are assessed on environmental rankings such as energy consumption, biodiversity impact, emissions and efficiency of building materials used. The Development and Planning Commission meetings have been held in

public since 2012.

All development (including those by HMGoG) projects that require planning approval are heard by the Development and Planning Commission which is based on a public consultation process.

The Commission consists of the following voting members:

- (a) the Town Planner, who shall be the chairman;
- (b) the Minister;
- (c) five persons nominated by the Chief Minister including representatives from the Department of the Environment and Climate Change;
- (d) one person nominated by the Ministry of Defence;
- (e) one person nominated by the Gibraltar Heritage Trust;
- (f) one person nominated by the Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society; and
- (g) one person nominated by the Environmental Safety Group.

Department officials are playing an increasing role in planning, as well as in the EIA process. Departmental scientists attend all DPC meetings and ensure that planning conditions are met. The Government's green procurement policy, which was instrumental in changing the environmental dynamics within the local market, is being reviewed and updated. By continuing to apply and direct the public sector's purchasing power towards green alternatives, HM Government of Gibraltar continues to stimulate the market and create niches for green initiatives, employment and economic regeneration.

## Pollution

The Environment (Air Quality Standards) Regulations 2010 require that the Minister for the Environment develop Action Plans, for where the limit values stated within the Regulations are exceeded, to allow the reduction of emissions of the offending pollutant(s), therefore guaranteeing that the limit values are met within the shortest possible timeframe.

An Air Quality Action Plan has been produced, as well as legislation for reducing urban dust emissions entitled 'Environment (Control of Dust) Regulations 2010'.

There is an air quality monitoring network across Gibraltar. The air quality monitoring programme commenced in 2005 and is comprised of three air monitoring stations as well as a comprehensive network of diffusion tubes throughout Gibraltar. The objective is to monitor air pollutants to check that target levels are being kept, and action taken when they are exceeded.

Raw monitoring data obtained are processed, analysed and interpreted in order to provide information and ensure compliance requirements under the Air Quality Framework and Air Quality Daughter Directives. Data are disseminated in near real-time on the Gibraltar air quality website.

There is Government support and involvement in pollution reduction initiatives such as Clean up the World and World Environment Day.

The Government is drafting legislation that focuses on land-quality management and enforces a polluter-pays principle in respect to contamination or pollution of land.

The Environmental Action and Management Plan (2013), serves as a road map for the implementation of green principles aimed at reducing pollution. It establishes general policy goals, identifies specific action points and sets out tentative time-frames for goal achievement.

## Climate-change, Renewable Energy and Waste Management

Environmental Protection Officers comprise the Department of the Environment and Climate Change law enforcement body. The Environmental Protection Unit has the role of monitoring, supervising and enforcing the Nature Protection Act (2013) on a daily basis.

In 2012, HMGoG commissioned a carbon-footprint assessment and review of all government operations, with a view to quantifying and reducing carbon emissions, as well as introducing green accounting policy into mainstream reporting.

The DECC and the recently created Climate Change Task Force, chaired by the Deputy Chief Minister, have been addressing key aspects of Gibraltar's Climate Change strategy. The strategy will be elaborated further in the revised Gibraltar Climate Change Programme and is divided into four main overarching themes which include:

1. Adapting to climate change by building Gibraltar's resilience;
2. Facilitating the transition towards a low carbon economy;
3. Improving our understanding of climate change science; and
4. Raising climate change awareness and changing consumer behaviour through educational initiatives. This follows the strategic approach adopted by the United Nations Environment Programme for combating climate change.

Some of the key measures that form part of the strategy and are being implemented already include:

- Developing and encouraging the uptake of solar energy;

- Developing and encouraging the uptake of marine renewables;
- Improving end-user efficiency.

Gibraltar's Climate Change Policy includes also a Soil Protection Policy. The aim of this policy is to provide a framework for the protection of soil and the preservation of the capacity of soil to perform various environmental functions including acting as a biodiversity pool. It therefore aims to lay down measures for the prevention of soil degradation processes. Developments which would involve the removal of significant amounts of soil would be discouraged. If such a development does go ahead, every effort should be made to find a beneficial use for the removed soil.

As part of the coastal water, bathing water and groundwater monitoring programmes, samples are collected on a monthly basis from all beaches, offshore locations around Gibraltar's coastline and from Gibraltar's freshwater aquifers. In addition, marine sediment, phytoplankton, fish and bivalve tissue samples are collected and monitored. Data collected are used by the DECC to help meet its reporting obligations under the Bathing Water, Water Framework and the Marine Strategy Framework Directives. These ensure the protection of coastal ecology and water quality, unique and valuable habitats, drinking water resources and bathing waters.

The Water Framework Directive Working Group consists of a panel of local professionals, scientists, and Government officials. It was specifically established to provide ongoing technical and scientific advice to Government on the development and implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

The EU Water Framework Directive itself requires River Basin District Management Plans to be drawn up, to classify the existing state of coastal waters,

ground waters and rivers and to identify any potential sources of pollution. The Gibraltar Plan covers only coastal waters and ground waters as there are no rivers. This, along with any relevant information is available to the public, through displays at the site as well as through the media and internet. The annual Bathing Water Report and Tourist Atlas can be viewed on the Environmental Agency website; this web resource provides also current water status for each bathing area as well as providing historical results. Bathing water quality research and findings are available also to the public through web-browser application access. They are published on an annual basis in the yearly environmental report.

Gibraltar does not currently produce any goods and is therefore considered to be a net consumer. The production of waste is therefore one of the main negative environmental impacts arising from Gibraltar's consumption of natural resources.

The long-term waste strategy requires a municipal waste treatment facility. This project is going through a renewed tender process in order to ensure that the best available technologies and best practices are adopted to ensure that Gibraltar specific environmental needs are met.

Gibraltar's recycling campaigns continue to expand, and World Environment Day 2015 saw the launch of another kerbside recycling service, the recycling of waste cooking oil.

2015 figures on recycling have already seen an increase of approximately 38.5% in mixed packaging waste such as plastic and cans, 15% on Glass, 21% on Cardboard and 60% on Paper. Additional bins were provided in 2015 to increase further the recycling rates of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). 2015 figures well surpassed the amount of WEEE recycled in 2014.

Dedicated litter wardens patrol Gibraltar daily, creating awareness, educating and deterring people from irresponsible tipping. No-dumping signs will shortly be going up in litter hotspots to further remind the public that, in Gibraltar, bins are only a short distance away and there is no excuse for the illegal dumping of refuse.

Preliminary climate change modelling and impact assessment was undertaken in 2012/2013 through the *EU's Cities Adapt* climate-change project. This highlighted zones of further research. Gibraltar-specific climate change risk analyses are therefore now being investigated.

Zones of further research are being discussed with the Gibraltar University with a view to create a Climate Resilience Strategy for Gibraltar.

The Climate Change Fund is being reviewed at present.

### **Environmental Education**

Gibraltar has converted significant amount of its spatial, geographical and environmental data into GIS format. These were published via a dedicated web portal in 2013. This was based on the EU wide INSPIRE legislation. They are accessible via the Gibraltar geoportal on [www.geoportal.gov.gi](http://www.geoportal.gov.gi)

The DECC raises awareness on a whole array of environmental issues in schools. The focus has recently been on energy-efficiency and marine awareness, as well as the launch of an underwater camera, the first of its kind in Europe. The underwater camera forms another element of the wider marine surveillance programme carried out by the DECC to monitor the status of marine habitats and species within British Gibraltar Territorial Waters. A second camera is going to be set up in summer 2016.

The Department's Thinking Green website now has a video link to the underwater camera all with real-time

footage of Gibraltar's rich underwater environment: <http://www.thinkinggreen.gov.gi/index.php/underwater-camera>. While providing a facility for the community to learn about the marine environment it is continuously providing scientific data on Gibraltar's marine diversity and water quality.

Local NGOs also contribute and continue to drive environmental and biodiversity awareness, for example, the Alameda Gardening Club. Green space in Gibraltar is very limited. Most children in Gibraltar have no access to gardens. Thus, some have little contact with the natural environment. The Alameda Gardening Club introduces children to themes such as: horticulture, importance of plants in peoples' lives; ecology, including pollinators, conservation and recycling. The initiative is supported by the Department of Education. There are also Facebook sites where they are able to interact with the public, answering questions etc.

Clean up the World Day is organised locally in conjunction with local NGOs. This is 100% voluntary public participation.

World Environment Day is held yearly and hosted with the participation of all schools and parents.

The Environmental Agency officers take an active part in health and environmental promotion campaigns throughout the year, visiting schools and giving presentations to interested groups.

Several apps have been developed including one for the Upper Rock Reserve, which presents information on the natural environment in Gibraltar.

Guidance documents have been published to better inform the public on how the new marine regulations work, these include a marine species identification booklet which has been produced and is made available to all applicants to highlight some of the common fish and mollusc species found in Gibraltar along with their corresponding minimum sizes.

## International Agreements

Ratified some years ago by the UK, Gibraltar has never before taken a full role in the activities of the ACCOBAMS (Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area) organisation. Its role has now been accepted and, as a first activity, the ACCOBAMS Secretariat has invited the Government's Department of the Environment and Climate Change (DECC) to take a full part in the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative which is aimed at undertaking a comprehensive survey of the waters covered by the ACCOBAMS including British Gibraltar Territorial Waters (BGTW).

Gibraltar is included also in UK's ratification of Ramsar, CBD, CITES, CMS and Eurobats.

## Still to do

Implement the *Gibraltar Nature Reserve Management Plan*.

Implement and revise the Southern Waters of Gibraltar Management Scheme.

Establish more concise and measurable conservation objectives for EU protected habitats and species.

Work towards the designation of Gorham's Cave Complex as a World Heritage Site.

In conjunction with the findings of the first data gathering round, the Gibraltar Climate Change programme 2015 will provide targets to reduce overall emissions.

Initiatives that need to be implemented include:

- Continuation of the sea-grass restoration (carbon sink) programme;
- National Energy Efficiency Action Plan, published 2014;

- Street lighting efficiency replacement programme;
- National Renewable Energy Action Plan, published 2015;
- Gibraltar Renewable Energy strategy, published 2015;
- Energy Efficiency Lighting programme for Government Buildings, rolled out in 2014 and on-going;
- Smart metering of household electrical consumption being deployed throughout Gibraltar, initiated in 2015.

Continue to raise awareness of biodiversity-related issues in the Development and Planning Commission.

Complete review of Gibraltar Development Plan.

Finish updating and reviewing the Government's Green Procurement Policy.

Complete review of Buildings Regulations. (A review of Part F of the Building Regulations has commenced. In as far as the energy performance of buildings is concerned, the relevant legislation dates back to 2008, i.e. Building (Energy performance) Rules 2008. It has been amended a number of times since then.)

Increase recycling targets.

Implement Gibraltar's Waste Prevention Programme more rigorously.

Establish municipal waste treatment facility.

Put up no-dumping rubbish signs.

End illegal fisheries, largely by foreign boats.

Designate Wetland(s) of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention.

Extend the following Conventions to Gibraltar: International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT); Barcelona Convention

A new Urban Waste Water Treatment facility will be

commissioned in 2016. This will ensure that Gibraltar is compliant with the EU's Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive.

Complete and enact legislation that focuses on land quality management and enforces a polluter-pays principle in respect to contamination or pollution of land.

Carry out Gibraltar-specific climate-change risk analyses.

Create a Climate Resilience Strategy for Gibraltar following further research.

# Isle of Man

The Convention on Biological Diversity was extended to the Territory in 2012.

## Protected Areas

The Isle of Man has one Marine Nature Reserve, designated in 2011. The Ramsey Bay and Ballacash Channel Marine Nature Reserve protects important habitats and species in the area.

Additionally a Marine Planning project is underway to introduce measures to manage the marine environment.

At the end of February 2014, 21 Areas of Special Scientific Interest were designated in the Isle of Man, one of which is also a National Nature Reserve. There is also one designated Ramsar Site and several proposed.

The Isle of Man was adopted into UNESCO's network of Biosphere Reserves in March 2016.

## Species Protection

The Biodiversity Strategy states that, by 2018, all relevant legislation, regulations, schemes, incentives and codes of practice will be reviewed for consistency with biodiversity conservation, especially international obligations. The Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act 2010 was updated to adhere to the principles of CITES.

The Fisheries Act 2012 enables the Department to produce regulations which come into effect as soon as they have been signed by the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA) Minister.

In 2014 a consultation paper containing proposals for the future management of the queen scallop fisheries was produced. There are five Fisheries Closed or Restricted Areas, designated to promote the recovery of

scallop stocks. Enforcement is in place for Regulation breaches, using *FPV Barrule*. In October 2015 the Fisheries Strategy was unanimously agreed by the department, and will be taken forward to Tynwald (parliament).

## Monitoring and Baseline data

Baseline data have been gathered for oak hazel woodland and molluscs in ancient woodland. A project recording new flora is underway. Monitoring programmes exist for basking sharks *Cetorhinus maximus*, marine mammals and Calf of Man shearwaters *Puffinus puffinus*. In 2014 the Calf of Man shearwater survey indicated that the population was increasing.

## Invasive Species

A marine invasives strategy is currently being drafted for the Territory. Section 14 of the Wildlife Act 1990 was updated in 2011, prohibiting the release of certain introduced species into the wild.

The Manx Wildlife Trust has produced an ID guide to marine invasive non-native species.

## Planning, EIA and Legislation

Environmental Impact Assessments are required through the planning system for terrestrial developments.

Trees in the Isle of Man are protected under The Tree Preservation Act 1993.

In 2015 marine planning legislation went out for consultation; it is aimed at streamlining the consenting process for developments in the Isle of Man's

territorial waters. Consultations are carried out online on the government website. A Code of Practice on Consultation was produced in 2008.

## Pollution

Legislation and policies to address pollution are based on the 'polluter-pays' principle. Enforcement is carried out through the relevant Directorate.

Isle of Man has a Water Pollution Response Plan.

River pollution is monitored and a report has been compiled detailing river pollution incidents from 1997-2013.

## Climate-change, Renewable Energy and Waste Management

Isle of Man is currently working towards becoming a 'Zero Waste Island' using the Waste Policy and Strategy 2012-2022. The Environment, Safety and Health Directorate deals with the Water Discharge Licence Register and Licensed Waste Disposal Sites Register, and water resource management is handled under the guiding principles of the Watercourse Management Guide 2006.

The Government's short-term renewable electricity target was 15% by 2015. The island's energy system is currently undergoing transformation. A renewable energy study was commissioned in 2010, and offshore energy opportunities are progressing. In 2013, Government adopted a greenhouse gas emissions target for the Isle of Man of 80% reduction of 1990 levels by 2050.

## Environmental Education

A Biodiversity Education Officer (Manx Wildlife Trust), a part-DEFA supported post, is helping to implement the environmental education aspects of the Isle of Man government's Biodiversity Strategy.

Marine education and awareness-raising is part of the Territory's Marine Plan project. The Territory has an 'Eco-Mann' and 'Eco-Schools' initiative to help children learn about looking after the environment both locally and in a wider context.

## International Agreements

CBD was extended to Isle of Man in 2012. The Isle of Man is also in Ramsar, CITES, CMS & Eurobats.

The Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act 2010 was updated to adhere to the principles of CITES.

## Stakeholder Stewardship

### *Consultation the key to strides in Isle of Man*

Two areas where consultation has been the key to success in setting strategies for conserving biodiversity and for ensuring sustainable use of marine resources are in the development of the Isle of Man Biodiversity Strategy as part of their sign up to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the creation of a Marine Protected Area.

The Isle of Man used two different approaches to show local participation and good science are both essential for well-informed management decisions to promote sustainable fisheries.

Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve (RMNR) was developed in a partnership between the Isle of Man Government and the Manx Fish Producers' Organisation. After an initial area and concept were agreed between the two parties, comprehensive

stakeholder consultation led to the development of management zones and regulations. The zones within RMNR provide a full range of protection, from no-take through to managed use, appropriate to the features being protected. Conservation features protected include horse-mussel reefs, seagrass-beds and maerl (rhodolith) beds. One of the zones is a Fisheries Management Zone which is managed by the Manx Fish Producers' Organisation (MFPO). The fishermen opted to keep the zone closed to all mobile-gear fishing for 4 years. In 2013 and 2014, limited fishing was permitted by MFPO members. Strict quotas were set by the fishermen, based on scientific surveys carried out by the IOM Government and fishing industry surveys carried out by the fishermen. Fishing activities were timed to coincide with premium prices for scallops on the Christmas market, and fishermen co-operated to pool their individual quotas, reducing fuel costs and maximising profits. Fishermen have limited their fishing to a small proportion of the total area available to them, effectively extending the conservation zones of the RMNR. RMNR took 3 years to establish, from the start of the project to designation of the Isle of Man's



*Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve, Isle of Man (Dr Fiona Gell)*

first Marine Nature Reserve. RMNR demonstrates the benefit of investing time and resources to work in close partnership with the fishing industry and other stakeholders for conservation and fisheries sustainability outcomes.

Baie ny Carrickey Closed Area (BNCCA) grew out of a gear conflict situation and public concerns about the marine environment. The location of the closed area was decided by a community committee of stakeholders representing fisheries, recreational and environmental interests. As a result of the consensus reached by the community committee, the Isle of Man Government was able to implement rapidly the BNCCA as a trial

designation with relatively little further consultation. The designation began as an area closed to trawling and dredging. The next stage was led by a group of fishermen who formed an association to manage pot-fishing within the area. Working with the Isle of Man Government and Bangor University scientists, the pot-fishermen now carry out regular monitoring and fisheries surveys within the Bay, and have implemented stricter management controls such as increased Minimum Landing Sizes for lobster and reductions in fishing effort. New initiatives include the development of a protected zone for sea-grass, a habitat survey and other proactive measures initiated by the fishermen's management association. BNCCA is an example of a community-led initiative that resulted in the rapid designation of a Marine Protected Area with fisheries and conservation benefits.

In 2010, following several years of preparatory work, a public consultation was held on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), producing a document to explain what the Convention was about and what it would mean to the Island. Some ways in which this can be done are by having shorter documents in colour, and items on radio and TV. Another way is to hold meetings and work with NGOs. The Nature Conservation Forum in Isle of Man was proactive and continued its dialogue with various groups throughout the process. On the Isle of Man, 105 answers to the public consultation were received out of a population of 84,000. The Minister wanted to know if key people, e.g. fisherman, business leaders etc, were happy. The proposal had been well received, and the Minister agreed in early 2011 to the first informal request to Defra to have the assessment evaluated. In 2014, after fulfilling all the requirements including the Isle of Man's Biodiversity Strategy, the CBD was extended to the Island.

## **Economic Value of Sustainable Use**

Ecosystem resilience is a strong theme throughout the draft Biodiversity Strategy. Most of the Territory's carbon stored in soils is in the uplands. A provisional estimate of the quantity of carbon in the Island's soils is 4.76 million tonnes. In May 2013, the Department instigated a working group of uplands stakeholders to identify the diverse uses and values of the uplands and to develop a vision for the future of the Department's uplands estate and adjoining lands. A final report on the future of the Manx uplands was produced in 2014. Recommendations include habitat restoration initiatives. DEFA has started restoring upland bogs through blocking drainage to increase carbon capture by activating peat accumulation.

## **Still to do**

Pass & implement Biodiversity Strategy.

Review all relevant legislation, regulations, schemes, incentives and codes of practice for consistency with biodiversity conservation, especially international obligations.

Resourcing to be identified and implemented

Complete and implement marine invasive species strategy.

Make further Ramsar designations.

Review agri-environment scheme or similar to incentivise sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity.

Continue working towards renewable energy targets and zero-waste status.

Take forward Fisheries Strategy.

Undertake an audit of essential ecosystem services.

Manage the Manx uplands sustainably.

Monitor breeding hen harrier population.

Identify genetically distinct species of flora and fauna and mitigate risks to these.

# Jersey

## Protected Areas

A Protected Area Strategy is in draft, as is a National Park Management Plan.

The National Trust for Jersey is restoring the site at Plémont (a former holiday camp) and returning it to nature. Heathland restoration trials are being carried out.

There has been establishment of some Marine Protected Areas of no dredging / trawling. The Normandy and Jersey lobster fishery was certified independently by the Marine Stewardship Council as sustainable in 2011. Protection of maerl beds has been implemented and there are minimum landing sizes for key economic species.

There are 4 designated and one proposed Ramsar Sites.

## Species Protection

The Territory has a comprehensive list of Species Action Plans in its Biodiversity Strategy. These include 19 species of plant, 8 species of insect, 3 species of reptile, 13 species of mammal, 5 species of bird, 2 species of amphibian and 1 species of fish. There is also a Habitat Action Plan for eelgrass beds (*Zostera* spp.).

Further plans are under development for: *Myosotis sicula guss* - Jersey forget-me-not, *Fratercula arctica* - Atlantic puffin, *Branta bernicla* - Brent goose, *Haliotis tuberculata* - ormer, Hedgerow Habitat Action Plan and an urban habitat statement. Habitat condition assessments are also being undertaken.

Reintroduction programmes are going ahead for choughs *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* and agile frogs *Rana dalmatina*, which include collaboration with other conservation organisations such as the National Trust for Jersey and Durrell.

Previous habitat restoration efforts have led to the recovery of species such as brown galingale *Cyperus fuscus* and Jersey forget-me-not *Myosotis sicula guss*.

The *Birds on the Edge* project is working to restore coastal habitats.

Within the Normandy and Jersey lobster fishery, maerl beds are protected and there are minimum landing sizes for key economic species.

## Monitoring and Baseline data

Freshwater species monitoring is carried out on a quinquennial basis.

Marine and garden birds are monitored as part of the *Birds on the Edge* project.

Monitoring programmes are also in place for butterflies, amphibians and reptiles, and bats through the Jersey Bat Group.

There are various specialist working groups between the States of Jersey and NGOs.

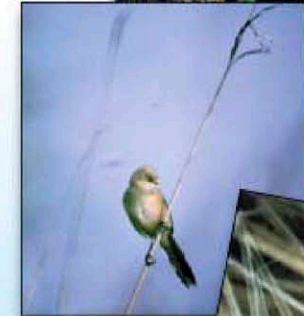
Sea and ground water monitoring is carried out regularly by the States of Jersey.

# Wetland

Jersey's wetlands have an important place in the natural diversity of Jersey but they are not extensive. These very special habitats are capable of sustaining a wide variety of wildlife, although many areas have been lost over the years due to the effects of intensive agriculture, urban sprawl and natural encroachment. St Ouen's pond, on the Island's west coast, is probably the most significant wetland area in Jersey. It is a dedicated nature reserve with open water, reed beds and a marshy perimeter providing a rich selection of habitats for birds, fish, insects and flowers. The reed beds are home to bearded reedlings and Cetti's warblers. In recent winters bitterns have discovered this wetland haven and hunt here for fish and insect larvae.



Selfheal and common birds-foot trefoil



Bearded reedling

Jersey orchid



Sallow catkins



Glanville fritillary



Bittern



St Ouen's pond

Remaining proposed Ramsar Convention Wetland of International Importance



## Invasive Species

A draft Invasive Species Strategy is in progress. Invasive species are managed on ecologically important sites.

In 2013, the Environment Department initiated a project to gather data on the locations of Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica*. This plant was selected as a good target species due to its relative ease in identification, its high profile and the threat it poses to Jersey's infrastructure and biodiversity. By downloading a phone app designed by Plant Tracker, people in Jersey have been engaged via social media and the [www.gov.je](http://www.gov.je) website, and asked to photograph then email any sightings of this plant to the Plant Tracker website. Sightings are then downloaded by the DoE and recorded as a GIS layer. They are ground-truthed by staff and others with permission. All records have been verified and added to historic records held at the DoE, increasing records from 50 to 120. The project aims to assign criteria to all patches of knotweed which will then prioritise their management, identify land ownership details and calculate the known infested area and costs of control.

The government has produced information leaflets on Japanese knotweed and monitoring is carried out on other non-native species, including Colorado beetles, oak processionary moth and burnet rose.

There is regulation of aquaculture seed to reduce the risk of invasives being imported.

Jersey is communicating with GB non-native secretariat about Jersey's role as an early warning for invasive species.

## Planning, EIA and Legislation

### *Open planning takes environment into account*

Environmental Impact Assessments are required for

development projects on Jersey and the government has produced guidance for completion of these. The National Trust Development Application Committee is involved in the planning process. This Committee meets weekly to run through Island-wide planning development applications and highlights issues which are in contravention of the Island Plan, or are not in the wider interests of the people of Jersey. The EIS Review, along with all other documents that have been relied upon in determining the planning application, are all public documents and are available for inspection at the Planning and Environment Department. A Register of Buildings and Sites of Architectural, Archaeological and Historical Importance is maintained by the Minister for Planning & Environment. Work is in progress on an amended development control process, which takes better account of biodiversity issues and makes comprehensive mitigation a requirement in development projects likely to have a significant impact. A biodiversity checklist has recently become a requirement to accompany all planning applications.

Under Article 9 of the Island Planning (Jersey) Law 1964 (as amended), there are powers to designate areas as Sites of Special (ecological) Interest (SSI). The *Jersey Island Plan 2011* contains proposals for special designations, including habitat corridors and Environmentally Sensitive Areas.

## Pollution

In 2010 a Memorandum of Understanding was drawn up and agreed by the relevant Ministers in order to: clarify each department's respective roles with regard to marine pollution, avoid any unnecessary duplication between these departments, and provide an efficient and cost-effective pollution prevention and control service.

The government provides a template water pollution

contingency plan for farms, and an oil-spill response plan is under development. Enforcement is carried out via Environmental Protection. Jersey has a Water Framework Directive and Soil, Air and Water Code.

## Climate-change, Renewable Energy and Waste Management

Jersey has a Soil, Air and Water Code.

Waste management is well provisioned for. A Solid Waste Strategy was developed in 2005 and the Island Plan has a dedicated waste management element. The government provides waste management templates for farms, and there are various local initiatives such as promoting composting via not-for-profit schemes.

The Natural Resources and Utilities section of the Island Plan deals with the policies and proposals relating to the Island's requirement for, and management of, natural resources, including air, water and energy. In 2011 the government commissioned a report into the potential for tidal power for the Territory. *Pathway 2050: An Energy Plan for Jersey* outlines the challenges Jersey faces in terms of energy use through to 2050 and maps out the policy response needed to meet those challenges.

The Island's sewage treatment system is in the process of being upgraded, and sea and ground water monitoring is already in place.

Low-carbon nuclear power is the main source of electricity for Jersey.

An Energy Policy is in draft for the island.

## Environmental Education

There is a good level of engagement of schools with the natural environment. The Department of the Environment (DoE) Eco-Active environmental education campaign launched a Sustainable Schools

framework in 2010. This ties into national Eco-Schools standards, and 27 local primary and secondary schools have signed up. The Ecology Fund has agreed to support initiatives associated with the Eco-Active Sustainable Schools Framework. Schools and other groups are led in field visits by the DoE to explore the Island's biodiversity, and lots of educational work and resources are provided by the National Trust and Durrell. Additionally there is a range of educational material relating to the heritage and natural environment.

The Jersey Conservation Volunteers has been developed into a group, which meets monthly to carry out conservation projects.

### **International Agreements**

Included in UK's ratification of Ramsar, CBD, CITES, CMS & Eurobats.

### **Stakeholder Stewardship**

The island has various environmental work schemes (Probation, Back to Work). There are various Volunteer Monitoring Schemes – e.g. NARRS, Butterfly Monitoring Scheme, and Citizen Science projects, e.g. for invasive species.

The States of Jersey has implemented the EcoActive States programme, an environmental management programme which helps departments to manage the environmental impact of their day-to-day operations. The EcoActive business certification programme helps businesses operate in an environmentally friendly way.

The Enterprise Environmental Award recognises and rewards businesses that strive to protect the natural environment and encourages others to do the same.

A Jersey marine and coastal wildlife watching code has been produced to encourage sustainable interactions

with the natural environment.

### **Still to do**

Implement fully Action Plans; monitor these; and develop further Plans as appropriate.

Review and update the Biodiversity Strategy for Jersey.

Finalise and implement the National Park Management Plan and Protected Area Strategy.

Finalise and implement the Invasive Species Strategy.

Work more closely with continental neighbours, including France.

Implement best practice in EIA and other planning matters, as well as consultative strategic environmental assessment and planning.

Develop cross-compliance of policies and agricultural inputs.

Finalise and implement Jersey Energy Policy, responding to meet Jersey's energy challenges,

Acquire further knowledge of freshwater ecosystems

Finalise and implement Water Management Plan.

Survey and recognise ecosystem services through the Rural Economic Strategy and revised Biodiversity Strategy.

Develop proposals for local tidal / wave / wind electricity generation.

Develop more citizen-science monitoring, e.g. bees, dragonflies etc.

Modernise the school curriculum needs, and include an updated environmental focus.

Stop importation of 'wild plants' which erode genetic integrity of native provenance.

# Guernsey

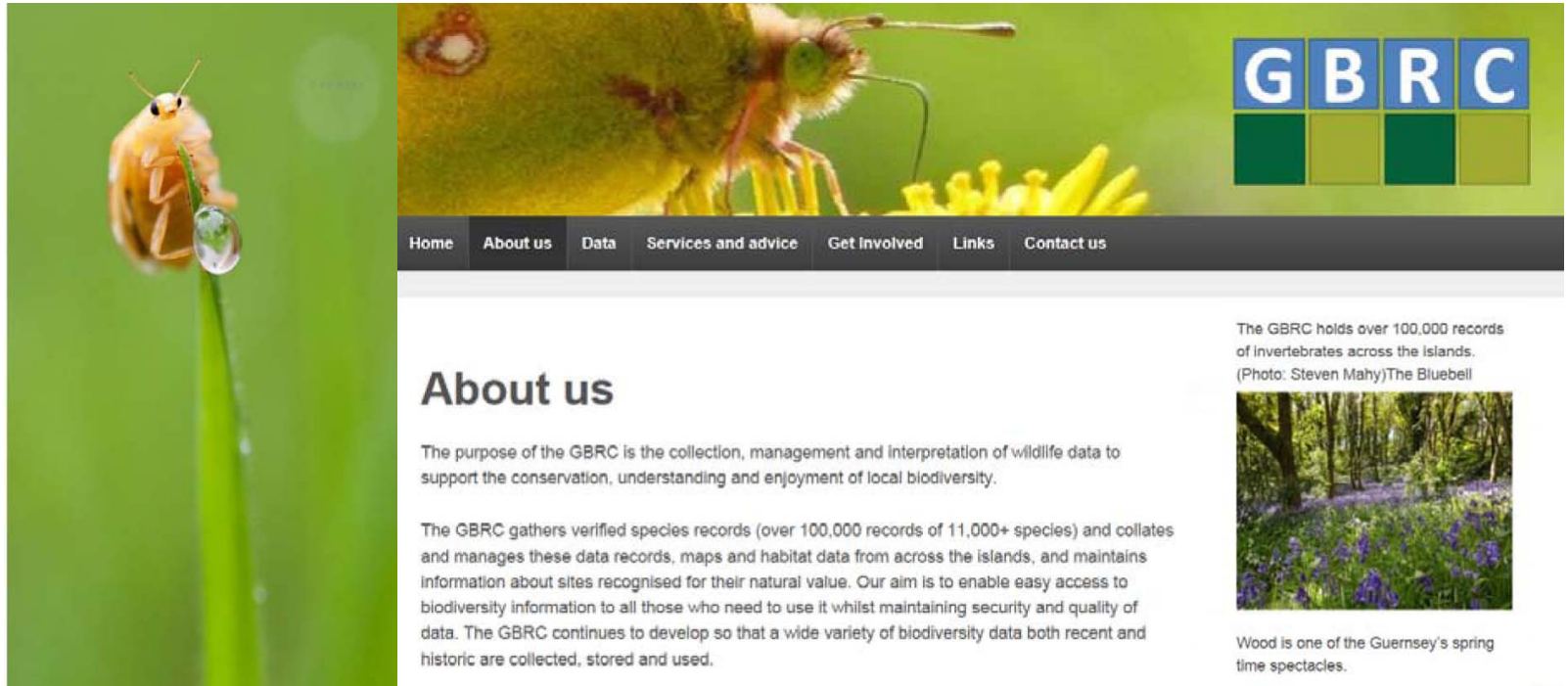
## Protected Areas

Guernsey has 2 Ramsar Sites, L'Erée and Lihou Island, totalling 391ha, and a new Ramsar Site designated in 2015, including Herm, Jethou & the Humps (in addition to those separately noted for Alderney and Sark, which also form part of the Bailiwick, alongside Guernsey itself). The new site is located within the Normand-Breton Gulf, which is a large marine area in the west part of the English Channel, including French marine waters (Bay of Saint Malo) and British (Channel Islands) marine waters. This area of over 11, 000 km<sup>2</sup> comprises numerous marine protected areas with six marine Ramsar Sites (of which five are in the Channel Islands), and Natura 2000 sites, French designation sites and a proposed marine nature park in French waters.

The Environment Department manages a number of important Environmental Sites on Guernsey, including Bordeaux Nature Reserve, and Bluebell Wood, which has been designated a Site of Nature Conservation Importance. A survey of existing SNCIs and other areas has been commissioned to determine what sites may be appropriate for the designation of Sites of Special Significance (SSSs).

## Species Protection

At the end of 2015, a Biodiversity Strategy was passed by the Guernsey Assembly.



The GBRC holds over 100,000 records of invertebrates across the islands. (Photo: Steven Mahy) The Bluebell

Wood is one of the Guernsey's spring time spectacles.

*From Guernsey Biological Records Centre web-site*

## Monitoring and Baseline data

### *Guernsey Biological Records Centre*

The Guernsey Biological Records Centre is run by Environment Guernsey on behalf of the two partners, La Société Guernesiaise and the States of Guernsey. The centre works with a wide range of organisations, individuals and government bodies to provide information about the species and habitats found in the Guernsey and other Channel Islands. It collates, manages and stores data that describes local biodiversity and forms an evidence base to which decision-makers can refer to when making decisions that may impact on wildlife or wildlife habitat.

In 2010, a full island-wide habitat survey was carried out to inform habitat action plans as part of the Biodiversity Strategy. Surveys are proposed to be repeated every 10 years. There is a monitoring programme for water birds in shore areas, and Guernsey Bat Group monitors bats.

The *Guernsey Amphibian and Reptile Survey* is now into its fourth year. It is part of the UK 'NARRS' (National Amphibian and Reptile Recording Scheme) and should help us to understand the populations of our few local species: common frog *Rana temporaria*, smooth newt *Triturus vulgaris*, slow worm *Anguis fragilis* and green lizard *Lacerta viridis*.

The Marine Biology Section of La Société Guernesiaise will continue to take part in the *Shore Thing* survey in

2016. The *Shore Thing* is an initiative of the Marine Biological Association, working with schools and community groups around the British Isles to collect information on rocky sea shore life.

### **Invasive Species**

The Guernsey States of Deliberation have agreed new plant health legislation that will include provision for the control and eradication of invasive species. Invasive species are identified as a threat to terrestrial and marine environments in the Biodiversity Strategy. There are some biosecurity protocols in place, such as import restrictions and plant health checks. Invasive species are identified as a threat to terrestrial and marine environments in the Biodiversity Strategy.

### **Planning, EIA and Legislation**

The States of Guernsey Environment Policy Plan commits to ensuring environmental considerations are deliberated in all policy decisions. Since April 2009, it has been a legal requirement in Guernsey for certain types of development project to undergo EIA before decisions are made on whether consent should be given. Details are specified in the The Land Planning and Development (Environmental Impact Assessment) Ordinance, 2007.

### **Pollution**

Legislation dealing with pollution consists of the Prevention of Pollution (Guernsey) Law, 1989, the Environmental Pollution (Guernsey) Law 2004 and the Environmental Pollution (Waste Control & Disposal) Ordinance 2010. The Ordinances do not implement the polluter-pays principle. Restrictions for agricultural pollution are in place in the form of a ‘closed period’ between 1st October –31st December each year, during which time nitrogen containing fertilisers and organic manures, including slurry, must not be applied to the land.

### **Climate-change, Renewable Energy and Waste Management**

A Waste Strategy was produced in 2012.

Potential for renewable energy projects in the Territory is being explored.

A report titled *Guernsey Regional Environmental Assessment of Marine Energy* was produced in 2011.

In 2012 the Marine Institute at Plymouth University carried an epibenthic assessment of a renewable tidal energy site.

A new Renewable Energy Ordinance was sent out for consultation in 2014. The aim of the Ordinance is to enable effective development of offshore renewables (such as offshore wind, tidal and wave energy) in Guernsey at the appropriate time and to provide robust environmental protection while still keeping the process of licensing offshore renewable energy systems as straight forward and streamlined as possible.

### **Environmental Education**

The environment is central to school curriculum, whose purposes include:

- develop knowledge and understanding of the world and the Bailiwick’s place in it
- appreciate local heritage and community whilst understanding different beliefs and cultures
- make informed choices and decisions
- evaluate environmental, scientific and technological issues

Additionally there is a range of educational material relating to the heritage and natural environment.

### **International Agreements**

Included in UK’s ratification of Ramsar, CITES, CMS & Eurobats.

### **Stakeholder Stewardship**

*Keep Guernsey Green Award* for organisations that wish to publicise their commitment to the environment.

### **Still to do**

Implement legislation providing for the control and eradication of invasive species.

Review invasive species.

Develop strategy for carbon-footprint reduction and climate-change adaptation.

Draft Island Development Plan (IDP) includes proposals for SSS designation and a proposal to introduce “Areas of Biodiversity Importance” which may require particular conditions to be met in respect of new development. The draft IDP will be debated by the States of Guernsey in late 2016. The States will be asked to adopt the draft following the recently finished Planning Inquiry on the draft IDP.

Performing Strategic Environmental Assessments is not yet a legislative requirement on Guernsey.

Revise Farm Biodiversity Action Plan.

Pass Renewable Energy Ordinance.

Extend the Convention on Biological Diversity to Guernsey. (Representatives from the Territory were present at the Workshop on the CBD in October 2012, to discuss the responsibilities and resources required for an extension.)

Secure long term funding for Guernsey Biological Records Centre.

Consider introducing the polluter-pays principle.

# Alderney

## Protected Areas

Approx. 25% of the land area (this includes: woodland, reserves and the Ramsar site at Burhou) and 10% marine area (West coast and Burhou islands Ramsar site) protected.

There is a Ramsar Site Management Plan reviewed annually.

## Species Protection

Ramsar site management plan has dedicated conservation actions for lesser black-backed gull *Larus fuscus*, storm petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*, ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, and puffin *Fratercula arctica*.

## Monitoring & Baseline Data

The Alderney Wildlife Trust (AWT) monitors: breeding birds, moths, butterflies and seaweeds.

## Invasive Species

AWT has a programme of invasive control, which relies on university research work and volunteer ground work.

## Planning, EIA and Legislation

Hazardous development or large road/infrastructure proposals require Environment Impact Assessments (EIA)

Not subject to European environmental directives

Public consultation limited except for sites designated by Government to be major changes within areas under the Land Use Plan.

## Pollution

Renewable Energy (Alderney) Law, 2008, appended 2011, recognises implications of large-scale development including decommissioning and restitution work.

Alderney has an oil spill action plan.

## Climate-change, Renewable Energy and Waste Management

Alderney has been recognised as a location with significant tidal power potential, part of the largest tidal resource in North West Europe. The Alderney Commission for Renewable Energy (ACRE) is an independent body which markets, licenses and protects Alderney's renewable resource. In 2008, Alderney Renewable Energy Limited (ARE) was issued a licence for 50% of Alderney's marine assets by ACRE. Applications from developers for sub-surface tidal devices were first received in 2008.

## Environmental Education

*Education for sustainable development* is a cross-curricular theme at Key Stage 3 upwards in schools.

School groups involved in Alderney Community Woodland project through AWT.

LIVE: teaching through nature; an AWT flagship project links schools with wildlife webcams ecologists and a wide range of primary teaching resources.



*Puffins on Burhou, in Alderney's Ramsar Site  
(Bill Black, Alderney Wildlife Trust)*

Alderney WATCH group – the junior Wildlife Trust, supports children from 6-14 years of age and runs over 50 events per year, all with an environmental educational theme.

## International Agreements

Included in UK's ratification of Ramsar, CITES, CMS & Eurobats.

## Stakeholder Stewardship

### *Living Islands Project*

The Living Islands is a programme, designed to promote Alderney's natural and cultural heritage to new

audiences. Using a model developed by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, it engages the local community in activities that support the islands objectives, and help them understand the potential of their island to support the local economy.

Alderney's historic fortifications and variety of natural habitats are obvious attractions for new visitors. They also inspire the local community about their island heritage. Some of the project's achievements include a programme of walks, guided tours, boat trips and even all-inclusive holidays now established at the Cambridge Battery of Fort Tourgis, and the unique WW2 German defences at Bibette Head. Assistance was given to the Alderney Wildlife Trust's Ramsar Officer with signage and monitoring of successful ringed plover breeding sites in Platte Saline and Clonque bays.

The project involves many partners including: Alderney Wildlife Trust, the States of Alderney and the Alderney Society. The website is <https://www.alderneylivingislands.com> and details many more of the island's successes.

management programme by developing two provisional site management plans through *Living Islands*;

- Formalised species protection requirements within Environmental Charter and a Wildlife Act;
- Continued development of Alderney Records Centre by AWT;
- Adoption of a formal Environmental Strategy within the planning process and its enactment in SoA policy and legislation;
- Development and implementation of island-wide agriculture and fisheries policies by SoA;
- The Convention on Biological Diversity extended to Alderney;
- Incorporation of a 'polluter-pays' requirement into SoA planning policy.

## Still to do

Areas where progress can be made:

- New strategic plan: including a detailed section on environmental and sustainability commitments; draft Environmental Charter adopted formally by the States of Alderney; and integration of the *Living Islands* project into States of Alderney working practice within its Economic and Business Development Programme;
- New Ramsar Management Strategy 2017-2021 to include more specific habitat protection and development of legislative protection;
- Creation of a Marine Protected Area;
- Creation of a more systematic habitat and species

# Sark

## Protected Areas

Ramsar Site designated.

Sark was designated a Dark Sky Community in 2011

Approximately 500 trees of mixed deciduous varieties are to be planted in March 2016, obtained from the Woodland Trust and Guernsey Environment Department.

## Species Protection

The planting of vines on Sark is a concern due to agricultural run-off and associated water pollution.

There has been some slight halting of new vineyards on the island. One proposed vineyard has been planted with cider-apple trees with flowers attractive to bees between the trees. Another proposed vineyard has been left to pasture.

Fishing restrictions were extended to 12 miles in 2011.

In 2014, the Bailiwick introduced a ban of wreck netting, a practice whereby prominent wrecks are netted by fishermen. Nets get entangled on the wrecks and cannot be hauled and continue to “ghost fish”. The introduction is based on a catch composition control and has had very good support from many fisheries sectors.

## Monitoring and Baseline data

Digimap, a joint venture by NGO (Société Sercquaise) and Chief Pleas, is now in use. It is principally for monitoring land-use, water sources, and biodiversity of plants species.

Sark Entomology Group has been formed and reports moth and butterfly sightings.

Bordeaux Mix is harmful to insects, particularly bees, to earthworms and in the long term, also to humans in contact with it. It is believed that this is being used by some land-owners to prevent mildew and other fungi. Guernsey authorities are helping with identification of the sprays used and are monitoring the situation. Water quality on the island is also being monitored.

## Invasive Species

*Carpobrotus edulis* and Japanese knotweed are problematic invasive species on Sark. Work is ongoing to address the spread of these. A volunteer group has been tasked with removing *Carpobrotus edulis* round the Harbour area. It may still be in private gardens. Japanese Knotweed spread has been halted but not eradicated altogether.

## Planning, EIA and Legislation

The Development Control Committee Mandate outlines the scope and role of the Committee in relation to development planning. Performing Strategic Environmental Assessments is not a legislative requirement on Sark, and a public enquiry/policy development system needs to be developed. *A Vision for Sark* identifies the need to review and activate land reform legislation, establish a planning system which emphasises the needs of the environment, and



*Stars shine brightly over Sark*

(Sue Daly, Sark Astronomy Society <http://www.sastros.sark.gg/>)

develop a marine spatial plan. The document discusses also the need to encourage more environmentally friendly waste-management techniques, as part of a new planning system, as well as draft septic tank legislation and a review of discharges into the sea. Sustainable means of transport are the norm, as cars are not allowed on the island (Motor Vehicles (Sark) Law 2013). The Tourism (Sark) (Amendment) Law 2014 was developed to regulate tourist accommodation, including environmental health aspects such as water samples.

## Pollution

### *Dark skies overhead good for Sark*

The absence of street lighting and cars on Sark means that the skies are incredibly dark.

The local community as well as tourists to the island travel around on foot or by bicycle, and after it gets dark torch-light is used. As a result the night sky is a natural

wonder virtually unspoiled by light pollution.

The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) aims to preserve and protect the nighttime environment and heritage of dark skies. The IDA designates Dark Sky sites after an application is received which demonstrates community support and documents to support their program requirements. The IDA believes that a Dark Sky Places designation helps “enhance the visibility of designated location and foster increased tourism and local economic activity”.

On Sark, the application to become a Dark Sky Island involved the development of a Lighting Management Plan and island wide publicity to explain what the Dark Sky designation would mean for the island, which they fully supported.

### **Climate-change, Renewable Energy and Waste Management**

*A Vision for Sark* sets out the need to regulate environmentally and commercially effective marine energy solutions and review the provision and cost of electricity. The Renewable Energy (Sark) Law, 2010 deals with the prohibition, licensing and regulation of renewable energy projects.

Sark has representation in the Channel Islands Renewable Energy Group (CIMREG) and the potential for tidal current energy being explored by the Centre for Understanding Sustainable Practices (CUSP), Robert Gordon University (Aberdeen).

Sark is represented at the talks taking place regarding renewable energy in the Bailiwick of Guernsey.

### **Environmental Education**

La Société Serquaise has a junior wildlife club, Sark’s Watch Group, which is active and promotes value of the

local natural environment.

Additionally there is a range of educational material relating to the heritage and natural environment.

### **International Agreements**

Included in UK’s ratification of Ramsar, CITES, CMS & Eurobats.

In 2015, Sark became the World’s first Dark Sky Island, in view of its lack of light pollution.

### **Still to do**

Add Sark to UK’s ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Address the situation that there is no support for environmental costs from the Bailiwick of Guernsey (although sometimes NGOs offer practical help with, e.g., fieldwork or conservation).

Continue stemming of vineyard creation and maintenance of traditional land-use. (Leases on land for sheep-grazing on rough ground have been withdrawn by vineyard owners.)

Develop a public enquiry/policy development system.

Review and activate land reform legislation, and establish a planning system, which empathises with the needs of the environment; develop a marine spatial plan.

Encourage more environmentally friendly waste-management techniques, particularly the incineration of waste, as part of new planning system in the Territory, as well as draft septic-tank legislation and review discharges into the sea.

Review priority baseline or monitoring data needs, if any.

Implement regular water monitoring and any necessary action.



# Summary of cross-territory results on main further needs

## Introduction

In this section, we take a cross-territory view of some identified further needs remaining to be addressed to meet Commitments.

## 1. Protected Areas

a) Extend protected area network (both terrestrial and marine) basing where possible on scientific evidence and local consultations; strengthen protection; acquire further land, in many cases passing and implementing required legislation (TCI, Montserrat, Cayman, BVI, Anguilla, Bermuda, Gibraltar, Ascension, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, Falkland Islands, SGSSI, Pitcairn, Isle of Man, Jersey, Alderney, Sark).

b) Prepare/designate further Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention or address the need to designate the first ones (TCI, Montserrat, Cayman, Anguilla, Bermuda, Ascension, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, Falkland Islands, SGSSI, Pitcairn, BIOT, Isle of Man).

c) Prepare and implement Protected Area Management Plans (for both terrestrial and marine areas), science-based and with public consultation, and with clear and assessable objectives, regular monitoring, reporting and updating, appropriate enforcement and effective penalties for infringement; produce periodically and publish reports to demonstrate how management plan targets for protected areas are being met (TCI, Montserrat, Cayman, Gibraltar, Ascension, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, SGSSI, BIOT, Cyprus SBAs, Jersey, Alderney).

d) Produce habitat map and/or habitat/ecosystem action plans, with priorities (TCI, Ascension, St Helena, Falkland Islands).

e) Set up Conservation Areas Working Group or BAP committee to oversee the management of Protected Areas (St Helena, Tristan da Cunha).

f) Territory-specific measures, including: installing adequate moorings to protect environmentally sensitive areas (TCI); investigation of potential management of remaining forest in volcano zones (Montserrat); investigation of wetlands to compensate for the loss of lowland wetlands due to built development (Montserrat); monitor fish overspill from MPAs (Cayman); research & development on forest management (BVI); prevent further extraction of sand (Ascension).

## 2. Species Protection

a) Enact or update species protection legislation (TCI, Cayman, BVI, Ascension, St Helena, Falkland Islands, Alderney).

b) Develop and implement species action or recovery plans (including the establishment of more concise and measurable conservation objectives), Red-Listing, monitor, review and update; undertake necessary related research (TCI, Cayman, BVI, Anguilla, Bermuda, Gibraltar, Ascension, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, Falkland Islands, SGSSI, Jersey).

c) Enact/update and enforce fisheries (and turtle-protection) legislation; undertake work to assess and monitor the real impact of fishing on current stocks of both target and other species; prevent over-fishing and by-catch; enact/ implement legislation to protect marine mammals and sharks; establish no-take zones based on scientific evidence and consultations (TCI, Anguilla, Gibraltar, Ascension, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, Cyprus SBAs).

d) Territory-specific measures, including: plant new trees to replace ageing specimens and increase the area of epiphytic habitat (Ascension); set up climate-controlled propagation unit in the Environmental Management Division nursery (St Helena); sustain enforcement of anti-poaching legislation and allocate additional SBA police resources to enable more operations and seizures of illegal bird-trapping paraphernalia (Cyprus SBAs).

## 3. Monitoring and Baseline data

a) Areas that need further baseline assessment include the following:

- Cave ecosystems (where there are known to be endemic invertebrates) (many territories);
- The dry tropical forest ecosystem (one of the most threatened habitats in the world, where the studies that have been done indicate that there will be many endemic invertebrates) (mainly Caribbean territories);
- Re-assessment of current conch status (TCI);
- Whole-island biodiversity assessment (Montserrat; originally resourced by UK Government in 1997 but cancelled, with a commitment to refund, due to volcano);
- Survey work for identifying other wetland features of interest (Montserrat);
- Invertebrates of Ascension's Montane Mist region;
- Reassessment of status of the giant pseudoscorpion and composition of the invertebrate community of Boatswain-Bird Island (Ascension);
- Small organisms, e.g. the in-faunal communities of

- marine and coastal soft sediments (St Helena);
- Baseline data for under-researched species, in particular flora and invertebrates of Pitcairn Island, with emphasis on locating pockets of the original biota (Pitcairn);
- Update the 2012 Management Plan to identify areas where baseline data gathering is still required (BIOT);
- Underwater surveys to assess the health of coral in SBA waters, followed by appropriate action (Cyprus SBAs);
- Identify genetically distinct species of flora and fauna and mitigate risks to these (Isle of Man);
- Further knowledge required of freshwater ecosystems (Jersey);
- Need to review priority baseline or monitoring data needs (Sark);
- [- Not clear whether there are baseline needs for Cayman, BVI, Anguilla, Bermuda, Falkland Islands, SGSSI, Isle of Man].

b) Identified monitoring needs include:

- Implement formal environmental monitoring regime (BVI);
- Continue regular monitoring of frigatebird fledging success, so as to maintain the conditions for the continuing expansion of the mainland frigatebird nesting colony (Ascension);
- Regular monitoring of the diet and fledging success of nesting terns (Ascension);
- Obtain more baseline data and improve monitoring of biomass and fishing mortality of target species for the shallow marine sub-littoral habitat (Ascension);
- Gather baseline data on abundance and distribution of land crabs and develop robust population monitoring

- protocols and improve ecological understanding of this species (Ascension);
- Raise awareness and use effectively the marine sighting scheme being used effectively (St Helena);
- Investigate establishment of similar scheme for terrestrial species as well (St Helena);
- Update continuously species and habitat inventories (St Helena);
- Include environmental monitoring in a state of the environment report (St Helena);
- Develop training manual for environmental monitoring equipment (St Helena);
- Produce and publish reports regarding meeting the objectives of the BAP (Tristan da Cunha);
- Establish a Tristan da Cunha population trend monitoring programme which can be used for all species (Tristan da Cunha);
- Implement Marine Monitoring Programme (Tristan da Cunha);
- Complete review of data management and observer reporting (Tristan da Cunha);
- Feed information collated into the BAP, to inform its periodical review and update (Tristan da Cunha);
- Collect data needed for taxa for which trends are unknown (Tristan da Cunha);
- Regular marine biodiversity monitoring (SGSSI);
- Monitor breeding hen harrier population (Isle of Man);
- More citizen science monitoring, e.g. bees, dragonflies (Jersey);
- Continue development of Alderney Records Centre, so that key data are collected and used effectively to manage services and inform policy making (Alderney).

c) Particular research needs identified include:

- Carry out further scientific research into Montserrat galliwasp lizard;
- Have statistician on staff (Montserrat);
- Address issues identified in Habitat Action Plans under BAP, e.g. carry out further research into the physical characteristics of the anchialine system and the physiological tolerances of the species that inhabit it (Ascension).

#### 4. Invasive Species

a) Create and publish invasive species action plans to address each invasive species for cases not already done, prioritising the creation of the action plans according to impact of the species (TCI, Montserrat, Cayman, BVI, Anguilla, Bermuda, Ascension, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, BIOT, Isle of Man (especially marine), Jersey, Guernsey).

b) Particular actions identified include:

- Substantial work remains to be done on long-term solving of the invasives issue, management of remaining good habitat in the southern area, and involving the community in the north (Montserrat);
- IAV control programmes where complete eradication is unfeasible, e.g. Cayman Brac and Grand Cayman (Cayman);
- Expand lionfish food campaign and Bermuda Invasive Lionfish Control Initiative (Bermuda);
- Continue with prickly pear and Mexican thorn control, chemical control of rats, implementing strict control of cats and dogs, excluding Mexican thorn and other woody invasives from traditional sooty tern nesting areas, and preventing introduction of non-native predators to Boatswain-Bird Island (Ascension);
- Update Arable and Fruit Pest and Disease Status

- Review (St Helena);
- Develop culling strategy for grazing invasives (St Helena);
  - Develop an emergency protocol for dealing with new marine invasive species as quickly as possible (Tristan da Cunha);
  - Initiate and complete Gough Island mouse eradication (Tristan da Cunha);
  - Complete eradication of New Zealand flax from Nightingale and Inaccessible (Tristan da Cunha);
  - Ongoing monitoring to establish whether rat eradication has been successful (SGSSI);
  - Action recommendations in the 2013 non-native plant report & 2016-2020 non-native plant strategy (SGSSI);
  - Continue to address invasive plant species and work towards forest restoration on the islands (Pitcairn);
  - Eradicate rats on Henderson and Pitcairn (Pitcairn);
  - Continue restoration of natural vegetation and removal of introduced coconut (BIOT);
  - Implement eradication/control programmes for already identified problem invasive species, and extension of these throughout the archipelago (BIOT);
  - Work more closely with continental neighbours, including France (Jersey).
- c) Further research needed into the impact of some invasive species or on feasibility/methods or eradication or control (TCI, Montserrat [total island, rather than just the Centre Hills], Cayman [investigate the feasibility of eradicating key IAV species on Little Cayman; and other issues], Anguilla, Bermuda, Ascension [especially re rats], Tristan da Cunha [carry out and publish research into the impact of new invasive species resulting from recent shipwrecks and produce action

plans for urgently addressing this issue], Cyprus SBAs [terrestrial and marine], Guernsey).

d) Pass or implement legislation relating to invasive species (TCI, Bermuda, Falkland Islands, Guernsey).

e) Put in place/maintain and review/update effective arrangements for restriction of live material, inspection and quarantine (TCI, Montserrat, BVI, Ascension, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, SGSSI, Pitcairn, Jersey).

## 5. Planning, EIA & Legislation

a) Complete, consult on and publish national development plans/frameworks, ensuring that environmental and sustainability aspects are incorporated fully, and implement with monitoring and published reports (TCI, Cayman, BVI, Anguilla, Gibraltar, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, BIOT, Isle of Man, Alderney).

b) Enact/ strengthen and implement legislation ensuring incorporation of environmental and sustainability considerations into development planning, mineral extraction etc and best-practice Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment (TCI, Montserrat, Cayman, Anguilla, Bermuda, Ascension, Tristan da Cunha, SGSSI, BIOT); environment, wildlife and biodiversity conservation legislation (TCI, Anguilla, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, Alderney); and incorporation of biodiversity aspects into legislation and policy on agriculture, forestry, natural resource management and genetic resources (TCI, BVI, Bermuda, Guernsey, Alderney, Sark).

c) Ensure that planning control and EIA and SEA procedures (including those relating special measures in Protected Areas, openness and best international practice, and including requiring EIA for all government-backed developments, disaster risk assessment), and relevant general measures (such as effectively implemented, monitored and reviewed

accountability and integrity in public life) (TCI, Montserrat, BVI, Bermuda, Gibraltar, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, BAT, Pitcairn, BIOT, Cyprus SBAs, Jersey, Alderney, Sark).

d) Adopt a strong framework outlining political accountability (including access to information regarding policy and legislation, e.g. through a portal on the government website), appeals procedures, public consultation, EIA procedures, enforcement and monitoring procedures to implement the legislation, including effective fines for infringement (including against heavy equipment operators and contractors who do the clearing, as well as landowners) and ensure that ministers and government bodies themselves follow procedures relating for example to Special Development Orders, public notice, and appeals procedures, with monitoring, published reporting, and feedback into reviewing and updating, including in relation to consistency with biodiversity conservation requirements, especially international obligations and international best practice (TCI, Bermuda, Cayman, Anguilla, St Helena, Isle of Man, Sark).

e) Develop/update, approve and implement a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and implementation plans, with monitoring and reporting (Montserrat, BVI, Bermuda, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, SGSSI, Pitcairn, BIOT, Isle of Man, Jersey, Alderney).

f) Establish joint Government/NGO groups to take a lead in some aspects of implementation or coordination or to take an overview of forward conservation planning and to review progress (Montserrat, Anguilla, St Helena, BIOT, Cyprus SBAs).

g) Territory-specific actions include:

- Update the National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS), Develop frameworks/action plans for meeting the principles under the Conservation &

Environmental Management Act (CEMA); develop frameworks for meeting the goals and objectives under the Sustainable Development Plan; complete and implement regulations, and investigate, plan and manage conservation work in the southern (volcanic exclusion) area (Montserrat);

- In the Bermuda Strategy and Biodiversity Action Plan, provide more incentives aimed at biodiversity, and remove any harmful ones (Bermuda);
- Sand mining needs to be regulated, e.g. through legislation requiring the application for sand-mining permits (TCI);
- Continue implementing robust conservation frameworks as the airport project progresses (A key lesson learnt from the airport project is that future EMPs must be clear and unambiguous, with implementable, measurable and auditable actions. Key performance indicators must be included, people responsible must be identified, and the cost of mitigations calculated properly. Once EIA has been carried out and an EMP developed, an environmental team has to be employed for the entirety of a project to guarantee implementation. Have all of the lessons learnt through the airport project been incorporated into EIA legislation and development policy?) (St Helena);
- Develop Freshwater Ecology Management Plan (St Helena);
- Decide upon best strategy for improving the Tristan harbour and produce development plans based upon the recommendations of the 2013 DFID report (Tristan da Cunha);
- End planting of vines; maintain and re-establish traditional land-uses (Sark).

## 6. Pollution

- a) Implement/reinstitute standards for water quality, beaches, air quality, monitoring emissions, pesticides and environmental health, and the 'polluter-pays' principle; develop an emergency strategy to deal with future oil/fuel leaks, including from ships and wrecks (TCI, BVI, Bermuda, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, SGSSI [with a ban on the carriage of heavy fuel oil (HFO) in territorial waters], Guernsey, Alderney).
- b) Monitor and publish pollution levels and initiate any necessary resulting actions; make the rare best practice in pursuing criminal and civil cases against polluters normal practice; and use a pollution incident reporting system, analysing and publishing the efficacy of legislation and enforcement by analysis of, e.g., the two major ship-wreck incidents in Tristan da Cunha, the environmental impact research carried out on the wreck of the oil tanker RFA Darkdale at St Helena, and the report on the outcome of the mitigation of the US Navy pollution at BIOT (TCI, Montserrat, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, SGSSI, BIOT, Sark).
- c) Complete and enact/ revise legislation and policy so that it contributes to these areas (Anguilla, Gibraltar, St Helena).
- d) Territory-specific aspects include:
  - Recruit and train BVI nationals in the area of Environmental Health (BVI);
  - Threat of golf courses to water-lenses below the surface needs to be assessed (Bermuda);
  - Continue research into carbon sequestration of endemic trees; Establish carbon off-setting scheme (St Helena);
  - Extend Tristan Rock Lobster (and post-ship-wreck pollution) project (Tristan da Cunha);
  - Pollution of beaches by litter is an issue in the SBAs, and needs to be addressed (Cyprus SBAs).

- The planting of vines on Sark is a concern due to agricultural run-off and associated water pollution.

## 7. Renewable Energy and Waste Management

- a) Develop/implement and monitor a climate-change/ risk analysis/renewable energy strategy (TCI, Cayman, Gibraltar, St Helena, Falkland Islands, Pitcairn, Isle of Man, Jersey, Guernsey).
- b) Research: climate-change vulnerability assessment on Cayman Islands tourism sector; climate-resilience strategy for Gibraltar; research into the potential impacts of climate-change upon the habitats and biodiversity and into preventing seabird mortality from wind turbines of Ascension Island; development of local tidal / wave / wind electricity generation in Jersey (Cayman, Gibraltar, Ascension, Jersey).
- c) Continuation of the sea-grass restoration (carbon sink) programme (Gibraltar).
- d) Develop/implement a Waste Management Strategy/ Action Plan (Bermuda, Gibraltar, Ascension, Tristan da Cunha, Falkland Islands, Isle of Man, Alderney, Sark).
- e) Establish municipal waste treatment facility (Gibraltar, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, Sark).
- f) A new Urban Waste Water Treatment facility (Gibraltar).
- g) Complete water resources plan (St Helena).

## 8. Environment Education

- a) Development of (further) environmental modules integrated into school curricula (TCI, Montserrat, Cayman, St Helena, Jersey).
- b) Strengthen links between environmental NGOs and schools to encourage environmental activities involving children and young adults, e.g. volunteer days, after-school activities, environmental/conservation

internships (TCI, Montserrat, St Helena).

c) Implement more environmental awareness-raising activities and courses for adults (Montserrat, Cayman, Anguilla, Bermuda, Ascension, St Helena).

d) Establish/ re-establish work on trails, visitors centre, botanic gardens, facilities for visiting scientists, facilities for local schools, training of local personnel and other material (TCI, St Helena).

e) Establishment of environmental information system; Make reports on outcomes of projects/EIAs etc. widely available; digitise herbarium and create a field guide; continued development of promotional material on the Territory's natural environment (Ascension, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, SGSSI, Pitcairn).

f) Some territory-specific activities:

- More summer camp/activity groups for children (Montserrat);
- Raise public awareness regarding litter and recycling; Promote sustainable methods of building homes (St Helena);
- Continued efforts to ensure sustainable harvesting of timber for the wood carving industry; raise awareness to reduce energy consumption and promote energy efficiency (Pitcairn).

## 9. International Agreements

a) Join UK's ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): (TCI, Montserrat, Anguilla, Bermuda, Pitcairn, BIOT, Cyprus SBAs, Guernsey, Alderney, Sark); the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES): (TCI, Cyprus SBAs); the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS): (Anguilla); ICCAT and Barcelona Convention (Gibraltar).

b) Designate first or further Wetlands of International

Importance under the Ramsar Convention (TCI, Montserrat, Cayman, BVI, Anguilla, Gibraltar, Ascension, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, Falkland Islands, SGSSI, Pitcairn, BIOT, Isle of Man).

c) Join the international whale sanctuary initiative in respect of EEZ (TCI, Montserrat, BVI, Anguilla).

## 10. Stakeholder Stewardship

a) Develop: charcoal-making from alien invasive trees; environmentally sensitive tourism strategies including work engaging the community in conservation; a plan/guidelines for hoteliers to implement sustainable practices in their business; strategies for mainstreaming the environment across all sectors (including agriculture, fisheries, water management, hill management) (TCI, Montserrat, Anguilla, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, Pitcairn, Cyprus SBAs, Isle of Man, Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney).

b) Produce a *Greening the Economy* strategy; develop/update/ review the Government's Green Procurement Policy; develop green guidelines and certification, and explore financial incentives (TCI; Gibraltar, St Helena).

c) Territory-specific items include:

- Create an NGO for the Island of Anegada (BVI);
- Assess soil degradation (Cyprus SBAs);
- Increased sustainability in management of water resources in agriculture (Cyprus SBAs);
- Continue stemming vineyard creation and maintain traditional land-use (Sark).

## 11. Economic Value of Sustainable Use

a) Carry out further research and report as to the socio-economic value of natural resources; undertake an audit of ecosystem services (St Helena, Falkland Islands, Isle of Man, Jersey).

## 12. Funding & other resourcing

a) Continue to implement the strategy prepared for the implementation of the Environment Charters, and review and revise as necessary collaboratively with stake-holders and incorporating in annual corporate work-plans; utilise skilled volunteer input from UK and other partner organisations; improve the availability of funds by: updating policies to facilitate the management of restricted-fund projects; (re)instituting fund based on earmarking tourist tax to be run and monitored semi-independently of government in accordance with international best practice; funding NGOs which make available skilled free or low-cost workers (TCI, Montserrat, Cayman, BVI, SGSSI).

b) Obtain additional resources to: implement site-management effectively, implement environmental legislation, meet the level of enforcement responsibilities required, developing or updating, implementing and monitoring Management Plans, patrol national parks adequately, facilitate volunteer support, restore habitats, provide appropriate signage and publicity for trails, resource a whole-island biodiversity assessment, support the eradication of rats from cays, continue monitoring priority species, carry out research into baseline data and weather monitoring data, investigate climate, glacial retreat and the upper atmosphere, support biological records centre (TCI, Montserrat, Anguilla, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, SGSSI, Pitcairn, BIOT, Cyprus SBAs, Isle of Man, Guernsey, Alderney, Sark).

# UK Government & its commitments in relation to the further needs

We do not attempt a formal analysis of progress by UK Government in meeting its own Commitments under the Environment Charters. This is because, in both previous reviews, UK Government found it difficult, partly because of the structure of those Commitments, to assemble information on progress. Instead, we hope that this review, and the discussions that it will assist, will help UK Government to support the priority needs that are identified, and thereby help meet UK Government's intentions, as Prime Minister David Cameron expressed in the Foreword to the Government's 2012 White Paper *The Overseas Territories – Security, Success and Sustainability (Cmnd 8374)*: “This Government is ambitious for our Territories as we are ambitious for the United Kingdom. We see an important opportunity to set world standards in our stewardship of the extraordinary natural environments we have inherited.”

UKOTCF has always tried to help UK Government meet its commitments where it has been able to find resources to do so. In the following summary we include those aspects where UKOTCF has been willing and able to help UK meet its Commitments under the Charters. UK Government works with UKOT Governments but UKOTCF provides, as well as its links with UKOT government environment departments, a link to NGOs which, in many of the territories, play as important a role in conserving biodiversity as their Government colleagues.

We summarise below some views received on UK Government's delivery of its Commitments under the Environment Charters, as well as some of UK Government's own comments in various fora. We use as headings of the following sections the Commitments which UK Government made. These were preceded by the words “**The government of the UK will:**”

The feedback from Territories and the UKOTCF

network can be summarised as follows.

## **1. Help build capacity to support and implement integrated environmental management which is consistent with the Territory's own plans for sustainable development.**

At the request of the UKOTs, in the years immediately following the signing of the Environment Charters in 2001, FCO and DFID part-funded work by UKOTCF to facilitate some pilot territories to develop strategies for action to implement the Charters (one of the first Commitments in the Charters). These exercises brought together stake-holders across a wide range of sectors of the economy, from governmental, NGO, commercial and other interests, to result in strategies which guided local policies in the following years. The process was essentially what has since become known by the term “mainstreaming.” On the basis of this experience, UKOTCF voluntarily advised several other Territories on their own strategies. However, UK Government did not respond positively to UKOTCF's suggestion that most UKOTs might benefit from a similar facilitated strategy development process.

This need has been recognised also by the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee (EAC), which stated in its 2014 report on its Inquiry into the *Sustainability in the UK Overseas Territories*, that “Defra must work with UKOTs Governments on developing planning regimes which value and protect natural capital and which promote sustainable tourism industries and economies. Accordingly, the FCO must direct its Governors strongly to advocate the introduction of effective development controls.” The report notes also that extending the Aarhus Convention to the Overseas Territories would be beneficial for

increasing transparency surrounding planning and development. EAC noted also in their 2014 report that “UK Government is prepared to exercise hard and soft power in relation to financial matters in the UKOTs, but it is apparently not prepared to exercise those powers to protect biodiversity and to promote environmental sustainability.”

The Environment Charters remain highly valued by both NGO and governmental conservation workers in many territories as an agreed basis for policy and practice, even though, with personnel changes, UK Government seemed to lose interest in the Environment Charters that it had drafted. Interest and commitment has re-established following mention that the 2012 White Paper omitted reference of the Charters even though the Paper aimed to build on the achievements of the 1999 White Paper, of which the Charters were a key result.

Some years after the UKOTCF-facilitated strategy-development exercises, UK Government decided that such exercises would be valuable for most UKOTs, and started its mainstreaming process. Unfortunately, the lack of corporate memory in most UK Government Departments (and a more recently acquired reluctance to consult NGOs) meant that at least the first few of these mainstreaming exercises were conducted in ignorance of the earlier strategy-development processes, even though the earlier exercises had been published. This lack of corporate memory, especially in governmental bodies where frequent staff-turnover is a policy, has proved problematic in several cases, despite the efforts of the UKOTCF network to minimise this. Because of this, the positive efforts of individual officials can be reduced and some duplication can be generated, leading to a less than fully cost-effective use of public funds.

## **2. Assist the Territories in initiating, reviewing and updating environmental legislation.**

The information from the Territories shows quite a varied pattern over the years. In the years before the signing of the Environment Charters, legislative reviewing and drafting help from either UK Government or UK NGOs was received by several UKOTs, but this did not seem to follow any strategic or systematic plan. To some extent, this pattern seemed to continue in the early years after Charter signing.

More recently, UK Government legal drafting support seems to have focussed primarily on meeting international commitments – which has a logic to it. However, support has been very uneven, with some territories suffering delays of years in implementing some key legislation. Strangely, some of the worst delays in environmental legislation have occurred while UK Government was directly in charge. The case of Turks & Caicos has been drawn to our attention by several parties. TCI Government environmental officials prepared briefs for lawyers to draft legislation to allow TCI to join UK's ratification of both the Convention on Biological Diversity and CITES in 2010-12, during UK direct rule. These were submitted to the Attorney General's Office. However, the Environment Department was advised that these matters of international commitments and UK Government declared priority were not of high enough priority to warrant deployment of the limited capacity for legal drafting. Much of the latter was engaged in agreements with developers, in some cases relating to land of high conservation value. Five years later, the situation remains the same, the now locally elected government having followed the lead given by UK Government-appointed rulers under the direct UK rule period, not yet to pursue the environmental legislation.

In some other territories of direct UK rule, the situation has been more satisfactory. For example, as policy, the

legislation of the Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas matches that of the Republic of Cyprus. With the latter joining the European Union a few years ago, EU legislation (including the strong environmental legislation) has been copied into SBA laws.

The situation across most UKOTs, whether uninhabited, populated and with a locally elected government, or with very small populations so more directly under UK Government control, is quite varied. However, many have some needs for UK Government help (or action where UK Government controls).

In the 2008 report on its Inquiry into *Halting Biodiversity Loss*, the EAC recommended that better use be made of the ministerial Inter-Departmental Group on Biodiversity regarding “support for the development and implementation of effective environmental protection policy in the UKOTs”. They recommended also expansion of the group so that it contain additional relevant Departments. UK Government subsequently discontinued this ministerial group.

In spite of the commitments in both the 1999 and 2012 White Papers, FCO and Defra Ministers made a rather different approach clear to the EAC during its Inquiry into the *Sustainability in the UK Overseas Territories* (report 2014) by saying that “territory governments are constitutionally responsible for the environment, for environmental protection and for conservation of their natural environments”. The EAC report reminded that the UK has ultimate responsibility under international law, as stated in *British Overseas Territories Law*: “The overseas territories are plainly not independent sovereign States. Their external relations remain the responsibility of the United Kingdom, the sovereign power. Accordingly, the United Kingdom is responsible for each of the territories under international law”.

## **3. Facilitate the extension of the UK's ratification of Multilateral Environmental Agreements of benefit to each of the Territories and which each Territory has the capacity to implement (and a desire to adopt.)**

In the years before the Environment Charters, UKOTCF (whose personnel had strong experience of the Ramsar Convention and of some other conventions) worked, in consultation with FCO, with many territories, on a voluntary basis and as opportunities arose. This had the result that all the eligible UKOTs and CDs (i.e. except British Antarctic Territory, where matters are covered by the Antarctic Treaty system) were included in UK's ratification of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and that many had designated at least one Wetland of International Importance (which would be a requirement of ratifying were these territories independent states). This was done in consultation with UK Government. In the years immediately after the Environment Charter, Defra, in consultation with other UK Government Departments and the territories, part-funded UKOTCF to work in consultation with local partners to review designated and proposed Wetlands of International Importance. The report ([www.ukotcf.org/pubs/ramsarReview.htm](http://www.ukotcf.org/pubs/ramsarReview.htm)), published in 2005, led to many more designations in the years since and provides still a reasonable target list of sites, in addition to some of the key information on them. UKOTCF, now on a totally unpaid basis again, has continued to provide advice and support to territories on these Ramsar-related matters.

As noted above, British Antarctic Territory (BAT) is included in the Antarctic Treaty System, so that the other conservation conventions are not generally applicable there. Therefore, in the following paragraphs, BAT is not included.

Efforts over the years by territory personnel, some UK officials, UKOTCF and other NGOs have led to all but one of the territories being included in the Bonn

Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and all but two in the Washington Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Several territories are not yet included in UK's ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Some bottlenecks in progress (such as the joining of one to both CITES and CBD) are caused by lack of legal draftsman capacity (see above section). Attention was drawn to this by the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee (FAC) in the 2008 report of their Inquiry: "We conclude that the FCO's guidelines on treaties applying to Overseas Territories do not yet appear to be being followed by all of Whitehall and recommend that the FCO writes to remind other Government departments of their existence. We also recommend that the FCO should provide more drafting assistance to Overseas Territories for transposition of international agreements into local legislation." It is hoped that this can now be addressed by UK Government, especially in view of the clarification in *British Overseas Territories Law* that "the application of treaties falls wholly within the responsibilities of the Government of the United Kingdom, not those of the territory Government." This assistance from UK Government to Territories in drafting is certainly happening in some cases, including updating some cases of legislation implementing CITES, to restore certain territories (and therefore UK) to compliance, but not yet in others.

Over several years up to 2012, officials in the Isle of Man, with some help from UKOTCF and certain UK Government officials, managed to add the Isle of Man to UK's ratification of CBD – the first territory addition since the original signing in 1992 and ratification in 1994 (which included some territories). This process identified the bottlenecks in procedures, both within the Convention Secretariat and various UK Government Departments, and some ways of addressing these. Colleagues in Defra and FCO have taken these points

on board, leading to the successful addition of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands in 2015. Now, officials and partners from the UKOTCF network, are working to help other territories join, for example through a workshop session at the UKOTCF-organised conference in Gibraltar in 2015. This has been followed by several territories showing active progress by 2016.

#### **4. Keep the Territories informed regarding new developments in relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements and invite the Territories to participate where appropriate in the UK's delegation to international environmental negotiations and conferences.**

Both UK Government and the UKOTCF network attempt to keep the Territories informed of relevant news from multilateral environmental agreements.

UKOTCF facilitated the first involvement of UKOT officials in the UK Government delegation and UKOT NGOs amongst the NGO observers at a Conference of the Parties (CoP) in 1999 (in that case, Ramsar). Since then, UK Government has arranged to include UKOT and/or CD personnel in the UK Delegations at various MEA meetings. There remain various challenges, including:

- At present, the UKOT/CD has to resource the participation of its personnel;
- With a sporadic approach, this has utility in gaining experience for the personnel and territory concerned, and may give the UK Delegation experience that it would not otherwise have and possibly greater credibility to some audiences, but there are limitations as to how one or a few territories represented can address the interests of other territories;
- Some development is needed in identifying well in advance whether participation by some busy

individuals on only some of the days out of a week-long meeting might be most cost-effective.

Useful developments in the reports, which have to be submitted in advance to the CoPs of the Convention on Biological Diversity, are the appending of reports by the territories which are included in UK's ratification, as well as increasingly effective incorporation of references in UK's main report. This is making progress in response to EAC's report.

In respect especially of some uninhabited Territories, UK Government is a strong participant in the operation of the Antarctic Treaty system (re BAT), the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) (re both BAT and SGSSI) and the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) (re Falkland Islands, SGSSI & Tristan da Cunha). There may be good precedents here for other regional conventions. For example, Gibraltar would welcome the necessary UK Government support for it to join the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), and the Convention for Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (Barcelona Convention) adopted in 1976 to prevent and abate pollution from ships, aircraft and land-based sources. Both would enhance effective conservation.

#### **5. Help each Territory to ensure it has the legislation, institutional capacity (technology, equipment, procedures) and mechanisms it needs to meet international obligations.**

There has undoubtedly been a good deal of support from UK Government to some UKOTs (but not CDs where the relationship is different) over the years on particular issues. However, some concerns have been expressed at the lack of strategic or systematic approach over much of this period.



This has been noted by UK Parliament. In 2008, the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee (FAC) reported “While Defra is the lead Whitehall department responsible for environmental issues, the FCO cannot abdicate responsibility for setting levels of funding given its knowledge of Overseas Territories’ capacity and resources. The FCO must work with other government departments to press for a proper assessment of current needs and the level of the current funding gap and then ensure increased funding by the Government through Defra, DFID or other government departments is targeted appropriately.” In its 2014 report on *Sustainability in the UK Overseas Territories*, the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) states that “without enhanced monitoring, Defra cannot accurately report to the CBD on the full extent of biodiversity in the UKOTs and therefore measure progress towards the UN 2020 target to halt biodiversity loss.” EAC therefore proposed that Defra must bring together “UKOTs Governments, NGOs, civil society and research institutions to agree a comprehensive research programme to catalogue the full extent of biodiversity in the UKOTs.” In 2015, Defra commissioned a study to review research needs.

In 2009, the UK Government published its *United Kingdom Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy* (UKOTBS). The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the Department for International Development (DFID), the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC, which drafted the document) all agreed on this document, which aimed to address the needs of the Overseas Territories, built upon an assessment of priorities for biodiversity conservation action by the JNCC. The strategy can be seen at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/69204/pb13335-uk-ot-strat-091201.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69204/pb13335-uk-ot-strat-091201.pdf)

The overarching objective of the UKOTBS was “to enable the UK and Overseas Territory Governments to meet their international obligations for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Overseas Territories.” In 2014, a UK Government Activity report was published which gave examples of some of the ongoing and planned activities that are supported by UK Government Departments under the UKOTBS. It did this by highlighting some key areas of progress including: finding out more about biodiversity, tackling invasive species, valuing ecosystem services, and sustainable management of marine resources, both through its dedicated funding stream and other technical and financial support.

As several observers have commented, whilst this was a valuable agreement between FCO, Defra and DFID (and Defra’s agency, JNCC) as to how the Departments would collaborate, it lacked aspects which would normally be included in a strategy. Some of these elements, identified in a workshop in 2010 drawing together NGOs, government officials and others, included: a lack of stakeholder engagement in the process of developing the “Strategy”, resulting in a feeling of “us and them” in the NGO community, despite the ministerial Foreword specifically noting the important role of NGOs and other stakeholders; focussing its objectives narrowly on some (but not all) international obligations, rather than the substantive conservation issues these were intended to support; no real linkage between objectives and ways of reaching these; a selection of priority work-areas that did not apparently flow from the objectives but appeared to have been selected without any clear rationale; no specific indication of how their implementation would be advanced; few outputs and no outcomes; and an absence of clear targets, resource needs indications or time-scales.

In a series of further workshops (e.g. [www.ukotcf.org/pdf/fNews/BiodivWorkshop1106.pdf](http://www.ukotcf.org/pdf/fNews/BiodivWorkshop1106.pdf)) involving UK

Government, UKOTs, NGOs and others, UKOTCF attempted to facilitate informal agreement on conclusions which would effectively be complementary and fill the gaps left by some of these missing aspects. It seems likely that the lack of a strategic or systematic approach noted above was due to limited capacity amongst UK officials – so that restored greater engagement with experienced NGOs might be expected to help. Unfortunately, however, UK governmental engagement at the time was not really adequate to take this forward.

In 2014, UK Government’s agency JNCC engaged with NGOs in an attempt to identify common priorities for UK bodies to support UKOTs/CDs in their conservation efforts, bearing in mind, of course, the priorities of the Territories themselves (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=5479>). It was not an attempt to tell the Territories what their own priorities should be; that is a matter for each of them. After a rather positive period in late 2014, this joint initiative ran out of steam in 2015, largely because UK Government itself did not really engage and, particularly since 2010, JNCC is very limited as to how far it can take initiatives on policy matters.

Throughout the period, the UKOTCF network and other NGOs have tried to support UKOTs and CDs in these areas, but there has been limited opportunity to coordinate with UK Government in a strategic way.

## **6. Promote better cooperation and the sharing of experience between and among the Overseas Territories and with other states and communities which face similar environmental problems.**

This has been a major role of UKOTCF since its founding in the mid-1980s and particularly since the mid-1990s. This has been achieved particularly by: UKOTCF’s regional Working Groups, for the Wider

Caribbean, the Southern Oceans and the Europe Territories; by its web-site; and by *Forum News* and other newsletters; and especially by its normally 3-yearly conferences for working conservationists. Some of these inter-linked components have benefitted in the past from UK Government support at various times. This was particularly important for the conferences, which are highly valued by territory participants as means of enabling important conservation initiatives which would not otherwise be possible.

Unfortunately, after successful and productive conferences from 1999 to 2009, these had to stop because UK Government withdrew its contribution. After a 6-year gap, an extremely successful conference was held in 2015, funded largely by the Government of Gibraltar, but with a small and valued contribution from UK Government. Renewed contributions in the future would enable the exceptionally effective conferences to continue.

#### **7. Use the UK, regional and local expertise to give advice and improve knowledge of technical and scientific issues. This includes regular consultation with interested nongovernmental organisations and networks.**

There was very effective coordination in this area from the late 1980s until about 2008, via twice yearly joint meetings involving UK Government Departments, NGOs, and the UK representatives of UKOTs, as well as CDs in the later years. The meetings were organised and chaired jointly by UKOTCF and FCO. FCO terminated these unilaterally for undisclosed reasons, but probably related to the closing of their environment department and loss of all but a junior environmental post shortly beforehand. Since that time, UK Government meetings have been essentially limited to governmental bodies, except for occasional short

liaison meetings which do not fulfil a similar role to the pre-2008 ones.

A further means of coordination has been UKOTCF's regional Working Groups, now usually conducted by Skype to allow full territory participation. UK Governmental personnel are invited, as well as NGOs, UKOT/CD personnel and other individuals and organisations with relevant experience or expertise. Unfortunately, from about 2007 until recently, participants from UK Government Departments and agencies tended no longer to participate in these meetings, with attendance from that sector declining virtually to zero within a few years.

Following UK Government's authorisation to JNCC to become strongly involved in UKOT/CD matters from about 2006, JNCC (which had previously been invited, and had often participated in, UKOTCF regional Working Groups) established its own separate liaison group with UKOTs/CDs, but did not inform UKOTCF of this until 2009. In the meantime, many UKOT/CD bodies expressed puzzlement that they appeared to be receiving what could, at times, be duplicated requests or invitations from UK. The issue was complicated further in that, whilst UKOTCF networks had always involved both governmental and NGO bodies (reflecting the good level of collaborative working already present in most territories and Britain), the new JNCC consultations limited involvement to governmental bodies.

UKOT bodies and UKOTCF expressed, initially in non-public communications, increasing concern at the apparent movement away from Commitment 7, from a previously good situation.

EAC reported in 2014 on *Sustainability in the UK Overseas Territories* that it had heard that, while FCO civil servants visit the UKOTs, Defra staff were discouraged from doing so. However, the 2012 White Paper sets out new responsibilities for Defra and other Departments in supporting the UKOTs, which entails

“each UK Department assuming responsibility for supporting the Territories, as needed, in its own areas of competence and expertise.” EAC therefore concluded that Defra must “empower its staff to visit the UKOTs to meet elected representatives and civil servants and to examine environmental issues in person in order effectively to discharge their responsibilities.”

As part of the Joint Ministerial Council (JMC) 2013, the Environmental Audit Committee attended a meeting with UKOT Government representatives, who said that, whilst UKOT representatives were involved in deciding elements of the JMC programme, FCO was ultimately in charge of the agenda. This meant that some UKOT representatives felt that they were unequal participants. As a result, the EAC, in the *Sustainability in the UK Overseas Territories* report (2014), highlighted the need for the FCO to “prioritise greater involvement by representatives from the UKOTs in setting the agenda at future JMCs.”

In 2013, a UK Government review came to a rather similar conclusion to the NGOs about UK Government disengagement. Since then, there have been very positive discussions between JNCC and NGOs, and a re-engagement of some UK Government Departments with UKOTCF regional Working Groups, as well as with the 2015 UKOTCF-organised conference. This is encouraging, and bodes well for a restoration towards the level of coordinated working operating for 20 years from the mid-1980s.

Throughout this period, there have been many examples of the use of UK, regional and local expertise to give advice. However, because of the barriers to information flow erected (but now hopefully being dismantled), it is difficult to give a complete overview.

## **8. Use the existing Environment Fund for the Overseas Territories, and promote access to other sources of public funding, for projects of lasting benefit to the Territory's environment.**

The dedicated funding as set out in the original Charters has changed several times.

Prior to the 1999 White Paper (from which the Environment Charters arose), there was some UK Government grant support for the environment in UKOTs, but not earmarked, coming from the FCO Assistant Under-Secretary's Project Budget (AUSPB). In addition, a few UKOT projects were funded in some years from the Darwin Initiative programme.

Following the White Paper, FCO established the Environment Fund for Overseas Territories (EFOT), totalling about £1m per year, and the grant programme was implemented immediately. A matching amount was set aside by DFID but, rather than implement, they contracted a consultant to advise on how to operate the programme. Eventually, several years later, the consultant advised a scheme by which most of the money would be spent operating the grant programme, rather than for grants. In the resulting confusion, the funds set aside by DFID were transferred to a non-UKOT purpose. FCO's EFOT continued alone, and was specifically mentioned in Commitment 8.

However, just a few months later, in 2002, FCO cancelled EFOT. UKOTs and NGOs protested strongly, and senior FCO officials attending the UKOTCF-organised conference in Bermuda in early 2003 took their reasoned arguments on board, recreating a temporary version of EFOT for that year from more general grant funds.

At the same time, FCO, DFID and UKOTCF discussed further the matching DFID money, resulting in EFOT's replacement, in 2004, by the Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP), the first joint FCO-

DFID funding mechanism, with a budget of about £2m per year. Over several years, £8 million was disbursed through more than 140 projects across the territories. These projects are listed on the UKOTCF website and database. In most years, in addition at least one UKOT project was awarded funding by the Darwin Initiative.

EAC, in their *Halting Biodiversity Loss* (2008) report, stated "In our Report on the UN Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, published in January 2007, we expressed concern about the continued threat of extinction of around 240 species in the UKOTs and argued that it was "distasteful", given their lack of resources, that the FCO and DFID had argued that it was up to the UKOTs to fund protection of these species."

In the same year, the EAC noted that in their report on *Development and the Environment: the Role of the FCO*, they had also approached this issue and found that, regarding environmental protection in the UKOTs, the funding situation seemed to be determined by what FCO and DFID could spare, as opposed to a strategic need assessment. In the 2008 *Halting Biodiversity Loss* report, EAC were concerned that recommendations made in the past for helping to protect the UKOT environment had been ignored by Government.

The FAC 2008 report states: "We agree with the Environmental Audit Committee that the Government does not appear to have carried out any kind of strategic assessment of Overseas Territories' funding requirements for conservation and ecosystem management. We conclude that given the vulnerability of Overseas Territories' species and ecosystems, this lack of action by the Government is highly negligent. The environmental funding currently being provided by the UK to the Overseas Territories appears grossly inadequate and we recommend that it should be increased."

At the UKOTCF-organised conference in 2009, the Defra Minister announced that, in future, an amount

within the Darwin Initiative would be earmarked for UKOT projects. However, just a year later the total Defra budget, including their Darwin Initiative budget, was severely reduced.

In 2011, FCO cancelled the FCO/DFID OTEP without explanation. There were still funds allocated that year, and these were disbursed without an application round or published list of grants.

Following the publication of the White Paper in 2012, a new Darwin Plus fund, into which Defra, DFID and FCO all contribute, became the only dedicated funding source for UKOTs in respect of the environment. At present, the £2 million for each round of Darwin Plus comes from Foreign and Commonwealth Office (£500k), Defra (£1m) and the Department for International Development (£500k), although the last will fund projects only in the three territories that are eligible for Official Development Assistance (ODA). The Darwin Plus fund now constitutes essentially the only source to which applications can be directed to help meet the Commitments in the Environment Charters and the Aichi Targets, and in some cases, this is the only way in which progress is being made. EAC's 2014 report indicates that "Defra must restate its commitment to Environment Charters and use them to deliver its CBD commitments in the UKOTs. Darwin Plus funding should be linked to compliance with the terms of Environment Charters." UK and UKOT Governments restated their commitments to the Environment Charters in the Communiqué from the Joint Ministerial Meeting December 2012: "We have agreed to work together on the following priority actions:... to continue to implement Environment Charters, and to work towards the full implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements where these have been extended to the Territories."

From 2009 to 2013, the Darwin Initiative, in its various forms, funded eleven main projects and two post-

projects in the UKOTs, totalling almost £3m.

Defra, FCO and DFID have also provided direct funding to other projects, which are listed in their activity report ([https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/337271/final\\_draft\\_UKOTBS\\_update.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/337271/final_draft_UKOTBS_update.pdf)). They include work on: invasive species, implementing the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, research, biosecurity, surveys and waste management.

### **9. Help each of the Territories identify further funding partners for environmental projects, such as donors, the private sector or nongovernmental organisations.**

UKOTCF and other NGOs drew attention in 2006 to the fact that this Commitment did not seem to have been addressed systematically and in an ongoing way. As a result, UK Government funded a 2-year post at JNCC. To avoid confusion and duplication, UKOTCF closed its own web-database on funding sources for which it had only limited capacity. Unfortunately, JNCC chose to redeploy one of its existing staff with other skills, rather than an experienced fund-raiser. In addition, JNCC chose to focus on European Commission managed funding, rather than more widely. Finally, rather than treat the funding as a start-up for continuing help to those seeking funding for conservation work in the UKOTs, JNCC simply terminated the role when the initial 2-year funding ended. The service is not known to have achieved significant results, and is no longer operative.

Before and after the signing of the Charters, UKOTCF had worked with FCO colleagues to identify potential funding sources from the European Commission and, at the request of both FCO and the territories, had coordinated some trial applications. In 2003, UKOTCF, with initial help from FCO, coordinated a proposal from

3 territories to a regional fund. After 7 years of work, the European Commission finally issued contracts, for work somewhat changed (unilaterally by the Commission) from the application. The Commission procedures (both prior to and during the project) were extremely byzantine, making it very difficult and extremely inefficient for the territories to use the resources; however, this was done to varying degrees. In 2004, RSPB coordinated an application to the same fund for different territories; similar challenges were met although, for several reasons, they were less crippling.

Defra worked with the European Commission to try to open the LIFE programme (which supports the Natura 2000 sites within the EU itself) to UKOTs (and other OCTs). Although apparently successful from the headings, detailed analysis made clear that eligibility was not in fact extended to UKOTs (or other OCTs) by this means. Partly as a result of this, the European Union extended for another round the BEST programme (see below).

In the early 2000s, UKOTCF worked with equivalent bodies in France and the Netherlands (and keeping UK Government informed) to suggest and promote what eventually became the BEST programme. Unfortunately, neither UK NGOs nor UK Government had any involvement in the rule-writing for BEST, and these rules tend to work against UKOTs for various reasons that are not necessarily intentional. However, some large UK institutions, especially governmental, have managed to secure BEST grants in later rounds.

Several (sympathetic) EU sources have pointed out that UKOTs might do better in EU funding if UK ministerial and senior official level representation were more active in Brussels.

At the requests of FCO and UKOTs, UKOTCF and other NGOs have investigated the potential for use of the National Lottery funds to support conservation work

in UKOTs (as they have for many years in Britain). Although there is no blockage in law, the policies and procedures of the lottery bodies effectively prevent this. Although this could be changed by a directive from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (and this might be considered appropriate given the wording in the 2012 White Paper), there seem to be no prospects of this happening. There have been some suggestions that Lottery funding should be deployed only to places where tickets can be bought, but this is not a requirement in law, and it has been pointed out also that it ignores the substantial proportions of UKOT populations resident in Britain at any one time (and probably buying Lottery tickets).

UK Government has facilitated some major support from commercially based interests in respect of climate-change issues in the UKOTs, but not as yet in relation to biodiversity-related ones, although there have been a few cases of this facilitated by NGOs.

### **10. Recognise the diversity of the challenges facing the Overseas Territories in very different socio-economic and geographical situations.**

The recent moves by UK Government to take conservation initiatives in the uninhabited territories, where UK Government has direct control (even if it chooses to exercise this through a nominally separate governmental unit) is perhaps a measure of an extreme form of this. These initiatives are very welcome. It must be recognised, however, some diversion to support this of grant resources from a non-increased total budget inevitably means a reduction in resources available to support inhabited territories.

Despite the excellent individual efforts by many officials in various UK Government Departments, there are several structural challenges. The rapid turnover of post-holders, which may be appropriate for a foreign-

relations ministry, is rather less so in the ministry's role of overseeing governance of Overseas Territories. This is because the issues are complex, involving strong historical and cultural elements, time-scales long (especially those for environmental issues), and communities of a size which prefer some continuity. Corporate memory, even more than individual memory, is not long – and this has become worse, not better, as digital systems have replaced the personal approach of librarians.

There is a problem also that UK Overseas Territories are a minor part of the work of departments responsible for policy (FCO's main business is foreign relations), aid (DFID focuses on world poverty despite its statutory duty to UKOTs), and environment (only one officer is part-dedicated to UKOT matters despite these being by far the most important parts of UK territory in terms of world biodiversity). Being small parts of business means that it is unlikely (some retirees from some departments say "impossible") that any top manager in the ministries will have had any first-hand involvement in UKOTs/CDs. This shows.

However, intentions are clearly positive. UK Government stated in the 2012 White Paper that they would "continue to work with the Territories to help them develop their economies." EAC noted that such development needed to be sustainable, a point which UK Government acknowledged. EAC pointed out also that the UKOT workforce needs green skills in order to contribute to green growth. Defra could therefore support the development of green skills, a skill-base possibly limited in some UKOTs due to having a small population size. The EAC 2012 Report *A Green Economy* provides recommendations related to this topic.

#### **11. Abide by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and work towards meeting International Development Targets on the environment.**

The matters in this are largely included in the other 10 Commitments.

## Appendix: Tables of more detailed collated information for each Territory

The following pages present the more detailed collations of information on each of the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies from which the information summarised in the preceding parts of this report is drawn. The following pages are the current versions of material checked with the workers in territories and others.

As we noted at the start of this report, to minimise the loading on very busy colleagues in the territories, UKOTCF personnel (working most of the time in an unpaid voluntary capacity) gathered the initial drafts using published material, information gathered by UKOTCF and the working knowledge of the UKOTCF network. Clearly, it was important that those working on-the-ground should check this and so, for 9 months, we have undertaken several rounds of consultations, by email, remote communications and using the gathering of the Gibraltar conference in July 2015. We are grateful for this input. However, we have to acknowledge that limitations on time available to territory partners mean that this report will include some errors and omissions despite best efforts to minimise these.

## Contents

Appendix Part 1. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: Montserrat.....	120
Appendix Part 2. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: Anguilla.....	143
Appendix Part 3. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: British Virgin Islands.....	164
Appendix Part 4. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: Turks & Caicos Islands.....	195
Appendix Part 5. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: Cayman Islands.....	223
Appendix Part 6. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: Bermuda.....	248
Appendix Part 7. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: Ascension.....	273
Appendix Part 8. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: St Helena.....	293
Appendix Part 9. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: Tristan da Cunha.....	318
Appendix Part 10. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: Falkland Islands.....	336
Appendix Part 11. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands.....	348
Appendix Part 12. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: British Antarctic Territory.....	360
Appendix Part 13. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: Pitcairn Islands.....	370
Appendix Part 14. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: British Indian Ocean Territory.....	381
Appendix Part 15. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas.....	392
Appendix Part 16. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: Gibraltar.....	403
Appendix Part 17. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: Isle of Man.....	425
Appendix Part 18. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: Jersey.....	437
Appendix Part 19. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: Guernsey.....	448
Appendix Part 20. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: Alderney.....	459
Appendix Part 21. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: Sark.....	470

## Appendix Part 1. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: Montserrat

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
<p>1. Bring together government departments, representatives of local industry and commerce, environment and heritage organisations, the Governor's office, individual environmental champions and other community representatives in a forum to formulate a detailed strategy for action.</p>	<p>17. By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan. (Relates also to EC5)</p>	<p><i>Montserrat Sustainable Development Plan 2008-2020</i> outlines: the vision of the residents of Montserrat, the agreed core values, the development strategies which will be followed in pursuit of the vision, as well as the action plan for the first five years of the long-term planning horizon. Strategic Goal 3 covers the environment and natural resources: Environmental Management and Disaster mitigation – Montserrat's natural resources conserved within a system of environmentally sustainable development and appropriate strategies for disaster mitigation.</p> <p>Office of the Deputy Governor (DG) is responsible for monitoring government departments and agencies to enable the implementation of the strategic actions of the Sustainable Development Plan 2008-2020 within the agreed timeframes. This is done via a performance and development annual review mechanism. Ongoing monitoring of the implementation of the SDP is the responsibility of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management, which involves the preparation of semi-annual reports on the progress being made in implementing the scheduled strategic actions over the period of the Plan. According to the SDP, progress reports will be presented at a public meeting where the general public will be given an opportunity to be informed of the results of the review, raise their concerns, receive clarifications and make recommendations.</p> <p>On an annual basis, a group within the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management, made up of the Deputy Governor, the Financial Secretary, the Permanent Secretary Development or their representatives, and representatives of funding agencies, private sector and civil society groups, will review in detail the progress made by the lead implementing agencies/organizations in carrying out the various components of the SDP for which they have responsibility. A progress report will then be prepared outlining the findings and recommendations.</p> <p>There is a core management group made up of senior civil servants that meet frequently to report on the performance of the civil service and its programmes. All senior staff assist with budget contributions which is eventually prepared by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management.</p>	<p>Establish National Conservation and Environmental Advisory Council and prepare regulations under CEMA 2014.</p> <p>Are SDP reports yet being presented at a public meeting allowing the general public an opportunity to know the results of the review and provide feedback?</p> <p>Does a group within the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management yet carry out an annual review of the progress made by lead implementing agencies/organisations in carrying out the areas of the SDP for which they are responsible?</p> <p>Update the National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS).</p> <p>Develop frameworks/action plans for meeting the principles under CEMA.</p>



Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		<p>An updated national Physical Development Plan (PDP) for the north of Montserrat 2012-2022 has been prepared. The Plan was approved by the Governor-in-Council on 2 November 2012 (Cabinet Minute No. 471/2012). This is a land-use plan that provides a framework to help deliver the goals of the SDP, addressing issues such as pressure on land, limited resources and infrastructure development. The land use strategy states that it will “protect and conserve biodiversity and other natural resources, protect and conserve historical sites, artefacts and cultural heritage and prevent and control pollution and manage waste.”</p> <p>The Montserrat Conservation and Environmental Management Act (CEMA) 2014 (passed the Legislative Assembly on 22 July 2014) is an Act to provide for the administration, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, natural resources and the natural heritage of Montserrat; the designation and management of protected areas, pollution control; the regulation of activities; the incorporation of international obligations with respect to the environment into national law; and related matters. A National Conservation and Environmental Advisory Council is to be established under CEMA 2014. The Council is yet to be established and regulations are still to be drafted. Work overload at the AG’s Chambers has prevented movement on the regulations. Outside assistance and funding are welcomed.</p> <p>Under CEMA, the Director of Environment shall prepare a National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS) which shall include a description of the environment in Montserrat, an analysis of environmental issues of national significance, and the environmental management strategies, to be prescribed to address the environmental issues. A National Strategy for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in accordance with the overall policy of the NEMS and the St Georges Declaration will be prepared and submitted to the council for review. Whilst a NEMS was prepared prior to the passage of CEMA, there has been no update since CEMA 2014.</p> <p>Under CEMA, the Director shall prepare and submit annually to the Minister a stewardship report which shall include e.g. a description of the environmental management activities undertaken by the Department during the period under review. This is done as part of the work programme report.</p>	<p>Increase capacity for implementing CEMA effectively.</p> <p>Develop frameworks for meeting the goals and objectives under the Sustainable Development Plan.</p> <p>Is there a joint Government/NGO group to take an overview of forward conservation planning and review progress, and is this incorporated in the role of the National Conservation and Environmental Advisory Council once established.</p> <p>The Government of Montserrat and the Montserrat National Trust have identified, with UKOTCF, the need for investigations, planning and conservation management work in the southern area (taking into account the restrictions), and for work engaging the community more widely in conservation work in the north. Applications have been made to Darwin and BEST, with the former just awarded;</p>

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			investigations will continue re funding the latter work.
1, 2 & others	<p><b>20.</b> By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.</p>	<p>Under CEMA, funding for environmental management shall be provided under the special fund established under the Public Finance (Management and Accountability) Act for that purpose. Any fees payable under CEMA must also be paid into the special fund. Essentially, the section that dealt with trust funding was removed on recommendation of the pre-2014 cabinet. Section 14 of the Act states that the Trust Fund will not be part of the consolidated fund.</p> <p>Blue Halo Initiative MOU states that the Government of Montserrat will create a dedicated fund to finance implementation of a Sustainable Ocean Policy. The MOU was signed between the Waitt Institute and the Government of Montserrat.</p> <p>Substantial funding has been received from the Darwin Initiative e.g. Darwin Project 'Enabling the People of Montserrat to Conserve the Centre Hills (2005-2008)' received £160,900.00. In addition, the Centre Hills Project received further funding support in cash or kind from the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Housing and the Environment, the Montserrat Tourist Board and the Montserrat National Trust. A new Darwin Plus project has just been awarded in March 2016.</p>	<p>Draft legislation/regulations that deal with fees and trust funding. (Note that, with the change in financial regulations worldwide, a trust fund mechanism must be handled under a separate legislation as listed in the text regarding Public Finance (Management and Accountability Act).)</p> <p>Develop a Sustainable Ocean Policy.</p>
2. Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas	<p><b>5.</b> By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced. (Relates also to EC4)</p>	<p>The Centre Hills Project developed a management plan 2008-2010 for the Centre Hills which provide the last viable habitat for many species of globally threatened and endemic wildlife. The Project was launched in June 2005 and collected socioeconomic, ecological and GIS data to inform the management plan. The overall goal of the plan is to conserve the ecological integrity and promote the sustainable use of the Centre Hills for the benefit of present and future generations, with specific objectives being as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Promote sustainable livelihoods of resource users in and around the Centre Hills;</li> <li>2) Conserve biodiversity, habitats, and ecosystem services of the Centre Hills;</li> <li>3) Provide recreational and educational opportunities in the Centre Hills for the people in Montserrat and visitors;</li> <li>4) Enable effective legislative, institutional, and fiscal structures to support sustainable management and stewardship of the Centre Hills.</li> </ol> <p>Some of these actions have been incorporated into the Department of Environment's</p>	<p>Either incorporate all objectives under the Centre Hills management plan into the DoE's annual work programme, or obtain funding that allows the management plan to be implemented separately. As the recurrent budget is limited, only critical core management activities of this Management Plan are being carried out, absorbed as part</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
policy, and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species.		<p>annual work programme as there are insufficient funds to implement the management plan separately.</p> <p>Under CEMA, a Forestry, Wildlife and Protected Areas Standing Committee shall be appointed, one function of which is to advise the Council on matters pertaining to policy, strategies, guidelines, standards, objectives and regulations for the protection and management of the environment. This is currently being carried out by the Department of Environment.</p>	<p>of the work programme of the DoE. Additional funding would be necessary to implement the plan fully and separately.</p> <p>Substantial work remains to be done on long-term involving the community in the north, solving of the invasives issues, and management of remaining good habitat in the southern area taking full account of restrictions and safety requirements (see above and below).</p>
2	<p><b>11.</b> By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider</p>	<p>Many sites which are of environmental and historical interest are kept by the Montserrat National Trust. These include areas on both sides of ravines in the Beachettes area. The Trust also maintains Woodlands Beach House as well as a number of nature trails which traverse the Centre and Silver Hills. Section 41 of CEMA states that the Governor, acting on the advice of Cabinet, may vest Crown land within a protected area in the competent body to which responsibility for the management of that area is delegated under section 39. That competent body holds that land in trust for the benefit of the people of Montserrat and shall take necessary measures for the proper control and management of that land to prevent any waste or damage or injury to that land. However, resources for the management of these areas are very low in relation to the work needed.</p> <p>Section 33 under CEMA states that the areas listed in Schedule 4 are designated as protected areas. As yet, only 1 protected area has been designated under CEMA. Under CEMA, the Director of Environment shall prepare a draft Protected Areas Systems Plan for the establishment of a system of protected areas which is both consistent with NEMS, and which takes into consideration the National Physical Development Plan prepared in accordance with section 5 of the Physical Planning Act. The Director or a competent body shall also prepare a management plan for each protected area. The Director is responsible also for overseeing the administration and monitoring of protected areas.</p>	<p>Prepare a Protected Areas Systems Plan and Management Plans for each protected area (only one designated so far under CEMA – see below). Prepare a monitoring framework for protected areas.</p> <p>Secure further resources to undertake legally required surveys to designate under DEMA further potential protected areas and, as most of the other areas in question are privately owned, to make agreements and perhaps provide compensation.</p>

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	landscapes and seascapes.	<p>Designations can be done under CEMA and there are various classifications they can fall under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Strict Nature Reserve;</li> <li>(b) National Park;</li> <li>(c) Conservation Area;</li> <li>(d) Heritage Site;</li> <li>(e) Watershed Management Area;</li> <li>(f) Protected Forest Area; and</li> <li>(g) Temporary Protected Area.</li> </ul> <p>There are also mechanisms such as preservation orders that can protect fauna and flora and their habitat. All of these subsequent areas would require area management plans by law.</p> <p>Of Montserrat's 18 protected areas under previous laws (as stated under the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)), 6 (33%) include a marine component. These protected areas may be either partially or completely within the marine environment. All are national-level protected areas with none designated under international and regional agreements or conventions. According to IUCN Management Categories, the number of each type of National Protected Area is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strict Nature Reserve- 1</li> <li>• National Park- 2</li> <li>• National Monument or Feature- 2</li> <li>• Protected Area with sustainable use- 1</li> <li>• Protected Landscape/Seascape- 6</li> <li>• Not Reported (NR)- 6</li> </ul> <p>The manner by which the protected area status of these pre-CEMA designations are to be carried forward into the CEMA era needs clarifying.</p> <p>In 2000, a 2,792-acre section of the Centre Hills forest was given legal protection; approximately two-thirds of this is privately-owned Forest Reserve, and one-third is government-owned Protected Forest. Both reserve and protected forest now fall under one designation as a protected area.</p> <p>The following areas of Montserrat have been identified as potential Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention:</p>	<p>Obtain additional resources for management of land kept in Trust.</p> <p>Clarify the manner by which the protected area status of the pre-CEMA designations are to be carried forward into the CEMA era, and progress this.</p> <p>Establish a list of past, present and proposed protected areas, the legislation under which each was designated (if it has been), and the steps still needed for that site.</p> <p>Designate protected areas under International and Regional agreements, including Ramsar Sites.</p> <p>Carry out further survey work for identifying other features of interest.</p> <p>Investigate the potential reinstatement of Foxes Bay Swamp Nature Reserve, the resource requirements and the potential sources of these. This would partly compensate for the artificial total loss of lowland</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centre Hills and forested ghauts. These include the forested ghauts under the management of the Montserrat National Trust and others. (Note only the ghauts vested in the Trust are fully protected. The other ghauts are protected only within the Centre Hills protected area. This leaves a significant proportion of the ghaut area unprotected. The Physical Development Plan proposes these areas to be protected as important bird areas and some ghauts are included in conservation areas, but these are only proposed and not formally designated.)</li> <li>Montserrat NW coasts and marine shallows: This contains coral reefs, mangroves and sea-grass beds, all of which are priority wetland types. It was noted that this site needed further boundary assessment, especially given the changes consequent on the volcano.</li> </ul> <p>The sites identified represent coverage of the interest so far identified. Further survey work will most likely identify other features of major interest within the sites identified.</p> <p>Under pre-CEMA legislation, there are three terrestrial protected areas covering an area of 11% of the total land area and 30% of the volcano safe zone. The protected areas include: the Centre Hills Forest Reserve and protected forest; the Silver Hills Forest Reserve and Foxes Bay Swamp Bird Sanctuary which has been in-filled by fall of volcanic ash. Additionally most ghauts, ravines and steep land receive de facto (but not legal) protected areas status.</p> <p>Piper's Pond (the last remaining mangrove area), in the Little Bay area where the new capital is being developed, had been subject to infilling by soil erosion due to surrounding built development. In 2014, the remaining Pond was deliberately in-filled to create development land, without any appropriate environmental consideration or consultations. The area was de-designated before the activity commenced, but that process similarly did not have full impact assessment and consultation. There were other environmental threats, such as dredging for a small fishing harbour.</p>	<p>wetlands, due to the human infilling of Piper's Pond.</p> <p>Protect further ghauts identified through the Ramsar Review and the important bird areas process.</p>
2	<p><b>12.</b> By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline,</p>	<p>The strategic focus under Strategic Goal 3 of the Sustainable Development Pplan: Environmental Management and Disaster Mitigation, includes the development and implementation of strategies and plans to protect and conserve biodiversity and other natural resources. One of the Targets by 2020 is a 10% growth in the population of endangered/protected species, although 10% is optimistic.</p> <p>The remaining population of the Montserrat oriole <i>Icterus oberi</i>, in the Centre Hills, is being</p>	<p>Following the review and revision of environmental legislation conducted through the Centre Hills project, although improved environmental legislation has been passed, additional</p>

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	has been improved and sustained.	<p>actively conserved. Montserrat oriole recovery involves a programme of monitoring, research into threats and causes of any continuing declines, and <i>ex situ</i> breeding. A Species Action Plan was published in 2005.</p> <p>In 2010, a Species Action Plan was produced for the Montserrat galliwasp <i>Diploglossus montisserrati</i> (a lizard). This covers the needs to protect existing habitat, reduce invasive species impacts through both population control and predator-proof fencing, and initiate an <i>ex situ</i> breeding programme. This requires a significant investment that local government does not have.</p> <p>A Species Action Plan was developed for the mountain chicken (a frog). With funding from OTEP, the SAP was developed at a participatory workshop in October 2007, as a five-year plan of action to ensure the future conservation of the mountain chicken. The workshop was attended by Montserratian and UK experts and other stakeholders. The Plan's Vision was of "a thriving, sustainably managed population of mountain chickens generating pride in Montserrat's natural and cultural heritage for present and future generations." Its aim was to bring about "a measurable increase in the security of the mountain chicken population on Montserrat" over the proceeding five years. Chytrid fungus was first detected on Montserrat in February 2009. The 'Enabling Montserrat to Save the Critically Endangered Mountain Chicken (2010-2013)' project was subsequently carried out with the following four outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The evidence base for the restoration of the mountain chicken <i>Leptodactylus fallax</i> and mitigation of the impacts of the chytrid fungus is established.</li> <li>• Trial re-introduction of mountain chickens into Montserrat completed.</li> <li>• Long-term restoration strategy and Species Action Plan for the mountain chicken established and agreed with regional partners.</li> <li>• The restoration of the mountain chicken is a source of national pride and benefits from long-term collaboration between national, regional and international partners.</li> </ul> <p>Some outputs were achieved during the project timeframe in the sense that the experimental work was undertaken successfully in helping to define the main challenge. However, the main challenge remains to be overcome.</p> <p>In 2008, the 'Strengthening Capacity for Species Action Planning in Montserrat' project with partners the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, aimed to provide support to Government and conservation NGOs on Montserrat in developing skills in producing Species Action Plans for the island's endemic plant species. The project focused on the development and</p>	resources (human and financial) need to be obtained for monitoring and enforcing environmental legislation and implementing management plans (see previous column). (This has been highlighted and proposals submitted unsuccessfully on many occasions for institutional strengthening to enable this.)..

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		<p>implementation of a SAP to cover the three endemic plant species, <i>Rondeletia buxifolia</i>, <i>Epidendrum montserratense</i> and <i>Xylosma serrata</i>. The project provided training for Montserratian partners in the skills needed to prepare, publish and implement SAPs. Seeds from <i>Rondeletia buxifolia</i> and <i>Epidendrum montserratense</i> have been incorporated into the Millennium Seed Bank and horticultural protocols for germination and cultivation have been developed.</p> <p>The Centre Hills Project conducted a review and revision of environmental legislation. Improved environmental legislation was to then be developed. Certainly, the Sustainable Development Plan 2008-2020 states that: current environment is characterized by inadequate environmental policies, outdated legislation, inadequate monitoring and enforcement of existing laws and regulations, and the need for the development and implementation of management plans. These needs will have to be met if significant progress is to be made in the management of sustainable use of natural resources. Though the legislation is passed, significant human and financial resources are needed. Implementation of management plans is always a problem because of resourcing issues.</p> <p>CEMA states that the species of fauna and flora specified in Schedule 2 are designated as protected species with sub-section 3 stating any actions against protected species which may be deemed an offence.</p>	
2	<p><b>9.</b> By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.</p>	<p>Research findings through the Darwin Initiative project 'Enabling the People of Montserrat to Conserve the Centre Hills (2005-2008)' confirmed that populations of feral animals posed a significant threat to the values of the Centre Hills. Pigs were less abundant than expected, probably due to population limitation from traditional hunting. Conversely, goats, cattle and donkeys were more abundant than expected, with large populations in and around the Centre Hills. This provided compelling evidence that management strategies needed to be developed. A Montserrat Centre Hills Feral Livestock Action Plan was designed. The action planning made the assumption that, at that time, total eradication of feral animals was not feasible, due to recruitment from farmed livestock and due to restrictions on visiting the south of Montserrat. Accordingly two objectives to mitigate these constraints were identified; to reduce the populations of feral animals and to reduce the recruitment of farmed livestock in to the feral population. There was also a 'Reducing the Impact of Feral Livestock in and Around the Centre Hills (2009-2011)' post-project, funded by the Darwin Initiative.</p> <p>Both the Black and Brown rat were highlighted as an environmental threat by a wide cross-</p>	<p>Local stakeholders point out that the brown rat should be listed as a key invasive alien vertebrate species, in addition to those already identified under the 'Eradication of invasive alien vertebrates in the UK Overseas Territories' study, as there is a significant population on island.</p> <p>With current technology, eradication of rats on an island of this character is next to impossible. Until</p>

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		<p>section of stakeholders. The Centre Hills Project carried out ecological research into relevant aspects of how the forest functions. This was another important element of the project, in particular the impact of invasive rats on forest ecology. Rats are suspected of having a major effect on tree regeneration and on the breeding capacity of certain species. Understanding these interactions is a critical part of the planning process.</p> <p>BEST Initiative/RSPB Project: Conserving Species and Sites of International Importance by the Eradication of Invasive Alien Species [IAS] in the Caribbean UK Overseas Territories operated across 5 UKOTs (including Montserrat) in the Caribbean, sharing best practice for the prevention, control or eradication of IAS and building local capacity. In Montserrat, feral livestock control in the Centre Hills Forest Reserve has been undertaken in partnership with the DOE and support of Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA). Camera traps have also been deployed into the Centre Hills to track movement of feral livestock. The reported numbers of confirmed or suspected invasive alien vertebrate species by taxonomic order for Montserrat are: 2 Rodents, 1 Predator, 5 Ungulates, 2 Other Mammals, 3 Birds, 2 Reptiles, and 1 Amphibian. Based on Potential Conservation Value only, Montserrat is the top-ranking island in the UKOTs. Its Actual Conservation Value ranking however is significantly lower as its human population size means that rat eradication is not considered feasible (island size and topography would also make this exceptionally expensive). Key invasive alien vertebrate species for Montserrat are the feral pig, goat, cow, feral cat, black rat, and cane toad. The study also identified that biosecurity should be a high priority for Montserrat, to prevent the establishment of more invasive alien vertebrate species.</p> <p>In 2012, a brochure on Invasive Red Fire Ants (first identified in 2007) was published by the Department of Environment. The brochure provides useful information on how to recognise the fire ants and their nests, and what precautionary actions one can take to avoid being stung. The brochure outlines the impact the ants can have on agriculture, health, infrastructure etc. Public service announcements are aired annually as well.</p> <p>In 2014/15, the Fisheries Department began working with local fisherman and hotels to establish lionfish as a food source and also as a way to manage this Caribbean-wide alien invasive. Initial studies were carried out on invasive plants – these were done by local officers &amp; RBG Kew.</p>	<p>techniques develop further, a targeted control programme to keep numbers manageable is preferable but is expensive in the short to medium term. With education and public awareness, the cost will go down over time, but would still require some sort of injection of funds from the government or elsewhere.</p> <p>Understanding the interactions of rats with tree regeneration and on the breeding capacity of species, would require a longer term follow-up project.</p> <p>In addition to the Montserrat Centre Hills Feral Livestock Action Plan, develop additional invasive species Action Plans and means for resourcing them for those species which have been identified as an issue.</p> <p>Implement biosecurity legislation.</p> <p>As noted, the current plans for dealing with invasives concentrate on the Centre Hills, rather than total island</p>



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			eradication – because of accessibility difficulties in the south. Although the complexity of the habitat may prevent rat eradication at least at present, the current easing of volcanic activity may allow for investigation and potential planning (including the possibilities for access-clearance) of ambitious plans for eradication of the damaging feral animals across the island.
2	<b>15.</b> By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.	Investigations into habitat restoration have been noted above. In relation to carbon balance, Montserrat is working heavily on the use of non-carbon energy sources by geothermal.	See above for the resourcing needs for habitat restoration.
3. Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and	<b>2.</b> By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development	Some strategic policies took inadequate account of environmental and sustainability issues. Several governmental and NGO comments indicate this to be the case for the infilling of Piper's Pond and destruction, to provide the in-fill, of a hill providing protection from storms for important infrastructure. Others suggest that correct procedures were followed in a legal sense (but those procedures were flawed in terms of providing anything	Construction on the Piper's Pond site needs to be avoided if the option for eventual reinstatement is to remain.

<b>Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments</b>	<b>Aichi Biodiversity Targets</b> (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	<b>Where we stand 2016:</b>	<b>Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs</b>
<p>economic planning processes, promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the Territory.</p> <p>4. Ensure that environmental impact assessments are undertaken before approving major projects and while developing our growth management strategy.</p> <p>5. Commit to open and consultative decision-making on developments and plans which may affect the environment; ensure that environmental impact assessments include consultation with stakeholders.</p>	<p>and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p>	<p>like internationally recognised EIA.) Some governmental sources have also later indicated that the development was apparently undertaken on the basis of an unconfirmed indication of outside investment, which has not happened. The Government in place since approval of the development (and different advice from UK Government representatives now in place) has indicated that a repetition of this sort of thing is unlikely in the current situation. The strategic focus under Strategic Goal 3 of the SDP includes the integration of environmental issues and disaster risk management principles into economic, social and physical planning and decision-making. CEMA also indicates that environmental management must be integrated, acknowledging that all elements of the environment are linked and interrelated. Principle 7 of CEMA states that the social, economic and environmental effects of activities, including disadvantages and benefits, must be considered, assessed and evaluated and decisions must be appropriate in the light of such consideration and assessment.</p> <p>Section 3.4 of the Physical Development Plan states that the primary purpose of zoning is to ensure compatible use of adjacent land areas, avoiding conflicts between different land users, and between land users and the natural environment (both flora and fauna). The zoned designation of land for certain uses or purposes is regulated through the planning process. Each development is evaluated by the Planning and Development Authority (PDA) with committee members representing the public and private sectors.</p> <p>Under SDP Strategic Goal 3, the strategic focus involves developing and implementing environmental health programmes, including integrated waste-management systems, with associated standards and regulations that will reduce the impact of waste on ecosystems.</p> <p>Section 3.7 Disaster Risk Reduction of PDP states that the land-use strategy will recognise the important role of ghauts in successful water and land management, and minimise the potential for increases in surface water run-off and sediment deposition in ghauts and the marine environment.</p> <p>Montserrat Tourist Board (currently being reorganised) has been proactive in establishing and promoting ecotourism. Tourist opportunities include hiking trails, diving, bird-watching, and volcano-watching. Different trails have been cut in the Centre Hills and north of the Island. Trails have been managed by MNT but not enough funds allocated to provide adequate signage and publicity.</p>	<p>Implement EIA regulations and best practice in other planning matters, as well as consultative strategic environmental assessment and planning.</p> <p>Develop frameworks for meeting the goals and objectives under the Sustainable Development Plan.</p> <p>Obtain adequate funds for MNT to provide appropriate signage and publicity for trails in the Centre Hills and north of the Island.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		<p>Under Section 40 of CEMA, the owner of any land within a protected area who complies with the management plan for that protected area is entitled to a remission of property tax payable in respect of that land. It should be noted that there is nothing in the law that prevents the land owner from demanding additional compensation other than the tax remission. Additionally and providing a mechanism, Section 42 states that the Minister may, with the approval of the Governor acting on the advice of Cabinet, enter into a co-management agreement with the owner of private land within a protected area for the management and control of that land as a protected area.</p> <p>The Centre Hills Project carried out an assessment of the socio-economic values of the Centre Hills in order to advise policy-makers about these critical factors.</p> <p>Regarding EIA and sustainable development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CEMA indicates that development must be socially, environmentally and economically sustainable.</li> <li>• CEMA states that, if there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation.</li> <li>• CEMA states that The Planning and Development Authority shall not approve or give permission for the development of Crown or private land within a protected area, under the Physical Planning Act, unless the applicant holds a Certificate under section 17 with regard to the development.</li> <li>• Where the Director is satisfied that an activity poses an environmental threat which could not have been reasonably foreseen at the time of the issuance of a Certificate or the information or data given by the holder in support of the application for a Certificate was false, inaccurate or intended to mislead, he may either direct the holder of the Certificate to submit further information/data or recommend to the Planning and Development Authority that the holder of the Certificate be required to submit an environmental impact assessment.</li> <li>• CEMA outlines actions to be taken regarding Environmental Auditing, e.g. the Governor may establish or adopt appropriate standards and procedures for the carrying out of an environmental audit. The Director may also require a person to submit for approval an environmental management plan to manage the environmental impacts of a new or existing activity.</li> <li>• In 2013, the Department of Environment participated in the two workshops in St</li> </ul>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		<p>Lucia to address a harmonized reporting mechanism, and the use of Integrated Environment Assessment (IEA) tools for mainstreaming Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) into national policy development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the request of local interests and FCO, UKOTCF organised an EIA workshop in Montserrat in January 2015 attended by Government Ministers, several government departments and non-government organisations, private sector and civil society.</li> <li>• Following this, Montserrat is seeking to address some earlier problems regarding lack of adequate EIAs.</li> <li>• CARICOM is now exploring the possibility of having a harmonised Environment and Natural Resources Management Policy Framework. Montserrat, as a full member of CARICOM, has participated in the consultations.</li> </ul> <p>EIA Regulations are being prepared. In the meantime developers are being encouraged to follow best practice.</p> <p>One medium-term objective under the SDP is to develop a transparent and effective accountability framework for Government and the public sector. The SDP itself was developed out of a consultative, consensus building process. CEMA states also that decisions must be taken in an open and transparent manner, and access to information must be provided in accordance with the law. For example under CEMA, in preparing a NEMS, the Director shall seek and consider comments from stakeholders including governmental entities, civil society, non-governmental organisations and members of the public. Furthermore, before an area is designated as a protected area, the Director shall publish a notice of intention to designate the protected area and submit the notice for public comment by stakeholders.</p>	
3	<p>3. By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and</p>		Continued alertness.

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.		
3, 4, 5	<p>4. By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.</p>	<p>One medium-term objective under the SDP is to assess and develop feasible sources of renewable energy. Strategic actions include facilitating a geophysical survey, to ascertain sites and depth of geothermal lakes, facilitate initial drilling and testing to determine feasibility and potential, as well as develop the capacity of Montserrat Utilities Limited to provide a reliable supply of affordable electricity utilizing renewable sources of energy where feasible. A Montserrat Energy Policy 2008-2027 has been produced, and is currently under revision with a view to streamlining it and making it a more workable document. An OTEP project involved developing a strategy to integrate renewable energy in to the national electricity supply grid.</p> <p>Montserrat has large thermal reservoirs and, along with various other Caribbean countries, has attempted to explore these geothermal resources. The hope is that geothermal could provide a cheap, alternative energy resource. With the aid of DFID, the Government of Montserrat commenced geothermal energy development in 2013. Two wells were drilled to a maximum depth of 2800m, at 250-270°C, with each providing 3MW power. It is believed that the two wells will provide sufficient energy to power the island, certainly in the near future. A third well is to be constructed shortly. The area has been identified and tenders for platform development have been sent out. Note that this third well is not earmarked to be the reinjection well. After all 3 wells have been tested, it will then be decided which well will serve best as the reinjection well. There are many benefits associated with the development of geothermal energy, e.g. energy prices should drop in the long run, more money can stay in Montserrat for development, internal capacity for citizens can be built in various disciplines, and medium and high-quality local jobs can be created. Other high-power industries such as glass making or fruit drying can also be developed.</p> <p>On the other hand, various challenges must be overcome including various environmental</p>	<p>UKOTCF, MNT and GoM have put forward funding proposals to BEST and Darwin Plus to facilitate stakeholders undertaking conservation work; the Darwin Plus project has been approved but not the BEST one.</p> <p>Consider in full any environmental risks as a result of geothermal energy. Carry out appropriate EIA prior to development of geothermal sites.</p> <p>Increase the capacity (including by securing funding) for delivering the policy, legislation and the operational arrangements for dealing with environmental consequences resulting from geothermal operations in Montserrat.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		<p>challenges. For example, high concentrations of gases can affect marine and terrestrial life. There is the possibility of soil erosion, noise and chemical pollution, scenery spoliation. The water mixed with the steam contains dissolved salts that can damage pipes and harm aquatic ecosystems. Environmental monitoring is necessary in order to manage negative environmental effects, but is also costly.</p> <p>MNT received approval from EU/OECS Climate Change Adaptation Programme to do a pilot demonstration project using Solar Energy for irrigation and lighting of the Botanic garden.</p> <p>A new energy policy has been drafted and should be presented to cabinet shortly.</p>	<p>Complete renewable energy strategy.</p> <p>Carry through energy policy with environmentally sustainable approach.</p>
2, 3	<p><b>6.</b> By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.</p>	<p>Marine Reserves can be created under the Fisheries Act 2002.</p> <p>In 2014, the Organisation of the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), of which Montserrat is a member, commenced a Hydrographic Scoping Study aimed at assessing maritime/marine spatial data that exists in OECS countries as part of its Ocean Governance Initiative.</p> <p>In 2015, an initiative commenced to begin recording and monitoring fishing activity around the waters of Montserrat. In partnership with Succorfish, a UK-based, world-leading provider of global GPS tracking systems and marine and maritime vessel monitoring systems (VMS), the Government of Montserrat aims to promote responsible and sustainable fisheries resource management, development and conservation within the local marine environment. Succorfish VMS technology was designed to allow small scale, 3-10m fishing vessels, like those operating in Montserrat, to record accurately, monitor and map their exact location to within two metres from every minute to every hour. It enhances significantly fisheries management activities by supporting legal frameworks for spatial planning, protecting areas of conservation by deterring illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and improving safety at sea for inshore and offshore fishing vessels.</p> <p>Blue Halo Project: UKOTCF introduced the Fisheries Department to the Waitt Institute which aims to “ensure ecologically, economically, and culturally sustainable use of ocean resources”. In February 2015, Waitt Institute announced that they will be working in 2 new sites: Montserrat and Curaçao. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Montserrat Government. Section 1 of this MOU states that the Blue Halo Initiative is a comprehensive ocean and coastal management project launched in collaboration by the</p>	<p>Montserrat may wish to consider joining the international whale sanctuary initiative in respect of its EEZ.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		Parties with a goal of sustainable management of Montserrat's ocean and coastal waters. Under the MOU, the Parties agree to take steps to manage coastal resources sustainably, undertaking activities to support the Initiative, by working collaboratively to develop and codify the Montserrat Sustainable Ocean Policy, including ocean zoning, sanctuary zones, and fisheries laws and regulations by January 2017.	
3	7. By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	Principles under CEMA state that the following will be carried out to ensure that forests are managed sustainably: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management plan developed for a protected forest area shall be in accordance with sustainable tropical forestry principles, guidelines and practices and consistent with the Protected Areas Systems Plan and the National Environmental Management Strategy.</li> <li>• The Director shall manage forests on unallocated Crown lands outside of protected areas as a permanent forest estate, in accordance with sustainable tropical forestry principles, guidelines and practices.</li> <li>• The Director shall promote the practice of silviculture and shall, in collaboration with the Director of Agriculture, on marginal lands owned or leased by the Crown for agriculture which are outside of protected areas and are not better suited for grazing or cultivation, promote the practice of agro-forestry. The Director may plant and maintain trees in public places.</li> <li>• The Governor, acting on the advice of Cabinet, may make regulations and grant incentives to the owners of forested private lands outside of protected areas for the purpose of ensuring that those lands are managed in accordance with sustainable tropical forestry principles, guidelines and practices.</li> </ul>	Develop frameworks/action plans for meeting the principles under CEMA.  Investigate and plan developed for management of remaining forest in Exclusion Zone, integrated with consideration of risk (see above for MNT/GoM/UKOTCF initial proposal).
3, 4, 5	14. By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and	The strategic focus under Strategic Goal 3 of the SDP, Environmental Management and Disaster Mitigation, includes strengthening of the capacity of the organisations with the responsibility for educating the general public and implementing and enforcing environmental management and disaster mitigation legislation, policies and plans. Medium-term objectives include: strengthening national and community level capacity for mitigation, management and coordinated response to natural and technological hazards and the effects of climate change; developing a comprehensive disaster management framework; and developing and promoting environmental health programmes to reduce health hazards.  The PDP states that, as an economically vulnerable small island state, many climate change adaptation strategies have already been mainstreamed in Montserrat's national	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	the poor and vulnerable.	<p>policy and plans and articulated in the objectives and land use strategy of the PDP.</p> <p>The Ministry of Agriculture, Trade, Land, Housing and the Environment is leading the collective effort to prepare a revised National Climate Change Policy and Action Plan for Montserrat. This is being supported under the Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Land Management Project in the Eastern Caribbean, which is managed by the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) on behalf of participating members. The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) is facilitating the process. A recent workshop on 18 June 2015 was the second in the consultation process allowing stakeholders to analyse impacts and decide on priorities. The draft Policy and Action Plan (not yet submitted to Cabinet) are available from the Department of Environment or CANARI for comment until 30 June 2016.</p> <p>CEMA states that the participation of all persons in environmental governance must be promoted and all people must have the opportunity to develop the understanding, skills and capacity necessary for achieving equitable and effective participation, and participation by vulnerable and disadvantaged persons must be ensured.</p>	
6. Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Territory and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)	<p>Section 3.6 of PDP states that the commitments of the multilateral conventions extended to Montserrat are enshrined in the goals and targets of the National Environmental Management Strategy (NEMS) and the SDP 2010-2020 and guide the Physical Development Plan.</p> <p>Montserrat is included in UK's ratification of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (but has not yet designated any Wetlands of International Importance), the Convention on Migratory Species (Bonn), and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES, Washington) – but not yet the Convention on Biological Diversity. New CITES legislation to make Montserrat fully compliant stalled due to workload and capacity issues at the local legal office. Montserrat (and therefore UK) missed a critical deadline and could now face sanctions but it is understood that a new deadline was negotiated and that the legal department is working on the legislation.</p>	Secure additional resources and designate Ramsar Sites. Extend CBD to Montserrat.
7. Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.	<b>19.</b> By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and	<p>An RSPB (2014) study assessed the number of globally threatened and endemic terrestrial vertebrates for Montserrat. Using IUCN Red List categories there were 6 Critically Endangered (CR), 2 Endangered (EN) and 3 Vulnerable (VU).</p> <p>The Centre Hills Project conducted scientific studies, including an assessment of biological resources. The findings of these studies are compiled in several reports that have</p>	<p>Several features noted in previous column.</p> <p>Still a need for a whole-island biodiversity assessment. Funding and expertise</p>



Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	<p>the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.</p>	<p>contributed significantly to the development of the action plan. Contained in these reports are detailed descriptions of the natural and social resources of, and affecting, the Centre Hills, including geology, hydrology, soils, climate, ecosystem components and processes, biodiversity and threatened species, politics, infrastructure, legal issues, socioeconomics, and existing/future land-use.</p> <p>Forestry staff, from the Department of Environment, conduct an annual bird monitoring exercise to determine the bird populations in the Centre Hills of Montserrat including the population of Montserrat oriole <i>Icterus oberi</i>.</p> <p>Under CEMA, the Director shall establish and maintain a National Environmental Information System which will include e.g. monitoring data acquired under this Act. The Director shall also identify the components of biological diversity important for its conservation and sustainable use, including e.g. ecosystems and habitats containing high diversity, and species or communities which are endangered or threatened. The Director shall monitor, through sampling, tagging and other techniques, these components of biological diversity paying particular attention to those requiring urgent conservation measures and those which offer the greatest potential for sustainable use. The Director must identify processes and categories of activities that are likely to have significant adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and monitor their effects. The Protected Areas Systems Plan should include an assessment of the status of biological diversity and the natural and cultural resources of Montserrat. Department of Environment has made a business case to have a statistician on staff but this was not forthcoming.</p> <p>The Montserrat Ridge to Reef Conservation Project (MRRCP) is a collaborative project to support the sustainable use of Montserrat's natural resources. The programme encompasses scientific surveys of coral reefs and other marine resources, as well as terrestrial species and habitats focussed primarily in the Centre Hills.</p> <p>In terms of areas requiring further information gathering, little is known about the Montserrat galliwasp lizard and more scientific research into habitat is necessary.</p>	<p>needed.</p> <p>Resources and recruitment to have statistician on staff..</p> <p>Secure resources and carry out further scientific research into Montserrat Galliwasp Lizard.</p>
<p>8. Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the</p>	<p>8. By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that</p>	<p>Principle (9) of CEMA indicates that the costs of remedying pollution, environmental degradation and consequent adverse health effects and of preventing, controlling or minimising further pollution, environmental damage or adverse health effects must be borne for by those responsible for harming the environment. Furthermore, under Principle</p>	<p>Complete and implement regulations.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
polluter should pay for prevention or remedies; establish effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.	are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity. (Relates also to EC3&4)	<p>57 (6), after a spill or accidental release of a pollutant or hazardous substance or hazardous waste, the Principal Environmental Health Officer may undertake emergency response measures as he or she thinks necessary or expedient to protect human health and the environment. In this situation, she or he may recover the actual costs from the person who owns or controls the premises from where the spill or accidental release of a pollutant or hazardous substance or hazardous waste originated. (Although CEMA falls under the remit of DOE, this area is cross-cutting and involves other Ministries and departments.)</p> <p>Section 3.7 Disaster Risk Reduction of PDP states that the land-use strategy will minimise the effects of polluting land--uses on people and other sensitive receptors.</p> <p>Under CEMA, a Pollution Control Standing Committee shall be appointed, one function of which is to advise the Council on matters pertaining to policy, strategies, guidelines, standards, objectives and regulations for the protection and management of the environment.</p> <p>Under CEMA, a person who intends to release a pollutant from any premises in a quantity or concentration or condition which falls beyond a prescribed range shall register with the Director. The Director may require a person who owns or controls any premises on which a pollutant or hazardous substance or hazardous waste is handled, to prepare a contingency plan to deal with a spill or accidental release of that pollutant or hazardous substance or hazardous waste. The Director may also undertake compliance monitoring and enforcement of an environmental appraisal, environmental impact assessment or environmental management plan. Regulations in draft.</p> <p>TORs for competent expertise have been developed.</p>	
8	10. By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to	The Montserrat Reef Project (MRP) is a Montserrat Tourist Board's Tourism Challenge Fund and OTEP grant-aided project, founded in 2010. The project aims to create new marine habitat and relocate imperilled corals to new reef. As coral is slow to grow, it is too early to report progress.	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	maintain their integrity and functioning. (Relates also to EC3)		
<p>9. Encourage teaching within schools to promote the value of our local environment (natural and built) and to explain its role within the regional and global environment.</p> <p>10. Promote publications that spread awareness of the special features of the environment in the Territory; promote within the Territory the guiding principles set out above.</p>	<p>1. By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.</p>	<p>Through the Montserrat Reef Ball Project, a new artificial reef is being designed as an educational snorkel trail, accessible by dive tour businesses, locals and tourists.</p> <p>The Montserrat Volcano Observatory provides information on the volcano to the general public. The MVO Interpretation Centre has poster displays explaining the techniques used in monitoring seismic (earthquake) activity, gas emissions, ground deformation and environmental impacts.</p> <p>A National Tree Planting Day involved the distribution of plants from the nursery of the Department of Environment and its Forestry Division.</p> <p>A brochure was produced on the possible impacts of climate-change on Montserrat. Many other reports and articles have been produced.</p> <p>Centre Hills Project implemented an outreach programme targeting diverse audiences, including politicians, teachers, students, farmers, tourists, and the general public. In 2012, the Department of Environment released a Mountain Chicken Awareness Poster, which was widely circulated. The DoE has employed an education and outreach person. Funding of print media is very limited and assistance is welcomed.</p> <p>Montserrat National Trust created a new botanic garden in 2005. This provides an educational and recreational resource for schools, residents and visitors. There is a link between what is showcased in the garden and what is found in the wilds of the Centre Hills.</p> <p>Efforts must be made to ensure that school curriculum includes environmental information. Resource constraints must be surmounted in order to meet this target. Environmental education is a continuing process using all the available media to reach the population.</p> <p>The National Museum of Montserrat, which is managed by the National Trust, re-opened in a new site (the previous one now being in the volcano exclusion zone) in 2012.</p> <p>UKOTCF worked with MNT and GoM to produce "Birding in Paradise: the Caribbean</p>	<p>Education and training re trail and nature guiding.</p> <p>More summer camp/activity groups for children</p> <p>Environmental courses for adults.</p> <p>More educational materials produced for use in schools. Environmental information must be included in the school curriculum and adequate resources obtained to do this.</p> <p>Funding is required for fully implementing the strategy developed for maximising the use of radio in environmental and cultural education, and for all the other activities listed above..</p>

<b>Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments</b>	<b>Aichi Biodiversity Targets</b> (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	<b>Where we stand 2016:</b>	<b>Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs</b>
		<p>Emerald Isle of Montserrat – a guide to bird-watching, nature and heritage sites”, and a short online video, and is working on other material, video-based.</p> <p>The Ministry of the Environment, the Montserrat National Trust and other partners use a variety of techniques, including: internet (websites, Facebook); school and group visits to the MNT, Museum, and other sites; visits to schools and communities for the promotion of projects; fun-days; and competitions. Special programmes target different stakeholder groups. However, more traditional forms of disseminating information are also varied and work well locally. Radio is an important resource for promoting environmental education and cultural awareness. It reaches a wide local audience and there are numerous examples of when radio has been used to motivate people in being involved in the owning and protection of their natural and cultural heritage, e.g. the Centre Hills Reserve Projects in 2008, the Montserrat Mountain Chicken Project, and the Cultural Show which will publicise special environment and cultural events. The National Trust regularly takes part in Radio shows to talk about its work.</p>	
11. Abide by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and work towards meeting International Development Targets on the environment.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)		

Not matched specifically	<p><b>13.</b> By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.</p>	<p>Under CEMA, the Director shall identify the components of biological diversity important for its conservation and sustainable use, including described genomes and genes of social, scientific or economic importance.</p> <p>Department of Agriculture is promoting food security and food sovereignty.</p>	
	<p><b>16.</b> By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.</p>	<p>Something both the Department of Environment and the Legal Chambers are interested in, but need technical assistance.</p>	<p>Technical assistance needed</p>

	<p><b>18.</b> By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.</p>	<p>Something that the Montserrat National Trust would like to spearhead, if funds and capacity become available.</p>	<p>Funding required</p>
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## Appendix Part 2. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: Anguilla

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
<p>1. Bring together government departments, representatives of local industry and commerce, environment and heritage organisations, the Governor's office, individual environmental champions and other community representatives in a forum to formulate a detailed strategy for action.</p>	<p>17. By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan. (Relates also to EC5)</p>	<p>A Department of Environment (DoE) was established in 2006. The main objective was to have the DoE work in collaboration with other agencies towards improving and maintaining the well-being of the people of Anguilla, their quality of life and the sustainable use of natural resources, along with the preservation and conservation of the island's ecosystem and heritage. Bilateral agreements, such as the Environment Charter signed in 2001, and the UK White Paper on Partnership for Progress and Prosperity provided guidance and helped shape the DoE's programming and development prior to the existing pieces of legislation and wider policies that are being used at present. The DoE uses a strategic approach towards National Sustainable Development. The first step is data collection which provides a foundation for environmental management and the conservation of biodiversity. This framework can then be used to answer questions, for example through monitoring. The DOE currently has eight members of staff in total, and at present there are no interns.</p> <p>Anguilla has both a National Environmental Management Strategy and Action Plan and a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. There is also a Strategic Country Programme, although this is outdated and perhaps of less relevance in the present day. Anguilla has also a draft Environmental Protection Bill (2008). This is close to being completed in terms of drafting. There is no National Development Plan. However, efforts are being employed to develop firstly a Framework for the National Development Plan and then the actual NDP. The Environmental Protection Bill is currently being revised. However, this Bill has to receive approval from Parliament prior to implementation.</p> <p>There is an Anguilla National Trust Act 2009. The Trust was originally established in 1988 by the Government of Anguilla. The role of the Trust as a statutory body is to act as custodian of Anguilla's natural, cultural and historic heritage. The Anguilla National Trust 'Save the Sand' campaign raises awareness about the negative impacts of sand-mining and provides a mechanism for generating funds through the provision of small amounts of sand from sustainable sources.</p> <p>The JNCC 'Greening the Economy' project, completed in 2013, found that there is an extensive body of knowledge available on natural resources management in Anguilla.</p>	<p>Enact the draft Environmental Protection Bill.</p> <p>Develop framework for National Development Plan and NDP itself.</p> <p>Better coordination of science information, policies, and legislation relating to the environment/biodiversity; perhaps some sort of committee could be set up to address this.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		<p>However, the data are spread over multiple scientific studies, consultant reports, regional reports and approved and draft legislation, policies and plans. This makes it very difficult actually to use the information effectively in decision-making. The framework for natural resource management is made up of a range of policy documents and laws and regulations that have been developed in the absence of an approved integrated approach to environmental management.</p> <p>ANT has partnerships with Departments of Environment, Agriculture, Fisheries and Marine Resources, Disaster Management, ALHCS Environmental Club, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (United Kingdom), Fauna &amp; Flora International (United Kingdom), Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust (United Kingdom), BirdsCaribbean (Caribbean), University of Liverpool (United Kingdom), University of Roehampton (United Kingdom), Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (Caribbean), University of Vermont – exchange of skills and knowledge through meetings, workshops, training exercises, and document exchanges. ANT participates actively in national and international meetings, workshops, and conferences, including (but not limited to) Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network meeting, BirdsCaribbean meeting, UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum meetings, receiving support from some of these bodies. ANT also supports staff in their pursuit of tertiary education (one staff member currently completing her Bachelor of Environmental Science while another commences the same programme in October 2015).</p> <p>Increase in staffing levels of the ANT from two full-time staff members in 2007 to five full-time staff, two full-time interns, and one University of Roehampton Research Associate in 2015. Development of an ANT volunteer base to assist with the ANT bird monitoring, sea turtle monitoring, and Dog Island biosecurity monitoring programmes (ten regular volunteers and numerous occasional volunteers).</p>	
1.	20. By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed	Anguilla has received considerable funding through the Darwin Initiative.	



Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	<p>process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.</p>		
<p>2. Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas policy, and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species.</p>	<p>5. By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced. (Relates also to EC4)</p>	<p>Coastal erosion is a growing concern. There is a need to restore coral reefs, develop coastal management plans and enforce appropriate land-use practices. These needs have been discussed on numerous occasions but actions are still in the early stages.</p> <p>See also 'Save the Sand' campaign in row 3,4,5/ 4,</p> <p>Restoration of sand dunes at Shoal Bay East.</p> <p>The Biodiversity, Heritage and Conservation Act addresses the listed areas. However, the regulations for this Act are currently being developed for approval and implementation by Parliament.</p> <p>An example of use of this is the Sombrero strict Nature Reserve which is a part of the Marine Park system. Hence, the Marine Park Act also addresses areas related to the protection of marine ecosystems. Most recently, Anguilla decided to designate Sombrero as Anguilla's first Ramsar Site.</p>	<p>Restore coral reef, develop coastal management plans. (See also section on development).</p> <p>Finish developing and then approve and implement regulations for the Biodiversity, Heritage and Conservation Act.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>11. By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and</p>	<p>The Biodiversity and Heritage Conservation Act (2009) allows for the designation of protected areas, creation of management plans, licensing and restriction of access and uses. Together with the Marine Parks Act 2000 and Regulations, it provides the main elements of the site protection framework. However, it is not clear whether sites are designated using science-based criteria. Site management plans appear to be absent or outdated. Some work has been done by the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Department of Environment and the National Trust on developing these aspects. The DFMR and ANT should be contacted for specifics.</p>	<p>Develop framework for designating sites through the Biodiversity and Heritage Conservation Act and the Marine Parks Act based on scientific criteria.</p> <p>Update/develop site</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	<p>ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.</p>	<p>A Darwin Plus project is currently investigating potential protected areas in both the Cayman Islands and Anguilla. The aim of the project is to promote the creation and management of protected areas in both Territories. The project is looking specifically at ecosystem services, the benefits that people receive from nature. The long term impact of the project will be the protection of terrestrial and marine habitats for their biodiversity/ ecosystem services.</p> <p>ANT ecosystem-based research to inform policy and management on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wetlands</li> <li>• Important Bird Areas</li> <li>• Marine protected areas and Marine Important Bird Areas</li> <li>• Beaches and sand dunes</li> </ul> <p>ANT island restoration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dog Island (rat eradication completed - largest island in the Caribbean to be eradicated of rats). Dog Island is also an Important Bird Area (IBA), a non-statutory classification based on an international criteria and bird work done by NGOs. A restoration programme was carried out for Dog Island in 2012. This was the Eradication of Rats Project. There is on-going biosecurity and biodiversity monitoring.</li> <li>• Prickly Pear Cays (feasibility study for the eradication of rats). Study indicates that eradication is possible; funding to support the eradication will be pursued.</li> </ul> <p>Through the 2005 review carried out by UKOTCF for UK Government and in consultation with Anguilla Government and NGOs, the following 5 sites were proposed as potential Ramsar Convention Wetlands of International Importance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Sombrero Island (Area: ca 600ha)</li> <li>-Dog Island &amp; Middle Cay (Area: 1800ha)</li> <li>-Prickly Pear Cays (ca 1800ha)</li> <li>-Scrub &amp; Little Scrub Islands (Area: 342.9ha)</li> <li>-Anguilla mainland wetlands</li> </ul> <p>Sombrero Island (94 acres) has been officially approved for designation as a Ramsar Site, and its formal listing is imminent.</p> <p>ANT successfully applied for funding to support a one-year project aimed at assisting the</p>	<p>management plans.</p> <p>Designate further protected areas based on the results of the Darwin Plus project being carried out at present.</p> <p>Obtain funding to support the eradication of rats from Prickly Pear Cays. Create action plan for removing mice from Sombrero.</p> <p>Designate further Ramsar Sites.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		<p>Government of Anguilla to fulfil its commitments under the Ramsar Convention, with one of the first actions being the designation of a Ramsar Site. ANT facilitated Anguilla's participation at the Ramsar Convention's Convention of Parties 12. ANT also carried out an assessment of Sombrero Island to confirm presence of mice on the island.</p> <p>With the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources and the Department of Environment and with high level of support from the Government of Anguilla, the ANT met with Executive Council and the formation of a Ramsar National Committee (multi-agency, multi-Ministerial Committee) was established. A National Wetlands Plan was also completed.</p> <p>There is a Beach Protection Act and Beach Protection Orders. There is also a Beach Control Act and Beach Vending Regulations.</p> <p>ANT management of Anguilla's only natural mainland terrestrial protected area, East End Pond Conservation Area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Including restoration work (over 150 trees planted on in-filled portion of pond)</li> <li>• Management of East End Pond Conservation Area as area for tourism, education, research, and wildlife</li> <li>• Development and implementation of a Management Plan for East End Pond Conservation Area</li> <li>• Funding proposal for feasibility and action plan for removal of fill and restoration of East End Pond Conservation Area.</li> </ul> <p>Management of Big Spring Heritage Site and Fountain Cavern (including tours to the former and to the entrance of the latter). Development and implementation of a management plan for Big Spring Heritage Site. ANT identification of Fountain Cavern as potential site of international importance and assisted the Government of Anguilla (Department of Environment) with the completion of the UK World Heritage Site Tentative List nomination form. ANT protection of Fountain Cavern from degradation and destruction while still allowing research and better understanding of site for over twenty years. With financial assistance from ZemiBeach Resort, completion of a multi-electrode resistivity study to determine the extent of cave systems within the entire Fountain National Park. Fountain Cavern was initially placed on the UK Tentative List, but was not included in the 2011 List of UK priorities. However, that review left the possibility open for Fountains Cavern to be combined with other regional cultural heritage features of this era into a</p>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		<p>wider Site.</p> <p>ANT management of donated lands (Seafeathers and Little Harbour) as green/wild open spaces - protection (and management) of 12 acres of land vested and/or donated to the ANT.</p> <p>ANT identification of Important Bird Areas and identification of Marine Important Bird Areas: trialling and use of BirdLife International's Guidelines for Identification of Marine Important Bird Areas – led to the identification of three Marine Important Bird Areas for Anguilla (potentially the first for the Caribbean).</p> <p>ANT development and maintenance of a National Historical/Heritage Site Register.</p> <p>Other ANT restoration/management activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restoration and management of the Old Police Station (Fort Hill, Sandy Hill)</li> <li>• Restoration and management of the Old East End School (East End)</li> <li>• Restoration and management of Old Custom's House</li> </ul> <p>ANT mainland and offshore cay wetland assessments and coastal habitat assessments</p> <p>ANT identification of sites of ecological importance through the use of Cambridge Conservation Initiative's Toolkit for Ecosystem Services Assessment – led to the identification and prioritization of ecologically-important sites in Anguilla (including the offshore cays).</p>	
2	<p><b>12.</b> By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.</p>	<p>The Biodiversity and Heritage Conservation Act 2009 provides key elements of the species conservation framework. However, the extent to which these elements have been implemented, e.g. through action plans, monitoring and review, is unclear. A sea turtle action plan has been developed. There are also Trade in Endangered Species Act and Trade in Endangered Species Regulations. These have been approved and implemented in 2009 and 2010.</p> <p>The 'Understanding and addressing the impacts of threats to marine ecosystems/biodiversity in the UK overseas territories in the Caribbean' project was completed in March 2014. This aimed to identify threats to biodiversity and policy responses to the need for biodiversity management plans in three of the Caribbean UKOTs (TCI, Cayman Islands and Anguilla). The project allowed information regarding the</p>	<p>Create additional Action Plans for other priority species.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		<p>coral reef ecosystems to be collected, analysed and presented to the community. Surveys of communities, key decision makers and coral reefs were carried out. Sponsored by DEFRA, the Turks and Caicos Islands, Cayman Islands and Anguilla Governments, and JNCC, were project partners.</p> <p>The Anguilla Sea Turtle Conservation Group (ASCG) was established in 2009 as a Working Group of the National Trust. The group is comprised of volunteers who collect weekly data on nesting sea turtle activities. The Government of Anguilla also placed a Moratorium on sea turtle harvesting. The Moratorium began on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2000 (under the Fisheries Protection Act). In 2005, this was extended for 15 years. Under the Biodiversity, Heritage and Conservation Act (2009) (BHCA), all species of sea turtles that are in Anguilla's waters have full protection. ANT support of the sea turtle moratorium through sea turtle research and active conservation (including raising awareness of the plight of Anguilla's Endangered and Critically Endangered sea turtles).</p> <p>ANT protection of 11 species of seabirds (including least tern, listed on Schedule 1 of the Biodiversity and Heritage Conservation Act) and a nesting population of 3 species of sea turtles on Dog Island through the eradication of rats.</p> <p>A new species of halictine bee was discovered on Sombrero Island, Anguilla and published in 2011 'A New Species of <i>Dialictus</i> from Sombrero Island, Anguilla (Hymenoptera, Halictidae)' by Michael S. Engel: <a href="#">ZK article 2270.pdf</a>.</p> <p>ANT species-based research to inform policy and management on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wetland, terrestrial, and sea birds</li> <li>○ Sea turtles - completion of Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan</li> <li>○ Lesser Antillean iguana (and the invasive Green iguana) - Establishment of a Lesser Antillean iguana enclosure, currently housing fifteen individuals (with assistance from the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environment)</li> <li>○ Completion of a Conservation Plan for Anguilla's Lesser Antillean Iguana, which includes assessment of potential for translocation of Critically Endangered Lesser Antillean iguanas to Prickly Pear cays (permission has been sought and granted by landowners should this option prove viable post genetic testing of captured individuals)</li> <li>○ Anguilla Bank racer snake: research, conducted in collaboration with the ANT, has led to the Anguilla Bank Racer snake being re-assessed and identified as Critically</li> </ul>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		<p>Endangered.</p> <p>ANT Anguilla Seed to Tree Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of a nursery for native trees, shrubs, and herbs which are sold at discounted price to encourage re-vegetation with native plants.</li> </ul> <p>ANT review and provide comments on environmental legislation (Biodiversity and Heritage Conservation Act, Trade in Endangered Species Act) (Applies also to row above).</p>	
2	<p>9. By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.</p>	<p>A Draft Alien Invasive Species Policy has been developed to address this situation. Training was done with a range of sectors: hoteliers, Department of Customs and the Port Authority Staff. This is one method through which personnel at key entry-points can recognise and act on any species being introduced to the country.</p> <p>The Department of Agriculture also plays an active role in inspecting any containers arriving through the ports with exotic plants or animals.</p> <p>An example of complete eradication is that of Dog Island; occupation by rats badly damaged Dog Island's ecosystem. The rats were eradicated and the National Trust, in collaboration with RSPB, established monitoring sites to determine the success of the eradication.</p> <p>The RSPB study 'Eradication of Invasive Alien Vertebrates in the UK Overseas Territories', provided a strategic assessment to rank all of the UKOTs' islands according to the greatest biodiversity benefit resulting from technically feasible invasive vertebrate eradications. Potential biodiversity gains of an invasive vertebrate eradication were calculated against a subset of native fauna: all Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable and Near Threatened terrestrial vertebrates; marine turtles; restricted-range bird species and colonial seabird species. The number of confirmed or suspected invasive alien vertebrate species by taxonomic order was calculated for each Territory. For Anguilla this was: 2 Rodents, 3 Predators, 1 Ungulate, 2 Other Mammals, 2 Birds, 5 Reptiles, and 2 Amphibians.</p> <p>An EU-funded BEST Initiative project 'Conserving Species and Sites of International Importance by the Eradication of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in the Caribbean UK Overseas Territories, was carried out with the aim of protecting sites and species of conservation importance through the eradication of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) across 5</p>	<p>Approve and implement the draft Alien Invasive Species Policy.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		<p>Caribbean UKOTs (including Anguilla). Best practice was shared for the prevention, control or eradication of IAS and for building local capacity. Information from the UKOTs was transferred to the Global Invasive Species Database and awareness-raising posters were produced. An awareness campaign in relation to invasive species has happened in Anguilla and this is an on-going initiative.</p> <p>Anguilla has a Draft Invasive Species Strategy.</p>	
2	<p>15. By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.</p>	<p>Legislation and policy reforms are currently being revised that will contribute to fulfilling some of these areas.</p>	<p>Revise legislation and policy so that it contributes to these areas.</p>
<p>3. Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes, promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the Territory.</p> <p>4. Ensure that</p>	<p>2. By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p>	<p>The 'Anguilla National Ecosystem Assessment - A Foundation for a Green Economy' project was a scoping exercise which looked at how the administrative, policy and legislative context encompassed Anguilla's ecosystems and whether it allowed for the development of a national ecosystem assessment and green economy strategy. The scoping exercise was completed in 2013. The Anguilla 'National Ecosystem Assessment' project then aimed to strengthen the existing policies and legislation and identify new options for achieving effective environmental management and sustainable growth. The aim was to integrate scientific and social data into scenario development through participatory processes, change stakeholders' awareness of the value of ecosystems to the economy, and provide evidence-based implementation of green policies. This project was the first analysis of Anguilla's natural environment in terms of the benefits it provides to society and continuing economic prosperity.</p>	<p>Develop a plan/guidelines for hoteliers to implement sustainable practices in their business based on the outcomes of the 'Towards a Green Economy' project.</p> <p>The 'Anguilla National Ecosystem Assessment' project is to develop a framework for the NDP.</p> <p>Develop a plan for</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
<p>environmental impact assessments are undertaken before approving major projects and while developing our growth management strategy.</p> <p>5. Commit to open and consultative decision-making on developments and plans which may affect the environment; ensure that environmental impact assessments include consultation with stakeholders.</p>		<p>‘Tourism Value of Ecosystems in Anguilla’, ‘Valuation of Ecosystem Services in Anguilla’ and the production of ‘Valuation Maps of Ecosystems and Ecosystem Services’ projects are all encapsulated within the ‘Anguilla National Ecosystem Assessment’ project.</p> <p>The ‘Towards a Green Economy’ programme involved a ‘Corporate Ecosystem Service Review of the Tourism Sector’ project, which was completed in 2014. The project aimed to identify the limitations and opportunities that face the corporate society on Anguilla regarding sustainable practices. The overall outcome of this project was to determine what sustainable practices can be implemented by hoteliers.</p> <p>Work through the ‘Greening the Economy’ project in Anguilla was designed to identify short, medium and long term actions necessary to promote the fundamental importance and economic value of the natural environment, and establish a common understanding of what is needed to integrate environmental issues into the planning processes in Anguilla and promote green economic growth. As documented by CaNaRI in 2013, an important finding was that a poor weighting is given to environmental issues as opposed to fiscal issues in decision-making. By conducting an ecosystem valuation study for certain beaches in Anguilla, the case for mainstreaming the environment in decision-making progressed.</p> <p>Information produced through a Habitat Mapping (Terrestrial) project, for example the distribution of threatened species, was fed into a National GIS database which is used by the Land Development Control Committee (LDCC). This Committee is responsible for reviewing and approving development across the island. While there is a Development Control Framework under the Land Development Control Act 2008, this is fairly basic and has no strategic planning and no SEA or EIA procedures. Political accountability is also lacking. There is also no comprehensive national development plan. The Physical Planning Bill 2001 would address some of the weaker areas. However, this is not yet enacted and it is currently under review.</p> <p>A project, the ‘Tourism Value of Nature in Anguilla and the Impact of Beach Erosion’ was completed in 2014. The project aimed to determine the (potential) monetary value generated by ecosystems on Anguilla by assessing the ‘Willingness to Pay’ (WTP) of tourists for various ecosystems and aspects of Anguilla’s beaches, which may guide future policy-making in terms of environmental and tourism management.</p>	<p>implementing the short, medium and long term actions identified as being required through the ‘Greening the Economy’ project.</p> <p>Incorporate strategic planning, political accountability, and SEA and EIA procedures into planning legislation.</p> <p>Review and enact Physical Planning Bill 2001.</p> <p>Provide greater access to information regarding policy and legislation, e.g. through a portal on the Government of Anguilla website which allows one to keep track of the status of legislation.</p>



Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		<p>Regarding decision processes and public consultation on policy development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Beach Control Act allows people to appeal any of the Minister's decisions to the Executive Council, whose decision will be final. Which Minister depends on the portfolio assignment given to the various Ministers. It does not necessarily stay under the Minister of Environment.</li> <li>-The Biodiversity and Heritage Conservation Act includes public consultation procedures for establishing, disestablishing and altering protected areas.</li> <li>- Access to information is not readily available, and neither is clarity regarding the status of legislation. For example, the draft Environmental Protection Act and the Physical Planning Bill are under review, but information regarding their status is not readily available.</li> <li>- Some concerns have reflected those made above, in particular about the efficacy of the planning procedures for environmental protection in shoreline and inshore marine situations.</li> </ul> <p>ANT active participation within planning process through the review of Planning Applications, development of Terms of References for Environmental Impact Assessments, and the review of Environmental Impact Assessments.</p> <p>Other ANT activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in and facilitation of community meetings</li> <li>• Participation of Government departmental meetings</li> <li>• Participation in the Inter-Ministerial Committee on the Environment</li> <li>• Participation in the Memory of the World Committee</li> <li>• Facilitation of national and regional meetings regarding Anguilla's natural environment</li> <li>• Provision of comments on the All Disasters Risk Reduction Plan</li> <li>• Letters to Executive Council explaining position of the ANT on matters related to development planning and development</li> <li>• Development and implementation of biodiversity research programmes to inform conservation action and recommendations made to Government agencies (including the Land Development Control Committee).</li> </ul>	
3	3. By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity		

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.		
3, 4, 5	4. By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.	<p>There is an Anguilla National Energy Policy. The Anguilla National Energy Policy was approved in 2010 and it is being actively implemented. This is continual progress.</p> <p>ANT participation on the National Energy Committee.</p> <p>ANT provided office space to the Anguilla Renewable Energy Office for two years.</p> <p>ANT 'Save the Sand' Campaign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public awareness campaign about the negative impacts of sand mining.</li> <li>• Providing smaller amounts of sand (sold by the bucket) from sustainable sources at cost.</li> </ul> <p>ANT involved in sourcing and selling of biodegradable products to both individuals and companies, to reduce the amount of plastics entering the Corito landfill.</p>	
2, 3	6. By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem	In the marine element of things, this is occurring but some areas are still in the infancy stages.	Develop and enact fisheries legislation and management.

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.		
3	7. By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	An OTEP project was carried out to support sustainable land and soil management to enhance the adaptation of Anguilla's agricultural sector to climate change. Farmers were trained under this initiative and, since then, two follow-up sessions were held to keep farmers abreast in the area. A soil-management protocol for the farmers was one of the key outcomes of this project.	
3, 4, 5	14. By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.	Partnership with the University of Vermont's School of Archaeology (and primarily Dr John Crock and the late Dr James Peterson) to further Anguilla's understanding of Fountain Cavern and its importance to the Taíno Amerindians.  As well as these initiatives, a series of projects in relation to the subject of concern has been occurring. These too have been incorporated in an on-going programme.	
6. Implement effectively obligations under	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)	Anguilla is included in the UK's ratification to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention). First Ramsar Site being designated (see above).	Joining CBD and CMS.  Further protected areas

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Territory and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.		<p>An OTEP project was carried out to support implementation of CITES in Anguilla. This provided CITES training. In 2014, Anguilla decided to join UK's ratification of CITES.</p> <p>Anguilla is party to the St. George's Declaration.</p> <p>Fountain Cavern was initially placed on the UK World Heritage Site Tentative List, but was not included in the 2011 Tentative List of UK priorities (see above).</p>	designations, including Ramsar Sites (see 2005 review).
7. Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.	19. By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.	<p>The Anguilla National Trust (ANT) has a coastal zone monitoring programme. This focuses on beaches and sand dunes. The ANT assesses the state and integrity of Anguilla's coastal ecosystems.</p> <p>Data collection forms the foundation of the DoE's strategic approach towards contributing to National Sustainable Development. Data are collected (both traditional and scientific), inventories are completed, taxonomical classifications are carried out, evidence based habitat maps are created, and classifications of ecosystems and the species that inhabit each are carried out.</p> <p>A 'Habitat Mapping (Terrestrial)' project was completed in 2012. This project aimed to consolidate and develop terrestrial biodiversity information in a format applicable to decision-making, so as to ensure the sustainable management of the local terrestrial natural resources. Examples of project outcomes included the production of detailed habitat maps, the distribution of threatened species, etc.</p> <p>A 'Habitat Mapping (Marine)' project was completed in 2014. The aims of this project included creating a detailed bathymetric dataset using remote sensing and field work, and producing ecosystem service maps for Anguilla by collating available datasets and identifying key services that can be mapped.</p> <p>The 'An Ecosystem Assessment of Anguilla's Wetlands' project was completed in 2013. This project was carried out in conjunction with the Habitat Mapping project. It allowed an inventory of Anguilla's Wetlands to be established. Additionally, a map illustrating Anguilla's wetlands and their vegetation systems was produced.</p> <p>ANT collection and dissemination of baseline data on Anguilla's biodiversity:</p>	Are the habitat and ecosystem services maps that were produced through various projects (see column on the left), continuously being updated based upon monitoring of the sites studied?

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wetland, terrestrial, and sea-birds (Status of Anguilla's Birds – 2007-2011; 2012-2013). There is also on-going monitoring - monitoring of terrestrial birds at 16 sites on the mainland and 10 on Dog Island. Monitoring of wetland birds on 25 mainland ponds and Dog Island's Stoney Bay Pond. Monitoring of seabirds on Anguilla's offshore cays – annually on Dog Island and every 2 to 3 years on the other offshore cays.</li> <li>▪ Sea turtles (leatherback, hawksbill, green) - Development and implementation of the Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan (with the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources). There is also on-going monitoring of nesting and foraging populations. DFMR Director Ms Kafi Gumbs worked on the Sea Turtle Action Plan with the National Trust. ANT is the agency mainly responsible for its completion/implementation, although DFMR does work on aspects of it.</li> <li>▪ Iguanas (native Lesser Antillean, invasive green) - Development and implementation of the Conservation Action Plan for the Lesser Antillean iguana <i>Iguana delicatissima</i> (with assistance from the Department of Agriculture). There is also on-going monitoring.</li> <li>▪ Snakes (Anguilla Bank racer snake). There is also on-going monitoring.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Ecosystems/habitats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wetlands (Anguilla Wetland Inventory; Anguilla BirdLife Wetland Assessment). There is also on-going monitoring.</li> <li>▪ Coastal habitats (Anguilla Coastal Assessment Report Card 2013)</li> <li>▪ Marine Important Bird Areas</li> <li>▪ Important Bird Areas</li> <li>▪ Sombrero Ramsar Information Sheet</li> <li>▪ Anguilla Key Biodiversity Areas (comments on Environmental Profile Fact Sheet – Anguilla)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>As well as the above, ANT carries out on-going monitoring for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lizards on Dog Island</li> <li>• Beaches and sand dunes</li> <li>• Landscapes (on Dog Island)</li> <li>• Heritage sites</li> </ul> <p>Data are included within national and international databases and there is an analysis of information collected to inform national decision making, policies, and legislation.</p>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
8. Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for prevention or remedies; establish effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.	8. By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity. (Relates also to EC3&4)		
8	10. By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning. (Relates also to EC3)	The Anguilla Climate Change Policy was finalised and approved in 2012. This Policy is being implemented incrementally.	
9. Encourage teaching within schools to promote the value of our local environment (natural and built) and to explain its role within the regional and global environment. 10. Promote publications that spread awareness of the special	1. By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.	<p><b>Save the Sand Campaign: See previous information in row 2.</b></p> <p>ANT work with schools/environmental education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School presentations at primary and high school levels</li> <li>• Primary and high school field trips to wetlands, forested areas, and coastal areas</li> <li>• Primary and high school heritage tours (including to Big Spring Heritage Site)</li> <li>• Hikes with summer camp students (externally-organised summer camps, including the Anguilla Tourist Board's Hello Tourist! Camp, Brownies' Camp, Valley Primary School Camp, Camp Destiny, Anguilla Red Cross Camp, Teacher Petal's Summer Camp)</li> <li>• Department of Youth and Culture's Youth ESCAPE programme (2005 through 2014, summer) (graphic design, photography, natural heritage, national symbols, maritime heritage) (ages 4-16)</li> <li>• Where The Wild Things Are summer camp (2015-ongoing, summer) (ages 4-7)</li> </ul>	More tours for raising awareness among adults.

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
<p>features of the environment in the Territory; promote within the Territory the guiding principles set out above.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adventure Anguilla outdoors camp (2006-on-going, every December) (ages 12-18)</li> <li>• Environment. Research. Action. Programme (2011-on-going, school year) (environmental education afterschool programme) (ages 12-18). This is done at all schools. It is an overall conservation lobbying initiative.</li> <li>• Island In Focus (2013-on-going) (nature photography after-school programme) (ages 10-12)</li> </ul> <p>The Youth Environmental Society of Anguilla (YESA) gets involved with checking the permanent bait stations installed by rat eradication volunteers on Dog Island to ensure that there is no re-invasion.</p> <p>ANT publication of reports made available to the public, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecosystem assessment reports</li> <li>• Ecosystem services report</li> <li>• State of the Bird reports</li> <li>• Wetland inventories</li> </ul> <p>ANT Resource Centre open to the public for usage</p> <p>ANT Books:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anguilla Bird Guide</li> <li>• Guide to Anguilla's Plants</li> <li>• Wetlands of Anguilla</li> <li>• Guide to Anguilla's Reptiles</li> </ul> <p>ANT Brochures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cartagena Convention</li> <li>• Convention on Biodiversity</li> <li>• Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species</li> <li>• Convention on Migratory Species</li> <li>• United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</li> <li>• Anguilla's Marine Park systems</li> <li>• Lionfish Response Plan – Anguilla, BWI</li> <li>• Anguilla Sea Turtle Guide</li> <li>• Protecting Sea Turtles. Conserving Habitats: a practical guide for homes, hotels, villas, and restaurants</li> </ul>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea Turtle Nesting Beach Lighting Plan: a practical guide for homes, hotels, villas, and restaurants</li> <li>• Anguilla’s Marine Parks: balancing use with protection</li> <li>• Under the Water’s Surface: Anguilla’s coastal habitats</li> </ul> <p>ANT Posters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beware the Lionfish</li> <li>• Queen Conch</li> <li>• Spiny Lobster</li> </ul> <p>ANT contribution of scientific knowledge of Anguilla through the publication of papers in peer-reviewed journals, including (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying important foraging areas for seabirds and recommendations for marine planning in Anguilla (<i>In preparation</i>)</li> <li>• Foraging behaviour of the Sooty Tern: the smallest seabird species to be tracked by GPS technology. (<i>In review</i>)</li> <li>• Foraging behaviour of Brown Boobies <i>Sula Leucogaster</i> in Anguilla, Lesser Antilles: Preliminary identification of at-sea distribution using a time-in-area approach. <i>Biological Conservation International</i></li> <li>• “Anguilla” in Important Bird Areas in the Caribbean: key sites for conservation</li> </ul> <p>Other ANT awareness raising activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-ANT radio programme on Kool FM (Protecting Our Natural Heritage) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Weekly radio programme, featuring the work of the ANT as well as that of visiting scientists and colleagues working in natural and cultural heritage in both the public and private sector (Tuesday at 8.00pm)</li> </ul> </li> <li>-Use of social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)</li> <li>-Lectures and Documentaries series</li> <li>-Publication and airing of press releases in newspapers and on radio, respectively (and published on-line through social media).</li> <li>-Experiential learning in schools (presentations and field trips)</li> <li>-Outside of schools (camps and after-school programmes)</li> <li>-Dissemination of ANT reports electronically and through hard copies, especially to ANT members</li> <li>-One-on-one meetings</li> <li>-Community meetings</li> </ul>	



Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		<p>-ANT quarterly e-newsletter, One Rock”</p> <p>-Facilitation and implementation of coastal clean-up programmes</p> <p>-Facilitation and implementation of pond clean-up programmes</p> <p>-Facilitation of Jonno’s Beach Clean-up programme</p> <p>- Facilitation of an <i>ad hoc</i> community group adopt-a-beach programme</p> <p>-Memos to Government agencies and partners, providing updates and insights into on-the-ground action and activities.</p> <p>ANT community-based restoration activities on East End Pond Conservation Area (on-going tree planting initiatives with East End Community, private sector, and youth groups).</p>	
11. Abide by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and work towards meeting International Development Targets on the environment.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)		

<p>Not matched specifically</p>	<p><b>13.</b> By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.</p>		
	<p><b>16.</b> By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.</p>		

	<p>18. By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.</p>	<p>The Department of Environment collects traditional data which contributes towards the data foundation of their strategic approach towards National Sustainable Development.</p> <p>ANT active participation on the Anguilla Culture Policy Committee and the drafting of the Anguilla Culture Policy.</p>	
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## Appendix Part 3. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: British Virgin Islands

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
<p>1. Bring together government departments, representatives of local industry and commerce, environment and heritage organisations, the Governor's office, individual environmental champions and other community representatives in a forum to formulate a detailed strategy for action.</p>	<p>17. By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan. (Relates also to EC5)</p>	<p>Overall responsibility for the environment in the BVI resides within the Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour (MNRL). Within the MNRL, three agencies execute specific responsibility for the management and protection of the environment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Department of Conservation and Fisheries</li> <li>2. National Parks Trust</li> <li>3. Department of Agriculture.</li> </ol> <p>Current activities of the Department of Conservation and Fisheries focus on environmental education; environmental information management (including resource mapping); and environmental monitoring. The Department has 5 functional divisions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Administration and Human Resources Division</li> <li>2. Coastal Zone Management Division</li> <li>3. Policy and Planning Division</li> <li>4. Environmental Information Division</li> <li>5. Fisheries Management Division.</li> </ol> <p>Other governmental units also have responsibilities related to the environment as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The Department of Town and Country Planning exercises considerable responsibility for the environment, including physical development planning, land use planning, administration of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process currently housed under the Physical Planning Act, protection of critical natural and historical resources through designation of environmental protection areas (EPAs), and coordination of the National Geographical Information System (NGIS).</li> <li>-The Department of Disaster Management is the co-ordinating agency for the Territory in preparing for, responding to and recovering from natural and other disasters.</li> <li>-The Ministry of Health and Social Development has responsibility for environmental health and waste management through both the Division of Environmental Health and the Department of Waste Management.</li> <li>-The Tourist Board has responsibility for tourism promotion, an economic sector which relies upon the attractiveness and healthy state of the territory's natural features and amenities.</li> <li>-The Ministry of Communications and Works in collaboration with the BVI Electricity</li> </ul>	<p>Develop a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Update and implement the National Environmental Action Plan.</p> <p>Finalise and enact the draft Natural Resources Management and Climate Change Bill.</p> <p>Develop a National Physical Development Plan- obtain funding to do so.</p> <p>Establishment of environmental NGOs, including on the islands of Anegada and Virgin Gorda.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>Corporation, a statutory body under the Ministry, have responsibility for BVI energy policy.</p> <p>The draft Natural Resources Management and Climate Change Bill 2015 addresses the previous situation whereby committees/bodies under different legislative instruments did not appear to have any formal connection to enable the sharing of information and coordination of environmental management activities among them.</p> <p>At present, there is no National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. A National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) was created in 2004. Its purpose is to provide a framework within which BVI's environment could be managed sustainably and responsibly. The NEAP was not approved by Cabinet, but its objectives and recommendations exist as a guide and planning tool for environmental action. Environmental Profiles have been created for the four main islands, Jost Van Dyke, Virgin Gorda, Anegada and now Tortola through a programme developed by Island Resources Foundation (IRF) in 2008. The aim was to provide an expanded environmental information base to guide the choices of public and private sector stakeholders and decision-makers in BVI. IRF also published the companion document to the Tortola Profile, <i>A Natural History Characterisation of Tortola's Sister Islands (2015)</i>.</p> <p>A National Integrated Development Strategy (NIDS) was adopted by the Government of the British Virgin Islands to promote the sustainable development of the Territory. A draft National Integrated Development Plan, 1999-2003 (NIDP) was a major output of the NIDS and was prepared by the Development Planning Unit (DPU) of Government in 1999. A BVI Government initiative is looking to develop a National Physical Development Plan. This is the responsibility of the Department of Town and Country Planning. Please note that the National Physical Development Plan is not meant as a succession of the NIDP - the two have different foci. The NIDP is a broad development plan; the NPDP focuses on land-use aspects of development planning.</p> <p>The process/methodology/products of the National Physical Development Plan have been defined in detail; however, there has not been the funding to develop the plan. The TCP Department has recently approached the Caribbean Development Bank to fund development of the plan.</p> <p>The National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands (NPTVI) was established under the National Parks Ordinance of 1961 as a statutory body, responsible for parks and protected areas. It</p>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>is overseen by a Board of Directors appointed by the Government of the British Virgin Islands, and collaborates closely with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour and government departments such as Conservation and Fisheries and Town and Country Planning. The NPTVI is currently responsible for the Territory's Protected Areas System Plan 2007-2017 and for management of the 21 sites falling under its jurisdiction. It uses Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to support management of BVI's biodiversity, historic sites and protected areas.</p> <p>There are various NGOs with environmental agendas in the BVI, e.g. the Association of Reef Keepers (ARK), which is dedicated to promoting the conservation and preservation of the marine environment. There are no NGO/community groups established on the island of Anegada in support of the environment. One Anegadian, Kevin Faulkner, previously pursued the legal establishment of a non-profit organisation on Anegada which would have had a research focus to support a proposed public/private cooperative venture for the sustainable development of Queen Conch, but this is no longer current.</p> <p>Other local non-government organisations include the Jost Van Dyke Preservation Society and Green VI. Others worth mentioning include 1) Virgin Islands Environment Council, 2) Caribbean Youth Environment Network - BVI Chapter, Reef Guardians BVI and Worldhouse Caribbean Ltd. These are all included on the NPO register at Ministry of Health.</p>	
1, 2 & others	<p><b>20.</b> By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be</p>	<p>The Government's annual subvention to the NPTVI is currently being reduced annually with the Government's intention of the Trust becoming financially self-sustaining.</p> <p>In 2007-2012, BVI Government participated in a climate-change initiative under a regional programme entitled 'Enhancing Capacity for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Caribbean UK Overseas Territories (ECACC)'. A Virgin Islands Climate Change Green Paper was prepared in 2010 and a Climate Change Adaptation Policy approved by Cabinet in 2012. The policy paper had been developed based on wide stakeholder consultation and endorsed by the Climate Change Committee which will be responsible for reporting to Government on the implementation of the policy, updating it, and setting implementation priorities. The Green Paper and a "Snapshot" version were produced to help the general public, stakeholders in affected sectors, and policy-makers learn more about the emerging issue of climate change, its projected impacts locally, vulnerabilities, adaptation options and capacity to respond. An independent Board of Trustees will manage the funds of the Virgin Islands Climate Change Trust Fund established by the</p>	<p>Ensure that resources for NPTVI remain adequate for its duties.</p> <p>Approve funding sources for the Climate Change Trust Fund.</p> <p>Operationalise Climate Change Trust Fund.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
	<p>subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.</p>	<p>passage of the Virgin Islands Climate Change Trust Fund Act in March 2015. The Act provides the framework for raising and administering local and international resources to fund activities that confront the impacts of climate change and help the Territory transition to a low carbon economy. The sources of local funding will be established separately by regulations to support the Act. Biodiversity and its impacts from climate change can be funded through the Trust Fund. It was not the intention of the Act to provide an overarching infrastructure for biodiversity/environment protection. The draft Natural Resources Management and Climate Change Bill will fulfil this function.</p> <p>In March 2015 the Climate Change Trust Fund Act was passed, legally establishing the Virgin Islands Climate Change Trust Fund. The Trust Fund raises and administers local and international funds for local climate change adaptation and mitigation actions. Actions related to biodiversity conservation can be funded by the Trust Fund. Work, including the establishment of the Board of Trustees, is currently ongoing to operationalise the Trust Fund.</p> <p>The Darwin Initiative has provided substantial funding to projects in BVI e.g. the ‘Darwin Biodiversity Action Plan for Anegada, British Virgin Islands (2003-2006)’ project was awarded £164,205.00. Through this project, the BVI’s National Parks Trust and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew prepared a vegetation habitat map. There are other Darwin projects that have been supported – funding has gone to UK-based entities for work performed in the VI, e.g. CEFAS.</p> <p>UKOTCF helped BVI (and two other Caribbean UKOTs) secure a major grant from the European Union for the MPASSE project on “Management of Protected Areas Supporting Sustainable Economies”. The project included consultancy services, capital infrastructure and purchasing of equipment. Although EU procedures prevented full use being made of this, substantial progress was achieved on certain activities. NPTVI started with a list of 25 actions under the project. Eight activities were achieved from this list and an additional four added over the project. Achievements included; a patrol vessel for Virgin Gorda parks, two vending units at the Baths NP, three visitor centres at Sage Mountain NP, Copper Mine NP and the Anegada Rock Iguana Headstart Facility respectively, and an updated Species Recovery Plan for the Anegada Rock Iguana.</p>	
2. Ensure the protection and restoration of key	5. By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including	The draft Natural Resources Management and Climate Change Bill 2015 includes provisions that would significantly enhance protection of key habitats and species, including during the development process.	Further extend the network of designated protected areas.

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas policy, and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species.	forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced. (Relates also to EC4)	<p>The National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands manages 20 terrestrial national parks (five of which are bird sanctuaries), and one marine park. An expanded network is planned. These are all over the BVI, not just Tortola, but will be designated in phases. The Government designated the first of these areas on and around Virgin Gorda, Anegada and Jost Van Dyke as Protected Areas in 2015. The Conservation and Fisheries Department manages 14 Fisheries Protected Areas, and the Agriculture Department manages six Watershed Protected Areas and one Forestry Protected Area. As examples, Great Tobago and Little Tobago are both Important Bird Areas and National Parks. One example of a Fisheries Protected Area is the Horseshoe Reef Fisheries Protected Area, which is part of an extensive reef system that surrounds the eastern and south eastern section of Anegada.</p> <p>The National Parks Act (2006) allows areas to be designated as nature reserves, wilderness areas or national parks, for example. It provides also the possibility to restrict activities and access to terrestrial and marine areas, in addition to making provision for voluntary conservation agreements with landowners. The Act and its associated Regulations (2008) include modern concepts of protected area management, including an internationally recognised system of categories for designating protected areas. The Act incorporates also provisions of international conventions to which the BVI is a party, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity.</p> <p>The protected areas of the BVI encompass a wide variety of sites, many of which were designated under legislation other than the National Parks Act, e.g. the Wild Birds Protection Ordinance (1959), the Protection of Trees and Conservation of Soil and Water Ordinance (1954), and the Fisheries Act (1997). Areas that were formally declared under these older Ordinances are treated collectively under the BVI Protected Areas Systems Plan which includes fisheries protected areas and national parks.</p> <p>Another form of protected areas is Environmental Protection Areas (EPAs) which can be designated under the Physical Planning Act, 2004. No such areas, however, have been designated as yet. The obstacle has been that the Act requires the declaration of EPAs in the context of development plans which have rarely been developed and approved. A revision of the Act is intended to address this.</p>	Amend the legislation to expedite the designation of ESAs.
2	11. By 2020, at least 17	The British Virgin Islands Protected Areas System Plan 2007-2017 provides a framework	Incorporate additional areas



Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
	<p>per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.</p>	<p>to manage terrestrial and marine resources within the protected areas system plan in perpetuity. In this plan, the Trust and Conservation and Fisheries Department have identified additional areas of national significance that are proposed for incorporation within the protected areas system. The current Systems Plan includes, among other things, a statement of priorities for protected areas management during the ten-year period covered by the Plan and a process for evaluating progress in the development of the protected areas system. The overall goal for the Protected Areas System Plan for the period 2007-2017 is “to manage important natural and historical resources in ways that will contribute to an improvement of the quality of life of BVI residents”. The plan was approved by Cabinet in 2008. The Government has indicated that the Plan would be implemented in phases up to 2020. NPT worked with the Nature Conservancy to develop the Sustainable Finance Plan for the Protected Areas Management Plan, but the final funding options have not been agreed upon finally. Revision of the Protected Areas System Plan is ongoing as new botanical findings are uncovered through terrestrial mapping (see information on ‘Conserving plant diversity and establishing ecosystem based approaches to the management of forest ecosystems in the British Virgin Islands (2013-2015)’)</p> <p>The Darwin Plus project ‘Conserving plant diversity and establishing ecosystem based approaches to the management of forest ecosystems in the British Virgin Islands (2013-2015)’ aimed to map terrestrial ecosystems to inform gaps present within the proposed protected area network and inform the creation of a draft management plan for forests, based upon the IUCN ecosystem-based approach. This will lead to the identification of new areas for inclusion in the BVI Protected Areas System Plan and provide baseline data that will inform the creation of a dynamic decision support tool for conservation management.</p> <p>A team of staff from NPTVI and project partners at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew assessed and mapped the distribution of endangered and endemic plant species using geographic information systems (GIS), in order to identify plant areas which may require special protection. The management of forests throughout BVI was also assessed through stakeholder consultation. There was limited plant diversity information for the twenty terrestrial sites managed by the NPTVI. One project goal was therefore to create plants</p>	<p>into the Protected Areas System which have been identified as being of national significance through the Protected Areas System Plan 2007-2017, and continue revision of the Plan.</p> <p>Agree upon final funding options for the Protected Areas Management Plan.</p> <p>Develop a Management Plan for Forests.</p> <p>Developing a decision support tool for conservation management was an old goal. GIS is now used extensively to help management, and so further development of this is needed for more staff at NPTVI and CFD.</p> <p>Designate other potential Ramsar sites.</p> <p>Develop a Management Plan for the Western Salt Ponds of Anegada Ramsar Site.</p> <p>Implement the biodiversity</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>lists for select National Park sites. This would allow better conservation management and provide additional information for interpreting national park sites.</p> <p>The only internationally-designated protected area in the British Virgin Islands is the Western Salt Ponds of Anegada, which is a Ramsar Site. Flamingo Pond, designated in 1977 as a bird sanctuary, is contained within the Western Ponds Ramsar Site. There is no management plan for this site, or for the proposed Anegada Eastern Ponds and the Horseshoe Reef of International Importance. This and some other Ramsar Sites were proposed in 2005 by a study commissioned for all UKOTs &amp; CDs by UK Government and conducted by UKOTCF jointly with BVI governmental personnel.</p> <p>Under the Anegada Darwin Project, a biodiversity action plan was developed. Lack of environmental legislation and declared protected areas has hindered its implementation.</p> <p>Another proposed Ramsar Site through the review carried out by UKOTCF in 2005 is Fat Hogs and Bar Bays based on their significant remaining mangrove stands. This site is a proposed protected area under the Systems Plan. Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour proposed Long Bay, Beef Island and Belmont as Ramsar sites for future application.</p> <p>The Town and Country Planning Department worked collaboratively with other government sectors, to produce a draft Wetlands Management Plan for the BVI in 2005. The Wetlands Management Plan has not been approved. However, the content will inform the draft Natural Resources Management and Climate Change Bill (NRMCC).</p> <p>The 'Management of Protected Areas to Support Sustainable Economies (MPASSE)' project (part-funded by the EU following a project application coordinated by UKOTCF) sites included the Baths, the Copper Mine and Gorda Peak National Parks on Virgin Gorda, Sage Mountain National Park on Tortola and Anegada. Part of the project was to develop management plans for the sites but due to complicated access and EU procedures, a clear way forward was not easy, although other elements of the project were completed.</p>	<p>action plan developed for Anegada.</p> <p>There is an existing draft Baths Management Plan that needs to be updated and approved by the NPTVI Board and the Minister of Natural Resources and Labour.</p>
2	12. By 2020 the	There is limited legal authority for protecting wildlife, critical ecosystems or habitats	Consolidate and update

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
	<p>extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.</p>	<p>outside of formally protected areas. No comprehensive policy, authority, or legal framework exists for the management of the coastal zone. The Natural Resources Management and Climate Change Bill should address that gap.</p> <p>A Darwin Initiative project on the Coastal Biodiversity of Anegada was carried out from 2003-2006 by a number of partner organisations from BVI and overseas, particularly in the UK. It resulted in an Action Plan for protecting both terrestrial and marine resources. Special emphasis was placed on sea turtle surveys and research to update previous information and assess both nesting locations and populations in nearby shallow water habitats.</p> <p>The Environmental Profiles prepared by the Island Resources Foundation for each of the four main islands contain detailed accounts of BVI species and make a note of Species Conservation Priorities according to whether they are high, medium, or low priority. They detail also threats to particular species, and identify species and habitats of special concern, e.g. Anegada has approximately 50 plant species of Special Concern. Many are local and regional endemics, as well as plants that have been severely reduced in numbers and distributions by feral and free-roaming livestock. On Anegada, there are 17 animals of Special Concern, while Habitats of Special Concern include beaches and dunes. During field studies carried out for the Environmental Profile of Anegada, a new plant species was discovered. The Island Resources Foundation team collected and photographed <i>Sideroxylon horridum</i>. Note that this is one of many new recordings of plants in BVI. For different issues, conflicts or areas of concern described in the Environment Profiles, the Profiles state also the impacts of not taking any action/making any changes, and provide short-term options and long-term recommendations for addressing these.</p> <p>More threatened native species are being incorporated into the JR O'Neal Botanic Gardens. The field research by NPTVI/RBGK noted in the previous row produced a report on the phenology of 21 key threatened plant species. Botanical work will continue as a new Darwin Plus project "Building systems and capacity to monitor and conserve BVI's flora" began in April 2015.</p>	<p>species protection provisions in the draft Natural Resources Management and Climate Change Bill. Pass draft Bill as this will deal with the protection of local endangered species.</p> <p>Prepare Species Action Plans in accordance with whether they are high, medium or low priority species. Provide clarity as to the status of Species Action Plans.</p> <p>Further monitoring of key species identified through the 'Conserving plant diversity and establishing ecosystem based approaches to the management of forest ecosystems in the British Virgin Islands (2013-2015)' project is needed to ensure that the phenological report is as accurate as possible.</p> <p>Update Protection of Endangered Animals, Plants, and Articles (Removal and Possession) Ordinance (1981).</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>The Virgin Islands National Parks Trust partnered with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew to establish a seed bank of endemic tree species.</p> <p>The Virgin Islands National Parks Trust is working with conservation biologists from the Fort Worth Zoo to devise a longer term conservation and recovery strategy for the Anegada rock iguana. Maintaining sufficient genetic diversity is one of the recovery strategy goals.</p> <p>-Other species conservation initiatives carried out in BVI include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The National Parks Trust created a recovery plan for the Critically Endangered Anegada rock iguana <i>Cyclura pinguis</i>. To save this species from extinction, the NPT and the IUCN Iguana Specialist Group launched a “headstart programme” in 1997 to boost populations and help ensure the species’ survival in the wild. In 2012, there was a rock iguana species recovery plan meeting.</li> <li>• The National Parks Trust carried out a mangrove replanting programme. This is ongoing and is focused on Tortola’s southern coastline where the majority of mangroves have been removed for coastal development.</li> <li>• RBG Kew and NPTVI propagated threatened plants from BVI, and built up a collection of BVI threatened endemic plants. They carried out also Red-Listing work. NPTVI and Kew has had one Red-Listing workshop back in 2003. This was separate to the Plant Conservation Workshop in Puerto Rico which was to share information on Puerto Rico Bank species and their distribution to inform future Red-Listing activities (see following point).</li> <li>• Following the Plant Conservation Workshop in Puerto Rico in 2011, a Plant Conservation Task Force was set up for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. This task force was to be involved with plant species Red-listing and the facilitation of communication and information sharing. This involved also recording and mapping locations of rare plants in BVI, and identifying threats and dangers. The project had also contributed plants for the Botanic Garden. The ‘Building systems and capacity to monitor and conserve BVI’s flora’ is a follow-on two-year project.</li> <li>• RBG Kew conducted seed collection in BVI. Its work involved seed-collecting workshops for the J.R. O’Neal Botanic Garden. They obtained also the first plant records from the privately owned island, Little Thatch Island. Since the Anegada</li> </ul>	<p>Update legislation so that it complies with CITES.</p>

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		<p>Darwin Project, NPTVI and Kew have been involved in three additional Darwin Projects that are mapping endangered plant species using GIS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geographical Information Systems are being used and data shared with the National GIS Committee to promote better understanding of the remaining distribution and condition of threatened habitats and species through the NPTVI Darwin Plus project. This is the most recent Darwin Project on plant mapping (2015-2017). NPTVI had another Darwin Project (2013-2015).</li> <li>• Research is being carried out to determine the taxonomic placement, biogeography and genetic diversity of wild populations of Critically Endangered <i>Varronia rupicola</i> shrub, as well as on-going conservation measures.</li> </ul> <p>There is various dated legislation available for species protection. These will be superseded by the draft Natural Resources Management and Climate Change Bill. However, the status of species action plans varies. The legislation available is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wild Birds Protection Ordinance (1959/1980): The law protects listed birds, their eggs, nests, and young throughout the territory. Bird Sanctuaries Orders in 1959 and 1977 designated 20 bird sanctuaries in the Territory.</li> <li>• Turtles Ordinance (1959): The Ordinance protects turtles from being disturbed or taken during nesting periods and prohibits the taking of turtle eggs, but does not address general protection of habitat for turtle nesting or feeding grounds.</li> <li>• Protection of Endangered Animals, Plants, and Articles (Removal and Possession) Ordinance (1981): This law was enacted to prohibit removal of listed corals without a license. However, it does not address protection of coral reefs <i>in-situ</i>. It needs updating to conform the species on IUCN's Red List and with CITES, and there is a need to add locally important species. BVI is currently working on legislation to comply with CITES. Protection of local endangered species will be covered under the draft Natural Resources Management and Climate Change Bill.</li> </ul>	
2	9. By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and	The RSPB study 'Eradication of invasive alien vertebrates in the UK Overseas Territories', provides one strategic assessment to rank all of the UKOTs' islands according to the greatest biodiversity benefit resulting from technically feasible invasive vertebrate eradications. The Actual Conservation Value (ACV) of BVI islands included in the top 25 priority islands are as follows (the key invasive alien vertebrates (IAV) are also listed for each):	Develop Invasive Alien Vertebrate Action Plans and prioritise actions based on the results of the study 'Eradication of invasive alien vertebrates in the UK

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
	<p>measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anegada (2nd ACV)- Feral cat; dog; goat; cow; sheep; donkey; pig; brown rat; green iguana; Cuban treefrog.</li> <li>• Guana Island (5th ACV)- Feral cat; dog; sheep; Cuban treefrog</li> <li>• Norman Island (joint 6th ACV)-Feral dog; goat; black rat</li> <li>• Necker Island (joint 8th ACV)- Black rat; Cuban treefrog</li> <li>• Jost Van Dyke (joint 12th ACV)- Feral cat; dog; goat; pig; small Asian mongoose; black rat; Cuban treefrog</li> <li>• Little Tobago (18th ACV)- Black rat; goat</li> <li>• Peter Island (19th ACV)-Green iguana; feral cat; feral chicken</li> <li>• Salt Island (22nd ACV)-Goat; feral chicken</li> <li>• Great Dog Island (24th ACV)- Black rat, goat</li> </ul> <p>The highest priority invasive vertebrate eradication project in the BVI at present is on Anegada. There would need to be full community support for any project on Anegada, as the island has substantial private ownership. Tortola and Virgin Gorda ranked very highly for Potential Conservation Value (9 and 14, respectively) but, due to their high human population sizes, eradication of most IAV groups is not considered feasible. Among other recommendations, the control of small Asian mongoose and other IAV predators on these islands could be highly beneficial for native fauna, especially the endemic Virgin Islands dwarf gecko. Similarly for Little Thatch (ranked 11 for PCV) which, due to its close proximity to Tortola, is unlikely to represent a sustainable eradication project but again IAV control could deliver conservation benefits.</p> <p>The Environmental Profiles have compiled information on alien invasive species. They identify known invasive species, in addition to those that have been identified as potentially invasive. Those species that are of immediate concern because of the conservation challenges they pose now, or may pose in the future are also described.</p> <p>Other projects that have been initiated to address invasive species in BVI are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was a mongoose control programme on Little Jost Van Dyke and a rat eradication programme on Sandy Cay National Park.</li> <li>• GIS mapping of invasive plant species across the BVI through NPTVI Darwin Plus Project.</li> <li>• Lionfish <i>Pterois volitans</i> eradication project was initiated in 2009 after the Conservation and Fisheries Department received funding from JNCC. This project provides a framework to coordinate activities among government and non-governmental agencies and local businesses and organisations. An NGO (Reef</li> </ul>	<p>Overseas Territories’.</p> <p>Develop Action Plans for any other Invasive Species identified as being a threat e.g. those identified in the Environment Profiles.</p> <p>Develop biosecurity legislation.</p> <p>Remove feral sheep from Guana Island.</p> <p>Eradicate goats on Prickly Pear National Park, eradicate rats from the Seal Dogs, and control rats at Green Cay.</p>

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		<p>Guardians) was created specifically to target lionfish population control.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future desired work under the Guana Island Science Programme would remove feral sheep from the Island. The future of this work is very uncertain. This work may be discontinued by the island owners.</li> <li>• The OTEP-funded Caribbean UKOTs regional project on invasive species involved the transfer of information on UKOTs to the Global Invasive Species Database, in addition to awareness-raising posters.</li> <li>• NPT, RSPB and JVDPS are currently involved in a BEST-funded project to eradicate goats from the Tobagos and undertake a rat eradication feasibility study. This project also looks at developing a biosecurity protocol.</li> <li>• NPTVI and JVDPS have submitted a Darwin Plus proposal (Sept 2015) to eradicate goats on Prickly Pear National Park, eradicate rats from the Seal Dogs (a roseate tern nesting site) and control rats at Green Cay (previously the most popular roseate tern nesting site in the BVI).</li> </ul>	
2	<p><b>15.</b> By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.</p>	<p>A draft Forest Management Plan was initiated under the NPTVI and Kew Darwin Plus-supported project on vegetation-mapping (2013-2015); development is still ongoing. The lack of a forestry department in the BVI has been a constraint. Forestry protection technically falls under the Agricultural Department. However, there is currently no capacity within the Department to manage the issues.</p> <p>NPT and CFD have a long standing and active mangrove reforestation programme along Tortola's southern shoreline to reforest areas that naturally supported mangrove systems.</p> <p>Under the current Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) project on Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in the Eastern Caribbean, detailed plans are being developed for the restoration of an important system of salt-ponds in the Cane Garden Bay area, a critical tourism centre on Tortola. This project will also implement measures for beach restoration and improved coastal water quality in Cane Garden Bay and Brewers Bay.</p> <p>The draft Natural Resources Management and Climate Change Bill includes provisions that support ecosystem restoration.</p> <p>The Carbon War Room Initiative is working through the Ten Island Renewable Challenge</p>	<p>Enact Forest Management Plan, and build capacity within restructured department responsible for environmental management to deal with the specific forestry needs.</p> <p>Complete development of plans for restoration of system of salt-ponds in the Cane Garden Bay area of Tortola.</p> <p>Is a renewable energy strategy being developed?</p>

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		<p>to switch 10 islands to 100% renewable energy, including the British Virgin Islands. The overarching goal of the project is to speed up the transition of Caribbean Island economies from a heavy dependence on fossil fuels to renewable energy resources. There have already been wide-ranging successes, including bringing renewables to Sir Richard Branson's home on Necker Island. The BVI is moving slowly on renewables as the first step was to change the legislation to even allow renewable energy as a main source of power (see following row). The current Government has set goals to have 30% of renewable energy by 2023.</p>	
<p>3. Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes, promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the Territory. 4. Ensure that environmental impact assessments are undertaken before approving major projects and while developing our growth management strategy. 5. Commit to open and consultative decision-making on developments and</p>	<p>2. By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p>	<p>The Physical Planning Act 2004, sets out a development assessment regime, including restricting development as necessary, designating protection areas, controlling activities and access, and requiring an EIA for certain activities (there are no SEA requirements). Note that the EIA terms of reference can require that social and economic impacts are also studied. While, at present, no Regulations to the Act have been issued, a contract for the drafting of such Regulations was issued in 2012. One area that needs to be reinforced in the Regulations is the applicability of the EIA requirement for government-sponsored projects as well as those in the private sector. Until regulations have been enacted, much of the law will operate as legislated guidelines rather than as enforceable policy. Through the CaNaRI project (see below), the Planning Department indicated that there were areas that could be improved regarding the EIA process. Issues mentioned included, improving the mobilization of the community and tailoring the format to provide more useful feedback from the public for decision making.</p> <p>The Department of Town and Country Planning and an <i>ad hoc</i> inter-agency planning review committee screen all applications for land development in the Territory (whether commercial or private) before forwarding them to the Planning Authority for a final decision. Through this process it will be determined whether a proposed development will require an environmental impact assessment. Applications requiring an EIA go through a more detailed approval process, including development of an environmental management plan to guide oversight and monitoring of approved projects. The Planning Authority is composed of representatives from several government agencies (including the Chief Conservation and Fisheries Officer, Chief Planner, and the directors of Public Works and Disaster Management) and appointed stakeholders from the private sector with knowledge and experience relevant to physical planning. Provisions of the Physical Planning Act 2004 also provide for the designation of environmental protection areas (EPAs) by the TCP Department, although none have been declared for reasons explained above. A</p>	<p>Put in place a process for designating Environmental Protection Areas under the Physical Planning Act 2004.</p> <p>Update Physical Planning Act 2004 so that it provides a comprehensive regime regarding publicity and public consultation and mechanisms for enforcement and non-compliance.</p> <p>Develop tools to facilitate participatory processes in management of the environment e.g. stakeholder identification and analysis and the development and use of a participation strategy.</p> <p>In the past few years there has been an increasing trend in large coastal developments (e.g. the Mega Yacht Marina and Hotel) and</p>



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<p>plans which may affect the environment; ensure that environmental impact assessments include consultation with stakeholders.</p>		<p>Hazard Vulnerability Assessment is also required. The department has developed a matrix outlining the development application process with step-by-step procedures and a timeline. The TCP Department has also drafted a number of area development plans for the Territory but these have not received final approval.</p> <p>Regarding an open decision making process and public consultation, the Physical Planning Act 2004 includes provisions regarding publicity and public consultation and has mechanisms for enforcement and non-compliance. However, there is no comprehensive plan / national physical development plan. The Act does provide for the development of such a plan and sets out what such plans should contain and the process for developing such plans. Draft plans have been developed in the past but never approved. The Act also sets out the appeals process.</p> <p>There is a need to improve skills in the facilitation of participatory processes in management of the environment, for example through the use of tools such as stakeholder identification and analysis and the development and use of a participation strategy.</p> <p>In 2012, a new planning database was handed over to the Premier's Office and the Town and Country Planning Department. This provides for the collection and monitoring of all development applications by linking government departments involved in the review of development proposals, while also allowing developers and individual applicants to track their proposals in real time.</p> <p>Under the CaNaRI 'Environmental mainstreaming in the BVI' project, the first activity consisted of a review and scoping study that established the type and nature of information available and, through scoping, allowed a provisional assessment of gaps in knowledge, legal capacity and the capacity of government and wider society to act on knowledge and implement legislation to protect and manage the environment. The second activity involved a stakeholder consultation which validated some of the information collected in the review and scoping study and identified gaps and barriers to the implementation of environmental mainstreaming in addition to short, medium and long term actions for the implementation of environmental mainstreaming.</p> <p>The CaNaRI project reported that, of the 20 documents reviewed, many have structures that can provide opportunities for environmental management issues to be included in</p>	<p>it is important to make sure that any large developments such as these are following strict EIA procedures, e.g. by implementing the Regulations to go with the Physical Planning Act 2004. The NGO Virgin Islands Environmental Council has been initiating legal action to seek judicial review of Government's approval for the Beef Island Development Project. Develop best practice SEA procedures and update EIA procedures in the Physical Planning Act 2004 according to areas for improvement as identified through the CaNaRI project.</p> <p>Update policy and legislation to incorporate information obtained through the CaNaRI 'Environmental mainstreaming in the BVI' project, e.g. when developing the draft NRMCC Bill.</p> <p>Develop strategic framework for environmental mainstreaming.</p> <p>Continue developing relationships and communication resulting from</p>

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		<p>decision-making. However, there is no documented strategic framework for environmental mainstreaming. The National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP), NIDS and draft Natural Resources Management and Climate Change Bill do provide strategic elements that allow environmental mainstreaming to be addressed to some degree.</p> <p>BVI hosted the Caribbean Challenge Initiative leadership summit in May 2013. The idea of this was to bring together heads of government, ministers of the environment, chief executive officers of major corporations and donor agencies to take forward the management and preservation of the region's marine and coastal environment.</p> <p>In 2012, a Sustainability Network Committee was established (The Natural Step). A British Virgin Islands Sustainability Capacity Building Programme was initiated following 'The Natural Step'. This was a joint initiative between Green VI and CFD. The Natural Step is an internationally known process for building sustainability into communities. Consultants from the Natural Step offices in Canada facilitated a series of workshops with participants from Government and private agencies. Many recommendations were developed but were not formally taken forward in a policy that could be implemented. Following this, the private sector, implemented some of the actions identified. For instance the supermarket chains have essentially eliminated plastic grocery bags, an initiative coordinated and led by a local NGO Worldhouse Caribbean.</p> <p>In 2012, the Conservation and Fisheries Department launched the Green Pledge Programme. This is an ongoing voluntary programme in which organisations pledge to make various changes in their operations to reduce their environmental impact. The programme launch was very successful, with over 50 organisations registering in the first year. The Department is currently working on further enhancing and formalising the programme.</p> <p>The Department of Waste Management performed a two-week waste audit in Anegada in July 2012.. The Environmental Profiles describe in detail solid waste generation in the BVI, as well as solid waste disposal and collection. Environmental impacts of solid waste in BVI are described, and future planning for Solid Waste Management is addressed. A Litter Abatement Act (amended 2009) authorises the appointment of litter wardens to issue warnings and tickets to violators of the law.</p> <p>A Green VI project, funded by OTEP, supported the development of a glass furnace</p>	<p>the Caribbean Challenge Initiative leadership summit in May 2013.</p> <p>Include within policy recommendations resulting from the British Virgin Islands Sustainability Capacity Building Programme.</p> <p>Create a Solid Waste Management Authority, develop waste facilities and implement a National Solid Waste Policy.</p> <p>Develop a BVI recycling programme.</p> <p>Enact Environmental Education Strategy as part of the Green VI Sustainable School Project.</p> <p>Finish developing and enact sustainable yachting policy for holding tanks.</p> <p>Address issues/needs identified through the Greening the BVI Tourism Industry section of the Greening the Economy Workshop report, e.g. through providing series of</p>

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		<p>facility and promotion of waste-management awareness. In 2014, tenders were invited for solid waste collection services on Tortola, Jost Van Dyke and Virgin Gorda. Private, as opposed to public, operators for waste collection are now in place.</p> <p>A report, entitled 'A Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Strategy for the British Virgin Islands' was submitted to the Ministry of Health and Social Development in August 2013 and the House of Assembly in April 2014. The report recommends the creation of a new Solid Waste Management Authority to oversee the development of waste facilities and to improve collection, storage and disposal of waste through cost recovery methods. The report said the Authority will see to the implementation of a National Solid Waste Policy and the creation of an environment for the disposal of all waste types in an environmentally sound manner.</p> <p>The draft Natural Resources Management and Climate Change Bill would regulate the dumping of all wastes in the environment.</p> <p>Green VI is a non-profit working actively on waste-management issues. Its vision is "a green, clean, healthy, and prosperous BVI, in which a balance is maintained between development and conservation of the natural environment". Its mission is to demonstrate the principles and benefits of sustainable living in BVI - through education and practical projects - along the themes of waste, education, energy and water.</p> <p>No recycling facilities are currently in place in BVI, although plans are underway to develop a recycling system. Whilst there is not a formalised Territory-wide programme, there are a number of <i>ad hoc</i> projects to re-purpose and re-use glass. Plastics, especially water bottles, continue to be a huge problem. The yachting sector has started incentives to encourage minimization of waste streams and reuse of waste streams from the sector, particularly during regattas.</p> <p>There is an incinerator on the main island Tortola where all waste from Tortola and Jost Van Dyke is processed. Waste from Anegada and Virgin Gorda is landfilled at unlined dumpsites with open burning, a common practice even at the incinerator, due to capacity issues. Green VI has been invited to sit on the working group to implement the Solid Waste Management Strategy for the BVI.</p> <p>Green VI has various initiatives for using waste as a resource. As an example, their Glass</p>	<p>recommendations for stakeholders in the tourism industry/ setting up fiscal incentives for 'green' practices. Perhaps a working group/Green Tourism Committee could be set up to take forward these ideas.</p> <p>Resolve issue of how plans announced by the BVI Premier, for enhancing tourism, will work alongside the Greening the Economy project.</p>

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		<p>Studio demonstrates how what people perceive as "waste" can be used as raw material inputs for their production processes, packaging and fuel. Bottles are converted into beautiful, handmade, recycled glass art. Green VI aims to help create systems and partnerships that will make aluminium recycling possible in the BVI. Another initiative is to remove plastic bags from grocery stores. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with major grocery stores with the agreement that, from 11 March 2013, a charge of 15 cents per plastic bag would be charged at checkout counters if customers do not bring their own bags.</p> <p>Green VI is committed to making expertise available to any school in the BVI interested in working towards becoming a model of sustainability. It has made a commitment to work with the Ivan Dawson Primary School to pilot an approach to moving it towards becoming a sustainable school. The first step in moving a school towards becoming sustainable will be to work with the staff to develop a sustainability plan. It is hoped that a draft environmental education strategy will be one of the long-term outcomes of this project.</p> <p>In addition to its primary mission to develop the agricultural sector, the Department of Agriculture is mandated also to designate and manage areas for the protection of watersheds and water sources and prevention of deforestation.</p> <p>The Ministry of Natural Resources &amp; Labour developed draft regulations for use of holding tanks in the yachting sector. These will be integrated into and advanced as a part of the Natural Resources Management and Climate Change Bill.</p> <p>A Greening the Economy Workshop was held in February 2012, with a focus upon sustainable development in BVI. One section of the workshop report looks at Greening the BVI Tourism Industry and notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are currently no fiscal incentives to encourage industry partners to go green.</li> <li>• There needs to be an initiative targeted to defining a role for the local BVI residents in the tourism industry to contribute to improved environmental conservation on the islands.</li> <li>• Best practices and lessons learned in greening operations in the tourism industry in the BVI need to be more effectively disseminated among industry stakeholders.</li> <li>• Microenterprises that sustainably use local products and traditional practices need to be supported and promoted to further develop.</li> </ul>	

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		<p>In November 2012, the BVI Premier announced plans for enhancing tourism, in particular growing the super and mega yachts sector. It was not clear how this would work alongside the Greening the Economy project. This has not been resolved. The issue of anchor damage from mega yachts is being discussed, with anchor zones and possible mega yacht moorings being discussed – but this is all in development.</p> <p>Legislation previously banned the primary use of renewables such as solar or wind power in areas covered by the BVI Electricity Corporation (BVI EC) grid. In March 2012, working for Green VI on a <i>pro bono</i> basis, local law firm Harneys drafted amendments to the existing legislation that would enable the swift introduction of renewables in the BVI. The draft law was presented to the government. Green VI also set up a petition urging the government to amend the existing laws and speed up the process of implementing renewable energy in the BVI. The BVI Electricity Ordinance Amendment Act 2015 was passed in March. It allows installation of renewable energy at properties connected to the grid and also allows for grid connection for renewable energy projects.</p> <p>A recent commitment by the Tourist Board to the environment is its “green tourism” programme, called STEP, to promote environmentally friendly initiatives in the industry. The BVI Protected Areas System Plan 2007-2017 calls for a more structured relationship and lines of coordination between the development of tourism and the promotion of parks and other protected areas. The National Tourism Development Strategy (1996-2005) identified five guiding principles upon which the BVI’s vision for tourism development would be built. The first of these is “the environment”.</p> <p>The Virgin Islands Climate Change Adaptation Policy (approved 2012) was developed through a three-year consultation process involving key stakeholders. The Virgin Islands Climate Change Green Paper was generated during the consultation process as a precursor to the Policy.</p>	
3	<p><b>3.</b> By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid</p>	<p>The BVI Electricity Ordinance Amendment Act 2015 allows persons connected to the electrical grid to install renewable energy and allows for grid connection. The ban on renewable energy has been removed. Duty is still charged on solar panels, etc.</p> <p>The Virgin Islands Climate Change Trust Fund was established by law in March 2015 as a sustainable financing mechanism to support climate change adaptation and mitigation projects and programmes, including related to biodiversity.</p>	<p>Consider whether duty should be maintained on solar panels.</p>

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	negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.	The draft Natural Resources Management and Climate Change Bill encourages the development of incentives programmes to protect the environment. Participation in international and local environmental recognition programmes has been encouraged. Support was provided through the BVI Tourist Board on a pilot basis for a handful of small tourism properties to achieve Green Globe certification.	
3, 4, 5	4. By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.	<p>There is a mangrove replanting programme (see above).</p> <p>There are no management regimes in place for popular natural tourist attractions based on carrying capacity studies to ensure sustainable use of these resources. An effort is currently underway to implement such measures at the Baths, Virgin Gorda, a highly visited National Park.</p> <p>See also information in the next row regarding fisheries management.</p> <p>Under the leadership of the Department of Conservation and Fisheries, an initiative to review beach management policy and legislation in the Virgin Islands commenced in 2011 and is now actively ongoing again. Government is developing a beach policy and beach management framework to provide a more comprehensive approach to beach management and protection. Beach management provisions are also being included under the Natural Resources Management and Climate Change Bill.</p>	<p>Establishment and enforcement of carrying capacities at popular natural visitor attractions.</p> <p>Complete development of the beach policy and beach management framework. Secure Cabinet approval of both.</p>
2, 3	6. By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and	The purpose of the Fisheries Act 1997 and Regulations 2003 is to provide for the promotion, management and conservation of fisheries resources in the Territory. The legislation authorises actions with respect to the conservation of fish and protection of the marine environment. Under the Act, the Minister may authorise marine protection zones, and 14 fisheries protected areas were declared under the 2003 Regulations. However, in	<p>Management plans are needed for all Fisheries Protected Areas.</p> <p>Better data, including fish</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
	<p>applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.</p>	<p>2011, a ruling by the Court of Appeal of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court effectively invalidated the fisheries protected areas system established under the Fisheries Act and Regulations. It was found that protected areas established under the Fisheries Regulations 2003 had not been correctly declared. The Regulations have since been under review to guarantee the validity of declaring Fisheries Protected Areas. They were correctly declared in 2012.</p> <p>Former Governor Boyd McCleary and Dr Hon. Kedrick D. Pickering, Deputy Premier and Minister for Natural Resources &amp; Labour, worked to have the British Ministry of Defence agree to send a team to BVI to remove “ghost” fish pots. It is hoped that this work will be carried out in 2016. Fish pots/traps are a traditional fishing tool in BVI and some traps become lost at sea and continue to trap fish. Biodegradable panels are not being used consistently with existing fish traps so this problem will just continue until this is enforced. In the Gibraltar Conference Proceedings, Minister Pickering referred also to the fact that studies from Belize have shown that parrot fish, being natural grazers, have an important role in preventing the build-up of algae on reefs. They therefore play an important part in maintaining healthy coral reef ecosystems, but unfortunately get caught in ghost traps.</p> <p>Cefas has been leading in BVI a Marine Protection Project which commenced in June 2014. The project is mapping the sea-bed using high-resolution hydrographic surveys. The data gathered will support the management of marine protected areas. It will provide a more accurate knowledge of the marine landscape. It is believed that black coral could inhabit the waters beyond 20 metres depth. This project should provide more information regarding this internationally important endangered species.</p> <p>It is illegal to fish commercially for, sell, or have for sale any shark or ray species. (A licensed fisher may kill a shark for personal subsistence only, excluding any shark listed as Critically Endangered or Endangered under the IUCN). It is also illegal to harass, feed or mutilate sharks [Fisheries (Protected Species) Order of 2014].</p> <p>Under the Fisheries Act, the Minister has broad authority to take measures to prevent, reduce and control pollution of fishery waters and the marine environment from any source, including measures to minimise the release of toxic, harmful or noxious substances from land-based sources. The Act authorises the Minister also to declare by Order any type of fish as a “protected species,” for a defined period of time or a specific protected area.</p>	<p>stock assessments are urgently needed to enhance the management of the industry.</p> <p>Ecosystems on which the fishery depends, including coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds, need enhanced protection and restoration.</p> <p>Carry out restoration of Cane Garden Bay.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>There is a recovery/development plan for the BVI Fishing Complex. The existing BVI Fishing Complex does not have the responsibility of the management of the Fishery of the Virgin Islands. The Complex currently operates as a retail outlet for sea food and fisheries products.</p>	
3	<p>7. By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.</p>	<p>NPTVI is developing a Forest Management Plan as part of a Darwin Plus Project (2013–2015). A draft plan outline was developed but, as there were no forestry experts in the BVI, it could not be developed fully; under the next Darwin Plus project NPTVI and Kew (2015-2017) have established links with Puerto Rico, and it is hoped to develop this with the Institute of Tropical Forestry. It should be highlighted that BVI has no forestry industry. Management would relate to development and other factors contributing to deforestation.</p> <p>Experimental aquaculture project for lobster farming on-going and well managed. This was actually an experimental project to evaluate the viability of lobster farming. Its future, however, is unknown as there are conflicts with the existing legislation and its method of functioning.</p> <p>Protection of Trees and Conservation of Soil and Water Ordinance 1954/1965: authorises designation of protected forest areas, protected water areas and protected trees. Seven protected areas have been established under this Ordinance.</p> <p>The Darwin Plus project, “Conserving Plant Diversity and Establishing Ecosystem Based Approaches to the Management of Forest Ecosystems in the BVIs” will inform the BVI Government development planning process.</p> <p>Integrated pest management is widely used in the agricultural sector as an alternative to heavy reliance on pesticides.</p>	<p>Develop Forest Management Plan. Obtain advice and training from forestry experts.</p> <p>Do the protected areas established under the Protection of Trees and Conservation of Soil and Water Ordinance have management plans?</p> <p>Incorporate consideration of sustainability into development of aquaculture projects.</p> <p>Feed results from the ‘Conserving Plant Diversity and Establishing Ecosystem Based Approaches to the Management of Forest Ecosystems in the BVIs’ project into the planning process.</p>
3, 4, 5	<p>14. By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health,</p>	<p>Pilot coral reef nurseries are underway in two locations (off Thatch Island and Virgin Gorda). This is being led by the Association of Reef Keepers in partnership with the Conservation and Fisheries Department. The rules to manage these sites and the areas that will be developed are still in progress.</p> <p>Green VI has partnered with ARK (Association of Reef Keepers) to work on several projects within the Cane Garden Bay watershed ultimately to protect coastal water quality</p>	



Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
	livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.	<p>and coral reefs. Shannon Gore PhD, the executive Director of ARK wrote a dissertation on the best erosion-control practices and restoration activities needed to restore Cane Garden Bay. The first stages of this project would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Community outreach through the CGB Ridge2Reef group</li> <li>-Development of a communications strategy</li> <li>-Piloting watershed lessons with a local after school program</li> <li>-Let'sTalk: A series of informal talks during local Happy Hours</li> </ul> <p>The Guana Island Science Programme has pioneered methods to replant broken-off pieces of elk-horn and stag-horn corals. This was done in partnership with dive shops and tourists. BVI has an extensive tourism-based yachting industry, with associated anchoring and reef damage problems. The project with the dive shops not only restored coral, but also contributed towards raising awareness.</p> <p>See also actions related to Commitment 2/Target 15 on ecosystem restoration etc.</p>	
6. Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Territory and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)	<p>The following regional and multilateral environmental agreements have been extended to the BVI: the Convention on Biological Diversity, the St George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS, ICCAT, the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species, the Convention on Migratory Species, the Cartagena Convention, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities, and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.</p> <p>One Wetland of International Importance has been designated under the Ramsar Convention.</p> <p>The Territory is actively working on the extension of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.</p>	Other proposed Ramsar Sites need to be designated and the list of proposed Sites extended in the light of further information.
7. Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.	<b>19.</b> By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its	<p>There is a long-term coastal water quality monitoring programme and turtle monitoring programme. Beach monitoring and coral reef monitoring have been done at points in the past but are not done on a continuous basis. Work is underway to re-establish a long-term beach monitoring programme in 2016.</p> <p>In 2012, a study was undertaken to understand the economic value of BVI's natural environment, the threats posed and options available for managing these threats, and to</p>	<p>Implement a standardised, formal environmental monitoring process.</p> <p>Water quality standards do not exist: while this affects enforcement it does not</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
	<p>loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.</p>	<p>enable environmental issues to be integrated into strategic decisions.</p> <p>In May 2014 the IVM Institute for Environmental Studies, with funding from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, completed a study “The Tourism Value of Nature in the British Virgin Islands (BVI).” This aimed to attach an economic value to the services provided by the natural environment of the BVI to its visitors, and concluded that BVI’s beaches are their prime ecological asset. In addition, they found a willingness to pay for the management of the coral reefs for their quality to be maintained. The Ministry intends to build upon this work with a study that assesses the total economic value of the environment of the Territory.</p> <p>The draft Natural Resources Management and Climate Change Bill calls for the development of natural resources inventories as well as an Environmental Sensitivity Index as a decision support tool. These would provide mapped data on environmental resources and biodiversity, including data on state/condition and abundance.</p> <p>The Darwin Plus project ‘British Virgin Islands MPA and hydrographic survey capacity building’ will result in the transfer of skills in mapping marine habitats using modern acoustic survey tools from UK organisations with proven expertise to the stakeholders in BVI. This in turn will provide essential information for spatial planning, sustainable use of marine resources, marine conservation and ensure safe navigation at sea.</p> <p>The project “Conserving Plant Diversity and Establishing Ecosystem Based Approaches to the Management of Forest Ecosystems in the BVIs” has resulted in an improved understanding of the distribution and number of plants which are important. Under this project, a broader survey of habitats will be undertaken to enhance further and build on the former surveys. One of the objectives is to provide improved baseline data for the future creation of a decision-support tool. Threatened plant species were a focus and this mapping work is ongoing even though this project has ended.</p> <p>There was a re-structuring of the Guana Island Science Programme to concentrate more on conservation and greater integration with the priorities of the BVI. While various diverse projects, centred on basic biodiversity studies, had been carried out, the new focus was on ecosystem interactions, especially for the iguanas, flamingos and corals. However, the Guana Island Science Programme is ending in 2016. It is still winding down, with only a few scientists continuing for marine work.</p>	<p>hinder the actual monitoring. The main constraints relate to resources to extend the programme.</p> <p>Create a decision-support tool using baseline habitat data.</p> <p>Carry out research on tropic-birds and boobies.</p> <p>Carry out invertebrate research.</p> <p>Carry out additional surveys to establish a more detailed understanding of the distribution and impacts of Invasive Alien Vertebrates. Develop Invasive Species Action Plans for Cuban treefrogs and red corn-snakes.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>Conch habitat survey completed for some areas and on-going.</p> <p>New Darwin Plus project 'Seabird Recovery Planning Programme' began on 1 April 2015. Fieldwork was to start in June and involve surveying and ground-truthing of the islands, including an assessment of each island, e.g. invasive species survey, breeding birds survey, in addition to some trapping for rats.</p> <p>There are plans for studies to commence on tropic birds and boobies in March 2016.</p> <p>The Darwin Plus project 'Building Systems and Capacity to Monitor and Conserve BVI's Flora' also commenced in April 2015. Mapping and GIS would be key tools.</p> <p>Monitoring programmes include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Monitoring of sea turtle populations through a tagging programme.</li> <li>-The Darwin Plus project 'Using Seabirds to Inform Caribbean Marine Spatial Planning' involved tagging frigate birds to observe their range.</li> <li>-Greater flamingo population monitored by National Parks Trust.</li> <li>-Participation in the annual Christmas Bird Count.</li> <li>-marine mammal sightings monitoring programme during the winter months when they migrate to BVI waters.</li> </ul> <p>Very little is known about invertebrates in BVI. This is therefore an area requiring further research. Additional surveys are also required to establish a more detailed understanding of the distribution and impacts of Invasive Alien Vertebrates in BVI. Cuban treefrogs and Indo-pacific lionfish have been identified as two invasive species requiring further action.</p>	
<p>8. Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for prevention or remedies; establish effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.</p>	<p>8. By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity. (Relates also to EC3&amp;4)</p>	<p>Pollution control needs to be strengthened. This is particularly critical given the BVI's high population density, rapid paced development, and geographical and geological challenges for pollution control. Pollution and associated environmental risks are described in the Environment Profiles. The draft Natural Resources Management and Climate Change Bill would establish a regulatory framework for waste management and embeds the polluter pays principle.</p> <p>The 'A Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Strategy for the British Virgin Islands' report recommends that the Solid Waste Management Authority when established, oversees the administering and charging of fees, environmental levy, household levy,</p>	<p>Finalize and pass the draft Natural Resources and Climate Change Bill.</p> <p>Establish coastal water quality standards via supporting regulations.</p> <p>Implement legislated Environmental Health</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>tipping fees and other cost recovery methods for services provided by the Authority. These methods include cost recovery from commercial and industrial generators of waste.</p> <p>Under the Public Health Ordinance 1967, regulations were authorised to prevent, abate, and control environmental pollution. However, the Division of Environmental Health is hindered in addressing these issues because this ordinance is so outdated, while the regulations authorised in the legislation were never enacted. This means that major environmental health issues such as groundwater pollution, the disposal of hazardous materials, the discharge of untreated sewage into coastal waters, or harmful waste management practices cannot at the present time be fully regulated.</p> <p>A tertiary level sewerage treatment plant was fully commissioned on 31 October 2015. The plant is currently accepting and treating all sewage from the greater Road Town area, the main population centre on Tortola. Before its completion, untreated sewage was being discharged at sea. A second tertiary level sewerage treatment plant was completed on 31 October 2015 and should be ready to accept sewage in the latter part of 2016 when the sewerage collection system and effluent outfall line are also complete. This plant would serve the second largest population centre on Tortola. There is also a sewage treatment plant that services the Cane Garden Bay community, an important residential and tourist centre.</p>	<p>Standards.</p> <p>Recruit and train BVI nationals in the area of Environmental Health.</p> <p>Develop disposal of hazardous materials and pollution control Policy and regulations.</p> <p>Establish Solid Waste Management Authority and set up cost recovery methods for services provided by the Authority.</p>
8	<p><b>10.</b> By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning. (Relates also to EC3)</p>	<p>The main anthropogenic threats to coral reefs in the BVI are anchor-damage and sedimentation. The National Parks Trust maintains a system of mooring buoys at National Parks and popular dive sites to reduce anchor-damage to coral-reefs. The draft Natural Resources and Climate Change Bill will increase significantly protections of reefs from anchor-damage; the existing legal framework on this is very weak. In terms of sediment-control, the Conservation and Fisheries Department published a best practices guide for developers “Best Management Practices: A Guide for Reducing Erosion in the British Virgin Islands.” In addition, the ongoing GCCA pilot project in Cane Garden Bay and Brewers Bay will implement ecosystem-based measures to reduce erosion/sedimentation in those watersheds/bays. The draft Natural Resources Management and Climate Change Bill will enhance erosion control measures required in the development process.</p> <p>A team from Newcastle University was in BVI for the Caribbean phase of their “Future of Reefs” project in 2014, looking at new ways to manage reefs in the context of climate change. In BVI, the project was being undertaken with the Ministry of Natural Resources through the department of Conservation and Fisheries. The Team had been looking at the</p>	<p>Approve revised Disaster Management Act (2003) and regulations in support of the Act. Include within these, a mechanism for assessing hazard potential and identifying vulnerability reduction strategies in the development review process for public as well as private sector development projects.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>interactions of 3 communities in BVI with nearby coral reefs, documenting changes to the reef and how the human communities reacted. Some of the threats perceived by communities in the BVI were sewage, lack of awareness, education and understanding, rubbish and pollution, anchor-damage and groundings, holding tank disposal, erosion run-off, development, etc. In general, communities had a good understanding of local threat to reefs, but were less clear about potential global impacts, such as climate change. Ecological surveys revealed that reefs were generally healthy in the BVI in the context of the Caribbean. Coral cover was greater than that of algae cover. Fish surveyed revealed that near-shore stocks were affected by fish-trap practice as numbers were lower. Important grazer (e.g. parrotfish) numbers were generally low, but sea urchin populations were quite healthy.</p>	
<p>9. Encourage teaching within schools to promote the value of our local environment (natural and built) and to explain its role within the regional and global environment.</p> <p>10. Promote publications that spread awareness of the special features of the environment in the Territory; promote within the Territory the guiding principles set out above.</p>	<p>1. By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.</p>	<p>The MPASSE project officially ended on 31 December 2014. Works are being completed in BVI, including 3 visitor centres at Sage Mountain National Park, Copper Mine National Park and the Anegada iguana headstart facility. These visitor centres will house interpretive and educational materials.</p> <p>The Conservation &amp; Fisheries Department coordinates celebration of Environment Month every June with a series of themed environmental awareness activities. The Department also coordinates Fisherman's Day to celebrate the local fishery and runs an environmental summer programme for school children. An annual coastal clean-up is also organised by the Department. The National Parks Trust organises annual Harbour Day activities. Activities for the 2012 Harbour Day included planting trees on land and mangroves. Annually, the NPTVI distributes free native trees to schools and the general public and also has tree-planting ceremonies around the Territory.</p> <p>Territory-wide public education initiatives have been developed also by the Department of Waste Management, using the media of television, radio and print, and centred on teaching residents how to dispose of their waste correctly. Community outreach programmes include volunteer clean-ups to encourage residents to keep the islands clean.</p> <p>An interactive environmental atlas was developed by the NPTVI and the Conservation &amp; Fisheries Department. This has never been distributed – it was completed but issues have delayed its release, including funding. The atlas is very needed by schools.</p>	<p>Distribute the interactive environmental atlas that was developed by the NPT and the Conservation &amp; Fisheries Department.</p> <p>Establish a Solid Waste Management Authority and develop a programme for public education on waste management and establish partnership with the private sector on initiatives.</p> <p>More environmental camps for children.</p> <p>More environmental tours/presentations/lectures/ other activities for adults.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>The Trash to Treasure programme provides year-round opportunities for people to learn how to reduce waste by recycling and reusing materials (rubbish) to make useful and useable products. The programme has several elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste reduction</li> <li>• Development of artistic skills/creativity</li> <li>• Learning to save finances by making rather than buying</li> <li>• Developing entrepreneurial skills</li> <li>• Self-sufficiency</li> </ul> <p>Green VI employs experienced glassblowers to train local apprentices. Up to five years will be required to transfer basic skills for the hot glass, while torch work is shorter. Green VI also mentors a group of Grade 5 students annually, and hopes to offer an internship to a local high school student. The student selected will have the opportunity to work closely with Green VI leadership to gain in-depth knowledge of how a non-profit organisation works. The student will also be able to deepen their knowledge on the sustainability issues faced by the BVI and how they are being addressed. At the end of the internship, the student should have developed the knowledge and competencies necessary to be an effective sustainability leader within their community. In collaboration with Nutmeg Designs, Green VI also organises an annual CHAIR-ity Exhibit and Auction, whereby individuals, schools and corporations make chairs from recycled materials, which are then graded. The event also promotes sustainable living by offering eco booths to vendors such as Clean &amp; Green.</p> <p>In January 2012, WorldHouse Caribbean introduced the concept of banning plastic bags and screened <i>Waste Land</i> at UP's Cineplex. An educational programme in the schools followed, which included a talk to children and screening of the <i>Bag It</i> documentary.</p> <p>A Solid Waste Management Authority when established, will be responsible for the design, implementation and maintenance of a programme for public education on waste management and also partnership with the private sector on initiatives.</p> <p>Green VI promotes working in partnerships and facilitated seven BVI representatives being trained on the USVI Recycling Partnership composting workshop in St John in December 2012. Representatives have gone on to establish composting and food garden systems in their own communities. One such example is the food garden and composting system established at Robinson O'Neal Primary on Virgin Gorda by Julie Swartz of Green</p>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>and Clean VI Ltd. Green VI hopes to raise funds to facilitate more garden projects at schools and communities. Additionally, Green VI has decided to focus on encouraging parents and teachers to engage their students more in field experiences. To enhance this process, Green VI is in the process of developing a list of field-trips that are regularly done in the BVI.</p> <p>Local schoolchildren took part in the release of Anegada Rock Iguanas from the NPT head-start facility in November 2013.</p> <p>The Jost Van Dykes Preservation Society launched the Sloop Endeavour II on 5 November 2013 with goals (among others) of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Using the construction as a teaching opportunity for island youth in the use of modern construction methods.</li> <li>-To serve as a unique platform for educational programmes in sailing and marine environmental protection.</li> </ul> <p>There is material on BVI, including a virtual tour, on UKOTCF's website.</p>	
11. Abide by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and work towards meeting International Development Targets on the environment.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)		

Not matched specifically	<p><b>13.</b> By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.</p>	<p>The Department of Agriculture encourages the use of local cultivars and seed varieties among the farming community.</p>	
	<p><b>16.</b> By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.</p>	<p>The BVI is currently involved in a regional effort through the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States to develop a protocol on Marine Research Permits.</p> <p>The draft Natural Resources Management and Climate Change Bill will provide the local enabling legislation for the Nagoya Protocol.</p>	



	<p><b>18.</b> By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.</p>	<p>A 2011 report from the BVI Fishing Complex stated that Government's role in achieving a united fishing industry with the support and cooperation of local fishermen requires that more attention be placed on developing the industry's infrastructure and unifying local fishermen. The latter could best be achieved, according to the report, by re-establishing a Fisheries Advisory Committee. Furthermore, the existing use of traditional fishing grounds is taken into consideration in the Marine Protected Area zoning process. Traditional fishing practices and methods are also taken into account in development of fishing regulations.</p> <p>Under 'Project CARIPES: Quantification of Ecosystem Services Provided by Marine Protected Areas in the Caribbean with a View to their Payment (a BEST Initiative)' an economic evaluation of marine and coastal ecosystems was carried out for a marine reserve in Martinique. A similar evaluation will be carried out in BVI. The main aim of the project is to increase fishermen support of marine protected areas (MPAs) and to get them involved in conservation actions and sustainably using the marine resources of Caribbean MPAs (also relevant to previous Commitments/Targets addressing protected areas).</p>	<p>Re-establish a Fisheries Advisory Committee.</p>
	<p><b>20.</b> By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels.</p>		

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
	This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.		

## Appendix Part 4. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: Turks & Caicos Islands

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
<p>1. Bring together government departments, representatives of local industry and commerce, environment and heritage organisations, the Governor's office, individual environmental champions and other community representatives in a forum to formulate a detailed strategy for action.</p>	<p>17. By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan. (Relates also to EC5)</p>	<p>TCI Government volunteered to be the territory piloting the development of a strategy to implement the Environment Charter and asked UKOTCF to facilitate this process. This was done, with some financial support from UK Government, in 2002-3, and involved bringing together stakeholders from Government, NGOs, commerce and other segments of society across all sectors of socio-economic activity. This was to embed the taking into account of environmental factors and considerations in all such sectors. The process was started and the administration under one political party and completed under the administration of the other. Both governments accepted the final report. However, implementation ran into the challenges which effected the entire governance and economy of TCI shortly afterwards. Recently, the UK Government's 'mainstreaming' initiative, which has almost identical objectives and fairly similar methods, has been extended to TCI.</p> <p>Major recommendations coming out of the TCI environmental mainstreaming project included developing a national sustainable development plan (including island-by-island plans), implementation of sustainable funding mechanisms for conservation, enhancing environmental understanding and education at all levels, development of a sustainable behaviour action plan, enhancing cooperation between government and NGOs, developing a comprehensive waste management strategy and developing a sustainable energy policy and implementation plan.</p> <p>In 2012, the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources became the Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs (DEMA). The purpose of DEMA is to ensure the sustainable use of the natural resources of TCI, as well as to protect and promote biodiversity and economic prosperity, through sustainable fisheries, environmentally sustainable development, a Protected Areas System and improved Maritime Affairs. There are not enough resources, staff, or technical capacity within DEMA. There is need for more activity to meet the level of enforcement responsibilities. A Department of Environment and Coastal Resources Corporate Plan (2009-2010) is updated each year. Key outputs stated in the plan include 'Regulatory and non-regulatory tools and incentives to achieve environmental outcomes in the Turks and Caicos Islands'. A February 2016 Cabinet decision to re-cleave the Department of Maritime Affairs from DEMA, to be executed 1 April 2016, returns DEMA to its former name, Department of Environment &amp;</p>	<p>Continue to implement the strategy prepared for the implementation of the Environment Charters and review and revise if necessary.</p> <p>DEMA to obtain resources in order to expand and meet the level of enforcement responsibilities required.</p> <p>The Department of Environment and Coastal Resources/Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs Corporate Plan is still updated each year, but it is more protocol than substance.</p> <p>Pass the draft Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation Bill and the draft Endangered Species Act and establish a Scientific Authority and National Biodiversity Committee.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>Coastal Resources DECR. It is yet unknown how the loss of Maritime staff will affect the split department and how many posts will be allocated to assist the Department after this change.</p> <p>The draft Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation Bill (2010) sets up and defines the roles and responsibilities of the 'Scientific Authority' and the 'National Biodiversity Committee'. The draft Endangered Species Act (2011) defines the Scientific Authority and its responsibilities.</p> <p>Section 18 of the TCI constitution (Protection of the Environment) states "(1) The Legislature and the Government shall, in all their decisions, have due regard to the need to foster and protect an environment that is not harmful to the health or well-being of present and future generations, while promoting justifiable economic and social development.</p> <p>(2) To this end the Legislature and the Government should adopt reasonable legislative and other measures to protect the built heritage, the wildlife and the land and sea biodiversity islands that –</p> <p>(a) limit pollution and ecological degradation;</p> <p>(b) promote conservation and biodiversity; and</p> <p>(c) secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources."</p>	
1.	<p><b>20.</b> By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes</p>	<p>As part of an agreement with UK Government, which provided a major grant to TCI Government, the latter set up, after wide consultation, a Turks and Caicos Islands Conservation Fund. The existing tourist accommodation and restaurant tax of 9% was increased to 10%, the 1 percentage point going to a fund for conservation projects. Unfortunately, during the period of direct rule from UK, the conservation fund was abolished without consultation of the tourism industry, the public or the Government's environmental department. No provision has been made to replace this, although the total tax amount has now been increased to 12%. There is no indication of what happened to the money that had been collected into the fund which had apparently amounted to over US\$1M.</p> <p>TCI has received considerable funding from the EFOT, OTEP and the Darwin Initiative (one example being the 'Caicos Pine Forests: Mitigation for Climate Change and Invasive Species (2014-2016)' project, which received £199,693.00), as well as many resources from UKOTCF and other NGOs.</p>	<p>Establish a sustainable funding mechanism for conservation, run independently of government in accordance with international best practice – by reinstating the Conservation Fund or other appropriate means.</p> <p>Build capacity and sustainable funding mechanisms into the Turks and Caicos Reef Fund (TCI's only locally based environmental NGO) and the</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
	contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.	Restoration or replacement, and proper management of, a Conservation Fund (expert-driven) would allow for considerable progress with the urgent needs; at present, there is no such resource.	TC National Museum (the only locally based NGO for conservation of the wider heritage).
2. Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas policy, and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species.	5. By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced. (Relates also to EC4)	<p>The Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs is responsible for sustainably managing Protected Areas and Fisheries, in addition to overseeing all Maritime Affairs in the Territory. The National Parks Ordinance (revised edition 2009) is 'An Ordinance to provide powers to permit the establishment of Parks, Nature Reserves, Sanctuaries and Areas of Historical Interest, and generally for the conservation of the natural environment and ecology of the Islands and for purposes connected therewith'. There is also a draft Protected Areas Act pending. Public consultation was extended due to some very unpopular proposed reductions in Protected Areas on Providenciales. The new legislation includes new categories of Protected Areas including key habitats. There are additional Protected Areas and expansions proposed currently under review. The National Parks Order declares Protected Areas and their features of interest. There are also National Parks Regulations that e.g. set out lists of activities that are prohibited in NPs, NRs, sanctuaries, areas of historical interest.</p> <p>Other areas of the site protection framework include the National Trust Ordinance, the Wild Birds Protection Ordinance (1998), the Fisheries Protection Ordinance (1998), and Coast Protection Ordinance (1998). While the site protection framework for lands under protection appears adequate, the status of site management plans is not clear and management capacity is limited. No legislation currently pertains to terrestrial features of conservation interest that exist outside protected areas, and these areas are at high risk from development pressure. The National Trust Ordinance 'establishes the National Trust of the TCI' and 'sets out the powers of the Trust' but there have been problems in management.</p> <p>Relative to its size, TCI has an extensive protected area system which includes a total of 35 protected areas. The type of protected area ranges from National Parks, which can be used for some types of leisure activities to Sanctuaries which can be visited legally only with a permit. The protected areas are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-11 National Parks:</li> <li>-Grand Turk Cays</li> <li>-South Creek</li> <li>-Columbus Landfall</li> </ul>	<p>The illegal clearance of land for development prior to Planning Permission being granted must be addressed. It would help if fines were levied against heavy equipment operators and contractors who do the clearing, as well as landowners.</p> <p>Take account of wide consultation and incorporate in the proposed Protected Areas Act.</p> <p>Establish further Protected Areas and expand existing Protected Areas that are currently under review.</p> <p>Enact the draft Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation Bill.</p> <p>List all Salinas (salt pans) and estuarine and palustrine wetland mosaics of Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos as Nature Reserves.</p> <p>Only three Protected Areas</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Admiral Cockburn</li> <li>-Conch Bar Caves</li> <li>-East Bay Islands</li> <li>-Ft. George</li> <li>-Princess Alexandra</li> <li>-Chalk Sound</li> <li>-Northwest Point Marine</li> <li>-West Caicos Marine</li> <li>-11 Nature Reserves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Admiral Cockburn (Long, Six Hills and Middleton Cays)</li> <li>- Bell Sound</li> <li>- North, Middle &amp; East Caicos (International Ramsar Site)</li> <li>-Vine Point &amp; Ocean Hole</li> <li>-Cottage Pond</li> <li>-Pumpkin Bluff Pond</li> <li>-Dick Hill Creek &amp; Bellefield Landing Point</li> <li>-Princess Alexandra, Little Water, Mangrove, &amp; Donna Cays</li> <li>-Northwest Point Pond</li> <li>-Pigeon Pond &amp; Frenchman's Creek</li> <li>-Lake Catherine</li> </ul> </li> <li>-4 Sanctuaries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Big Sand Cay</li> <li>-Long Cay</li> <li>-Three Marys Cays</li> <li>-French, Bush, &amp; Seal Cays</li> </ul> </li> <li>-10 Areas of Historical Interest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Salt Cay</li> <li>-Boiling Hole</li> <li>-Cheshire Hall</li> <li>-Sapodilla &amp; West Harbour Bluff Rock Carvings</li> <li>-Ft. George</li> <li>-Molasses Reef Wreck</li> <li>-HMS Endymion</li> <li>-Town &amp; Red Salinas, Grand Turk</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>A small part (part of Red and Town Salinas at Grand Turk) of the internationally important</p>	<p>have Management Plans (Princess Alexandra National Park, Columbus Landfall National Park and West Caicos National Park), plus a plan in different style for the existing Ramsar Site. Management Plans for all protected areas need to be produced, and existing plans updated, implemented and monitored.</p> <p>Obtain additional resources to carry out implementation effectively.</p> <p>Designate further Ramsar Sites, Important Birds Areas, Important Plant Areas and Key Biodiversity Areas. Designate Tropical Important Plant Areas.</p> <p>Carry out appropriate planning control and EIA procedures, to best international standards, for all lands, particularly with regard to allowing development on Protected Areas. Develop a national EIA policy.</p> <p>Develop safeguards to prevent spillage at the fuel</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>but unprotected Salinas (salt pans) of Grand Turk was listed as an additional area of historic interest in 2012. It should also be listed as a nature reserve, and extended to the rest of these Salinas.</p> <p>Reviews by both TCI and external bodies have identified other sites, which warrant protection and additional protection categories, which should be applied to some of the existing sites. In addition, reviews of proposed Ramsar Sites and four Important Bird Areas have identified several sites which warrant international designation including some existing protected areas as well as a good deal of unprotected area.</p> <p>Lack of resources severely impedes effective management of these protected areas.</p> <p>Unfortunately, some sites have experienced a decrease in site quality. This includes a great many cases of built development, even on protected areas, without adequate environmental impact assessment.</p> <p>An example is that dredging during construction of a hotel and mega-yacht marina seriously damaged portions of the Leeward-Going-Through Channel, located within the Princess Alexandra National Park and Nature Reserve. The marina now takes up more than half the width of the channel. Although used by some yachts, the anticipated use by mega-yachts that the developer had hoped for has not materialised.. There remains continued pressure to dredge the Leeward Channel area for deeper access.</p> <p>There have been several instances in the last few years of yachts anchoring outside of designated zones, for which action has been taken.</p> <p>UKOTCF, at the request of DEMA, provided and published guidance for visiting Big Sand Cay, in an attempt to reduce unwitting damage to this Sanctuary.</p> <p>Many important natural areas are being destroyed by badly considered clearance for development. As an example, clearance was carried out in formerly natural areas of tropical dry forest within and adjacent to the Conch Bar Caves Protected Area on Middle Caicos. Unauthorised clearing adjacent to Wade's Green Plantation Historic Site which affected the tropical dry forest and some of the site's structures has also occurred.</p> <p>The Red Salina protected area on Grand Turk, and part of the Bird Trails were built into.</p>	<p>station that has been established on land infilled in Red Salina.</p> <p>Develop a comprehensive national sustainable development plan, which includes quantitative environmental evaluations of all upland [=hard land above coastal or other flats], wetland and marine ecosystems, with appropriate, enforceable planning for sustainable development and use.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>This development involved the establishment of a water production unit. Permission to establish the business had already been granted prior to designating the area as protected. However, the actual move and building work occurred following the declaration of the protected area. Since the declaration of the protected area, a fuel station has been established on land infilled in Red Salina immediately adjacent to the protected area. It is not clear that there are safeguards to prevent spillage and consequent pollution.</p> <p>Recent research on East Caicos, the largest uninhabited island in the Caribbean, has revealed that East Caicos is the only island in the archipelago that houses all ten TCI endemic plant species, and north-eastern coral reef mosaics possess live coral coverages of as much as 50%, with some of few remaining significant populations of <i>Acropora cervicornis</i> and <i>Acropora palmata</i> in the Caribbean region, among other features of biodiversity and ecosystem service values. The entire island is a key biodiversity area; however, apart from the portion of the island which falls within the TCI Ramsar site, none of the remaining ecosystem mosaics are currently under protection.</p> <p>The Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation Bill was drafted in 2012 but is not yet enacted, although it was due for enactment in summer 2015. Part III of the Bill covers 'the protection of threatened or protected ecosystem' and the 'Governor is required to publish a list of threatened ecosystems in the Gazette'.</p> <p>Crown Land Policy (July 2011) states the need to protect 'environmentally sensitive areas'.</p> <p>Environmental Impact Assessment procedures and policy are currently not effective, contain few legislative requirements, and are vulnerable to abuse and corruption. A national EIA policy is required that will establish basic thresholds to trigger EIAs, public consultation for all EIA processes and implementation of a mandatory no-net-loss mitigation hierarchy.</p>	
2	<p><b>11.</b> By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for</p>	<p>An area of the wetlands at the 3 islands form the Middle, North and East Caicos Reserve, which is designated as a Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar Site). This wetland complex is one of the most natural Wetlands of International Importance listed by the UK under the Ramsar Convention. Through a review carried out by UKOTCF on behalf of UK Government in consultation with TCI official and NGO bodies, 7 other Ramsar Sites were also proposed:</p>	<p>Designate remaining Ramsar Sites.</p> <p>Strengthen EIA legislation, policy and implementation.</p>



Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
	<p>biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Grand Turk salinas, ponds and shores</li> <li>-Salt Cay creeks and Salinas</li> <li>-Turks Bank Seabird Cays</li> <li>-Caicos Bank Southern Cays</li> <li>-West Providenciales Wetlands</li> <li>-West Caicos saline lake and coral reef system</li> <li>-Leeward-Going-Through Cays</li> </ul> <p>Conclusions of this review, in addition to follow-up assessments, stated also that the existing Ramsar Site should be extended to include the rest of East Caicos. Despite this recommendation, the intention of TCI Government to develop a trans-shipping port and cruise-centre on East Caicos, was announced in 2013 (this is similar to an earlier unsuccessful proposal put forward at the end of the 1990s). In September 2014, the Minister of Finance stated that \$19 million awarded from the EU Development Fund to TCI, would go to development of the deep-water port. Major past developments in TCI have not carried out an open, transparent and public planning process and EIA, and there are concerns that a proper EIA will not be conducted for this project either. It is hoped however, that as kick-starting the project relies on EU funds and in accordance with international law and the Environment Charter, that EIA to international standards will be carried out.</p> <p>From the late 1990s, for almost a decade, UKOTCF (bringing in many other partners) and local partners worked together for many years to survey the biodiversity of the East Caicos, Middle Caicos and North Caicos wetland complex, and develop a management plan. In the later part of that period, a system of nature trails with interpretation, a visitor centre with more interpretation, training for local persons and other initiatives were implemented. Unfortunately, the local partner has not been able to maintain these. The 'Plan for Biodiversity Management and Sustainable Development around Turks &amp; Caicos Ramsar Site' update in 2005 was never completed and it needs revision and is not being used as planned.</p> <p>A Darwin Initiative Challenge Fund, awarded to TCI's Department of Environmental and Coastal Resources in 2010, involved developing a more detailed proposal for Darwin</p>	<p>Obtain funds and other resources required for developing or updating, implementing and monitoring Management Plans.</p> <p>Conduct quantitative ecological assessment of all underwater ecological assets in order to establish conservation priorities.</p> <p>Establish landscape-level management priorities.</p> <p>Develop and implement watershed management plans.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>Initiative funding. Towards the end of the Challenge fund grant, DECR (now DEMA) asked UKOTCF and other international partners, to help them prepare the proposal for the full Darwin funding to develop and start implementing the effective management plans for wetland sites. Unfortunately, the Darwin Initiative chose not to award the funding.</p> <p>The 'Review and Re-Assessment of the TCI Protected Area System September 2006' refers to the need for the National Trust/local community Conch Bar Caves Management Plan to be supported and implemented. It also notes that there is a need for the Government to prioritise the order of preparation of Management Plans.</p> <p>The UK Government listed the "Turks and Caicos Islands" (actually Salt Cay, the small cays of the Turks and South East Caicos Banks, and parts of Grand Turk and South Caicos) on the World Heritage Tentative List under the State Party of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, for its outstanding natural value.</p> <p>Red Salina and Town Salina, in Cockburn Town, Grand Turk, are now included in protected areas legislation. It is recognised that other salinas also need protection, and the protection of this site needs effective implementation (see above).</p> <p>Although marine organisms are protected to a small extent under the Fisheries Protection Ordinance, ecosystem-level protections are not available for any areas that do not fall within protected areas and many critical habitats, such as sea-grass beds and coral reefs remain vulnerable to land-based activities and direct impacts from development such as cruise ports and marinas. Much of the underwater habitats of TCI have not been assessed quantitatively, making management and conservation initiatives difficult to implement.</p>	
2	<p><b>12.</b> By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.</p>	<p>Parts of the legal framework for species protection are in place, largely for marine and bird species, although such protections are not considered adequate. The proposed Wildlife &amp; Biodiversity Conservation Bill would provide some greater protections, but is stalled at draft stage, due to lack of priority allocated on it by government re legal draftsman. Protection for key marine species has improved with closed seasons or bans introduced for Nassau groupers, turtles, stone crab and conch. Fishing on spawning aggregations has also been banned. The Bill, when passed, will protect endemic and threatened animals and plants, and threatened ecosystems. Recovery plans would be required for endangered and threatened species.</p>	<p>Enact the draft Endangered Species Act.</p> <p>Pass the draft Wildlife &amp; Biodiversity Conservation Bill and develop recovery plans for those species needing them the most.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>A draft Endangered Species Act is under review. This would ratify and implement CITES. The draft Endangered Species Act (Trade, Collection, Removal and Transport) needs to return to the House of Assembly. The Act was originally drafted in 2012.</p> <p>There is a gap when it comes to species action plans and also monitoring and review procedures. However, a Conservation and Management Plan (2005-2009), was produced for the Turks and Caicos Iguana, but implementation has been problematic (see invasive species section below).</p> <p>The population size and characteristics of many of TCI's RTE species are unknown, making conservation prioritization difficult.</p> <p>Other activities carried out for species protection/conservation are as follows:  -A Caicos Pine recovery programme is being undertaken by DEMA and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. It involves various elements including: setting up and operating a pine nursery; related projects by Imperial College students for their theses; successful burns of plots in pine-yards on Middle Caicos to restore a more natural ecosystem; and other elements. Funding for this effort ends March 2016 and TCIG has not yet firmly responded on the request to continue funding on the programme.  -DEMA and the local volunteer TCI Environmental Club group operate a project to rescue endemic and endangered plant species from built development activities to re-establish them elsewhere.</p> <p>The Fisheries Ordinance 2009, enables the Governor to make Regulations for purposes, including prohibiting/restricting/regulating the taking/capturing/killing/destroying of any kind or species of marine product/species. There are also Fisheries Protection Regulations. Fisheries Protection Amendments Regulations 2015 also came into effect on 1 June 2015.</p> <p>The Customs (Endangered Species) (Importation and Exportation Prohibition) Order (1992) is found under the Customs Ordinance (2009).</p>	<p>Develop a framework for the monitoring and review of species/recovery action plans.</p> <p>Conduct quantitative assessment of TCI's RTE species populations.</p>
2	9. By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or	<p>Threats/potential threats from invasive species include the following:  -The native pine yards are being devastated by an invasive insect from North America, probably imported on Christmas trees. These areas of Caicos pine are quite distinctive from other occurrences of this species at the far end of the Bahamas archipelago, and there are suggestions that they may be taxonomically distinct. The Caicos Pine is the</p>	<p>Create and implement sustainable invasive species action plans to address each invasive species. Prioritise the creation of the action</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
	<p>eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.</p>	<p>national tree of TCI (see more information below).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The endangered Turks and Caicos Rock Iguana is threatened with extinction, both by inappropriate development and domestic animals, including those which have gone feral.</li> <li>-The Eurasian collared dove is becoming increasingly common on Grand Turk. It is not known whether the species was deliberately introduced, or whether it spread of its own accord, but is likely to be a problem for native doves. It has also become common on South Caicos.</li> <li>-The casuarina (Australian pine) is found on many beaches and coasts in TCI. It is an invasive plant which has taken over the dune vegetation on several coasts. In specific, small areas there is some control of the species by individuals and property owners, in some cases in partnership with DEMA. Unfortunately two grant proposals for large-scale control were not funded.</li> <li>-Cow bush <i>Leucaena leucocephala</i> is invasive in most upland (hard ground rather than marsh) habitats that have been cleared for development.</li> <li>-Feral donkeys are extant on East Caicos and are probably causing impacts to endemic and CR, EN and VU floral species populations, in addition to impacting a small population of CR <i>Cyclura carinata</i> present on the island.</li> </ul> <p>The RSPB study 'Eradication of Invasive Alien Vertebrates in the UK Overseas Territories', provided a strategic assessment to rank all of the UKOTs' islands according to the greatest biodiversity benefit resulting from technically feasible invasive vertebrate eradications. Potential biodiversity gains of an invasive vertebrate eradication were calculated against a subset of native fauna. The number of confirmed or suspected invasive alien vertebrate species by taxonomic order were calculated for each Territory. For TCI this was: 2 Rodents, 2 Predators, 4 Ungulates, 0 Other Mammals, 1 Bird, 9 Reptiles, and 3 Amphibians.</p> <p>Actions carried out to address threats/issues posed by invasive species include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Following identification of this serious problem during a field work project by UKOTCF, Turks and Caicos conservation bodies (now led by DEMA) and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew ran a project to look for solutions to the problem of the native pine yards being devastated by an invasive insect. A successful burn of pilot plots was carried out in pine yards on Middle Caicos, as part of the Caicos pine recovery programme. There were multiple reasons for the burn including to see whether there was any effect on invasive pine scale insect that was killing the trees. Note that effects on scale insect were not the</li> </ul>	<p>plans according to impact of the species.</p> <p>Further research needed into the impact of some invasive species.</p> <p>Pass the draft Endangered Species Act and the draft Wildlife and Conservation Bill as these provide for action against invasive species.</p> <p>Put in place effective arrangements for restriction of live material, inspection and quarantine.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>primary reason for the controlled burns; it is an ecosystem management tool. By consequence though, many trees recover well from infestations after burns. The long-term effects of the burns on the scale population will need to be monitored over decades though.</p> <p>The pine tortoise scale insect is believed to have been introduced with imported Christmas trees. A few strains of the Caicos pine have shown resistance to the scale. Seedlings from surviving trees are grown in the Native Plant Nursery at the Government Farm and have been transplanted back to the original environment on Pine Cay, and seem to be doing well.</p> <p>Several expert groups, including the Caribbean iguana specialist group, San Diego Zoo, UKOTCF, and others, have facilitated meetings and development of plans with local partners to address the eradication of feral cats and dogs etc., but unfortunately local bodies have not been able to implement these.</p> <p>The BEST Initiative project ‘Conserving Species and Sites of International Importance by the Eradication of Invasive Alien Species in the Caribbean UK Overseas Territories’ is currently working in this area.</p> <p>The new Department of Agriculture introduced legislation (Plant and Animal Health Bills) which outline the phytosanitary and plant health and quarantine laws for TCI, as well as those for animal imports. The legislation is strong. The problem is that political interference with the legislation is stronger.</p> <p>The draft Endangered Species Act would regulate the import of invasive species.</p> <p>When passed, the Wildlife and Conservation Bill will provide for improved management of invasive alien species.</p>	
2	<p><b>15.</b> By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and</p>	<p>TCI currently has no policy to address carbon mitigation.</p>	<p>A proposal developed by DEMA, UKOTCF and local commercial organisations working on a non-profit basis was to safeguard native tropical dry forest from illegal</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
	restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.		clearance for charcoal making by replacing this supply with wood from alien invasive species, thereby also providing a control measure for the latter. Unfortunately the Darwin Initiative and other funding bodies have not been attracted to enable start-up funding to allow this project to move rapidly to a self-funding basis. Therefore, resourcing is still sought to start the programme.
<p>3. Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes, promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the Territory.</p> <p>4. Ensure that environmental impact assessments are undertaken before approving major projects and while developing our</p>	<p>2. By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p>	<p>See row EC1 for the Environment Charter Strategy for action and the JNCC mainstreaming programme, much of both of which address this area.</p> <p>The Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs has previously monitored water quality; however, as with many initiatives, this programme was halted due to lack of funding associated with the loss of the Conservation Fund. Another key theme discussed at the JNCC 'Greening the Economy' project included watershed management (fresh, brackish and marine). There are numerous development issues and impacts that can and do affect wetland and water quality. Water quality standards have been recommended; however, these standards were never cemented in legislation and have not been implemented effectively. The Department of Environmental Health (the government agency charged with monitoring wastewater) lacks capacity and funding to address this issue adequately.</p> <p>In the 'Management of Protected Areas for Sustainable Economies (MPASSE)' project, coordinated by UKOTCF, TCI (as well as Cayman Islands and BVI) had the opportunity to benefit from major EU funding. The implementing body in TCI, the Turks and Caicos National Trust, proposed to develop facilities for visitors at the following sites: Bird Rock Point, Little Water Cay, Wades Green and Cheshire Hall. The European Commission procedures, and failings in the Commission's implementation of these procedures and</p>	<p>Implement stronger EIA and development policies, involving openness and best international practice, and including requiring EIA for all government-backed developments.</p> <p>Implement the water-quality standards that have been established.</p> <p>Work on a National Development Plan began in 2005. It is unclear whether work on this stalled or whether it is simply not being followed. This Plan therefore needs to be completed and implemented. It needs to</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
<p>growth management strategy.</p> <p>5. Commit to open and consultative decision-making on developments and plans which may affect the environment; ensure that environmental impact assessments include consultation with stakeholders.</p>		<p>internal difficulties, gave major challenges to the implementing bodies. In addition, the Commission took 7 years from the application to provision of a grant contract; during this time TCI suffered major governance problems and these impacted the National Trust. This meant that a relatively small amount of the originally planned work was undertaken and there are major concerns about the environmental standards of some of that which was done. Work in TCI remained significantly less complete than for the British Virgin Islands and the Cayman Islands, and TCI was unable to claim a major part of the available EU funding.</p> <p>The Turks and Caicos Reef Fund (founded in 2010) is the leading non-governmental organisation for the installation and maintenance of dive boat, snorkel boat and yacht moorings throughout TCI under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs. By April 2015, 62 proper sea-floor anchors and mooring-lines had been installed for dive-boat moorings, in addition to 10 snorkel boat-moorings and 5 yacht-moorings.</p> <p>Turks and Caicos National Museum and UKOTCF established a series of bird watching trails on Grand Turk with marker signs linked to interpretive cards. They also provided training for local people to benefit from this facility. Any money raised by marketing the tours and the guide cards would be used to maintain the trails and re-stock trail cards.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the Territory is threatened by a 'one size fits all' type of development, and the legal framework for development is not strong. The Physical Planning Ordinance 1998 provides only that the Director of Planning may require environmental impact assessment or an economic feasibility study for a proposed development; it is not a general requirement. The only time that EIA is legally required is for proposed commercial or industrial development within conservation areas. There is no current national development plan in place, and the relationship of other legislation with the Encouragement of Development Ordinance (1998), is unclear. This Ordinance makes no reference to environmental or conservation concerns and seems to give the Governor great freedom to issue Development Orders. There is also a minimal capacity for enforcement and monitoring. There is a lack of accountability in decision making.</p> <p>Development Plan processes did require a duty for consultation and clear processes (Part IV Physical Planning Ordinance); however, the House of Assembly has recently overturned this requirement, in violation of the Environment Charter and international</p>	<p>include a strong framework outlining political accountability, appeals procedures, public consultation and enforcement and monitoring procedures.</p> <p>The Encouragement of Development Ordinance (1998) needs to be updated to include provisions for the environment/conservation.</p> <p>Moorings have been installed but in some areas they have been repeatedly cut free from their anchors. Reef Fund has been replacing them but cannot do so indefinitely. The culprits and motivation remain unknown.</p> <p>The new Ordinances designed to strengthen accountability and integrity in public life need to be effectively implemented, monitored and reviewed.</p> <p>A 'Greening the Economy' action plan was produced. Funding for implementation is needed.</p> <p>The legislative framework for</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>standards. Final approval/modification rests with Governor who has no duty to give reasoning (s23 PPO). Advertising applications is only mandatory for certain types of developments; for the rest it is in the Director's discretion. Reasons for decisions need to be notified to applicant. Regarding the ability to appeal decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-There is a general right of appeal against Board decisions to the Minister, who can deal with appeal, e.g. by public inquiry, with final appeal to Governor.</li> <li>-Decisions on public developments are made by the Governor and cannot be appealed.</li> <li>-Decisions on industrial/commercial developments in a Conservation Area are made by Governor and cannot be appealed.</li> </ul> <p>The Integrity Commission Ordinance, Procurement Ordinance and Public Service Ordinance, designed to strengthen accountability and integrity in public life, were introduced in 2012; however, the functionality of these in practice is as yet unclear. Additionally, through the JNCC 'Greening the Economy' project, key themes discussed at the main November 2014 workshop included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Stakeholder participation and community involvement to influence key decisions</li> <li>-Embedding and establishing a green economy/sustainability ethos in government and across sectors</li> <li>-Staying engaged and drawing in others to maintain momentum</li> <li>-A new environmental professionally run and independent NGO.</li> </ul> <p>Through the 'Greening the Economy' project, in 2014 an action plan review was developed which identified actions needed on priorities for establishing TCI as a Green Economy following consultations in TCI.</p> <p>TCI has a weak development control legal framework, with EIA needed only for certain projects in conservation areas. There are currently no established criteria that trigger an EIA, and no legal requirement for no net loss mitigation exists.</p> <p>A stated key output of the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources Corporate Plan (2009-2010) is 'Environmentally Sustainable Development', e.g. through 'effective and active participation of DECR at all stages of development proposals'.</p> <p>The National Trust Ordinance states that 'The Governor may seek and take the advice of the Trust Council, and the Trust Council on its own initiative may tender its advice to the</p>	<p>environmental impact assessment should be reviewed and restructured in order to comply with existing international standards, including no-net-loss and public and open consultation with all affected persons.</p>



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		<p>Governor, on any matter concerning ... the granting of applications for development permission referred to the Governor under section 42(2)(b) of the Physical Planning Ordinance.'</p> <p>An Environmental Management baseline report was published in 2006 and, within this, there is a summary of the biodiversity and Protected Area challenges and development needs. Strategy and Plan of Actions have been published for Grand Turk, North Caicos, Middle Caicos, Providenciales, Salt Cay, and South Caicos. All identify protecting the environment as a challenge and have sections on this, plus environmental objectives in the frameworks for action.</p> <p>The building code s109.5 states the need for a building permit, for which the Board may require an EIA or feasibility study. The Development Manual (2014) contains standards for the implementation of EIA studies and chapter 4 in particular focuses on ecology.</p> <p>Political accountability is weak with Development Control (DC) decisions generally taken by the Board (appointed by Governor). These can be appealed to Minister (so there is political accountability at the appeal level only, unless Board members are also politicians).</p> <p>The Wild Birds Protection Ordinance, Coast Protection Ordinance and National Parks Ordinance outline a liability framework to be adhered to if an offence is carried out under the Ordinance. The draft Endangered Species Act and draft Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation Bill also outline a liability framework.</p> <p>Development at any cost remains a priority of TCI's elected government, and several environmentally and economically undesirable developments have been approved within the past year alone. Such projects include a swim-with-dolphins tourist attraction on Grand Turk that is owned by a foreign corporation and offers limited, unskilled labour opportunities, additional dredging in the Leeward Going Through Channel, dredging in the Admiral Cockburn National Park on South Caicos, dredging adjacent to the South Creek National Park on Grand Turk and a mega-yacht marina in North Creek on Grand Turk. Each of these projects carries significant and far-reaching environmental impacts; however, political will for meaningful change in the system is difficult, if not impossible.</p> <p>The development process remains largely opaque, with government now actively seeking</p>	

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		to undermine the limited public consultation process that did exist.	
3	<p><b>3.</b> By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.</p>	<p>Various terrestrial biodiversity challenges have been identified. These include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Loss of freshwater, brackish, marine and hyper-saline wetlands</li> <li>- Clear-cutting of land and bulldozing of soils.</li> <li>- Loss of significant species including rare, threatened, endangered and endemic species.</li> <li>- Sand and soil stabilisation, erosion and runoff</li> <li>- Invasion of exotic nuisance species</li> </ul> <p>Note that the Terrestrial Habitat Mapping Project completed in 2010 listed and defined the vegetative habitats of TCI, but only very basic conservation prioritisation was done.</p> <p>Developers frequently clear building sites of valuable top-soil, losing the natural seed-bank, leaving visual scars and increasing the likelihood of erosion, with knock-on impacts on enclosed lagoons and other water bodies and the inshore reef. Impermeable structures erected too close to the shoreline disrupt the natural cycle of accretion and erosion of sandy beaches, and accelerate the rate of erosion of sand.</p>	<p>Species and ecosystem-level conservation action plans should be produced. A list should be drawn up prioritising conservation targets.</p> <p>Development Control framework needs to be strengthened (see above).</p>
3, 4, 5	<p><b>4.</b> By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.</p>	<p>TCI's exploitable natural resource base is currently confined to fisheries products (see following row), real estate, mineral resources and the natural environment itself, which is exploited for tourism and ecotourism activities.</p> <p>Natural sand dunes have been lost to poorly regulated development in East Grace Bay, Pelican Point and Emerald Bay, making them more susceptible to sea-level rise and storm surge. Beaches are at great risk to impacts from the rapid development of tourism infrastructure and uncontrolled sand-mining for construction has damaged sand dunes such as those of Booby Rock Point in Grand Turk. Although legislation requires the application for sand mining permits, illegal sand-mining takes place and mining activity is loosely regulated.</p> <p>In 2014, TCI joined the Carbon War Rooms Initiative, the Carbon War Rooms being an organisation which aims to support Government's long-term plan to change to renewable energy. The Territory joined as part of the "Ten Island Challenge" as part of its</p>	<p>Tourism strategies should include provisions for the environment/conservation.</p> <p>A renewable energy strategy needs to be drawn up.</p> <p>Pass the energy conservation policy.</p> <p>The Minerals (Exploration and Exploitation) Ordinance (revised edition 2009) needs to be updated to consider EIA, sustainability and</p>

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		<p>commitment to move closer to renewable energy sources. The first specific project in TCI, which the Carbon War Room will advise on, is the new development at West Caicos. This major development project affecting much of a previously uninhabited island has been suspended on various occasions due the financial failure of a series of international companies.</p> <p>At present, there is excessive dependence on diesel generation and monopoly constraints on generation.</p> <p>An OTEP grant was awarded around 2010 to allow for the development of an energy conservation policy. This was carried out but all staff who were directly involved are thought to have left since. A green energy policy was developed and distributed.</p> <p>The Minerals (Exploration and Exploitation) Ordinance (revised edition 2009) is there to 'make provision as to the exploration for and exploitation of the mineral resources in, and surrounding, the Turks and Caicos Islands.' Whilst this includes provisions for licenses and restricted areas, it does not appear to consider sustainability/ EIA.</p>	<p>biodiversity concerns.</p> <p>Strengthen regulation of sand mining and its enforcement.</p>
2, 3	<p><b>6.</b> By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within</p>	<p>Through the JNCC 'Greening the Economy' project, key themes discussed at the main November 2014 workshop included coastal and marine ecosystem health (creek, mangrove, sea grass and reef), and sustainable fisheries.</p> <p>The Turks and Caicos Reef Fund work to promote and protect coral reefs. As an example, they restored a snorkel trail off Grace Bay beach in Providenciales. They implemented a Blue Flag scheme for the Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs. Blue Flag is a rating system for beaches that means the beach and its adjacent facilities are up to a certain set of international standards. Unfortunately DEMA was unable to keep the Blue Flag rating through the restrictive period of Direct Rule by UK Government and has not been able to get it back.</p> <p>The Turks and Caicos Reef Fund also provided new beach signs for the Bight Reef Snorkel Trail. These signs provide information about the location of the snorkel trail and basic coral reef safety suggestions. As part of the Reef Coral Preservation and Restoration Programme, an 'adopt a coral' programme has been established. This allows an individual to adopt a coral-reef fragment which is cared for in a special coral nursery until it is large enough to be transferred on to one of the reefs.</p>	<p>Work is needed to assess the real impact of fishing on current conch stocks.</p> <p>Resources needed for proper patrolling for national parks</p> <p>Reinstitute the Blue Flag rating system for beaches. However, this rating is largely symbolic. Actual watershed management plans would have a greater real impact on coastal water quality.</p> <p>The Marine Mammal Protection Ordinance must be updated to reverse the legalisation of captive dolphin</p>

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	safe ecological limits.	<p>In August 2014, UKOTCF facilitated the involvement of Don Stark from the Turks and Caicos Reef Fund at the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) workshop, one of the two funded places available for representatives from the UKOTs.</p> <p>The Coast Protection Ordinance (revised edition 2009) provides for the protection of the coasts of the Turks and Caicos Islands. The Fisheries Protection Ordinance was revised in 2009, as was the Fisheries Limits Ordinance. Fisheries Protection Amendments Regulations 2015 came into effect on the 1st June.</p> <p>Policy guidelines for the protection of humpbacks and other cetaceans are in place, but these focus on whale-watching operators and vessels. Marine Mammal Protection Ordinance was unilaterally amended by Governor during Direct Rule to allow for the development of captive dolphin attractions; these were previously illegal, and the laws against them were the result of a great deal of effort by several NGOs and TCIG staff over the last 20 years.</p> <p>Fishing legislation requires a Turks and Caicos Islander to be present on any fishing boat. However, there are sometimes insufficient Turks and Caicos Islanders with the necessary qualifications for the number of boats wanting to carry out fishing activities, which could cause problems.</p> <p>The most significant commercial fisheries stocks (e.g. Caribbean spiny lobster and queen conch) have suffered from severe degradation due to habitat degradation and overfishing in recent years, and it is reported that near-shore finfish stocks are also in decline. Limited steps have been taken to address this problem. A conch visual survey was conducted in 2013-2015; however, the results of this study have not been translated into conservation initiatives, and the export quota remains unchanged for this species since 2012. The existing legislative framework for queen conch conservation is also largely biologically irrelevant and is based on now-defunct MSY (maximum sustainable yield) targets rather than comprehensive management approaches.</p> <p>A Caribbean spiny lobster artificial habitat project, sponsored by the FCO, trained local fisherfolk to create artificial juvenile habitat. The project was successful; however, ongoing encouragement and funding to continue the initiative is needed.</p> <p>Regarding sustainable harvesting, there are restrictions on where and when wild conch</p>	<p>attractions.</p> <p>Pass the draft Fisheries Act.</p> <p>Introduce cetaceans and sharks reserve throughout TCI waters, including the Mouchoir Bank, and link to those of neighbouring countries.</p> <p>Establish a biologically relevant, comprehensive management approach legislative framework for sustainable management of fisheries species.</p> <p>Obtain funding to continue the spiny lobster artificial habitat project.</p> <p>The UK government should take seriously its obligation to safeguard the national security of TCI's territorial waters. UK Coast Guard presence should be continuous, with training opportunities for DEMA and the Marine Branch of the Royal Police Force.</p>

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		<p>can be collected, although work is needed on the real impacts of this fishing. There are also underwater National Parks where no fishing is allowed, in theory. Lobster fishing is regulated by size of catchable lobsters and a rigorously enforced closed season when possession of a lobster is illegal. Please see previous discussion regarding these species.</p> <p>TCI is a member of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM).</p> <p>The 'East Harbour Lobster and Conch Reserve Notice 2003' states that it is a 'prohibited area for the taking of any lobster and conch'.</p> <p>There is a draft Fisheries Act which has not yet been passed.</p> <p>While the Fisheries Protection Ordinance and National Parks Ordinance do provide some protections for fisheries species in TCI, this legislative framework remains largely unenforced due to significant resource limitations and corruption and lack of will to enforce within DEMA.</p> <p>The significant portion of TCI's EEZ is vulnerable to illegal poaching due to resource constraints and corruption. This is a national security issue, which falls under the remit of UK government responsibility. The international boundaries of TCI remain vulnerable and largely open.</p>	
3	<p>7. By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.</p>	<p>TCI is well known as the operator of the only significant conch farming operation. This later changed hands. However, this operation was severely impacted by the illegal dredging of the Leeward Going Through in the mid 2000-10 decade. The operators of the Conch Farm also have a Development Agreement to farm fish, which is more commercially viable than conch; however, government has to date not honoured this aspect of the development Agreement and the proponents of the Conch Farm are currently involved in litigation against the government to attempt to recover losses and remedy breach of contract; however, the fate of the operation remains unknown.</p> <p>The government farm on North Caicos has been reopened as an operation facilitating the development of small farming businesses, many of these having a sustainable approach and producing crops highly valued by local stores and resorts. The Turks and Caicos National Museum/UKOTCF model garden (see section 9 &amp; 10 below) is also relevant in encouraging sustainable crop production using appropriate cropping techniques and rainwater capture by small-holders and domestic users.</p>	<p>Re-assess current conch status.</p> <p>Complete and implement Agricultural Policy.</p>

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		<p>The Department of Agriculture is currently developing its Agricultural Policy for Government, and it includes sections on environmental protection and green agriculture.</p> <p>A commercial-scale aquaponics facility on Providenciales provides cucumbers, basil, tomatoes and other herbs to local supermarkets.</p> <p>A few small-scale, experimental aquaponics facilities, with an aim to co-produce tilapia and vegetables, are also currently operational.</p> <p>See above in relation to attempts to safeguard natural tropical dry forest and control alien invasive species.</p>	
3, 4, 5	<p>14. By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.</p>	<p>See above.</p> <p>In addition, it should be noted that the economy of TCI depends heavily for much of its service and other basic work on foreign nationals, largely of Haitian origin. For obvious reasons, these tend to be represented disproportionately amongst the most poor and vulnerable parts of the community in TCI and somewhat outside of the political spectrum. They tend to have been left out of discussions on various aspects, including the environment, but this could lead to problems for the whole community. The first effort to capture input from this population on environmental issues was the Socio-economic Monitoring (SocMon) of Coastal Management in 2013. Social surveys were conducted in the Freddy Yard Haitian community in the Lower Bight because it is immediately within the Princess Alexandra Land &amp; Sea National Park watershed, in Providenciales. Surveys in this community involved specially selected DEMA staff members who have fluency in Kreyol (Creole) or are known to people in the community and trusted there. There was general suspicion to respond to questions at first, and surveys in this community thus took up to 3 times longer than in other communities. The effort underscored the need for TCI to take account, in the environmental sector as well as elsewhere, of the Haitian community, which comprises nearly 30% of the population.</p>	
6. Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)	<p>TCI is included in the UK's ratification of the Ramsar Convention and Convention on Migratory Species</p> <p>TCI designated the North, Middle and East Caicos site in 1990.</p>	<p>CITES and CBD still need extending to TCI.</p> <p>All but one of proposed</p>

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Environmental Agreements already extended to the Territory and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.		When passed, the Wildlife and Conservation Bill will implement a number of international conventions.	Ramsar Sites still require designation.
7. Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.	<b>19.</b> By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.	<p>Base-line data have been collected for the Turks and Caicos rock iguana.</p> <p>RBG Kew and FERA studied insects and fungi. Both are still underway under auspices of Caicos Pine Recovery Project, with publications coming forth when identifications are complete.</p> <p>UKOTCF has coordinated studies in TCI over nearly 20 years, involving a number of partner organisations and international specialists, working mainly <i>pro bono</i>. These included the biodiversity studies in the North, Middle &amp; East Caicos Ramsar Site and adjacent areas, leading to the management plan for the area, the first satellite-image-based ecosystem map, research to establish nature trails and interpretation, the identification of the Caicos pine problem, rediscovery of endemic species thought extinct, and many other aspects.</p> <p>A conference to review the flora of the Bahamas archipelago was carried out in October 2012. The definitive work <i>Flora of the Bahama Archipelago</i> (1982) had significant gaps and errors. The revision is being led by Miami University of Ohio and their team visited TCI in 2012. Work is ongoing but it is an enormous text with a limited audience, so the probability of a new printed volume is low. Most likely it will be released in electronic format but that is not close.</p> <p>A JNCC-funded project was carried out to assess and monitor Nassau grouper populations and spawning aggregate locations. A habitat mapping project was also funded by JNCC. The entire terrestrial area of TCI was mapped for vegetative habitats. A complete description of vegetative habitats with a numeric code was created. Unfortunately, knowledge on data manipulation and overlay with map programs is very limited within DEMA, so its use is not widespread.</p>	<p>Visiting specialists need to ensure that their results are available to local conservationists. This is less of a problem than it was in earlier years but still occurs occasionally, such as a US university working on spiders in 2015.</p> <p>Areas that need further research include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cave ecosystems have not been studied extensively, but studies have discovered endemic invertebrates.</li> <li>-The dry tropical forest ecosystem has not been studied extensively. Studies that have been done indicate that there will be many endemic invertebrates. This is one of the most threatened habitats in the world.</li> </ul> <p>-Work is needed to assess the status of the Queen</p>

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		<p>A project is being carried out with funding from the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund in 2010. The overall aim of this project is to gather basic genetics, natural history and ecological information for the Turks Island boa <i>Chrysogaster</i>, in addition to any anthropogenic threats to the species. This information can then be considered in relation to conservation of the species. Most of that research was conducted on Ambergris, and it spawned a number of publications (a list is available at <a href="http://www.rgrahamreynolds.info/turks-island-boa/">http://www.rgrahamreynolds.info/turks-island-boa/</a> ). Some conservation challenges were identified in addition to long-term goals, such as getting more accurate population estimates, current range and abundance across the archipelago, and preventative measures such as invasive predator control, especially on Ambergris. An IUCN Red List Assessment was also conducted for the species, which is in review now and should be available soon. Annual work with the species is continuing.</p> <p>UKOTCF bird monitoring visits have been carried out, and special expeditions, including for important breeding sites on outer cays. This work complements the bird monitoring programme of the Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs. Some counts have also been supported by Big Blue Unlimited and Salt Cay Divers ecotour operators. DEMA is also encouraging the use of eBird Caribbean for logging sightings and this has proven productive.</p> <p>The Marine Conservation Society continues to carry out research in TCI to improve the management of the traditional turtle fishery. Satellite tracking of green and hawksbill turtles is used to learn more about their movements and use of TCI's waters.</p> <p>Presence/absence surveys for piping plovers were carried out by USGS in February 2016. A sizeable wintering population (87 total) was found.</p> <p>Field research on wintering Kirtland's warblers is scheduled for March-April 2016.</p> <p>A rapid ecological assessment and evaluation of biodiversity and ecosystem service values was conducted for East Caicos in association with RSPB. Preliminary results indicate that East Caicos is one of the most significant conservation concerns in the Caribbean Region. Further study to define RTE species population sizes and characteristics, ecosystem characteristics of coral reefs, population characteristics of migratory and RTE bird populations, characteristics of nesting sea turtle populations are needed.</p>	<p>Conch</p> <p>-Further study to define RTE species population sizes and characteristics, ecosystem characteristics of coral reefs, population characteristics of migratory and RTE bird populations and the characteristics of nesting sea turtle populations are needed.</p>



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		<p>TCI conservationists maintain contact and exchange expertise as opportunities and resources (particularly assistance from other bodies) allow. For example, several local personnel were assisted by UKOTCF to participate in the periodic conferences for conservation practitioners it has organised, most recently in Gibraltar. In the same year, some attended the Birds Caribbean General Meeting as well as various workshops in Jamaica. He was a key player also in the earlier conferences on the flora of the Bahamas archipelago and on forest management by burning.</p>	
<p>8. Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for prevention or remedies; establish effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.</p>	<p>8. By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity. (Relates also to EC3&amp;4)</p>	<p>The Marine Pollution Ordinance 2010 is there to 'protect the marine environment by minimising intentional and negligent discharges of pollutants into the marine environment'; however, this ordinance deals largely with discharges made from vessels at sea and does not regulate land-based sources of pollutants.</p> <p>The Merchant Shipping Ordinance (revised edition 2009) is there to 'amend and restate the law relating to the registration of ships and related matters; to make provision for safety of ships and control of pollution from ships.'</p> <p>Air quality and emissions are not currently monitored.</p> <p>A car-wash operating next to Bayle's Pond Salina had been closed down, following concerns about pollution and water-extraction issues. PS Environment instructed staff to monitor the operation of a laundromat next to Red Salina protected area, to establish whether this business was causing damage to the salina. Subsequently, a fuel filling station has been built on the side of the salina with no apparent means of preventing spillage in to the salina. It is unclear why this development was allowed to proceed on the edge of a protected area especially as Grand Turk already has possibly the highest density of fuel stations per head of population in the world.</p>	<p>Develop air quality standards and a strategy for monitoring emissions.</p> <p>Improve the incorporation of biological conservation and environmental sustainability into physical planning procedures.</p> <p>Make the rare best practice in pursuing criminal and civil cases against polluters and others damaging the environment normal practice.</p> <p>Develop and implement a legislative framework for land-based pollutant sources.</p> <p>Develop and implement watershed management plans for all land areas adjacent to sensitive habitats.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>10. By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral</p>	<p>See also above.</p> <p>The primary threats to nearshore ecosystems in TCI are land-based pollutant sources,</p>	<p>Develop and implement an environmental adaptation to climate-change plan.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
	reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning. (Relates also to EC3)	<p>direct impacts caused by development and inadequate management capacity. These threats are exacerbated by the threat of climate-change.</p> <p>No effective policy currently exists to protect sensitive habitats from the ravages of climate-change.</p>	
<p>9. Encourage teaching within schools to promote the value of our local environment (natural and built) and to explain its role within the regional and global environment.</p> <p>10. Promote publications that spread awareness of the special features of the environment in the Territory; promote within the Territory the guiding principles set out above.</p>	<p>1. By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.</p>	<p>TCI Department of Education and UKOTCF established (initially with OTEP support) a curriculum and course development project on water. The 'Wonderful Water' project involved the development of curriculum-linked materials on the theme of water. This was targeted to upper primary and lower secondary schools, but has been found to be applicable to a wider range of age-groups. The materials include information about TCI wetland ecosystems, including mangroves and subsequently a module on the theme of vital water, linked also to the wise-water-use garden project. It was put into use in all state schools.</p> <p>Luke Clerveaux from TCI undertook a placement at RBG Kew, as the recipient of a scholarship to the undergraduate degree in Applied Ecology &amp; Conservation at the University of Reading.</p> <p>The TCI Environmental Club was formed by DEMA in 2010 as a possible new NGO. Regular meetings were held but no funding was allocated and already-overworked staff, of the understaffed department, were expected to work longer hours to manage the Club. With further loss of staff, this became impracticable and the Club was shifted to a Facebook Group, which has worked better. The club still meets occasionally for plant rescues and clean-ups as well as special environmental events. Essentially, it has become a clearing-house of TCI environmental information to raise awareness and recruit volunteers.</p> <p>The Turks and Caicos Reef Fund has a Reef Action Team which works with a teacher at the British West Indies Collegiate to help introduce middle and high school children to the marine world. Last period each Friday is devoted to special "clubs", which the students choose to participate in. The Reef Action Team meet and snorkel, do beach clean-ups, scuba dive, and conduct various other activities to increase knowledge and appreciation</p>	<p>Explorations are needed to re-establish the work on trails, visitors centre, facilities for visiting scientists, facilities for local schools, training of local personnel and other material developed and implemented in the first years of this millennium by UKOTCF and TCNT (when the latter had environmental capacity), but not maintained by local partners (see above).</p> <p>Development of further modules of <i>Wonderful Water</i>.</p> <p>Find resources to expand TCI Environmental Club.</p> <p>Restore TC National Museum botanic garden. Replace the fruit trees that were lost.</p> <p>Make environmental</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>for the TCI marine environment.</p> <p>The Turks and Caicos National Museum botanic garden on Grand Turk is used by residents, local schools and cruise-ship visitors. The botanic garden was damaged by Hurricane Ike in 2008. Garden restoration began in autumn 2010, with a new design, renovation and tours in February 2011. The garden showcases a variety of native plants as well as those brought in by settlers. The TC National Museum is also proceeding with phase 2 of development of the botanic garden, with the aims of encouraging greater involvement of the local community, especially children, and demonstrating that fruit, vegetables and herbs can be grown locally. Phase 2 was completed; unfortunately severe drought and several westerly storms in 2015 have had devastating effects on this part of the garden. The Botanical and Cultural Garden has bounced back due to a higher amount of rain since November 2015. Most of the fruit trees were lost, so those need to be replaced. Three trees were lost – only the pomegranate survived the drought and then westerlies that caused salt damage. The trees will be replaced in autumn 2016, when the weather is milder. There is also additional signage that needs to be placed within the garden, but funds are limited, so they have not been put in the garden.</p> <p>Furthermore, UKOTCF and TCI National Museum opened a Wise-Water-Use Garden on Provo in June 2014. The project aims to help TCI decrease dependence on water that is produced by expensive and environmentally costly diesel-powered desalination and promote awareness of the environment, as well as to use local traditional plants and methods to make the best use of this water. The new wise-water-use garden demonstrates rainwater harvesting from roofs, garden irrigation and use of native and other medicinal plants adapted to local conditions. This project is linked to the 'Wonderful Water' curriculum and course.</p> <p>The Turks &amp; Caicos National Museum replicated a section of the reef "wall", allowing non-diving visitors to experience the reef, and giving diving visitors a new perspective.</p> <p>In 2013-14, TCNM and UKOTCF produced a set of booklets for: Providenciales, North &amp; Middle Caicos, Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos. Launched in 2014, they describe where to watch birds, with some driven and walked trails, and view some of the other heritage features. Support for the production of these guides was sought from local businesses, who help sell them and create a market for low-impact ecotourism activities which they can also benefit from and hence generate more support for conservation.</p>	<p>curriculum mandatory in the public and private schools at all levels.</p> <p>Obtain funding to put up additional signage in the botanical garden.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>On 4 December 2015, Caicos Pine Recovery Project with DEMA and RBG Kew officially opened the Caicos Pineyard Trail: National Tree Ramble in Middle Caicos. This trail will allow for public, student, and eco-tour visits to the pineyards to see the National Tree in its habitat. It is fully interpreted and marked.</p> <p>In 2014, Caicos Pine Recovery Project with DEMA and RBG Kew completed the Native Plant Garden in the Kew Settlement Government Offices compound, having removed several dead, damaged, or invasive trees and replaced them with marked native plants including the three National Plant Symbols of TCI.</p> <p>In 2014, the Caicos Pine Recovery Project with DEMA and RBG Kew completed the trail into the Diamond Jubilee Pineyard on Pine Cay, a restored habitat planted with nursery-grown pine and interpreted with signage.</p> <p>UKOTCF has produced a series of Virtual Tours of the UKOTs. These are available on the UKOTCF website and aim to increase awareness of the UKOTs and their natural heritage. A Virtual Tour has been created for TCI. UKOTCF is producing also short videos on TCI wildlife which will also be available on <a href="http://www.ukotcf.org">www.ukotcf.org</a></p> <p>In spite of the abundance of environmental awareness materials available to educators, implementation and regularisation of curricula remains sporadic and voluntary.</p>	
11. Abide by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and work towards meeting International Development Targets on the environment.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)		

<p>Not matched specifically</p>	<p><b>13.</b> By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.</p>	<p>TCI has very little agriculture – it is limited to a handful of very small commercial farms currently being developed mainly for high-quality produce, some subsistence/ hobby/ supplementary farming, and one mariculture venture. There is no protection in place on local crop sources; seeds are regularly imported from other countries and so local varieties are probably not unique.</p> <p>Farming of queen conch, a CITES-listed species, is monitored by CITES scientific authority but production and export has been consistently below quota. The Conch Farm is currently not engaged in commercial production.</p> <p>Apart from the Conch Farm, no commercial-scale aquaculture facilities are extant in TCI. Although TCI has a stated goal of encouraging aquaculture, internally such operations have been discouraged.</p> <p>No commercial-scale venture to produce native floral species for landscaping applications exists.</p>	<p>Strengthen agricultural legislation to protect local crop varieties.</p> <p>Encourage commercial ventures for development of landscaping applications for native floral species.</p> <p>Develop and implement sustainable policy to encourage commercial aquaculture.</p>
	<p><b>16.</b> By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.</p>	<p>Wildlife and Biodiversity Protection Bill would include measures to ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity, but the Bill's development was halted as low priority during UK Direct Rule and has not resumed. The Bill would make provision for access to genetic materials.</p>	

	<p><b>18.</b> By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.</p>	<p>The Caicos Pine Recovery Project has been attempting to document bush medicine/ ethnobotany, but financial process hurdles on issuing payments to cover project expenses has completely stalled this effort. This is probably a result of policies put in place under UK Direct Rule which make the management of restricted fund projects exceptionally complicated. Due to age, the last full-time bush doctor has been moved by his family from his home in Middle Caicos to Grand Turk, and so he is outside the area where effective training could take place.</p> <p>Some work has been done. A recent volume on ethnobotany was published but this was done with no permission from TCIG, including no research or work permits; DEMA and RBG Kew are looking into this.</p> <p>Regarding traditional knowledge of medicinal plants and farming methods, very little has been written down. CPRP had funds to investigate this but TCI Treasury has been unable/unwilling to process requests for this funding to be used (an ongoing problem with externally-funded projects). When it was requested that the funds be paid out to the bush medicine and farming interviewees as consultants, and for the travel coverage to get to them, the Treasury simply never issued any payments.</p>	<p>Update policies to facilitate the management of restricted fund projects.</p>
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## Appendix Part 5. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: Cayman Islands

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
<p>1. Bring together government departments, representatives of local industry and commerce, environment and heritage organisations, the Governor's office, individual environmental champions and other community representatives in a forum to formulate a detailed strategy for action.</p>	<p>17. By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan. (Relates also to EC5)</p>	<p>The National Conservation Law 2013 (NCL) was passed in December 2013. It is a law to promote and secure biological diversity and the sustainable use of natural resources in the Cayman Islands; to protect and conserve endangered, threatened and endemic wildlife and their habitats; to provide for protected terrestrial, wetland and marine areas; and to give effect to provisions for relevant conventions. Part 5 Permits &amp; Licenses and Part 7 General Obligation to consult (EIA and EPF) have not commenced yet. It is hoped that these will be commenced by the end of summer 2016.</p> <p>Under the NCL 2013, a National Conservation Council is established which shall exercise the powers and carry out the duties and functions imposed on it by the NCL. The functions of the Council are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subject to the NCL, managing and making recommendations on the use of the Fund (see below)</li> <li>• Promoting the biological diversity and the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in the Islands</li> <li>• Co-ordinating the establishment and adoption by the public and private sectors of national policies for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources</li> <li>• Recommending and maintaining protected areas and conservation areas and conserving, maintaining and restoring their natural resources</li> <li>• Conserving, maintaining and restoring populations and critical habitats of protected species</li> <li>• Promoting wider understanding and awareness of the significance of the ecological systems of the Islands, the benefits of conserving natural resources and of the provisions of the NCL and the Conventions</li> <li>• Providing guidance to all entities for the integration of environmental concerns in their decision-making processes.</li> </ul> <p>The Council will prepare and submit to the Minister a yearly report of its activities during the preceding year. This shall include an account of activities funded in whole or in part by monies from the Fund (see below). The NCL also outlines the duties and functions of the DoE. It also recognises and provides the powers attributed to Conservation Officers.</p>	<p>Set up system to monitor whether National Conservation Law 2013 is being adhered to.</p> <p>Set up system to monitor whether National Environmental Framework Policy (2002) is being adhered to.</p> <p>Set up system to ensure that environmental strategies under Vision 2008 are adhered to.</p> <p>Commence Parts 5 and 7 of the NCL.</p> <p>Revise the National Sustainable Development Framework and have Government endorse it.</p> <p>Revise the Development Plan for Grand Cayman and create Development Plans for the Sister Islands. While there have been a couple of attempts to review the Grand Cayman Development Plan,</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>Sustainable Development Unit (SDU) at the Department of Environment (DoE) was set up in July 2006 to spearhead the formation of a national policy-level strategy for sustainable development. The SDU has worked on a National Sustainable Development Framework, the National Conservation Law and the Grand Cayman Development Plan, the latter dating from 1997. The National Sustainable Development Framework has no official status in that it has not been formally endorsed by the Government. It is also now out of date and would need to be revised. The Development Plan for Grand Cayman is 20 years out of date and there are no Development Plans for the Sister Islands.</p> <p>The Cayman Island's National Biodiversity Plan (NBAP) (2009) remains active. The goal for the NBAP is zero extinction in the Cayman Islands. Among other objectives, the NBAP has been formulated to bring together the accumulated information and resources, individuals and organizations, with a stake in Cayman Islands biodiversity. This is so that their stake may be recognized, and that conservation funds, resources and expertise may be utilised most effectively, and most equitably.</p> <p>A National Environmental Framework Policy (2002) is in place. The broad goals of this policy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage the human use of the natural environment of the Cayman Islands so that it yields the greatest continuous benefit to present generations while maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations.</li> <li>• Integrate consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of the natural environment into national physical and economic development planning and, in so doing, to aim for solutions which benefit both the environment and development.</li> <li>• Promote the protection of ecologically critical terrestrial, marine and coastal areas, and preserve essential habitat for the flora and fauna of the Cayman Islands.</li> <li>• Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements extended to the Cayman Islands, and to continue to cooperate with and contribute to regional conservation initiatives.</li> <li>• Seek expert advice and consult openly with interested parties on decisions affecting the environment.</li> </ul> <p>The 10-Year National Strategic Plan (1999-2008) (Vision 2008) is based on the belief that the Cayman Islands can continue to develop in harmony and prosperity if the</p>	<p>no amendments have been made.</p>



Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>recommendations of Vision 2008 are implemented according to the principles of balanced growth and integrated policy development. One strategy under Vision 2008 is that the Cayman Islands will “protect the natural environment, particularly the Central Mangrove and other wetlands, the North Sound and coral reefs, from further degradation”.</p> <p>The National Conservation Law 2013 enables the National Conservation Council to enter into agreements and other co-operative arrangements with regional agencies, interstate agencies, voluntary organisations and other persons for the purpose of the NCL and the Conventions. As an example, arrangements may provide for the regulation, promotion and co-ordination of surveys and research relating to natural resources.</p> <p>The National Trust for the Cayman Islands (NTCI) was established under the National Trust for the Cayman Islands Law 1987, which specified the objectives of the Trust and enabled it to buy, lease, sell, hold or deal in property of any nature. The primary commitment of the Trust is to establish a system of reserves, designed scientifically to preserve as far as possible the biodiversity of the islands, and the integrity of their critical natural systems. A Scientific Advisory Council was established. The DoE facilitated the donation of approximately \$500,000 to NTCI, towards purchase from Cayman Islands Government. A Land Reserve Fund was created specifically to hold donations earmarked for land purchase. The Trust works hard to ensure that, through a system of protected areas, native habitats will be protected.</p> <p>CCMI has many projects related to biodiversity. They have received Darwin Plus funding for their coral nursery pilot project. They participate in the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), the UKOTCF, and other such collaborations. The Darwin Award which CCMI received for its coral nursery was a two-year grant which expired in 2015. CCMI does not have current funding from Darwin.</p> <p>In November 2014, the Cabinet approved the National Coral Nursery Policy, written by the Department of Environment, granting partner institutions (such as CCMI and local dive operators) permission to establish and manage coral nurseries and resulting coral out-planting as part of the ongoing effort to conserve and restore endangered corals, particularly staghorn <i>Acropora cervicornis</i> and elkhorn <i>A. palmata</i> corals. The Central Caribbean Marine Institute (CCMI) and DoE established a pilot coral nursery in 2012, the management of which served as the basis for the Coral Nursery Policy. CCMI is sharing</p>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		the lessons learned from the pilot programme with the five dive operators who have been granted provisional approval to install nurseries on Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac.	
1.	20. By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.	<p>An 'Environmental Protection Fund' collects some \$4–5 million per year for the purposes of preserving the natural environments of the Cayman Islands. However, only a small proportion has been spent on the purposes for which the fund was originally established. Under the National Conservation Law, one hundred per cent of the environmental protection fee collected under section 6 of the Travel (Departure Tax and Environmental Protection Fee) Law (2003 Revision); and one hundred per cent of all fees paid under the NCL and any fines, compensation and costs imposed in respect of offences under the NCL, shall be paid into the Fund. Part 7 of the NCL which covers the EPF is not yet in effect. This means that the National Conservation Council's role in recommending to Cabinet on funds to be appropriated from the fund and the purposes to which such funds should be applied has not yet been formalised. There is a 5 June 2016 target date for full implementation of the NCL.</p> <p>The Cayman Islands have received also substantial funding through the Darwin Initiative. Over the last 10 years 11 major projects have been awarded over £1.5m. A major grant was also secured from the European Union, facilitated by UKOTCF.</p>	Monitor where money from the Environmental Protection Fund is going. Set up processes for this and for accessing the Fund.
2. Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas	5. By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced. (Relates also to EC4)	The area of environmentally important lands owned by the National Trust for the Cayman Islands (NTCI) is 3,133 acres. NTCI maintains several areas of land for wildlife conservation, including a 277ha site in the north east of Grand Cayman, the Salina Nature Reserve, and a site on Cayman Brac, the Brac Parrot Reserve, which now encompasses over 280 acres. On the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Council, NTCI has made the acquisition of a core reserve in an area of central Grand Cayman known as 'The Mountain' the top priority. Note that 'The Mountain' is in the general area of the Mastic Reserve. Other priorities include the acquisition of reserve lands in the centre of Little Cayman and building on the existing core reserve on Cayman Brac. The Government has also donated approximately 190 acres of xerophytic shrubland in the East End of Grand Cayman to the National Trust's Blue Iguana Recovery Programme (BIRP) towards a reserve known as the 'Colliers Wilderness Reserve' for these critically endangered lizards; this was leveraged by the EU-supported project noted above. The Mastic Reserve is 1,329	<p>Speed up the process of designating the Barkers area as a National Park.</p> <p>Continue acquiring environmentally important areas of land in Reserves.</p> <p>Legislation to prevent de-designation of Animal Sanctuaries.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
policy, and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species.		<p>acres.</p> <p>The following sites are designated as Animal Sanctuaries (Note that these Animal Sanctuaries are now technically designated as Protected Areas under the NCL):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meagre Bay Pond - located near Bodden Town along the south coast of Grand Cayman.</li> <li>• Colliers Bay Pond - located north of East End in Grand Cayman</li> <li>• Booby Pond - located a short walk eastward of Little Cayman's airstrip.</li> </ul> <p>Unfortunately, as development pressures have grown, the number of Animal Sanctuaries has decreased. The Westerly Ponds in Cayman Brac were de-designated in association with the subsequent airport development. In 2012 Cayman Brac's Dennis Point Pond also had its protected status removed. The National Trust lands, in addition to the Cayman Islands Government's Animal Sanctuaries, bring terrestrial protection to approximately 5% of the total land mass.</p> <p>Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park covers 24 ha and is jointly owned by the Government and the National Trust. The park has been developed as a botanic garden, with woodlands preserved in their natural state.</p> <p>The Barkers area of West Bay is an ecologically valuable coastal ecosystem with diverse features and natural beauty worthy of protection and conservation measures to ensure its sustainable use for present and future generations. For this reason it has been proposed as Cayman's first National Park. In 2011, the Barkers National Park project was taken on by the Office of the Premier and the Ministry of Tourism. Parcels of land have been purchased in the proposed park (using the EPF) for the purposes of creating the park but there has been no progress on actually designating the park. The DoE and the National Conservation Council will be turning their attention to terrestrial protected areas in the near future; hopefully some quick wins can be achieved with areas like the proposed Barkers National Park.</p>	
2	11. By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular	Under the National Conservation Law, the Cabinet may, after consultation with the Council and adjoining land owners, by order designate any area of Crown Land or Cayman waters as a protected area in accordance with the NCL. The Council recommends the establishment of protected areas based on prescribed criteria as outlined in Section 7 of the NCL. Section 8 (1) outlines the purposes and objectives of a protected area, which they must have one or more of, for example, "(a) to conserve, maintain and restore	Approve enhanced system of marine parks.  Complete management plans for each protected area.

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
	<p>importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.</p>	<p>habitats and their associated ecological systems critical to the survival and recovery of species which are endangered, threatened, endemic or migratory species or of special concern for any other reason". Additionally, any area which is not Crown land, which meets one or more of the purposes and objectives for a protected area set out in section 8 may, on the recommendation of the Council to the Cabinet, become a conservation area by agreement between the proprietor and the Cabinet. The NCL provides for Cabinet to make Regulations regarding governance of the establishment of protected areas.</p> <p>Part 5 of the NCL outlines regulations related to permits and licenses. Section 20 (2) states that the Council shall not grant a permit unless it is satisfied that certain conditions have been met, e.g. in the case of a permit authorising an activity in a protected area, the activity is compatible with any management plan for the area or that appropriate and enforceable conditions can be imposed to ensure such compatibility.</p> <p>The Marine Conservation (Marine Parks) Regulations (2007) designate marine protected areas within four categories and specify the rules that apply to each zone: Environmental Zones, Replenishment Zones, Marine Park Zones and Wildlife Interaction Zones. There are also designated grouper spawning areas, no diving zones, prohibited diving zones, and areas that come under Animal Sanctuary/Ramsar Sites.</p> <p>The Darwin Initiative project 'Enhancing an Existing System of Marine Protected Areas (2010-2013)' aimed to conduct a scientifically robust assessment of the Marine Parks System. It did this by building on a habitat mapping exercise carried out in a previous Darwin Project. This review of the marine parks system has now been completed and an enhanced system of marine parks has been developed which, if approved, will put between 40 and 50% of Cayman's shelf area under protection in 'no-take' reserves. Various stakeholder groups were consulted to acquire feedback on all three Islands for proposals for an enhanced system of Marine Parks for the Cayman Islands. The proposals for an enhanced system of marine parks went out for another round of public consultation which ended on 18th Dec 2015. The DoE amended its proposals based on public input and these amended proposals were approved by the NCC for onward transmission to Cabinet who have the final decision to approve them.</p> <p>Current protected areas planning has included an exercise facilitated by the Nature Conservancy (also involving the National Trust and DoE). This involved using habitat</p>	<p>Achieve Ramsar designation for the proposed sites.</p> <p>Designate further protected areas according to National Trust Report that was carried out and which investigated potential protected areas in the Cayman Islands.</p> <p>Create licensing directives and guidelines.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>maps and locking in land currently protected for conservation purposes. A risk layer was developed, e.g. outlining development pressure, and shown on the maps.</p> <p>Under the NCL, a management plan shall be formulated and adopted for each protected area. This is to be reviewed and revised by the Council at least once every five years. A management plan has been prepared for Booby Pond, and two other plans are in preparation.</p> <p>The National Trust has produced Management Plans for all of its reserves in consultation with the DoE.</p> <p>Under the National Conservation Law, a conservation plan shall be formulated and adopted for each protected species whose range includes the Islands. Through the National Biodiversity Action Plan, Habitat Action Plans have been produced for the following habitats:</p> <p><b>Marine:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Open sea</li> <li>-Coral reefs</li> <li>-Lagoons</li> <li>-Sea-grass beds</li> <li>-Dredged Sea-beds</li> <li>-Artificial Installations</li> </ul> <p><b>Shoreline:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Maritime Cliffs and Iron-shore</li> <li>-Sandy Beach and Cobble</li> <li>-Mangrove</li> <li>-Coastal Shrubland</li> </ul> <p><b>Terrestrial:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Salt-tolerant Succulents</li> <li>-Pools, Ponds and Mangrove Lagoons</li> <li>-Dry Shrubland</li> <li>-Forest and Woodland</li> <li>-Caves</li> <li>-Farm and Grassland</li> <li>-Urban and Man-modified Areas</li> <li>-Roads</li> </ul>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>There is one designated Ramsar Site on the Cayman Islands: Booby Pond and Rookery. This Site serves as habitat for important waterfowl and other birds. Other sites have been proposed under a review carried out for UK Government by UKOTCF, in conjunction with Cayman bodies, in 2005. These are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central Mangrove Wetland, Little Sound, Ponds and associated Marine Zones</li> <li>• Little Cayman Crown Wetlands and Marine Parks</li> <li>• Salina Reserve</li> <li>• Barker's Wetland</li> </ul> <p>Approximately 1500 acres of Central Mangrove Wetland was protected through the Marine Parks Law. The mangroves which fringe the Marine Parks Environmental Zone are protected as part of that Zone. The Marine Parks are now considered protected areas under the NCL. The Salina Reserve owned by the National Trust is also a large freshwater wetland.</p> <p>The National Trust recently completed the purchase of one of the few remaining wetlands in Cayman Brac, The Marshes, which consists of 10 acres of wetland on the south side of Cayman Brac.</p> <p>Other actions taken to conserve/protect different habitats are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A National Trust Report was carried out investigating potential protected areas in the Cayman Islands. This was thanks to a Darwin Plus grant (2013-15) won in conjunction with Anguilla National Trust to promote the creation and management of protected areas in both Territories.</li> </ul>	
2	<p><b>12.</b> By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.</p>	<p>The 'Red List of the Flora of the Cayman Islands 2006' was an assessment of the conservation status of plants and trees according to IUCN international guidelines. This ranked 46% of Cayman's native flora as threatened with local extinction. However, there are currently no legal means of protecting any of the plant species occurring in the Cayman Islands.</p> <p>Protected species are listed under Schedule 1 of the National Conservation Law. Note that these species are on the Schedule as they are either: endangered under IUCN Red List criteria, endemic to the Cayman Islands, or already subject to protection obligations under environmental treaties to which Cayman belongs. Species listed under Part 1 are those which either: already have full protection under Cayman Islands legislation (Animals Law</p>	<p>Complete conservation plans for each protected species whose range includes the Cayman Islands.</p> <p>Finish updating current Species Action Plans.</p> <p>Implement protected species orders for additional species.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>or Marine Conservation Law), or have been assessed regionally/locally as requiring full protection to enable their continued survival. Part 2 species may be hunted/collected unless regulations or conservation plans state otherwise. The NCL requires Council to develop and implement Conservation Plans for listed Species. Conservation Plans are to be reviewed every 5 years.</p> <p>Through the National Biodiversity Action Plan, Species Action Plans have been produced for the following species:</p> <p><b>Marine Species:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Whelks and Soldier Crab</li> <li>-Queen Conch</li> <li>-Spiny Lobster</li> <li>-Nassau Grouper</li> <li>-Sharks</li> <li>-Southern Stingrays</li> <li>-Marine Turtles</li> </ul> <p><b>Shoreline Species:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-<i>Turnera triglandulosa</i></li> <li>- Cocoplum</li> <li>-Broadleaf</li> <li>-Inkberry</li> <li>-Tea Banker</li> <li>-White Land Crab</li> <li>-Mosquito Fish</li> </ul> <p><b>Terrestrial Species:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Old George</li> <li>- Silver Thatch Palm</li> <li>- Century Plant / Agave</li> <li>- Banana Orchid</li> <li>- Ghost Orchid</li> <li>- <i>Pisonia margaretae</i></li> <li>- <i>Epiphyllum phyllanthus plattsii</i></li> <li>- <i>Consolea millspaughii caymanensis</i></li> <li>- <i>Banara caymanensis</i></li> <li>- <i>Dendropemon caymanensis</i></li> </ul>	<p>Update the iguana legislation so that the green iguana is no longer protected by law.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cedar</li> <li>- <i>Drypetes sp.</i></li> <li>- <i>Aegiphila caymanensis</i></li> <li>- Cayman Sage</li> <li>- Ironwood</li> <li>- <i>Verbesina caymanensis</i></li> <li>-Little Cayman Snail</li> <li>-Cayman Pygmy Blue Butterfly</li> <li>-Green Anole</li> <li>-Sister Islands Rock Iguana</li> <li>-Grand Cayman Blue Iguana</li> <li>-White-tailed Tropic bird</li> <li>-Red-footed Booby</li> <li>-Brown Booby</li> <li>-West Indian Whistling-duck</li> <li>-Cayman Parrot</li> <li>-Vitelline Warbler</li> <li>-Bats</li> </ul> <p>These species action plans have been or will be updated in the near future.</p> <p>There was an Endangered Species Protection and Propagation Law 1999. This was the local legislation which enacted CITES and it has now been replaced by the Endangered Species Trade and Transport Law (2004).</p> <p>In Nov 2014, a National Coral Nursery Policy was implemented. The Nursery Policy includes three coral species: <i>Acropora cervicornis</i>, <i>Acropora palmata</i>, and <i>Porites porites</i>. Both <i>Acropora</i> species are IUCN Red-Listed endangered species (<i>Porites porites</i> is not currently threatened). Through the Nursery Policy, six organizations have or will have coral nurseries this year, with more possible in the future. Four dive operations on Grand Cayman, one dive operation on Brac, and CCMI on Little Cayman will be raising coral to help restore/regenerate the corals.</p> <p>Other actions carried out for species protection/conservation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The Cayman Islands participated in the Millennium Seed Bank project in collaboration with Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Actions outlined under Conservation Plans for flora</li> </ul>	



Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>may include the Millennium Seed Bank project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The QEII Botanic Park continues to propagate locally threatened species including <i>Hohenbergia caymanensis</i> and <i>Pisonia margaretae</i></li> <li>-A Cayman Islands Native Tree Nursery was established at the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park in 2006 through a Darwin Initiative Project. The objective of the nursery is to establish a reliable source of native trees and shrubs for private gardeners and commercial landscapers. This will help to improve the ecological value of developed areas.</li> <li>-Turtle-friendly beach lighting guidelines have been developed.</li> <li>-Installation of coral nurseries and subsequent out-planting to natural reefs will help propagate and restore the endangered staghorn <i>Acropora cervicornis</i> and elkhorn <i>A. palmata</i> corals.</li> </ul> <p>There has been a change in status for several species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In October 2012, the IUCN status for the Cayman blue iguana was improved from Critically Endangered to Endangered, thanks to the efforts of the Blue Iguana Recovery Programme.</li> <li>- The brown bat is present in 2 sub-species. Based upon smaller size and darker colour fur, Grand Cayman brown bat is considered to be an endemic sub-species but has not yet been named.</li> <li>- A paper published in the Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club journal has proposed that the bullfinch native to Grand Cayman and Cuba, be recognized as 2 endemic species (The Cuban bullfinch on Cuba and Taylor's bullfinch <i>Melopyrrha taylori</i> on Grand Cayman).</li> </ul>	
2	<p><b>9.</b> By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.</p>	<p>Section 35 of the National Conservation Law outlines regulations regarding export/import of alien or genetically altered species. As an example, it states that any person wishing to introduce or release in any part of the Islands a live or viable specimen of an alien or genetically altered species shall apply to the Council under the NCL for a permit to do so. The Endangered Species Trade and Transport Law 2004 has also been passed but not yet implemented. This covers border control measures and between island transport of species of concern.</p> <p>The RSPB study 'Eradication of invasive alien vertebrates in the UK Overseas Territories', provided one strategic assessment to rank all of the UKOTs' islands according to the greatest biodiversity benefit resulting from technically feasible invasive vertebrate</p>	<p>Implement the Endangered Species Trade and Transport Law 2004.</p> <p>Project to investigate further the feasibility of eradicating key IAV species on Little Cayman.</p> <p>IAV control programmes for Cayman Islands where</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>eradications (IAV). Potential biodiversity gains of an invasive vertebrate eradication were calculated against a subset of native fauna: all Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable and Near Threatened terrestrial vertebrates; marine turtles; restricted-range bird species and colonial seabird species. The numbers of confirmed or suspected IAV species by taxonomic order for the Cayman Islands were: 3 Rodents, 2 Predators, 0 Ungulates, 1 Other Mammal, 8 Birds, 12 Reptiles, and 2 Amphibians. In the study, Cayman Brac was ranked 3rd, Grand Cayman 5th and Little Cayman 6th for Potential Conservation Value. For Actual Conservation Value, Little Cayman was ranked 3rd out of the top 25 islands for IAV eradication. Key IAV species on Little Cayman are the feral cat, dog, black rat, and green iguana. Note that this project does not list all current key IAV species, e.g. it does not include lionfish.</p> <p>Little Cayman is very important for biodiversity, and exploring the potential for IAV control should be a high priority, as well as ensuring new IAV do not become established. Cayman Brac is ranked 3 for PCV due to its endemic reptile population. For ACV, its ranking is low due to its large human population which rules out rat eradication. Control of feral predators could still deliver substantial conservation benefits on the Brac. Grand Cayman ranked 5 overall in terms of PCV due in part to the presence of the Endangered Cayman blue iguana <i>Cyclura lewisi</i> and four other endemic reptile species. Due to the high human population, eradication of IAV is not considered feasible on Grand Cayman. However, localised control of feral IAV predators could be highly beneficial to biodiversity.</p> <p>Green iguanas are present on all islands (although not yet well established on Cayman Brac or Little Cayman). They compete potentially with native <i>Cyclura</i> species though their impacts are not well investigated. Preventing further establishment of green iguanas on Little Cayman and Cayman Brac should be a high priority. The DoE and the NCC are currently commencing a pilot project on the removal of Green Iguanas from Grand Cayman and limiting the spread/preventing their introduction on the Sister Islands. The pilot will run from March until the end of June 2016. Part of the lead-up to the pilot has been conducting island-wide surveys to establish population estimates and population density estimates so that the removal techniques can be evaluated by post-pilot surveys.</p> <p>Red corn-snakes have established populations on Grand Cayman. Studying the impact of red corn-snake on native fauna in Grand Cayman would be widely beneficial, as little is known about their impacts in the Caribbean due to their relative recent arrival. Limiting</p>	<p>complete eradication is unfeasible, e.g. Cayman Brac and Grand Cayman.</p> <p>Further research into impact of invasive green iguanas on native biodiversity and prevent further establishment on Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.</p> <p>Research into impact of red corn-snakes on native fauna and programme to prevent further spread.</p> <p>Research into Brazilian pepper and programme to prevent further spread.</p> <p>Develop further invasive Species Action Plans based on priorities that have been identified.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>their spread within Grand Cayman and preventing their establishment on the Little Cayman and Cayman Brac should be a high priority.</p> <p>The invasive Brazilian pepper is newly established in Cayman Brac and is spreading rapidly.</p> <p>The red lionfish <i>Pterois volitans</i> is likely to cause extreme impact to reef biodiversity despite the control measures in place. In February 2008, a juvenile red lionfish was removed from a dive site in Little Cayman and, since then, many others have been removed from Grand Cayman, Little Cayman and Cayman Brac. Various lionfish control efforts have been put in place, e.g. the DoE is continuing work with the Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) to develop more effective methods of control. DoE works with several other organisations as well, including CCMI, the general public, Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation, etc. On Little Cayman, REEF's focus is on the Nassau grouper spawning aggregation. The DoE also offers monthly training courses if people are interested in being licensed for culling lionfish or learning more about the species. The red lionfish also has a Species Action Plan. On Little Cayman, the local community organizes a lionfish weekly cull through which over 4000 lionfish have been removed from the reefs. The volunteers give the catch to CCMI which dissects the fish for stomach content analyses, reproductive cycle studies, and general size and weight data collection. The lionfish are returned to the dive operators who serve it to their guests. Little Cayman also holds an annual island-wide rodeo (initiated in 2014), which involves the capturing of as many lionfish as possible.</p> <p>Invasive Coastal Plants have a Habitat Action Plan.</p> <p>The National Trust of the Cayman Islands has agreed with the Department of Agriculture to catalogue which native plant species are being affected by the Lobate Lac Scale insect and to collect specimens of infected plants for expert examination abroad.</p>	
2	15. By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through	Under the DFID-funded 'Enhancing Capacity for Adaptation to Climate Change (ECACC)' project, a Final Issues Paper was completed which formed the basis for the development of a Draft Climate Policy by the joint public/private sector Climate Change Working Group. The DoE is currently waiting on an opportunity to present the policy to Cabinet. Technical support was provided by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC). The Policy outlines interventions to be implemented over the next 5 years that are	Implement Climate Change Policy.

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
	conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.	required to address priority adverse impacts of climate change to be faced by these Islands. Additionally, the Climate Change Policy contains measures required to curb greenhouse gas emissions from activities that contribute to the problem of continued climate change.	
<p>3. Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes, promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the Territory.</p> <p>4. Ensure that environmental impact assessments are undertaken before approving major projects and while developing our growth management strategy.</p> <p>5. Commit to open and consultative</p>	<p>2. By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p>	<p>The Governor's Conservation Awards (started in 2012) include a Corporate Conservation Award and a Tourism Conservation Award.</p> <p>The DoE, working with interested members of the private sector, formed the Corporate Green Team Network in 2009. Together they started the Cayman BECOME initiative, encouraging Cayman to become more environmentally aware both corporately and individually. Cayman BECOME promotes a "green" lifestyle and partnerships with the Corporate Green Team Network (CGTN) and their many initiatives which include becoming a 'smarter consumer', 'eco-friendly', and becoming 'green'. Aluminium recycling is available in the Cayman Islands. Cayman BECOME supports this through their CGTN who have been recycling cans within their businesses. A major issue that concerns the CGTN as a group is solid waste management in the Cayman Islands. The group has decided to focus on the increasing number of single-use plastic bags in the Cayman Islands. The major supermarkets in the Cayman Islands are working with the Network to reduce this type of waste by replacing gradually single-use plastic bags with biodegradable alternatives, and at the same time supporting the Network in their campaign to encourage the community to bring their own reusable bags when they shop.</p> <p>The Port Authority has a Zero Discharge Policy for all shipping. There is a Water Quality Monitoring Programme for North Sound and George Town Harbour.</p> <p>As part of the 'Enhancing Capacity for Adaptation to Climate Change in the UK Caribbean Overseas Territories' project in October 2008, the Cayman Islands National Climate Change Committee hosted a training workshop on how to conduct a Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) for climate change issues likely to affect these Islands. Given</p>	<p>Implement the consultation requirement. Guidance notes were drafted by the DoE and approved by Council.</p> <p>Update the Development and Planning Law and the Development Plan.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
<p>decision-making on developments and plans which may affect the environment; ensure that environmental impact assessments include consultation with stakeholders.</p>		<p>that the tourism sector formed a common economic pillar in all the Overseas Territories, it was agreed that all the Territories would carry out a climate change VCA on their national tourism sector. A Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment was carried out on the Cayman Islands tourism sector. The DFID funded ECACC project resulted in the draft Climate Change Policy.</p> <p>The Government's national environmental policy will take into account the preservation and enhancement of Cayman's attractions for tourism. It will also take into account the need for sustained economic growth and the preservation and enhancement of Cayman's attractions as a financial services centre (see the first Row).</p> <p>Under Section 8 of the NCL, extensive public consultation prior to the designation of protected areas is prescribed in law.</p> <p>Prior to the adoption of a Conservation Plan for species listed under the NCL Species Schedule, public consultation and Cabinet approval is required.</p> <p>Through the Environmental Assessment process, government agencies (not individuals) are obliged to consult. The NCL requires the consultation (environmental assessment) process to take place in accordance with Regulations passed by Cabinet. A detailed EIA process flowchart has been created. This will take the form of Regulations made by Cabinet. It includes steps for the selection of EIA consultants. Consultants, although hired by the proponent, must be approved by the Environmental Assessment Board (EAB) which is appointed by the National Conservation Council. The EAB, along with the proponent and consultant, decide upon the scope of the EIA which also includes the 'no project' option. The scope must also assess the need for the proposed development, where applicable. Several EAB's have been convened for specific EIAs, e.g. the EIA for the proposed cruise berthing facility. The membership of the EAB changes to respond to the EIA being conducted but the DOE is Chair and the Department of Planning is a standing member.</p> <p>Local officers think that EIA and SEA reach best international practice. EIA Regulations are currently being drafted in anticipation of the commencement of Part 7 of the NCL.</p> <p>The Development and Planning Law was revised in 2015, along with the Development</p>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		and Planning Regulations. The Development and Planning Law implements an extremely outdated Development Plan (it dates to 1997). Neither the Plan nor the legislation has an environment/sustainability focus. Both are in urgent need of updating.	
3	3. By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.	The “incentives” harmful to biodiversity include the use of a government-subsidized bulldozer to clear land for agricultural purposes as this clearance does not always require planning permission (which would be the way in which environmental advice would be sought). However, Part 7 of the NCL requires ALL government entities and agencies to consult with the National Conservation Council before taking any action that might negatively impact the natural environment, so once this part of the law has been commenced this harm will hopefully be removed.	
3, 4, 5	4. By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe	<p>Following discussions with Cayman Islands Government and power provider Caribbean Utilities Company Ltd, a private company, OTEC International, is set to commence an EIA for a project that proposes the phased implementation of 25mW of power, produced through ocean thermal energy conversion technology. The proposed first phase is a 6.25 mW floating power platform with an anticipated operational date of 2017.</p> <p>Renewable energy components and materials remain “duty-free” as an incentive for private and commercial uptake of renewable energy technology. A National Energy Policy has been developed, one goal of which is to increase environmental sustainability. The Draft Energy Policy (2013) is being revised and a committee has recently been established to drive this forward.</p>	<p>Finish revising and adopt the draft Energy Policy (2013).</p> <p>Produce framework to monitor whether National Energy Policy is being adhered to.</p> <p>Produce EIA Regulations.</p> <p>Framework to monitor whether EIA procedures</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
	ecological limits.	<p>Under the National Conservation Law, there is an obligation on all entities to consult on environmental issues prior to approving plans or projects. This includes a mechanism for EIA, as follows:</p> <p>-Section 43 under the NCL outlines the framework regarding EIA procedures. The National Conservation Council may require an environmental impact assessment to be carried out for a proposed action. Section 43 also states that all documents relating to an environmental impact assessment shall be available for public inspection and review. Regarding EIA, the DoE would not have control over the EIA process. However, they have produced a standard recommendation document based on currently recommended EIA processes.</p> <p>There is the continued use and development of environmentally relevant GIS layers for the review of planning applications.</p> <p>The NCL promotes a more open and transparent decision making process, e.g. the National Conservation Council shall meet in a place open to the public, adopted conservation plans will be published in the Gazette, etc. The public will also be invited to contribute to policy development; e.g., before submitting a recommendation to the Cabinet to designate a protected area, the Council shall publish a notice of the proposal in at least two issues of a public newspaper in the Islands in each of two consecutive weeks, and take into account any written objection or representation. The Government's national environmental policy will also take into account the need to simplify and streamline decision-making procedures and to make them comprehensible and, whenever possible, open to the public.</p> <p>The National Conservation Council is currently monitoring the progress of the proposed cruise berthing facility. At a press briefing on 28 October 2015 to announce Cabinet moving forward with the proposed port, the Premier and Deputy Premier committed to a further analysis of the port design, in order to decrease the environmental impacts, mainly by moving the piers into deeper water. The NCC issued two related commentaries examining the performance standards and good governance mechanisms needed to measure whether or not this goal has been obtained. There has been no specific response to this by government.</p> <p>EU-funded project 'Management of Protected Areas to Support Sustainable Economies</p>	outlined under the National Conservation Law are being adhered to.

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>(MPASSE)', involved a partnership between the National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands, the Turks &amp; Caicos National Trust, the National Trust for the Cayman Islands and UKOTCF. The project included consultancy services, capital infrastructure and purchasing of equipment. However, the Trusts had difficulties with the contract rules set by the EU. Project activity goals changed over the course of the project. Expected results of the project's implementation can be categorised under five broad areas: improved ecotourism facilities, greater citizen awareness, improved conservation measures, implementation of conservation management plans and improved institutional capacity. The EU requested a Technical Assistant to manage reporting to EU, to explain EU contract rules to Territory Partners, and to assist with executing tenders and negotiations. This consultant was based in TCI but travelled between the three territories.</p>	
2, 3	<p>6. By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.</p>	<p>The implementation of Marine Parks has afforded some of Cayman's mangroves limited protection from the onslaught of development. However, the only current forms of protection offered to the mangroves themselves are the designated mangrove buffer zones, National Trust ownership and some Animal Sanctuaries.</p> <p>There are outright protections in place for some vulnerable marine species and bag limits, size limits and closed seasons for several culturally important species. The Marine Conservation Laws provide rules for the following, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Lobsters</li> <li>-Conch</li> <li>-Whelks</li> <li>-Echinoderms</li> <li>-Turtles</li> <li>-Sharks</li> <li>-Nassau Groupers</li> <li>-Other Fish</li> </ul> <p>They provide also rules for Fish Pots and Spear Guns &amp; Seine Nets, as well as General Rules.</p> <p>Stingray Legislation: in 2012, the Marine Conservation Law was amended to provide total protection for three species of elasmobranchs deemed locally important for the tourism industry; (i) southern stingray <i>Dasyatis americana</i>, (ii) manta ray <i>Manta birostris</i>, and (iii) eagle ray <i>Aetobatus narinari</i>. Note: the Marine Conservation Law (2013 revision) is repealed under the National Conservation Law.</p>	



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		<p>The Cayman SeaSense is a sustainable seafood education programme for helping restaurants and their customers make informed seafood choices that are positive for the environment. The project helps local chefs and restaurant owners reduce the number of non-sustainable food items on the menu.</p> <p>Public moorings are located around each of the islands to reduce anchor damage to coral. It is an offence to anchor so as to damage coral anywhere in Cayman waters. There have been several instances in the last few years of yachts anchoring outside of designated zones, for which action has been taken.</p> <p>A Darwin Plus project “Socio-economic aspects of turtle conservation in the Cayman Islands” had the aim of providing data on the role of the Cayman Turtle Farm in wild turtle conservation. Interviews were conducted from September 2014 to June 2015, with various stakeholder groups, in order to investigate demand, cultural and age-effects in the consumption of turtle meat and the influence that price and availability may have upon incentivising/reducing hunting of wild turtles. Price was indeed shown to be the main driver of consumer decisions, indicating that the general consumer will choose the cheapest meat regardless of its source. Farmed meat is generally preferred, although wild meat will be chosen if the distance to obtain farmed meat is too large.</p>	
3	7. By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	<p>National Aquaculture Policy 2001 is in place which promotes small-scale sustainable aquaculture for appropriate species compatible with the local environment.</p> <p>Native Tree guidelines are available at the Planning Department.</p>	
3, 4, 5	14. By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into	<p>Through the ‘Ecosystem services provided by potential protected areas in the Cayman Islands: a rapid assessment project (2014)’, the National Trust for the Cayman Islands (NTCI) in partnership with the RSPB and Anguilla National Trust held a meeting for key stakeholders in Cayman, with the aim of understanding the links between ecosystem services and human well-being in the Cayman Islands. Participants assessed the ecosystem services provided at sites that are considered to be important natural areas on the three Islands. The Toolkit for Ecosystem Service Site-based Assessment (TESSA) protocol was used to do this. The sites were ranked according to characteristics, e.g. size and condition of the site, and the presence or absence of endemic and/or threatened flora</p>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
	account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.	and fauna. Those sites with the highest rankings were shortlisted for consideration at a workshop. Twenty stakeholders attended the workshop and discussed 15 sites across the Cayman Islands. Current and future drivers of change to the sites were discussed, as well as alternative land-cover that could arise as a result of these changes over the next 10 years. Provision of ecosystem services at each site was also discussed, as was the way in which delivery of those services might change based upon the drivers of change that are expected in the future.	
6. Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Territory and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)	The NCL 2013 is stated as being “a law to give effect to the provisions of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region; to give effect to related provisions of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as waterfowl habitat, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Global Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change”. Cayman is included in UK’s ratification of these and also included in the UK’s ratification of CITES.	Designate further Ramsar Sites
7. Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.	<b>19.</b> By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.	<p>The DoE has monitoring programmes in place and widely reported. Data are used to support legislative and policy recommendations.</p> <p>The first step in the development of the National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) for the Cayman Islands, which was produced by the DoE, was the gathering together of existing information on the island’s species and habitats, towards establishing baseline information on the status of the country’s biodiversity, and determining key areas requiring action.</p> <p>The National Trust of the Cayman Islands operates the Cayman Islands only herbarium, available internationally in digital form online. It also maintains an insectarium that includes both historic and recent collections.</p> <p>Botanists have catalogued most of the wild plants of the Cayman Islands.</p> <p>A Shark and Cetacean Project funded through OTEP investigated both the status and value of sharks and rays (elasmobranchs), and of whales and dolphins (cetaceans) in</p>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>Cayman waters. A report outlining the results has been produced for the public.</p> <p>Field research (including tracking movements), captive breeding, public education, habitat protection and reintroduction is still being carried out through Blue Iguana Recovery Programme.</p> <p>Triennial censuses of parrots are carried out on both Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac by the National Trust with help of Cayman Islands Bird Club. Both populations appear to be stable for the time being.</p> <p>An extensive forest biodiversity survey and mapping project has been carried out. The last habitat mapping exercise was carried out by the DoE and based on 2006 imagery. They attempt to keep the land-cover GIS layer updated using aerial photography and it has been updated to take account of 2013 aerials.</p> <p>Scientists are looking into the satellite-tracking of annual iguana movements. This project will answer many questions regarding the females and their nesting.</p> <p>A marine turtle monitoring programme has been carried out since 1998. The DoE also monitors and manages one of the largest populations of spawning Nassau groupers remaining in the Caribbean. Queen Conch populations are also monitored.</p> <p>CCMI maintains a Coral Reef Early Warning System (CREWS) buoy in Little Cayman, one of four in the Caribbean which monitors environmental conditions which may cause wide-scale coral bleaching and issues alerts to the scientific community. CCMI also conducts field research related to biodiversity and conservation, shares its results with DoE, publishes in peer-reviewed journals, presents at scientific conferences, and disseminates its work to the general public through its outreach and education programs.</p>	
8. Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for prevention or remedies; establish	8. By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity. (Relates	<p>Under Sections 20 and 23 in the National Conservation Law, mitigation fees may be required as a condition of granting a permit for an activity, in order to account for any potential damage to natural resources from the activity and the costs to remedy that damage. This mitigation fee shall be paid into the Fund.</p> <p>An incident report entitled 'Carnival Magic Anchor Damage' was compiled by the DoE for the Ministry of Financial Services, Commerce and Environment. In August 2014, the DOE</p>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.	also to EC3&4)	was notified that the Carnival Magic cruise ship was anchored a long way south of the usual anchorage and its anchor and chain were in coral and causing significant destruction. DOE Research Officers conducted several reconnaissance dives to document, map and quantify the extent of damage to the reef. The final stated figure for the damage was 1,538 square metres. The DoE in collaboration with the local dive community, has initiated an intensive remedial damage effort. The incident report provided several recommendations including e.g. 'The Government should aim for a financial contribution of at least CI\$2,000,000 to ensure that precedent for high dollar values attributed to reefs are maintained and to send a clear message of the value the Government places on its natural resources'. The DoE's recommended amount has not been realised; in fact, to the best of local knowledge, Carnival contributed \$100,000 towards the restoration effort which was carried out by volunteers with oversight by the DoE.	
8	<b>10.</b> By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning. (Relates also to EC3)	Little Cayman has minimal anthropogenic pressures, given its population of <200 people and lack of industry. CCMI is promoting Little Cayman within the scientific community as the baseline location for comparison studies around the Caribbean, Atlantic, and Gulf of Mexico coral-reef and coastal ecosystems. The CREWS buoy monitors environmental changes (i.e. climate change) and CCMI has a new wet lab constructed specifically for ocean acidification and climate change studies.	
9. Encourage teaching within schools to promote the value of our local environment (natural and built) and to explain its role within the regional and global environment.	<b>1.</b> By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.	<p>Work funded by grants from Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund and Deutsche Offshore (Cayman) includes the development of a series of school curriculum modules surrounding the blue iguana. These will illustrate concepts of endangerment, extinction and conservation management. The production of a professional quality documentary film about the blue iguana, is also well on its way to completion.</p> <p>Government staff developed a new National Curriculum in 2008 and were keen to maximize the locally relevant content of classes taught in Cayman Schools. The National Trust has been able to build upon this information by providing teacher resources tailored to the National Curriculum e.g. "National Symbols" and "Mangroves" education packs</p>	<p>Complete school curriculum modules and documentary about blue iguana.</p> <p>Keep extending educational resources for schools- design new education packs etc.</p> <p>Implement more environmental awareness-</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
<p>10. Promote publications that spread awareness of the special features of the environment in the Territory; promote within the Territory the guiding principles set out above.</p>		<p>which, together with Department of Environment’s “Coral Reefs” resources, now make up a substantial resource set for local teachers.</p> <p>DoE and National Trust public education programmes include DoE local TV network ‘Environment Break’, school visits, targeted campaigns, social media, websites and newsletters. There is ongoing public education surrounding the red lionfish, as well as the Grouper Moon project, sharks, and stingrays.</p> <p>Strong elements of the EU-supported (and UKOTCF-facilitated) MPASSE project (Management of Protected Areas to Support Sustainable Economies) was concerned with environmental education (This is relevant also to Environment Charter Commitment 3).</p> <p>The National Trust’s Heritage Heroes Youth Conservation Club (sponsored by PwC) teaches students the importance of protecting the natural environment, history and culture of the Cayman Islands.</p> <p>The Ramsar approach to ‘Wise Use’ in the case of Little Cayman’s Booby Pond and Rookery includes facilitating visitor access at selected areas in the form of observation towers on the pond’s periphery for people to watch birds come in to roost.</p> <p>The National Trust runs a Summer Camp which includes activities to expand the camper’s knowledge of Cayman’s natural and cultural heritage. Thanks to a new collaboration with the DoE, two valuable educational components were added to the 2014 programme. Campers were taught the importance of conducting reef surveys and were given the opportunity to survey a Marine Park. The DoE also invited campers to observe and record information about a recently hatched turtle nest.</p> <p>CCMI offers 3-day Marine Ecology Courses to grades 4-12 whereby Caymanian students stay at the field station on Little Cayman and learn about the environment. CCMI also runs a week-long Caribbean Marine Ecology Camp for teens and a Young Environmental Leadership Course (Year 11) for students who may pursue careers in water-sports, tourism, or other marine- and environment-based jobs. CCMI has citizen science programs through Earthwatch whereby the general public can participate in research activities related to coral reef ecosystems.</p>	<p>raising activities for adults.</p>
<p>11. Abide by the</p>	<p>(Issues which cross</p>		

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and work towards meeting International Development Targets on the environment.	many Aichi Targets)		
Not matched specifically	<p><b>13.</b> By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.</p>		

	<p><b>16.</b> By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.</p>	<p>When incorporated in 1980, the Cayman Chemical Company aimed to demonstrate the value of naturally growing gorgonian corals as a renewable, economically viable source of prostaglandins. An agreement was signed with Cayman Government, whereby the Cayman Chemical Company would pay for harvesting a limited amount. In August 1981, an eight pound sample of the <i>Plexaura homomalla</i> gorgonian was collected near Fisherman's Cay in the North Sound of Grand Cayman Island. 30 grams of relatively pure Prostaglandin A<sub>2</sub> was extracted. The laboratory printed and sent a flier offering 5 prostaglandin standards. Cayman Chemical achieved its first sale in November of the same year. This has continued since the 1980s. Under the CBD, a sustainable approach to the use of natural resources was required, but the company realised also that it would benefit them to protect and preserve this species. The company wanted to use the fact that their product came from a sustainable resource and the fact that the Cayman Marine Protected Area is known for careful management. This takes in to account the Access and Benefit Sharing approach to Cayman's natural resources. Cayman Government have already received several harvesting payments based on the agreement and they look forward to receiving the first payments for royalties on sales in the near future.</p>	
	<p><b>18.</b> By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.</p>	<p>Under the Darwin Initiative project 'Assuring Engagement in Cayman's Enhanced Marine Protected Area System' (a post-project to the marine review) the sustainability of concessions to fishers was addressed. The enhanced MPA system provides fishing at MPA boundaries opposite community boat-ramps, minimising fishers' fuel costs. Fish overspill from MPAs must be monitored and adaptive management introduced if fishers are to benefit long-term.</p> <p>Under the National Conservation Law, the Council "may upon written application by any Caymanian grant a licence to him exempting him from any of the provisions of Part 4 of this Law to meet traditional or cultural needs". This is only if the Council is satisfied that certain conditions have been met e.g. "the activity will not have an adverse effect on the maintenance of a protected area or on any ecological process". The Government's national environmental policy will also take into account the culture and traditions of the Cayman Islands.</p>	<p>Monitor fish overspill from MPAs.</p>

## Appendix Part 6. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: Bermuda

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
<p>1. Bring together government departments, representatives of local industry and commerce, environment and heritage organisations, the Governor's office, individual environmental champions and other community representatives in a forum to formulate a detailed strategy for action.</p>	<p>17. By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan. (Relates also to EC5)</p>	<p>Bermuda's Department of Conservation Services was created in 2002. Its mandate includes the research, education, advocacy and restoration of threatened habitats and species. At present, it is under the Ministry of Health, Seniors and the Environment. Department responsibilities include the management of: Bermuda Government's field ecology programmes; the Bermuda Aquarium, Museum and Zoo (BAMZ); nature reserves; and maritime cultural heritage (shipwrecks). The Department works in collaboration, using Government, NGO and volunteer resources. The Ecology Section has 14 technical officers and 3 employees in admin/accounts, and the Bermuda Aquarium, Museum and Zoo has 30. BAMZ is supported by both the Bermuda Zoological Society and the Atlantic Conservation Partnership, both of which provide fundraising, volunteer support, and environmental education/visitor outreach programmes.</p> <p>A Bermuda Strategy and Biodiversity Action Plan was developed in 2003 in consultation with around 150 stakeholders. The plan is in need of an update and new stakeholders, particularly environmental NGOs formed since it was written, need to be included. It is up to the stakeholders identified in the plan to take the actions forward and to report the results, which has made tracking implementation difficult. The support system that was in place when the plan was written (funding, manpower, political support etc.) has eroded over the years.</p> <p>Other policy instruments have been adopted, including a national Sustainable Development Plan, a plan for the use of marine resources and the land use planning statement.</p> <p>Organisations such as the Bermuda Audubon Society and Bermuda National Trust have focused on the acquisition, restoration and management of critical habitats, most notably wetlands, as well as conservation advocacy. In addition, the Bermuda National Trust delivers a curriculum linked education programme for students and teachers focusing on local species and conservation. The Bermuda Zoological Society has focused on promoting environmental education and community participation <i>in in-situ</i> research and conservation activities. All work closely with the Bermuda Government's conservation</p>	<p>Update Bermuda Strategy and Biodiversity Action Plan 2003. Provide framework for monitoring implementation of the plan.</p>



Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
1.	<p><b>20.</b> By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.</p>	<p>efforts.</p>	
<p>2. Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas policy, and attempt</p>	<p><b>5.</b> By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced. (Relates also to EC4)</p>	<p>Habitats: The National Parks Act and the Critical Habitat clause in the Protected Species Act are the key legislation protecting terrestrial habitats. At present, Bermuda has no marine parks under the Parks Act, but this is set to happen in an upcoming revision. Many terrestrial nature reserves are held by the Bermuda Audubon Society, Bermuda National Trust and the Walsingham Trust (Walsingham Nature Reserve). Both Government and the NGOs mentioned above undertake active restoration of habitats in their nature reserves – this usually involves culling invasive plants and replanting natives and endemics. One habitat restoration example is Nonsuch Island. This 14 acre island has been the focus of a government led restoration effort that has spanned 50 years during which the flora and fauna have been returned to a pre-colonial state. Nonsuch Island is part of the Castle Harbour Islands Nature Reserve.</p> <p>Since about 2010 or 2011, the Department of Conservation Services has had a full-time officer reviewing development applications that involve land with a conservation zoning</p>	<p>Grant marine parks protection under the National Parks Act.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
the control and eradication of invasive species.		<p>under the Bermuda Plan 2008 (e.g. woodland reserve zoning, coastal reserve, agricultural land etc.).</p> <p>Marine Habitats: marine protected areas are designated under the Fisheries Act. These include permanent no-fishing areas around popular dive sites (the Fisheries Protected Areas Order), and seasonal closed areas where the groupers gather the spawn. The Coral Reef Preserves Act 1966 protects two large areas of reef. In response to some conflict between fishermen and SCUBA divers, Friends of Fish petitioned Government to establish a set of Protected Dive Sites in 2000 – 29 of these have been set up.</p> <p>There is a possibility of a Marine Spatial Plan being produced which extends around the Island to the 200m depth contour. This is believed to be on hold at the moment.</p>	
2	<p>11. By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.</p>	<p>Buy Back Bermuda is a community-wide fundraising campaign to purchase and save open space in Bermuda. It is the result of a focused partnership between two like-minded conservation charities; the Bermuda National Trust and the Bermuda Audubon Society, which together set a mission to save precious remaining land by reclaiming special areas for the benefit of the people of Bermuda and her flora and fauna.</p> <p>Since the beginning of the campaign, a total of \$4.2 million has been raised and 14 acres have been saved. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Somerset Long Bay Nature Reserve, 3.8 acres (2007)</li> <li>-Vesey Nature Reserve, Southampton, 6.44 acres(2007)</li> <li>-Eve's Pond, Hamilton Parish, 3.36 acres (2012)</li> </ul> <p>The Campaign raises funds for acquisition and conservation management, including public amenities and interpretation at sites. The Campaign continues to negotiate acquisitions.</p> <p>Acquisitions of open space by the Bermuda National Trust include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Dennis Sherwin Nature Reserve, 3.66 acres in Warwick in 2007</li> <li>-Lighthouse Hill Nature Reserve, 5.18 acres in Southampton in 2008</li> <li>-Elm Lodge, 6 acres in Warwick in 2008</li> <li>-Lot 3 Woodstock, .7 acres in Paget in 2010</li> <li>-Buck Island, 4 acres in Southampton in 2008</li> <li>-The Rebecca Middleton Nature Reserve, .9 acres in Paget in 2012</li> </ul>	<p>Designate other Ramsar sites. (The RIS was completed for the Castle Harbour Islands site in August of 2015. Designation is not going ahead at this time for several reasons, but it will be easy to pick this up in the future, as the proposal is done.)</p> <p>Carry out further research into the possibility of creating a large marine reserve in offshore waters around Bermuda.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>-Lot 5 Woodstock, .9 acres in Paget in 2012</p> <p>All of the Bermuda National Trust properties (277 acres in total) have undergone conservation management to varying degrees, with emphasis on the removal of invasive plant species and plantings of native and endemic plants.</p> <p>Bermuda Conservation Services carried out work on the Cooper's Island Nature Reserve restoration programme. Cooper's Island is a 77 acre (31 hectare) island located in the northeast of Castle Harbour. Most of the Island is preserved as the Cooper's Island Nature Reserve, which has been under active restoration since 2009. The first phase of the restoration was completed around 2013. This involved the removal of 4 large buildings and numerous military bunkers from the site, partial removal of the roadway, culling thousands of invasive plants and the planting of native and endemic species.</p> <p>Southampton Island and Nonsuch Island are designated Critical Habitat and are closed to all public access, except with special permission.</p> <p>Paget Marsh is one of many nature reserves owned jointly by the Bermuda Audubon Society (BAS) and the Bermuda National Trust (BNT). The nature reserves owned by the BNT and BAS are listed on the websites of these organisations. The Walsingham Nature Reserve is owned by a private trust, which is why it is not on any of the lists.</p> <p>The following are Bermuda's Government-owned Nature Reserves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Abbot's Cliff Nature Reserve</li> <li>-Castle Harbour Island &amp; Islets Nature Reserve</li> <li>-Cooper's Island Nature Reserve</li> <li>-Daniel's Island Nature Reserve</li> <li>-Evan's Pond Nature Reserve</li> <li>-Godet's Island Nature Reserve</li> <li>-Godet's Rock Nature Reserve</li> <li>-Hungry Bay Nature Reserve</li> <li>-Lover's Lake Nature Reserve</li> <li>-Pembroke Marsh Nature Reserve</li> <li>-Shelly Bay Nature Reserve</li> <li>-Spittal Pond Nature Reserve</li> </ul>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>-Summerhaven Nature Reserve -Winterhaven Nature Reserve</p> <p>The Parks Act is under revision, which will create some new Nature Reserves. The most complete list of protected areas is in the 2011 Biodiversity Snapshot Appendices for Bermuda on JNCC's website. This list is a little out of date as new reserves are being set up all the time. There are also 75 Government-owned amenity parks, 10 recreational parks, and the following 10 marine parks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Astwood Park</li> <li>-Castle Island</li> <li>-Church Bay</li> <li>-Cooper's Island</li> <li>-Daniel's Island</li> <li>-John Smith's Bay</li> <li>-Shelly Bay</li> <li>-Somerset Long Bay</li> <li>-South Shore</li> <li>-Spittal Pond</li> </ul> <p>In terms of Government held Marine Protected Areas, the Biodiversity Snapshot appendices note also that the taking of any marine organism at any time is prohibited in 29 areas. The Fisheries (Protected Areas) Order 2000 states that those "areas are declared to be protected areas for the purposes of section 4 of the Fisheries Act 1972".</p> <p>The Biodiversity Snapshot appendices list also the Bermuda National Trust Reserves, the Bermuda Audubon Society Reserves and the Reserves jointly owned by BNT and BAS.</p> <p>Bermuda has the following Ramsar Sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Hungry Bay Mangrove Swamp (Area: 2.01 ha, designated 1999)</li> <li>-Lover's Lake Nature Reserve (Area: 2.10 ha, designated 10/05/1999)</li> <li>-Paget Marsh (Area: 11.35, designated 10/05/1999)</li> <li>-Pembroke Marsh East (Area: 7.82 designated:10/05/1999)</li> <li>-Somerset Long Bay Pond (Area: 1.10, designated: 10/05/1999)</li> <li>-Spittal Pond (Area: 9.53, designated: 10/05/1999)</li> <li>-Warwick Pond (Area: 2.30, designated;10/05/1999)</li> </ul>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>Following a review carried out by UKOTCF in 2005 for the UK Government and the Territories and in consultation with local organisations, the following sites were proposed for designation as Ramsar sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Devonshire Marsh East and West Basins, Bermuda (Area: 30.14 ha).</li> <li>-Trott's Pond and Mangrove Lake, Bermuda (ca 16ha)</li> <li>-Walsingham Formation – Karst and Caves, Bermuda</li> <li>-Harrington Sound and Notch, Bermuda (Area: 488 ha)</li> <li>-Reef areas, Bermuda</li> <li>-Castle Harbour Islands and reef, Bermuda (Area: 374ha).</li> </ul> <p>The site protection framework has strong areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Bermuda National Parks Act 1986 allows for the establishment, designation and maintenance of national parks as well as regulations of activities within the parks.</li> <li>• The Bermuda National Trust Act 1969 – The Bermuda National Trust established a network of protected sites.</li> <li>• The Protected Species Act allows critical terrestrial/marine habitat required for the protection of species to be designated a protected area. There are also similar provisions under the Protection of Birds Act (For more information regarding these two acts, see the row below).</li> <li>• The Bermuda Plan 2008 designates land with a 'nature reserve' zoning under the Planning Act. This is a powerful tool, but does cause some confusion as it can apply to areas of private property, and places that are not actual nature reserves (e.g. all mangrove areas were given a nature reserve zoning).</li> </ul> <p>The consultation document, 'Bermuda's Exclusive Economic Zone and it's Future (2013)', sought residents' views on the possibility of creating a large marine reserve in offshore waters around Bermuda. This document outlined the threats to the Sargasso Sea, e.g. the impacts of fishing and over-fishing. It was produced by the Ministry of Environment and Planning. There is also a follow-up report which outlines the outcome of the public consultation.</p> <p>The consultation resulted in significant participation from the public who expressed material support for establishing a marine reserve as well as strong support for more information that explored and evaluated the economic potential of various proposals. Interests stretched from "protect and preserve" as much of the asset as practical to "fully</p>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>explore” the commercial value of the resources within the EEZ.</p> <p>Currently the four major options available for Bermuda’s consideration on the EEZs future are: (i) establish a large no-take MR in about 80% of the EEZ; (ii) pursue an offshore commercial fishery; (iii) explore the seabed for precious minerals; and (iv) extract precious minerals from the sea-bed. However, there are no sound economic profiles available for any of these options and thus the evidence base for future decision on any of them does not exist. A comprehensive economic analysis of each should be the next step and the outcome of that work should form the basis of the second phase of stakeholder consultation.</p> <p>For international areas beyond the EEZ, see row 6.</p>	
2	<p>12. By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.</p>	<p>Endangered Species: The key protection for species is the 2003 Protected Species Act, which includes protection for endangered species and their habitats. Recovery or Management Plans need to be prepared for species listed under this Act, and a number of these have been done since 2007. The last update to this Act was in 2016 which included a review of the species list.</p> <p>Protection of species is done also through the Fisheries Act (various gear restrictions and bag limits, the Fisheries Protected Species Order, and seasonal protection of grouper spawning grounds) and the Protection of Birds Act. The Endangered Animals and Plants Act is the CITES implementation legislation.</p> <p>Activities carried out for species protection and conservation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is a long-term Cahow Recovery Programme for the Critically Endangered cahow (Bermuda petrel). This is taking a long time and much work remains but is one of the great conservation success stories, the species having been thought to be extinct for over 300 years until the discovery of a tiny number of pairs in the late 1940s.</li> <li>-The Department of Conservation Services is now working out a survival plan for an endemic land snail <i>Poecilozonites bermudensis</i> which was recently rediscovered in Hamilton. This is mainly focused on captive breeding in partnership with the Zoological Society of London, and future translocation to suitable sites which have been identified. The Zoological Society of London has established an <i>ex-situ</i> breeding colony of nearly 200 individuals. The species has received legislative protection under the Bermuda Protected Species Act. IUCN Red Listing is being considered for both <i>P. circumfirmatus</i></li> </ul>	<p>Prepare, complete and implement recovery/management plans for species listed under the 2003 Protected Species Act and for other species that require one.</p> <p>Continue identifying species in peril.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>and <i>P. bermudensis</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Alison Copeland is growing 7 species of ferns in Bermuda, as called for in the fern recovery plan.</li> <li>- There is a recovery project for the endemic Governor Laffan's Fern <i>Diplazium laffanianum</i> – This commenced in 2003, with a remaining population of only three ferns. The project is a partnership between the Henry Doorly Zoo in Nebraska, USA, and the Department of Conservation Services, Bermuda. The three main elements of the project are: (1) spore propagation; (2) pot culture; (3) reintroduction, with the long-term goals including the establishment of self-sustaining populations in the wild, the maintenance of individuals in pot culture, and making the species available to the public. So far, two collections of juvenile ferns have been established in Bermuda, potential reintroduction habitat has been mapped, environmental monitoring of reintroduction sites has been carried out, public awareness activities have been carried out, and the species has been listed on the IUCN Red List. In November 2014, the first individuals were reintroduced into the wild. Initial survivorship was low, but a few did survive, and much was learnt about where not to plant them. Alison Copeland did additional plantings in the winter of 2015 and again in Feb 2016. The species is protected under the Bermuda Protected Species Act 2003.</li> </ul> <p>There are recovery and management plans which have been published for the following, as well as two that are in final draft versions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Management Plan for Bermuda's Critically Endangered Cave Fauna</li> <li>- Management Plan for Bermuda's resident green and hawksbill sea turtles. They are resident for many years during the juvenile phase of the life cycle but then migrate to natal regions to complete sexual development (never to return to Bermuda). However, in the summer of 2015, Bermuda recorded a nest of green turtles, the first record in some 100 years.</li> <li>- Diamondback Terrapin Recovery Plan</li> <li>- Killifish Recovery Plan</li> <li>- <i>Poecilozonites circumfirmatus</i> Recovery Plan</li> <li>- Fern Recovery Plan</li> <li>- Skink Recovery Plan</li> <li>- Flowering Plants Recovery Plan</li> <li>- Queen Conch Recovery Plan</li> <li>- Cahow Recovery Plan</li> <li>- Yellow Wood Recovery Plan (draft)</li> </ul>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>- Seahorse Recovery Plan (draft)</p> <p>The legislative framework for species protection is robust. This includes the following legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Protected Species Act 2003 provides for the protection and recovery of threatened species. The species most relevant to this policy are all sea-grass species, fish, molluscs and marine mammals. There has since been a Protected Species Order 2012 and 2016. The Protected Species Act gives the power to make orders declaring any species of plant or animal to be a protected species, based on the IUCN Red List classifications. It provides also for review of classifications.</li> <li>• Protection of Birds Act 1975.</li> <li>• Endangered Animals and Plants Act 2006</li> <li>• Fisheries Act 1972.</li> </ul> <p>The Department of Conservation Services provides enforcement of the Protected Species Act 2003 and the Protection of Birds Act 1975.</p> <p><i>Ex-situ</i> / off-island populations of a number of threatened endemic species have been established to guard against catastrophes (e.g. ferns, skinks, snails, fish). The Millennium Seed Bank also visited the island in 2007, so they have some endemic species stored. This project has been relatively inactive for a number of years, but could be picked up.</p> <p>Bermuda is actively Red-Listing 9 of its endemic plants with colleagues at RBG Kew.</p>	
2	<p>9. By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.</p>	<p>Invasive species: There is no legislation to deal with IAS once they have made it on to the island.</p> <p>Approximately 95 percent of Bermuda's flora has been introduced; much of it now naturalised. Many of the plants, such as <i>Ficus</i> and <i>Schinus</i> are invasive and a threat to native flora. Others, such as the naturalised casuarinas, do enormous damage to the limestone coastline as they are easily uprooted in storms, eroding the rocks in the process. There are also a number of feral animal populations causing considerable problems. As a couple of examples, an estimated 10,000 feral cats are actively fed by the Feline Association. Feral chickens are also numbered in their thousands, and feral pigeons are a growing problem. Night-herons and kiskadees are two species of naturalised birds and there are also two species of naturalised amphibians. There are also four introduced species of <i>Anolis</i> lizards, and two naturalised <i>Hemidactylus</i> geckos.</p>	<p>Legislation to deal with IAS once on Bermuda.</p> <p>Species action plans for invasive species that have been identified as an issue.</p> <p>Complete and publish management plans for pigeons and crows.</p> <p>Research the impact of the introduction of red-eared</p>



Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>There are various on-going invasive species management programmes (see also above rows):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invasive bird control for feral pigeons, chickens and crows. Management plans for chickens (2013) have been published, whereas plans for the pigeon and crow exist in draft form only.</li> <li>• Trapping of red-eared sliders.</li> <li>• Culling of lionfish. As the numbers of lionfish are growing, a new campaign has been set up which uses lionfish as a food fish. Note that this is more of a recreational fishery rather than a commercial one. The campaign licenses people to spear lionfish for their own use, and there is presently a pilot programme in which a limited number of recreational lionfish cullers have been permitted to sell their catch to restaurants and food-markets. The fish vendors have been selling lionfish as they get it from the cullers; typically as a 'special of the day'. In February 2013, Samia Sarkis facilitated a workshop in Anguilla to develop a lionfish response strategy. The Bermuda Zoological Society was also awarded a Darwin Plus Grant for a Bermuda Invasive Lionfish Control Initiative. The final report of the BZS project was submitted to Darwin recently. It will be made public once it has been approved.</li> <li>• The Anguilla workshop was for the Caribbean UKOTs, not Bermuda. However, Bermuda has a strategy that was developed on-island. There are many different lionfish projects going on, mostly NGO-led. Ocean Support Foundation, Groundswell and Bermuda Ocean Explorers are NGOs that were established recently to work on lionfish research and public outreach. Also the Bermuda Lionfish Taskforce was established which includes government and local NGO representatives.</li> <li>• The Vector Control section of the Department of Environmental Health undertakes control of mosquitoes and rats.</li> <li>• The Department of Conservation Services controls rats in critical habitats, such as the cahow nesting islands.</li> <li>• Invasive plants are continuously removed from Nature Reserves by the Terrestrial Conservation Crew, within the Department of Conservation Services.</li> <li>• NGOs that hold land (namely the Bermuda National Trust, Audubon Society and Bermuda Zoological Society) as well as Government, all hold volunteer days with corporate groups to cull invasive plants in nature reserves and replant endemic/native species. These days are becoming a really popular way for companies to do some corporate responsibility projects and get some good press, and it gets a lot of work</li> </ul>	<p>sliders on other pond species.</p>

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2	<p><b>15.</b> By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.</p>	<p>done in a short time, so in many ways it is a good trend.</p> <p>An OTEP grant was awarded for a sea-grass project in Bermuda. This mainly focuses around “Blue Carbon” and the role of seagrasses as a carbon sink, demonstrated by comparing damaged seagrass meadows with healthy ones.</p>	
<p>3. Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes, promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the Territory.</p> <p>4. Ensure that environmental impact assessments are undertaken before approving major</p>	<p><b>2.</b> By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p>	<p>The Marine and Ports Authority (Prohibited Areas for Mooring) Notice 1993 prohibits the placement of moorings in locations around Bermuda’s inshore waters, but this is not really directed at conservation issues.</p> <p>A ‘Bermuda Marine Enhancement Structure Policy: Position Statement and Evaluation Guidelines’ document was produced in February 2014. Its purpose is to guide the evaluation of marine habitat enhancement structure proposals, so that any such structure will enhance marine resources and recreational uses of Bermuda’s platform and surrounding seamounts, without adversely affecting natural resources or impeding other beneficial uses. This policy is relevant to all seamounts within the 200nm limit of Bermuda’s EEZ. The socio-economic and environmental costs are considered for proposals for marine habitat enhancement structures. Examples of the costs considered are: the primary objectives of the proposal including the target species for the habitat enhancement structure, site survey of proposed site including ecological communities and processes, biodiversity and threatened species and an environmental management plan that addresses environmental risk assessment, stakeholder needs, deployment and potential for decommissioning.</p>	<p>Improve EIA and SEA legislation to international best practice.</p> <p>Require Special Development Orders to require public notice/ allow appeals.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
<p>projects and while developing our growth management strategy.</p> <p>5. Commit to open and consultative decision-making on developments and plans which may affect the environment; ensure that environmental impact assessments include consultation with stakeholders.</p>		<p>Environmental legislation in Bermuda allows the use of private acts to foster conservation of privately held land “in trust” for use by future Bermudians. The main examples of this form of legislative tool are the Walsingham Trust Act, the Bermuda Audubon Society Act, the Heydon Trust Act, and the Bermuda National Trust Act. Other than the Bermuda Government, the Bermuda National Trust is the largest owner of land and open spaces on the island. This demonstrates the success of this conservation mechanism. Between them, the Bermuda Government, the Bermuda National Trust and the Bermuda Audubon Society are the principal nature reserve owners on the island.</p> <p>The Development and Planning Act 1974 allows development plans to be produced which can designate areas for protection. The Act sets out a development control system which requires development proponents to submit an application which is publicly notified and assessed against particular criteria. The Development and Planning Act provides that periodic (every decade or so) Development Plans, created after public consultation, should set out the policies and regulations that guide the decisions of the Development Applications Board.</p> <p>There is no specific requirement to conduct Environmental Impact Assessment. SEA regulations are also lacking. EIA summaries also have to be submitted with applications for establishing marine habitat enhancement structures. There is an obligation to conduct EIAs for development proposals that are “major” or “likely to have significant adverse effect on the environment”. The Bermuda Ombudsman and the Bermuda Supreme Court have confirmed that Bermuda has an international treaty obligation through the Environment Charters to require EIA for major development projects. Furthermore, EIA is now general international law. Domestic legislation (such as the 2008 Bermuda Plan) must therefore be consistent with these two sources of international legal obligations to require EIA. Significant changes were made following challenges to the Tucker’s Point Special Development Order. It is at this point that it was confirmed that the Bermuda Environment Charter was a bilateral agreement creating an international legal obligation on the part of Bermuda. As well as the Bermuda Plan 2008, a City of Hamilton Plan 2001 was produced through a consultative process. Note that the 2008 Bermuda Plan is the national plan, and that the City of Hamilton is treated separately. The main purpose of the Bermuda Plan is to provide for the land-use and development requirements of the Island in a way that makes the most effective use of its resources, protects its natural and built environment, and provides a good quality of life for the Island’s residents. The 2001 City Plan is</p>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>currently being updated – they are at the public consultation phase at present.</p> <p>Bermuda Government recently requested an EIA to assess three possible channel upgrade options that would provide for the newest Quantum class of cruise-ship. While the EIA process did not include a ‘not possible’ option, it did provide a valuable framework for engaging the community, analysing and determining the least impact option, and developing a structured method for managing impacts and instituting possible mitigation strategies. The general consensus was mostly secured for realigning Bermuda’s North Channel. Thanks to the determination of key stakeholders to obtain the least impact solution, the overall scale of the project was reduced further. Note that, whilst improvements to Bermuda’s navigational channels technically do not fall within the remit of the Department of Planning and the Development and Planning Act , and did not require planning permission or an EIA, it was deemed best practice to undertake an EIA. The EIA process and framework followed were the same used and recommended for other major projects which require planning permission/EIAs.</p> <p>Special Development Orders also have no EIA requirement and substitute the Minister’s discretion for compliance with Bermuda Plan. Note that the Minister referred to here is the Minister responsible for the Department of Planning. At present, this is the Minister of Home Affairs.</p> <p>In 2011-12, the Bermuda Environmental Sustainability Taskforce (BEST) objected to a proposed building on Devonshire Marsh by Island Construction. The application was originally rejected by the Planning Department but was approved on appeal by the then Environment Minister. The Government said his decision on the appeals was void because the Environment Minister had already left the Environment and Planning portfolio before his Parliamentary colleagues had been notified. At a later date, the newly appointed Minister of the Environment, Planning and Infrastructure Strategy, said he would review the planning files, and make a decision on the appeals.</p> <p>There is a significant degree of political accountability. One weak area is the fact that Special Development Orders do not require public notice/ allow appeals (other than judicial).</p> <p>Staff from the Department of Conservation Services provide consultations on planning</p>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		matters regarding the marine and terrestrial environment, marine heritage, and arable land.	
3	3. By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.	<p>Objective F of the Bermuda BSAP deals with incentives. To date, these have been less aimed at biodiversity, and more at the green energy sector e.g. import duty relief for solar panels.</p> <p>There are incentives in the form of awards and recognition for biodiversity conservation. The Bermuda National Trust hosts annual awards to recognise individuals, companies and student groups. The Eco-schools initiative, led by Greenrock, has recently taken off on the island. Schools work toward earning a green flag in their chosen area of specialisation, and at present two schools are doing biodiversity.</p>	In the Bermuda Strategy and Biodiversity Action Plan, provide more incentives aimed at biodiversity; identify and remove any harmful ones.
3, 4, 5	4. By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.	<p>Threats that Bermuda's natural environment faces are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bermuda has an important limestone cave system. Over the years, the caves have been used as rubbish dumps or destroyed by quarrying and urban development. The remaining caves hold a high proportion of Bermuda's endemic species, but they are still at the risk of pollution and collapse from the proximity of quarrying and construction activity.</li> </ul> <p>Quarrying is not as active on the island as it once was. The Bermuda Plan 2008 designates Cave Protection Areas in parts of the island that have geology that means there are likely to be caves present. Planning review of development in these areas is quite stringent. A significant area of the Walsingham cave complex is protected in the Walsingham Nature Reserve, Blue Hole Hill Park and the BNT's Idwal Hughes Nature Reserve – these three reserves form a contiguous area of protected land. 23 species of endemic cave organisms are listed on the Protected Species Act.</p>	<p>Regulations need to be written for the Pesticide Safety Act 2009.</p> <p>Threat of golf courses to water lenses below the surface needs to be assessed.</p> <p>Disaster risk assessment carried out and disaster management framework implemented to address</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bermuda's natural coastline is under threat from development, e.g. through docks and marinas for water-craft. The greatest threat to beaches comes from the erosion caused by tropical storms and storm-surge. Rural Bermuda is characterised by small-scale market gardening in isolated fields which are being increasingly damaged by further urban development. A large area of Bermuda is covered by golf courses which pose a potential threat to water-lenses below the surface. There is also a threat of pollution by fertilisers and pesticides used on the courses.</li> </ul> <p>An audit of arable land is underway. This will give a clearer idea of what land is currently in production. The agricultural reserve zoning in the Bermuda Plan protects arable land and forbids the removal of top soil in these areas. The allowed uses of land zoned as arable are quite strict. The Pesticide Safety Act was passed in 2009, but regulations have not been written under it yet – this does need to be moved forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bermuda claims the northernmost mangrove stands in the Atlantic. However, these are fairly limited and are threatened by sea-level rise and increased hurricane activity. Both red and black mangrove species were added to the Protected Species Act in 2012.</li> <li>The marshes are under threat from illegal dumping and industrial development. Waste disposal is an issue in Bermuda.</li> </ul> <p>Waste is less of an issue than it was in the past – there are still issues, but not related to the marshes. Waste is incinerated now and the former landfill site at Pembroke Marsh is used for composting horticultural waste.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cruise ships cause silt to move as they arrive and depart the dock. Ship traffic in Bermuda's harbours has an impact by causing the re-suspension of sediment. The increasing industrialisation of Bermuda's harbours has resulted in significant decreases in the quality of the environment.</li> </ul> <p>This will continue to be an issue. It is related to container ships bringing goods to the island, as well as cruise ships. There are several water quality monitoring projects ongoing on the island, with sites in the main harbours. Cruise ships are now largely confined to the Dockyard, as they are too big to get into the harbours in Hamilton and St. George. The proposed channel widening will obviously change the sediment regime.</p> <p>Sustainability and sustainable consumption are ideas that have become more widely acknowledged in the last 5 years. Government now has a Sustainable Development Unit within the Cabinet Office and there is an NGO, Greenrock, which is very active in promoting sustainable lifestyles (e.g. reduction in water, electricity use, reducing plastic waste etc.).</p>	<p>erosion caused through tropical storms and storm surges.</p> <p>Implement a Waste Management Strategy/Action Plan</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
2, 3	<p><b>6.</b> By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.</p>	<p>The Coral Reef Preserves Act 1966 prohibits the taking or damaging any organism attached to the seabed within the area.</p> <p>The Fisheries Act 1972 provides for the control and regulation of Bermuda's marine resources. The Act provides for the creation of the Marine Resources Board and Commercial Fisheries Council. These boards are very active, the MRB in particular.</p> <p>There are Bermuda Fisheries Regulations 2010.</p> <p>The Fisheries Protected Areas Order 2000 protects 32 sites. It prohibits the taking of fish or the use of any anchor other than a Danforth (sand) anchor. It further recognizes the importance of 2 areas and prohibits the taking of fish in these particular areas between 1 May and 31 August each year.</p> <p>The Fisheries (Protected Species) Order 1978 protects a range of fish from being taken anywhere within the exclusive economic zones, in particular turtles, corals, parrotfish, and species of conch, clams and rockfish.</p> <p>In 1990, Bermuda banned the use of fish pots through the 1990 Fish Pot Ban 'TAKE 2'. This followed a major public campaign led by local NGO Friends of Fish.</p> <p>Bermuda is an active member of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and other regional fisheries agreements.</p> <p>Marine plants (2 species of mangroves, 4 species of seagrass) are protected under the Protected Species Act.</p>	<p>Expand lionfish food campaign and Bermuda Invasive Lionfish Control Initiative (see above).</p>
3	<p><b>7.</b> By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.</p>	<p>The only aquaculture programmes on the island are a small-scale, licensed project at Sandys Middle School and a research project on sea cucumber.</p> <p>The 1930 Agriculture Act states that 'There shall be established a Department of Government which shall be charged with the duty of assisting the Minister in the discharge of his responsibilities under this Act and any other enactment which relates to matters concerning the protection of the environment which shall be known as the Department of Environmental Protection.'</p>	<p>Include considerations of the environment in agricultural and/or forestry policy/legislation in more detail.</p>
3, 4, 5	<p><b>14.</b> By 2020,</p>		

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
	ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.		
6. Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Territory and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)	<p>On 11 March 2014, Governments from across the world travelled to Bermuda to sign the Hamilton Declaration on the Collaboration for the Conservation of the Sargasso Sea. The March Meeting was spearheaded by the Government of Bermuda, which leads the Sargasso Sea Alliance. It is a non-binding political statement that indicates signatories' interest in voluntarily collaborating on efforts to conserve the Sargasso Sea. The Signatories agree to hold a regular Meeting of Signatories and endorse the establishment of a Sargasso Sea Commission. A Sargasso Sea Commission has been established with the goals of promoting international recognition of the unique ecological and biological nature and global significance of the Sargasso Sea; encouraging scientific research to expand existing knowledge of the Sargasso Sea ecosystem in order to further assess its health, productivity and resilience; and developing proposals for submission to existing regional, sectoral and international organisations to promote the objectives of the Hamilton Declaration.</p> <p>The Sargasso Sea Alliance (SSA) was founded in 2010. It is led by the Government of Bermuda and aims to find protection measures for this open ocean ecosystem through the bodies which already have regulatory authority for areas beyond national jurisdiction. These bodies include the International Seabed Authority, International Maritime Organization, the regional fisheries bodies and the Convention on Migratory Species.</p> <p>Proponents of the Blue Halo Initiative suggested that Bermuda designate 95% of its EEZ</p>	<p>Undertake public consultation with a view to potential joining of UK's ratification of CBD.</p> <p>Finish revising the Endangered Animal and Plants Act 2006.</p>



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		<p>as no-take. However, there were no defined management objectives for the area. The project also fell off course for various reasons, including failing to establish clearly and manage the scope of work to be carried out by the overseas consultants that the Bermuda Government brought in for the coordination of stakeholder consultations. The case for support outlined the value of the environment but not the threats. Nor were targets or objectives identified. The Blue Halo initiative has therefore effectively been halted. Various lessons have been learnt from this including the fact that successful initiatives have looked to address an identified problem based on a sound scientific foundation, and a failed process can have negative impacts on subsequent initiatives in the long-term. The environmental community must meet the same standards of evidence-based planning that they require others to demonstrate through the EIA process.</p> <p>Bermuda is in the process of becoming a signatory of IAC (the Inter-American Convention for the Conservation and Protection of Sea Turtles).</p> <p>Bermuda is included in the UK's ratification to the Convention on Migratory Species, and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (see above). Bermuda had the MOU on sharks extended to it in June 2012.</p> <p>It is included also in CITES, enacted locally by the Endangered Animal and Plants Act 2006. This is currently being revised to more effectively meet obligations.</p> <p>-Samia Sarkis from the Bermuda Conservation Department was a representative at the Convention on Biological Diversity Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) Sixteenth Meeting, held in Montreal in 2012, and the COP in India in 2012.</p> <p>St George's is a UNESCO World Heritage Site on cultural grounds.</p>	
7. Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.	19. By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its	A Bermuda Benthic Habitat Mapping, Monitoring and Assessment Programme (BMMAP) was initiated in 2006 by the Department of Conservation Services. The primary goal of the programme is to obtain data that allow the recognition of, and possible identification of causal association of, any ongoing changes in the benthic environment. Approximately 170 sites across the Bermuda Platform will be surveyed each summer for 3 years and then, in year 6, sites from year 1 will be re-surveyed. Initial surveys were conducted in 2006, 2007 and 2008 and then the sites were resurveyed in 2012, 2013 and 2014. The	Carry out further baseline data studies at a wider level than individual/a few species or individual sites (e.g. ecosystem level such as the benthic habitat mapping project).

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
	<p>loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.</p>	<p>results from the initial surveys have been published.</p> <p>The project would allow also the relative suitability of Bermuda's coastal areas for marinas, in terms of benthic composition and diversity, to be determined. Objectives include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Test data collected by the Department of Conservation Services' BMMAP for its suitability to determine a range and pattern of environmental sensitivity values for the marine environment along Bermuda's shores.</li> <li>-Consider whether such values might be applied when assessing areas for foreshore development, such as marinas. Note that this was secondary to setting up the BMMAP – the primary objective of BMMAP was to establish a baseline of benthic habitats and then monitor for changes.</li> </ul> <p>Sea-grass monitoring studies are being carried out. This involves a quarterly programme at 17 permanent sites. A study was carried out also with a focus on the damaging effects that old chain moorings could have on sea-grass growth. The sea-grass monitoring programme is still ongoing and the results reported in various reports and published papers.</p> <p>Following the natural re-colonisation of Southampton Island by the Cahow (after assisted re-colonisation of Nonsuch Island), future plans for the newly established colony include monitoring and attempts to catch and band the adult cahows nesting there. New artificial nest-burrows were also installed close to the existing nest-sites.</p> <p>A lot of ground work has been done in this area during the past decade, especially for endemic and native species (e.g. skink, killifishes, diamondback terrapin, sea turtles, land snails, marine snails, cahow, tropic-bird). Gathering baseline data is usually included in protected species recovery plans – however this is narrowly focused on one or just a few species. (e.g. mapping of endemic plants has been ongoing since 2013). Gathering of baseline data, like species lists, is called for also in some of the nature reserve management plans – but again, narrowly focused on one site.</p> <p>Bermuda is in the process of making the biodiversity database of the Natural History Museum publically accessible through an online web portal. Biodiversity data are stored in the Natural History Museum and library in the form of physical specimens, multimedia, and</p>	

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		<p>publications. Note that the biggest baseline terrestrial dataset was compiled by the Bermuda Biodiversity Project in the late 1990s. For the marine environment, both the BREAM project (Bermuda Zoological Society) and the BBMAP (Dept. of Conservation Services) have extensive datasets.</p> <p>A study to estimate the total economic value of Bermuda's coral reefs was carried out in 2010 (Sarkis et al., 2010). This used a method developed by the Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM) of the Vrije University, Amsterdam.</p> <p>Many more scientific publications are available that serve to demonstrate the work that has been carried out here.</p> <p>Sliders are being used as a bio-indicator (and as a study proxy for other species) for wetland pollution. Research has shown that some pollutants are being accumulated and induce developmental malformations in liver and gonads.</p>	
8. Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for prevention or remedies; establish effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.	8. By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity. (Relates also to EC3&4)	<p>The Water Resource Act 1975 prohibits the interference or pollution of any public freshwater or seawater body, with penalties of up to \$10,000 for infractions.</p> <p>The Marine and Ports Authority (Berthing &amp; Anchoring) Regulations 1967 prohibit the depositing or throwing of any ballast, rubbish or filthy water into waters of the harbour or near to the foreshore and the building of any wharf, pier, jetty or other structure below the high water mark of the harbours of Bermuda without permission of the Authority.</p> <p>After some well-publicised incidents of grease balls on the South Shore beaches in summer 2014, the procedures for dealing with grease from restaurants and other businesses in the City have been reviewed. The roles and responsibilities with national government and city government are being ironed out. The Department of Health now has a rigorous beach monitoring programme (they had one before, but it has been strengthened).</p> <p>There was a mock oil spill exercise in 2013 which was very useful for flagging areas where training and resources were needed.</p>	
8	10. By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral		

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	reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning. (Relates also to EC3)		
<p>9. Encourage teaching within schools to promote the value of our local environment (natural and built) and to explain its role within the regional and global environment.</p> <p>10. Promote publications that spread awareness of the special features of the environment in the Territory; promote within the Territory the guiding principles set out above.</p>	<p>1. By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.</p>	<p>A natural history camp run by the Bermuda Audubon Society and the Bermuda Zoological Society is held annually on Nonsuch Island, aimed at 15-18 year olds. The curriculum is intense and focuses on habitats and their species (e.g. field trips to Walsingham Caves, north rock reefs, Harrington Sound, Hungry Bay mangroves). This is the only residential camp at present, but BZS will be starting a new one in 2016 on Trunk Island for 14-15 year olds.</p> <p>Additionally, the BZS (Zoological Society) has various camps for different age groups based at the Aquarium from June to the end of August – these camps have been running for more than 30 years. BZS has also a scholarship for environmental science.</p> <p>The Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute also runs environmentally themed holiday camps. It has an education programme, museum and hosts environmental lectures and presentations.</p> <p>Keep Bermuda Beautiful also has an education programme which includes talks/activities for adults.</p> <p>The international programme of the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), Eco-schools, has the aim of empowering students to be the change needed by our sustainable world, through engaging them in fun, action-oriented learning. Greenrock is the FEE representative in Bermuda, therefore offering local schools the opportunity to become Eco-schools. Each school follows a seven-step change process and empowers their students to lead processes and actions where they can.</p> <p>There are at least 9 environmental NGOs on the island that offer education opportunities</p>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>to school groups, as well as various government departments. NGO offerings include field trips for school groups to sites around the island, support materials for teachers to use in the classroom, lessons based at sites such as the Aquarium or National Trust properties led by NGO-based educators and other special activities. Notably, the Bermuda Sloop Foundation offers students opportunities to go to sea aboard the <i>Spirit of Bermuda</i>.</p> <p>The Bermuda National Trust delivers a curriculum-linked education programme to all schools in Bermuda for teachers and students focused on science concepts and ways to care for our environment. In 2015, teacher resources were published and made available online for all, including five specific to nature reserves. Each resource guide is linked to the Cambridge Curriculum and provides an overview of ecosystems and biodiversity and a host of activities for teachers and children.</p> <p>The Annual Bermuda National Trust Children’s Nature Walk at Spittal Pond continues to inspire and educate young children and adults alike and the Annual Earth Day Video Competition engages older children, through technology, to be the voices of tomorrow for the environment.</p> <p>The Bermuda National Trust hosts also a series of talks annually, targeting adults. In addition, environmental holiday camps are offered in half-term breaks, spring and summer.</p> <p>Despite the lack of capacity, the Bermuda Audubon Society offers varied educational programmes. This includes outreach to students via an annual natural history camp, guided field-trips, school talks, teacher workshops, art competitions and bird nest-box construction. Members and the general public can participate in lectures, field-trips, and introductory bird-watching courses. There are opportunities also to volunteer on the Society’s 16 nature reserves and join in citizen-science programmes. There is also an annual bird-watching camp on Paget Island, educational resources on the website, and working parties on nature reserves.</p> <p>Citizen science is encouraged through eBird which records the bird observations of participants, in addition to annual birding events, e.g. Christmas Bird Count. Due to challenges, e.g. no paid staff and the reliance on volunteers, the key to sustaining the Society has been partnerships, e.g. the annual student Natural History course is run jointly</p>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>with the Bermuda Zoological Society, sponsored by local business.</p> <p>Bird identification cards have been produced in collaboration with Birds Caribbean. Sets will be provided free to schools and additional retail sales should generate income. DVD bird documentaries have been produced in collaboration with local and international film crews, sponsored by local business. Corporate volunteer days are held, e.g. on nature reserves.</p> <p>The Audubon Society uses also free promotional opportunities, e.g. commemorative postage stamps for the Society's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, press releases, interviews on local TV and radio, and special newspaper features. It produces also regular newsletters and has a Facebook page.</p> <p>It should also be noted that the BZS offers a Natural History Course aimed at adults and the Seniors Learning Centre at the Bermuda College is actively teaching biodiversity topics.</p> <p>Bermuda Reef Application (or App) is a guide to the marine habitats and species of Bermuda's reefs.</p> <p>See also row 2/9 for NGOs involving corporate bodies and others in conservation activities.</p>	
11. Abide by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and work towards meeting International Development Targets on the environment.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)		

Not matched specifically	<p><b>13.</b> By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.</p>	<p>Population-level genetics work has focused mostly on endangered species of animals and plants. There are efforts underway to ensure that genetic diversity is maintained in cultivated populations of threatened plants.</p>	
	<p><b>16.</b> By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.</p>		

	<p><b>18.</b> By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.</p>		
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## Appendix Part 7. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: Ascension

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand in 2016	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
<p>1. Bring together government departments, representatives of local industry and commerce, environment and heritage organisations, the Governor's office, individual environmental champions and other community representatives in a forum to formulate a detailed strategy for action.</p>	<p><b>17.</b> By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan. (Relates also to EC5)</p>	<p>The Ascension Island Government (AIG) Conservation Department has the role of implementing the Commitments of the Environment Charter. The aims are integrated into the Biodiversity Action Plan (as well as Aichi targets), so that is the main guiding document for the environment. This can be viewed here: <a href="http://www.ascension-island.gov.ac/government/conservation/projects/bap/">www.ascension-island.gov.ac/government/conservation/projects/bap/</a></p> <p>There are 12 people in total working in the AIG Conservation Department. These includes: 7 AIG core-funded (plus a youth trainee) and 4 externally-funded (Darwin Initiative etc.). In addition, there are 4 graduate interns for 6 months of the year (turtle season).</p> <p>In 2004-5, UKOTCF took advantage of several visits to Ascension while en route to St Helena to facilitate the latter's development of a strategy for implementation of the Environment Charter, to help Ascension develop a strategy by adding material to the planning documents that Ascension had in hand. Ascension adopted the resulting document to guide its work in this area. Whilst governance re-arrangements between UK Government and Ascension interrupted this process, this earlier work is again being used to help develop Ascension's approach through the BAP.</p> <p>Ascension Island has a completed Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). This sets out AIG's programme for the conservation of biodiversity within the Territory and is managed locally through a Microsoft Access database application. This means that actions can be continuously updated, archived and synchronised across multiple species, habitat and ecosystem action plans.</p> <p>The Ascension Heritage Society is a voluntary organisation that relies on public donations and small profits from the sale of pamphlets. In May 2015, the Island Museum was reopened with displays showcasing the natural and historic features of Ascension for the local community and tourists.</p>	
<p><b>1.</b></p>	<p><b>20.</b> By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for</p>	<p>The Conservation Department has support from AIG and project funding from overseas organisations such as RSPB, OTEP, JNCC and the Darwin Initiative. As an example, the Darwin Initiative Project 'Implementing a Darwin Initiative Biodiversity Action Plan for</p>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand in 2016	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.	Ascension Island (2012-2015)' received £299,480.00.	
2. Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas policy, and attempt the control and eradication of	5. By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced. (Relates also to EC4)	<p>Ascension's anchialine pools have Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) under the BAP. This entire habitat is contained within the Mars Bay Nature Reserve. The National Protected Areas Regulations 2014 specifically prohibit the removal of any animal or plant from the pools and prohibit anyone to enter into the pools without license.</p> <p>HAP produced for the shallow marine sub-littoral habitat. Inshore fishing for demersal fish species and lobster constitutes the only immediate threat to the shallow marine environment but is not currently regarded as severe. Climate-change also presents a longer term but unpredictable threat. Ascension Island's shallow marine environment apparently remains in a favourable condition, with no documented species introductions, little pollution and generally light (although currently unregulated) fishing pressure.</p> <p>Ecosystem Action Plan produced for Ascension's Montane Mist Region. Various different IUCN habitat classifications exist in this area; Subtropical/tropical moist montane forest, sub-tropical/tropical moist shrubland, rocky areas, and introduced vegetation. The region is located on the summit slopes of Green Mountain. Although vegetation of the area was</p>	<p>Research into the potential impacts of climate change upon the habitats and biodiversity of Ascension Island.</p> <p>Research into the invertebrates of Ascension's Montane Mist region.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand in 2016	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
invasive species.		originally treeless and dominated by bryophytes and ferns including several endemic species, these native habitats have mostly been replaced by introduced trees, shrubs and grasses. The area remains the centre of botanical diversity on Ascension Island. It supports 6 out of 7 known endemic vascular plant species, and the native fauna consists completely of invertebrates. These remain little known, although at least one endemic species of moth has been described and others could still be discovered. The most immediate threat to this area is invasive alien species. Climate change is an unpredictable but potentially significant threat in the long-term (BAP on AIGCD website).	
2	<p><b>11.</b> By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.</p>	<p>The Green Mountain National Park Project resulted in Green Mountain National Park being opened as the first National Park on the island in June 2005. More recently, the National Protected Areas Order 2014, created seven new protected areas so as to conserve Ascension's wild and plant life, including the Island's endemic species. The six new Nature Reserves and one new Sanctuary, in addition to Green Mountain National Park, mean that 20% of Ascension's land is protected by measures for mitigating threats to vulnerable species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Mountain National Park</li> <li>• Long beach Nature Reserve</li> <li>• Pan Am Beach Nature Reserve</li> <li>• North East Bay Nature Reserve</li> <li>• Letterbox Nature Reserve</li> <li>• BBI Bird Sanctuary</li> <li>• Wideawake Fairs Nature Reserve</li> </ul> <p>Green Mountain National Park has a Management Plan which is currently being revised. Management plans for the new Nature Reserves/ Sanctuary are also currently in development.</p> <p>Ascension Island has approximately 0.45 km<sup>2</sup> of sandy, sublittoral habitat adjacent to major sea turtle nesting beaches included in nature reserves designated under the National Protected Areas Order 2014 and National Protected Areas Regulations 2014. In January 2016, the forthcoming creation of a marine reserve around Ascension Island was announced. The reserve is 234,291km<sup>2</sup> and is the result of negotiations between the Ascension Island Government, Blue Marine Foundation and the UK Government, with a</p>	<p>Complete revision of Green Mountain National Park management plan. Complete management plans for new nature reserves/sanctuary.</p> <p>Determine the boundaries of the Ascension Island marine reserve and declare the reserve by the end of 2017 (or when sufficient robust scientific evidence is available to make an informed decision).</p> <p>Designate MPA(s).</p> <p>Designate a Ramsar Site on Ascension Island.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand in 2016	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		<p>grant of £300,000 provided from the Bacon Foundation. The grant will go towards closing an area of 52.6% of Ascension's waters to fishing, for monitoring and enforcing the closed area, for policing a tuna-fishery according to best international standards in the remaining 47.4% of waters, and for carrying out scientific research to scope the final boundaries of the marine reserve. This could be declared as early as 2017.</p> <p>See also row 2,3 / 6.</p> <p>No Ramsar Sites have been designated on Ascension Island although one was proposed in the 2005 review conducted by UKOTCF at the request of UK Government and UKOTs, and undertaken in consultation with Ascension conservation personnel. Due to the relatively undisturbed state of much of the island and its surrounding waters, it is possible to include within one Ramsar site (which effectively includes much of Ascension, despite its arid state) a continuum of the wetland interests. This site includes an important range of globally under-represented wetland types including oceanic island cloud forest, coastal features with endemic invertebrates and turtle nesting areas, inshore waters with endemic fish, and breeding colonies of seabirds feeding over wide oceanic areas.</p>	
2	<p><b>12.</b> By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.</p>	<p>(See also rows above.)</p> <p>The Wildlife Protection Ordinance 2013 prohibits the damaging, killing or possession of protected species without license. The Endangered Species (Ascension) Control Ordinance 1967 was highlighted as inadequate and was updated. It has recently been enacted and is fully CITES compliant as reviewed by the CITES Secretariat.</p> <p>'An Ecosystem Approach to Plant Conservation on Ascension Island' project 2011-2013, was set up to study the ecology of, and restore, Ascension's original plant communities to how they would have been prior to human introduction in experimental plots. The endemic and native plant communities planted at each of these project sites will develop and produce viable seed over time, therefore hopefully becoming self-contained and acting as a living seed bank.</p> <p>Action plans have been developed for many species (SAPs) through the BAP. These</p>	<p>Resolve issues identified through Species Action Plans e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Research to determine whether hybridisation occurring in Ascension Spurge <i>Euphorbia organoides</i></li> <li>- More research into reproductive ecology of <i>Ptisana purpurascens</i></li> <li>-Resolve taxonomic status of</li> </ul>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand in 2016	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		<p>include: Plant SAPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ascension Parsley Fern <i>Anogramma ascensioni</i>: This species was rediscovered in 2009. <i>In vitro</i> propagation protocols have been developed at Royal Botanic Gardens Kew with good germination success, sporophyte production and survival rates. A living collection has been established and a stock of spores from individuals is held in cryopreservation at the Conservation Biotechnology Unit. Cultivated plants have been repatriated from Kew to Ascension and some of these have been successfully introduced into wild populations.</li> <li>• <i>Asplenium ascensionis</i>: Relatively little work has been conducted on this species. It is the most abundant of the endemic species on Green Mountain and, as populations are fairly persistent and seem relatively stable, it is currently regarded as the lowest priority.</li> <li>• Ascension Spurge <i>Euphorbia organoides</i>: Further research is needed to determine whether hybridisation is occurring. Management for this species is reasonably well advanced, e.g. propagation protocols are well established and significant numbers of individuals have been cultivated successfully from seed and restored into fenced, semi-natural restoration sites. Preventing spread of invasive shrubs and trees is critical to long-term survival of the species. Grazing by introduced mammals and invertebrate pests must also be contained.</li> <li>• <i>Ptisana purpurascens</i>: Previously classified as <i>Marattia purpurascens</i>. The reproductive ecology is poorly known. <i>Ex-situ</i> attempts to grow this species from spore have failed unless <i>in vitro</i> techniques with sugars have been used, which could suggest that the species requires or benefits from a symbiotic fungal partner. Substantial patch of the original habitat of <i>P. purpurascens</i> still exists and may yet be salvaged.</li> <li>• <i>Pteris adscensionis</i>: Potentially a form of <i>P. dentata</i>, further work is needed to resolve taxonomic status. Substantial progress has been made towards securing the future of this species, e.g. propagation protocols are well developed and large numbers of cultivated plants have been re-introduced to various restoration areas.</li> <li>• <i>Sporobolus caespitosus</i>: Significant steps have already been taken in safeguarding this species from extinction. It has been grown in cultivation since 2004 and</li> </ul>	<p><i>Pteris adscensionis</i></p> <p>-Planting new trees to replace ageing specimens and increase the area of epiphytic habitat for <i>Stenogrammitis ascensionensis</i></p> <p>- Gather baseline data on abundance and distribution of land crabs and develop robust population monitoring protocols and improve ecological understanding of</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand in 2016	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		<p>propagation protocols are now well developed. An <i>ex situ</i> population is maintained in the Green Mountain Nursery and a seed-bank has been established as a conservation failsafe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Stenogrammitis ascensionensis</i>: Previously known as <i>Xiphopteris ascensionensis</i>. Man-modified cloud forest at the summit of Green Mountain now harbours the vast majority of the world population of <i>S. ascensionensis</i> and is likely to be critical to the long-term survival of the species. Planting new trees to replace ageing specimens and increase the area of epiphytic habitat for <i>S. ascensionensis</i> should therefore be regarded as a long-term management priority and may benefit other native species.</li> </ul> <p>Seabird SAPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ascension Island frigate-bird <i>Fregata aquila</i>: Major threat to this species is overfishing of tuna. There are various secondary threats including invasive alien species. The most pressing management issue facing Ascension frigate-birds is probably preventing over-fishing and preserving foraging associations between tuna and seabirds. Regular monitoring of frigate-bird fledging success should be continued as a means of detecting long-term changes in food availability and productivity. Maintaining the conditions for the continuing expansion of the mainland nesting colony is of critical importance.</li> <li>• Sooty Tern <i>Onychoprion fuscatus</i>: Major threats to this species are overfishing of tuna and invasive alien species. Experimental study of the impacts of rats on sooty tern breeding success is urgently needed to define the scale of the problem and implement an appropriate response. Excluding Mexican thorn and other woody invasives from traditional sooty tern nesting areas, may help to further limit rodent populations, and should be implemented regardless in order to preserve open nesting habitat. Regular monitoring of the diet and fledging success of nesting terns is needed also to detect long-term changes in food availability, and may provide a valuable indicator of the status of the Territory's marine ecosystem.</li> <li>• Masked booby <i>Sula dactylatra</i>: The major threat to this species is the overfishing of tuna. Additional threats include invasive alien species, wind turbine collision and habitat alteration as a result of climate-change.</li> </ul> <p>-Invertebrate SAPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Crab <i>Johngarthia lagostoma</i>: The almost complete lack of information on the</li> </ul>	<p>this species.</p> <p>-Reassess status of the giant pseudoscorpion and composition of the invertebrate community of BBI. Collect baseline abundance data.</p> <p>-Prevent introduction of non-native predators to BBI.</p> <p>-Prevent over-fishing and preserve foraging associations between tuna and seabirds.</p> <p>-Continue regular monitoring of frigate-bird fledging success.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand in 2016	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		<p>threats currently facing land crabs and on the status of the population means it is virtually impossible to prescribe management measures or to assess the need for action. Gathering baseline data on abundance and distribution, developing robust population monitoring protocols and improving ecological understanding are therefore key management objectives for this species. AIG's Operation Land Crab project has begun to collect some fundamental data on spawning behaviour and growth rates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Giant Pseudoscorpion <i>Garypus titanius</i>: Almost complete lack of information on the threats currently facing giant pseudoscorpions and on the status of the population. A reassessment of the status and composition of the invertebrate community of Boatswain Bird Island and the collection of baseline abundance data is therefore needed as a first step in developing more focussed objectives. Preventing the introduction of non-native predators to the giant pseudoscorpion's remaining refuge of Boatswain Bird Island will be critical to the long term survival of the species.</li> </ul> <p>Sea Turtle SAPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Turtle <i>Chelonia mydas</i>: Principle threats are climate change and fisheries by-catch (particularly in coastal feeding areas). Listed under Appendix I of CITES and Appendix I of the Convention on Migratory Species. Provisions for implementing CITES locally are contained within the Endangered Species (Ascension) Control Ordinance 1967. Green turtles and their nesting habitat are already well-protected locally and the major threats to the population that remain are largely beyond local control. Nevertheless, there may be steps that can be taken locally to improve population resilience, e.g. the rapidly increasing rat population on the Island is the most immediate concern and if left unmanaged may significantly depress green turtle productivity as a result of predation on hatchlings.</li> </ul> <p>Other actions taken to research/protect/conservate species include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bryophyte and invertebrate surveys were carried out. A bryophyte herbarium is being assembled. This collection will be digitised and used to create a field guide.</li> <li>• Endemic Plants Project: <i>Ex-situ</i> collections of all species of endemic plants, along with improved <i>in-situ</i> conservation activities help to ensure their survival. An Ascension Endemic Plant Management Plan was created, seed-bank collections improved and the current IUCN Red List status of the endemic species updated. Wild populations are regularly visited to clear invasive species and carry out an annual plant census.</li> </ul>	<p>-Maintain the conditions for the continuing expansion of the mainland frigate-bird nesting colony.</p> <p>-Research into the impacts of rats on sooty tern breeding success</p> <p>-Exclude Mexican thorn and other woody invasives from traditional sooty tern nesting areas</p> <p>-Carry out regular monitoring of the diet and fledging success of nesting terns</p> <p>Digitise the bryophyte herbarium and create a field guide. (The field guide is currently with the publishers – will be printed in the next few months.)</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand in 2016	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9-month project aiming to strengthen a population of the endemic fern <i>Ptisana purpurascens</i>.</li> <li>Ascension seabird restoration project</li> </ul> <p>One newly described invertebrate endemic to Ascension is <i>Erechthias grayi</i>, a short-winged, flightless moth.</p>	
2	<p>9. By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.</p>	<p>(See also preceding rows.)</p> <p>All habitats have been subject to encroachment by introduced species to a considerable extent. Introduced vegetation is a large problem in some areas, while rats, rabbits, feral sheep and donkeys have had devastating effects on both the native flora and fauna. Feral cats were successfully eradicated between 2001 and 2006.</p> <p>The Green Mountain National Park Project removed invasive vegetation from many of the historical paths and tunnels, as well as associated buildings and structures around the Mountain, although continual effort is required to maintain trails and built heritage.</p> <p>Through the RSPB South Atlantic Invasive Species Project, a review of the legislation related to invasive species, was carried out. A South Atlantic Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan, based on discussions held at a regional working meeting on Ascension was commissioned. A botanical survey carried out in 2008 provided a clearer image of the condition of the island's flora. This was carried out by botanists Phil Lambdon and Andrew Darlow who were affiliated with RBG, Kew at the time. They were also assisted by local AIGCD botanists. Resources were then invested into protecting remaining native species. All known examples of the bullgrass <i>Juncus capillaceus</i> and wild mango <i>Schinus terebinthifolium</i> have now been removed. A current DPLUS038 project 'Mapping Ascension Island's Terrestrial Ecosystem' is looking to make a habitat map. This is led by AIGCD with Kew Gardens, Environment Systems Ltd. and SAERI.</p> <p>Aspects of reviewing invasive species issues have been covered through the BAP. Action plans have assessed threats to particular species, e.g. the most serious invasive plant competitors for <i>P. adscensionis</i> include grasses such as <i>Melinis minutiflora</i> and <i>Sporobolus africanus</i>, which form continuous ground cover and thus remove potential germination sites. Broadleaved weeds such as <i>Alpinia zerumbet</i>, <i>Psidium guajava</i>, <i>Lantana camara</i>, <i>Juniperus bermudiana</i> and <i>Spermacoce verticillata</i> are responsible for</p>	<p>Complete habitat map (will be done end of March 2016).</p> <p>Action plans for house mice, sheep, myna birds, donkeys and rabbits (note that it is unlikely that any of these species will become a priority in the near future). The number one priorities are rats and Mexican thorn. Although aspects of invasive species have been covered in the BAP already as noted in the column on the left.</p> <p>Robust biosecurity measures to be implemented following commissioned review (to be completed April 2016).</p> <p>Continue and expand prickly pear and Mexican thorn control.</p> <p>Continue programme of chemical control of rats. Carry out further research into the impacts of rats on</p>



Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand in 2016	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		<p>in-filling large areas of suitable habitat, and <i>Clidemia hirta</i>, <i>Rubus rosifolius</i> and <i>Begonia hirtella</i> are also a significant threat. There may be some competition with <i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i> and <i>A. raddianum</i> at higher altitudes. Another major threat is from introduced grazing animals, particularly rabbits and sheep. Another example is that eggs and young chicks of frigate birds may potentially be at risk from rats, particularly as rat numbers appear to be increasingly rapidly following the eradication of feral cats.</p> <p>The 'Ecosystem Approach to Plant Conservation' project on Ascension Island also monitored the effect of the presence of invertebrates and the effects of grazing in unfenced areas on experimental plant plots located in sites across the island. This project also identified the threat of introduced scale insects (including mealybug) to some of Ascension's endemic and native plants.</p> <p>RSPB study 'Eradication of invasive alien vertebrates in the UK Overseas Territories', provided a strategic assessment to rank all of the UKOTs' islands according to the greatest biodiversity benefit resulting from technically feasible invasive vertebrate eradications. The study listed key invasive alien vertebrate species for Ascension as being: the black rat, house mouse, rabbit, sheep, common myna bird, and donkey. Ascension was ranked 20 for Actual Conservation Value. It was suggested that the eradication of rodents, rabbits and sheep could enable further seabird re-colonisation of Ascension as well as having substantial benefits for plants and invertebrates. Continuing the robust biosecurity measures to prevent the reestablishment of feral cats on Ascension was also noted as being a high priority.</p> <p>Various actions have been carried out to try and control invasive species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A moth <i>Cactoblastis cactorum</i> was introduced as a way of controlling prickly pear expansion and is believed to be having success in halting its spread.</li> <li>• SAP developed for the Mexican thorn - a complete eradication is generally considered to be unfeasible. Instead the favoured control option is site-based management to remove manually thorn trees from key conservation areas, combined with biological control to effect a long-term reduction in fecundity and rates of spread at broader scales.</li> <li>• SAP for black rat - the eradication of feral cats appears to have released rodents from predation, resulting in a significant increase in rat abundance and a substantial increase in body size (and presumably longevity) around coastal seabird nesting</li> </ul>	<p>native species and the feasibility and benefits of control.</p> <p>Continue implementing strict control of cats and dogs.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand in 2016	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		<p>colonies, particularly those of the sooty tern. The rapid spread of Mexican thorn across much of the coastal lowlands has greatly expanded the area of suitable habitat. Tackling resurgent rodent populations in the wake of the feral cat eradication is emerging as one of the most pressing management issues on Ascension Island. An extensive programme of chemical control is already underway, and further research into the impacts of rats on native species and the feasibility and benefits of control is therefore urgently needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seabird Restoration Project was undertaken successfully to address the detrimental effects of cats upon seabird populations. This involved the eradication of feral cats (while effort continues to be placed into controlling rats as noted). The Restoration project has resulted in several species of seabird (including one endemic) previously reduced to offshore stacks, starting to re-establish on the mainland of Ascension.</li> <li>• Strict control of cats and dogs in place. The AIG Conservation Department manages a database of domestic cats on the Island, all of which must be neutered and microchipped. All female dogs must also be spayed before being imported.</li> </ul> <p>Ascension hosted a JNCC-led workshop in August 2015 - Biosecurity in the South Atlantic OTs. This resulted in the commissioning of a biosecurity review (Simon O'Connor of Biofume) for Ascension Island, which is currently underway.</p>	
2	<p><b>15.</b> By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to</p>		

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand in 2016	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	combating desertification.		
<p>3. Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes, promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the Territory.</p> <p>4. Ensure that environmental impact assessments are undertaken before approving major projects and while developing our growth management strategy.</p> <p>5. Commit to open and consultative decision-making on developments and plans which may affect the environment; ensure that environmental impact</p>	<p>2. By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p>	<p>Sustainable waste management systems are being developed and implemented. These will be complimented by adherence to ISO 14001 standards.</p> <p>Section 41 of the 'Waste Management' Section of the MOD Corporate Environmental Protection Manual, states that in addition to the Waste Shipments Regulation and the Transfrontier Shipment of Wastes Regulations, the UK has a statutory document entitled the UK Plan for Shipments of Waste. The Plan sets out Government policy on shipments of waste for disposal to and from the UK and covers the UK Overseas Territories including Ascension Island.</p> <p>AIG is looking to encourage a low level of high-end eco-tourism through its Tourism and Conservation Department. Tours include guided walks of Green Mountain, visits to the Wideawake Fairs and Turtle Tours. There are also many opportunities to get involved as a volunteer with the Conservation Department when visiting. The Ascension Island Council is also developing co-operative agreements with St. Helena and the Falklands on the development of eco-tourism.</p> <p>Ascension has a Mineral Specimens Permit application form under CAP A6 Customs Ordinance.</p> <p>Ascension Holdings Limited (AHL) has, over the past two years, been actively lobbying both the St Helena Government and the UK Government via the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Parliament requesting that all necessary legislation be put in place with the minimum of delay. It has been agreed in principle that there will be a Tender process for Seafloor Massive Sulphide (SMS) exploration on the sea-bed around the South Atlantic Islands of Ascension, St Helena and Tristan da Cunha. Active seafloor hydrothermal fluid vents support unique and very fragile ecosystems. The potential for conflict between conservation and development might be minimised/avoided by focussing upon efforts to develop SMS deposits associated with inactive or dormant hydrothermal vents. However, technologies are not well developed for exploring inactive vent SMS deposits. AHL has initiated research with the University of Bristol to identify, test and develop innovative technological solutions. The situation has probably been changed by the decision to designate the marine protected area around Ascension.</p>	<p>Developing and implementing EIA legislation and policy is a priority for 2016-17.</p> <p>Complete development and implementation of sustainable waste management systems</p> <p>Research into preventing seabird mortality from wind turbines.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand in 2016	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
assessments include consultation with stakeholders.		<p>BBC previously transmitted its World Service from Ascension into Africa using electricity provided by a diesel power station. They commissioned AEA Technology to investigate renewable power options at the site. Following the recommendation by AEA Technology for a wind/diesel hybrid scheme, a detailed feasibility study was carried out including EIA. Five turbines on 36 m towers were constructed close to the transmission site. The site now delivers clean renewable energy and significantly reduces the carbon footprint associated with transmission into Africa. Annual carbon emissions have been cut by approximately 3,500 tonnes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unfortunately, the turbines have become a small but consistent source of seabird mortality (30-40 annually).</li> </ul> <p>The Ascension Island Council is an elected body that guides decision-making and new legislation subject to public consultation. There is a lack of Development Control Framework and no EIA or SEA guidelines in place. In certain limited circumstances, provisions of the National Protected Areas Ordinance might be used, e.g. the Governor may order restrictions on development, deposit or discharge of wastes or harmful matter in any area he/she considers would have a direct/indirect harmful effect on the natural ecology of a protected area or living organism.</p>	
3	<p><b>3.</b> By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the</p>		

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand in 2016	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.		
3, 4, 5	4. By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.	The practice of mining beach sand has been subject to an unofficial moratorium since the mid-1990s, although permission to remove small volumes of sand has still occasionally been granted. An EIA commissioned in 2004 suggested that 78% of green turtle nesting beaches were showing some evidence of erosion and recommended that no further sand extraction should be permitted.	Prevent further extraction of sand.
2, 3	6. By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened	Several management plans and consultancy reports relating to Ascension Island's inshore fishery have been produced previously, although, until the establishment of a dedicated Fisheries Department and Marine Science Unit in 2014, a lack of resources within Government had limited progress. Note that these Departments have been merged to an all-encompassing Conservation and Fisheries Department (2016). Key recommendations from these reports include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the establishment and enforcement of a formal licensing regime to monitor and regulate inshore fishing activity;</li> <li>• improved data collection on catch rates and biomass/abundance of target species;</li> <li>• greater awareness raising and engagement within the local fishing community.</li> </ul> One high-priority proposed action included under the HAP for shallow marine sub-littoral habitat is to develop an implementation plan for reforming Ascension Island's fishing policies and marine protection legislation. Data to support allocation of a marine protected area is being collected as part of the current Darwin Initiative-funded 'Ascension Island	Develop an implementation plan for reforming Ascension Island's fishing policies and marine protection legislation. <p>Implement key recommendations from consultancy reports relating to Ascension Island's inshore fishery which are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•the establishment and enforcement of a formal licensing regime to monitor and regulate inshore fishing</li> </ul>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand in 2016	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.	<p>Marine Sustainability' project, which is being led by the AIG Conservation Department, with expert input from overseas partners. The purpose of this project is to increase the marine biodiversity knowledge and fisheries science capacity of Ascension.</p> <p>A Fisheries Committee has been established.</p> <p>Enabling legislation for the regulation and licensing of fishing within the sub-littoral zone are provided by the Fishery Limits Ordinance, Cap A15, and the Wildlife Protection Ordinance 2013. At present, all species of seabirds and marine turtles, dolphins, manta rays and 11 species of endemic reef fish, including several desirable aquarium specimens, are protected under the Wildlife Protection Ordinance. The harvesting of egg-bearing spiny lobster is also prohibited.</p> <p>Following fish mortality events in waters surrounding Ascension, samples of seawater and fish were sent to the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) in the UK. While CEFAS reported that no toxins of potential harm were found in the samples, elevated levels of phospholipids were found in some liver samples, consistent with algal blooms, although none of the evidence was conclusive. Research is subsequently on-going. No mass fish die-off events have been recorded since 2013.</p> <p>From the 1 January 2014, AIG suspended the issuing of fisheries licences until a better, sustainable and defensible model could be introduced. CEFAS was awarded a contract by AIG to conduct an independent review and provide advice on the implementation of potential Ascension Island fisheries management regimes. This review and an earlier report by Envirofish proposed a number of measures to strengthen fisheries management within Ascension Island's EEZ, including improved licensing, enforcement and data collection. In January 2016, the forthcoming creation of a marine reserve around Ascension Island was announced along with details of fisheries management inside and outside the protected waters (see row 2/11 for more details).</p>	<p>activity;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•improved data collection on catch rates and biomass/abundance of target species;</li> <li>•greater awareness raising and engagement within the local fishing community – although note that a Fisheries Committee has been established.</li> </ul> <p>Continue research into fish mortality events in waters surrounding Ascension.</p>
3	7. By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of	There are no such areas.	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand in 2016	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	biodiversity.		
3, 4, 5	<b>14.</b> By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.		
6. Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Territory and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)	<p>The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is extended to Ascension. The recently passed Protected Areas Ordinance is in line with the CBD Aichi Targets 2011- 20. Note that Ascension is signed up as the territory of St Helena/ Ascension/ Tristan.</p> <p>Ascension is included also in UK's ratification of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (although no Wetlands of International Importance have yet been designated – see above), the Convention on Migratory Species (Bonn), and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES, Washington).</p>	Designate Ramsar Site(s)
7. Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.	<b>19.</b> By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its	<p>Under the anchialine pools HAP, it is suggested that further research into the physical characteristics of the anchialine system and the physiological tolerances of the species that inhabit it would significantly improve threat assessments.</p> <p>Under shallow marine sub-littoral habitat HAP, it is stated that baseline data and improved monitoring of the biomass and fishing mortality of target species is urgently needed in order to evaluate the impacts and sustainability of the inshore fishery.</p>	<p>-Address issues identified in Habitat Action Plans under BAP, e.g.:</p> <p>-Carry out further research into the physical characteristics of the anchialine system and the physiological tolerances of</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand in 2016	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.	<p>Seabird monitoring carried out: e.g. most recent census 2015/2016 found almost 200 frigate bird nesting attempts on the mainland. The British Army Ornithological Society also carries out complementary seabird monitoring in line with BAP targets, with a focus on the sooty terns.</p> <p>Green turtle monitoring carried out yearly for each of the main nesting beaches, with a complete census carried out every few years. Additionally, through a Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) funded studentship, a student based at the University of Exeter will investigate the predicted impacts of climate-change upon Ascension's green turtle population.</p> <p>Ongoing monitoring of the land crabs and endemic plants.</p> <p>Ascension Environmental Information Operations Utility Project: allowed the synthesis of existing information from land jurisdiction, environmental mapping and monitoring, geological and cultural data with new land-cover data into a single manageable framework. The project acted as a starting point for how spatial data, e.g. collected during the routine monitoring of animal or plant populations, are stored, managed, displayed visually and analysed. This is now integrated with the SAERI / JNCC data management project.</p> <p>Current research is underway to list all of the greater than 300 species of invertebrate that have been found on Ascension, and to provide a reference collection.</p> <p>In 2012, Shallow Marine Survey Group in collaboration with AIG Conservation Department and local groups conducted surveys of the inshore marine life, for which little was known previously. The Department has continued to carry out monthly fish surveys as part of the Darwin AIMS project to gather further information on marine life around Ascension and how this changes over the course of the year so that the inshore marine environment can be maintained and managed.</p>	the species that inhabit it -Obtain more baseline data and improve monitoring of biomass and fishing mortality of target species for the shallow marine sub-littoral habitat.
8. Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay	8. By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that	Whilst local threats from marine pollution are minimal to sooty terns, sub-toxic levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) have already been detected in the tissues of sooty terns nesting at Ascension Island, demonstrating that even this remote population is not immune from global marine pollution issues.	



Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand in 2016	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
for prevention or remedies; establish effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.	are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity. (Relates also to EC3&4)		
8	<b>10.</b> By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning. (Relates also to EC3)		
9. Encourage teaching within schools to promote the value of our local environment (natural and built) and to explain its role within the regional and global environment. 10. Promote publications that spread awareness of the special features of the environment in the Territory; promote	<b>1.</b> By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.	<p>The Green Mountain National Park project resulted in improved access to different areas of the mountain for people to experience and enjoy Ascension's unique biodiversity for themselves. An Education and Visitor Centre was also set up in Green Mountain NP so as to provide people with an educational facility and demonstrate to the public important conservation work being carried out on Ascension.</p> <p>Educational nature trail instituted along Elliot's Pass.</p> <p>Pupils from Year 1 upwards in Two Boats School are represented on the school council and they are able to develop a broad general knowledge of the responsibilities of citizenship, locally, in the UK and internationally. This is supported by the school's good links with the local conservation department.</p> <p>An International marine turtle internship programme has been set up in order to allow monitoring and conservation goals to be met.</p> <p>Through the AEIOU Project, portals were made available to the school and for public use</p>	More environmental awareness activities involving adults.

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand in 2016	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
within the Territory the guiding principles set out above.		<p>as a learning and information resource.</p> <p>Environmental Education Project: aim was to raise environmental awareness in the Falkland Islands and Ascension. Environmental resources for schools were produced, some focusing on island-specific issues and native wildlife. This project also helped to initiate Ascension Explorers, a summer holiday club for schoolchildren. Also a campaign was launched to encourage local volunteers to take part in wildlife surveys and monitoring. The outputs have been incorporated into the education delivery system in both islands.</p> <p>Museum re-opened in 2015 with new displays celebrating Ascension's natural and historical features.</p> <p>UKOTCF has a Virtual Tour of Ascension on <a href="http://www.ukotcf.org">www.ukotcf.org</a></p>	
11. Abide by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and work towards meeting International Development Targets on the environment.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)		

Not matched specifically	<p><b>13.</b> By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.</p>	<p>The 'Ecosystem Approach to Plant Conservation' project involved gathering and analysing batches of seed and determining whether they were viable to enter into Ascension's own seed bank, for future sowing. Also stored at the millennium seed bank.</p>	
	<p><b>16.</b> By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.</p>		

	<p><b>18.</b> By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.</p>	<p>Through the Ascension Island Marine Sustainability Project, public meetings have been held with local fishermen, allowing them to express their opinions concerning marine management.</p>	
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## Appendix Part 8. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: St Helena

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
<p>1. Bring together government departments, representatives of local industry and commerce, environment and heritage organisations, the Governor's office, individual environmental champions and other community representatives in a forum to formulate a detailed strategy for action.</p>	<p>17. By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan. (Relates also to EC5)</p>	<p>St Helena's first comprehensive piece of environmental legislation, the Environmental Protection Ordinance, 2016 was brought into force on the 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016. The Environmental Protection Ordinance (EPO) makes provision for the protection of the environment, including the conservation of biodiversity, the regulation of trade in endangered species and the control of pollution, hazardous substances, litter and waste.</p> <p>The Environment and Natural Resources Directorate (ENRD) brings together (2015) a number of smaller former Directorates including Agriculture and Natural Resources and Environmental Management. The Environmental Management Division (EMD) is responsible for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Advocacy and Assessment.</li> <li>• Nature Conservation (Terrestrial and Marine).</li> <li>• Environmental Risk Management.</li> </ul> <p>Agriculture and Natural Resources Division had the role of implementing agricultural, forestry, fisheries and natural resources programmes. The ANRD included the sustainable use of natural resources in its mission.</p> <p>St Helena has a 'Strategy for Action to Implement St Helena's Commitments under its Environment Charter'. It also has a National Environmental Management Plan (NEMP) that was developed to implement St Helena's 3<sup>rd</sup> National Goal - 'Effective Management of the Environment'. A review of the NEMP progress was done in 2015. The Environment Charter Strategy has not been reviewed for a number of years. Reviews will now be linked to state of the environment report which is a requirement under the EPO.</p> <p>St Helena is in the process of developing a Biodiversity Strategy/National Biodiversity Action Plan. The Island already has a Sustainable Development Plan (SDP) 2014-2017 in place. The SDP has committed to publishing an annual progress report.</p> <p>Robust conservation frameworks need to be established in light of the period of change that is being/will be experienced through the airport development project. This will be</p>	<p>The EPO sets the framework under which EMD now needs to operate. A plan for implementation is being developed.</p> <p>The Strategy for Action needs to be linked to implement St Helena's commitments under the Environment Charter; the NEMP and the EPO.</p> <p>Complete and implement the Biodiversity Strategy/National Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>Regulations, policies, guidelines, and procedures need to be developed and implemented to enable the full implementation of the EPO, including National Conservation Area Development and Management Plans and robust environment and conservation frameworks in the changed situation with the airport operational.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>developed under the EPO. National Conservation Area Development and Management Plans are yet to be produced.</p> <p>The vision of the St Helena National Trust Strategic Plan 2015-2020, is to ensure a future for St Helena that is rooted in the firm foundations of our past by providing trustworthy information, effective management, and conservation of St Helena's heritage.</p>	
1.	<p><b>20.</b> By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.</p>	<p>Current funding for Government Directorates comes through SHG recurrent and capital budgets. SHG funding supports also some civil societies, and Government recently announced a new £50,000 Civil Society Fund. Financial incentives for 'going green' are to be explored.</p> <p>St Helena continues to benefit greatly from funding from the Darwin Initiative; a substantial amount of funding has been provided over the years. As an example, the 'Securing St Helena's rare Cloud Forest trees and associated invertebrates (2015-2017)' project was awarded £98,380.00.</p>	Continue to explore financial incentives for 'going green'.
2. Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management	<p><b>5.</b> By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.</p>	<p>NEMP includes Management Plans for the 14 'natural' National Conservation Areas.</p> <p>The first management plan to be developed was the Peaks National Park Management Development Plan 2013-2023 which is now ready for final approval from the Land Planning and Development Board, after which it will become a legal document. Informal consultation with stakeholders has occurred also for the Sandy Bay National Park and Man and Horse Important Wirebird Area Development Management Plans, and drafts will be available soon. A draft of the Islands Nature Reserve plan has been composed, and consultation will be conducted with key stakeholders shortly.</p>	Produce, approve and implement protected area management plans. Review and update these regularly and set up framework for monitoring whether they are being adhered to. Complete management plan drafts that have not yet been finished.

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas policy, and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species.	(Relates also to EC4)	<p>Principle 2.15 of the Land Development Control Plan states that the development agenda in National Conservation Areas will be led by the Management Plans for the areas concerned. Criteria for NCA development and boundary revision will be included in the development of Management Plans and will form part of the work of the Conservation Areas Working Group under the Environmental Management Directorate.</p> <p>NEMP includes a Target of creating and implementing a marine management plan. A marine biodiversity and mapping project has been carried out in order to generate a marine management plan which includes long-term monitoring and protected areas.</p> <p>National Parks Ordinance 2003: not yet brought into force but provides power to permit establishment of parks.</p>	<p>Set up the Conservation Areas Working Group if this has not been set up already.</p> <p>Is the Land Development Control Plan actively followed? If not, when will this be implemented?</p> <p>Create and implement marine management plan.</p> <p>Enact National Parks Ordinance.</p> <p>Develop habitat action plans for priority ecosystems.</p>
2	<p><b>11.</b> By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and</p>	<p>Total land area of St Helena is 121km<sup>2</sup> while the marine environment includes a 200nm EEZ. In 2012, UK Government placed St Helena on its Tentative World Heritage List for its outstanding natural environment (with the opportunity of reviewing also whether the cultural value is of a high enough standard to make this a Mixed (natural and cultural) Site. This List remains valid for about 10 years. (SHNT needs help in taking this forward.)</p> <p>A review of the existing environmental legislative framework was carried out in 2008 and identified requirements and gaps. The NEMP creates the policy framework upon which additional legislation will be built as required.</p> <p>A network of 14 'natural' National Conservation Areas has been established. These are believed to equate to approximately 23% of the island. The name and type of each NCA are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sandy Bay- National Park</li> <li>• The Peaks- National Park</li> </ul>	<p>Strengthen environmental legislation according to the outcome of the review carried out in 2008.</p> <p>Designate Marine Protected Area.</p> <p>Is there a Management plan for the Marine Biological Reserve?</p> <p>Designate Ramsar Sites. Find ways of taking this forward with UKOTCF.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
	<p>other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Barn and stone top- National Park</li> <li>• Man and Horse- Important Wirebird Area</li> <li>• Broad Bottom- Important Wirebird Area</li> <li>• Deadwood Plain- Important Wirebird Area</li> <li>• Bottom Woods- Important Wirebird Area</li> <li>• Upper Prosperous- Important Wirebird Area</li> <li>• Prosperous Bay Plain- Nature Reserve</li> <li>• Millenium Forest- Nature Reserve</li> <li>• Heart-shaped Waterfall- Nature Reserve</li> <li>• High Hill- Nature Reserve</li> <li>• Deep Valley- Nature Reserve</li> <li>• Islands- Nature Reserve</li> </ul> <p>An MPA is to be designated shortly. Survey work for this is being carried out at present. St Helena Government's Environment Management Division Marine Conservation team attended the JNCC workshop on Marine Protected Areas in 2013. The team presented the draft Saint Helena Marine Protection Area report and benefitted from a peer review session. The draft report will now be updated to reflect the advice given at the workshop.</p> <p>The Land Development Control Plan (2012-2022) outlines an area of steep cliffs and sea extending half a kilometre offshore from Long Ledge to Dry Gut Bay as a Marine Biological Reserve (MBR).</p> <p>St Helena has 0 designated Ramsar sites, although 3 have been proposed as St Helena meets a wide range of Ramsar criteria, e.g. priority wetland types of wet grass-lands and sea-grass beds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Helena Central Peaks (because of cloud forest ecosystem)</li> <li>• St Helena inshore waters, stacks and cliffs</li> <li>• Fisher's Valley</li> <li>• A fourth possible site has been identified at Spring Gut- this was under further investigation</li> </ul>	<p>Complete investigation of fourth potential Ramsar site.</p> <p>Follow up with regard to the World Heritage Site matter.</p>
2	<p><b>12.</b> By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has</p>	<p>NEMP includes Targets for implementing prioritised species action plans for IUCN critically endangered species and developing action plans for marine and coastal species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A SAP has been produced for the Wirebird.</li> </ul>	<p>Prioritise Species for action plan development and develop further action plans.</p>



Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
	<p>been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A SAP will be produced through the Bastard Gumwood Recovery project.</li> <li>• Draft action plan developed through the 'Laying the Foundations for invertebrate conservation on St Helena' project.</li> </ul> <p>NCA plans incorporate biodiversity action plans.</p> <p>St Helena's Environmental Protection Ordinance (EPO) was passed by Legislative Council in November 2015.</p> <p>Of St Helena's 502 unique species, only a fraction had been assessed, resulting in only 26 on the IUCN Red List, despite many needing to be. St Helena submitted some species assessments to IUCN Red List as part of the Darwin and Buglife funded 'Bugs on the Brink (2012-2016)' project.</p> <p>Project Manager David Pryce started sorting existing data in order to compile and submit accounts for the 416 known endemic invertebrates on St Helena. Due to the enormity of this task, the assessments were broken down into taxonomic groups and prioritised. As of July 2015, 15 accounts had been submitted and 90 were almost ready for submission. A first estimate indicated that ~83% of St Helena's endemic invertebrates likely to fall within Threatened IUCN Red List categories ('Vulnerable', 'Endangered', and 'Critically Endangered' categories). Prosperous Bay Plain, an arid area which is where the airport has been built, and an area known as 'the Peaks', and which consists of isolated/fragmented sections of cloud forest, cabbage tree and fern thicket, are two particularly important areas for endemic invertebrates. 119 of the 416 endemic invertebrates are limited to the latter habitat – 26% of the endemic invertebrates on ~0.5km<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>Summary of achievements of the 'Bugs on the Brink (2012-2016)' project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collating knowledge of island's land-based invertebrates, including a full baseline data-set</li> <li>• Red-listing</li> <li>• Training of professionals</li> <li>• Identification guide</li> <li>• Reference collection</li> <li>• Integration of invertebrate requirements into habitat management plans and threatened species added to new species ordinance list.</li> </ul>	<p>Monitor implementation of Species Action Plans – is there a framework allowing this to be done effectively?</p> <p>Complete 'Bugs on the Brink Project' and continue Red listing species not already on the IUCN Red List.</p> <p>Was the climate controlled propagation unit set up in the Environmental Management Division nursery for long-term propagation?</p> <p>Enact the draft 'Native and Endemic Plant Propagation, Collection and Distribution Policy'.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge and tools to allow the native habitats to be restored as functioning ecosystems.</li> <li>• Outreach with schools and the wider island</li> <li>• The initiation of the establishment of an IUCN invertebrate specialist group for Ascension, St Helena and Tristan da Cunha. The group consists of 22 experts to progress invertebrate conservation work on these islands.</li> </ul> <p>During the airport EIA process, three compensatory wirebird habitat areas were restored as part of advance mitigation works. A lesson learnt during the project was to work around wirebird nesting seasons, monitor wirebird activity, and manage the site actively through, e.g. tactics to prevent nesting in places where construction was taking place, or was due to take place. This is because it is an offence to disturb nesting wirebirds which, on occasion, nested in active construction areas.</p> <p>Area of airport site (open channel) was adapted to reduce impacts on rare lichens and invertebrate species and lichens were successfully translocated.</p> <p>Various projects have been carried out/ are being carried out for species conservation (in addition to ones mentioned above):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Millennium Forest Initiative has the goal of recreating up to 250 hectares of native forest on degraded wasteland. This conservation effort aims to restore the island's deadwood forests, which are believed to have consisted primarily of gumwoods, to the coverage they had at one time, over a large part of the northeast side of the Island. Since SHNT took responsibility in 2002, the Trust has coordinated the planting of 15,000 Gumwood trees and other endemic plants, covering 35 hectares of barren eroded ground. Since 2010, the Trust has increased species diversity and is recreating a functional ecosystem in the Millennium Forest. It continues to improve the nursery capacity and engage the community in activities including planting at the Millennium Forest.</li> <li>• EMD Terrestrial Conservation Section Species Team run an endemic plant nursery and is responsible for safeguarding endemic species through wild seed collection, storage and propagation, and planting and maintenance of restoration sites around the island.</li> <li>• 'Supporting critical species recovery and horticultural needs on St Helena' Project- This was a capacity building programme that included specialist technical input</li> </ul>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>from RBG Kew, recruitment of staff, upgrading of the nursery at the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department, and a skills development programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Mitigation for the impacts on the Wirebird Population on St Helena' Project- over 150 hectares of habitat have been improved. The Wirebird population has now increased to nearly 400 birds.</li> <li>• Bastard Gumwood Recovery Project- aims to save the Bastard Gumwood from the brink of extinction.</li> <li>• Research project to develop propagation techniques for rare threatened endemic ferns on St Helena. Climate-controlled propagation unit was to be set up in the Environmental Management Division nursery for long-term propagation. The project will aim to develop successful propagation protocols for St Helena's 14 native fern species, eleven of which are globally threatened.</li> <li>• Clutches of ?green turtle eggs incubated in surrogate nests</li> <li>• 'Conservation of the spiky yellow woodlouse and black cabbage tree woodland on St Helena' project.</li> <li>• In the 2014-5 Darwin round, Kew received a grant for work on endemic plants and a team is on Island now in 2016.</li> </ul> <p>Hunting license system has been established.</p> <p>Draft 'Native and Endemic Plant Propagation, Collection and Distribution Policy' (now under EPO regulations) enables commercial growing of selected species both for habitat restoration purposes and to increase local awareness and enthusiasm of native flora.</p> <p>Endangered Species Protection Ordinance, 2003 (now within EPO?): provides for the protection of endangered, endemic and indigenous species of animals and plants and to regulate the trade in endangered species.</p> <p>In terms of species status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The endemic giant earwig <i>Labidura herculeana</i> and ground beetle <i>Aplothorax burchelli</i>, are thought to have been driven to extinction</li> <li>• She-cabbage is extinct in the wild</li> <li>• Native Madeira storm-petrel known to reside on Egg Island may actually be a separate endemic species of storm-petrel found only on St Helena.</li> <li>• <i>Bulbostylis neglecta</i>, a sedge endemic to St Helena, was rediscovered after</li> </ul>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>having not been seen for 200 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Helena dragonfly thought to be extinct.</li> <li>• Basilewsky's crane fly thought to be extinct was rediscovered very recently.</li> </ul> <p>Marine species work being carried out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing monthly seabird monitoring</li> <li>• Dedicated Whale Shark research completed. 50+ tags (satellite, live data and acoustic deployed) acoustic receivers deployed in 6 locations around island, Photo ID conducted.</li> <li>• Seabird tracking program (September – Dec). Approx 98 loggers retrieved and tracks mapped to date.</li> <li>• Seabird ringing scheme ongoing.</li> <li>• Marine sighting scheme ongoing.</li> <li>• The Darwin funded 'Taxonomic and conservation status of Oceanodroma storm petrels in the South Atlantic (2014-2015)' project and report has been completed.</li> </ul>	
2	<p>9. By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.</p>	<p>Through RSPB South Atlantic Invasive Species Project, a review of the legislation related to invasive species was carried out for each Territory. Capacity was built within the 5 South Atlantic UKOTs for dealing with adverse impacts of invasive species in the region. However, the extent of invasive issues means that addressing these will require considerable financial and human resources. Following completion of the project, a South Atlantic Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (2010) was produced, which St Helena is signed up to.</p> <p>RSPB study 'Eradication of invasive alien vertebrates in the UK Overseas Territories', provides one strategic assessment to rank all of the UKOTs' islands according to the greatest biodiversity benefit resulting from technically feasible invasive vertebrate eradications. The numbers of confirmed or suspected invasive alien vertebrate species, by taxonomic order, were calculated for each Territory. For St Helena this was: 3 rodents, 1 predatory mammal, 1 Ungulate, 1 other mammal, 9 birds, 1 reptile, and 1 amphibian.</p> <p>A study by CABI for South Atlantic UKOTs identified the highest priority species for which biocontrol was likely to provide a cost-effective and sustainable management option. Preliminary evaluation was carried out for St Helena. Uptake of classical biological control (CBC) measures is provisionally highly recommended for the fast spreading <i>Asparagus densiflorus</i> and the scale insect <i>Pseudococcus viburni</i> currently threatening the endemic</p>	<p>St Helena does not really actively implement the South Atlantic Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan, but a weeds action group was recently established by ANRD to address this.</p> <p>Develop a Biological Control Strategy for priority species.</p> <p>Continue the Peaks National Parks public awareness programme.</p> <p>Does the Arable and Fruit Pest and Disease Status Review need to be updated?</p> <p>Develop a culling strategy for</p>

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		<p>gumwood trees.</p> <p>The pests and diseases of arable crops in St Helena can be seen in the 'Arable and Fruit Pest and Disease Status Review'</p> <p>The 'Heart Shaped Waterfall – public access and amenities Project' involved the clearance and control of invasives from the approach to the heart-shaped waterfall and the cultivation of endemic plants.</p> <p>The Pheasant Tail fern control programme involved the clearance of Pheasant Tail fern from priority areas in the Peaks National Park, the development of effective control techniques and the implementation of a public awareness programme.</p> <p>Culling is used as a method to try to reduce the spread of grazers. There are attempts to do this in Millennium Forest on the northwest of the island.</p> <p>The Trust currently (2016) carries out pest control (cat-trapping &amp; rodent baiting) at key wirebird sites across the island. It is looking to expand on this. It also forms part of a Weeds Management Stakeholder Group under the leadership of ANRD.</p> <p>SHNT has identified significant invasive species threats to invertebrate fauna through the Darwin/BugLife 'Bugs on the Brink' project.</p> <p>The Trust manages invasive species at all of their restoration sites.</p> <p>Integrated Pest Management (IPM) provides an effective framework for pest management on the Island. This is an approach to pest management based on prevention through integration of cultural, biological and chemical methods. A National Pesticide Policy was approved in 2014 with the purpose of providing the basis for promoting effective and sustainable pest, weed and disease management.</p> <p>Protection against harmful introductions is given by the biosecurity system. In 2014 the Economic Development Committee formally approved the first National Biosecurity Policy for St Helena. An implementation plan is also in place for priority actions to be delivered by responsible agencies.</p>	<p>grazing invasives – this is needed for rabbits in particular.</p> <p>Implement the National Biosecurity Policy according to the implementation plan. How regularly are both of these reviewed?</p> <p>Create action plans for priority invasive species if this has not been done already.</p>

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2	<p><b>15.</b> By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.</p>	<p>NEMP Target 17.4 states that a Freshwater Ecology Management Plan is to be created by 2017 and is to include habitat restoration.</p> <p>An MRes ‘Carbon Sequestration in Community Forests Project’ investigated the carbon sequestration of selected endemic tree species, in order to provide a scientific basis to register a carbon off-setting scheme. The project allowed calculations of current and future carbon capacity of restoration sites on the island. This project will enable global businesses and international travellers to offset their carbon footprint by funding tree-planting initiatives on Saint Helena. The MRes is now complete. The Trust is currently working with Tourism on a local volunteer offsetting scheme.</p>	<p>Develop Freshwater Ecology Management Plan.</p> <p>Establish carbon off-setting scheme.</p>
<p>3. Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes, promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the Territory.</p> <p>4. Ensure that environmental impact assessments are undertaken before approving major projects and while</p>	<p><b>2.</b> By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p>	<p>Primary Policy under the Land Development Control Programme permits development which encourages, maintains, enhances and conserves the natural heritage and does not allow development which affects the natural heritage and does not encourage, maintain, enhance and conserve the natural heritage.</p> <p>The Land Planning and Development Control Ordinance, 2013: stiffens the link between planning decisions and environmental impact and it places a duty on the Land Development Control Authority to make planning decisions in accordance with the adopted policies of the Land Development Control Plan. The Ordinance includes some improvements in terms of public accountability and strengthens public participation, transparency and access to justice.</p> <p>One Strategic Objective under the SDP is to mainstream the environment across Government and the private sector while similarly an Objective under the NEMP is to ‘address the underlying causes of environmental degradation by mainstreaming environment across government and society’.</p> <p>St Helena pioneered work on wide consultations and what is now sometimes called “mainstreaming” when, in 2004-5, at St Helena’s request and with the support of UK</p>	<p>Is the Land Planning and Development Control Ordinance 2013 actively implemented?</p> <p>A key lesson learnt from the airport project is that future EMPs must be clear and unambiguous, with implementable, measurable and auditable actions. Key performance indicators must be included, people responsible must be identified, and the cost of mitigations calculated properly. Once EIA has been carried out and an EMP developed, an environmental</p>

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<p>developing our growth management strategy.</p> <p>5. Commit to open and consultative decision-making on developments and plans which may affect the environment; ensure that environmental impact assessments include consultation with stakeholders.</p>		<p>Government, UKOTCF facilitated the development of St Helena developing its Strategy to Implement the Environment Charter. This was the first UKOT pilot after the initial example territory. While St Helena has not yet participated in the follow-on JNCC environmental mainstreaming initiative, they are keen to do so.</p> <p>Litter has been identified as a serious issue, and public awareness, regulation and enforcement with respect to marine and terrestrial litter will be an important part of the implementation of the NEMP.</p> <p>A key work area of the Environmental Risk Management Section of the EMD is Solid Waste Management. In order to determine what waste is being managed at the landfill site, a compositional analysis called the 'Waste Wheel' is undertaken on a quarterly basis. A solid waste management strategy has also been produced.</p> <p>Waste management manuals have been completed for the following sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Horse Point Landfill Site Operation Manual</li> <li>• Incinerator Operation Manual</li> <li>• Hazardous Waste Management Manual</li> <li>• Waste Management and Recycling Options Assessment</li> <li>• Horse Point Landfill Site Landscaping Plan (pending)</li> </ul> <p>Waste management services have been improved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free Bulky Waste Collection Service</li> <li>• Public Recycling Facility</li> <li>• Glass Waste Collection Service (for recycling)</li> <li>• Secure Data Disposal Service (pending)</li> </ul> <p>The following business cases are being proposed through the Capital Programme for the financial year 2016/2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commercial glass recycling</li> <li>• Commercial cans/tins recycling</li> <li>• Commercial plastics recycling</li> <li>• Commercial composting</li> <li>• Wheelie bins cleaning service</li> </ul>	<p>team has to be employed for the entirety of a project to guarantee implementation. Have all of the lessons learnt through the airport project been incorporated into EIA legislation and development policy?</p> <p>Develop strategy for mainstreaming the environment across all sectors.</p> <p>Raise public awareness regarding litter and recycling.</p> <p>Complete water resources plan.</p> <p>Is the environmental review of the Tourism Strategy being fed into tourism development? If not when will it be, e.g. through a sustainable tourism plan which outlines, e.g., carrying capacity for protected areas.</p> <p>Carry out further research and report as to the socio-economic value of St Helena's natural resources.</p> <p>Has an environmental</p>

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		<p>St Helena Active Participation in Enterprise (SHAPE) is a social enterprise and a registered Charity founded in 2008, which hopes to reduce the carbon footprint on the island whilst providing meaningful employment for disabled and vulnerable people. The 'Building capacity to develop and provide long term sustainability for St Helena's paper and card recycling unit' project aims to increase SHAPE's capability to process a significant percentage of recycled paper and card.</p> <p>A water resources plan is currently being developed.</p> <p>The Tourism Strategy is the overarching policy document for the development of tourism and an environmental review of the strategy has been carried out and will be fed into the development of tourism. NEMP identifies the need to consider the carrying capacity of National Conservation Areas and the Island as a whole. The National Trust supports expanding eco-tourism, improving tourism sites, developing 'voluntourism', and creating new attractions.</p> <p>Through the 'Increasing Local Capacity to Conserve St Helena's Threatened Native Biodiversity' project: research on the importance and potential socio-economic value of St Helena's natural resources will be produced and disseminated. The Environment is also a key component of the National Economic Development Plan.</p> <p>The core policy document on St Helena for land development is the Land Development Control Plan 2012-2022. This underwent a strategic social and environmental assessment process, and the LDCP therefore provides a policy framework for environmental considerations relating to land planning, which includes an Environmental Impact Assessment process.</p> <p>Two major developments on the island, including the major investor Shelco, both indicate a wish to abide by 'green' practices, although some other local parties have expressed concerns. An environmental impact assessment (EIA) was done (against the reference design) for the airport project. EIA for the airport resulted in an Environmental Statement (ES), detail of which formed the basis of an Airport Environmental Management Plan (EMP). The EMP turns the findings of the EIA into measures that must be carried out by the contractor to avoid, minimise or offset adverse environmental impacts. The EMP was</p>	<p>advisory group been established to bring in both national and international expertise?</p> <p>Has the development of management plans for National Conservation Areas included public consultation?</p> <p>Best practice EIA was not carried out for Bradleys workers camp development. EMD recommendation was that no EIA was required for change of use. This situation should be avoided in the future.</p> <p>Pass the Horse Point Landfill Site Landscaping Plan.</p>



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		<p>first issued in 2007 and formed part of the Employer's requirements of the Invitation to Negotiate. It went on to form part of the Employer's requirements of the contractor, which meant that the contractor, Basil Read, could be forced to comply with everything within the EMP. The EMP therefore had to be consulted and acted upon for the duration of the project. A Contractors Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) was then developed. This is updated biannually and describes how the EMP will be implemented.</p> <p>A resourced team of environmental staff was required for implementing and monitoring compliance to the EMP and CEMP. The teams grew as the realisation of the volume of work progressed. The contractor has a Contractor's Environmental Control Officer (CECO) who ensures on site compliance with, and implementation of the CEMP. The team of the CECO has a range of responsibilities, e.g. environmental monitoring, clearance of invasives, rehabilitation and waste management. An Environmental Manager not present on the island has various responsibilities including overall environmental management and preparation of the annual environmental report.</p> <p>The project is overseen by the Project Management Unit, which includes an Environmental Monitor and Environmental Inspector who check on site CEMP compliance, and review designs to check that they meet environmental regulations and include environmental mitigation methods as listed in the ES. The Deputy Airport Project Director (Environment and Operations) in SHG is responsible for facilitating delivery of the Project, and in particular the environmental elements. The Chief Environment Officer plays a supporting role to this aspect of the work.</p> <p>There is a Landscape and Ecological Mitigation Plan (LEMP) for the airport project, in addition to off-island technical support from DFID. Formal meetings are held each week to discuss current and upcoming issues.</p> <p>Various processes have been used during the airport project to inform different groups of stakeholders regarding issues that affect them. The public is able to raise issues of concern and provide input into decision making where appropriate. The St Helena Airport Project has its own website which also has a webpage for information regarding public consultations. Regular airport updates are published here and in local newspapers. There are radio talks, Stakeholder Engagement Forums, door-to-door information and letter drops. There is also a Community Liaison Officer employed by the contractor, providing a</p>	

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		<p>line of contact for the public.</p> <p>Conservation bodies (local and international) agreed not to oppose the airport because of the need and lack of alternative. (It is worth noting that they would have opposed a development inevitably having such a negative impact almost anywhere in the world; the lack of opposition was on condition that every effort was made by the developers to minimise impact. This meant that plans for reducing impact and mitigating that which took place should have been in place and implemented long before construction work. In fact, the system was not in place until half-way through the construction and local and external experts note that it remains under-resourced.)</p> <p>The site of the airport on Prosperous Bay Plain raised environmental issues. There was inevitably going to be the loss of habitats and species (total land area covered by project is 200ha) but the project did also act as a catalyst for raising awareness of habitats and species previously not as well studied. Learning about what was present on site and developing mitigation against direct and indirect impacts was a key element of the project, both prior to and during construction. The project also drove the establishment of positive environmental management practices and procedures, e.g. the Environmental Impact Assessment process which is now required in the planning process by law. Following the airport EIA, EIA legislation was drafted and then adopted in 2008. EIA regulation, 2013 guides the process.</p> <p>Executive Council has approved outline planning permission for a change of use of the current Bradleys workers camp (under the airport project) to a holiday park with accommodation units and leisure facilities. There are a number of environmental issues associated with the planned development which need to be addressed at the detailed planning stage.</p> <p>EMD set up an Environmental Hotline for Out of Hours and Anonymous Reporting.</p> <p>SHG introduced from 1 September 2014, a code of practice for public access to SHG information. The Land Planning and Development Control Ordinance 2013 requires that planning decisions and appeal decisions are made in public. NEMP states that all new policies will include public consultation, in line with the established SHG policy development processes. An environmental advisory group will be established bringing in</p>	

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		<p>national and international expertise.</p> <p>LDCP states that the development of NCA management plans will be a participatory process with all relevant stakeholders including land owners within the NCA. There will be a public consultation process before NCA Management Plans are agreed formally.</p>	
3	<p>3. By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.</p>		
3, 4, 5	<p>4. By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of</p>	<p>More sustainable ways of building homes will be promoted via section 1.4 of the 'Laying the foundation for future generations – A housing strategy for St. Helena 2012-2022'.</p> <p>Reduction in the creation and generation of waste will be encouraged through green guidelines for procurement, as will reduction in carbon footprint (Support for the latter will also be encouraged through 'buy local' campaign'). Implementation of these guidelines will contribute to green certification. The St. Helena Government Corporate Procurement Strategy contains a section that references sustainability.</p> <p>St Helena Government and Connect Saint Helena (utility company) are working closely to</p>	<p>Are sustainable methods of building homes being promoted, e.g. through leaflets, presentations, etc.? Have green guidelines for procurement been produced?</p> <p>Have guidelines been produced for reducing carbon</p>

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	use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.	increase significantly renewable energy supplies with an operational target of 50% by 2017. Wind power currently meets the island's entire energy demand at times of high production and low consumption and the focus is now on increased solar generation. In July 2014, DFID approved an additional £1m for investing in renewable energy – this will be used for solar panels, estimated to provide 9-10% of the Island's current needs.	<p>footprint?</p> <p>Has a Strategy for achieving green certification been produced?</p> <p>Has a Renewable Energy Strategy been produced?</p> <p>Have any solar panels been established?</p>
2, 3	<p>6. By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.</p>	<p>One potential area for development with the aim of making St Helena economically self-sufficient is development of commercial fisheries. Currently the fishing fleet is a small artisanal pole and line inshore fleet with catches regulated through ICCAT. An offshore fishing vessel initiative undertaken by the St Helena Fisheries Corporation with support from ESH will be utilised to provide a multi role function, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upskilling / Training</li> <li>• Stock Assessment / Exploratory Fishing</li> <li>• Fisheries Protection</li> </ul> <p>An offshore fishing vessel has been recently purchased and has been formally registered with ICCAT, in accordance with requirements, and SHG are in the process of implementing an exploratory pole and line fishing plan.</p> <p>One role of the ANRD will be to establish and implement a robust licencing policy to manage access for commercial and sport fishing ventures.</p> <p>Fishing policies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Conservation and Management of Fishery Resources Ordinance 2003</li> <li>-Fishery Limits Ordinance</li> <li>-Harbours Ordinance</li> <li>-High Seas Fishing Ordinance</li> <li>-Whales Fisheries Ordinance 1912</li> </ul> <p>SHG is currently reviewing policies relating to access and licencing, both in respect of commercial and tourism related fishing activities. While a Commercial Fishing Policy exists, it needs to be reviewed to ensure that St. Helena's Fishery is sustainable. Quotas</p>	<p>Does the SHG exploratory offshore and pole and line fishing plan include environmental criteria, and are proper measures in place to prevent fishing at sea-mounts?</p> <p>Complete review of fisheries policy.</p> <p>Continue monitoring of marine biodiversity and adapt fisheries policy as required.</p> <p>Establish a Marine Protected Area.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>are now set for the grouper fishery after recognition of a danger of over-fishing. St Helena representatives attended the Regional Fisheries Workshop on Ascension Island, organised by the JNCC.</p> <p>Under a Darwin Plus funded project, the following marine work is being carried out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A fisheries science protocol has been developed by Dr Martin Collins who has been appointed as fisheries science consultant. Work has included creating data-system procedures and protocols; up-skilling of local marine section staff in practical fisheries science methods, biological sample collection, etc. An offshore and inshore Observer programme has been developed and is active.</li> <li>• A marine environment tourism accreditation scheme has been written, consulted on and approved by the Environment and Natural Resource Committee. Marine life interaction guidelines have been produced and consulted on. Training plans and other literature have also been produced, and formal training will commence in February 2016.</li> <li>• Work has started and is ongoing for ecosystem services assessment in partnership with Plymouth University.</li> </ul> <p>Baseline studies of invertebrates were lacking when the airport was being planned, although some emergency listing was done with funding sourced from elsewhere.</p> <p>Long-term monitoring through Marine Biodiversity and Mapping Project (Nov 2012-Nov 2014) has expanded fish survey methods to include fish, invertebrates, and habitats.</p> <p>Monthly underwater abundance and habitat surveys will be carried out until April 2016. Seasonal underwater abundance and habitat surveys were conducted in October 2015.</p>	
3	7. By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	<p>A National Agriculture Policy and Implementation Strategy 2014-2020 has been developed. This will be reviewed to ensure that the environment has been objectively considered.</p> <p>The Agriculture and Livestock Improvement Ordinance 2011: makes for the provision for the preservation and protection of the soil and for the control and improvement of crop production and livestock and the marketing thereof.</p> <p>The Bees Ordinance 2012: for the control of pests and diseases affecting bees.</p>	Complete environmental review of the National Agriculture Policy and Implementation Strategy.

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		Forestry Ordinance 2011: provide for the constitution, management and protection of forests, preservation of tree growth and of indigenous trees and plants.	
3, 4, 5	14. By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.	See the section on fishing in Row 2,3/ 6.	
6. Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Territory and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)	<p>CBD is extended to St Helena- the principles of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are being instilled into the NCA management plan process.</p> <p>The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands was extended to St Helena when UK ratified. Proposed Wetlands of International Importance were identified in 2005 by a study commissioned of UKOTCF by UK Government and conducted in consultation with St Helena stakeholders, although St Helena has not yet requested designation of any of these sites. (See Row 2/ 11for more information.)</p> <p>Party to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) and through this required to provide annual statistics.</p> <p>The UK ratification of the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter is extended to St Helena and Dependencies.</p> <p>Included in UK's ratification of CITES, and of the Convention on Migratory Species.</p> <p>A South Atlantic Territories Cooperation Forum was agreed by Elected Members and UK Representatives of St Helena, Ascension Island, the Falklands, and Tristan da Cunha. St</p>	<p>Complete integration of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets into the NCA management plan process. Incorporate the targets into species and habitat action plans as well.</p> <p>Designate Ramsar Sites.</p> <p>Is the prevention of marine pollution incorporated into legislation?</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>Helena Island has agreed to take the lead on this initiative under the Home &amp; International Committee.</p> <p>St Helena participated in the World seabird conference.</p>	
<p>7. Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.</p>	<p><b>19.</b> By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.</p>	<p>(See also information in rows above.)</p> <p>Resources are lacking for the monitoring of many species of interest, and there are no review provisions in legislation.</p> <p>To find out how the environment is faring, a State of the Environment Report for St Helena was created, which hoped to provide a snapshot of the environment of St Helena over the 2012/13 financial year. It was a report on some areas of the environment that were already being measured and monitored on St Helena. Collating and reporting on that, served also to highlight gaps in information.</p> <p>Various projects have been/ are being carried out relating to gathering of knowledge and baseline data. These include (among others):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The 'Enabling the people of St Helena to conserve the St Helena Wirebird Project' undertook research to better understand the Wirebird's ecology and assessed the extent of threats to this species and identified and tested solutions to address these.</li> <li>- Red-listing project underway to assess species conservation status (plants)</li> <li>- Marine baseline survey underway</li> <li>- Buglife has been carrying out a lot of invertebrate research on St Helena and lots of species new to science have been discovered.</li> <li>- Ornithological surveys on Egg Island are researching population dynamics and behavioural ecology of seabirds</li> <li>- Island-wide botanical survey on St Helena through South Atlantic Invasive Species Project.</li> <li>- Existing baseline knowledge of invertebrates collated and reviewed through the 'Laying the foundations for invertebrate conservation' project.</li> </ul> <p>Monitoring programmes are carried out for seabirds, turtles, cetaceans and grouper. A marine sighting scheme was set up in 2004 to record cetacean sightings, turtles, unusual seabirds and other marine life by the general public. This is used to identify yearly patterns and trends.</p>	<p>Obtain additional resources for the continued monitoring of priority species.</p> <p>Have the results of the State of the Environment Report been fed into the development of new legislation, management plans, action plans, etc.?</p> <p>Is the marine sighting scheme being used effectively? Can more be done to raise awareness of this? Can a similar scheme be established for terrestrial species as well?</p> <p>Are the species and habitat inventories continuously being updated?</p> <p>Carry out further research into smaller organisms, e.g. the in-faunal communities of marine and coastal soft sediments.</p> <p>Establish baseline of physical environmental parameters.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>Species and habitat inventories created for island through Marine Biodiversity and Mapping Project. This includes maps of locations; training local staff in identification of species, surveys and appropriate scientific hardware and software.</p> <p>Little is known about the habitats of smaller organisms such as in-faunal communities of marine and coastal soft sediments and so this could be a priority information gathering area.</p> <p>In 2003-4, Dr Philip and Dr Myrtle Ashmore were commissioned by St Helena Government to carry out studies on invertebrate fauna on Prosperous Bay Plain, funded by the Environment Fund for Overseas Territories. This included a baseline assessment of the invertebrates and their locations. Central Basin was identified as a particularly key habitat and as this was found in the early stages of the airport EIA process, the detailed designs reduced the area of Central Basin that would be affected to 11%.</p> <p>The Environmental Management Division has started preparatory work, through a Darwin Plus funded project, to establish an island-wide baseline of physical environmental parameters. Environmental monitoring equipment to measure air, soil and water quality has been purchased. The EMD has also commissioned external consultancy firm AECOM to develop a training manual and provide on-island training in the use of the equipment. Kath Thorp is on island at present (February 2016) delivering a two-week training course. Environmental monitoring is a requirement under the Environmental Protection Ordinance and needs to be reported on in a state of the environment report.</p>	<p>Include environmental monitoring in a state of the environment report.</p> <p>Develop training manual for environmental monitoring equipment.</p>
<p>8. Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for prevention or remedies; establish effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.</p>	<p>8. By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity. (Relates also to EC3&amp;4)</p>	<p>NEMP states that economic valuation of the environment will be considered as will the 'Polluter Pays' principle.</p> <p>A pollution incident reporting system has been set up and pollution incidents are being followed up and addressed. Pollution policy is being developed.</p> <p>NEMP Targets state that atmospheric, noise and light pollution policy will be created and implemented.</p> <p>Salvage &amp; Marine Operations (S&amp;MO) organisation of Ministry of Defence (MOD) commissioned RPS Consultants Ltd to carry out Marine Environmental Impact Research</p>	<p>Is the pollution incident reporting system used?</p> <p>Complete pollution policy. Incorporate idea of 'Polluter Pays' into pollution policy. Was Environmental Impact research carried out on the wreck of the oil tanker RFA <i>Darkdale</i>? Have the lessons learnt from this incident been</p>



Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		on the wreck of oil tanker RFA <i>Darkdale</i> . This came about due to a larger leak of oil which occurred in 2010, which resulted in St Helena's Governor, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office calling for the MOD as the owner of the wreck to take action.	incorporated into legislation?  Develop an emergency strategy to deal with future oil/fuel leaks.
8	<b>10.</b> By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning. (Relates also to EC3)	St Helena is developing a climate-change policy. The following statement is included in NEMP: climate-change adaptation and mitigation needs to be considered in all relevant policy, planning and decision-making. There will be a requirement for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and reduction in carbon-footprint where feasible. Baseline data and regular weather monitoring data will need to be collected to feed into the development of the climate change policy.	Complete Climate Change Policy and enact. Obtain additional resources to carry out research into baseline data and weather monitoring data.
9. Encourage teaching within schools to promote the value of our local environment (natural and built) and to explain its role within the regional and global environment. 10. Promote publications that spread awareness of the special features of the environment in the Territory; promote within the Territory	<b>1.</b> By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.	<p>The St Helena National Trust has established a Forest Schools programme through the Darwin funded Community Forest Project. The Trust carries out a range of education and outreach through the Community Forest Schools Officer and the Invertebrate Education Officer.</p> <p>The Trust – through the Community Forest Project – manages monthly community volunteer days and runs school holiday activity days and works with the schools to support endemic mini-forests – called 'Kids tree club'.</p> <p>The Director of Education and Employment Directorate is a member of the National Trust Council.</p> <p>The Heart Shaped Waterfall public access and amenities project is now complete. St Helena National Trust opened up access to the waterfall by creating a new footpath and installing six bridges. Endemic plant species, including the rare bastard gumwood, were planted to allow visitors to be able to experience, one day, how the area might have looked to early settlers.</p>	<p>Complete establishment of environmental information system.</p> <p>Integrate the biodiversity education requirements identified through the 'Laying the foundations for invertebrate conservation on St Helena' Project into the school syllabus. This will be complete by 31 March 2016. Further educational outreach will be carried out by a newly funded Darwin Invertebrate project.</p> <p>Centralise Forest Schools</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
the guiding principles set out above.		<p>NEMP outlines that working with young people through the Education and Employment Directorate will be an important part of the communications and stakeholder engagement strategy, as will collaboration with youth organisations such as New Horizons and the Youth Parliament. The Youth Parliament has coordinated youth input into the NEMP, which includes a summary of youth targets.</p> <p>St Helena Youth Parliament planned and instigated the 'Aluminium Can Recycling Project' although due to funding difficulties the project was later handed over to New Horizons.</p> <p>An environmental information system is being established for St Helena.</p> <p>The Conserving St Helena's Gumwoods Project is now complete. Part of the project was to provide infrastructure and organisational management at two key Gumwood sites to improve education and awareness.</p> <p>The 'Mitigation for the impacts on the Wirebird Population on St Helena' project is now complete. It is supported by a long-term wirebird conservation and awareness raising programme within the National Trust.</p> <p>Biodiversity education requirements identified through the 'Laying the foundations for invertebrate conservation on St Helena' Project.</p> <p>The 'Increasing local capacity to conserve St Helena's threatened native biodiversity' project is now complete. This involved a training programme to increase local capacity and skill-base in the restoration and sustainable management of natural resources, restoration of native habitats at High Peak and Blue Point, and delivery of an education programme to increase awareness and appreciation of St Helena's natural resources. Further work in this area is supported by the Darwin Community Forest Project.</p> <p>There is an annual environment week and annual marine awareness week, as well as a St Helena Science seminar. Information is also being made available online on the SHG website. A Conservation Apprentice Scheme is available.</p> <p>There are explorations by a teacher to work with students to help with a UKOTCF Virtual Tour for St Helena, as part of an enrichment exercise with school groups. There had been</p>	<p>program into local curriculum.</p> <p>Strengthen links between local environmental NGOs and the Education and Employment Directorate to encourage environmental activities involving children and young adults, e.g. volunteer days, after school activities, environmental/conservation internships. The Director of Education and Employment Directorate is a member of the National Trust Council.</p> <p>Provide additional talks and volunteer opportunities for adults to get involved in as well.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What we still need to do:
		<p>previous good involvement by St Helena teachers and schools with international environmental discussion groups.</p> <p>There are currently a small number of environmental courses that are run on the island; these include an Environmental NVQ course provided by the National Trust and the Introduction to Data Management developed by the Environmental Management Directorate.</p> <p>In July 2013, EMD Work Experience students undertook black bag litter collection from West Rocks to the bottom of the Run.</p> <p>The Millennium Forest managed by the National Trust is a community initiative, and over the years hundreds of islanders have planted trees. Visitors and overseas supporters are also able to sponsor a tree, thereby leaving a personal legacy.</p> <p>The PNP Management Development Plan 2013-2023 states that, wherever possible, NCA management should be open to other community initiatives such as SHAPE, the Duke of Edinburgh Award and student work experience.</p> <p>Many reports published.</p> <p>Preparations are being carried out for marine awareness-raising month, which will be held in March.</p>	
11. Abide by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and work towards meeting International Development Targets on the environment.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)	The St Helena National Trust considers St Helena's Biodiversity to be globally significant and central to the future development of the island's economy. They are currently submitting IUCN Red List Assessments to highlight the Threatened nature of the invertebrate fauna.	Extend IUCN Red List Assessments to additional taxonomic groups.

<p>Not matched specifically</p>	<p><b>13.</b> By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.</p>		
	<p><b>16.</b> By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.</p>		

	<p><b>18.</b> By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.</p>	<p>The St Helena National Trust is building local capacity in traditional crafts and skills – everything from restoring historic buildings and managing landscapes to producing local crafts.</p> <p>SHNT's Strategic Plan 2015-2020 includes priorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Built heritage conservation training and certification</li> <li>• Support the up-skilling and growth of local heritage and culture related business</li> <li>• Training in conservation science and practice as it relates to St Helena's unique environment.</li> </ul> <p>Local knowledge projects have been instigated surrounding marine local knowledge. Marine local knowledge is being considered in the review of marine and fisheries policy.</p>	
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## Appendix Part 9. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: Tristan da Cunha

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What still needs to be done:
<p>1. Bring together government departments, representatives of local industry and commerce, environment and heritage organisations, the Governor's office, individual environmental champions and other community representatives in a forum to formulate a detailed strategy for action.</p>	<p>17. By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan. (Relates also to EC5)</p>	<p>Tristan has a Conservation Department which was set up in 2009. This has 4 staff and takes the lead on bio-security and bio-diversity on the islands. Biodiversity projects are a high Governmental priority. The Conservation Department is slowly growing but, as outlined below, requires additional funds to support their activities.</p> <p>Tristan has a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) which sets out the key objectives for biodiversity conservation. Targets have been established in relation to each of these objectives. The BAP 2012-2016 was updated in 2012 and the Targets contained were agreed with the Island Council and Conservation Department. The Conservation Department, Agriculture Team, and Fisheries Department have all undertaken work in relation to the implementation of the BAP.</p> <p>Under the BAP 2006 Objective 3.2.1: An advisory committee will be established to oversee the management of all the Protected Areas within the Tristan Group, with representatives from partner organisations in UK, South Africa and Tristan.</p> <p>The RSPB led an Integrated Biodiversity Management Planning project which updated the Tristan Biodiversity Action Plan (2012-2016).</p> <p>The Tristan da Cunha Conservation Department has undertaken, or been involved with assisting, various externally funded projects. These have included the revision of management plans for Gough and Inaccessible Islands and developing a management plan for Nightingale Island.</p> <p>The latest revision of the Conservation Ordinance was agreed by the Tristan Island Council in June 2005, and approved by the Attorney General in St Helena in January 2006. The Ordinance was enacted by the Acting Governor of St. Helena, Tristan da Cunha &amp; Ascension on 3 February 2006. This is a comprehensive legislation, the objectives of which are the maintenance of fauna, flora, geological, scenic and historical features of the islands.</p>	<p>Does the Biodiversity Action Plan include implementation actions? If not, should these be incorporated in a revision for 2016 onwards?</p> <p>Assuming that the BAP 2012-2016 was an updated version of the BAP 2006, has an advisory committee therefore been established to oversee the management of Protected Areas?</p> <p>Is implementation of the management plans for Gough, Inaccessible and Nightingale Islands being monitored/ reviewed? If not, set up review/ reporting procedures.</p> <p>Review the Conservation Ordinance and update if required.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What still needs to be done:
		A Marine Management Plan is currently being developed for the Tristan Maritime Zone under the RSPB / Fisheries Department managed project, Darwin +005. The Marine Management Plan will be developed in line with the TdC BAP, Conservation Ordinance, and the UKOT regulatory framework. The management plan will be finalised by June 2016.	
1.	20. By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.	Unfortunately, Tristan does not have sufficient in-Territory resources to take all of the management actions necessary to conserve the biodiversity of the islands. The level of resources already being allocated by Government to conservation is extremely significant. It is necessary for Tristan to continue to work with external partners such as NGOs and the UK Government, to meet the objectives in the BAP. As an example of a lack of resources, the Tristan Government does not have sufficient resources to maintain a continued staff presence on Gough Island. This is essential for continuing invasive plant control work. Tristan is searching for funds to carry out further smaller projects. A small economy and being unable to fund conservation work without external assistance, means that unless UK HMG and NGOs provide increased support, biodiversity will suffer on the island.	Obtain additional funds to expand the Conservation Department and support its activities. Additional funds must be obtained to carry out additional smaller projects. Sufficient resources must be obtained to maintain a continued staff presence on Gough Island. This is essential for continuing invasive plant control work. UK HMG and NGOs must provide increased support so that biodiversity does not suffer on the islands.
2. Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and	5. By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced. (Relates also to EC4)	Tristan da Cunha has legislation to protect habitat outside of protected areas; the Conservation of Native Organisms and Natural Habitats (Tristan da Cunha) Ordinance, 2006, 'provides for the protection of natural habitat on Tristan da Cunha'.  Katrine Herian, who has previously worked on Tristan for the RSPB, but who has now begun a one-year contract with the Tristan Government as the 'Tristan da Cunha Policy Officer, will be reviewing and updating Tristan' da Cunha's conservation legislation and policy.	Update Tristan da Cunha's conservation legislation and policy.

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What still needs to be done:
mechanisms, including a protected areas policy, and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species.			
2	<p><b>11.</b> By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.</p>	<p>44% of Tristan's land area has been set aside for conservation.</p> <p>A 2010 OTEP project allowed for the development of Management Plans for Gough and Inaccessible Islands 2010-2015. These Islands are a World Heritage Site. A joint 'Gough and Inaccessible Islands World Heritage Site Management Plan April 2010–March 2015' was enacted in 2010.</p> <p>The four islands, Tristan Da Cunha, Inaccessible, Gough and Nightingale, are designated as Important Bird Areas (IBA). Gough Island is also classified as an Endemic Bird Area (EBA), separate to the Northern Islands which together classify as another EBA.</p> <p>All breeding colonies of the Northern Rockhopper Penguin <i>Eudyptes moseleyi</i> on the Main Island, Tristan, have been declared Nature Reserves under the Conservation Ordinance 2006.</p> <p>Gough Island and Inaccessible Island were designated as Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance in 2008. These had both been proposed as potential Ramsar sites in a review carried out in 2005 by UKOTCF for UK Government, in consultation with Tristan personnel. An additional two which have not yet been designated were also proposed:  - The Nightingale Group (Area: 390+ha)  - Tristan Island (Area: 9600+ha)</p> <p>The legislative framework for site-protection has robust elements such as a general prohibition on non-residents entering nature reserves without a permit. It is not clear however, whether new site designations would take place using science-based criteria. The public have a right to comment on proposed declarations of nature reserves.</p>	<p>Designate remaining proposed Ramsar sites, especially Nightingale Island.</p> <p>Are reports produced periodically to demonstrate how targets for the 'Gough and Inaccessible Islands World Heritage Site Management Plan' is being met? If not, reviews/ reporting should be taking place.</p> <p>Update legislation to include elements for designating nature reserves based on science and including public consultation procedures.</p>
2	<p><b>12.</b> By 2020 the</p>	<p>There is a fairly robust legislative framework for the protection of native species. This is</p>	<p>Are reports being produced</p>



Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What still needs to be done:
	<p>extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.</p>	<p>well complemented by the Biodiversity Action Plan. A Biodiversity Management Planning Project 2010-2012 was carried out.</p> <p>When many penguins were oiled following the 2011 shipwreck, the whole island community joined together to save them. The community swimming pool was converted into a rehabilitation centre. Unfortunately and unusually for penguins, few survived long-term after release, despite the valiant efforts of the islanders.</p> <p>Studies into the breeding biology and ecology of the Northern Rockhopper Penguin (<i>Eudyptes moseleyi</i>) were carried out in 2012/13. These were to continue in 2013/14 so as to inform conservation management for this Endangered species.</p> <p>Long-line fishing is a major threat to some <i>Procellariiform</i> seabirds in the Territory. Large-scale mortality of Atlantic yellow-nosed albatross and sooty albatross has been recorded off South American continental shelf near Brazil. Illegal fishing in Tristan EEZ may also contribute significant mortality although this is unquantified.</p> <p>A Darwin Plus project 'Assessing the conservation status of the Atlantic yellow-nosed albatross (2014-2016)' was initiated to determine robust population estimates of the Atlantic yellow-nosed albatross (AYNA) on Tristan da Cunha (TDC). The local capacity to provide standardised monitoring data on population trends will be built. By the end of the project, a global population estimate for the AYNA will be provided and a TDC population trend monitoring programme established. An existing monitoring programme for AYNA, set up by the Tristan Government Conservation Department, will be expanded.</p> <p>Under the Conservation of Native Organisms and Natural Habitats (Tristan da Cunha) Ordinance 2006, all native organisms are protected species. BAP and MPs identify priority species.</p> <p>There is a Tristan da Cunha Fishery Limits Ordinance 1983 (as amended in 1991, 1992, 1997 and 2001).</p>	<p>regarding meeting the objectives of the BAP? If not, they should be and, if they are, they should be more readily available.</p> <p>UK Government needs to put into place contingency plans, learning from this experience, for example so that materials and equipment designed for penguin rehabilitation can be deployed rapidly, and shipping companies charged.</p> <p>Produce management plans for the Northern rockhopper penguin if this has not already been done.</p> <p>Develop legislation addressing the threat of long-line fishing to seabirds.</p> <p>Establish a TDC population trend monitoring programme which can be used for all species.</p> <p>Does the Fishery Limits Ordinance need updating if it has not been updated since 2001?</p>
2	9. By 2020, invasive	Invasive species, particularly rodents and plants, are having an ongoing impact and	Have action plans been

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What still needs to be done:
	<p>alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.</p>	<p>causing continued species declines. Particularly affected are borrowing seabirds and albatrosses on Gough Island, as well as the Gough bunting.</p> <p>The 2014 RSPB study 'Eradication of invasive alien vertebrates in the UK Overseas Territories', provided one strategic assessment to rank all of the UKOTs' islands according to the greatest biodiversity benefit resulting from technically feasible invasive vertebrate eradications. Potential biodiversity gains of an invasive vertebrate eradication were calculated against a subset of native fauna: all Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable and Near Threatened terrestrial vertebrates; marine turtles; restricted-range bird species and colonial seabird species. Gough Island in the Tristan da Cunha group is the top priority island restoration project in the UKOTs due to the presence of a large number of globally threatened and globally important breeding seabird species, two endemic land birds and the high impact of predatory house mice <i>Mus musculus</i>.</p> <p>The numbers of confirmed or suspected invasive alien vertebrate species by taxonomic order were calculated for each Territory. For Tristan these were: 2 Rodents, 0 Predators, 3 Ungulates, 0 Other Mammals, 0 Birds, 0 Reptiles, and 0 Amphibians. Gough Island and Tristan da Cunha are listed as top-ranked Islands for Ascension, St Helena and Tristan da Cunha (they are listed as one territory), with key invasive alien vertebrate species listed as the house mouse for Gough and black rat, house mouse, cow, and sheep for Tristan da Cunha. Note that the gecko and the porgy (fish) are now also IAVs.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the capacity to respond to the threats from many Alien Invasive Species (IAS) is limited due to the level of resources available and the lack of external funding. Improving biosecurity and minimising the arrival of new species is a high priority, as is preventing rats reaching Gough and other uninhabited Tristan islands. Another aim is to reduce the number of feral sheep on the Base (the high plateau) at Tristan. Biosecurity measures are in place on the smaller islands of Nightingale and Inaccessible, and are regularly reviewed. There is also a general prohibition on the transportation of native organisms between islands/islets and releasing live specimens not originally derived from an island/islet, with limited exceptions.</p> <p>The arrival of new marine invasive species is a great concern. Tristan has had two recent shipwrecks, both of which brought new additions to the marine fauna. One fish species in particular, a Porgy (<i>Diplodus argenteus argenteus</i>) has successfully colonised Tristan</p>	<p>produced for invasive species? If not, these should be produced. In particular priority should be given to those key invasive alien vertebrate species as identified by the RSPB study 'Eradication of invasive alien vertebrates in the UK Overseas Territories'.</p> <p>Strengthen biosecurity measures.</p> <p>Carry out and publish research into the impact of new invasive species resulting from recent shipwrecks. Produce action plans for urgently addressing this issue.</p> <p>Develop an emergency protocol for dealing with new marine invasive species as quickly as possible.</p> <p>Initiate and complete Gough Island mouse eradication.</p> <p>Complete eradication of New Zealand flax from Nightingale and Inaccessible.</p> <p>Reduce the number of feral</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What still needs to be done:
		<p>Island. It is still not known what impact these new species may have.</p> <p>A Baseline Vegetation Survey of the island of Tristan was carried out in 2011/12 to assess the distribution and abundance of native and introduced plant species. This was to inform future conservation management of the island's habitats.</p> <p>The RSPB is interested in mouse eradication from Gough Island and feasibility-related studies have been in progress. An eradication project is looking to start, possibly in 2018. A Feasibility Study for the Eradication of house mice from Gough Island was published in 2008 and the logistics for a potential eradication were trialled and assessed in 2013.</p> <p>Through the RSPB 'South Atlantic Invasive Species Project', a South Atlantic Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (2010) was produced. Through a visit to New Zealand, staff from South Atlantic UKOTs learnt about aerial eradications and restorations. Training was carried out on Tristan da Cunha. Through this project, the legislation related to invasive species was also reviewed.</p> <p>Clearance of invasive Logan Berry plants was carried out at Sandy Point.</p> <p>Externally funded projects with which the Government Department is involved include control and eradication of invasive plants on all of the islands. Invasive plants control work has almost succeeded in eradicating New Zealand flax from Nightingale and almost clearing it from Inaccessible. Invasive Plant management for selected priority species has been implemented on all 4 main islands of Tristan da Cunha. The New Zealand Christmas tree <i>Metrosideros excelsa</i> is controlled on Tristan.</p>	<p>sheep on the Base on Tristan (JNCC, 2014 p203). (See also Farming &amp; Forestry section).</p>
2	<p><b>15.</b> By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded</p>		

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What still needs to be done:
	ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.		
<p>3. Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes, promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the Territory.</p> <p>4. Ensure that environmental impact assessments are undertaken before approving major projects and while developing our growth management strategy.</p> <p>5. Commit to open and consultative decision-making on developments and plans which may affect the</p>	<p>2. By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p>	<p>Due to the small size of the Tristan Community and settled area, mainstreaming is almost part of life there. Many people have carried out contract work in the Conservation Team and Objective 1 of the Biodiversity Action Plan is that 'Conservation is integrated into all Government programmes, policies and plans'.</p> <p>The Tristan Strategic Development Plan 2009 aims to ensure that the conservation of biodiversity is mainstreamed into future activities. The Tristan Islands Sustainable Development Plan 2009-16 includes the objective of protecting and enhancing the natural environment and specific milestone objectives of producing management plans for Nightingale and Tristan and extending the availability of support to the Conservation Department.</p> <p>There has been the development of waste-disposal on the island. Previously, rubbish was buried underneath volcanic ash. This was unsatisfactory due to the smell and the fact that it was unsustainable and attracted vermin. An environmental impact assessment was carried out, and there were plans for an incinerator which would also help to keep the rat population down. Rubbish still continues to be buried under volcanic ash, and more focus could be made on looking at how the disposal could be improved. Some officials believe that the site is still unsatisfactory at the moment. At the current moment, no incinerator has been constructed.</p> <p>Island tourism leaflets were updated following the <i>MS Oliva</i> incident and distributed at the UK's Birdwatching Fair in a joint effort with Ascension and St Helena to raise public awareness of these three Territories and their biodiversity.</p> <p>Tristan's harbour is susceptible to storm damage. Weather conditions for a large part of the year restrict harbour use, with an average of 65 fishing days per year. The islanders would like a new harbour to be constructed to the East of the existing one. Until this happens, there is an agreement with UK Government to maintain the existing one.</p>	<p>Has the Strategic Sustainable Development Plan been updated? Are the objectives of the Strategic Development Plan being met and achievements reported? If reports are not being produced, they should be and they should be widely available.</p> <p>Construct an incinerator for waste disposal. Develop a waste disposal strategy based on the results of the Environmental Impact Assessment. Officials wanted to see the Environmental Impact Assessment – we still have not found a copy of the report.</p> <p>Decide upon best strategy for improving the Tristan harbour and produce development plans based upon the recommendations of the 2013 DFID report 'Feasibility of Tristan da Cunha harbour</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What still needs to be done:
<p>environment; ensure that environmental impact assessments include consultation with stakeholders.</p>		<p>Investigations into the harbour were carried out. The main issue is the water-depth inside the harbour. A sum of £2m was suggested to deepen the harbour. Access for tourists and fishermen is limited by the shallow bottom and limited shelter, and the fisheries protection vessel keeps hitting the bottom. A DFID report from 2013 'Feasibility of Tristan da Cunha harbour improvement options' was produced. This provides various recommendations and conclusions for the harbour. Work to deepen the harbour began in February 2016. The contractor is Ted Adams - Sea and Shore Projects, and the work is due to finish mid-April 2016 (at present). The project is using recommendations from the DFID report. WSP (Cape Town), in conjunction with DFID, put out the tender and it was awarded to Sea and Shore. EIA was carried out; the Environmental specifications cover the requirements for controlling the impact of construction activities on the environment.</p> <p>Environmental Impact Assessments are to be carried out prior to new major developments. Action points in the Tristan Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) stated that policies will be produced that require infrastructure/development projects to undergo EIAs and that proposed construction of a new harbour will undergo EIA, in particular to mitigate the potential introduction of invasive species. However, the development control framework is limited and has not been seen as a local legislative priority. Nonetheless, under the Conservation of Native Organisms and Natural Habitats Ordinance 2006, permits are required for any construction or agricultural or horticultural activity within a nature reserve.</p> <p>The Gough and Inaccessible Island Management Plan does have an objective on access, infrastructure management, and development and proposed priority actions, e.g. 'form a single consistent zoning plan for the WHS' (which has not been done yet).</p> <p>The Conservation of Native Organisms and Natural Habitats (Tristan da Cunha) Ordinance 2006 outlines a liability framework to be adhered to if an offence is carried out under the Ordinance.</p>	<p>improvement options'.</p> <p>Strengthen EIA policy and the development control framework and a more open approach generally.</p> <p>Implement the Gough and Inaccessible Management Plan fully.</p>
3	<p>3. By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased</p>		

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What still needs to be done:
	out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.		
3, 4, 5	4. By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.	The Royal Institute of British Architects launched a Design Ideas Competition in March 2015, on behalf of the Tristan Government. The competition involves designing a more sustainable future for Tristan da Cunha's Community. The schemes have been short-listed and the short-listed teams invited to develop their ideas further, in response to feedback from the phase one assessment. The design teams will present their proposals to the Judging Panel when the Administrator returns to London in Summer 2016.	
2, 3	6. By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so	A Fisheries Limits Ordinance was amended in 2001. This defines the fisheries limit around each of the islands as 200 nautical miles, and makes provision for fishing within these limits. Under the Darwin +005 project, license conditions and fishing regulations were updated for tuna longline licences and deepwater trawl licenses to comply with Regional Fisheries Management Organisation's requirements and recognised 'best practice'.  Norman Glass of the Fisheries Department is carrying out GIS work. He went to the UK for	Extend Tristan Rock Lobster Darwin project.  Complete surveying of <i>Oliva</i> wreck and the oil rig sites for invasive species.

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What still needs to be done:
	<p>that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.</p>	<p>training.</p> <p>The lobster goes to a variety of markets, e.g. tails to USA, and whole cooked, whole raw, and bodies to Japan. In 2014, the first Tristan lobster was imported into the EU. MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) certification was previously achieved in 2011. The economy of Tristan depends largely on income from the well-managed lobster fishery with MSC sustainability certification. Annual audits for the commercial Tristan Rock Lobster Fishery began in 2012, and the fishery passed its first reassessment audit in 2015.</p> <p>A Darwin Initiative project that includes research on the Tristan rock lobster is due to finish in June 2016. Lobster stocks around Inaccessible and Nightingale Islands seem to be recovering after being covered in soya flour when the <i>MS Oliva</i> ran aground in March 2011, spilling 1500 tonnes of heavy fuel oils and approximately 70,000 litres of diesel which spread around Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands, in addition to 65,000 metric tonnes of soya beans. The situation is still fragile, with regard to setting quotas. Experts believe that the oil is most likely to have impacted juvenile lobsters (aged 1-3) which are found often on shallow vertical rocks and in tidal pools. However, the effect on the juveniles will only be apparent from approximately 2017 onwards. The Government has set a conservative total allowable catch. Recent catch per unit effort results from Nightingale show very good signs of recovery.</p> <p>The Tristan Fishery is managed in a unique way, with the Island having an agreement with a single user to guarantee that the licensee has a good incentive to invest in the long-term sustainability of the lobster. Although an exclusive concession on its own should provide enough incentives for good management, a minimum size has been added along with: seasonal closures, boat and trap restrictions, catch quotas, and a ban on taking females bearing eggs. There is a vessel-based fishery and an island-based fishery, with the two sectors closely linked as they utilise the same markets and resource. They do also differ considerably in terms of catching and processing the lobster. A by-catch of octopus is usually sold in South Africa.</p> <p>All traps within the Island-based fishery have open access so that there is no ghost-fishing if the trap is lost.</p> <p>Regarding the Darwin Project ‘Sustainable Management of the Marine Environment and</p>	<p>Has a strategy been developed for addressing future spills from ships? If not, one should be developed.</p> <p>Produce an invasive species action plan for the Porgy.</p> <p>Implement Marine Monitoring Programme.</p> <p>Complete review of data management and observer reporting.</p> <p>Obtain adequate resources for effectively policing waters.</p> <p>Produce a Marine Management Plan for the Tristan da Cunha Marine Zone.</p> <p>Investigate options for fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance within the TdC group.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What still needs to be done:
		<p>Resources of TdC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everything seems to be on track in regards to completing the main objectives. In the beginning the project started later (+6 months) than what was proposed, so Darwin agreed to extend the project by 6 months until the end of June 2016.</li> <li>• Puerulus Collectors were set out at Tristan, Nightingale and Inaccessible with the aim of determining the settling behaviour of the Tristan rock lobster <i>Jasus tristani</i></li> <li>• Monitoring sites were established at Tristan and Nightingale, Inaccessible and Gough Islands.</li> <li>• Seasearch surveys were made at all islands with Gough Island being the most surveyed (two Marine Surveys).</li> <li>• A review of the lobster tagging programme is being carried out to try and determine the reason for very low return rates. A tank experiment was carried out to determine mortality rates of tagged lobster.</li> <li>• Temperature loggers were put at each island to record sea temperatures (every 1 hour). These data would be extremely useful in coming years, with regards to rises in water temperature (climate change) and the effect it might have upon various species in Tristan waters.</li> <li>• The <i>Oliva</i> wreck and the oil-rig sites were surveyed for invasive species and this is ongoing, as the area is fairly large.</li> <li>• The Brazilian porgy fish (which came with the oil-rig wreck) has distributed itself around the island and seems to have settled well in the Tristan climate. Currently, the department is looking further into its diet composition and reproductive status.</li> <li>• Over summer 2015-6 more focus will be placed on writing everything into a Marine Management Plan as well as reviewing data management and observer reporting in line with MSC and flag state requirements. The output of the project is a Marine Management Plan for the TdC group which will include a monitoring programme and baseline data from this and previous projects.</li> </ul> <p>Greatest threat to lobster fishery is illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing. There is minimal capacity to assess, never mind control, this. The Director of Fisheries, when acting as a Sea Fishery Observer on board a trawler in January 2015, saw six different types of illegal fishing gear on the seamounts.</p>	
3	7. By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture	Tristan has an Agricultural Ordinance 1984, which provides for land-management on Tristan, and the control of the export and import of livestock and fresh goods.	Are sustainability measures included in the Agricultural



Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What still needs to be done:
	and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	<p>An agricultural advisor visited Tristan in 2012 to assess and advise on agricultural practices.</p> <p>Training was also given to agriculture department staff on island as well as one member of staff receiving training in the Isle of Man. This is thanks to a twinning of Tristan da Cunha with the Isle of Man. The training programme was to continue into 2015. In addition, a partnership had been created on the Isle of Man to use the berries of a Tristan plant in the production of an ale and potentially spirits as well.</p> <p>Tristan da Cunha is looking for an Agricultural Advisor to commence work in August 2016. The Advisor will be required to assist with the development of livestock and agriculture on the Island. The Advisor will also provide current agriculture staff with support, guidance and training.</p>	<p>Ordinance? If not, should legislation be produced addressing any impacts that agriculture may have upon biodiversity and the local environment as a whole?</p> <p>Will the new Agricultural Advisor be providing guidance on implementing sustainable agricultural practices on the Island?</p>
3, 4, 5	14. By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.		
6. Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Territory and	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)	<p>Tristan da Cunha is included in the UK's ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity, CMS, CITES and the Ramsar Convention.</p> <p>There is an implementation plan in place for the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels.</p> <p>Ramsar Sites have been designated for Gough and Inaccessible.</p>	Designate the Nightingale Group as a Ramsar Site, and consider what work is needed to allow a site for Tristan itself to be delineated for later designation.

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What still needs to be done:
work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.			
7. Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.	<p><b>19.</b> By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.</p>	<p>Studies have been carried out on Wilkin's bunting on Nightingale.</p> <p>In 2015, a whale species new for Tristan was found beached on Tristan da Cunha. This was a juvenile Antarctic minke whale <i>Balaenoptera bonaerensis</i>. Also, in January 2011, a whale was found in the harbour. It was thought to be a short-headed sperm whale <i>Kogia</i> sp, which had not been recorded from the Tristan area before.</p> <p>Northern rockhopper penguin numbers were affected by the oil-spill following the wreck of <i>MS Oliva</i> in 2011. It is estimated that only 10% of the penguins rescued survived (a low rate for penguins, which generally respond better to this treatment than flying seabirds) . There was wide-scale oiling of several seabird species including the 4000 rockhopper penguins. The breeding success of these birds remains low. Following this incident, dives were planned for monitoring what was around the rock site. Spilt soya flour was also an issue following the grounding of the <i>MS Oliva</i>. A dive team was on Tristan for 2 weeks and found that in shallow water there was no sign of oil and limited evidence of soya beans. There were concerns for the fishery as dredging in deeper water collected rotting soya from the sea-bed. Whilst the marine environment around the island appeared in a good condition, the sustainability of Tristan's economy is of great concern. Fisheries quotas have been re-modelled and have been sent to interested parties. Operation Management Procedures &amp; Harvest Control Rules are currently being put in place for all the islands and should be completed by the end of this season (July 2016). Traditional harvest of penguin eggs has been suspended. A new counting method was used to measure the density of rockhopper penguins on Nightingale Island from 2011. Monitoring of rockhopper penguin populations has been carried out since 1992 on the Tristan da Cunha archipelago.</p> <p>Many groups of taxa (plants, lichens, invertebrates) are not well documented, and the status of many species is unclear. This could mean that there are further unknown declines. Botanical surveys were carried out through the RSPB South Atlantic Invasive Species project (2006-2009). A plant survey project was also part-funded by OTEP, with a baseline plant vegetation survey carried out in 2011/12 to assess the distribution and abundance of native and introduced plant species, as well as to inform future conservation</p>	<p>Data needed for taxa for which trends are unknown.</p> <p>Is information collated being fed into the BAP? If not it should be and the BAP should be periodically reviewed and updated.</p> <p>Produce an emergency strategy for dealing with a spill.</p> <p>Increase Fishery Department's knowledge-base and understanding of the marine ecosystems, in particular lobster stock dynamics. Increase monitoring and research capacity.</p> <p>It is understood that resources supplied by the Olivia's insurers ran out before the completion of necessary monitoring. If this is the case, UK Government needs to revise its approach to enforcement so that</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What still needs to be done:
		<p>management of the island's habitats.</p> <p>Wildlife monitoring manuals have been developed for the Tristan Islands. Monitoring manuals were published in 2009/10 and included in the BAP.</p> <p>A deep water marine survey was carried out for Gough in 2013.</p> <p>The South African Government supported two/three ornithologists to remain on Gough throughout the year to carry out ornithological research in 2013/14. A Team (Gough 60) of biologists, meteorologists, a medic, radio operator, and mechanics were on Gough Island until September 2015. During the takeover from Team Gough 59, one of the tasks carried out was a Tristan albatross <i>Diomedea dabbenena</i> chick count. The 2014 albatross chick count saw the lowest ever recorded chick count for the Tristan albatross. In 2015, the SA <i>Agulhas II</i> trip to Tristan and Gough provided an opportunity for 16 conservation specialists to travel to the islands and join the core South African National Antarctic Programme 2015/16 team also on the ship. Research includes seabird monitoring, annual monitoring of breeding success, survival, and population counts, among other field work for 14 breeding species on Gough. Work will also be carried out to control the invasive plant <i>Sagina procumbens</i>. Four conservation workers will also be carrying out seal research.</p> <p>Total Allowable Catch (TAC) quotas for commercial Tristan Rock Lobster fishery are in place and regularly reviewed with input from Marine Resource Assessment and Management (MARAM) at the University of Cape Town. Fishery independent biomass surveys have been running since 2006. These are carried out prior to the start of each fishing season. MARAM and the Tristan Fisheries Department have been working together to produce Harvest Control Rules (HCR) and Operation Management Procedures (OMP) as part of MSC certification requirements. These are currently in place in Tristan, Inaccessible and Gough. The OMP for Nightingale will be implemented once the effects of the <i>Oliva</i> marine incident are better understood.</p>	<p>proper costs are covered adequately.</p>
<p>8. Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay</p>	<p>8. By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to</p>	<p>Whilst some compensation was received for the bulk carrier spill, the funds from neither this nor the oil-rig have been enough to cover the damage.</p>	<p>See also above. Check and publish efficacy of legislation and enforcement by analysis of the two major ship-wreck incidents, and</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What still needs to be done:
for prevention or remedies; establish effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.	ecosystem function and biodiversity. (Relates also to EC3&4)		take steps to improve this so that the polluter does pay.
8	<b>10.</b> By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning. (Relates also to EC3)		
9. Encourage teaching within schools to promote the value of our local environment (natural and built) and to explain its role within the regional and global environment. 10. Promote publications that spread awareness of the special features of the environment in the Territory; promote within the Territory	<b>1.</b> By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.	<p>A school vegetable garden started during the South Atlantic Invasive Species project has continued and led to the development of more local horticulture with freshly grown vegetables now available in the Island store.</p> <p>In 2011, there was a Tristan school film festival. JNCC and University of West Scotland provided funding for the purchase of filming equipment and the children made films to be shown at a festival in Scotland. Jim Kerr, then schoolteacher on Tristan, had been overseeing the project and also encouraged underwater filming.</p> <p>Tristan Studies is integrated into the school curriculum. This programme includes study of Tristan's native flora and fauna and issues on conservation, biodiversity and sustainability. Expatriate geography specialist, Richard Grundy, originally introduced the topic and taught it to the 14-16 age range in the 1980s. It was an examination subject, mode 3 Certificate of Secondary Education (CSE). The highest grades were considered the equivalent of a GCE 'O' Level. This examination ceased in the late 1980s. Jim Kerr returned to Tristan as Education Adviser in 2009. Tristan Studies was still being taught but was relying on outdated notes that Jim had previously made. By this point in time, there was a Conservation Department. It was part of their remit to get the students involved in projects,</p>	<p>Make reports on outcomes of projects/EIA's etc. more widely available – it is hard to find reports online and many local workers are not aware of particular reports that have been recorded in various places, e.g. through the minutes of meetings. Tristan greatly requires additional external funds for future conservation work, but, if reports are not easily accessible, regarding what is needed, it is hard to know where to direct resources.</p> <p>Provide students at the age</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Where we stand 2016:	What still needs to be done:
the guiding principles set out above.		<p>e.g. counting penguins and monitoring other seabirds. However, school involvement was not common due in part to the dangers of reaching seabird colonies. In the last few years of Jim being at the school, some fieldwork and trips were organised, e.g. a visit to Nightingale and Inaccessible for four students. During each activity, the students were able to encounter the expertise of visiting scientists and experts.</p> <p>UKOTCF produced and provided to the school a supply of a book on Tristan natural history designed to make the results of recent studies and Tristan's great international importance available to local school students. When Jim returned to Tristan, teachers were making good use of both this 'The Natural History of Tristan da Cunha' by Paul Tyler and Alison Rothwell, as well as the 'Field Guide to the Animals and Plants of Tristan da Cunha', edited by Peter Ryan of the Percy FitzPatrick Institute, University of Cape Town. When Jim was working in the school in 2014, IGCSE Geography was added to the curriculum and Tristan Studies topics were aligned to topics on the IGCSE course.</p>	of 16 with the opportunity to gain the equivalent of at least 5 IGCSEs including Maths, English, Geography, Science and IT. This would allow some of them to access further education in the UK or South Africa.
11. Abide by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and work towards meeting International Development Targets on the environment.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)		

<p>Not matched specifically</p>	<p><b>13.</b> By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.</p>		
	<p><b>16.</b> By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.</p>		

	<p><b>18.</b> By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.</p>		
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## Appendix Part 10. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: Falkland Islands

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
1. Bring together government departments, representatives of local industry and commerce, environment and heritage organisations, the Governor's office, individual environmental champions and other community representatives in a forum to formulate a detailed strategy for action.	17. By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan. (Relates also to EC5)	In October 2015, Executive Council approved a full review of the 2008 Biodiversity Strategy and a public consultation on a new draft Biodiversity Framework; this was adopted in January 2016. The framework includes a summary of progress towards Aichi targets. (The Framework replaced the 2008 Biodiversity Strategy.) In 2012 an Environmental Mainstreaming Project was launched to establish a strategic overview and identify gaps in knowledge or capacity and barriers to action. A Biodiversity and Environmental Mainstreaming Group has also been established by Falkland Island Government (FIG) to identify and action the activities necessary to achieve the Islands' environmental objectives. Falkland Islands Government has a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Falklands Conservation, which outlines obligations and financial commitments made by both parties towards implementing various tasks outlined in the Biodiversity Strategy.	
1, 2 & others	20. By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.	From 1999 - 2015 the Territory benefitted from £2,375,312 of funding from Darwin, EFOT/OTEP  Estimated FIG spend on the environment is £1.8million per annum (including Fisheries Science spend)	



<b>Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments</b>	<b>Aichi Biodiversity Targets</b> (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	<b>Summary of progress and the present state</b>	<b>Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs</b>
<p>2. Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas policy, and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species.</p>	<p>5. By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced. (Relates also to EC4)</p>	<p>The Environmental Mainstreaming project (2012) identified the need to strengthen and expand the network of protected areas in the Territory, including marine areas, which may require revision of the Conservation of Nature and Wildlife Ordinance. National Natures Reserves (NNRs) have been declared to protect 19 mainland and island group sites of biodiversity importance. The terrestrial protected areas were reviewed in 2014. In 2014 Darwin Plus funding was granted to the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute to consult and develop a marine spatial planning network for Falkland Islands marine waters. The Updated Development Plan (Structure Plan and Town Plan) - has policies to protect biodiversity. Environmental Impact Assessment legislation exists as part of the Planning Permission and Off-Shore Hydrocarbons Permitting processes. The Falkland Islands Biodiversity Framework (2015-2030) identifies 9 habitats and species which are particularly vulnerable, and 22 threatened plants. The Framework sets out an ecosystems approach and identifies eleven ecoregions as being present in the Falkland Islands.</p>	<p>Legislative provisions</p> <p>Further designations</p> <p>Stronger protection</p> <p>Action Plans to be produced for each of the eleven ecosystems, and for each of the ten priority habitats and species (unless subsumed into relevant Ecoregion Action Plan).</p> <p>Review of the Conservation of Wildlife and Nature Ordinance in the short term (subject to wider drafting priorities) to reflect species protection changes (i.e. plant schedule)</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>9. By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.</p>	<p>In 2010 a South Atlantic Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan was produced, and Defra funding to the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) was used for rodent eradication projects, management of invasive alien plants, marine invasive species monitoring and a zebra trout restoration initiative. A Biosecurity Risk Assessment Framework is in place.</p> <p>The Environmental Mainstreaming Project (2012) has identified gaps in biosecurity legislation and noxious weed legislation. In 2015 Darwin funding was secured to enhance biosecurity capacity in the Territory.</p> <p>In 2013 a three year FIG-funded project was started by CABI to look at methods of controlling invasive European earwigs <i>Forficula auricularia</i> in the Territory. This was</p>	<p>Close gaps in biosecurity and noxious weed legislation</p> <p>Invasive Species Plans to be developed.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		<p>followed by a current Darwin-funded biological control project focussing on earwig control.</p> <p>Rat eradication efforts are being undertaken in the Territory, over 70 small islands are now rat-free.</p> <p>A Biosecurity and Invasive Species Strategy is proposed in the Biodiversity Framework.</p> <p>The Shallow Marine Surveys Group has produced an Invasive Species survey of Stanley and Mare Harbours (2011)</p>	
2	<p><b>11.</b> By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.</p>	<p>Implementation of appropriate land and marine spatial planning frameworks to ensure preservation and management of both the terrestrial and marine environments of the Falkland Islands is identified as an action within the Islands Plan. Legislation exists to designate Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) up to 15 nautical miles from the shore. Beyond 15 nautical miles, site designation is lacking.</p> <p>There are no existing MPAs, although there are some seasonal fishery restrictions to protect spawning grounds and a 3 mile 'no take' zone around the shoreline for commercial fisheries. The ongoing Marine Spatial Planning Project is intended to inform discussions about how best to manage the marine environment, and whether or not MPAs provide a useful tool as part of a broader approach.</p> <p>Management plans have been produced for Sea Lion Island, a Ramsar Wetland Sites of International Importance, and 6 of the nationally protected NNRs. In addition to these 2 existing Ramsar sites, a review by UKOTCF, in consultation with Falklands partners, for UK Government has identified a further 18 sites in the Territory which qualify for Ramsar designation, totalling over 687km<sup>2</sup></p>	<p>Further Ramsar Site designations.</p> <p>Action to strengthen and expand the protected area network, which may require revision of the Conservation of Nature and Wildlife Ordinance</p> <p>Rather than arbitrarily designate land just to meet Aichi targets (currently less than 5% of the terrestrial area is designated and there are no marine protected areas), a locally tailored approach is proposed in the Falkland Islands Biodiversity Framework (2015-2030) to proactively implementing a spatial approach to conservation and, in doing so, contribute towards delivery of the CBD.</p>
2	<p><b>12.</b> By 2020 the extinction of</p>	<p>The Falklands Conservation annual Seabird Monitoring</p>	

<b>Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments</b>	<b>Aichi Biodiversity Targets</b> (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	<b>Summary of progress and the present state</b>	<b>Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs</b>
	<p>known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.</p>	<p>Programme has been in place since 1987 and monitors the main breeding seabird species around the Falkland Islands. Island-wide 5 years census of penguin and albatross species have been undertaken by Falklands Conservation since 1995.</p> <p>An annual census and behavioural assessment of the main elephant seal breeding site at Sea Lion Island has been in place since 1994.</p> <p>An island-wide census of breeding southern sea lions was undertaken in 2015, following the previous 2006 census.</p> <p>Monitoring programmes are underway for inshore fisheries, seaweed biodiversity and the Patagonian toothfish by the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute.</p> <p>A Royal Zoological Society of Scotland project has established baseline data and monitoring of birds of prey including Southern caracara, striated caracara and turkey vultures. This was followed by an island-wide census of striated caracara conducted by Falklands Conservation in 2014/15.</p> <p>In 2004 a 3 year Darwin Initiative project trained 15 residents in identification and curation of invertebrate species.</p> <p>A Native Plants Programme has produced a native vascular plants checklist for nationally/globally threatened species and identified 17 internationally recognised Important Plant Areas in the Falkland Islands</p> <p>Species Action Plans have been developed for the following species: southern rockhopper penguin <i>Eudyptes chrysocome</i>, Cobb's wren <i>Troglodytes cobbi</i>, ACAP-listed seabirds (black-browed albatross, southern giant petrels, white-chinned petrels), seals and sea-lions and cetacean species.</p>	<p>Production of National Red list (based on international criteria and best practice documents)</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		<p>ACAP implementation guidelines for the Territory were produced in 2010. These provide recommendations for ongoing monitoring as part of the International Plan of Action – Seabirds. The Territory hosts significant proportions of the global breeding populations of Black-browed albatross (ca 67%) and southern giant petrel (ca 40%), and an additional nine non-breeding ACAP species have been recorded as visitors to the territorial waters of the Falkland Islands. Demographic monitoring of black-browed albatross is undertaken at 2 major breeding sites since 2003 and 2006.</p> <p>Marine environment monitoring is undertaken by the Shallow Marine Surveys Group. Publications include sponge biodiversity, species ranges of cephalopods, scaled squid and bathyal octopus.</p> <p>The Biodiversity Strategy identifies a comprehensive list of species which are priorities for further information gathering. The Falkland Islands Biodiversity Framework (2015-2030) identifies 9 habitats and species which are particularly vulnerable, and 22 threatened plants.</p>	
2	<p><b>15.</b> By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.</p>	<p>An EU-funded project entitled 'TEFRA – Terrestrial Ecosystems of the Falklands – a Climate Change Risk Assessment' which began in 2012 aims to increase understanding of and address some of the potential threats to 'plant community plant community diversity, pasture growth, water availability and ultimately the potential of soils to sequester carbon' as a consequence of changes in the climate. The first phase of the project is using 2020-2080 climate change predictions to model impacts on plant distributions and ecosystem services delivered by plants and grasslands. A risk assessment is being carried out as part of the second phase to evaluate the likely impacts of climate change on the plant diversity and ecosystem services of the Falkland Islands. The final</p>	<p>Production of a National Climate Change Action Plan for the Falkland Islands.</p>

<b>Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments</b>	<b>Aichi Biodiversity Targets</b> (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	<b>Summary of progress and the present state</b>	<b>Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs</b>
		phase will be to produce a National Climate Change Action Plan for the Falklands.	
<p>3. Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes, promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the Territory.</p> <p>4. Ensure that environmental impact assessments are undertaken before approving major projects and while developing our growth management strategy.</p> <p>5. Commit to open and consultative decision-making on developments and plans which may affect the environment; ensure that environmental impact assessments include consultation with stakeholders.</p>	<p>2. By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p>	<p>The Islands Plan 2014-18 - contains an Environment Theme. The Territory also has a Rural Development Strategy and Steering Group, and the Updated Development Plan (Structure Plan and Town Plan) has policies to protect biodiversity. There is also an ongoing Biodiversity Action Plan Project.</p> <p>The Economic Development Strategy 2009 aimed to enable a sustainable economic future for the Falkland Islands by encouraging sustainable patterns of production and consumption in agriculture, fisheries, tourism and service industries.</p> <p>A Waste Management Strategy Options report was produced in 2011 for comment and a full Waste Management Strategy and Plan is due for development after this consultation. The Territory has a Tourism Development Strategy in operation and a Tourism Code of Practice to encourage sustainable behaviours and patterns of consumption by visitors.</p> <p>Environmental Impact Assessment legislation exists as part of the Planning Permission and Off-Shore Hydrocarbons Permitting processes. Mandatory terrestrial Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) legislation was introduced in 2015 and requires EIA to be undertaken where significant impacts on the environment are likely. A strategy for nature conservation on private land is also due for development as part of the Biodiversity Strategy 2008 – 2018.</p> <p>Under the Offshore Minerals Ordinance, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be submitted prior to any extractive work, as well as oil spill contingency plans and waste management plans. All EIS documents are made public and distributed to local environmental non-</p>	<p>Planning Ordinance revision required</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		governmental organizations, interested government departments and other stakeholders, who are given 42 days to comment.	
3	3. By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.	<p>The Islands Plan 2014 - 2018 identifies the need to implement a responsible strategy to mitigate effects of climate change, including exploring further take up of renewables in the Territory. Currently 40% of domestic energy requirements are from renewable sources. FIG is exploring the possible use of tax incentives to encourage further investment in renewable energy in rural areas as part of its rural development strategy. In 2013, an agreement was reached with the Ministry of Defence for the construction of additional wind turbines to provide power to the Mount Pleasant Complex. In November 2015 the Falkland Islands adopted an Energy Strategy, the overall goals of which are to facilitate sustainable development and economic growth, and for the national Greenhouse Gas emissions of the Falkland Islands to be low as possible within that framework.</p> <p>A Farm improvement programme places emphasis on holistic farming. Organic certification in recent years has encouraged further improved farming practices. The energy subsidy on wind turbines has been a success with over 90% of farm settlements utilising wind power.</p>	Further take up of renewables
3, 4, 5	4. By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.	<p>Industry representatives (Agriculture, fishing and tourism) are actively engaged through the Environmental Committee.</p> <p>The Offshore Minerals Ordinance 1994 enables seismic survey work and exploratory drilling under specific licence conditions, including provision for an Environmental Impact Assessment. Environmental Impact Assessment legislation exists as part of the Planning Permission and Off-Shore Hydrocarbons Permitting processes. An Environmental Impact Statement must be submitted prior to any work, as well as oil spill contingency plans and waste management plans. All EIS documents are made</p>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		<p>public and distributed to local environmental non-governmental organizations, interested government departments and other stakeholders, who are given 42 days to comment. In 2012 Guidance notes on the Production of Offshore Environmental Impact Statements for Field Developments were produced to promote compliance with Territory requirements.</p> <p>There appears to be a good level of stakeholder engagement in the extractive industries, and the conservation of biodiversity is at the forefront of policy. A 2013 Hydrocarbon Development Policy Statement makes explicit that 'development of the hydrocarbons industry must ensure the protection and conservation of the Falkland Island's environment and biodiversity'. FIG (in partnership with the local private and voluntary sector) completed a gap analysis to identify key gaps in environmental knowledge that need to be addressed to ensure that future oil and gas exploration/production does not adversely affect the environment. Following completion of the gap analysis, FIG and the oil companies active in the Islands agreed to jointly fund a £600,000 programme of scientific research to fill the identified gaps. Work commenced in 2013 for a two year period.</p> <p>A six turbine wind farm in Stanley the capital produces approximately 33% of total electricity requirements for Stanley. There is also the development of wind power facility at MPA the military base.</p> <p>The Territory has largely sustainable extensive farming practices as well as a managed fishery with sustainable quota system and well established scientific and monitoring of fishery and impacts. A Waste Action Plan has been agreed and a Co-ordinator appointed (production of longer term strategy is an Islands Plan Commitment)</p>	
2, 3	6. By 2020 all fish and invertebrate	The Falkland Islands successfully manage their fisheries	Consideration of how best to

<b>Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments</b>	<b>Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)</b>	<b>Summary of progress and the present state</b>	<b>Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs</b>
	stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.	<p>to a high standard. 8% of FIG's annual budget is spent on fisheries science and protection and FIG is working with Ascension Island to share best practice in sustainable fisheries management.</p> <p>The FIG-supported South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute has embarked on a programme of marine spatial planning, which is also supported by funding from Darwin Plus. The project will enable the Territory to plan and manage the sustainable development and conservation of the marine environment around the Falkland Islands.</p> <p>In 2010 , Falklands Conservation prepared a Falkland Islands National Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Trawl Fisheries. In 2013 FIG committed funds to assess potential for the sustainable commercial exploitation of the Falkland Islands' inshore marine resources. The Territory's longline toothfish fishery was certified by the Marine Stewardship Council in 2014. Alongside investment in research, the Territory has strong legislation which was substantially revised and restated in 2005 (Sustainable principles of Fisheries (Conservation and Management) Ordinance 2005).</p> <p>There is no harvesting of invertebrates or aquatic plants in the Territory.</p>	manage the marine environment in light of the findings of the ongoing Marine Spatial Planning Project
3	7. By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	Low intensity agriculture (ranching of sheep and cattle) forms the basis of agriculture in the Territory. Approximately 0.3% of farmland is under active improvement. The 2008-2018 Biodiversity Strategy identifies a move towards more environmentally-friendly farm management and grazing regimes. Camp burning is controlled by DOA in the drier months – and the trend of use of this practice is reducing.	
3, 4, 5	14. By 2020, ecosystems that	Ecosystems Services Assessment is identified as an	Ecosystems Services Assessment



<b>Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments</b>	<b>Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)</b>	<b>Summary of progress and the present state</b>	<b>Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs</b>
	provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.	action within the Islands Plan.  There is good accessibility to biodiversity for food and medicine. The Territory has a tiny population; and therefore minimal pressure on natural resources	required.
6. Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Territory and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)	Falklands is included in UK's Ratification of Ramsar and Bonn (Migratory Species) Conventions and CITES.  In October 2015, Executive Council approved public consultation on a draft Biodiversity Framework; this was adopted in January 2016. The framework includes a summary of progress towards Aichi targets. In January 2016, approval was received to request extension of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) to the Falkland Islands. The principles in the CBD are to be acknowledged through the revised Framework of the strategy. This ensures that the Falkland Islands is well-positioned to join the UK ratification to the Convention.	Designate further Ramsar Sites.
7. Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.	<b>19.</b> By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.	In 2013, the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI) was founded as an academic organisation conducting research in the South Atlantic. It aims to conduct research in both the natural and physical sciences, teach students, and build capacity within and between the South Atlantic Overseas Territories. Data curation centre established by SAERI to improve access to research and data, and SAERI science symposiums and other initiatives encourage knowledge sharing and knowledge transfer. A Geographic Information System (GIS) Centre is currently being established by SAERI	<i>Are there no known gaps which are priorities to fill?</i>
8. Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for prevention or	<b>8.</b> By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function	Oil pollution is managed by the Environment Protection (Overseas Territories) (Amendment) Order 1997, the Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution) Act 1971, Merchant Shipping Act 1995 and Oil in Territorial Waters Ordinance	Production of longer term waste strategy

<b>Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments</b>	<b>Aichi Biodiversity Targets</b> (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	<b>Summary of progress and the present state</b>	<b>Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs</b>
remedies; establish effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.	and biodiversity. (Relates also to EC3&4)	1987. There are few pollution sources in the Falklands and the marine environment is well managed Environmental Impact Assessment legislation exists as part of the Planning Permission and Off-Shore Hydrocarbons Permitting processes. A Waste Action Plan has been agreed and a Co-Ordinator Appointed (production of longer term strategy is an Islands Plan Commitment)	
8	<b>10.</b> By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning. (Relates also to EC3)	See EC2 AT15 for impacts on plant communities  An ongoing project is being carried out by Kew to consider the impacts of climate change on the terrestrial environment of the Falklands. Climate change predictions indicate an up to 2.2 °C increase in annual mean temperature by 2100, no change for mean annual rainfall but more extreme weather events.	Production of a National Climate Change Action Plan for the Falkland Islands as part of TEFRA project.
9. Encourage teaching within schools to promote the value of our local environment (natural and built) and to explain its role within the regional and global environment. 10. Promote publications that spread awareness of the special features of the environment in the Territory; promote within the Territory the guiding principles set out above.	<b>1.</b> By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.	Falklands Conservation provides environmental education material for schools as part of the MoU with FIG as well as community programmes. FICS school children visits to Camp i.e. Kidney Island, and there is an active Falklands Conservation watch group. Additionally there is a range of educational material produced by UKOTCF and other collaborators relating to the heritage and natural environment of the Territory. A series of natural history documentaries featuring the Falklands are currently nearing completion by Stewart McPherson, which will be freely available to the Territory, and others, to distribute.	
11. Abide by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and work towards meeting	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)		

<b>Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments</b>	<b>Aichi Biodiversity Targets</b> (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	<b>Summary of progress and the present state</b>	<b>Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs</b>
International Development Targets on the environment.			
Not matched specifically	<p><b>13.</b> By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.</p>		
	<p><b>16.</b> By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.</p>	<p>The Biodiversity Strategy 2008-2018 identifies the need to develop genetic resources use legislation. The resulting policy on access to, and the use of, native genetic resources and the sharing of benefits from their use, should ensure that royalties are directed towards biodiversity management.</p>	<p>Genetic Resources Policy yet to be drafted. Likely to be low priority.</p>
	<p><b>18.</b> By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.</p>	<p>Penguin egg collection is allowed for human consumption according to traditional practices, under license. Shooting of common duck species traditionally eaten is permitted on a seasonal basis.</p>	

## Appendix Part 11. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
1. Bring together government departments, representatives of local industry and commerce, environment and heritage organisations, the Governor's office, individual environmental champions and other community representatives in a forum to formulate a detailed strategy for action.	17. By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan. (Relates also to EC5)	<p>South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (SGSSI) Strategy 2010-2015 has been replaced recently by a Strategy for 2016-2020. The government produces annual reports, which include environmental progress reports and plans. South Georgia Heritage Trust (SGHT) also produces annual reports.</p> <p>A draft National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) has been produced, which provides a roadmap for how GSGSSI will meet the environmental objectives outlined in the Strategy 2010-2015. This NBAP is expected to be launched shortly.</p> <p>An FCO SGSSI stakeholder meeting is held annually to discuss strategic overview and achievements. The draft NBAP details that an annual meeting will be held to provide an opportunity for wider consultation with stakeholders and to ensure transparency in major GSGSSI policy decisions.</p> <p>In the early 2000s, at the request of the NGO South Georgia Association, UKOTCF facilitated the drafting of a Strategy to Implement the SGSSI Environment Charter at a SGA conference. This was not followed up as such by GSGSSI, but was available to inform some following developments.</p>	Launch National Biodiversity Action Plan.
1, 2 & others	20. By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should	3% of total Territory expenditure was allocated to the Environmental Programme in 2014 (not including fisheries, to which 59% of total Territory expenditure was allocated in 2014). SGSSI received funding from OTEP for four projects in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2011. From 2010 to 2015 SGSSI has benefitted from £1,471,386 of Darwin funding. There is a tourist landing fee which produces £850,000 per annum; however this is not earmarked for environmental projects or SGHT.	Possible to earmark a % of tourist landing fee for environmental projects?

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.		
2. Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas policy, and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species.	5. By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced. (Relates also to EC4)	<p>Enactment of the Wildlife &amp; Protected Areas Ordinance 2011 has enabled the designation of Specially Protected Areas. The Strategy 2016-2020 identifies the need to develop management plans outlining their rationale and protection.</p> <p>An extensive habitat restoration project commenced in 2009: The South Georgia Habitat Restoration Project is organized and funded by the South Georgia Heritage Trust (SGHT). The 3 main phases of the project were completed in 2015, the aim being to rid South Georgia of rodents. Continued monitoring is required before the area can be declared rat-free. These are aimed to allow breeding birds (including endemics as well as huge numbers on many seabird species) to survive and reproduce successfully, as well as the survival of plant and invertebrate species.</p> <p>Reindeer were removed from the Territory in 2013 and 2014 by a South Georgia Government initiative.</p> <p>The development of long term monitoring sites to track the recovery of burrowing seabird populations and monitor the changes in coastal vegetation communities following the eradication of rats, mice and reindeer, is underway.</p>	<p>Engage with stakeholders to develop a suite of terrestrial protected areas in line with obligations under CBD</p> <p>Develop management plans for Specially Protected Areas</p>
2	9. By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their	<p>The 2011 Wildlife &amp; Protected Areas Ordinance provides protection for species and habitats and improves measures to prevent against invasive non-native species. A legislative review is currently underway for the Territory; policy proposals will be available for stakeholder comment before legislation is drafted.</p> <p>The South Atlantic Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan was produced in 2010, with strategic aims to develop effective prevention and response measures.</p> <p>Monitoring of marine invasive species in South Georgia has been made possible by UK</p>	<p>Ongoing monitoring to establish whether rat eradication has been successful.</p> <p>Action recommendations in the 2013 non-native plant report.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	introduction and establishment.	<p>Government Defra funding to Joint Nature Conservation Committee, to address priority alien invasive species and climate change needs in the South Atlantic Overseas Territories.</p> <p>A comprehensive report on weeds in the South Georgia was produced in 2013. 76 non-native plants have been recorded in the Territory; the report provides recommendations for their management/eradication depending on the extent of their coverage. In 2016 the government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands published a non-native plant management strategy 2016-2010.</p> <p>Priority species of reindeer and rodents have been subject to extensive eradication programmes in recent years.</p> <p>The SGSSI government published comprehensive biosecurity protocols in 2014. Visitor-specific biosecurity information has also been provided, and all visitors are required to complete a biosecurity self audit and checklist prior to landing. Effective implementation of biosecurity protocols is essential to maintain rodent-free areas.</p>	Publish a weed management strategy
2	<p>11. By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation</p>	<p>The South Sandwich Islands Sustainable Use MPA was designated in 2012, by the Marine Protected Areas Order 2012. The MPA covers 1,007,000km<sup>2</sup>. Additional restrictions were added in 2013 including a no-take zone, an area ban on all bottom fishing below 2250m and an additional closed area for Patagonian toothfish. The area has an operating Management Plan, enforcement is carried out by <i>FPV Pharos SG</i> and the levels of illegal fishing are considered to be low.</p> <p>The majority of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands have been identified as potential Ramsar sites, totalling 4032km<sup>2</sup></p>	Ramsar designations.

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.		
2	<p><b>12.</b> By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.</p>	<p>The South Georgia Pipit is showing signs of recovery since efforts to eradicate rats commenced. A nest was found in January 2015 in an area previously overrun by rats.</p> <p>South Georgia hosts globally important breeding populations of petrel and breeding populations of 4 species of albatross (Wandering, Black-browed, Grey-headed and Light-mantled sooty). Since the early 1960s, BAS scientists have monitored populations of albatross and giant petrel at Bird Island, South Georgia. Comprehensive annual demographic studies of banded birds determine adult and juvenile survival rates, individual reproductive success and population trends. South Georgia Surveys carry out regular monitoring of bird species on Albatross and Prion islands.</p> <p>Reducing incidental mortality of seabirds by fisheries in SGSSI is of considerable importance. The 2008 assessment of SGSSI fisheries as part of the UN Food &amp; Agriculture Organisation 'International Plan of Action – Seabirds', found a suite of mitigation measures had led to a reduction in bycatch, which is currently at a negligible level.</p> <p>Marine biodiversity in South Georgia has been found to be extremely diverse by British Antarctic Survey researchers, and at risk from environmental change.</p>	<p>Regular marine biodiversity monitoring, including cetacean populations.</p> <p>Develop species action plans for black-browed, grey-headed and wandering albatross.</p>
2	<p><b>15.</b> By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and</p>	<p>The Strategy 2016-2020 identifies SGSSI as an ideal candidate for investigations into climate, glacial retreat and the upper atmosphere. Research council funding would be required for such studies.</p>	<p>Research council funding required for investigations into climate, glacial retreat and the upper atmosphere.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	adaptation and to combating desertification.		
<p>3. Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes, promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the Territory.</p> <p>4. Ensure that environmental impact assessments are undertaken before approving major projects and while developing our growth management strategy.</p> <p>5. Commit to open and consultative decision-making on developments and plans which may affect the environment; ensure that environmental</p>	<p>2. By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p>	<p>Environmental Impact Assessment policy requires further development; it is currently based on the Environment Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty. EIAs which have been carried out are available for view on the SGSSI government website, where most consultation is carried out. Assessments are carried out on major projects such as the Grytviken hydroelectric plant and the Prion Island boardwalk, as well as for the eradication of rodents from South Georgia. However the Strategy 2060-2020 identifies the need to develop robust and standardised EIA procedures and mitigation measures for <i>all</i> projects in the Territory. Implementation of the new Strategy and draft NBAP will enable improved Environmental Impact Assessment legislation, including the development of standard online application documentation and the establishment of a panel of experts to externally review projects. Consultation with groups of stakeholders (eg tourism, fishing) is carried out annually.</p> <p>Recognising the important contribution tourism makes to the Territory, GSGSSI is committed to working with industry to develop management policy and site-specific management plans that take account of the impact and benefits of tourism and integrate visitor management into the new system of Protected areas.</p> <p>A particular challenge is to maintain visitor access to the Territory without compromising biosecurity. The South Georgia Tourism Management Policy 2015 currently operates to achieve this, alongside site-specific visitor management plans to identify impacts and threats to flora, fauna and biosecurity and provide codes of conduct. Tourism-related legislation is under review in the 2016-2020 Strategy. As part of this GSGSSI plans to implement a new system of visitor management, likely to include 3 categories: standard, working and special.</p> <p>The draft NBAP sets out in detail measures which review and improve biosecurity protocols in the Territory, including an annual biosecurity review, production of a biosecurity handbook which is freely available online and the development of an early detection rapid response strategy for invasive alien species.</p>	<p>Develop and implement improved Environmental Impact Assessment procedures based on best practice.</p> <p>Consider if any additional legislation is required in order to support revised environmental assessment procedures</p> <p>Continued alertness to biosecurity with regard to visitors.</p>



Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
impact assessments include consultation with stakeholders.			
3	<p>3. By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.</p>		
3, 4, 5	<p>4. By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe</p>	<p>Regular consultation of fisheries stakeholders has resulted in well managed and sustainable fisheries in the Territory. Recently the government implemented a 2-year licensing arrangement for toothfish and icefish fisheries, an initiative which was broadly supported by stakeholders on consultation. The primary source of power within the Territory is hydroelectric, with use of diesel generators kept to a minimum.</p> <p>The draft NBAP states that economical, fuel-efficient travel will be a requirement for the fisheries patrol vessel <i>Pharos SG</i> during routine transit, and the amount of domestic and building waste generated at King Edward Point will be minimised and recycled where possible.</p>	<p>Review the environmental footprint of GSGSSI operations in Stanley and develop an environmental / energy policy</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	ecological limits.		
2, 3	<p>6. By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.</p>	<p>The fisheries of South Georgia &amp; the South Sandwich Islands (SGSSI) are among the best managed in the world and recognised as such by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). These high standards are underpinned by scientific research and precautionary management practices. SGSSI fisheries have been influential in raising fishery standards and sustainability within the CCAMLR region and beyond. Commercially fished species include Patagonian toothfish, Antarctic toothfish, Antarctic krill and mackerel icefish.</p> <p>The Convention of the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) approach is used in management of fisheries and there is a high level enforcement across the maritime zones, resulting in very low instances of illegal fishing. The South Georgia Patagonian toothfish longline fishery been certified as a sustainable and well-managed fishery by Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) since 2004. The SGSSI government also commissioned an independent peer review of the toothfish fishery by the MSC, which rated it as one of the best managed in the world.</p>	<p>Continue raising standards in the fisheries and ensure best practice is adopted, including by developing a plan to phase out heavy fuel, restricting bunkering activity, and introducing a minimum ice-classification standard in the toothfish fishery</p>
3	<p>7. By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.</p>	<p>There are no such areas.</p>	
3, 4, 5	<p>14. By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into</p>	<p>There is currently no permanent population on SGSSI.</p>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.		
6. Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Territory and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)	<p>The Territory is included in UK's ratification of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (but has yet to designate a Wetland of International Importance), the Convention on Migratory Species (Bonn) (under which the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels is a part), and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES, Washington). The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was extended to SGSSI in 2015. A draft National Biodiversity Action Plan has been produced and is expected to be launched shortly, in line with the Convention.</p> <p>Other multi-lateral environmental agreements extended to the Territory include: the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the London Convention on the prevention of Marine Pollution, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Aarhus Convention.</p> <p>ACAP implementation guidelines for the Territory were produced in 2010. This provides recommendations for ongoing monitoring. Review of these guidelines on a regular (5 year) basis is included in the draft NBAP.</p> <p>As part of the IPOA – Seabirds, an assessment of fisheries operating in the Territory was carried out in 2008. It showed good levels of progress in reducing incidental mortality or seabirds in longline fisheries. There appears to be a good level of industry engagement.</p>	<p>Ramsar designations Implement CBD Biodiversity Action Plan</p> <p>Enhance CCAMLR inventories of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem habitats and species</p>
7. Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.	19. By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.	GSGSSI is implementing utilization of new technologies and remote sensing techniques that maximise understanding of the Territory's flora and fauna with minimal environmental impact.	<p>Improve baseline data on benthic habitats (including those in benthic closed areas) and intertidal zones</p> <p>Data on terrestrial and marine invertebrates and plants is lacking,</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
8. Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for prevention or remedies; establish effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.	8. By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity. (Relates also to EC3&4)	<p><i>Moresko I</i> and <i>Lyn</i> shipwrecks in 2003 led to loss of fuel oil into the sea. A cleanup operation was undertaken, although legislation at the time did not allow the government to order owners to remove the wrecks. Currently GSGSSI policy for prevention of marine pollution is based on Annex IV (prevention of marine pollution) of the Environmental Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty, with Annex VI to the Protocol (the 'Liability Annex') adopted by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties in 2005.</p> <p>A review into the possibility of extending the ban on the carriage of heavy fuel oil (HFO) into Territorial Waters was undertaken in 2010. As part of the Strategy 2016-2020 the government will consider the prohibition of the carriage and use of heavy fuel by all fishing vessels in the SGSSI MPA by 2020.</p> <p>The government has carried out an extensive clean-up operation on South Georgia to remove oil residues, asbestos, demolition waste and other hazardous products from Grytviken. This included removing over 600 tonnes of oil from three former sealing and whaling vessels. The BAS Environmental Office also cleaned up the abandoned BAS huts, reindeer fences and former work sites on Bird Island, and ensured operational BAS huts were free from hazardous substances. Historic whaling stations remain hazardous and substances that are harmful to wildlife persist in these locations, including heavy oil contained in storage tanks, pipe work and sunken wrecks. Removal of this oil is required but challenging due to the prohibited area status of the stations.</p>	<p>Develop a plan to phase out the carriage of heavy fuel oil (HFO) in Territorial waters.</p> <p>Identify suitable project partners and methodologies for removal or remediation of the risks from waste oil and other harmful substances in old whaling stations.</p>
8	10. By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning. (Relates also to EC3)	<p>BAS continues to monitor ocean temperature around SGSSI. Surface waters near South Georgia are 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit (1.0 degrees Celsius) warmer in winter and 4.1 degrees Fahrenheit (2.3 degrees Celsius) warmer in summer than they were 80 years ago. Model projections suggest that South Georgia will experience increased stress from ocean-wide acidification over the coming decades. The marine biodiversity on South Georgia's continental shelf is particularly sensitive to environmental change.</p> <p>GSGSSI has allocated resources for the development of a research and evidence plan for SGSSI fisheries to enhance understanding of the marine ecosystem, fishery - environment interactions and implications of long-term environmental change.</p>	Ongoing monitoring and assessment of ocean acidification and its effects on biodiversity.
9. Encourage teaching within schools to promote	1. By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of	One of the pillars of the Strategy 2016-2020 is to improve public awareness of the stewardship of SGSSI by effective dissemination of information. The government website acts as a portal for consultation and also provides documentation, such as annual reports,	Improve public awareness of the stewardship of SGSSI by effective dissemination of

<b>Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments</b>	<b>Aichi Biodiversity Targets</b> (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	<b>Summary of progress and the present state</b>	<b>Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs</b>
<p>the value of our local environment (natural and built) and to explain its role within the regional and global environment.</p> <p>10. Promote publications that spread awareness of the special features of the environment in the Territory; promote within the Territory the guiding principles set out above.</p>	<p>biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.</p>	<p>financial reports, management plans, legislation, press releases and visitor information.</p> <p>Additionally there is a range of educational material produced by UKOTCF and other collaborators relating to the heritage and natural environment of the Territory. A series of natural history documentaries featuring SGSSI are currently nearing completion by Stewart McPherson, which will be freely available to the Territory, and others, to distribute.</p>	<p>information.</p>
<p>11. Abide by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and work towards meeting International Development Targets on the environment.</p>	<p>(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)</p>		

Not matched specifically	<p><b>13.</b> By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.</p>		
	<p><b>16.</b> By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.</p>	<p>Working towards ensuring that the goals Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization are consistent with GSGSSI policy, procedures and legal framework is specified under objective 3 of the Draft NBAP.</p>	

	<p>18. By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.</p>	<p>The Territory is uninhabited and the only temporary residents are those employed in science, administration of tourism-related activities. A review of immigration legislation will strengthen this further.</p>	<p>Review of immigration legislation</p>
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## Appendix Part 12. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: British Antarctic Territory

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
1. Bring together government departments, representatives of local industry and commerce, environment and heritage organisations, the Governor's office, individual environmental champions and other community representatives in a forum to formulate a detailed strategy for action.	17. By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan. (Relates also to EC5)	<p>The British Antarctic Territory (BAT) is administered in London by staff in the Polar Regions Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The UK attends the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM), and Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) to exchange information, consult on matters of common interest and make recommendations. Parties convene also occasional Special Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings and Meetings of Experts to address specific subjects. The government of the BAT, in consultation with stakeholders, has developed a five-year strategy for the Territory which sets out objectives and funding priorities to be reviewed yearly. The strategy is a living document which is reviewed annually. The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) initiates, develops and coordinates scientific research in the Antarctic region, and provides objective independent scientific advice to the Antarctic Treaty. British Antarctic Survey (BAS) is a component of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). It undertakes the majority of Britain's scientific research on and around the Antarctic continent.</p> <p>(Under the Antarctic Treaty and its related agreements, which was signed in 1959 and came into force in 1961, national territorial claims are not cancelled or changed, but set aside, and the consultative parties agree on usage. This cannot be military or mineral extraction etc, and has to be peaceful and primarily directed to scientific research or sustainable tourism. The area covered by the Treaty is south of 60 degrees S. 46 nations, comprising about 80% of the world's population, are party.)</p>	
1, 2 & others	20. By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy	<p>Between 2010 and 2015 the Territory has benefitted from £382,148 of Darwin Initiative funding.</p> <p>The figure for environmental spend by BAS was not readily available.</p>	



Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.		
2. Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas policy, and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species.	5. By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced. (Relates also to EC4)		
2	11. By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are	Under the Environment Protocol, Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs) and Antarctic Specially Managed Areas (ASMAs) can be designated. All designated ASPAs and ASMAs are subject to operating management plans which are regularly reviewed. The South Orkney Islands Southern Shelf Marine Protected Area was designated in 2010 and covers 94,000km <sup>2</sup> . (In a sense, the whole Territory is a Protected Area.)	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.		
2	<b>12.</b> By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	UK scientists have monitored albatross numbers since the early 1960s. There has been a large decrease in black-browed, grey-headed and wandering albatross numbers, with populations halving in 30 years. Results for krill abundance, dating back to 1926 show that, in the Scotia Sea area, krill numbers have declined significantly since the 1970s. This krill decline affects species that depend on it as a food source. Seals, whales and penguins may all forage and breed less successfully. The decline also poses management issues for the krill fishery.	
2	<b>9.</b> By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.	How to address the threat of non-native species in the Territory has been under consideration since 2010. Work is being undertaken to assess the colonisation status of known non-native species in the Antarctic terrestrial environment. In 2011 Resolution 6 (2011) Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting XXXIV (ATCM) adopted a Non-native Species Manual. Guidance documents have also been produced, such as guidance for visitors and environmental managers following the discovery of a suspected non-native species in the terrestrial and freshwater Antarctic environment, vehicle cleaning procedures and 'don't pack a pest' pamphlets. BAS has carried out research into non-native species on terrestrial and freshwater environments in the Territory, and produced a handbook of practical biosecurity measures.	
2	<b>15.</b> By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon	BAS's current project 'Polar Science for Planet Earth' has 6 programmes: climate, chemistry & past climate, ecosystems, environmental change & evolution, ice-sheets and oceans.	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.		
<p>3. Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes, promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the Territory.</p> <p>4. Ensure that environmental impact assessments are undertaken before approving major projects and while developing our growth management strategy.</p>	<p>2. By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p>	<p>The aim of the Environmental Protocol is to ensure 'the comprehensive protection of the Antarctic environment'. One of its guiding principles is that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) be carried out before any activity is allowed to proceed. Activities should be planned and conducted on the basis of 'information sufficient to allow prior assessments of, and informed judgements about, their possible impacts on the Antarctic environment' (Article 3, Environmental Protocol). In 2014, the UK tabled a paper to the CEP on Improvements to the Antarctic Environmental Impact Assessment process.</p>	<p>Continue to implement strategic physical planning and best-practice environmental impact assessment procedures.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
5. Commit to open and consultative decision-making on developments and plans which may affect the environment; ensure that environmental impact assessments include consultation with stakeholders.			
3	3. By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.		
3, 4, 5	4. By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and	The Environmental Protocol and Convention on the Regulation of Antarctic Mineral Resource Activities (CRAMRA) bans all mineral resource activities in Antarctica (other than for scientific research).	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.	BAS ensures minimal environmental impact in its operations via the use of an Environmental Management System (certified to ISO 14001 standard). BAS Environment Office has produced a waste management handbook. The FCO has commissioned the production of various guidance publications for sustainable activities in the Territory such as aircraft/cruise operations. The Antarctic Treaty recognizes tourism as a legitimate activity in Antarctica, and BAS welcomes a small number of visits to its stations from International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) affiliated companies during the austral summer.	
2, 3	6. By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.	The Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources was adopted in 1980. The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) gives effect to the Convention's objectives, governing fisheries using an ecosystem-based and precautionary approach. The Convention also establishes a scientific Committee. The Commission meets on an annual basis, to adopt conservation measures and other decisions which apply to harvesting activities within the Convention Area. Working with the CCAMLR, which regulates fishing in the Southern Ocean, BAS scientists used their expertise to find practical ways to protect the albatrosses in the north Scotia Sea region. As a result, the number of albatrosses killed by legal fishing fell from almost 6,000 birds in 1997 to nil in 2006 and 2007.	
3	7. By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.		

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
3, 4, 5	14. By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.		
6. Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Territory and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)	(The Antarctic Treaty system tends to remove the need for, and to some extent the applicability of, other MEAs in its area of relevance.)	
7. Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.	19. By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.	BAS undertakes long term monitoring and survey of petrel, penguin and seal species. In the northern Scotia Sea, BAS also undertakes annual surveys of krill in areas close to where seabird and seal monitoring occurs. Though outside BAT, this monitoring provides valuable insights into krill stocks further south within BAT. BAS's current project 'Polar Science for Planet Earth' has 6 programmes: climate, chemistry & past climate, ecosystems, environmental change & evolution, ice-sheets and oceans.	
8. Ensure that	8. By 2020, pollution,	The Antarctic Act 2013 and Annex VI on 'Liability arising from environmental emergencies'	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for prevention or remedies; establish effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.	including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity. (Relates also to EC3&4)	to the environmental protocol of the Antarctic Treaty, reflect the polluter-pays principle.	
8	<b>10.</b> By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning. (Relates also to EC3)		
9. Encourage teaching within schools to promote the value of our local environment (natural and built) and to explain its role within the regional and global environment. 10. Promote publications that spread awareness of the special features of the	<b>1.</b> By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.	BAS produces a range of educational resources for schools, including the website 'Discovering Antarctica'. There is a range of educational material produced by UKOTCF and other collaborators relating to the heritage and natural environment of the Territory.	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
environment in the Territory; promote within the Territory the guiding principles set out above.			
11. Abide by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and work towards meeting International Development Targets on the environment.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)		
Not matched specifically	13. By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.		



	<p><b>16.</b> By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.</p>		
	<p><b>18.</b> By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.</p>		

## Appendix Part 13. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: Pitcairn Islands

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
1. Bring together government departments, representatives of local industry and commerce, environment and heritage organisations, the Governor's office, individual environmental champions and other community representatives in a forum to formulate a detailed strategy for action.	<b>17.</b> By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan. (Relates also to EC5)	The Pitcairn Islands Strategic Development Plan 2012-2016 and the Environment Management Plan are aimed at allowing sustainable development to proceed alongside environmental protection and conservation of local natural resources. The Natural Resources Division has been restructured to reflect current and future needs. Natural Resources has been renamed Environmental, Conservation and Natural Resources Division.	Pitcairn Environmental Management Plan 2008 document requires updating.
1, 2 & others	<b>20.</b> By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels.	From 2010 to present, the Territory has benefitted from Darwin Plus funding of £561,998. The Strategic Development Plan 2012 - 2016 details an annual requirement [not including project work] of £2,500 for the core Environment and Conservation component in the financial action plan.	Further environmental work has used external funding and this will need to continue.

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	This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.		
2. Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas policy, and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species.	5. By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced. (Relates also to EC4)	<p>In June 2015, the Integre Reef to Ridge Project, funded by the EU, actioned the first activity addressing soil erosion and piloted three Tahitian workers. The objectives are to reduce soil erosion in heavily affected areas such as St Paul and Arilhau. Enka and coconut matting was laid and a variety of plants introduced. Work will be carried out on improving storm water runoff and in some areas will require redirecting to reduce soil erosion by using culverts.</p> <p>Further degradation of the miro/tao woodland on Henderson Island has been halted, and Pitcairn Islanders no longer visit Henderson to harvest timber.</p>	
2	11. By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well	<p>Plans for a Pitcairn Islands Marine Protected Area (MPA) were outlined in the UK Government budget in 2015. The proposed MPA would total 834,334 km<sup>2</sup> The UK Government and NGOs have provided a budget to look into a variety of matters such as monitoring systems, enforcement etc.</p> <p>A current Darwin-funded project is aiming to develop a marine management plan with the Pitcairn community and UK Government for fisheries and the proposed marine reserve. Enforcement in the MPA is a major consideration – a partnership between Pew and Satellite Applications Catapult has resulted in the ‘Eyes on the Sea’ project, using satellites to monitor illegal activity.</p> <p>Henderson Island is a World Heritage site (designated in 1988) and has an operating management plan.</p>	In order to meet the expectations (and receive international recognition) of the Ramsar Convention of which Pitcairn is included in UK’s ratification, Ramsar Sites should be designated. Ducie, Oeno, Henderson and parts of Pitcairn qualify as these Wetlands of International Importance, although more work is needed on boundaries for the

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.	A review by UKOTCF (commissioned by UK Government and conducted in consultation with Pitcairn personnel) identified two areas, Ducie and Oeno Islands (as well as Henderson and an area of Pitcairn inshore waters to be defined), which qualify as Ramsar sites but have yet to be designated.	last of these. UKOTCF has provided draft citations for the other 3 sites and could update them to fit the revised format. This awaits an Island Council decision to proceed with the designations.  Proposed MPA designation.
2	<b>12.</b> By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	Baseline data have been established for <i>Angiopteris chauliodonta</i> , <i>Coprosma benefice</i> , <i>Diplazium harpeodes</i> , <i>Abutilon pitcairnense</i> and <i>Myrsine</i> sp.  The restructured Environmental, Conservation and Natural Resources Division has introduced a Flora Conservation Officer role. This role manages Pitcairn's endemics and natives, ensuring that plant stocks are increased and data are gathered; this role works collaboratively with the Nursery which is responsible for the propagation of flora.  Reef monitoring is ongoing as part of Polynesia Mana Coral Reef Monitoring Network.	Continue to gather baseline data for under-researched species; in particular, flora and invertebrates of Pitcairn Island should be carried out as a priority, with emphasis on locating pockets of the original biota.  There is little information available about the marine mammals of the Pitcairn Islands.  Develop species action plans.
2	<b>9.</b> By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.	In 2010, a review of biosecurity operations report was produced. The Territory has a biosecurity Department dealing with all aspects of bio-security and quarantine matters, such as fruit fly, pests, invasive plants, zoosanitary, cargo inspections, environmental impact assessments etc. An Environmental Protection Ordinance is currently being finalised. Once implemented, the Ordinance will provide some powers to the biosecurity department as well as permits for importing certain items.  There has been research into invasive plant species and forest restoration on the island, including experimental removal of <i>Syzygium jambos</i> and replacement with native tree and shrub species.	Continue to address invasive plant species and work towards forest restoration on the islands.  Eradication of rats on Henderson and Pitcairn.  Build capacity in the Pitcairn Islands to maintain pest-free status of areas, once this has

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		<p>Ducie and Oeno Islands have been rat-free since a project in 1997. In 2011, the eradication of rats on Henderson Island was attempted, but was unsuccessful probably due to unusual weather. There is currently an investigation ongoing by the RSPB into how further attempts will be made, along with eradication of rats on Pitcairn itself. A 3-year Darwin-funded project addressing the threat of non-native species in the Territory ended in September 2015.</p> <p>In June 2014, 440 goats were removed from the Territory, and there are now no feral goats on Pitcairn, although goats are managed (penned) for pets and food.</p>	been achieved.
2	<p><b>15.</b> By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.</p>		
3. Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes, promote sustainable patterns of production and	<p><b>2.</b> By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as</p>	<p>Environmental Impact Assessments are required when applying for land and for all construction and development projects.</p> <p>In early 2016, the INTEGRÉ Reef to Ridge Project will action the waste-management activity. The objective is to improve waste-management practices on Pitcairn and the project will implement a waste-management building, recycling area, glass-crusher, mulch and soil area for the community to use, as well as a wood-chipper. As part of the project, a consultant from SPREP has been engaged and will provide waste-management policy and protocols, and a waste survey will be conducted. Sustainable development of the tourism sector is identified as important in the Strategic Development Plan 2012-2016.</p>	Implement best practice in EIA and other planning matters, as well as consultative strategic environmental assessment and planning.

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
<p>consumption within the Territory.</p> <p>4. Ensure that environmental impact assessments are undertaken before approving major projects and while developing our growth management strategy.</p> <p>5. Commit to open and consultative decision-making on developments and plans which may affect the environment; ensure that environmental impact assessments include consultation with stakeholders.</p>	<p>appropriate, and reporting systems.</p>	<p>There is significant potential for environmentally responsible marine tourism after the creation of the MPA. The government has produced a set of conditions for visits to Pitcairn by cruise ships and other vessels. The Territory has received 2.4million Euros from the European Development Fund SPD to develop the tourism sector and infrastructure on the island. Repopulation of the Territory is an integral part of sustainable development in the Pitcairn Islands. A Repopulation Plan 2014-2019 has been produced by the Pitcairn Islands Council to promote flow of skill and investment into the Territory.</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>3. By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and</p>		

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.		
3, 4, 5	4. By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.	In mid 2015, a Renewable Energy fund was signed off for Pitcairn and is a sector of EDF 11. French Polynesia and New Caledonia have already set up some renewable energy systems and have expertise which will prove invaluable to Pitcairn.	Move towards renewable energy provision of electricity.  Develop technical partnerships in the area of research projects and applications, including innovative sustainable energy technologies.  Education to raise awareness to reduce energy consumption and promote energy efficiency.
2, 3	6. By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted	An assessment of fisheries resources of the Territory was carried out by a student at Imperial College London. This looked at fisheries potential and management challenges.  The over-fishing of apex predatory fish (e.g. shark species); and over-fishing of spiny lobsters & rock lobsters have been identified as threats.  In 2013, a 3-year Darwin-funded project commenced to develop a sustainable marine and fisheries management plan for the islands, and will work in collaboration with the Island Council, HMG and the Environmental, Conservation and Natural Resources Division.	The Fisheries and Marine Management Plan is in progress and has a deadline for completion in 2016.

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	species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.		
3	7. By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	<p>The Strategic Development Plan 2012-2016 states that agricultural development is ongoing; production of honey and fruit are important parts of the island economy. In 2015, a proposal for funding was submitted to the Governor for consideration which was aimed at training and field workshops utilising the expertise of the Secretariat of the South Pacific (SPC), in the areas of agriculture and small business development. The proposal was successful. The training will be extremely valuable in terms of gaining a greater understanding of agricultural practices and small business development to the Pitcairn community.</p> <p>Feral goats were removed from the Territory in June 2014, although goats are managed (penned) for pets and food.</p>	Continued development of sustainable agricultural practices
3, 4, 5	14. By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.	In September 2011 an EU-funded SPC-implemented grant of \$500,000 was approved to improve access to water for Pitcairn Islanders facing drought and variability in rainfall, with a view to reducing waterborne public health risks and increasing conservation of water.	
6. Implement effectively obligations under	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)	Pitcairn is included in UK's ratification of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (but has yet to designate a Wetland of International Importance), the Convention on Migratory Species (Bonn), and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES,	Designation of Ramsar Sites (see above).



Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Territory and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.		Washington) – but not yet the Convention on Biological Diversity.  In 2009 the Governor of Pitcairn Islands signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Island Region.  In 2010 the Henderson Petrel was added to the appendices of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species	Extending the Convention on Biological Diversity
7. Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.	<b>19.</b> By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.		Review priority baseline data needs.
8. Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for prevention or remedies; establish effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.	<b>8.</b> By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity. (Relates also to EC3&4)	Section 7 Local Government Regulations Part II B. Rubbish deals with pollution. Enforcement measures consist of fines and penalties which range from \$10-20 NZ dollars. (Laws & fine levels targeted at internal incidents)  Collection of marine litter is a problem and threatens marine life and seabirds. This is especially problematic on Henderson and Oeno islands, which are inaccessible and prevents the problem being resolved. Clean-up is almost impossible unless a vessel is chartered which is very costly.	
8	<b>10.</b> By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean	Reef monitoring is ongoing as part of Polynesia Mana Coral Reef Monitoring Network.	

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	acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning. (Relates also to EC3)		
<p>9. Encourage teaching within schools to promote the value of our local environment (natural and built) and to explain its role within the regional and global environment.</p> <p>10. Promote publications that spread awareness of the special features of the environment in the Territory; promote within the Territory the guiding principles set out above.</p>	<p>1. By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.</p>	<p>A new Education Policy was produced in 2012, but it does not mention the environment specifically.</p> <p>In 2011 the RSPB developed two bird pins, the Pitcairn Reed Warbler and the Henderson Fruit Dove, which are sold to generate income for Pitcairn conservation.</p> <p>Continued development of promotional material on the Territory's natural environment is identified in the Strategic Development Plan 2012-2016. This would be for scientific and eco-tourism interest.</p> <p>Additionally, there is a range of educational material produced by UKOTCF and other collaborators relating to the heritage and natural environment of the Territory, including a Virtual Tour on <a href="http://www.ukotcf.org">www.ukotcf.org</a>. A series of natural history documentaries featuring the Territory are currently nearing completion by Stewart McPherson, which will be freely available to the Territory, and others, to distribute.</p>	<p>Incorporation of natural environment into educational policy.</p> <p>Continued development of promotional material on the Territory's natural environment.</p>
<p>11. Abide by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and work towards meeting International Development Targets on the</p>	<p>(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)</p>		

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environment.			
Not matched specifically	<p><b>13.</b> By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.</p>		
	<p><b>16.</b> By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.</p>		

	<p><b>18.</b> By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.</p>	<p>Product diversification is underway for stamps and coins.</p>	<p>Continued efforts to ensure sustainable harvesting of timber for the wood carving industry.</p>
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## Appendix Part 14. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: British Indian Ocean Territory

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
1. Bring together government departments, representatives of local industry and commerce, environment and heritage organisations, the Governor's office, individual environmental champions and other community representatives in a forum to formulate a detailed strategy for action.	17. By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan. (Relates also to EC5)	The FCO created a Chagos Scientific Advisory Group to advise on a science strategy and priorities for BIOT, and encourage research; however it ceased to have meetings after June 2013. There exists a Management Plan in the form of Conservation and Management in British Indian Ocean Territory, produced in 2012. The Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan 1997 applies to USA operations in Diego Garcia. Chagos Conservation Trust is a UK-based NGO body. Chagos Environment Network is a UK body of NGOs and scientific organisations which promote the study and protection of Chagos Biodiversity.	An updated Management Plan is still needed for the Territory.  Is the US plan subject to approval and monitoring by UK?  Is there a joint Government/NGO group to take an overview of forward conservation planning and to review progress?
1, 2 & others	20. By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially	Between 2010 and 2015 the Territory has benefitted from £373,869 of Darwin Initiative funding.  The figures of funding for environmental conservation through the routes of the BIOT Government and the US contribution are not available.	

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	from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.		
2. Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas policy, and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species.	5. By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced. (Relates also to EC4)	Species legislation consists of the Wildlife Protection Regulations 2003. 'Strict Nature Reserves' can be designated as part of the Protection and Preservation of Wild Life Ordinance 1970. Restoration of natural vegetation in place of the introduced coconut is being undertaken in three large experimental plots in Diego Garcia.	Continued restoration of natural vegetation and removal of introduced coconut at Diego Garcia and other islands
2	11. By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically	The Territory has one Ramsar Wetland of International Importance on Diego Garcia, designated in 2001. A further 40,000km <sup>2</sup> of Chagos Banks has been identified as qualifying for Ramsar designation but this is yet to be implemented. There are 5 Strict Nature Reserves which can be entered only by permission from the BIOT Government. In April 2010 a 640,000km <sup>2</sup> no-take Marine Protected Area (MPA) was established. The Territory is a member of the Big Ocean Network which was formed in recognition of the particular management challenges which arise from very large MPAs. Enforcement is a key focus of the network; being investigated currently is how arrests can be matched to legislation.	Ramsar designation of Chagos Banks. Improved enforcement in the MPA network.

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.		
2	<b>12.</b> By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	There have been extensive research expeditions in the Territory, and the Conservation and Management Plan 2012 makes recommendations for further science, monitoring and management activities. Several species such as turtles, crabs and birds have seen marked improvement in status over the last 40 years, since coconut farming no longer takes place. Over 200 scientific papers have been published so far from scientific exploration of the Territory.	Review of recommendations made in the 2012 Management Plan for science, monitoring and management activities in the Territory, to identify priority areas.
2	<b>9.</b> By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.	In 2004 a survey was carried out on Diego Garcia for feral donkeys; the resulting report recommended a donkey control programme be implemented. In 2009 an IUCN review showed no marine invasives in the Territory, including in the harbour area of Diego Garcia. Regular botanical monitoring is already funded by a new legacy to Chagos Conservation Trust. Monitoring of invasive species and potential invasives is a part of this. A 2014 Defra-funded review into invasive vertebrate species in the UKOTs identified the house crow, common myna, bloodsucker, Madagascar fody, feral donkey and cat as problem-species in the Territory (in addition to the rat). In 2013-2014 a Darwin-funded project was implemented to eradicate rats from Ile Vache. There is an ongoing feral cat eradication programme in Diego Garcia, carried out by staff on US Military base: the method used is trapping only. The recommendation is to continue the eradication programme until total eradication is achieved, thereby preventing risk of cats reaching other islands. There are some biosecurity measures in place, such as the Diego Garcia Brown Tree Snake Awareness and Prevention Plan.	Implementation of eradication/control programmes for already identified problem invasive species, and extension of these throughout the archipelago.
2	<b>15.</b> By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon	The Conservation and Management Plan 2012 identifies the Territory as an important site for scientific research into atmospheric science and ecosystem resilience, and could contribute to global monitoring of the effects of climate change. Projects have been proposed on basic measurements, such as carbon dioxide levels, but are yet to be	Resourcing to be identified and implemented, although this is not a conservation need in itself.

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.	funded.	
<p>3. Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes, promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the Territory.</p> <p>4. Ensure that environmental impact assessments are undertaken before approving major projects and while developing our growth management strategy.</p>	<p>2. By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p>	<p>There is currently no planning or development legislation in place in the Territory, and no requirement to undertake Environmental Impact Assessments. This is needed in view of the extensive works at Diego Garcia, In addition, a resettlement feasibility study published in 2014 identifies this as an area requiring strategic policy development if the Territory were to be resettled, to prevent uncontrolled development from spreading across the most valuable landscapes, coastlines and habitats. Development in the Diego Garcia military base area is controlled by the Diego Garcia Final Governing Standards 2011.</p>	<p>Develop planning and development legislation.</p> <p>Implement international best practice in EIA and other planning matters, as well as consultative strategic environmental assessment and planning.</p> <p>Is planning in the military base monitored by the BIOT Government in respect of environmental aspects?</p>



Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
5. Commit to open and consultative decision-making on developments and plans which may affect the environment; ensure that environmental impact assessments include consultation with stakeholders.			
3	3. By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.		
3, 4, 5	4. By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and	An Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) system was proposed in 2009 for Diego Garcia and a renewable energy site assessment was carried out in Nov 2013. The main Diego Garcia electricity generating facility is inefficient, and a replacement programme is	Implementation and monitoring of these.

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.	underway. In January 2015 Diego Garcia completed a new landfill facility with leachate collection and disposal system, an incinerator facility and a recycling facility, a \$15 million project.	
2, 3	6. By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.	BIOT's waters are monitored year round by a dedicated patrol vessel, whilst sovereignty patrols are undertaken by the British Royal Navy, including the Royal Marines. The 2012 Management Plan identified the current system of fines as being possibly too small to act as a sufficient deterrent.	Increase enforcement in MPA network. Re-evaluate current penalty system to increase deterrent.  Are there plans for the replacement or refitting of the patrol boat, which is nearing the end of its certification?
3	7. By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	Visiting boats to marine reserve are required to abide by BIOT environmental laws and regulations, which include requirements for conduct, mainly involving which activities are permitted on the islands, and fishing.	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
3, 4, 5	14. By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.		
6. Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Territory and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)	The Territory joined UK's inclusion in the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals MoU on migratory sharks in 2012. Ramsar, CITES and CMS have been extended to the Territory, but CBD has not. This is reported to be due to the current inability to fulfil all of the Convention requirements in Chagos, for practical reasons.	Designate Chagos Banks Ramsar Site (see above).  Overcome the practical problems in joining CBD.
7. Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.	19. By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.	Royal Botanical Gardens Kew has compiled a full plant species list for the Territory (2009). Updated plant species lists are being formulated by ZSL as part of long term monitoring project. Further monitoring in the Territory is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coral cover, since 1996</li> <li>- Juvenile coral monitoring and coral demographics of stony and soft corals, since 1998</li> <li>- Continuous sea temperature monitoring, since 2006</li> <li>- Sea-level and wave monitoring</li> <li>- Reef-fish biomass monitoring</li> <li>- Coral growth changes monitoring</li> <li>- Seabird research and monitoring since 1996</li> </ul>	Update the 2012 Management Plan to identify areas where baseline data gathering and monitoring are still required.

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reef-sharks (relative number/scientific dive), 1975</li> <li>- Turtle research and monitoring, since 1996</li> </ul>	
8. Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for prevention or remedies; establish effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.	8. By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity. (Relates also to EC3&4)	In 2014, the US Navy was found to be in breach of pollution legislation by discharging human waste from vessels into the sea. The FCO states that a comprehensive mitigation plan is now underway	Continued alertness and monitoring of pollution levels  Report on the outcome of the mitigation of the USN pollution.
8	10. By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning. (Relates also to EC3)	There is extensive monitoring of the health and status of coral-reefs in the Territory. Coral-cover has been monitored since 1996. Juvenile coral monitoring and coral demographics of stony and soft corals have been monitored since 1998, and continuous sea temperature monitoring has taken place since 2006.	
9. Encourage teaching within schools to promote the value of our local environment (natural and built) and to explain its role within the regional and global environment. 10. Promote publications that	1. By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.	ZSL's 'Connect Chagos: People and Wildlife' project is delivering an outreach and environmental education project for the Territory. Through a suite of community days, nature taster sessions and the Connect Chagos Environmental Training Course, it aims to connect Chagossian people in the UK and overseas with their natural heritage as well as building employable skills. The project provides free training courses on the environment of Chagos. Additionally there is a range of educational material produced by UKOTCF and other collaborators relating to the heritage and natural environment of the Territory. A series of natural history documentaries featuring the Territory are currently nearing completion by Stewart McPherson, which will be freely available to the Territory, and others, to distribute. The Chagos Conservation Trust is very active in producing and promoting publications from research in the region. Publications are available to view on the Chagos Conservation Trust website.	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
spread awareness of the special features of the environment in the Territory; promote within the Territory the guiding principles set out above.		ChIP (Chagos Information Portal), funded by Chagos Conservation Trust, is online at <a href="http://www.cct-chip.org">www.cct-chip.org</a> . It is intended to be a scientific aid and resource bringing together as much as possible of the scientific material of the Chagos Archipelago.	
11. Abide by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and work towards meeting International Development Targets on the environment.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)		

<p>Not matched specifically</p>	<p><b>13.</b> By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.</p>		
	<p><b>16.</b> By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.</p>		

	<p>18. By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.</p>		
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## Appendix Part 15. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
1. Bring together government departments, representatives of local industry and commerce, environment and heritage organisations, the Governor's office, individual environmental champions and other community representatives in a forum to formulate a detailed strategy for action.	<b>17.</b> By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan. (Relates also to EC5)	A forum of relevant stakeholders has been set up, but has not met for at least a year. In fact, many are stakeholders are unaware of the forum's existence.	Formalise forum meetings and work towards formulation of a detailed strategy for action and review of progress to date.
1, 2 & others	<b>20.</b> By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially	<p>From 2010 to March 2017, the Territory will benefit from £248,073 of Darwin Initiative funding – this sum is for the restoration of Akrotiri marsh and the creation of a flagship wetland in the Cyprus SBAs.</p> <p>We do not have any figure for the MoD spend in Cyprus SBAs on environmental conservation. Substantial resources have been earmarked for acacia removal in the ESBA.</p>	



Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.		
2. Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas policy, and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species.	5. By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced. (Relates also to EC4)	In 2014 a successful bid to Darwin Plus was made for the restoration of Fassouri marsh. The combined project between BirdLife Cyprus, Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre, Cyprus SBAA and BirdLife UK has been awarded £248,073 to reinstate a mosaic of habitats and increase socio-economic opportunities for local people. On 30 December 2015, the SBAs announced the designation of five SACs in the SBA official gazette.	Translation of Ordinance provisions into action on the ground, such as the implementation of the Akrotiri management plan and relevant management actions.
2	11. By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically	There are 5 SACs and 3 SPAs. Due to their importance for birds, including breeding vultures and Eleonora's falcons as well as migratory birds, Special Protection Areas were designated at Akrotiri and Episkopi cliffs in 2010. There is a draft management plan for the entire Akrotiri peninsula area, including Akrotiri Salt Lake Ramsar Site, pending for at least 5 years.	Finalise and implement fully the management plan for Akrotiri peninsula.

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.		
2	<p><b>12.</b> By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.</p>	<p>The Protection and Management of Nature and Wildlife Ordinance 2007 and the Game and Wild Birds Ordinance 2008 afford important habitats and bird populations with the levels of protection required by EU Directives (as the SBAs, which are outside the EU, attempt to match their legislation with that of the Republic of Cyprus, which is in the EU). A policy instruction was produced in 2014 outlining SBAA strategic objectives for tackling the illegal poaching of wild birds. This was followed by a Bird Trapping Action Plan in September 2015, which outlines information, activities and strategy for bird-trapping in the SBAs. Legislation is in place that allows the SBA courts to impose penalties on those involved in the illegal killing and trading of birds – including custodial sentences. The maximum penalty for an offence is 3 years imprisonment or a fine of €17,086, although actual fines imposed are often small. A recent example of punitive action was a 2-month prison sentence and a €700 fine, and another was 3 months imprisonment. The SBAA have allocated more resources to enforcement and anti-poaching actions and, over the last 5 years (01/01/10 – 31/3/15), over 130 people have been convicted within the SBAs for mist-netting offences under the SBA Game and Wild Birds Ordinance 2008.</p> <p>An international species action plan was developed for Eleonora’s falcon <i>Falco eleonorae</i> in 1999. Episkopi and Akrotiri cliffs and Cape Aspro are important breeding sites for this species. Surveys are carried out annually and the current population is stable at ~250 birds. BirdLife Cyprus began monitoring the small population of Griffon vultures <i>Gyps fulvus</i> in 2011. The GYPAS Project, which took place between 2011 and 2014, aimed to reintroduce birds from Crete and tackle illegal poisoning and lack of food to protect the remaining Cypriot population of birds.</p> <p>After an increase in the number of green and loggerhead turtle deaths in 2009, an action plan was developed for the 2010 turtle nesting season. Investment in patrols, training and enforcement by the SBAA is ongoing.</p>	<p>Sustained and targeted enforcement of anti-poaching legislation; allocation of additional SBA police resources to enable more operations and seizures of trapping paraphernalia.</p> <p>Increased enforcement in the marine environment, especially with regard to illegal fishing, overfishing and sea turtle disturbance.</p> <p>Allocation of additional resources for sea turtle efforts in ESBA?</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		<p>The Red Data Book of the Flora of Cyprus contains the basis for species action plans for threatened plants in the SBAs.</p> <p>Cyprus has 2 endemic bird species: <i>Sylvia melanothorax</i> Cyprus Warbler and <i>Oenanthe cypriaca</i> Cyprus Wheatear They are migratory. Both occur in the SBAs.</p> <p>Previous surveys indicate that the Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas may have a disproportionately high importance for amphibians and reptiles. Cyprus as a whole supports two endemic species – the Cyprus or Troodos lizard (<i>Phoenicolacerta troodica</i>) and the Cyprus whip-snake (<i>Dolichophis cypriensis</i>) – plus several endemic subspecies.</p>	
2	<p><b>9.</b> By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.</p>	<p>Invasive <i>Acacia saligna</i> has been spreading rapidly. SBAA has been making considerable efforts to manage <i>Acacia saligna</i>, including mapping, prioritisation and clearance. From December 2014 to January 2016, a total of 54 acres of acacia have been cleared in Cape Pyla.</p> <p>The spread of box fish and puffer fish through the Suez Canal is a concern.</p>	<p>Assess the impact of rats and cats on birds.</p> <p>Underwater surveys to assess the extent of marine invasive species.</p>
2	<p><b>15.</b> By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby</p>	<p>Climatic conditions make the Mediterranean region one of the areas most severely affected by land degradation. Illegal activities such as 4x4 driving and motor cross contribute to land degradation.</p> <p>In 2015 Darwin Initiative funding was granted for a project to restore Akrotiri marsh.</p>	<p>Is an assessment of soil degradation required?</p> <p>Action to remove illegal activities and buildings is required to start the restoration process, including intensive wardening to prevent illegalities, such as hunting, exercising dogs, driving 4x4s.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.		
<p>3. Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes, promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the Territory.</p> <p>4. Ensure that environmental impact assessments are undertaken before approving major projects and while developing our growth management strategy.</p> <p>5. Commit to open and consultative decision-making on developments and plans which may affect the environment;</p>	<p>2. By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p>	<p>Schedules 1 and 2 of The Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance 2010 specify which developments require an EIA. Further requirements are laid out in the Game and Wild Birds Ordinance 2008 under 'Appropriate Assessment'. In January 2014, it was announced that there would be a relaxation of controls of non-military developments in the SBAs. Public consultation was carried out in July 2014. New planning zones and policy are under development alongside a review of legislative and procedural requirements for strategic environmental assessment in the new planning regime. A policy document outlining restrictions on development in the coastal region of the SBAs was produced in 2014. Further consultation took place in August/September 2015.</p>	<p>Implement best practice in Appropriate Assessment and EIA and other new planning rules, as well as consultative strategic environmental assessment and planning.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
ensure that environmental impact assessments include consultation with stakeholders.			
3	<p><b>3.</b> By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.</p>	<p>Harmful CAP subsidies still exist, though this is more a Cyprus government issue rather than for the SBAs. However these subsidies do affect SBA areas, such as Phassouri plantations and other areas such as Cape Pyla.</p>	
3, 4, 5	<p><b>4.</b> By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of</p>	<p>The SBAA policy is in favour of renewable energy schemes which improve the energy self-sufficiency of Cyprus. Legislation may change with the development of the new planning regime. Environmental approval must be obtained from the Chief Officer prior to the issuing of prospecting permits, mining leases or quarry licences. The Chief Officer has the power to order a penalty to pay for the environmental recovery of land in instances of an offence being committed.</p>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.		
2, 3	6. By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.	The Fisheries Ordinance 2012 protects fishing resources and the marine and inland water environments.	Increased enforcement in the marine environment, especially with regard to illegal fishing, overfishing and sea turtle disturbance.
3	7. By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	Conservation, protection and sustainable management of forests are governed by the Forest Ordinance 2014. This includes powers to declare areas to be national forest on the basis of important biodiversity, genetic diversity or landscape features. Agricultural areas especially in ESBA are in an area with a hugely depleted and polluted aquifer. Sustainable use of water is fundamental.	Increased sustainability in management of water resources in agriculture, including closing or registering all illegal boreholes (including Cape Pyla area).
3, 4, 5	14. By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health,	The 2015 Darwin Initiative project to restore Akrotiri marsh and create a flagship wetland, aims to not only restore species diversity at the site, but also increases socio-economic opportunities for local villagers.  Efforts to map, control and remove areas of invasive <i>Acacia saligna</i> scrub are ongoing by SBAA.	Fully implement Akrotiri peninsula management plan

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.		
6. Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Territory and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)	The Cyprus SBAs are included in UK's ratification of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (and have designated 1 Wetland of International Importance), and the Convention on Migratory Species (Bonn).	The Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES, Washington) have yet to be extended to the SBAs.
7. Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.	<b>19.</b> By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.		Review needed
8. Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for prevention or remedies; establish	<b>8.</b> By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity. (Relates	The Prevention of Oil Pollution (Territorial Waters) Ordinance 1982 legislates against pollution from vessels into the marine environment.	Pollution of beaches by litter is an issue in the SBAs, and needs to be addressed.

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.	also to EC3&4)		
8	<p><b>10.</b> By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning. (Relates also to EC3)</p>	SBA waters are a degraded marine environment, coral has been badly affected	Underwater surveys to assess the health of coral in SBA waters, followed by appropriate action
<p>9. Encourage teaching within schools to promote the value of our local environment (natural and built) and to explain its role within the regional and global environment.</p> <p>10. Promote publications that spread awareness of the special features of the environment in the Territory; promote within the Territory the guiding principles set out above.</p>	<p><b>1.</b> By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.</p>	Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre has been instrumental in providing environmental education and promoting the value of the local environment and the special features of the SBAs. It receives over 10,000 visitors/year and has recently moved to new premises which will allow its programme of activities to expand further. Its work is accredited and used by the authorities in the Republic as well as the SBAs. Additionally there is a range of educational material produced by UKOTCF and other collaborators relating to the heritage and natural environment of the Territory.	



Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
11. Abide by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and work towards meeting International Development Targets on the environment.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)		
Not matched specifically	13. By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.		

	<p><b>16.</b> By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.</p>		
	<p><b>18.</b> By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.</p>		

## Appendix Part 16. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: Gibraltar

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
<p>1. Bring together government departments, representatives of local industry and commerce, environment and heritage organisations, the Governor's office, individual environmental champions and other community representatives in a forum to formulate a detailed strategy for action.</p>	<p>17. By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan. (Relates also to EC5)</p>	<p>In 2006, Gibraltar adopted an Environment Charter very similar to the Charters signed in 2001 by some of the other Overseas Territories.</p> <p>The Gibraltar Biodiversity Action Plan along with the Upper Rock Management Plan are currently implemented under the umbrella of the Gibraltar Nature Reserve Management Plan. This management plan brings together all the relevant stakeholders with regards Gibraltar's terrestrial biodiversity strategy.</p> <p>In addition, the Southern Waters of Gibraltar Management Scheme (established under the Habitats Directive) as well as the Gibraltar Marine Monitoring Programme (established under the Water Framework, Marine Strategy, Birds and Habitats Directives) provides the relevant marine biodiversity strategy framework. The Southern Waters Management Scheme is presently being reviewed and will be published in early 2016.</p> <p>Gibraltar, through its Department of the Environment and Climate Change (DECC), has also implemented the Environmental Action and Management Plan (EAMP), 2013, which forms the basis of all of the Government's Environmental Policy. Key issues covered by the EAMP are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The living environment (constituting the natural and urban environment)</li> <li>• The link between sustainable development and human health</li> <li>• Strategies for the sustainable development of our living environment as well as nature conservation and management</li> <li>• The need to incorporate environmental considerations into all policy decisions</li> </ul> <p>The Gibraltar DECC aims to 'achieve a high quality environment, providing effective environmental protection, addressing the threat of climate change, protecting and enhancing the natural environment, developing sustainable waste management practices, promoting energy efficiency and sustainable energy generation as well as ensuring that</p>	<p>Implementation of the Gibraltar Nature Reserve Management Plan.</p> <p>Implementation and revision of the Southern Waters of Gibraltar Management Scheme.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		<p>Gibraltar's development respects the delicate balance between environment, economy and society.'</p> <p>All of the above are enforced by the Environmental Protection Officers, who comprise the Department of the Environment and Climate Change law enforcement body. The Environmental Protection Unit has the role of monitoring, supervising and enforcing the Nature Protection Act 2013 on a daily basis.</p> <p>Hon. Dr John Cortés, Minister for Health, Environment, Energy and Climate Change, keeps in touch with the local NGO and meets regularly to discuss. He is also advised on matters to do with the natural environment by the local Nature Conservancy Council, a group of 5 scientists. This group had been defunct but is now reformed.</p>	
1.	<p>20. By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.</p>	Explained in points below.	
2. Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, species	<p>5. By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least</p>	<p>In 2013, through the Nature Conservation (Designation of Gibraltar Nature Reserve) Order 2013, the Gibraltar Nature Reserve was extended from 1,454,457 m<sup>2</sup> to 2,370,079 m<sup>2</sup> [21% to 35% of total land area 6,800,000 m<sup>2</sup>].</p>	As above.

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
<p>and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas policy, and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species.</p>	<p>halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced. (Relates also to EC4)</p>	<p><a href="http://www.gibraltarlaws.gov.gi/articles/2013s147.pdf">http://www.gibraltarlaws.gov.gi/articles/2013s147.pdf</a></p> <p>Habitat restoration and species actions plans have been developed and are included within the Gibraltar Biodiversity Action Plan and the Gibraltar Nature Reserve management Plan.</p> <p>Due to a lack of naturally-occurring freshwater in Gibraltar, in the 1800s engineers blasted huge tanks inside the rock to collect water. Sheets of corrugated iron attached to timber frames covered the former tall sand-dune on the east side of Gibraltar to collect rainwater and channel this into the reservoirs in the Rock. In more recent times, the corrugated iron sheets were removed as they presented a health and safety risk and were very labour intensive and expensive to maintain. At the time, it was intended to replace the sheets with introduced species, e.g. hottentot fig, but the GONHS made representations to the Government. Instead, the area was sown with seeds from similar habitats around the area through the engagement of the Botanic Gardens. The habitat is now restored. Some plants species that had been lost were brought back and have re-established.</p> <p>Around the same time, the eagle owls and ravens returned to Gibraltar.</p> <p>DECC is making steady progress with its support of the artificial reef programme with new additions to the artificial reef network. During 2013 the artificial reef programme was re-invigorated by the DECC with the creation of the North West Artificial Reef: the reef has proven to improve marine life in the area.</p> <p>Work is being carried out also on other marine ecosystem restoration. This facet of the marine programme draws on historical sources and local expert knowledge to inform the re-introduction of species that were known to exist in the Bay such as fan mussels, oysters and sea grasses, the latter species being a tremendously important source of food, oxygen and habitat as well as an excellent carbon sink.</p> <p>Sand was imported for the Sandy Bay Beach Regeneration project. This project also included the creation of reef. Another island was also created in the harbour as part of creating a small boat marina. All of the wildlife around it is protected and no fishing is allowed.</p>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		<p>The DECC is working with the University of Algarve's Centre of Marine Sciences to plant mature plants and seedlings around Gibraltar.</p> <p>Between April 2014 and April 2015, Gibraltar has therefore continued with the urban planting programme and planted a total of 158 trees around Gibraltar, as well as the creation of the Gibraltar Commonwealth Park in 2014 which has become one of Gibraltar's prime recreational areas. At the same time, the Department has worked extensively on the maintenance and improvement of existing green areas. A GIS mapping and assessment is currently underway, and is to be completed before 2016.</p>	
2	<p><b>11.</b> By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.</p>	<p>Gibraltar's protected area network contains the following two EU protected sites, both of which classify as dual Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protected Areas (SAC/SPA):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>The Southern Waters of Gibraltar:</b> designated through the following legislative instruments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Designation of Special Area of Conservation (Southern Waters of Gibraltar) Order 2012;</li> <li>-Designation of Special Protected Areas Order 2011.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>The transposition of the Marine Protection Regulations 2014 has enabled HMGoG to designate the entirety of British Gibraltar Territorial Waters as a Marine Nature Area. One of the first things that was done was a full bathymetric survey of the waters of Gibraltar. <a href="http://www.gibraltarlaws.gov.gi/articles/2014s180.pdf">http://www.gibraltarlaws.gov.gi/articles/2014s180.pdf</a></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. <b>The Rock of Gibraltar:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nature Reserve extent was recently extended through the Nature Conservation (Designation of Gibraltar Nature Reserve) Order 2013.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>The Gibraltar Nature Reserve Management Plan has been developed for the terrestrial SAC, whilst the Southern Waters of Gibraltar Management Scheme (2012-2015) was developed for the Southern Waters of Gibraltar SPA. This enables relevant authorities to carry out their responsibilities and functions in line with requirements of the Nature Protection Act 1991 and the Marine Protection Regulations 2014 amongst other relevant legislation.</p>	<p>As above including the establishment of more concise and measurable conservation objectives for EU protected habitats and species.</p> <p>Work towards the designation of Gorham's Cave Complex as a World Heritage Site.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		<p>Gibraltar, through the UK, has also proposed that the Gorham's Cave Complex be a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Complex contains four sea caves - Bennett's, Gorham's, Vanguard and Hyena - lying at the base of the eastern face of the Rock of Gibraltar. The caves lie within the youngest of five tectonic uplift blocks of the Jurassic limestone of the Rock. This represents the last 250,000 years of the history of the western Mediterranean, including a most important site for Neanderthal Man. UK included this amongst only 13 sites on its 2012 statutory list of Tentative World Heritage Sites, from which proposed nominations over the following approximate 10 years have to be drawn. It is hoped that Gibraltar will have a UNESCO World Heritage Site by the end of 2016.</p> <p>An Act has been created for the Botanic Garden outlining its Law and guaranteeing that it remains as such. An Act was also passed to make the Commonwealth Park part of the Law of Gibraltar.</p>	
2	<p><b>12.</b> By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.</p>	<p>The Nature Protection Act 1991 deals with the protection of plants and animals in Gibraltar's terrestrial and marine habitats, including those that are rare and endangered. It also prohibits hunting.</p> <p>Under the Gibraltar Biodiversity Action Plan, the following species are covered:</p> <p>Birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Western Mediterranean Shag</li> <li>-Lesser Kestrel – some work is going to be done on feral pigeons. Ongoing work revolves around controlling feral pigeon numbers.</li> <li>-Peregrine</li> <li>-Barbary Partridge – Numbers were low due to predation, lack of habitat, etc. A programme was commenced which involved clearing habitat and addressing some of the other issues. Re-introduction has now begun with some eggs and chicks hatched and released. Some young Barbary Partridges also bred in captivity and so more eggs were produced, from which the young were then released. All of the released partridges were marked. Some of the released partridges have paired up with local birds. Monitoring will continue.</li> <li>-Eagle Owl (The Eagle Owl reappeared in Gibraltar ~10-15 years ago)</li> </ul> <p>Mammals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-All Cetaceans</li> </ul>	<p>Implementation of the Gibraltar Nature Reserve Management Plan.</p> <p>Implementation and revision of the Southern Waters of Gibraltar Management Scheme.</p>

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		<p>-Barbary Macaque            -Red Fox            -European Rabbit            -Soprano Pipistrelle            -Schreiber's Bat</p> <p>Flowering Plants:            -All Orchids            -Gibraltar chickweed            -Gibraltar Campion            -Gibraltar Thyme            -Gibraltar Restharrow            -Gibraltar Sea Lavender            -Gibraltar Candytuft            -Gibraltar Saxifrage            -Bay Tree            -Narrow-leaved Ash</p> <p>Invertebrates:            -Gibraltar Joint-pine Beetle            -Gibraltar Funnel-web Spider            -Snail <i>Acicula norrisi</i>            -Snail <i>Osteophora calpeana</i>            -Mediterranean Ribbed Limpet <i>Patella ferruginea</i></p> <p>Other actions carried out for the protection/ conservation of species are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A programme of protecting endemic vegetation and the restoration of natural habitats commenced in 2005. This is still ongoing.</li> <li>2. In conjunction with the office of the Town Planner, the DECC is able to issue Tree Preservation Orders to protect endemic and established trees from development pressures.</li> <li>3. Seeds of the Gibraltar Campion <i>Silene tormentosa</i> are stored with the Millennium Seed Bank and many specimens are grown annually at Gibraltar Botanical Gardens. The Gibraltar Campion was thought to be extinct, but was rediscovered in 1994.</li> <li>4. The Gibraltar Ornithological &amp; Natural History Society and the Gibraltar Veterinary</li> </ol>	



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		<p>Clinic are responsible, under agreement with the Government of Gibraltar, for the management of the macaques, e.g. for looking after their well-being and general condition as well as monitoring their population levels. Improvements have been carried out on the Upper Rock, e.g. providing ponds and providing shading for food.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Any private projects in which swift nests are lost in re-roofing have to replace the nests by putting up swift boxes. The Government is doing this in its own buildings. Bat boxes are also being put up.</li> <li>6. Bird of prey rehabilitation and captive breeding, e.g. Lesser Kestrels are being bred and released.</li> <li>7. Some reclamation needed to be carried out to build a new power station. However, the area contained Mediterranean ribbed limpets which are protected at a European level. The area was therefore surveyed and the limpets were counted, measured, and marked. Each rock that had a limpet on it was moved to somewhere where there would be no chance of reclamation.</li> <li>8. <i>Pina rudis</i> and <i>Pina nobilis</i> shells were moved from an area which was due to experience turbidity due to some works.</li> <li>9. As sea-grass was lost, collaboration with the University of the Algarve was initiated. The University grew some sea-grass in trays, brought them to Gibraltar, planted them, and the sea-grass is now colonising. The plants are kept under close surveillance. Gibraltar's underwater camera can be used to monitor the sea-grass every day.</li> </ol> <p>The new plan contains a wide range of recommendations for the Upper Rock and other areas of ecological importance in Gibraltar that were afforded protected area status under the Nature Conservation (Designation of Gibraltar Nature Reserve) Order 2013. These areas include Windmill Hill, the Mount, Jacob's Ladder, Northern Defences, Great Sand Slopes, the Talus and Europa Foreshore.</p> <p>During 2014, a species of bat new to Gibraltar, the Isabelline Serotine <i>Eptesicus isabellinus</i>, was captured during a netting session conducted by the Gibraltar Bats Project team at the Gibraltar Botanic Gardens.</p>	
2	9. By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority	<p>Of the 363 species of vascular plant within the Gibraltar Nature Reserve: Upper Rock, 24 have been introduced from exotic environments.</p> <p>The Gibraltar Nature Reserve Management Plan builds on the legislative requirements of</p>	As above

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	species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.	<p>the Nature Protection Act 1991 and all the Regulations that come under the Act. In doing so, it includes sections dealing with the introduction of fauna and flora that are not indigenous to Gibraltar. It is therefore illegal to <i>'introduce any animal or plant which is of a kind which is not ordinarily resident or is not a regular visitor to Gibraltar in a wild state or does not grow in the wild in Gibraltar, as the case may be'</i>. The Plan and the relevant Regulations are implemented and enforced by the Environmental Protection and Research Unit of the Department of the Environment and Climate Change as well as the Gibraltar Nature Reserve Management team.</p> <p>In support of the GNR Management Plan and through consultation with the DECC, the Ministry of Defence implemented their Integrated Rural Management Plan during 2014, for MOD estates in Gibraltar. This plan also contains an Invasive Species Control Programme. The overall direction is managed by the DoE.</p>	
2	<p><b>15.</b> By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.</p>	<p>In 2012, HM Government of Gibraltar commissioned a carbon-footprint assessment and review of all government operations, with a view to quantifying and reducing carbon emissions as well as introducing green accounting policy into mainstream reporting.</p> <p>The report was conducted by Dr Rose Baily of Ricardo AEA and completed in 2014. Gibraltar's DECC is in the process of conducting the first round of data-gathering from GoG departments and agencies to build on the baseline provided by the report.</p> <p>The DECC and the recently created Climate Change Task Force, chaired by the Deputy Chief Minister, have been addressing actively key aspects of Gibraltar's Climate Change strategy during the course of the year. The strategy will be elaborated further in the revised Gibraltar Climate Change Programme and is divided into four main overarching themes which include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adapting to climate change by building Gibraltar's resilience;</li> <li>2. Facilitating the transition towards a low carbon economy;</li> <li>3. Improving our understanding of climate change science; and</li> <li>4. Raising climate change awareness and changing consumer behaviour through educational initiatives. This follows the strategic approach adopted by the United Nations Environment Programme for combating climate change.</li> </ol> <p>Some of the key measures that form part of the strategy and are being implemented already include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing and encouraging the uptake of solar energy; e.g. there is removal import</li> </ul>	<p>In conjunction with the findings of the first data gathering round, the Gibraltar Climate Change programme will provide targets to reduce overall emissions.</p> <p>Initiatives that need to be implemented include:</p> <p>Continuation of the seagrass restoration (carbon sink) programme</p> <p>National Energy Efficiency Action Plan published 2014 Street lighting efficiency replacement programme</p> <p>National Renewable Energy Action Plan published 2015</p> <p>Gibraltar Renewable Energy</p>

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		<p>duty for renewables.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing and encouraging the uptake of marine renewables: two Memoranda of Understanding have been signed to produce energy from waves and from marine currents. The Eco wave power project is going ahead: the agreement with Eco Wave Power is for the provision of an initial 0.5MW energy device on the eastside. If the project is successful, there will be a view to further expansion of up to a 5MW plant.</li> <li>• Improving end-user efficiency.</li> </ul> <p>Investigations are being carried out into offshore wind, which could possibly be followed by a tendering process for wind to be phased in, with a decision gate: go ahead if capital costs are low enough and wind speeds high enough.</p> <p>Gibraltar's Climate Change Policy includes also a Soil Protection Policy. The aim of this policy is to provide a framework for the protection of soil and the preservation of the capacity of soil to perform various environmental functions including acting as a biodiversity pool. It therefore aims to lay down measures for the prevention of soil degradation processes. Developments which would involve the removal of significant amounts of soil would be discouraged. If such a development does go ahead, every effort should be made to find a beneficial use for the removed soil.</p>	<p>strategy published 2015</p> <p>Energy Efficiency Lighting programme for Government Buildings rolled out in 2014 and on-going</p> <p>Smart metering of household electrical consumption being deployed throughout Gibraltar, initiated in 2015.</p> <p>Electricity system management study required to assess appropriate balance between wind, marine, waste and photo-voltaic.</p>
<p>3. Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes, promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the Territory.</p> <p>4. Ensure that environmental impact assessments are undertaken before</p>	<p>2. By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p>	<p>Biodiversity issues are considered as part of the Gibraltar Development Plan. A strategic assessment (which included biodiversity issues) was carried out in 2009. The plan is now being reviewed in line with new legislative and management requirements. The plan states that all new developments must provide a minimum of 5% of total floor area as permanent green areas.</p> <p>The Town Planning Act 2015 now references both the Nature Protection Act 1991 and the Environmental Protection (Trees) Act 2014, to support the 2009 Gibraltar Development Plan's references to the environment and to biodiversity. The Town Planning Act 2015 requires consideration of the impacts of any proposed development on European protected sites, such as the Gibraltar Nature Reserve: Upper Rock.</p> <p>There are legislative requirements for EIAs and more stringent Appropriate Assessments (in line with the Habitats Directive) of all projects that could impact protected areas. The Town Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2000 set out EIA procedures, including for developments with significant transboundary effects. Through the Development and Planning Commission, all building developments are assessed on</p>	<p>Continuing to raise awareness of biodiversity related issues in the Development and Planning Commission</p> <p>Complete review of Gibraltar Development Plan.</p> <p>Finish updating and reviewing the Government's Green Procurement Policy.</p> <p>Complete review of Buildings Regulations. A review of Part F of the Building Regulations has commenced. In as far</p>

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<p>approving major projects and while developing our growth management strategy.</p> <p>5. Commit to open and consultative decision-making on developments and plans which may affect the environment; ensure that environmental impact assessments include consultation with stakeholders.</p>		<p>environmental rankings such as energy consumption, biodiversity impact, emissions and efficiency of building materials used. The Development and Planning Commission meetings have been held in public since 2012.</p> <p>All development projects require planning approval are heard by the Development and Planning Commission which is based on a public consultation process. The Town Planning Act has now been reviewed, meaning that Government projects will have to go through independent Development &amp; Planning Commission before they get approved.</p> <p>The Commission consists of the following voting members-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the Town Planner, who shall be the chairman;</li> <li>(b) the Minister;</li> <li>(c) five persons nominated by the Chief Minister including representatives from the Department of the Environment and Climate Change;</li> <li>(d) one person nominated by the Ministry of Defence;</li> <li>(e) one person nominated by the Gibraltar Heritage Trust;</li> <li>(f) one person nominated by the Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society; and</li> <li>(g) one person nominated by the Environmental Safety Group.</li> </ul> <p>This Green Filter continues to work well with Department officials playing an increasing role in planning, as well as in the EIA process. Departmental scientists attend all DPC meetings and ensure that planning conditions are met. The Government's green procurement policy, which was instrumental in changing the environmental dynamics within the local market, is being reviewed and updated. By continuing to apply and direct the public sector's purchasing power towards green alternatives, we continue to stimulate the market and create niches for green initiatives, employment and economic regeneration.</p>	<p>as the Energy Performance of Buildings aspect is concerned, the relevant legislation dates back to 2008, i.e. Building (Energy performance) Rules 2008. It has been amended a number of times since then.</p>

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		<p>Groundwater and Marine:</p> <p>Coastal water, bathing water and groundwater monitoring programmes continue to operate smoothly with samples being collected on a monthly basis from all beaches, offshore locations around Gibraltar's coastline and from Gibraltar's freshwater aquifers. The DECC continues also to collect and monitor marine sediment, phytoplankton, fish and bivalve tissue samples. Data collected are used by DECC to help meet its reporting obligations under the Bathing Water, Water Framework and the Marine Strategy Framework Directives. These ensure the protection of coastal ecology and water quality, unique and valuable habitats, drinking water resources and bathing waters. A Water Framework Directive Working Group consists of a panel of local professionals, scientists, and Government officials. It was established specifically to provide ongoing technical and scientific advice to Government on the development and implementation of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>The EU Water Framework Directive itself requires River Basin District Management Plans to be drawn up, to classify the existing state of coastal waters, ground waters and rivers and to identify any potential sources of pollution. The Gibraltar Plan covers only coastal waters and ground waters as there are no rivers. This, along with any relevant information is available to the public, through displays at the site as well as through the media and internet. The annual Bathing Water Report and Tourist Atlas can be viewed on the Environmental Agency website: this web resource provides also current water status for each bathing area as well as providing historical results. Bathing water quality research and findings are available also to the public through web-browser application access. They are published also on an annual basis in the yearly environmental report.</p>	
3	<p>3. By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of</p>	Not applicable	

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	biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.		
3, 4, 5	<p>4. By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.</p>	<p>Gibraltar does not currently produce any goods and is therefore considered to be a net consumer. The production of waste is therefore one of the main negative environmental impacts arising from Gibraltar’s consumption of natural resources.</p> <p>The Government has a lead by example approach, e.g. in week one, the present Government switched to recycled paper – all paper used by the Government is now recycled.</p> <p>The long-term waste strategy requires a municipal waste treatment facility. This project is going through a renewed tender process in order to ensure that the best available technologies and best practices are adopted to ensure that Gibraltar specific environmental needs are met.</p> <p>2015 figures on recycling have already seen an increase of approximately 38.5% in mixed packaging waste such as plastic and cans (the yellow bin), 15% on Glass (the green bin), 21% on Cardboard and 60% on Paper (the blue bin). Additional pink bins have been provided in 2015 further to increase the recycling rates of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). 2015 figures have already surpassed the amount of WEEE recycled in the whole of 2014.</p> <p>Gibraltar’s recycling campaigns continue to expand and the 2016 World Environment Day saw the launch of yet another kerbside recycling service, the recycling of waste cooking oil in the new orange bins.</p> <p>Further successful outcomes from the Litter Committee is the designation of dedicated litter wardens. These officers have received the necessary training and patrol Gibraltar daily, creating awareness, educating and deterring people from irresponsible tipping. No-</p>	<p>Increasing recycling targets.</p> <p>Implementing Gibraltar’s Waste Prevention Programme more rigorously.</p> <p>Establish municipal waste treatment facility.</p> <p>Put up no-dumping rubbish signs.</p>

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		<p>dumping signs will shortly be going up in litter hotspots to further remind the public that, in Gibraltar, bins are only a short distance away and there is no excuse for the illegal dumping of refuse.</p> <p>There are laws (the Imports and Exports Act 1986 and the Solar Energy Deduction Rules 2015) on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduction in duty on electric and hybrid vehicles</li> <li>• tax incentives on solar panels</li> <li>• tax incentives for increase in energy performance on buildings (if your energy performance certificate this year is better than last year's, you receive a tax rebate)</li> <li>• tax on plastic bags.</li> </ul> <p>The following Sectors have various policies in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power: feed-in tariffs/power purchase agreements as principal policies, as well as: preferential loans, and demonstration projects as supporting policies.</li> <li>• Transport: fuel content standard and sales subsidies for lower-carbon vehicles as principal policies. Fuel tax, tax concession, and loans for electric vehicle purchase as supporting policies.</li> <li>• Buildings: mandatory building codes, and minimum energy performance standards as principal policies. Efficiency investment and smart meters as supporting policies.</li> </ul> <p>Similar mechanisms are being included as part of the revised Gibraltar Climate Change Programme that is currently being drafted.</p>	
2, 3	<p><b>6.</b> By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse</p>	<p>Whilst there are no commercial fisheries in Gibraltar, the issue of illegal commercial fishing is covered by the Southern Waters of Gibraltar Management Scheme and under the 2013 report 'The management of marine living resources in the waters around Gibraltar'. There is active and rigorous monitoring and enforcement of all marine commercial activities within British Gibraltar Territorial waters. This was used to help design new regulations:</p> <p>The Marine Protection Regulations 2014, along with the Tuna Preservation Regulations 2014, are both tools of the Nature Protection Act 1991. They allow for the regulation of fishing activities carried out legally in British Gibraltar Territorial Waters, e.g. fishing with long-lines. Other activities carried out by e.g. sports fishing operators are also regulated subject to the conditions of the relevant permit classes included in the aforementioned regulations. The Tuna Preservation Regulations specifically cater for the regulation of tuna fishing activities.</p>	Cessation of illegal fisheries, largely by foreign boats.

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	impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.	<p>Key measures introduced in the regulations include the licensing requirements, minimum fish sizes, the creation of Marine Conservation Zones and the ability to implement designated fishing seasons and yearly quotas for species requiring additional protection such as Atlantic Bluefin tuna.</p> <p>No-anchoring zones have also been designated and included in the regulations to protect the seabed, particularly reefs. On the eastside for example, the no anchoring zone extends up to 1.5 nautical miles. There are currently 3 no-fishing zones in the Gibraltar's MCZs.</p> <p>Guidance documents have been published better to inform the public on how the regulations work; these include a marine species identification booklet which has been produced and is made available to all applicants to highlight some of the common fish and mollusc species found in Gibraltar along with their corresponding minimum sizes.</p>	
3	7. By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	Not applicable	
3, 4, 5	14. By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.	Not applicable	
6. Implement effectively obligations under	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)	Ratified some years ago by the UK, Gibraltar has never before taken a full role in the activities of the ACCOBAMS organisation. Its role has now (2015) been accepted and, as a first activity, the ACCOBAMS Secretariat has invited the Government's Department of	Designate Wetland(s) of International Importance under the Ramsar



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the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Territory and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.		<p>the Environment and Climate Change (DECC) to take a full part in the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative which is aimed at undertaking a comprehensive survey of the waters covered by the ACCOBAMS including British Gibraltar Territorial Waters (BGTW).</p> <p>Gibraltar is included in the UK's ratification of the Convention for Biological Diversity, CMS, Ramsar, CITES and Eurobats.</p> <p>GIBMANATUR was a Gibraltar-Morocco EU Interreg project, involving collaboration between GONHS and the Institut Scientifique of the Université Mohammed V Rabat-Agdal. One of the aims of Interreg was to establish close links between countries across the regions. As an example of activities carried out, in January 2006, GONHS surveyed wetland birds in northern Morocco. Other activities included bird-ringing, invertebrate work, and a joint botanical visit to the eastern Rif mountains, to locate sites where species only found in Gibraltar and Morocco may occur.</p> <p>Hon Dr John Cortés also keeps contact with Spain regarding the environment.</p>	<p>Convention.</p> <p>Extend the following Conventions to Gibraltar:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ICCAT</li> <li>2. Barcelona Convention</li> </ol>
7. Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.	19. By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.	<p>The status and trends of the main EU-listed Habitats in Gibraltar have been determined through two classification exercises carried out in 2007 and 2013 respectively. These were carried out in line with the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive. In line with this Directive, there is continued habitat surveillance and data management.</p> <p>Specific assessments of marine biodiversity have been carried out in line with the requirements of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. There is also surveillance monitoring of the Marine Special Area of Conservation.</p> <p>A collaborative study of Gibraltar's bats is being carried out by the Gibraltar Museum and Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society (GONHS). The project aims to establish a better understanding of local bats' habits and monitor resident and non-resident species over the next three years. The GONHS bat group welcomed this study which links in with the work they have been conducting over the past 6 years in monitoring bats in Gibraltar, as well as participating in International Bat Night as part of the Eurobats Agreement.</p> <p>Surveys are being undertaken for all planted green areas throughout Gibraltar so as to ensure better management and preservation of all such areas.</p>	

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<p>8. Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for prevention or remedies; establish effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.</p>	<p>8. By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity. (Relates also to EC3&amp;4)</p>	<p>The Environment (Air Quality Standards) Regulations 2010, require that the Minister for the Environment develop Action Plans, where the limit values stated within the Regulations are exceeded, to allow the reduction of emissions of the offending pollutant/s, therefore guaranteeing that the limit values are met within the shortest possible timeframe.</p> <p>An Air Quality Action Plan has been produced, as well as legislation for reducing urban dust emissions entitled 'Environment (Control of Dust) Regulations 2010'.</p> <p>There is an air quality monitoring network across Gibraltar. The air quality monitoring programme commenced in 2005 and is comprised of three air monitoring stations as well as a comprehensive network of diffusion tubes throughout Gibraltar. The objective is to monitor air pollutants to check that target levels are being kept, and action taken when they are exceeded.</p> <p>Raw monitoring data obtained are successfully processed, analysed and interpreted in order to provide information and ensure compliance requirements under the Air Quality Framework and Air Quality Daughter Directives. Data are disseminated in near real-time on the Gibraltar air quality website.</p> <p>There is Government support and involvement in pollution reduction initiatives such as Clean up the World and World Environment Day.</p> <p>The Government is drafting legislation that focuses on land-quality management and enforces a polluter-pays principle in respect to contamination or pollution of land.</p> <p>The Environmental Action and Management Plan (2013), serves as a road map for the implementation of green principles aimed at reducing pollution. It establishes general policy goals, identifies specific action points and sets out tentative time-frames for goal achievement.</p>	<p>A new Urban Waste Water Treatment facility will be commissioned in 2016. This will ensure that Gibraltar is compliant with the EU's Urban Wastewater treatment Directive.</p> <p>Complete and enact legislation that focuses on land quality management and enforces a polluter pays principle in respect to contamination or pollution of land.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>10. By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean</p>	<p>Preliminary climate change modelling and impact assessment was undertaken in 2012/2013 through the 'EU's Cities Adapt' climate change project. This highlighted zones of further research. Gibraltar-specific climate change risk analyses are therefore now being investigated.</p> <p>Zones of further research are being discussed with the Gibraltar University with a view to create a Climate Resilience Strategy for Gibraltar.</p>	<p>Carry out Gibraltar-specific climate change risk analyses.</p> <p>Create a Climate Resilience Strategy for Gibraltar following further research.</p>

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	acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning. (Relates also to EC3)	The Climate Change Fund is being reviewed at present.	
<p>9. Encourage teaching within schools to promote the value of our local environment (natural and built) and to explain its role within the regional and global environment.</p> <p>10. Promote publications that spread awareness of the special features of the environment in the Territory; promote within the Territory the guiding principles set out above.</p>	<p>1. By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.</p>	<p>Gibraltar has converted a significant amount of its spatial, geographical and environmental data into GIS format. These were published via a dedicated web portal in 2013. This was based on the EU wide INSPIRE legislation. They are accessible via the Gibraltar geoportal on <a href="http://www.geoportal.gov.gi">www.geoportal.gov.gi</a></p> <p>Yearly education programmes are run by the Department of Environment throughout all schools and age groups. There are also quarterly environmental public awareness days held at the town centre.</p> <p>Green space in Gibraltar is very limited. Most children in Gibraltar have no access to gardens. Thus, some have little contact with the natural environment. The Alameda Gardening Club introduces children to themes such as: horticulture, importance of plants in peoples' lives, ecology, including pollinators, conservation and recycling. This initiative is supported by the Department of Education. There are also Facebook sites where they are able to interact with the public answering questions etc.</p> <p>The DECC raises awareness on a whole array of environmental issues in schools. Focusing recently on energy-efficiency and marine awareness as well as the launch of Gibraltar's underwater camera, the first of its kind in Europe. The underwater camera forms another element of the wider marine surveillance programme carried out by the DECC to monitor the status of marine habitats and species within British Gibraltar Territorial Waters. A second camera is going to be set up in Summer 2016.</p> <p>A dedicated website has therefore been created on the Department's <i>Thinking Green</i> website to provide all with real time footage of Gibraltar's rich underwater environment. <a href="http://www.thinkinggreen.gov.gi/index.php/underwater-camera">http://www.thinkinggreen.gov.gi/index.php/underwater-camera</a></p> <p>This pioneering project is proving to be successful for many reasons. It is providing continuously scientific data on Gibraltar's marine diversity and water quality, while providing a facility for the community to learn about the marine environment.</p>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		<p>The <i>Thinking Green</i> website was developed by the DoE in 2013, and has a kids zone as well as apps and E-games. Each of these portray local environmental resources for children, both from Gibraltar and globally, to download and learn about as they play.</p> <p>Local NGOs also contribute and continue to drive environmental and biodiversity awareness.</p> <p>World Environment Day is held yearly and hosted with the participation of all schools and parents.</p> <p>Clean up the World Day is organised locally in conjunction with local NGOs. This is 100% voluntary public participation.</p> <p>The Environmental Agency officers take an active part in health and environmental promotion campaigns throughout the year, visiting schools and giving presentations to interested groups.</p> <p>Several apps have been developed, including one for the Upper Rock Reserve, which presents information on the natural environment in Gibraltar. Interactive environmental guides and field guides have been produced. Apps have been produced also allowing data entry, research and monitoring, as well as apps for making environmentally friendly lifestyle changes.</p> <p>Newsletters are produced, e.g. 'Gibraltar Nature News' and social media are used, e.g. the GONHS has a Facebook page.</p> <p>The text from many training courses and reference books are available online. A lot of information about Gibraltar's environmental commitments and work can be found in the 'Sustaining Partnerships' Conference proceedings (11th to 15th July 2015).</p>	
11. Abide by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and work towards meeting	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)		

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
International Development Targets on the environment.			
Not matched specifically	<p><b>13.</b> By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.</p>	<p>The Nature Protection Act (NPA) 1991 deals with the protection of plants and animals in Gibraltar's terrestrial and marine habitats, including those that are rare and endangered.</p> <p>Flowering Plants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-All Orchids</li> <li>-Gibraltar chickweed</li> <li>-Gibraltar Campion</li> <li>-Gibraltar Thyme</li> <li>-Gibraltar Restharrow</li> <li>-Gibraltar Sea Lavender</li> <li>-Gibraltar Candytuft</li> <li>-Gibraltar Saxifrage</li> <li>-Bay Tree</li> <li>-Narrow-leaved Ash</li> </ul> <p>Of the 363 species of vascular plant within Upper Rock Nature Reserve in a wild state, 24 have been introduced from exotic environments.</p> <p>The 'Nature Conservation Area (Upper Rock Nature Reserve) (Protection and Regulation) Regulations 1993' includes sections dealing with the introduction of fauna and floral species that are not indigenous to the Gibraltar Nature Reserve. These Regulations state that it is illegal to 'introduce any animal or plant which is of a kind which is not ordinarily resident or is not a regular visitor to Gibraltar in a wild state or does not grow in the wild in Gibraltar, as the case may be'.</p> <p>The Ministry of Defence's Integrated Rural Management Plan for MOD estates in Gibraltar also contains an Invasive Species Control Programme. The overall direction is managed by the DoE.</p>	

	<p><b>16.</b> By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.</p>	<p>Local legislation pertaining to Genetic resources includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Public Health (Transboundary Movements of Genetically Modified Organisms) Regulations 2013</li> <li>2. Public Health (Genetically Modified Organisms) (Deliberate Release) Regulation, 1995</li> </ol>	
	<p><b>18.</b> By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.</p>	<p>Mainly relevant in relation to marine resources as outlined above under the Marine Protection Regulations 2014 and the Tuna Preservation Regulations 2015.</p>	

<p>1. Bring together government departments, representatives of local industry and commerce, environment and heritage organisations, the Governor's office, individual environmental champions and other community representatives in a forum to formulate a detailed strategy for action.</p>	<p>17. By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan. (Relates also to EC5)</p>	<p>In 2006, Gibraltar adopted an Environment Charter very similar to the Charters signed in 2001 by some of the other Overseas Territories.</p> <p>The Gibraltar Biodiversity Action Plan along with the Upper Rock Management Plan are currently implemented under the umbrella of the Gibraltar Nature Reserve Management Plan. This management plan brings together all the relevant stakeholders with regards Gibraltar's terrestrial biodiversity strategy.</p> <p>In addition, the Southern Waters of Gibraltar Management Scheme (established under the Habitats Directive) as well as the Gibraltar Marine Monitoring Programme (established under the Water Framework, Marine Strategy, Birds and Habitats Directives) provides the relevant marine biodiversity strategy framework. The Southern Waters Management Scheme is presently being reviewed and will be published in early 2016.</p> <p>Gibraltar, through its Department of the Environment and Climate Change (DECC), has also implemented the Environmental Action and Management Plan (EAMP), 2013, which forms the basis of all of the Government's Environmental Policy. Key issues covered by the EAMP are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The living environment (constituting the natural and urban environment)</li> <li>• The link between sustainable development and human health</li> <li>• Strategies for the sustainable development of our living environment as well as nature conservation and management</li> <li>• The need to incorporate environmental considerations into all policy decisions</li> </ul> <p>The Gibraltar DECC aims to 'achieve a high quality environment, providing effective environmental protection, addressing the threat of climate change, protecting and enhancing the natural environment, developing sustainable waste management practices, promoting energy efficiency and sustainable energy generation as well as ensuring that Gibraltar's development respects the delicate balance between environment, economy and society.'</p> <p>All of the above are enforced by the Environmental Protection Officers, who comprise the Department of the Environment and Climate Change law enforcement body. The Environmental Protection Unit has the role of monitoring, supervising and enforcing the Nature Protection Act 2013 on a daily basis.</p> <p>Hon. Dr John Cortés, Minister for Health, Environment, Energy and Climate Change, keeps in touch with the local NGO and meets regularly to discuss. He is also advised on matters to do with the natural environment by the local Nature Conservancy Council, a group of 5 scientists. This group had been defunct but is now reformed.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Gibraltar Nature Reserve Management Plan.</p> <p>Implementation and revision of the Southern Waters of Gibraltar Management Scheme.</p>
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1.	<p><b>20.</b> By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.</p>	Explained in points below.	
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## Appendix Part 17. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: Isle of Man

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
1. Bring together government departments, representatives of local industry and commerce, environment and heritage organisations, the Governor's office, individual environmental champions and other community representatives in a forum to formulate a detailed strategy for action.	17. By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan. (Relates also to EC5)	The Isle of Man's first Biodiversity Strategy was unanimously agreed by the Manx Parliament in October 2015.	<p>The Delivery Plan for the Biodiversity Strategy is under development. The target in the Biodiversity Strategy is for April 2016 (within 6 months of the adoption of the strategy by Tynwald).</p> <p>A Biodiversity Steering Group is under development, tasked with driving forward and monitoring the implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy and Delivery Plan.</p> <p>DEFA and NGOs are currently working on Biodiversity Action Plans for priority species and habitats.</p>
1, 2 & others	20. By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should	A Biodiversity Fund has been set up and is receiving funds but not spending currently, and the Treasury has stated that it would consider an application for a bundle of funding to cover action plan requirements, though there is no promise of funding provision. Informal applications for funding for conservation projects are considered on a case-by-case basis and some funding has been made available.	Continue to identify, and by 2018 prioritise and improve, biodiversity knowledge through research and survey, especially the status and abundance of key species and priority habitats (as part of the development of Biodiversity Action Plans).

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.		
2. Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas policy, and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species.	5. By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced. (Relates also to EC4)	<p>The Wildlife Act 1990 sets out schedules of Manx species of animal and plant that are legally protected from injury or disturbance. The Act establishes also the legal protection of Areas of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves. In 2004, the list of protected species was revised, and the Act received some amendment under the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act in 2008</p> <p>Bird Sanctuaries remain under the Wild Birds Protection Acts. A new Fisheries Act has been implemented recently and Closed Areas have been set up under this Act.</p> <p>A Bill for the consideration of marine developments is now awaiting Royal Assent.</p> <p>The biodiversity strategy includes a policy of no net loss of wildlife habitat.</p> <p>Trees in the Isle of Man are protected under The Tree Preservation Act 1993.</p> <p>The Ramsey Forest Project, run via the Wildflowers of Mann partnership project, is a visionary project seeking to re-afforest a significant area for broad community and biodiversity benefits in the long term, by joining up ancient woodland fragments by native planting.</p>	<p>Actions under the Biodiversity Strategy related to this include:</p> <p>By 2017, seek a more robust duty for Government to conserve biodiversity in the Wildlife Act.</p> <p>By 2020, review all of government's relevant legislation, regulations, schemes, incentives, codes of practice for consistency with biodiversity conservation, especially international obligations.</p>
2	11. By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and	<p>A nomination for UNESCO Biosphere designation was submitted in September 2015 and an announcement on the response is expected on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016.</p> <p>Ballaugh Curragh is designated as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention (193.4ha). The site is jointly managed by Manx National Heritage, the Government, Manx Wildlife Trust and private individuals. There is an operating management plan on part of the site.</p>	<p>Work is underway to work with the fishing industry to protect further marine areas for habitat protection and fisheries replenishment.</p> <p>Work is ongoing with regard</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.	<p>The Isle of Man has one Marine Nature Reserve, designated in 2011, protecting approximately 2.6% of Manx waters. 5 additional inshore Fisheries Closed Areas offer protection to an additional 0.4% of Manx waters. Temporary offshore protected areas protect approximately 3.6% of Manx waters so a total of 6.6% of Manx waters are currently protected from mobile fishing gear as a minimum. The Ramsey Marine Nature Reserve protects important habitats and species in the area, in particular horse mussel reefs, eelgrass meadows and maerl beds.</p> <p>At the end February 2014, 21 Areas of Special Scientific Interest were designated in the Isle of Man, one of which is also a National Nature Reserve. 4.74% of the land has been designated as ASSI.</p>	to the designation of Areas of Special Scientific Interest. Focus is currently on the selection of sites that are most at risk of loss or damage. An additional 100ha or three new sites by end March 2016 is being worked towards.
2	12. By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	<p>Action plan groups, covering broad habitats and taxon groups, have been set up to draft action plans and discuss issues of mutual interest, towards an integrated set of plans which cover achievable short-term goals and which should be updated regularly in a rolling plan.</p> <p>In 2000, Butterfly Conservation produced a Regional Action Plan for butterflies in North West England (Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Merseyside &amp; Isle of Man).</p> <p>DEFA support the work of Manx Basking Shark Watch who are carrying out internationally important research on basking sharks in Manx waters. Basking sharks are listed by IUCN as vulnerable and in decline, and work in Manx waters is contributing to international understandings of their behaviour and ecology and their global conservation status.</p> <p>DEFA supports the Wildflowers of Mann Project which works to conserve and provide management advice on the Island's rarest plant species and habitats. The Project also co-ordinates the survey work that is key to the production of an updated Flora for the Island. Additional support for this work is currently being considered.</p>	<p>Biodiversity Strategy Actions:</p> <p>Continue to target conservation action on key species and priority habitats through Biodiversity Action Plans.</p> <p>Continue to improve, maintain and enforce legislation for the protection of threatened species and habitats.</p>
2	9. By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or	<p>A marine biosecurity strategy is currently being drafted for Manx waters, bringing together government departments with responsibility for ports, NGOs and others. Section 14 of the Wildlife Act 1990 was updated in 2011, prohibiting the release of certain introduced species into the wild.</p> <p>Work has not yet begun on the terrestrial strategy but specific monitoring and plans are in</p>	<p>Biodiversity Strategy Action:</p> <p>By the end of 2016 complete and begin implementing an Invasive Non-native Species</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	<p>eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.</p>	<p>place or under development for some species.</p> <p>The Isle of Man has EU agreement to the enforcement of bee importation restrictions, providing protection against Varroa, following proof of Varroa-free status. Manx bees are now regularly exported for both research purposes and to establish new disease-free colonies in other jurisdictions.</p> <p>A check-clean-dry procedure is promoted in freshwater habitats.</p> <p>Invasive species issues are raised via the Planning procedures, to remediate areas under development.</p> <p>Section 14 of the Wildlife Act 1990 was updated in 2011, prohibiting the release of certain introduced species into the wild.</p> <p>An ID guide to marine invasive non-native species was produced by the Manx Wildlife Trust.</p>	<p>Strategy and a Marine Biosecurity Plan.</p>
2	<p><b>15.</b> By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.</p>	<p>Ecosystem resilience is a strong theme throughout the draft Biodiversity Strategy. Most of the Territory's carbon stored in soils is in the uplands. A provisional estimate of the quantity of carbon in the Island's soils is 4.76 million tonnes. In May 2013 the Department instigated a working group of uplands stakeholders to identify the diverse uses and values of the uplands and to develop a vision for the future of the Department's uplands estate and adjoining lands. A final report on the future of the Manx uplands was produced in 2014. Recommendations include habitat restoration initiatives. DEFA has started restoring upland bogs through blocking drainage to increase carbon-capture by activating peat-accumulation.</p>	<p>By 2020 minimise further loss of carbon to the atmosphere from terrestrial, wetland and marine habitats which form important carbon stores by restricting damaging practices.</p>
3. Ensure that environmental	<p><b>2.</b> By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity</p>	<p>Environmental Impact Assessments are required for major terrestrial developments, under the Strategic Plan, a policy document relating to the Town and Country Planning Act 1999.</p>	<p>Work on the secondary legislation for the Marine</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
<p>considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes, promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the Territory.</p> <p>4. Ensure that environmental impact assessments are undertaken before approving major projects and while developing our growth management strategy.</p> <p>5. Commit to open and consultative decision-making on developments and plans which may affect the environment; ensure that environmental impact assessments include consultation with stakeholders.</p>	<p>values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p>	<p>. A Marine Infrastructure Management Bill has passed through Tynwald and is now awaiting Royal Assent. The legislation streamlines the consenting process for developments in the Isle of Man's territorial waters and requires an Environmental Impact Assessment for all listed marine developments. The details on EIA requirements will be set out in secondary legislation that it is being developed currently. Isle of Man Government consultations are available online on the government website. A Code of Practice on Consultation was produced in 2008 setting out requirements for public consultation.</p>	<p>Infrastructure Management Bill is continuing.</p> <p>Action under the Biodiversity Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 2017, evaluate the need for Environmental Impact Assessment for terrestrial and marine developments, to be embodied in law and, by 2020, put forward legislation if necessary.</li> <li>• By 2022, embed proper consideration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in all relevant policy and decision-making to facilitate Government's commitment to biodiversity.</li> </ul>
3	3. By 2020, at the latest, incentives,	The DEFA Plan 2015-2018 sets out a Legislative Programme which details the Department's legislative priorities. Those marked as high priority are intended to be	Action under the Biodiversity Strategy:

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.	<p>introduced during the term of the current government. The Biodiversity Strategy states that, by 2020, all relevant legislation, regulations, schemes, incentives and codes of practice will be reviewed for consistency with biodiversity conservation, especially international obligations. The Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act 2010 was produced to update the legislation and to adhere fully to the principles of CITES.</p> <p>The Agri-Environment Scheme (2002) was aimed at supporting wildlife-friendly farming methods and allowed payments to farmers who managed their whole farm to agreed standards for the benefit of wildlife and the environment. This scheme closed in March 2014. Support for this type of activity is currently under review.</p>	From 2018, where government offers incentives, it will need to show that the activities it supports are not detrimental to biodiversity, and wherever possible it will provide positive incentives to conserve it.
3, 4, 5	4. By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.	<p>Application has been made for the whole territory to become a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, promoting sustainable development.</p> <p>The Isle of Man Government is currently working towards the Isle of Man becoming a 'Zero Waste Island' using the Waste Policy and Strategy 2012-2022. The Environment, Safety and Health Directorate deals with Water Discharge Licence Register and Licensed Waste Disposal Sites Register, and water resource management is handled under the guiding principles of the Watercourse Management Guide 2006.</p> <p>In January 2011 the Minerals and Secondary Aggregate Technical Group (MSATG) was established. Comprising representatives from the Island's minerals industry, Department of Economic Development (DED) and Department of Infrastructure – Planning and Building Control (DOI), the remit of the MSATG is to identify and discuss technical aspects of minerals planning, and to present a technical report to advise the drafting of the minerals and waste policies and proposals. An annual monitoring report was produced in 2014.</p> <p>The Isle of Man Government has a target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80%</p>	<p>Action:</p> <p>By 2025 promote responsible and sustainable production and consumption, particularly as benefits biodiversity, here and worldwide, by providing information and advice on best practice, including sustainable procurement.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		by 2050, based on 1990 levels. A renewable energy sustainability study was published in 2010, which looked at renewable energy options for the Island. In late 2015, an Agreement for Lease was signed with DONG Energy to start investigations for a potential 700MW offshore windfarm between 6 and 12 nmiles from the east coast of the Isle of Man. Survey licences have also been issued for 3 potential tidal energy sites.	
2, 3	6. By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.	The Fisheries Act 2012 enables the Department to produce Regulations which come into effect as soon as they have been signed by the DEFA Minister. The Isle of Man has five inshore Fisheries Closed or Restricted Areas, designated to promote the recovery of scallop stocks and 4 offshore areas. In total, around 6.6% of Manx waters are protected from mobile gear. In 2015 "Future Fisheries: A 5-year strategy for the sustainable development of the Isle of Man's sea fisheries and marine environment 2016-2021" was approved unanimously by Tynwald. This has a vision for "A sustainable, thriving and well-managed fishing industry providing high quality seafood products, supported by respect for the marine environment." This strategy highlights the importance of the ecosystem approach for fisheries management, the importance of compliance with national legislation and international conventions regarding the environment, develop the network of well managed Marine Protected Areas, base management on good science and many other important environmental protection premises. Enforcement in place for regulation breaches, using <i>FPV Barrule</i> .	Work towards relevant Biodiversity Strategy and Fisheries Strategy targets.
3	7. By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	DEFA is working towards Forest Stewardship Council accreditation for its forestry products.  The Agri-Environment Scheme (2002) was aimed at supporting wildlife-friendly farming methods and allowed payments to farmers who managed their whole farm to agreed standards for the benefit of wildlife and the environment. This scheme closed in March 2014. Support for this type of activity is currently under review.	Assessment will follow.  Implementation of agri-environment scheme or similar to incentivise sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity.
3, 4, 5	14. By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services,	Undertaking an audit of essential ecosystem services is part of the Biodiversity Strategy. Two reports have resulted, one assessing the value of terrestrial ecosystems and the other marine. However, both are rather tentative reports, bearing in mind the assumptions	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.	<p>required, and are therefore not highly publicised. The terrestrial report is noted in the Biodiversity Strategy.</p> <p>In May 2013, the Department instigated a working group of uplands stakeholders to identify the diverse uses and values of the uplands and to develop a vision for the future of the Department's uplands estate and adjoining lands. A final report on the future of the Manx uplands was produced in 2014. It provides recommendations for themes such as water quality, forestry, carbon storage and renewable energy production. Ensuring sustainable management of such a wide range of uses to the satisfaction of all interested parties, while retaining functions essential to the wellbeing of the Isle of Man, is one of the challenges faced by the Department.</p> <p>Work to increase awareness of the value of our ecosystem services will form an integral part of our Biosphere Management Plan, should the nomination be successful.</p>	
6. Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Territory and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)	<p>The Convention on Biological Diversity was extended to the Territory in 2012.</p> <p>The Ramsar and Bonn Conventions, as well as CITES, had already been extended to it.</p>	<p>Compliance with obligations is under constant review and the potential for Emerald Sites and further Ramsar Sites is being considered.</p> <p>Designate further Ramsar sites.</p>
7. Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.	<b>19.</b> By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.	<p>Baseline data have been gathered for oak hazel woodland and molluscs in ancient woodland. A project recording new flora is underway. Monitoring programmes exist for basking sharks, marine mammals and Calf of Man shearwaters. In 2014, the Calf of Man shearwater survey indicated that the population was increasing.</p> <p>Action plan groups will review the data necessary for their work.</p> <p>Data are being moved on to the NBN system to extend its availability. This is an ongoing process and additional resources are currently being considered.</p>	<p>Monitor the hen harrier breeding population.</p> <p>Action plan groups will review the data necessary for their work.</p>



Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		A project has provided recommendations regarding potential biodiversity indicators. Decisions have not been taken on taking this forward further, but this is under discussion within the Biodiversity Delivery Plan.	
8. Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for prevention or remedies; establish effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.	8. By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity. (Relates also to EC3&4)	<p>Legislation and policies to address pollution are based on the 'polluter pays' principle. Enforcement is carried out through the relevant Directorate. The Territory has a Water Pollution Response Plan and Oil Spill Contingency Plan. River pollution is monitored and a report has been compiled detailing river pollution incidents from 1997-2013.</p> <p>A legislative gap regarding marine pollution is under the spotlight with regard to potential new legislation.</p>	New legislation as indicated.
8	10. By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning. (Relates also to EC3)		
9. Encourage teaching within schools to promote the value of our local environment (natural and built) and to explain its role within the regional and global environment. 10. Promote	1. By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.	<p>A Biodiversity Education Officer (Manx Wildlife Trust), a part-DEFA supported post, is helping to implement the environmental education aspects of the Isle of Man government's Biodiversity Strategy.</p> <p>Marine education and awareness-raising is part of the Territory's Marine Plan project. The Territory has an 'Eco-Mann' and 'Eco-Schools' initiative to help children learn about looking after the environment both locally and in a wider context.</p> <p>A public questionnaire to assess awareness has been drafted for consideration.</p>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
publications that spread awareness of the special features of the environment in the Territory; promote within the Territory the guiding principles set out above.			
11. Abide by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and work towards meeting International Development Targets on the environment.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)		

<p>Not matched specifically</p>	<p><b>13.</b> By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.</p>	<p>The Biodiversity Strategy includes actions to identify genetically distinct species of flora and fauna, including Manx domesticated plant varieties and animal breeds, and mitigate risks to them by 2020.</p>	<p>Identify genetically distinct species of flora and fauna and mitigate risks to these.</p>
	<p><b>16.</b> By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.</p>		

	<p>18. By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.</p>		
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## Appendix Part 18. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: Jersey

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
1. Bring together government departments, representatives of local industry and commerce, environment and heritage organisations, the Governor's office, individual environmental champions and other community representatives in a forum to formulate a detailed strategy for action.	<b>17.</b> By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan. (Relates also to EC5)	<p>A Biodiversity Strategy for the Territory was put in place in 2000. Biodiversity Action Plans are produced annually. There is also an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy (2008). A States of Jersey Environment Report is produced every 5 years.</p> <p>The Jersey Biodiversity Partnership, comprising Government; NGO's and interested individuals meets at least annually.</p> <p>The Biodiversity Strategy for Jersey will be reviewed and updated in 2015 – 2016.</p>	<p>Full implementation of action plans and ongoing monitoring.</p> <p>Review and update the Biodiversity Strategy for Jersey.</p> <p>Strengthen legislation.</p>
1, 2 & others	<b>20.</b> By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels.	<p>The States Department carries out its own research and reporting of environmental topics, but also commission projects, strategies and reports. Details of projects and cost are listed on the Government website. Funding for nature conservation has been improved following successful bids in 2013</p> <p>The Department of the Environment receives 0.9% of Government Income.</p>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.		
2. Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas policy, and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species.	5. By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced. (Relates also to EC4)	<p>Under Article 9 of the Island Planning (Jersey) Law 1964 (as amended), there are powers to designate areas as Sites of Special (ecological) Interest (SSI). Jersey Island Plan 2011 contains proposals for special designations, including habitat corridors and Environmentally Sensitive Areas. Jersey is currently working on an amended development control process which takes better account of biodiversity issues and requires comprehensive mitigation.</p> <p>The National Trust for Jersey is restoring the site at Plémont and returning it to nature. Heathland restoration trials are being carried out.</p> <p>A Protected Area Strategy is in draft, as is a National Park Management Plan.</p>	Finalise and implement National Park management plan and Protected Area strategy.
2	11. By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well	<p>The Territory has 4 Ramsar Sites, totalling 18756ha. All sites have operating management plans.</p> <p>A Protected Areas Strategy is in draft.</p> <p>A National Park management plan is in draft.</p> <p>22 Ecological Sites of Special Interest have been designated.</p>	<p>Finalise and implement National Park management plan and Protected Area strategy.</p> <p>Finalise and implement Protected Area strategy.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.		
2	<b>12.</b> By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	<p>The Territory has a comprehensive list of Species Action Plans in its Biodiversity Strategy. These include 20 species of plant, 8 species of insect, 3 species of reptile, 13 species of mammal, 7 species of bird, 2 species of amphibian and 1 species of fish. There are also habitat action plans for eelgrass beds (<i>Zostera spp.</i>) and hedgerow.</p> <p>Habitat condition assessments are also being undertaken on ecological SSIs.</p> <p>Previous habitat restoration efforts have led to the recovery of species such as Brown Galingale (<i>Cyperus fuscus</i>) and Jersey Forget-me-not (<i>Myosotis sicula guss</i>).</p> <p>Reintroduction programmes are going ahead for chough and agile frog, which include collaboration with other conservation organisations, such as National Trust for Jersey and Durrell. Other conservation projects include birdsontheedge.org aiming to improve the habitat and species diversity on Jersey's coastal slopes.</p> <p>A PhD is currently being undertaken to identify the status of the grass snake <i>Natrix natrix</i>, Jersey's rarest reptile.</p>	Continued development and implementation of Species Action Plans
2	<b>9.</b> By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.	<p>An Invasive Species Strategy is being drafted. Invasive species are managed on ecologically important sites. The Government has produced information leaflets on Japanese knotweed and monitoring is carried out of Colorado beetles, oak processionary moth and burnet rose.</p> <p>There is regulation of aquaculture seed to reduce the risk of invasives being imported into the Territory.</p> <p>Jersey is communicating with GB non-native secretariat about Jersey's role in early warning for invasive species.</p>	<p>Finalise and implement Invasive Species Strategy.</p> <p>Work more closely with continental neighbours including France and the other Channel Islands.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		<p>In 2013, the Environment Department initiated a project to gather data on the locations of Japanese knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i>. This plant was selected as a good target species due to its relative ease in identification, its high profile and the threat it poses to Jersey's infrastructure and biodiversity. By downloading a phone app designed by Plant Tracker, people in Jersey have been engaged via social media and the <a href="http://www.gov.je">www.gov.je</a> website, and asked to photograph and then email any sightings of this plant to the plant tracker website. Sightings are then downloaded by DoE and recorded as a GIS layer. They are ground-truthed by staff and others with permission. All records have been verified and added to historic records held at the DoE increasing records from 50 to 120. The project aims to assign criteria to all patches of knotweed which will then prioritise their management, identify land ownership details and calculate the known infested area and costs of control.</p>	
2	<p>15. By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.</p>	<p>The Birds on the Edge project is working to restore coastal habitats.</p> <p>A further 20 hectares of coastal SSI has been identified for grazing.</p>	<p>Implementing habitat management on areas of degraded, private land</p>
3. Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes, promote sustainable patterns of	<p>2. By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into</p>	<p>The Biodiversity Strategy lists actual and potential threats to the environment, habitats and species. Environmental Impact Assessments are required for development projects and the government has produced guidance for completion of these. The National Trust Development Application Committee is involved in planning process. This Committee meets weekly to run through Island-wide Planning Development Applications and highlights issues which are in contravention of the Island Plan, or are not in the wider interests of the people of Jersey. The EIS Review, along with all other documents that have been relied upon in determining the planning application, are all are public documents and will be available for inspection at the Planning and Environment</p>	<p>Implement best practice in EIA and other planning matters, as well as consultative strategic environmental assessment and planning.</p>



Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
<p>production and consumption within the Territory.</p> <p>4. Ensure that environmental impact assessments are undertaken before approving major projects and while developing our growth management strategy.</p> <p>5. Commit to open and consultative decision-making on developments and plans which may affect the environment; ensure that environmental impact assessments include consultation with stakeholders.</p>	<p>national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p>	<p>Department. A Register of Buildings and Sites of Architectural, Archaeological and Historical Importance maintained by Minister for Planning &amp; Environment. Currently working on an amended development control process which takes better account of biodiversity issues and requires comprehensive mitigation</p> <p>A biodiversity checklist has recently become a requirement to accompany all planning applications.</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>3. By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for</p>	<p>The environmental grant system is well developed on Jersey, including: countryside enhancement, ecology, home energy scheme, Gerard le Claire Environmental Trust, and the single area payment.</p> <p>Single area payments to agriculturalists are now linked to conditionality (for positive biodiversity measures)</p>	<p>Cross compliance of policies and agricultural inputs</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	<p>the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.</p>		
3, 4, 5	<p>4. By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.</p>	<p>The States of Jersey has implemented the EcoActive States programme, an environmental management programme which helps departments to manage the environmental impact of their day-to-day operations. The EcoActive business certification programme helps businesses operate in an environmentally friendly way.</p> <p>The Enterprise Environmental Award recognises and rewards businesses that strive to protect the natural environment and encourage others to do the same.</p> <p>A Jersey marine and coastal wildlife watching code has been produced to encourage sustainable interactions with the natural environment.</p> <p>Waste-management is well provisioned for. A Solid Waste Strategy was developed in 2005 and the Island Plan has a dedicated waste-management element. The government provides waste-management templates for farms, and there are various local initiatives such as promoting composting via not-for-profit schemes.</p> <p>The Natural Resources and Utilities section of the Island Plan deals with the policies and proposals relating to the Island's requirement for, and management of, natural resources, including air, water and energy. In 2011, the government commissioned a report into the potential for tidal power for the Territory. 'Pathway 2050: An Energy Plan for Jersey' outlines the challenges Jersey faces in terms of energy use through to 2050, and maps out the policy response needed to meet those challenges.</p> <p>The updated Biodiversity Strategy will cover topics including Natural Capital and</p>	<p>Policy response to meet Jersey's energy challenges</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		Ecosystem Services.	
2, 3	<p><b>6.</b> By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.</p>	<p>An Aquaculture Strategy was developed in cooperation with stakeholders in 2010.</p> <p>Minimum landing sizes and other measures are in place for managing fish and other marine stocks.</p> <p>There has been establishment of some marine protected areas of no dredging / trawling. The Normandy and Jersey lobster fishery has been independently certified by the Marine Stewardship Council as sustainable in 2011. Protection of maerl beds has been implemented and there are minimum landing sizes for key economic species.</p>	Further knowledge required of our freshwater ecosystems
3	<p><b>7.</b> By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.</p>	<p>The Rural Economy Strategy aims to link production subsidies to environmental gain.</p> <p>CES (Farm Environment plans) encourage sustainable agricultural practices.</p>	
3, 4, 5	<p><b>14.</b> By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into</p>	<p>Jersey has a Water Framework Directive and Soil, Air and Water Code.</p> <p>A report has been produced into the challenges of water management in Jersey, and an integrated Water Management Plan is being developed in 2015 - 2016. A Normano-Breton Gulf water quality strategy is being developed for the entire region with the French Agence des Aires Marine Protégées.</p> <p>The Island's sewage treatment system is in the process of being upgraded, and sea and ground water monitoring is already in place.</p>	<p>Finalise and implement Water Management Plan.</p> <p>Survey/recognition of ecosystem services through the Rural Economic Strategy and revised Biodiversity Strategy.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.	The Water Pollution Order 2009 includes a code of good practice for agriculture.	
6. Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Territory and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)	<p>Jersey is included in UK's ratification of the Ramsar Convention, CITES, CMS and CBD. Several Ramsar Sites designated.</p> <p>There has been an expression of interest in joining International Plant Protection Convention &amp; Cartagena Protocol On Biosafety.</p>	
7. Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.	<b>19.</b> By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.	<p>Freshwater species monitoring is carried out on a quinquennial basis.</p> <p>Marine and garden birds are monitored as part of the Birds on the Edge Project.</p> <p>Monitoring programmes are also in place for butterflies, amphibians and reptiles and bats through Jersey bat group.</p> <p>There are various specialist working groups between States of Jersey and NGOs.</p> <p>'The State of Jersey' is published every five years and ecological information is based on long term monitoring data (habitat condition, reptiles and amphibians and butterflies).</p> <p>The Jersey Biodiversity Records Centre is established.</p>	
8. Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for prevention or remedies; establish	<b>8.</b> By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity. (Relates	<p>Sea and ground water monitoring is carried out regularly by the States of Jersey. Water pollution legislation reflects polluter-pays principle.</p> <p>In 2010, a Memorandum of Understanding was drawn up and agreed by the relevant Ministers in order to: clarify each department's respective roles with regard to marine pollution, avoid any unnecessary duplication between these departments, provide an efficient and cost-effective pollution prevention and control service.</p>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.	also to EC3&4)	The government provides a template water pollution contingency plan for farms, and an oil spill response plan is under development. Enforcement is carried out via Environmental Protection. Water Framework Directive and Soil, Air and Water Code.	
8	<b>10.</b> By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning. (Relates also to EC3)	<p>Low-carbon nuclear power is main source of electricity for Jersey.</p> <p>An Energy Policy is in draft for the island.</p> <p>The energy efficiency programme for Jersey is well-funded.</p>	<p>Proposals to develop local tidal / wave / wind electricity generation</p> <p>Implement Jersey Energy Policy.</p>
<p>9. Encourage teaching within schools to promote the value of our local environment (natural and built) and to explain its role within the regional and global environment.</p> <p>10. Promote publications that spread awareness of the special features of the environment in the Territory; promote within the Territory the guiding principles set out</p>	<b>1.</b> By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.	<p>There is a good level of engagement of schools with the natural environment. The Department of the Environment (DoE) Eco-Active environmental education campaign launched a sustainable schools framework in 2010. This ties into national Eco-Schools standards, and 27 local primary and secondary schools have signed up. The Ecology Fund has agreed to support financially initiatives associated with the Eco-Active Sustainable Schools Framework. Schools and other groups led in field visits by DoE to explore the Island's biodiversity, and lots of educational work and resources provided by National Trust and Durrell. Additionally, there is a range of educational material produced by UKOTCF and other collaborators relating to the heritage and natural environment of the Territory. The Jersey Conservation Volunteers has been developed into a group which meet monthly to carry out conservation projects.</p> <p>The island has various environmental work schemes (Probation, Back to Work). There are various Volunteer Monitoring Schemes – e.g. NARRS, Butterfly Monitoring Scheme, and Citizen Science projects e.g. Invasive species.</p>	<p>More citizen science monitoring e.g. bees, dragonflies.</p> <p>The school curriculum needs to be modernised and include an updated environmental focus.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
above.			
11. Abide by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and work towards meeting International Development Targets on the environment.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)		
Not matched specifically	<p><b>13.</b> By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.</p>	<p>The States of Jersey has made a resolution to designate and maintain the island as free from the growing of genetically modified organisms. Research into genetic modification and on transgenic potatoes has also been suspended. Planning responses to limit diluting native wild plant genetics (meadow mixes etc.).</p>	<p>Greater need to stop importation of 'wild plants' which erode genetic integrity of native provenance.</p>

	<p><b>16.</b> By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.</p>		
	<p><b>18.</b> By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.</p>		

## Appendix Part 19. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: Guernsey

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
1. Bring together government departments, representatives of local industry and commerce, environment and heritage organisations, the Governor's office, individual environmental champions and other community representatives in a forum to formulate a detailed strategy for action.	17. By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan. (Relates also to EC5)	The States of Guernsey Environmental Policy Plan sets an initial direction for environmental policy and actions over a 20- to 25-year time-frame. This includes desired outcomes and performance indicators. A Biodiversity Strategy for Guernsey consultation paper was produced in December 2014, and the Biodiversity Strategy was passed by the Guernsey Assembly at the end of 2015. The draft Island Development Plan consultation period closed in March 2015.	
1, 2 & others	20. By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels.	<p>The Environmental Policy Plan is part of the Government business plan against which resources are allocated.</p> <p>An annual expenditure of £80,000 is allocated by Government to help deliver the Biodiversity Strategy</p>	



Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.		
2. Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas policy, and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species.	5. By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced. (Relates also to EC4)	Sites of Special Significance can be designated under Planning & Development Law better to protect areas of Guernsey considered to be important for archaeological, botanical, geological, scientific, cultural, zoological or other reasons. The Environment Department manages a number of important Environmental Sites on Guernsey, including Bordeaux Nature Reserve, and Bluebell Wood which has been designated a Site of Nature Conservation Importance. The Department works closely with other organisations, such as La Société Guernesiale and the National Trust, who also manage their own Environmental Sites, to ensure a co-ordinated approach is adopted.	Implement legislation providing for the control and eradication of invasive species.
2	11. By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well	The Territory has 2 Ramsar Sites, L'Erée and Lihou Island, totalling 391ha, and a new Ramsar Site designated in 2015, including Herm, Jethou & the Humps (in addition to those separately noted for Alderney and Sark, which also form part of the Bailiwick, alongside Guernsey itself). The Environment Department manages a number of important Environmental Sites on Guernsey, including Bordeaux Nature Reserve, and Bluebell Wood which has been designated a Site of Nature Conservation Importance. La Société Guernesiale manages a total of 13 different nature reserves on the island. A survey of existing SNCIs and other areas has been commissioned to determine what sites may be appropriate for the designation of Sites of Special Significance (SSSs). This work is relevant to the work on the draft Island Development Plan (IDP) which includes proposals for SSS designation and a proposal to introduce "Areas of Biodiversity Importance" which may require particular conditions to be met in respect of new development. The draft IDP will be debated by the States of Guernsey in late 2016. The	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.	States will be asked to adopt the draft following the recently finished Planning Inquiry on the draft IDP.	
2	12. By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	The Biodiversity Strategy for Guernsey aims to identify priority species and habitats, using criteria drawn up locally and informed by a number of other sources, including International Conventions, global and national conservation status and changes in population, distribution and impact of specific threats. The Territory uses an ecosystem approach in its management of the natural environment. In 2010, a full island-wide habitat survey was carried out which will be used to inform habitat action plans. It is proposed that surveys are repeated every 10 years. There is a monitoring programme for water birds in shore areas, and Guernsey Bat Group monitors bats in the Territory.	
2	9. By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.	The Guernsey States of Deliberation have agreed new plant health legislation that will include provision for the control and eradication of invasive species. It is anticipated that this will become law in 2016. Invasive species are identified as a threat to terrestrial and marine environments in the Biodiversity Strategy. There is currently no overarching review of invasive species in Guernsey. There are some biosecurity protocols in place, such as import restrictions and plant health checks. Invasive species are identified as a threat to terrestrial and marine environments in the Biodiversity Strategy.	Review of invasive species
2	15. By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including	One of the priorities in Guernsey's long-term vision for the environment is to reduce the Territory's carbon footprint and adapt to climate-change.	Develop strategy for carbon-footprint reduction and climate-change adaptation.

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.		
<p>3. Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes, promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the Territory.</p> <p>4. Ensure that environmental impact assessments are undertaken before approving major projects and while developing our growth management strategy.</p> <p>5. Commit to open and consultative decision-making on developments and plans which may</p>	<p>2. By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p>	<p>The States of Guernsey Environment Policy Plan commits to ensuring environmental considerations are deliberated in all policy decisions. Since April 2009, it has been a legal requirement in Guernsey for certain types of development project to undergo EIA before decisions are made on whether consent should be given. Details are specified in the The Land Planning and Development (Environmental Impact Assessment) Ordinance, 2007.</p>	<p>Performing Strategic Environmental Assessments is not yet a legislative requirement on Guernsey.</p>

<b>Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments</b>	<b>Aichi Biodiversity Targets</b> (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	<b>Summary of progress and the present state</b>	<b>Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs</b>
affect the environment; ensure that environmental impact assessments include consultation with stakeholders.			
3	3. By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.	A Guernsey Countryside Management Scheme was introduced in 2001 to reduce pollution and conserve wildlife. Since 2003 all dairy farmers supplying milk to Guernsey Dairy have had a 'Farm Biodiversity Action Plan' prepared by the UK Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group. This plan was revised in 2009 and is again due to revision in 2015/16. Following the provisions of the Farm BAP has been a requirement of Dairy Farm Management Payments that are available to farmers within the Island (see also below).	Revision of Farm Biodiversity Action Plan
3, 4, 5	4. By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production	A Waste Strategy was produced in 2012. The Territory has initiated a 'Keep Guernsey Green Award' for organisations that wish to publicise their commitment to the environment.  Potential for renewable energy projects in the Territory is being explored. The States of Guernsey's Energy Policy Report, published in June 2008, recommended the formation of the Guernsey Renewable Energy Commission (GREC) to progress the creation of local renewable electricity generation on a large scale. A report titled 'Guernsey Regional	Pass Renewable Energy Ordinance

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.	<p>Environmental Assessment of Marine Energy' was produced in 2011.</p> <p>In 2012, an epibenthic assessment of a renewable tidal energy site was carried out by the Marine Institute at Plymouth University.</p> <p>A new Renewable Energy Ordinance was sent out for consultation in 2014. The aim of the Ordinance is to enable effective development of offshore renewables (such as offshore wind, tidal and wave energy) in Guernsey at the appropriate time and to provide robust environmental protection while still keeping the process of licensing offshore renewable energy systems as straight forward and streamlined as possible.</p>	
2, 3	<p>6. By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.</p>	<p>Fishing restrictions were extended to 12 miles in 2013.</p> <p>The Sea Fisheries section is responsible for administration of the licensing regime for all British registered fishing vessels, enforcing fisheries legislation on land and at sea and compiling catch and effort statistics on the fishing industry. The section deals also with day-to-day liaison with industry members and other local Government Departments, maintenance and operation of the fisheries protection vessel <i>Leopardess</i>, administration of imports and exports of aquaculture products and licensing of shellfish farms.</p> <p>In 2012, a pilot ormer hatchery project was initiated to assess the potential for an ormer breeding programme.</p> <p>More recently, with the onset of the possible exploitation of the whelk fishery, scientific officers have been involved with on-board sampling of catches, as fishing for whelks is vulnerable to over-fishing. Data obtained will be collated and used to inform the Government on the introduction of fishing technical controls.</p> <p>In 2014, the Bailiwick also introduced a ban on wreck-netting, a practice whereby prominent wrecks are netted by fishermen. Nets get entangled on the wrecks and cannot be hauled and continue to "ghost-fish". The introduction is based on a catch composition control and has had very good support from many fisheries sectors.</p>	
3	<p>7. By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.</p>	<p>A Guernsey Countryside Management Scheme was introduced in 2001 to reduce pollution and conserve wildlife. This scheme makes payments to dairy farmers for compliance with a wide range of wildlife, animal welfare and environmental (water pollution) protection measures. Grants have been provided so that all farms must now have winter storage for organic manures for at least a 4-month period and there is a 'closed period' from 1 October – 31 December, including during which farm slurry and organic manures must not</p>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
		be applied to the land. All dairy farmers have a 'Farm Biodiversity Action Plan' developed specifically for their own farm. In this regularly revised and monitored plan, they work to encourage wildlife on farms within the island. The government has also published an Agricultural Code of Good Practice, revised in 2009.	
3, 4, 5	14. By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.		
6. Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Territory and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)	The Ramsar Convention, CITES and CMS have been extended to Guernsey, and Ramsar Sites designated. Although it is yet to be extended, the Biodiversity Strategy outlines the implications of extending the CBD to Guernsey. The States of Guernsey agreed to begin work on extending CBD to Guernsey at its meeting in December 2015.	The Convention on Biological Diversity is yet to be extended to Guernsey. Representatives from the Territory were present at the Workshop on the CBD in October 2012, to discuss the responsibilities and resources required for an extension, and the intention to extend made in December 2015 will be followed up.
7. Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.	19. By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its	The Guernsey Biological Records Centre is run by Environment Guernsey on behalf of the two partners, La Société Guernesaise and the States of Guernsey. The Centre works with a wide range of organisations, individuals and government bodies to provide information about the species and habitats found in the islands (including other Channel Isles). It collates, manages and stores data that describe local biodiversity, and forms an evidence-base to which decision-makers can refer to when making decisions that may impact on wildlife or wildlife habitat.	Secure long-term funding for GBRC.

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.		
8. Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for prevention or remedies; establish effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.	8. By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity. (Relates also to EC3&4)	Legislation dealing with pollution consists of the Prevention of Pollution (Guernsey) Law, 1989, the Environmental Pollution (Guernsey) Law 2004 and the Environmental Pollution (Waste Control & Disposal) Ordinance 2010. The Ordinances do not implement the polluter-pays principle. Restrictions for agricultural pollution are in place in the form of a 'closed period' between 1 <sup>st</sup> October –31 <sup>st</sup> December each year, during which time nitrogen containing fertilisers and organic manures, including slurry, must not be applied to the land.	Polluter pays principle
8	10. By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning. (Relates also to EC3)		
9. Encourage teaching within schools to promote the value of our local environment (natural and built) and to explain its role within the regional and global environment. 10. Promote	1. By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.	The environment is central to school curriculum, whose purposes include: - develop knowledge and understanding of the world and the Bailiwick's place in it - appreciate local heritage and community whilst understanding different beliefs and cultures - make informed choices and decisions - evaluate environmental, scientific and technological issues.  Additionally, there is a range of educational material produced by UKOTCF and other collaborators relating to the heritage and natural environment of the Territory.	

<b>Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments</b>	<b>Aichi Biodiversity Targets</b> (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	<b>Summary of progress and the present state</b>	<b>Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs</b>
publications that spread awareness of the special features of the environment in the Territory; promote within the Territory the guiding principles set out above.			
11. Abide by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and work towards meeting International Development Targets on the environment.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)		



<p>Not matched specifically</p>	<p><b>13.</b> By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.</p>	<p>Conservation of genetic resources has been identified as a key element in the Biodiversity Strategy.</p> <p>The Golden Guernsey Goat and the Guernsey Cow are declining in their worldwide populations. The Golden Guernsey Goat is classified as a minority breed on the Rare Breeds Watch List, whilst the Guernsey Cow is acknowledged to be an 'at risk' breed in the EU. By 2012, the numbers of officially recorded cows had fallen to less than 1500 on the island of Guernsey and less than 12,000 worldwide.</p> <p>States policies within Guernsey are aimed at preserving the breed and acknowledge that the best way to maintain the breed is to maintain its commercial significance. The Guernsey 'Breed Development Programme' is an acknowledged model of good practice for breeds with small populations. The States Department (Commerce and Employment), in collaboration with the local breed society and the World Guernsey Cattle Federation, operates a breed development programme within the island that includes a fully computerised livestock database, animal identification, artificial insemination, milk recording of all herds, individual animal tissue analysis and DNA testing in readiness for genomic selection. The breed development programme provides bull mother selection from regular genetic evaluations, undertakes a regular evaluation of in-breeding within the population, and a young bull breeding programme to provide bull semen of the highest quality and genetic merit.</p>	
	<p><b>16.</b> By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.</p>		

	<p>18. By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.</p>		
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## Appendix Part 20. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: Alderney

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
<p>1. Bring together government departments, representatives of local industry and commerce, environment and heritage organisations, the Governor's office, individual environmental champions and other community representatives in a forum to formulate a detailed strategy for action.</p>	<p>17. By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan. (Relates also to EC5)</p>	<p>The States of Alderney Strategic Plan 2014 refers to the Environment and Land Use plans which are in development.</p> <p>Discussions have been held and a draft prepared of an adapted form of the original UKOT Environmental Charter for consideration</p> <p>States of Alderney committed to a joint NGO project, Living Islands, designed to champion the Island's Environment as a resource to support tourism development and quality of life on the Island, in a sustainable manor</p>	<p>States strategic plan is in review but it is hoped that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new strategy has a detailed section on environmental and sustainability commitments</li> <li>• To get draft Environmental Charter adopted formally by the SoA</li> <li>• Integration of the Living Islands project into SoA working practice within its Economic and Business Development Programme.</li> </ul>
<p>1, 2 &amp; others</p>	<p>20. By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should</p>	<p>As yet nothing undertaken at government level</p>	<p>Resourcing to be identified and implemented</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.		
2. Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas policy, and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species.	5. By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced. (Relates also to EC4)	<p>Designation of a Ramsar Site and development of management plans which specifically respond to protection, habitat and species management, biodiversity gain</p> <p>The SoA have drafted a proposal for low-level general MPA designation for the entirety of Alderney's waters based on 'wise existing use' and development of a research programme to identify ecosystem resource and prioritise further protection. This has been put to the SoA and held over for consideration later in 2015.</p> <p>Living Islands objectives to identify key areas of habitat and species to act as centre points for Alderney marketing and, in doing so, developing management structures to ensure their continued sustainability between SoA and AWT.</p>	<p>New Ramsar Management Strategy 2017-2021 to include more specific habitat protection and development of legislative protection.</p> <p>To return MPA proposal for consideration in 2015/16</p> <p>To develop forwards to 2 provisional sites management plans created through Living Islands to create a more systematic habitat and species management programme</p>
2	11. By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably	<p>Ramsar Convention Wetland of International Importance designated in 2005 for the West Coast and Burhou Islands. This site (including approx. 10% Alderney's marine area) has an operating management plan and an annual review.</p> <p>A 17 ha community woodland has been established and has an operating 5 year management plan.</p> <p>110ha has been designated under memoranda of understanding between the SoA, AWT and private land-owners as island nature reserves. These sites are run and funded entirely by the AWT, but there is no legislative or SoA policy protection for these areas, although some are covered by existing planning protection ('protected areas, Building Control</p>	<p>New Ramsar Management Plan</p> <p>New Reserves Management Plans</p> <p>New MPA area proposal which would build on existing policies such as Burhou's designation</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.	(Alderney) Act, 2002).  Designation of the island of Burhou as a 'Seabird Sanctuary' by SoA Policy 1987 (80ha)  Woodland, reserves, Burhou constitute approx. 25% Alderney island area.	
2	<b>12.</b> By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	Monitoring of breeding birds, moths, butterflies and seaweeds is carried out. Lesser black-backed gull, storm petrel, ringed plover, and puffin all have dedicated conservation actions as part of Territory's Ramsar project.  AWT has been attempting to co-ordinate data-management and to support the development of systematic monitoring. This process is proving challenging.  In 2016, a 4-year study by the University of Liverpool concluded that Alderney's internationally important population of Northern gannets are unlikely to be negatively affected by offshore wind- farms planned throughout the English Channel.	Formalise species protection requirements within Environmental Charter and subsequent Wildlife Act.  Continue development of Alderney Records Centre.
2	<b>9.</b> By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.	Alderney Ramsar Management Plan incorporated invasive mapping and eradication programme within the Ramsar site. However, at this time all work is undertaken directly by the AWT.  AWT has a programme of invasive control but it is limited in scope and resources, relying on university research work and volunteer ground work	New Ramsar Management Plan
2	<b>15.</b> By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been	Development of Alderney Community Woodland; aim within 50 years to double the naturally occurring mature tree cover on Alderney (currently only 2%). 10,000 trees planted and States support secured on on-going basis  Management of reserves areas, though this is sporadic and lacks specific direction against	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.	this aim.	
<p>3. Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes, promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the Territory.</p> <p>4. Ensure that environmental impact assessments are undertaken before approving major projects and while developing our growth management strategy.</p> <p>5. Commit to open and consultative</p>	<p>2. By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p>	<p>The Living Islands Project has extensive plans relating to the integration of social and economic processes with environmental considerations. This includes tourism. Ease of travel to Alderney is an issue, and a working party has been established within the States' Alderney Enterprise Group Initiative, and the Living Islands project will continue to work closely with this body to ensure that the wildlife &amp; heritage tourism benefits are maximised at the planning stage.</p> <p>The Territory's general policy principles state 'the Island's landscape, ecology and wildlife should be conserved and enhanced. Development should help to support and maintain public enjoyment of the built and natural environment'.</p> <p>Environmental Impact Assessments are required in instances of hazardous development or large road/infrastructure proposals. Since 2009, there has been consultation into proposed amendments to renewable energy law, including provision of environmental statements. Alderney is not subject to European Union environmental directives, and therefore there is no legislative requirement to undertake a formal Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on terrestrial projects, or plan-level Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA). The exception to this is the 2008 Renewable Energies Act whereby the Commission for Renewable Energy is committed to adopting best practice and recognises the benefit that such plan-level assessments can provide in seeking to minimise the adverse environmental effects of plans. Within the UK, comparable non-statutory assessments have been termed 'Regional Environmental Assessments' (REAs). Public consultation is limited except for sites designated by Government to be major changes within areas under the Land Use Plan.</p> <p>In 2012, the SoA adopted a white paper on a one-year interim basis which provided an</p>	<p>The formalisation of this element of the Living Islands project into Government process</p> <p>The adoption of a formal environmental strategy within the planning process and its enactment in SoA policy and legislation</p> <p>It might be worth considering moving towards SEA approaches, unless this is better covered by the Living Islands Project or an extension of it.</p> <p>Consideration of transboundary effects on key species needs to be reflected in planning process.</p>

<b>Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments</b>	<b>Aichi Biodiversity Targets</b> (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	<b>Summary of progress and the present state</b>	<b>Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs</b>
decision-making on developments and plans which may affect the environment; ensure that environmental impact assessments include consultation with stakeholders.		<p>outline framework for terrestrial Environmental Impact Assessment with specified consultees however this has not been formally extended and its current status is unclear.</p> <p>There are concerns as to the ability of Alderney's planning systems to response to projects outside of its jurisdiction (especially renewable development proposals).</p>	
3	<p>3. By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.</p>	<p>No subsidies or incentives which can be described as falling into this category currently in use on Alderney</p>	
3, 4, 5	<p>4. By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to</p>	<p>Alderney has been recognised as a location with significant tidal power potential, part of the largest tidal resource in North West Europe.</p> <p>The Alderney Commission for Renewable Energy (ACRE) is an independent body which markets, licenses and protects Alderney's renewable resource. In 2008, ARE was issued</p>	<p>Develop and implement a sustainable waste management plan.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	<p>achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.</p>	<p>a licence for 50% of Alderney's marine assets by ACRE. Applications from developers for sub-surface tidal devices were first received in 2008.</p> <p>Renewable Energy (Alderney) Law, 2008, appended 2011, recognises implications of large-scale development including decommissioning and restitution work.</p> <p>The States of Alderney has a Waste Advisory Group, although the island does not yet have a sustainable waste-management plan. From 2010, Sustainable Alderney, an initiative of Alderney Marine Ltd, supported financially a number of projects, including feasibility studies into local waste glass, paper and plastics processing, as well as the potential for an anaerobic digester plant which contributes mains power and water to the Island's infrastructure and which removes a need to export biodegradable waste.</p> <p>In 2013, the Energy Saving Trust completed a study to consider how they could support the development of an Island Energy Policy for Alderney.</p>	
2, 3	<p>6. By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.</p>	<p>The development of an MPA proposal for the entirety of Alderney's waters</p> <p>The Economic Development Action Plan for Alderney mandates SoA to develop policies for the effective and sustainable management of agricultural and marine resources.</p> <p>In 2014, the Bailiwick introduced a ban of wreck-netting, a practice whereby prominent wrecks are netted by fishermen. Nets get entangled on the wrecks and cannot be hauled, and continue to "ghost-fish". The introduction is based on a catch composition control and has had very good support from many fisheries sectors.</p>	<p>Implementation of an MPA with local support and following consultation and engagement of stakeholders.</p>
3	7. By 2020 areas under	Alderney's one significant farm, a beef and dairy concern, is already contracted to	Development and



Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	environmental subsidies which require a farm management contract; this requires that the farm signs an Agricultural Subsidy, and provides 3-year management plans including nutrients and waste planning.  The Economic Development Action Plan for Alderney mandates SoA to develop policies for the effective and sustainable management of agricultural and marine resources.	implementation of island-wide agriculture and fisheries policies by SoA.
3, 4, 5	14. By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.		
6. Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Territory and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)	Alderney is included in UK's ratification of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (and has designated 1 Wetland of International Importance), the Convention on Migratory Species (Bonn) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES, Washington).	The Convention on Biological Diversity has yet to be extended to Alderney.  Guernsey has decided to move towards inclusion in UK's ratification of CBD. For some matters, Alderney is included in the Bailiwick processes, so an opportunity may be presented.
7. Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for	19. By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity,	AWT undertake the development of a local records centre.  The Economic Development Action Plan for Alderney mandates SoA to collect and employ key data to assist in the management of public services and in developing	Key data are collected and used effectively to manage services and inform policy making.

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	Summary of progress and the present state	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
natural resources and biodiversity.	its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.	policies/legislation for the island.	Creation of a Wildlife Act
8. Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for prevention or remedies; establish effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.	8. By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity. (Relates also to EC3&4)	<p>Renewable Energy (Alderney) Law 2008, ammended 2011, specifically recognises the implications of large-scale development and now recognises decommissioning and restitution work.</p> <p>An oil-spill action plan has been provided to the AWT via Guernsey's Emergency Planning Officer. The liaison in Alderney is the States' Chief Executive Officer but the plans are immediately available in emergency events through the AWT Manager and Ramsar Ecologist.</p>	Incorporation of a "polluter pays" requirement into SoA planning policy
8	10. By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning. (Relates also to EC3)		
9. Encourage teaching within schools to promote the value of our local environment (natural and built) and to explain its role within the	1. By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.	<p>'Education for sustainable development' is a cross-curricular theme at Key Stage 3 upwards in schools.</p> <p>School groups are heavily involved in the Alderney Community Woodland project through Alderney Wildlife Trust.</p> <p>LIVE: teaching through nature; an AWT flagship project links schools with wildlife webcams, ecologists and a wide range of primary teaching resources. The project is open</p>	

<b>Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments</b>	<b>Aichi Biodiversity Targets</b> (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	<b>Summary of progress and the present state</b>	<b>Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs</b>
regional and global environment. 10. Promote publications that spread awareness of the special features of the environment in the Territory; promote within the Territory the guiding principles set out above.		to schools from throughout the UK, CDs and UKOTs and has supported an estimated 2,000+ students in 2015.  Alderney WATCH group – the junior Wildlife Trust, supports children from 6-14 years of age and runs over 50 events per year, all with an environmental educational theme. Alderney Watch now also supports Sark Watch.  Living Islands project promotes biodiversity awareness on Alderney both with Visitors and Residents.	
11. Abide by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and work towards meeting International Development Targets on the environment.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)		

<p>Not matched specifically</p>	<p><b>13.</b> By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.</p>		
	<p><b>16.</b> By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.</p>		

	<p>18. By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	
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## Appendix Part 21. Environment Charter Implementation Progress review: Sark

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	What to try to address (this will become something like 'Summary of progress and the present state' in the filled-in version.	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
1. Bring together government departments, representatives of local industry and commerce, environment and heritage organisations, the Governor's office, individual environmental champions and other community representatives in a forum to formulate a detailed strategy for action.	17. By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan. (Relates also to EC5)	'A Vision for Sark' document (published 2013) is an initial step towards a systematic approach for policy development and resource allocation in the Territory.	Chief Pleas is working towards all the commitments in this document. Digimap, a joint venture by NGO Société Sercquaise and the Chief Pleas, is now in use. It is principally for monitoring land-use, water sources, and biodiversity of plants species.
1, 2 & others	20. By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels.	<p>The Island Parliament, or Chief Pleas as it is known, makes grants for special projects, for example £2,000 for a lighting management plan as part of the Dark Sky bid. La Société Serquaise, a non-government organisation responsible for the preservation, study &amp; enhancement of Sark's natural history, social &amp; cultural heritage, sometimes makes grants for environmental or heritage projects.</p> <p>There is no support for environmental costs from the States of Guernsey but sometimes NGOs offer practical help with e.g. fieldwork or conservation.</p>	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	What to try to address (this will become something like 'Summary of progress and the present state' in the filled-in version.	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.		
2. Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas policy, and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species.	5. By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced. (Relates also to EC4)	There has been some slight halting of new vineyards on the island. One proposed vineyard has been planted with cider apple trees, with bee-friendly flowers between the trees. Another proposed vineyard has been left to pasture.	Continued stemming of vineyard creation and, instead, maintenance of traditional land-use. Leases on land for sheep-grazing on rough ground have been withdrawn by vineyard owners, which could also have adverse effects on the biodiversity..
2	11. By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well	Sark was designated a Dark Sky Community in 2011.  Under the Ramsar Convention, a Wetland of International Importance was designated in 2007 at Gouliot Caves and Headland.  Approximately 500 trees of mixed deciduous varieties, obtained from the Woodland Trust and Guernsey Environment Department, are to be planted in March 2016.	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	What to try to address (this will become something like 'Summary of progress and the present state' in the filled-in version.	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
	connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.		
2	<b>12.</b> By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	In 2008, a report was compiled for La Société Serquaise by Seasearch, describing the seabed habitats and associated wildlife in the waters around Sark.	
2	<b>9.</b> By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i> and Japanese Knotweed are problematic invasive species on Sark. Work is ongoing to address the spread of these. A volunteer group has been tasked with removing <i>Carpobrotus edulis</i> round the Harbour area. It may still be in private gardens. Japanese Knotweed spread has been halted but not eradicated altogether. A good measure of success achieved.	
2	<b>15.</b> By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including		



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	restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.		
<p>3. Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes, promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the Territory.</p> <p>4. Ensure that environmental impact assessments are undertaken before approving major projects and while developing our growth management strategy.</p> <p>5. Commit to open and consultative decision-making on developments and</p>	<p>2. By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p>	<p>The Development Control Committee Mandate outlines the scope and role of the Committee in relation to development planning. Performing Strategic Environmental Assessments is not a legislative requirement on Guernsey and a public enquiry/policy development system needs to be developed. 'A Vision for Sark' identifies the need to review and activate land reform legislation, establish a planning system, which empathises the needs of the environment, and develop a marine spatial plan. The document discusses also the need to encourage more environmentally friendly waste-management techniques as part of new planning system in the Territory, as well as draft septic tank legislation and review discharges into the sea.</p> <p>Sustainable means of transport are the norm, as cars are not allowed on the island (Motor Vehicles (Sark) Law 2013). The Tourism (Sark) (Amendment) Law 2014 was developed to regulate tourist accommodation, including environmental health aspects, such as water samples.</p>	<p>Develop a public enquiry/policy development system.</p> <p>Review and activate land reform legislation, establish a planning system, which empathises the needs of the environment, and develop a marine spatial plan.</p> <p>Encourage more environmentally friendly waste-management techniques, particularly the incineration of waste, as part of new planning system in the Territory, as well as draft septic tank legislation, and review discharges into the sea.</p>

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	What to try to address (this will become something like 'Summary of progress and the present state' in the filled-in version.	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
plans which may affect the environment; ensure that environmental impact assessments include consultation with stakeholders.			
3	3. By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.	<p>'A Vision for Sark' sets out the need to regulate environmentally and commercially effective marine energy solutions and review the provision and cost of electricity. The Renewable Energy (Sark) Law, 2010 deals with the prohibition, licensing and regulation of renewable energy projects in the Territory.</p> <p>Sark has representation in the Channel Islands Renewable Energy Group (CIMREG), and the potential for tidal current energy being explored by the Centre for Understanding Sustainable Practices (CUSP), Robert Gordon University (Aberdeen).</p> <p>Sark is represented at the talks taking place regarding renewable energy in the Bailiwick of Guernsey</p>	
3, 4, 5	4. By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for		

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	sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.		
2, 3	6. By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.	Fishing restrictions were extended to 12 miles in 2011.  In 2014, the Bailiwick introduced a ban of wreck-netting, a practice whereby prominent wrecks are netted by fishermen. Nets get entangled on the wrecks and cannot be hauled, and continue to "ghost-fish". The introduction is based on a catch composition control and has had very good support from many fisheries sectors.	
3	7. By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	The Agriculture and Environment Committee develop and oversee initiatives on matters concerning agriculture, horticulture, conservation, and the environment. The planting of vines on Sark is a concern due to agricultural run-off and associated water pollution.	End planting of vines; maintain and re-establish traditional land-uses.
3, 4, 5	14. By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services		

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	related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.		
6. Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the Territory and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)	Sark is included in UK's ratification of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (and has designated 1 Wetland of International Importance), the Convention on Migratory Species (Bonn), and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES, Washington) – but not yet the Convention on Biological Diversity.	CBD designation. Guernsey has decided to move towards inclusion in UK's ratification of CBD. For some matters, Sark is included in the Bailiwick processes, so an opportunity may be presented.
7. Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.	19. By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.		Need to review priority baseline or monitoring data needs, if any
8. Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay	8. By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to	The planting of vines on Sark is a concern due to agricultural run-off and associated water pollution.	Implementation of regular water monitoring and any necessary action.

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	What to try to address (this will become something like 'Summary of progress and the present state' in the filled-in version.	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
for prevention or remedies; establish effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.	ecosystem function and biodiversity. (Relates also to EC3&4)		
8	10. By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning. (Relates also to EC3)		
9. Encourage teaching within schools to promote the value of our local environment (natural and built) and to explain its role within the regional and global environment. 10. Promote publications that spread awareness of the special features of the environment in the Territory; promote within the Territory the guiding	1. By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.	La Société Serquaise has a junior wildlife club, Sark's Watch Group, which is active and promotes value of the local natural environment.  Additionally there is a range of educational material produced by UKOTCF and other collaborators relating to the heritage and natural environment of the Territory.  Sark Entomology Group has been formed and reports moth and butterfly sightings.	

Environment Charter Commitments by UKOT Governments	Aichi Biodiversity Targets (matched to nearest equivalent Env Ch commitment)	What to try to address (this will become something like 'Summary of progress and the present state' in the filled-in version.	Still to do to meet commitments and other local needs
principles set out above.			
11. Abide by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and work towards meeting International Development Targets on the environment.	(Issues which cross many Aichi Targets)		
Not matched specifically	13. By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.	The Government of Sark has some concerns over the increasing number of vineyards, which have been planted on Sark by private land-owners (Sark Estate Management). In 2012, they issued a press release which included concerns such as "From observation and conversations with SEM vineyard workers, it has been ascertained that fungicides such as Bordeaux mix are regularly 'broadcast' on the vines. Even in light winds, the dust drifts. Bordeaux contains copper sulphate and many residents now fear pollution of their drinking water from bore holes and wells. Regular dusting with Bordeaux Mix to prevent mildew and other fungi is harmful to insects, particularly bees, to earthworms and, in the long-term, also to humans in contact with it." The situation is being monitored, and Guernsey authorities are helping with identification of the sprays used. Water quality on the island is also being monitored.	Continued alertness, with any appropriate actions

	<p><b>16.</b> By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.</p>		
	<p><b>18.</b> By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.</p>	<p>See AT13</p>	



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