

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 3216892 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1058483

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2010
FOR
UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

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UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2010

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2010

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2010. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
3216892 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1058483

Registered office
Icknield Court
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Buckinghamshire
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Trustees
Dr C F Tydeman
Dr M W Pienkowski
Mr W E F Samuel
Ms E Charter
Dr J E Cortes
Mr B H Dinwiddy
Mr M E P Freeman
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UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2010**

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 26th June 1996 and registered as a charity on 4th October 1996. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association and is governed under its Articles of Association, these documents being amended on 23rd July 1996, 30th September 1998, 11th February 2003 and 9th July 2003, 9th October 2008 and 11th December 2008. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Recruitment and Appointment of Council Members

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and are known as members of Council. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association and resolutions passed under these Articles the members of Council are elected to serve for a period of three years after which they are eligible for re-election at the next Annual General Meeting. Council may fill vacancies by co-option until the next Annual General Meeting, when the co-opted member may stand for election.

In accordance with the Articles of Association and resolutions passed under them, the following directors retired by rotation at the AGM in 2008: Bruce Dinwiddy, Dace McCoy Ground, Ian Orr and Karen Varnham. All were re-elected. At the first Council meeting following the AGM, Council accepted the proposals from Dr Pienkowski that the *de facto* combined posts of Chairman and Executive Director be split, and that Dr Chris Tydeman be appointed Chairman. Council thanked Mike Pienkowski for his long service in this role and asked him to continue in the role of Honorary Executive Director.

Council reviews the coverage of the skills needed across Council, and attempts to maintain this broad mix. In the event of particular skills being lost due to retirements or the need for additional skills being identified, individuals are approached to offer themselves for election to Council.

Trustee Induction and Training

Most new Council members are already familiar with the work of the charity, as most of those with an interest in conservation in the UK Overseas Territories are members of the charity's member organisations, of its working groups, or of the wider informal network which supports the charity's work or are former senior officials with experience in these areas. The members of the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum consist of some of the UK's and UK Overseas Territories' leading conservation and scientific organisations.

New Council members are individually briefed by the Chairman of Council and other Council members to identify any aspects of the charity and the context within which it operates which need further briefing. Aspects covered include:

- The obligations of Council members
- The main documents which set out the operational framework for the charity
- Resourcing, both in terms of personnel and finances
- Current and recent activities and future plans

Risk Management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The trustees have examined the major strategic and operational risks that face the charity and have identified all material risks and ensured adequate procedures are in place to mitigate such risks. This is kept under review.

Organisational Structure

The UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum has a Council of up to 12 members who normally meet quarterly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. At present the Council members are drawn from a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity. The Secretary also normally attends Council but has no voting rights.

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The UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum relies heavily upon the commitment of its Council members, as well as others, who give freely of their time and expertise in furtherance of the charity's objectives. Day to day responsibility is delegated to the Chairman, Executive Director, Treasurer and Secretary. The Secretary acts upon decisions of Council and instructions of these Officers.

Related Parties

In so far as it is complementary to the charity's objects, the charity works closely with its member organisations and associate member organisations. The current full member organisations paying subscriptions are:

Amphibian & Reptile Conservation
Bermuda National Trust
Bermuda Zoological Society
British Ecological Society
British Microbial Biodiversity Association
British Virgin Islands National Parks Trust
Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society
Isle of Man Wildlife & Conservation Division
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Royal Zoological Society of Scotland
Zoological Society of London

The current organisations with other forms of membership, including associate, are:

Alderney Wildlife Trust
Anguilla National Trust
Ascension Conservation Centre
Ascension Heritage Society
Bermuda Audubon Society
Chagos Conservation Trust
Akrotiri Environmental Education & Information Centre
National Trust for the Cayman Islands
La Société Guernesaise
National Trust for Jersey
Société Jersiaise
Montserrat National Trust
Pitcairn Natural Resources Division
St Helena National Trust
La Société Sercquaise
South Georgia Association
National Trust of the Turks & Caicos Islands
Army Ornithological Society
Royal Air Force Ornithological Society
Royal Naval Birdwatching Society

Objectives and Activities

UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum is established to advance public education by increasing knowledge, understanding and practice of the conservation of plants, animals and other wildlife, their natural habitats and the need for such conservation particularly in the UK Overseas Territories, and to advance education generally and other such purposes for the benefit of the community as shall be exclusively charitable.

The Forum furthered its objects during the period by maintaining its programme of liaison with, and advice to, its Associate Member organisations, governments and others in the Overseas Territories, its Member organisations, individual subscribing "Friends", UK Government and others.

There have been no material changes in policy since the last report.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2010**

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Overview

The UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum promotes greater awareness and more effective conservation of the rich and unique biodiversity, natural environment and related heritage of the UK's Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies (UKOTs/CDs). In pursuing this purpose, the Forum works in partnership with a wide network of bodies, many of which are UKOTCF Member and Associate organisations based in the UK and UKOTs/CDs. UKOTCF works also with bodies concerned with conservation in small islands and other territories beyond the UKOTs/CDs, particularly the Overseas Countries/Territories and Outermost Regions (OCTs/ORs) of other European Union (EU) Member States, as well as drawing on the expertise of individuals worldwide.

This year has seen much UKOTCF effort devoted to the organisation and running of the Making the Right Connections conference, hosted by conservation bodies in the Cayman Islands. In bringing together conservation workers from governmental and NGO bodies across the Territories (and from other, similar, small communities), this event fulfilled one of UKOTCF's central objectives – to build partnerships through the exchange of information and experience, thereby enhancing capacity for conservation across the Forum's broad network. UKOTCF has taken other steps to facilitate the work of its network during the year, maintaining regular circulations of information to support, in particular, its Member/Associate organisations and to raise awareness generally of the challenges faced by UKOT/CD conservation workers. UKOTCF has continued to take opportunities to influence policy, particularly of the UK Government, in order to strengthen support for environmental protection in the Territories. Indeed, during the year, there have been signs of welcome changes in the UK Government's approach to environmental matters in the UKOTs, for which UK has responsibility under international conventions (Multilateral Environmental Agreements). It is apparent that these positive changes were significantly influenced by UKOTCF's submissions to UK Parliamentary Select Committee inquiries, and consequent criticisms of the UK Government's approach, over recent years. The changes include a greater role for the Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), alongside the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Department for International Development (DFID), and a more 'joined up' approach by these Departments. However, in parallel to these positive aspects, UKOTCF has noted some negative aspects which include concerns about a significant and general tendency to sideline it and other NGOs on both consultations and funding. These would seem to be counter-productive and backward steps – much to our regret – and ones that the Forum will seek to reverse in a continued spirit of partnership with government and its agencies.

The last 12 months have seen a number of conservation successes in the UKOTs/CDs, often the result of much hard work by small local bodies and dedicated individuals. Many of these have been reported more fully in Forum News during the year, but the highlights include the following:

- After years of work under a recovery programme for the endemic Bermuda petrel (cahow) *Pterodroma cahow*, 2009 saw the first of these remarkable birds to hatch and fledge on Nonsuch Island for the last 400 years. This greatly increases their chance of continued survival as increasingly storms destroy their previous nesting islets.
- In the Cayman Islands, and again after years of effort under a recovery programme for a local endemic species, it was announced that more than 200 acres of dry shrubland habitat would be protected. This significantly enlarged the area available for restoration of the wild population of the Grand Cayman blue iguana *Cyclura lewisi*, acting also as a flag-ship for the protection of dry tropical scrub.
- In the British Virgin Islands, there was victory for local environmental campaigners, after a lengthy court case in which they successfully challenged permission granted for a development on Beef Island that threatened to impact a fisheries protected area.
- Most recently, the FCO has announced the establishment of a globally significant Marine Protected Area (MPA) in the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT), creating the world's largest marine no-take zone.

However, there have also been set-backs and unresolved challenges for conservation in the UKOTs/CDs during the year. Again, as reported more fully in *Forum News*, examples include:

- The on-going crisis in Montserrat following arrival there of the chytrid fungus, which threatens to devastate local populations of the Critically Endangered mountain chicken, a frog, *Leptodactylus fallax*.
- Disturbing reports from Cyprus have highlighted the threat to migratory songbirds and turtles from illegal activities within the Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs).
- In Jersey, local groups are greatly concerned over various aspects of pollution linked to waste management, and particularly the impacts of these on the island's longest-established Ramsar Site.
- The appalling impact of non-native rodents on the internationally important seabird populations of Gough Island (Tristan da Cunha) prompted an on-line petition, calling for greater action by the UK Government to protect the precious biodiversity of the Territories.
- On the Isle of Man, an apparent backward step has been the disbanding of the active and successful Wildlife and Conservation Division of the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, in favour of integrating these officers into the other divisions (agriculture, fisheries and forestry) of the newly named Department of

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the Environment, Food and Agriculture This is a novel approach to conservation and we await with the interest the progress under the new arrangements, especially in view of the Island's consultation over becoming party to the Conservation on Biological Diversity, which indicated considerable public support for this move Whilst integration might have some theoretical advantages, there are dangers of serious conflicts of interest, loss of a champion and possible loss of proactive initiatives

Discussions during the Cayman conference and in other contexts have again highlighted a number of issues which are of broad concern to conservation workers across many UKOTs/CDs Inevitably, climate change and invasive species are major issues, as they are globally, given the severity of the threat that they represent to biodiversity and human livelihoods Lack of resources, both human and financial, to address conservation challenges in the Territories is another recurrent theme UKOTCF Member and Associate organisations have indicated that capacity building is a particular priority for them in many cases, and the Forum is seeking to help address this, including through development of a volunteers programme The lack of open and transparent processes, and engagement of governments with civil society (including NGOs), is another area of widespread concern, particularly in relation to spatial planning and assessment of the environmental impacts of development In addition, it is likely that the effects of the recent global economic downturn are yet to become fully apparent, although there is already increased strain on conservation bodies in many Territories as a consequence of budget cuts and political focus on other priorities On a more positive note, there is some evidence of gradually increasing concern amongst local communities over environmental issues, and a greater willingness to challenge governments and others over these, as exemplified by the BVI court case noted above There are also signs of an increasing acknowledgement (including through economic analyses) of the importance of maintaining the integrity and function of natural ecosystems, and the vital services that they provide to local communities and economies

Making the Right Connections Conference

A notable characteristic of the UKOTs/CDs is their very wide geographic dispersal around the world, coupled with the resource constraints typical of small communities This makes it very difficult for those concerned with conservation and environmental management in the UKOTs/CDs to meet in one place Whilst opportunities for electronic communication have done much to overcome the feeling of isolation that can result, there is no real substitute for sharing experiences and ideas face-to-face, and thereby building a sense of collective endeavour and mutual support Consequently, the roughly three-yearly international conferences organised by UKOTCF have become a most important meeting place for those from the wide range of bodies, particularly small conservation organisations, working to protect the natural heritage of the UKOTs/CDs and similar small territories

The year 2009 saw the fifth conference, following those held in London (1999), Gibraltar (2000), Bermuda (2003) and Jersey (2006) 106 participants (including representatives for all 16 UKOTs and 3 Crown Dependencies) met in Grand Cayman from 30 May to 5 June The conference theme of *Making the Right Connections* emphasised the objective of the meeting - to draw on similarities and differences in experience across the territories, and to provide insights into common challenges, leaving participants better equipped to address local needs As determined by broad consultation during the planning stage, formal sessions addressed a range of key topics *Progress on Environment Charter Implementation, Environmental Education, Climate Change – impacts and adaptation, Spatial Planning, Protected Areas and International Standards – assets or liabilities?, Raising Our Profile – engaging policy makers and the public, Enhancing Capacity – how on earth are we going to cope with the workload?, Invasive Species, and Joined-Up Thinking – institutional arrangements for environmental management*

A particular highlight of the event was the participation, for the first time in this series of conferences, of a UK Government environment Minister Huw Irranca-Davies MP, DEFRA Minister for the Natural & Marine Environment, Wildlife & Rural Affairs, acknowledged the particular geographic and resource constraints that affected the UKOTs The Minister took the opportunity to announce changes to DEFRA's Darwin Initiative, including the ear-marking of funds for UKOT-based projects and the establishment of a new Overseas Territories Challenge Fund Mr Irranca-Davies confirmed also that the FCO and DFID were committed to continuing their support for the Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP) small projects fund The conference warmly welcomed these announcements, but called on the UK Government to do more to help address the urgent environmental challenges faced by the UKOTs/CDs, including, in particular through provision of dedicated resources to enable sustained programmes, not just short-term projects

Council is very grateful to the Forum's partners in the Cayman Islands and elsewhere, and to DFID, for funding and other support in organising the *Making the Right Connections* Conference The local support provided by the Cayman Islands Department of Environment, and by UKOTCF Associate organisation the National Trust for the Cayman Islands, is particularly appreciated The full Proceedings of the conference are available on the UKOTCF website

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Feedback from participants strongly indicated support for this series of conferences, and the Forum is exploring actively options for the hosting and funding of a possible 2012 meeting. However, despite such positive feedback, it must be noted that preliminary indications of support from the UK Government so far have not been encouraging and, we would normally have had initial positive indications of funding for a conference two years away. At the end of the reported year, this is not the case. Without continued UK Government support, a further conference is very unlikely to be feasible.

Influencing policy and relations with UK Government

One of the ways in which the Forum seeks to further environmental protection and sustainable development in the UKOT/CDs is by influencing policy makers, particularly in the UK. Typical UKOTCF activities in this regard include submissions to UK parliamentary inquiries, Government (and other) consultations, support to governmental bodies in policy development, and wider awareness-raising efforts. Significantly, this reporting year marked a decade since the publication of the UK Government's 1999 White Paper *Partnership for Progress & Prosperity – Britain and the Overseas Territories*, which established the principles that have since guided the relationship between the UK and UKOTs. The White Paper had not originally been intended to include significant coverage of environmental matters but, with encouragement from the Forum, FCO and DFID officials at the time ensured that a relevant chapter was included. This outlined the UK Government's intention to develop, jointly with UKOT governments, a suite of Environment Charters, to provide a set of guiding principles as well as specific commitments for enhancing conservation and environmental management in the Territories. The Charters remain critical documents, in providing unambiguous commitments by UK and UKOT governments to advancing protection of the natural heritage and environmental assets of the Territories. Progress in relation to implementing the Charters is discussed separately in a later section of this report. Before that, however, we consider several other aspects of the UK Government's policy and approach to UKOT environmental matters during the last, eventful year.

Last year's Annual Report noted robust criticism by the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) and Foreign Affairs Committee (FAC) of the UK Government's approach. Both committees took significant account of evidence submitted to their inquiries by UKOTCF, and were deeply dissatisfied by the level of support provided by the UK Government for environmental management in the UKOTs. The EAC notably concluded that *"One of the most important contributions that the Government could make to slowing the catastrophic global biodiversity loss currently occurring would be to accept its responsibilities and to provide more support for the UK Overseas Territories in this area"*. The UK Government appears to have taken steps towards addressing some of the EAC's specific recommendations, including in relation to greater involvement from DEFRA in UKOT environmental matters, and in adopting a more 'joined up' approach across the various Departments involved. In addition to the participation of a DEFRA Minister in the UKOTCF-organised Cayman conference, these steps were emphasised at a reception hosted by the FCO at the end of June 2009. This event involved three UK Ministers with responsibility for UKOTs: the aforementioned Huw Irranca-Davies (DEFRA), Chris Bryant MP (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, FCO) and Mike Foster MP (Minister for International Development, DFID). It was announced at the reception that DEFRA would, in future, lead for the UK Government on UKOT environmental matters. Greater involvement by DEFRA is something for which the Forum has been calling for well over a decade, and UKOTCF congratulates the Minister and his officials for progress made in this area.

The UK Government's formal response to the EAC report noted that the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) had been tasked with developing a strategy for biodiversity protection in the UKOTs. This document was published in December 2009, and UKOTCF was happy to meet a request from DEFRA to circulate copies with *Forum News* 35. However, in contrast to the approach taken to past policy developments in this area, UKOTCF and its network of Member/Associate organisations were not consulted during the development of the strategy. Accordingly, whilst welcoming the document and its underlying purpose, UKOTCF does not necessarily agree with all of the details. It is pleasing to note, for example, that the new policy recognises the need for larger funds, beyond the UK Government's current support for smaller projects. However, no commitment is made to providing such funds, needed to resource activities such as long-term species recovery or habitat restoration projects, or to eradicate the most damaging invasive species. Also, it is disappointing that the document entirely fails to acknowledge the efforts made over more than 20 years by UKOTCF and its largely NGO network in leading co-ordination work and supporting UK Government bodies, often on a voluntary basis. Indeed, there appears to be a move to keep UKOTCF out of the area that it has championed, often seemingly as a lone voice, for the last two decades. The informal working arrangement around the time of the 1999 White Paper and in the following years centred on FCO, UKOTCF, environment departments and NGOs in the Territories, and later brought in DFID. The new group established to take the UK Government strategy forward will be chaired by DEFRA, have a secretariat from JNCC, and will include officials from FCO, DFID, other UK Departments and (on behalf of UKOT Governments) the UK Overseas Territories Association. There appears to be no place for UKOTCF or NGO bodies in the UK or UKOTs. Similarly, the modest increase in UK Government funding for UKOT conservation matters has coincided with a decrease in the amount of this routed through NGOs.

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However, throughout the year, as previously, UKOTCF has worked hard to sustain good working relationships with officials in key UK Government Departments and Agencies. Contact has been maintained through formal meetings and communications, and also by less formal means. In the past, these relationships have been advantageous on both sides, and this continues to be so in many cases. However, it does appear that the change in approach described above has been accompanied by some new tensions, exacerbated by an apparent lack of institutional memory in relation to previous arrangements and the mutual benefits that they provided. The Forum remains well-placed and committed to work with UK governmental bodies to further environmental protection in the UKOTs/CDs and looks forward to some reciprocity in this regard. Particular effort has been made during the year to re-establish an understanding with JNCC (the UK Government's statutory adviser on nature conservation), although not with the degree of success that UKOTCF Council would have liked to have seen.

As noted in the last Annual Report, UKOTCF responded (in February 2009) to a consultation on the World Heritage Convention commissioned by the UK Government's Department of Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS). The Forum submission emphasised points including problems with prospective UKOT World Heritage Sites being advanced through the UK's Tentative List (treating them, to their disadvantage, as though they were located within Great Britain & Northern Ireland but with none of the support that this should entail) and the current ineligibility of UKOTs for Heritage Lottery funding. The report arising from this consultation was published in December 2009, and the consultants that produced it clearly grasped some of the key points relevant to UKOTs. For example, they noted that World Heritage status has particular importance to the UKOTs/CDs, which are easily overlooked, both in the UK and internationally, and that the natural and cultural heritage of the UKOTs is often very distinctive from and (particularly in the case of biodiversity) of greater international importance than that of the 'domestic' UK, considerations not fully taken into account by the nomination of UKOT World Heritage Sites through the UK's Tentative List. The report went on to note that, of more than £268 million allocated by the UK Government to World Heritage Sites since 1994, none had been allocated to Sites in the UKOTs. It was suggested that DCMS was spending very little on World Heritage Sites in the UKOTs because it believed that they were the responsibility of the FCO, even though the FCO had little biodiversity expertise and few resources to support conservation work. [The new arrangements, bringing in DEFRA, could be considered as relating to this.] Consequently, existing World Heritage Sites in the UKOTs urgently required increased funding, notably to address threats from invasive species, needs which the local administrations, for example in Tristan da Cunha and Pitcairn, were in no position to fund. Without increased funding, it was felt that there was a real possibility that these Sites would become eligible for inclusion on the World Heritage 'In Danger' List. The report identified Heritage Lottery funding as one possible source of the extra money required. The UK Government's (January 2010) response to the World Heritage report was, however, disappointing, noting rather blandly that "some support is provided" in relation to the invasive species issues threatening the World Heritage Sites of Gough and Inaccessible Islands (Tristan) and Henderson Island (Pitcairn). It did, however, announce at short notice the first review in over a decade of the UK Tentative List. UKOTCF is helping partners in several UKOTs to put forward appropriate sites in the short window of opportunity provided by DCMS.

In November 2009, the FCO launched a public consultation over proposals to establish an MPA across the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT), often referred to as the Chagos Archipelago. One option offered to create the world's largest marine no-take zone, more than doubling the global area with this level of protection. The consultation was inspired by a concerted campaign by UKOTCF Associate organisation the Chagos Conservation Trust (CCT), and their partners in the wider Chagos Environment Network. BIOT contains the world's largest coral atoll and is the site of the greatest marine biodiversity in the UK and its Territories by far, including in largely unexplored deep-sea environments. The islands are amongst the most important breeding grounds for seabirds and turtles in the Indian Ocean. The BIOT reefs support corals, fish and other species found nowhere else in the world, and provide a stepping-stone that links the reef ecosystems of the eastern and western Indian Ocean. Furthermore, because it is so remote and relatively undisturbed, BIOT has some of the cleanest seas and healthiest and most resilient reef systems in the world, including more than half of the healthy reefs remaining in the Indian Ocean. However, the Territory is also at the centre of a long-standing controversy over re-settlement rights for the Chagossians, a matter which is currently before the European Court of Human Rights. On the basis that the consultation over environmental protection was being undertaken without prejudice to the outcome of these proceedings, UKOTCF was happy to support CCT in encouraging positive responses. The campaign achieved success at the turn of the reporting year (1st April 2010), when British Foreign Secretary David Milliband announced that the option to establish an MPA based on a no-take zone would be implemented in BIOT.

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Environment Charters

The origins of the Environment Charters in the 1999 White Paper are noted above. Although it was not directly involved in their drafting, the Forum was active in encouraging the development of the Charters, and had earlier provided a model for such documents by proposing *Checklists* for conserving the natural environment of the Territories. When the Environment Charters were signed jointly by UK Government and the governments of individual UKOTs in September 2001, they provided important statements of intent, outlining commitments by both parties to environmental protection and sustainable development. Since then, implementation of the Charter commitments has been patchy, with useful advances in some areas and disappointments in others. UKOTCF has been active in both encouraging and monitoring progress.

In relation to encouraging progress, the Forum has consistently pressed the UK Government to fulfil its commitments under the Charters. At Territory level, the Forum has worked to promote cross-sectoral action – whilst signed by governments, the Charters emphasise the need to involve NGOs and wider civil society. For example, UKOTCF facilitated the development of local strategies for action to implement the Charters in TCI (in 2002-03) and in St Helena (in 2004-05). These exercises provided a model by which Charter commitments could be related to local priorities and forward planning, by discussion and agreement among the broad range of stakeholders concerned with the natural environment of a Territory. This is very much the approach promoted by the International Institute of Environment & Development when it reviewed aspects of the Charter process in 2007. However, more recently, UKOTCF has become concerned that momentum was in danger of being lost. Consequently, in September 2009, the Forum convened a meeting to address the theme of *Environment Charters – the way forward*. It was attended by representatives of a number of UKOTCF Member/Associate organisations, UK representatives of two UKOT governments, and officials from four UK Government departments. Discussions at this meeting confirmed that the UK Government remained very conscious of the Charters and their importance, and recognised that further facilitation work to develop local strategies for Charter implementation could be useful. This is one area in which UKOTCF and its Member/Associate organisations could, if government wishes to act in partnership, advance and re-invigorate the Charter process. Other areas include work on more focused projects, for example, to advance establishment of marine and terrestrial protected areas. Where local strategies exist, the next steps typically relate to the development, integration and implementation of annual work programmes for local bodies to address the priority actions identified. It is essential that such programmes are “owned” and operated by local stakeholder (governmental and NGO) partnerships, but experience has shown also that external support, including from UK Government, as well as from UKOTCF, is often vital. However, despite expressed enthusiasm from many players including UK Government to pursue such activities, financial support from UK Government remains lacking.

In relation to monitoring, at the request of various parties in the UK and UKOTs (including FCO and DFID), UKOTCF initially undertook in late 2005 to review progress on Environment Charter implementation. A first report was published in August 2007, and UKOTCF committed to the Territories and others to update this every few years. The last year has seen much effort in completing the second review of progress, which was published in December 2009 and is available on the UKOTCF website (www.ukotcf.org). While it is difficult to summarise the findings briefly, given the range of different Territories, local constraints, and aspects of environmental management considered, it is fair to say that the results provide, overall, a very mixed picture of progress, with perhaps less achieved in total than most would have hoped for. There were, however, a number of notable successes in individual cases. A draft analysis was presented at the Cayman conference, where the first impression from one commentator was that there appeared to have been more progress in “talking” (plan development, education initiatives, publications) than in “doing” (open assessment of environmental impacts, safeguarding of sites, funding of conservation work), indeed, there seemed to have been some significant steps backwards in relation to these last two activities. The final version of the second report acknowledges that this is probably a somewhat unfair generalisation. However, it is not entirely inaccurate. One conclusion of the second report was that conservation personnel (governmental and NGO) in the Territories are invariably not fully equipped to do the work that is required, and which they wish to undertake.

Working Groups and other networks

The activities of the Forum’s Southern Oceans, Europe Territories, and Wider Caribbean Working Groups during the year are summarised in an extended version of this report. In addition to these Working Groups and the Forum’s wider network, UKOTCF remains actively involved in a number of other bodies and liaison work, raising the profile of UKOT/CD interests and linking these into broader initiatives.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2010**

The United Nations has designated 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB). The UK has established an initiative (IYB-UK), based on a major partnership of organisations, to use the International Year to promote the appreciation and conservation of biodiversity. UKOTCF has joined this partnership, to highlight that there is much more globally important biodiversity for which the UK is internationally responsible in the UKOTs than in Great Britain & Northern Ireland. At the launch of IYB-UK in November 2009, DEFRA Minister Huw Irranca-Davies specifically referred to the UKOTs, and later cited the Cayman Islands Blue Iguana Recovery Programme as an example of how iconic “flagship” species can be used to promote biodiversity and conservation.

Amongst its other activities, the United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) operates a Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme. UKOTCF is represented on the UK MAB Committee and, through this route, was able to contribute to a UNESCO-UK initiative under the IYB, resulting in the production of a resource pack which has been distributed to schools across the UK. UKOTCF input ensured that the *Biodiversity is Life* booklet, which formed part of the resource pack, included an item on the Gough and Inaccessible Islands World Heritage Site in Tristan da Cunha, and a link via the UKOTCF website (www.ukotcf.org) to the *Natural History of Tristan da Cunha*, produced by the Forum for use in environmental education in Tristan. The Forum is represented also on the UK's National Committee of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (the IUCN-UK Executive Committee). UKOTCF has secured an invitation to speak on ecosystem management for human well-being in the UKOTs/CDs at the April 2010 IUCN-UK Conference in Edinburgh.

In September 2009, the Forum was represented at the International National Trusts Organisation (INTO) conference in Dublin, a meeting also attended by representatives of UKOTCF Member/Associate organisations from Bermuda and Montserrat. UKOTCF involvement in this meeting complemented earlier participation in the *Making the Right Connections* conference by an INTO representative. The Forum will continue to explore areas of mutual interest and future co-operation with INTO in relation to UKOT/CD matters. During the year, Forum personnel have also maintained contact with the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and the Commonwealth Foundation, who are implementing a Darwin Initiative project focused on building civil society capacity for conservation in the Caribbean UKOTs. In addition to its work on the Net-Biome project (see below), UKOTCF has maintained linkages with other initiatives concerned with OCTs/ORs (“overseas entities”) of other EU Member States. This has included work through the *Bioverseas* partnership, in liaison with the IUCN Regional Office for Pan-Europe, and in preparations for a meeting to be held in the Canary Islands in September 2010, following up on the conference in Réunion in July 2008.

Awareness raising, information management and communications

Forum News 34 was published in July 2009, and *Forum News* 35 in December 2009. As ever, these featured articles on UKOTCF's own work, and the work of its Member/Associate organisations, as well as other issues, activities and policy developments relevant to conservation and environmental management in the UKOTs/CDs. In addition, reflecting the Forum's on-going agreement with DFID/FCO to disseminate information on OTEP, *Forum News* continued to feature summary reports from projects supported by this important programme. UKOTCF uses its website as another conduit for information on OTEP, as well as for a wide range of other information on the UKOTs/CDs, Forum partners and relevant environmental issues. This year saw transfer to a different internet service provider, allowing for further enhancements to the website. These included addition of regularly updated news features, and redesign of the existing on-line databases. The additional facilities developed under the Environmental Education project (see below), and other planned work, will further improve the functionality of the website.

Following on from activities described in the previous Annual Report, the Forum has taken further opportunities to raise the profile of UKOT/CD environmental issues amongst UK parliamentarians and other influential groups. These included working with a UKOTCF Member organisation – the British Ecological Society – and the Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management in preparing a position statement on *Conserving and Managing Biodiversity Beyond 2010*. This was launched at a parliamentary reception in October 2009, where speakers included Lord Selborne, Prof Bob Watson (DEFRA's Chief Scientific Adviser) and Pavan Sukdev (who leads the international study examining The Economics of Ecosystems & Biodiversity). A number of UKOTCF personnel participated in the reception, which was attended by over 120 delegates from across academia, the NGO sector, business, media and politics.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2010**

In August 2009, UKOTCF, as usual, operated its stand at the British Bird Watching Fair, which was attended by over 20,000 visitors, using this as a platform for raising awareness of the UKOTs/CDs and the conservation challenges that they face. Forum personnel were ably supported at the Bird Fair by Keith Bensusan and Rhian Guillem, welcome guests from UKOTCF Member organisation, the Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society (GONHS). Other opportunities to raise awareness of the biodiversity importance of the UKOTs/CDs have been taken during the year, including talks given by UKOTCF personnel at various meetings, including the annual symposium of the Cambridge Conservation Forum in January 2010. In the year ahead, the Forum hopes to increase its awareness raising activities through specialist groups and societies, including Member/Associate organisations. Initial 'pilot' steps taken this year included a talk given to the Shropshire Ornithological Society and an article published in the GONHS newsletter *Gibraltar Nature News*, both in December 2009. In addition, UKOTCF supports the efforts of others to raise awareness of biodiversity in the UKOTs, and was happy during 2009 to promote a petition posted on the Number 10 Downing Street website by a former Mayor of Wolverhampton. This highlighted, in particular, the devastating impact of invasive rodents on the birds of Gough Island, and called on the UK Government to enhance its support for conservation in the Territories generally.

UKOTCF has continued to keep its Member/Associate organisations, and its wider network of contacts, informed of relevant developments through regular e-mail circulations. However, to further enhance internal communications, the Forum has this year developed an e-Digest for its Member/Associate organisations, with the first three issues produced in July 2009, October 2009 and January 2010. In addition, members of the Southern Oceans and Wider Caribbean Working Groups have benefited from new e-Newsletters, also introduced during the last year.

Organisational development

The year has seen further progress in the Forum's organisational development, following the comprehensive updating of the Memorandum & Articles of Association, and wide-ranging consultation with Member/Associate organisations, both completed in 2008. On-going core work has been supported in part by the grant to UKOTCF from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, for which the Forum reiterates its thanks.

During 2009, Council developed a summary document outlining a "refreshed" strategy for UKOTCF, based on input provided by Member/Associate organisations to the 2008 consultation. This was circulated amongst those organisations and discussed at the Members/Associates meeting following the UKOTCF AGM in October 2009.

At its December 2009 meeting, Council elected a new Chairman, Chris Tydeman, and established a new role of Honorary Executive Director, in which capacity Mike Pienkowski will continue his tireless and largely voluntary work for the Forum. It is anticipated that this sharing of the workload, and completion of major tasks including those related to the Cayman conference, will allow Forum personnel to focus more in the year ahead on areas of activity such as membership development, fundraising for core work, and awareness raising. Lack of core funding remains a major constraint and limits what the Forum can achieve. Whilst UKOTCF is partly supported through grants, donations and subscriptions, it still relies substantially on the voluntary efforts of Council members and others.

Projects

Another way in which UKOTCF supports its Member/Associate organisations and advances conservation in the UKOTs/CDs is through project work. UKOTCF's role may be in assisting the identification of priority needs and funding opportunities, supporting project design and proposal writing, project implementation, or a combination of these. Some of the Forum projects operating during the year, but not described elsewhere in this report, are noted below. Project work is important in forging and maintaining strategic partnerships between UKOTCF, its Member/Associate organisations and others. Often, the Forum is well-placed to provide a co-ordinating role for activities across multiple UKOTs/CDs, and sometimes other Territories. Also, income generated by projects is important to the Forum, given its very limited resources. However, this is only possible because Council members and others are prepared to devote their time to project work at well below normal consultancy rates.

OTEP funding for UKOTCF's cross-Territory Environmental Education project came to an end during the year. However, voluntary input, largely by the Forum's honorary Environmental Education Co-ordinator, maintains and extends the facilities established by this project on the UKOTCF website (www.ukotcf.org). This includes moderation of the discussion forum, updating of the environmental education resources database and completion of virtual tours for each of the UKOTs/CDs. The last of these will provide an excellent general information and awareness-raising tool, as well as providing a resource more formally for environmental education across the Territories and beyond. Further material is being added to the Forum database, additional content can be added at any time by contacting the project coordinator, Ann Pienkowski (apienkowski@ukotcf.org).

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2010**

During the year, approval was finally secured for an OTEP proposal prepared with local stakeholders by UKOTCF's honorary Environmental Education Co-ordinator at the request of TCI's Deputy Director of Education. At the time of writing at the end of the reported year, an implementation visit was underway to initiate work on this project, which will develop curriculum resources on the theme of freshwater for use in local schools. Amongst a range of other work in support of conservation in TCI, help has been provided for an application to be included in the UK World Heritage Tentative List for Salt Cay, parts of Grand Turk and several internationally important offshore seabird nesting cays. Meetings were held with government departments and NGOs, where wide support for this application was given. A draft application was completed by UKOTCF, and made available to local partners for their use.

The work on revision and extension of the Turks and Caicos National Trust's (TCNT) Primary School Environmental Education course *Our Land, Our Sea, Our People*, requested by TCNT, was provided in final draft form to TCNT. This work was completed voluntarily, as the UK-based team working on it donated their time, in the light of the extreme financial stresses the TCNT is currently experiencing.

UKOTCF continues its work under the multi-partner Net-Biome project, funded by the EU's European Research Area NETWORK (ERA-NET) Programme. This project aims to support sustainable development objectives by enhancing co-ordination of biodiversity research in the tropical and sub-tropical OCTs/ORs of France, the Netherlands, Spain, Portugal and the UK. Amongst other activities this year, the results of an earlier stakeholder consultation to determine existing research activities and local/regional needs have been used to define priorities for a future joint research programme. Contributions to the funding of this programme have already been committed by a number of relevant OCTs/ORs and EU Member States. Eligibility of UKOTs for involvement in projects under the programme may be contingent on a contribution to this funding pool from the UK Government, and UKOTCF has been working to encourage a commitment to this.

For the last six years, UKOTCF has been working with local partners in TCI, the British Virgin Islands and the Cayman Islands to secure funding from the European Commission (EC) for a project linking aspects of sustainable tourism to enhanced biodiversity conservation. As noted in the last Annual Report, the EC finally committed to funding this project in December 2007. However, yet more complications introduced by the Commission, exacerbated by on-going difficulties in communicating with the EC delegation in Kingston (Jamaica), have resulted in further delays and difficulties in defining UKOTCF's role within the project. Nonetheless, work continues to address these problems and to move towards full project implementation. Contracts have been issued to TCNT and the Blue Iguana Recovery Programme (Cayman). The contracts for the British Virgin Islands National Parks Trust, and UKOTCF are in the final stages of negotiation, and it is hoped both organisations will be in a position to sign contracts shortly.

In addition to the project activities noted above, UKOTCF has worked closely with partners in the Territories on project development. Examples of proposals completed or in progress include those focusing on development of a cross-Territory volunteers programme, wetlands environmental education in the Cyprus SBAs, cross-Territory collation of baseline biodiversity data, involvement of Caribbean UKOTs in the UNESCO Sandwatch programme, aspects of environmental management in Pitcairn, and protection and international designation of salinas in TCI.

Financial Review

Funding both for conservation work in the UKOTs and for running the charity itself remain very poor. Financing core activity remains a considerable challenge. A grant from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation is the first manifestation of this, the first significant assistance to the core costs. The second instalment of this was received during the reported year, and the final is expected in the year following that reported. At present a main proportion of Forum funding is dependent on the overheads of projects and work by certain Council members and others, mostly in a voluntary capacity. Through tremendous efforts by these, together with the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation grant, operations remain possible. For the time being UKOTCF will need to continue to rely heavily on donated time of senior personnel, now with an important grant as well as support from a range of small income items from various sources. Whilst support has been gained from charitable trust and other funding bodies in support of work, there is a need to expand on this. To that end the Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and other officers will continue to explore other sources of financial support in the current and future financial periods.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2010**

Incoming resources were £281,104 (2009 £283,904) and total resources expended were £378,241 (2009 £234,449). Net incoming resources on the unrestricted general fund were £9,994 (2009 net outgoing £17,778), the change reflects the timings of receipts of the grant from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, noted above. Net outgoing resources on the restricted funds were £107,131 (2009 net incoming £67,233). The large 2009 net incoming related to income received late in the financial year to meet planned expenditure on the conference early in the following financial year, expenditure on restricted fund projects balances over the life of the project and not necessarily within each financial year. The balance sheet shows that at 31st March 2010 the total funds of the Forum were £92,582 (2009 £189,719). Restricted funds stood at £14,139 (2009 £121,270) and the unrestricted general fund stood at £78,443 (2009 £68,449). The Forum's assets are held in pursuit of its charitable objectives.

The Forum Council would like to thank the individuals and representatives of member organisations who have given numerous hours of voluntary time to the Forum, both in the UK and the Territories. The Forum is currently under-resourced and excessive amounts of input of voluntary time have been required to achieve its goals. It is anticipated that this will continue to be the case for the foreseeable future.

Because of their status as UK territories, the UKOTs are not eligible for most international grant sources, but nor are they eligible for most UK funding. The charity is pleased to have worked with governmental colleagues to initiate and operate the Foreign & Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Environment Fund for Overseas Territories (EFOT), and more recently to advise and help on its successor, the Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP), jointly run by FCO and the Department for International Development (DFID). This is the only fund totally committed to assisting environmental conservation in the UKOTs. OTEP, supported by voluntary effort by UKOTCF and its member organisations, is a great success for small projects, whether these be complete in themselves or pilots/ start-ups for potential large projects. As reported last year, the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee supported UKOTCF's view that UK Government's provision of funding in this area is seriously inadequate. In 2009, partly in response to this, the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) accepted some responsibility for conservation in UKOTs/CDs and earmarked part of its Darwin Initiative budget for work in UKOTs. UKOTCF greatly welcomed this. However, it remains the case that no fund exists on an appropriate scale to fund larger projects. Just at a stage when, in domestic UK, a project would move into a species recovery plan, it stops in a UKOT because of the lack of such a fund. It is bizarre that the areas of UK territory which have most global endemics, and other features of world importance at risk, lack a funding source available to other (domestic) parts of UK. This is a fundamental reason why UK will fail to meet its internationally agreed 2010 targets. Neither does present funding allow for realistic capacity building, which can take several years. Those successes that the Forum has achieved have required a combination of huge volunteer effort and several funded projects strung together. UKOTCF will continue to encourage the establishment of further funding sources.

Principal Funding Sources

Member organisations, now in both UK and the UKOTs, part-fund the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum on a subscription basis, with other funds being raised from donations and project work, and much resourcing depending on voluntary work. The Forum Council would like to thank the individuals and representatives of Member and Associate organisations who have given numerous hours of voluntary time to the Forum, both in the UK and the Territories. The charity is very grateful for financial assistance as project grants and donations, from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development and the Cayman Islands Government. The Forum is also grateful to Member organisations and others for contributions in kind, including hosting meetings at their offices during the year, particularly, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the Zoological Society of London, and Foyle's bookshop.

Investment Policy

The Trustees have wide investment powers. During the year, no long-term investments were held. All cash reserves were held on interest-earning accounts.

Reserves policy

The purpose of the reserves held is to fund the activities in UK Overseas Territories and to fund the support of these activities in the UK. It is envisaged that all the reserves held will be required to meet these commitments.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2010**

The Trustees of UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (the Forum) will review its budget and agree from time to time what proportion of its incoming resources, if any, will be reserved for specific or expected future commitments. Those reserves will be regarded, in the Forum's accounts, as designated funds, but may be undesignated at the discretion of the Trustees should the purpose for designation not materialise. All policy decisions relating to reservation of incoming resources will be fully documented in the annual report and accounts of the Forum, including amounts of reservation and subsequent expenditure or removal from designation, reasons for those actions and decisions being fully explained. In all respects the Trustees will have regard for any guidance issued from time to time by the Charity Commission making recommendations to trustees regarding their reservation of incoming resources.

Plans for Future Periods

The charity plans continuing the activities outlined above in the forthcoming years, subject to satisfactory funding arrangements. Approaches to improving these arrangements are integrated in the above sections, as are plans for developing current activities.

Trustees' responsibility for the accounts

The trustees (who are directors for the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and the income and expenditure for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently,
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

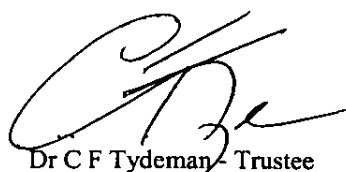
The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent Financial Examiner

Helen Rolfe & Co were the charitable company's independent financial examiner during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (issued in March 2005) and in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD



Dr C F Tydeman - Trustee

Date 17th June 2010

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2010 set out on pages fifteen to twenty one

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act)) and that an independent examination is required. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Association of Accounting Technicians.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under Section 43 of the 1993 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of the independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006, and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met, or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached



Helen F Rolfe FMAAT
Helen Rolfe & Co
Icknield Court
Back Street
Wendover
Buckinghamshire
HP22 6EB

Date 17th June 2010

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2010

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2010 Total funds £	2009 Total funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income		101,416	63,288	164,704	12,898
Investment income		67	-	67	2,095
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
Project Income		-	116,152	116,152	268,501
Other incoming resources		<u>181</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>181</u>	<u>410</u>
Total incoming resources		101,664	179,440	281,104	283,904
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Charitable Activities		73,947	281,365	355,312	199,550
Governance costs		5,740	1,000	6,740	11,883
Other resources expended		<u>11,983</u>	<u>4,206</u>	<u>16,189</u>	<u>23,006</u>
Total resources expended		<u>91,670</u>	<u>286,571</u>	<u>378,241</u>	<u>234,449</u>
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES					
		9,994	(107,131)	(97,137)	49,455
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>68,449</u>	<u>121,270</u>	<u>189,719</u>	<u>140,264</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>78,443</u>	<u>14,139</u>	<u>92,582</u>	<u>189,719</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

BALANCE SHEET
AT 31ST MARCH 2010

	Notes	2010 £	2009 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	6	395	-
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>101,003</u>	<u>253,039</u>
		101,398	253,039
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	7	8,816	(13,320)
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		92,582	239,719
DEFERRED INCOME	8	-	(50,000)
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NET ASSETS		<u>92,186</u>	<u>189,719</u>
FUNDS	9		
Unrestricted funds		78,443	68,449
Restricted funds		<u>14,139</u>	<u>121,270</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>92,582</u>	<u>189,719</u>

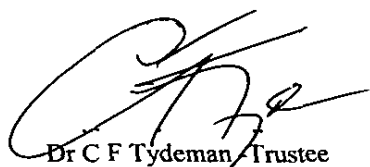
The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477(1) of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st March 2010

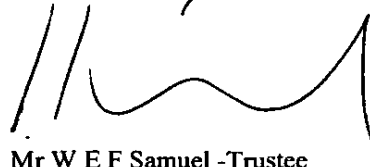
The trustees have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2010 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of accounts

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to the small companies regime within part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008)

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 17th June 2010 and were signed on its behalf by


Dr C F Tydeman -Trustee


Mr W E F Samuel -Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2010**

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2010

3. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Project income derived from the Department for International Development (DFID) is for the following projects -

	2010	2009
	£	£
Environmental Education	4,196	31,432
Communication for Overseas Territories Environment Programme	12,609	-
Conference 2009	3,504	125,409

4. NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES

Net resources are stated after charging/(crediting)

	2010	2009
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	-	1,724
External scrutiny	1,175	1,150
Accountancy	<u>5,530</u>	<u>4,236</u>

5. TRUSTEES' AND COMPANY SECRETARY'S REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

The trustees received no remuneration in the year ended 31st March 2010 (2009 nil) in respect of core work

The following remuneration was paid for externally funded projects -

Dr M Pienkowski £22,250 (2009 £16,000)

Dr C Hindmarch £11,800 (2009 £5,500)

During the year the company secretary Dr O Cheesman was paid £18,000 (2009 £18,000)

Trustees' remuneration relates to specific project work

Trustees' remuneration is approved by The Charity Commission and allowed under the company's Memorandum and Articles of Association

Trustees' Expenses

Travel, accommodation and subsistence amounting to £7,619 (2009 £8,045) were reimbursed to 7 (2009 10) trustees during the year

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year (2009 none)

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2010

6. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2010	2009
	£	£
Trade debtors	<u>395</u>	<u>-</u>

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2010	2009
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts	-	7,175
Other creditors	4,116	2,146
Accrued expenses	<u>4,700</u>	<u>3,999</u>
	<u>8,816</u>	<u>13,320</u>

8. DEFERRED INCOME

	2010	2009
	£	£
Deferred income	<u>-</u>	<u>50,000</u>

Deferred income relates to monies received during the year ended 31st March 2009 for resources expended after the year end

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2010**

9. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

			2010	2009
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Current assets	71,946	11,820	101,398	253,039
Current liabilities	6,497	2,319	8,816	(13,320)
Deferred income	-	-	-	(50,000)
	<u>78,443</u>	<u>14,139</u>	<u>92,582</u>	<u>189,719</u>

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Balance 1 st April 2009 £	Incoming Resources £	Resource Used £	Balance 31 st March 2010 £
Restricted funds				
Environmental Education	-	4,196	4,196	-
Communication for Overseas Territories	(427)	13,409	13,972	(990)
Data Base and Dissemination	3,862	-	-	3,862
Turks and Caicos Development	24,039	7,200	7,213	24,026
Conference 2009	100,544	116,129	216,673	-
Net Biome	(6,748)	36,706	40,630	(10,672)
TCI Env Education	-	1,800	3,887	(2,087)
	<u>121,270</u>	<u>179,440</u>	<u>286,571</u>	<u>14,139</u>
UNRESTRICTED General Fund	68,449	101,664	91,670	78,443
	<u>189,719</u>	<u>281,104</u>	<u>378,241</u>	<u>92,582</u>

MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

All restricted funds have arisen from specific grants. The purpose of each fund is to fulfil the work remit of those specific grants. No restrictions are imposed on the utilisation of the funds.

Transfers between restricted and general funds are only allowed where these can be specifically allocated.

In the previous reported financial year, the Conference project had received substantial income towards the end of the reported year in anticipation of major expenditure planned for the start of the following year.

11. CONNECTED CHARITIES

The following registered charities are members of UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum and support it by the payment of membership subscriptions and other funding -

Amphibian & Reptile Conservation	655A Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, BH1 4AP
British Ecological Society	26 Blades Court, Putney, London SW15 2NU
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew	Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AB
Royal Zoological Society of Scotland	134 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 6TS
Zoological Society of London	Outer Circle, Regents Park, London NW1 4RY

12. DONATED TIME

Incoming and outgoing resources include donated time of £122,738 (2009 not recorded)