

# AN OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE ENVIRONMENT CHARTERS AND MOVING TOWARDS THE AICHI TARGETS



[www.ukotcf.org](http://www.ukotcf.org)



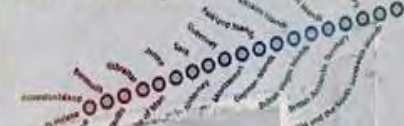
## What is UKOTCF?: Member/ Associate organisations linked to a particular UKOTs/CDs



- Alderney Wildlife Trust
- Anguilla Archaeological & Historical Society
- Anguilla National Trust
- Ascension Conservation Centre
- Ascension Heritage Society
- Bermuda Audubon Society
- Bermuda National Trust
- UK Antarctic Heritage Trust
- Chagos Conservation Trust
- National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands, BVI
- Jost van Dykes Preservation Society, BVI
- National Trust for the Cayman Islands
- Akrotiri Environmental Education & Information Centre, Cyprus SBA
- Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society
- La Société Guernesaise
- National Trust for Jersey
- Société Jersiaise
- Isle of Man Department of Environment, Food & Agriculture
- Montserrat National Trust
- Pitcairn Natural Resources Division
- St Helena National Trust
- La Société Sercquaise
- Turks & Caicos National Museum
- National Trust of the Turks & Caicos Islands
- Turks & Caicos Reef Fund
- Central Caribbean Marine Institute



Sustaining  
Partnerships



GIBRALTAR  
10TH TO 15TH OF JULY 2015

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES



CONSERVATION FORUM



# 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

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# Environment Charters

## Environment Charter



### BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

#### Guiding Principles

*For the UK Government, for the government of the British Virgin Islands and for the people of the British Virgin Islands*

- 1 To recognise that all people need a healthy environment for their well-being and livelihoods and that all can help to conserve and sustain it.
- 2 To use our natural resources wisely, being fair to present and future generations.
- 3 To identify environmental opportunities, costs and risks in all policies and strategies.
- 4 To seek expert advice and consult openly with interested parties on decisions affecting the environment.
- 5 To aim for solutions which benefit both the environment and development.
- 6 To contribute towards the protection and improvement of the global environment.
- 7 To safeguard and restore native species, habitats and landscape features, and control or eradicate invasive species.
- 8 To encourage activities and technologies that benefit the environment.
- 9 To control pollution, with the polluter paying for the prevention or remedies.
- 10 To study and celebrate our environmental heritage as a treasure to share with our children.

**Ralph T. O'Neal**  
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS  
26 September 2001

**Valerie Amos**  
UNITED KINGDOM  
26 September 2001

#### Commitments

The government of the UK will:

- 1 Help build capacity to support and implement integrated environmental management which is consistent with the British Virgin Islands' own plans for sustainable development.
- 2 Assist the British Virgin Islands in initiating, reviewing and updating environmental legislation.
- 3 Facilitate the extension of the UK's ratification of Multilateral Environmental Agreements of benefit to the British Virgin Islands and which the British Virgin Islands has the capacity to implement.
- 4 Keep the British Virgin Islands informed regarding new developments in relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements and invite the British Virgin Islands to participate where appropriate in the UK's delegation to international environmental negotiations and conferences.
- 5 Help the British Virgin Islands ensure it has the legislation, institutional capacity and mechanisms it needs to meet international obligations.
- 6 Promote better cooperation and the sharing of experience between the British Virgin Islands, other Overseas Territories and small island states and communities which face similar environmental problems.
- 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 non-governmental organizations and networks.
- 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 British Virgin Islands' environment.
- 9 Help the British Virgin Islands identify further funding partners for environmental projects such as donors, the private sector or non-governmental organizations.
- 10 Recognise the diversity of the challenges facing the Overseas Territories in very different socio-economic and geographical situations.
- 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 government of the British Virgin Islands will:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 plans which may affect the environment; ensure that environmental impact assessments include consultation with stakeholders.
- 6 Implement effectively Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to the British Virgin Islands and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.
- 7 Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.
- 8 Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for prevention or remedies; establish effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.
- 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 public awareness of the special features of the environment in the British Virgin Islands; promote within the British Virgin Islands 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.

The Environment Charters signed in 2001 were a set of commitments between the UKOT and UK Government. They provide the partnership framework within which the UK could assist the territories.

# An overview of progress in implementing the Environment Charters and the Aichi Targets

- 1999: UK Government White Paper
- 2001: Charters signed by UK and UKOT Governments
- 2002-2006: Strategies developed for TCI & St Helena (facilitated by UKOTCF) integrating conservation into economy and social activity continued in the UK Government “mainstreaming” projects (2012 onwards)
- 2004-2005: UK & UKOT Governments asked UKOTCF to collate progress in meeting Charters
- 2009: UK Government publishes UK Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy
- 2010: UKOTCF workshop identifying complementary elements needed to complete strategy for biodiversity in UKOTs/CDs

# An overview of progress in implementing the Environment Charters and Aichi Targets (cont...)

- 2010: Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and Aichi Targets agreed;
- 2011: UKOTCF workshop- Objectives derived from international agreements (including Aichi), Charters, strategies for implementation, assessments of progress;
- 2012: UK Government publishes White Paper;
- 2013: UK Government UKOT Biodiversity Strategy review of progress published; House of Commons Environment Audit Committee holds Inquiry into *Sustainability in the UK Overseas Territories*;
- 2014: UK Government published UK Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy update;
- 2014 - present: NGOs & UK Government agency, JNCC joint meetings to identify shared priorities of UK bodies in support of the priorities of UKOTs/CDs themselves



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# Review of progress in implementing Charters and moving towards Aichi targets

- The Charters and Targets contain much the same commitments overall but divide them in very different ways. Matching them together we used this as the basis for collating progress on both.



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
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	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.		
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		



# Review of progress in implementing Charters and moving towards Aichi targets

- The Charters and Targets contain much the same commitments overall but divide them in very different ways. Matching them together we used this as the basis for collating progress on both.
- In addition, this exercise has presented an opportunity to identify some of the gaps in needs in order to meet the commitments and targets.
- Jan-Jul 2015 Sarah Barnsley and Emma Cary conducted desk review In July, forms were sent out to UKOTs for comment
- At the conference for conservation practitioners July 2015 they conducted face-to-face interviews



# The Report

Summary

Introduction

Methods

Consultation and Acknowledgments

Summary of results by Territory

Summary of cross-territory results on main  
further needs

UK Government and its commitments in  
relation to the further needs

Appendix: Tables of more detailed collated  
information for each Territory





**For each Territory information is grouped under the following broad categories of progress to give an overview:**

1. Protected Areas
2. Species Protection
3. Monitoring and Baseline data
4. Invasive species
5. Planning, EIA and Legislation
6. Pollution
7. Climate-change, Renewable Energy and Waste Management
8. Environment Education
9. International Agreements
10. Stakeholder Stewardship
11. Economic Value of Sustainable Use
12. Funding and other resourcing



## Monitoring and Baseline data

The Department of Environment 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.



# Some major achievements since 2010

- Ascension's Biodiversity Action Plan
- Cayman's Conservation Law
- South Georgia Rat Eradication
- Isle of Man fisheries management and protected areas
- Gibraltar's new fisheries regulations
- Pitcairn's proposed Marine Protected Areas
- Red listing for threatened plants and invertebrates



# Some gaps identified

- Sign up to Multilateral Environmental Agreements;
- Creation of further protected areas including designating Ramsar sites;
- Need for legislation and regulations;
- Resources to increase capacity;

## Ascension Island Biodiversity Action Plan ASCENSION PARSLEY FERN



Photo: IOD Commission

### SUMMARY

Ascension Region, Plant, Terrestrial, *Asplenium acuminatum*, Chel. Polypodiaceae, Order: Polypodiales, Family: Polypodiaceae, Genus: *Asplenium*, *acuminatum*

Endemism: Endemic, Ascension Island

Description: This fern with small (petiole-less) fronds, averaging 24 cm in height, grows in moderate to open banks and outcrops on the exposed north-facing slopes of Green Mountain where it is often associated with the native Galapagos Island *Polypodium* (see photo).

WORLDWIDE STATUS: Critically Endangered

LOCAL STATUS: Unknown

Threats: The major threat to this species is competition with invasive plant species. Secondary threats include land-use and climate change-induced habitat alteration.



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The Physical Planning Ordinance 1958 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

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 special 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. Special concern includes beaches, field studies carried out for the FoE of Anegada, a new plant species was the Island Resources Foundation and photographed. *Sideroxylon* for this is one of many new plant need different issues, conflicts or areas in the Environmental Profiles, the FoE impacts of not taking any actions, and provide short-term or recommendations for addressing it. Other species conservation initiatives include the following:



*Madroenia 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 Angeles rock iguana *Cyclura nigriventris*. To save this species from extinction, the NPT and the IUCN Iguana Specialist Group launched a "rescue program" 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

over decades though. The pine ipsoscale insect is believed to have been introduced with imported Christmas trees. A few strains of the California 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.

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.

Funding for this effort ended in March 2016 and TCIG

What will the report be used for?

Planned Environment Ministers meeting (tbc)  
autumn Montserrat

Joint Ministerial Meeting in London in  
November

Important source document as full working  
tables included in full report

Thank you for listening

Any questions please contact [cwensink@ukotcf.org](mailto:cwensink@ukotcf.org)

