

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

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND**  
**AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2015**  
**FOR**  
**UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM**

Auditors  
Rees Russell  
37 Market Square  
Witney  
Oxfordshire  
OX28 6RE

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# **UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM**

## **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2015**

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 2015. 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  
Back Street  
Wendover  
Buckinghamshire  
HP22 6EB

#### **Principal address**

102 Broadway  
Peterborough  
Cambridgeshire  
PE1 4DG

#### **Trustees**

Dr M W Pienkowski

Mr W E F Samuel

Ms E Charter (Chairman)

Dr J E Cortes (Resigned 04.11.2014)

Mr B H Dinwiddy

Mrs M C Ground

Mr I C Orr

Mr J Smith-Abbott

Mrs A J Debney (Resigned 04.11.2014)

Mrs P. Saxton

Mr W B McCleary (Appointed 04.11.2014)

Mr T P Appleby (Appointed 04.11.2014)

Mr N R Haywood (Appointed 04.11.2014)

Mrs S V Francis (Appointed 04.11.2014)

#### **Auditors**

Rees Russell

37 Market Square

Witney

Oxfordshire

OX28 6RE

## **UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2015**

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1996 and registered as a charity on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1996. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association and is governed under its Articles of Association, these documents being amended on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1996, 30<sup>th</sup> September 1998, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2003 and 9<sup>th</sup> July 2003, 9<sup>th</sup> October 2008 and 11<sup>th</sup> 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 2014: John Cortés and Alison Debney. Tom Appleby, Sarita Francis, Nigel Haywood and Boyd McCleary were elected to fill the resulting and two existing vacancies. 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 manage 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 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 Co-ordinator. The Co-ordinator acts upon decisions of Council and instructions of the other Officers.

## **UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2015**

#### **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 are:

Amphibian & Reptile Conservation  
Bermuda National Trust  
National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands  
Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society  
Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (Resigned 31.03.2014)  
Zoological Society of London. (Resigned 31.03.2014)

The current organisations which are associates are:

Alderney Wildlife Trust  
Anguilla National Trust  
Anguilla Archaeological & Historical Society  
Ascension Conservation Centre  
Ascension Heritage Society  
Bermuda Audubon Society  
Bermuda Zoological Society  
UK Antarctic Heritage Trust  
Chagos Conservation Trust  
Jost van Dykes Preservation Society  
National Trust for the Cayman Islands  
Central Caribbean Marine Institute  
Akrotiri Environmental Education & Information Centre, Cyprus SBA  
BirdLife Cyprus  
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  
National Trust of the Turks & Caicos Islands  
Turks & Caicos National Museum  
Turks & Caicos Reef Fund  
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.

#### **Public Benefit**

The trustees have had due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

## **UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2015**

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

##### **Overview**

The UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum promotes awareness of, and conservation of, the rich and unique biodiversity, natural environment and related heritage of the UK's Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies (UKOTs and CDs). It works in partnership with a wide network of bodies in the UK and UKOTs/CDs, many of which are Forum member and associate organisations, as well as individuals with relevant expertise. In the context of the general ongoing activities and new initiatives during the reporting period, UKOTCF has this year focused on several areas outlined below.

In addition to its linking roles across territories and with Britain and beyond (see below), UKOTCF has always been involved also in projects on the ground in individual territories, in practical conservation, environmental education and capacity development. As reported in previous years, in order to base its policies in the challenging area of marine resources in the context of international stress, the Government of Gibraltar turned to UKOTCF to commission a study of the science and other information on which to base sound policies. In the reported year, the recommendations of that study were implemented in legislation for sustainability of the resource. In the Turks & Caicos Islands, the Forum and its partner the TCI National Museum opened our *Wise-Water-Use Garden*, published our series of guide-booklets *Birding in Paradise* and continued work on the school curriculum courses. The project on *Management of Protected Areas in Support of Sustainable Economies (MPASSE)* finally ended in December 2014. Although the work on the ground was limited to four years, the preceding seven years from 2003 were taken up by the European Commission's Byzantine approval procedures. Despite further disproportionate procedures plaguing the rest of the project, our local partners, the National Trust for the Cayman Islands and the National Parks Trust of the [British] Virgin Islands, were able to make good use of most of the funds. Changes over this long period within our former partner, the Turks & Caicos National Trust meant that they were unable to claim much of the funding that we had helped them be awarded.

Following a close involvement in earlier years, UKOTCF started a new major programme of work in partnership with Montserrat National Trust and several parts of the Government of Montserrat. This has already included provision of a requested workshop on environmental impact assessment, a start on a guide-book to bird-watching and other aspects of local heritage, securing of part-funding for water-capture for the Botanic Garden and for the rescue of historic records, facilitating a partnership between Montserrat and the Waitt Institute to collaborate on marine conservation, and advice on a range of other issues.

Key roles of the Forum have always included building capacity in UKOTs and CDs, facilitating the exchange of expertise between territories, and identifying common interests and needs, as well as trying to do something about these. Territories have long stressed the high value of the occasional conference for practising conservationists, and called for UKOTCF to organise another. Unfortunately, the UK Government has not felt able to support one since 2009. In summer 2014, UKOTCF was able to announce that it had secured funds, mainly from HM Government of Gibraltar, for the sixth such conference. UKOTCF is donating a vast amount of voluntary time to organise this conference. This, in combination with the funding mainly from HMGoG and some support from JNCC, following an initial contribution from Defra to costs in the previous year, will enable colleagues from across the UKOTs to attend as supported participants. Gibraltar will host the conference (*Sustaining Partnerships*) from 11th to 15th July 2015. It is being organised together with the Government of Gibraltar, with the support of the Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society. It follows the first held in London in 1999, the second (actually the first in terms of when the organisation of it started) in Gibraltar in 2000, the third in Bermuda in March 2003, the fourth in Jersey in October 2006 and the fifth in the Cayman Islands in 2009.

Many UKOT and CD partners have long looked to UKOTCF to try to influence UK and EU policies that affect the territories. Accordingly, the Forum works with the UK Government and Parliament and EU institutions. Our heavy involvement over the last few years with the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee and its *Inquiry into Sustainability in the UK Overseas Territories* has been reported previously, and the members of the Committee repeated their thanks for this at the end of the Parliamentary session. Although, as we noted in the previous report, both Parliamentarians and conservationists expressed their disappointment at the UK Government's response to EAC's *Report (HC 332 of 8 January 2014)*, it is pleasing to see since progress on some of our and the EAC's recommendations.

- On 27th March 2015, the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI) announced the declaration of the extension of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to SGSSI. Nine UKOTs/CDs are now included in the UK's ratification, leaving 12 not yet included. UKOTCF will be organising a

## **UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2015**

workshop at the Gibraltar conference for those considering joining. While mentioning SGSSI, it is worth congratulating GSGSSI and, in particular, the NGO South Georgia Heritage Trust on completing (subject to monitoring) the removal of invasive rats and reindeer from the island.

- The Pitcairn Islanders and UK conservation bodies have long called for a marine protected area around the Pitcairn Islands. Intended implementation of this measure was announced by UK Government in the annual Budget announcements on 18th March 2015. Anguilla has decided to join UK's ratification of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), leaving TCI as the only territory not yet included.
- At its meeting on 12th March 2015, Anguilla's Executive Council decided to nominate Sombrero Island Nature Reserve Marine Park as Anguilla's first Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention. Sombrero was one of the sites in the UKOTs and CDs proposed for Ramsar designation by the review commissioned by Defra in 2005. This review was conducted by UKOTCF in consultation with local governmental and NGO bodies. It is available at [www.ukotcf.org/pubs/ramsarReview.htm](http://www.ukotcf.org/pubs/ramsarReview.htm).
- Noting the EAC's comments on effective development controls, UKOTCF welcomed the implementation (after delay) of environmental measures in relation to the new St Helena Airport, the construction of which is nearing completion. However, it remains a matter of concern that conservation measures started only halfway through the construction rather than before and continue to suffer problems. This needs to be viewed in the context that conservation bodies, including UKOTCF, decided – in view of the needs and constraints – not to oppose the airport development provided that every possible environmental safeguard was put in place. Sadly, this proved not to be the case.
- The European Commission has announced a new round of BEST scheme funding BEST 2.0 (see below).

UKOTCF has been concerned for some years at the lack of a strategic approach in the UK Government's support for conservation in the UKOTs. It has worked with JNCC and other NGOs to set up a joint group to overcome this, UKOTCF providing one of the Chairmen and part of the Secretariat for this. Progress is being made, albeit rather slowly.

UKOTCF continues its work on environmental education and awareness raising. This includes much in-territory work linked to the situations exemplified above. In addition, we continue to add to the territories included in our series of *Virtual Tours* ([http://www.ukotcf.org/1\\_vTours/intro.cfm](http://www.ukotcf.org/1_vTours/intro.cfm)). UKOTCF has provided a great deal of advice, comment, text, still photos, videos and assistance in fund-raising to Stewart McPherson for his *Britain's Treasure Islands* programme, which comprises a series of TV programmes, a set of short videos (which will be available on [www.ukotcf.org](http://www.ukotcf.org) and elsewhere for free use), a book and other resources.

#### **Projects and other in-territory help to our partners**

Amongst its other activities, the Forum helps its member and associate organisations to identify, design, resource, manage and implement projects, often involving the development of strategic partnerships between member organisations and sometimes with others. Other projects in which the Forum is involved provide a co-ordinating role for activities across multiple (sometimes including non-UK) Territories. Funding, for both UKOTCF and territory partners, is particularly challenging. UKOTCF is in a particularly difficult situation, in that, as a UK-based charity supporting conservation work in the UKOTs, there are very few funding sources for which it is eligible. Income generated via projects provides an important source of funding for the Forum, although this relies on Council members and others providing their time to project work for no charge or at well below market rates. Some of the projects operating during the reported year are noted below.

In June, the *Wise-Water-Use Garden* at the Turks and Caicos National Museum in Providenciales was opened to coincide with World Blue-Water Day. The project was supported by the RBC Foundation (Royal Bank of Canada) Blue Water Project. The Forum partnered the Turks and Caicos National Museum in the project, which received the Foundation's largest grant that year, outside of Canada, the US and UK. The aim was to provide a model garden showcasing the use of traditional capture of rainwater to irrigate traditional crops, and cropping systems suited to dry conditions, native and other traditional plants with medicinal uses, and regeneration of native vegetation. The layout of the garden and planning was developed by Bryan Naqqi Manco (Department of Environment & Maritime Affairs and expert botanist), who gave guests a guided tour of the traditional garden, the medicinal garden, and the regenerating native plant area on the day of the opening, 12th June.

## **UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2015**

In the TCI also, guidelines for visitors to Salt Cay and outer cays, important for birds, turtles and iguanas, have been produced. This was made possible through collaboration with the Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs, with help also from Salt Cay Divers, the Marine Conservation Society, and others.

Following the success of the set of five booklets produced in 2014 for TCI (under the series title *Birding in Paradise*, available in TCI and from [www.ukotcf.org/birding-in-Turks-and-Caicos/](http://www.ukotcf.org/birding-in-Turks-and-Caicos/)) on bird-watching and other heritage sites, UKOTCF was asked by the Montserrat National Trust and other local partners to produce one for Montserrat, to support its tourism industry while promoting conservation. UKOTCF was able to use visits to Montserrat in October and January to fill gaps in information and photographs with the aim of publishing it in 2015, in time for the new tourist season. The booklet will be sold locally at the Trust, providing them with some modest income; and by the Forum online and by post.

Work is underway also on a wide range of other advice and potential joint projects with NGO and governmental colleagues in Montserrat. For example, following the request from the Montserrat Fisheries Officer through their representative to the UK, UKOTCF has been working with the Fisheries Department to raise their capacity to manage their fisheries resources sustainably. One result is the recent advertisement of a new 3-year position funded by the Waitt Institute (introduced to Montserrat by UKOTCF), as well as technical and scientific support provided by the Institute itself. Forum personnel continue to advise the Montserrat Fisheries Officer and have provided information on the successful lionfish drives that have taken place in Cayman, through their contacts there.

Work continues voluntarily on the virtual tours and has benefited greatly from the help of several volunteers including the two Conservation Assistants (see Organisational Development, below) as well as Joanna Jones, a volunteer who has lived in Bermuda for several years and now in UK and wished to help the Forum where she could. Two additional virtual tours were made live: Ascension and the Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas. These received significant input from partners in the territories and will be further developed when the mini-documentaries (as mentioned above) are complete.

After the success of securing funding from the British Library Endangered Archives Programme for the Montserrat National Trust to rescue and preserve some of its most important documents, Forum personnel have been working with partners to try to encourage other UKOTs to apply to the fund. Working with new social enterprise Heritage People CIC and its founder Pat Reynolds, the Forum hopes to support further applications to the British Library.

The part EU-funded project *MPASSE (Management of Protected Areas to Support Sustainable Economies)*, for which the Forum co-ordinated and drafted the proposal in 2003 (with the European Commission issuing contracts in 2010-11), ended in December 2014. The in-territory work involved the National Parks Trust of the [British] Virgin Islands, and the National Trusts of the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands, with support from UKOTCF. Although the Forum's contract had ended in June 2013, some work continued on a voluntary basis, including meeting requests by the partners and the European Commission for UKOTCF to chair the Steering Group meetings. EU processes had been complicated for all partners to understand, disproportionately bureaucratic and involved far more work by all than would have been desirable, probably accounting for more costs than the conservation and other works that could be achieved. Near the end of the project, the partner in Cayman had managed to progress the project to utilise most of the allocated EU funds and used this support effectively to leverage other conservation benefits. BVI had (like the Forum) suffered in that its contract from the Commission had been received about a year after that of the other two partners. Nevertheless, they achieved most of the visitor facilities, reserve works, interpretation and enforcement facilities that they had originally planned, and used 70-80% of the allocated EU funds. There had been some problems within the TC National Trust which had not been able to use effectively the resources despite efforts from other project partners to advise.

UKOTCF will always aim to help its partners where time and resources allow. Requests are often made through regional working groups but also directly.

Updates on potential funding have been provided including on the EU-BEST, Darwin Plus as well as others. In addition to responding to requests to develop joint projects, the Forum has provided support to a number of bids throughout the year and continues to do this when requested.

An account of Felix Driver's volunteering efforts was given in *Forum News* 43. Felix has completed his first six months in a volunteering position at the St Helena National Trust and is now working together with the Trust and Buglife as a Communications Assistant as part of its *Bugs on the Brink* project.



## **UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2015**

#### **Environment Charter and conservation concerns**

The Forum continues to highlight the importance of the Environment Charters and their value as expressed by local conservation practitioners, as well as their being the main means by which Britain meets its obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Aichi Targets and other Conventions. One aspect is helping local workers keep watch on developments which might be contrary to the guiding principles set out in the Charters, and raising such matters with UK Government at local request where appropriate. The Forum aims to continue to review progress and is working on plans to do this in conjunction with the forthcoming conference in July, as it has done in the run up to previous conferences. It is able to support this through its working groups and continuing gathering of information from partners.

#### **Working Groups and wider networks**

The activities of the Forum's Southern Oceans, Europe Territories, and Wider Caribbean Working Groups during the year are summarised in later sections of this report.

The Forum has been facilitating, at the request of local members of its Wider Caribbean Working Group, discussions on coral restoration across the UKOTs, with the possibility of involving also other EU overseas entities. In August 2014, UKOTCF was able to facilitate the involvement of three participants from the UKOTs in the Global Coral Reef Network Caribbean regional meeting in Curaçao, through its Bioverseas network. (Bioverseas is the joint initiative of the umbrella conservation bodies for the overseas territories of the Netherlands, France and UK (UKOTCF)).

The Forum has been providing input in to the current JNCC Database project, which aims to improve and enhance access to biodiversity data in the UKOTs.

#### **Awareness raising and information management**

*Forum News* 43 was published in March. It led with an article on the conference.

UKOTCF volunteer, Dr Phoebe Carter, submitted an article to the *Marine Scientist* journal, which was published in May. The focus of the article was to outline some of her experiences as a volunteer monitoring turtles while based in the Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas, but with the help of Forum colleagues the article was extended to include some information on turtle conservation across all the UKOTs.

UKOTCF has continued to keep its member and associate organisations (and its wider network of contacts) informed of relevant developments, including funding opportunities, consultations and internal activities, through e-mail circulations.

After three years of visiting and filming in all of the UKOTs, filmmaker Stewart McPherson has produced a series of four 1-hour films on the wildlife of UKOTs which will probably be broadcast in UK, Australia and North America in late 2015. UKOTCF has advised on some aspects of this work and commented on drafts of the final product.

Stewart had much more film of high-quality than was needed for the TV series, and the Forum has helped him to raise funds through Kickstarter to produce a short (5-10 min) video on each UKOT, as well as a few other shorts on cross-territory subjects. The resulting shorts will eventually be available free to view to all.

A media campaign, preview and accompanying book will follow. Many of the conservationists involved in the films will be present in Gibraltar, and so Stewart is also hoping to attend to showcase the films.

Continuing the interest being shown in developing programmes on the UKOTs, the Forum was approached by naturalist Nigel Marvin's production company to provide information for his trip to the Caribbean. He visited British Virgin Island to film on Virgin Gorda.

The *Radio Times* is the UK's biggest selling magazine, outlining weekly media coverage with over 800,000 readers. The Forum was asked, at very short notice, to provide a photo of the Turks and Caicos pygmy boa to accompany an article highlighting the BBC4 radio programme "Costing the Earth" which aired in May – and this was published. Documenting the wildlife of the UKOTs through photography has long been an important aspect of the Forum's work, as a collection as such did not exist. Together with Stewart's archive, this is beginning to look quite impressive and is a major resource.

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### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2015**

The Forum responds to the requests it receives from its partners and wider network. These vary enormously in size and scope but, given the continuity in UKOTCF personnel, we are able to provide an important service to the UKOTs. Some examples out of many more include: working with Writtle College, University of Essex on a volunteer programme; establishing links between schools in UKOTs and institutions in the UK; establishing links with Sheffield Hallam Business School to integrate UKOTs issues into the Tourism and Leisure course syllabus; forming new partnership with a new social enterprise, Heritage Peoples CLC, to support cultural and historic heritage in the UKOTs; providing a link between successful lionfish drive organisers and those wishing to develop similar initiatives (Montserrat and Cayman Islands); seeking advice from experts on issues relating to sensitive Environmental Impact Assessment matters; making recommendations on possible restorations of important habitats to Governments; advising on a Kickstarter campaign to raise funds for the UKOT mini-documentaries (all £11.5k needed raised); drafting text to use in a book on *Britain's Treasure Islands*; providing Guadeloupe conference secretariat with suggested speakers for sessions in response to a last-minute request; providing information to IUCN regional hub for environmental profiles; providing information on the UKOTs to academic researchers; providing background to issues in UKOTs to UK and international journalists; providing a link between UKOTs and a production company wishing to film in UKOTs and CDs (Nigel Marvin series currently on UK TV on Adventure Cruise in BVI); briefing Ministers in the UKOTs and UK on issues across the UKOTs; providing input to the environment profiles for British Virgin Islands (now online at [irf.org](http://irf.org)); establishing links with teachers in the UKOTs to further education on UKOTs within territories; providing information to RSPB/FIELD governance review of UKOTs; and input to the 5th report to the Conference of the Parties on the Convention on Biological Diversity (see [www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int)).

The website and the Facebook page continue to be an important source of information and publicity. The website leads to many inquiries from interested persons, and researchers with specific questions on matters relating to the UKOTs. UKOTCF endeavours to respond to all such requests, as time allows.

#### **Influencing policy**

In advance of the Conference of the Parties (CoP)12 of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, which takes place in Uruguay in June 2015, UKOTCF was asked to provide input for the UK's Ramsar Report. An outline of some of the work, mainly in the Turks and Caicos Islands in collaboration with the Turks and Caicos National Museum, was provided. These included: the *Wonderful Water* project which was in part funded by UK Government (through OTEP) but involved a major amount of voluntary time and other contributions; the *Wise Water Garden*, launched in 2014, after securing a grant from private business (see elsewhere in the report); and the bird-watching guide books and trails which were produced to highlight the excellent opportunities for viewing wetland birds. Some errors and omissions in the UK draft report relating to other UK territories were also corrected.

JNCC and several NGOs continue to hold meetings to develop an agreed framework of priorities for best use of resources from Britain to support conservation in the UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) & Crown Dependencies (CDs). During the year, there have been several meetings, with UKOTCF providing the Chairman for the first chaired by the NGOs and the Secretariat for that and other NGO-chaired ones. The fourth meeting of the group in December agreed the need for a smaller sub-group to undertake the first re-sorting of priority areas suggested by members of the wider group. This re-sorting was to be into the priority themes identified by the main group, as modified by the sub-group. This was chaired by UKOTCF. A workshop drawing in a wider set of stakeholders in order to ensure that the priorities were robust is planned for spring 2015.

IUCN (Europe), Guadeloupe Region, the European Commission, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the French Government co-organised an international conference on biodiversity and climate change in Guadeloupe from 22-25 October 2014. It followed on from the Réunion Conference in 2008. Forum personnel attended the meeting, and coupled this with a visit to Montserrat to meet with partners there. Relatively few territories were represented, in some cases because of problems within the organising secretariat. Most organisations and even territories that were able to attend were represented at the conference by only one person, but participants were limited to one workshop (out of 5 which ran concurrently on the two working days of the conference, the other two days being devoted to opening and closing speeches).

During the conference financial mechanism session, seen as crucial to taking forward any other actions, the European Commission announced that there would be a new programme starting in 2015, BEST 2.0. Despite being from a different funding source, this was intended to develop the original preparatory BEST (the Voluntary scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of EU Overseas) – a programme which evolved from a suggestion several years earlier by UKOTCF and its partners for the territories of other EU Member States, in Bioverseas. The three years of that had sometimes been referred to as BEST I, II and III. BEST I & II included calls for funding

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### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2015**

applications, although the UK Government and others noted that the selection process was badly flawed' and the European Commission admitted that it was by their staff, who have no expertise in this area. BEST III saw funding go to a consortium led by IUCN-Europe. The project aims to create "*a network of regional hubs to identify the priorities for investment, and inform and train local stakeholders*". SPAW RAC and Réserve Naturelle de Saint-Martin is coordinating the Caribbean regional hub and the development of ecosystem profiles for the 15 European overseas entities in the Caribbean. In the South Atlantic, the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI) is leading.

BEST 2.0 will have a total budget of about €7m, spread over 5 years, across all the EU Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs), including most UKOTs. Grants will be applied for as one of two types: Small (less than €100k) and Medium or Large (up to about €400k). There will be emphasis on local organisations accessing grants. At a meeting of the EU Roundtable on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 in Brussels, in response to a question from the Forum, it was revealed that there is likely to be effectively one round of grants but applications will be staggered in time over four calls. Details of these calls would be released in early summer.

In October, the UK Parliament's All Party Parliamentary Group for Biodiversity held an event focusing on *Conserving globally important natural environments - some views from the UK Overseas Territories*. The Forum was heavily involved in the organisation of the meeting in collaboration with the APPG secretariat. Gina Ebanks-Petrie, Director of Environment for the Cayman Islands, and Kathleen McNary Woods, former Director of Environment for the Turks and Caicos Islands, and Sarita Francis, Director of the Montserrat National Trust, were able to participate via Skype. They made a great impression on the meeting participants as they gave their first-hand accounts of the progress and issues faced by conservation practitioners in the UKOTs. A summary of the meeting was circulated to the All Party Parliamentary Group for Biodiversity in its subsequent newsletter. Activity on raising the profile of the UKOTs in Parliament has somewhat diminished as the General Election approaches, but the Forum will pick up with the APPG secretariat and others when the new Parliament settles in.

The Forum has been advising several UKOT governments on issues from fisheries protection to uncontrolled and unregulated developments, both impacting biodiversity in a big way. Through its network of highly skilled personnel, it has been able to provide the scientific basis for decisions made by several UKOT Governments, most notably in recent years in Gibraltar and Montserrat.

In Gibraltar, the management of marine resources report has led to new legislation which makes provisions for the protection of Gibraltar's waters which are important in terms of biodiversity.

Following discussions with UK Government officials and requests from both FCO and the newly elected Government of Montserrat, UKOTCF arranged for training on best practice in environmental impact assessment. International expert Dr Jo Treweek conducted *pro-bono* a two-day workshop in January 2015, supported by UKOTCF and its personnel. All four Ministers of the Government including the Premier, as well as many other senior and technical personnel from government, NGOs and business, attended. The workshop generated a lot of positive press stories (including an item in the OECD regional radio news bulletin). UKOTCF aims to follow this up with more capacity development.

#### **Relations with UK Government and Government Agencies**

UKOTCF personnel have ensured that UKOTs and CDs were not overlooked in other quarters, using a range of opportunities. They met regularly with the FCO Director for the Overseas Territories, Dr Peter Hayes. The Forum is continuing to explore ways in which it can assist FCO with good governance on environmental aspects in the UKOTs.

Forum personnel were invited to give a presentation to desk officers and section heads at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on biodiversity in the UKOTs, the role of the UKOTCF network and related matters. This was to try to address the lack of corporate memory in FCO (something noted also by a few FCO personnel of longer standing); this is related to a high turn-over of staff. It seems likely that many FCO officers had never heard of the work of the NGOs, Environment Charters and a range of other matters – but it is encouraging that most seemed to want to learn. These presentations are to be continued.

Regular meetings continued to be held with Defra officials on various matters, including in relation to the Gibraltar conference, which received some earlier support from Defra and some further modest support from its agency, JNCC. Liaison with the Department for International Development (DFID) has been interrupted because DFID terminated its

## **UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2015**

only post (which had already been reduced to half-time) concerned with environmental matters in the UKOTs. UKOTCF shares the concern of the UKOTs, the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee and others about this serious gap in the Department responsible for most UK expenditure in the UKOTs

UKOTCF personnel met the Governor and other FCO and DFID officials in Montserrat, and had several meetings in TCI with the Governor, who kindly opened the *Wise-Water-Use Garden* and launched the *Birding in Paradise* booklets. At a meeting with the Governor of Gibraltar, he kindly agreed to host the opening of the conference. UKOTCF briefed the new Governor of BVI and the Administrator of Tristan da Cunha.

UKOTCF personnel attended the Reception for participants in the Joint Ministerial Council (of UK and UKOT ministers or equivalents) in December, and the annual stakeholders meeting on South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands which took place in September.

#### **Coordinating with Others**

UKOTCF aims, where possible, to link with organisations with potentially complementary remits to try to explore ways of collaborating. They include: the Europe Overseas entities Roundtable, which it attends where possible; the Honorary Executive Director continues to serve on the Executive Committee of IUCN's UK National Committee, providing them with regular updates on UKOT activities.

Throughout the year, and wherever possible, UKOTCF personnel have attended receptions organised by Friends for the Overseas Territories (FOTBOT). FOTBOT aims to develop relationships with citizens of the UKOTs, especially students studying in the UK, to promote the interests of the UKOTs and supporting its students. In December, they attended a very interesting presentation by Glyn Christian, a descendant of the first settlers on Pitcairn.

Several meetings, which UKOTF personnel have attended, of the Pitcairn Environment Group were held during the year to discuss the work of many NGOs currently working on Pitcairn.

Linking with various institutions that wish to draw on the Forum's knowledge has been an important part of our work throughout the organisation's existence. An invitation was received to attend and address a workshop on biodiversity monitoring in the territories organised by University College London. Following this, various proposals are being developed to coordinate data and monitoring information on the UKOTs.

With the assistance of Sarita Francis, Forum personnel met in London with Director of the West India Committee (and chair of the Heritage Lottery Fund's London Committee) to discuss areas of common interest.

In December, the Chartered Institute for Ecologists and Environmental Managers (CIEEM) held an event on mitigation and management relating to alien species in the UKOTs. Forum personnel attended and Council Member Bruce Dinwiddy chaired the event. This marks a rise in interest in UKOTs by CIEEM. The Forum Chairman was a key organiser, as a founder member of CIEEM.

#### **Organisational development**

Difficulty in securing funding remains a severe constraint on the Forum's ability to respond to requests from territory partners and others. A considerable amount of time and effort continues to be put into exploring new opportunities from a wide variety of sources. This is not just to enable the Forum to continue supporting its members and associates, but also to look for funds for them to continue their work. These include fund-raising drives, private companies, charitable foundations and individuals.

In 2014, two Council members stepped down from Council and four were elected to replace these and fill two earlier vacancies. Profiles of all the new Council members, Tom Appleby, Sarita Francis, Nigel Haywood and Boyd McCleary, can be seen in *Forum News 43* and on the website. We are grateful to long-standing supporter of UKOTCF, Dr John Cortés, for stressing his wish to continue to support UKOTCF after his recent terms on Council, as compatible with his present role as Gibraltar's Minister of Health, Environment & Climate Change, and for agreeing to take on a role as Adviser to Council.

The Forum recognised an opportunity to involve recent graduates in UKOT activities. The volunteers are benefiting from widening their base of experience, while the Forum is most certainly benefiting from their work. A position of

## **UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2015**

Conservation Assistant, for 6 months, was advertised. In total, 27 applications were received. These were reviewed independently by Forum personnel and six were selected for interviews. Of these, two MSc graduates were selected as outstanding, Sarah Barnsley (MSc, Imperial College London) and Emma Cary (MSc, Durrell Institute of Conservation & Ecology, University of Kent). Both were offered the volunteer roles and both accepted, starting in early October. They continue to work with the Forum on various tasks, working groups, virtual tours, database management, communications as well as others.

#### **Financial Review**

Funding both for conservation work in the UKOTs and for running the charity itself remains very poor. Financing core activity remains a considerable challenge. At present, a major 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, operations remain possible. For the time being UKOTCF will need to continue to rely heavily on donated time of senior personnel, as well as support from a range of small income items from various sources. Whilst support has been gained from charitable trusts and other funding bodies in support of work, there is a need to expand on this. To that end, the Co-ordinator, Honorary Executive Director, Chairman, Environmental Education Co-ordinator and other officers will continue to explore other sources of financial support in the current and future financial periods.

Incoming resources were £492,069 (2014: £400,295) and total resources expended were £422,243 (2014: £390,793). Net incoming resources on the unrestricted general fund were £743 (2014: £7,300). The overall financial position remains challenging. UK Government grants were formerly a major source of income, but none were awarded to UKOTCF for 5 years, until a welcome small grant late in the previous year. Whilst UKOTCF hoped that this was a sign of change, there were doubts in this regard, and income from this source has returned to nil. The moderate success so far in securing alternative funds needs to be developed much further. Net incoming resources on the restricted funds were £69,083 (2014: £2,202). Expenditure on restricted fund projects balances over the life of the project and not necessarily within each financial year. This is particularly notable this year because of the conference to be held in July 2015. The balance sheet shows that at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 the total funds of the Forum were £112,661 (2014: £42,835). Restricted funds stood at £95,708 (2014: £26,625) and the unrestricted general fund stood at £16,953 (2014: £16,210). The Forum's assets are held in pursuit of its charitable objectives.

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 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 was the only fund totally committed to assisting environmental conservation in the UKOTs. OTEP, supported by voluntary effort by UKOTCF and its member organisations, was a great success for small projects, whether these be complete in themselves or pilots/ start-ups for potential large projects. UKOTCF greatly regrets the suspension of this small-projects fund by UK Government, without consultation and in breach of commitments. As reported in previous years, 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. UK Government has now restored the previous level of funding by combining the resources which formerly provided OTEP with part of the Darwin Initiative funding. However, UKOTCF remains concerned that this approach is not well suited to the conservation needs of UKOTs. It is bizarre that the areas of UK territory which have most global endemics, and other features of world importance at risk, lack an adequate funding source available to other (domestic) parts of UK. This is a fundamental reason why UK failed 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.

## **UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2015**

#### **Principal Funding Sources**

Member organisations, 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.

UKOTCF 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. These included: Sarah Barnsley, Dr Phoebe Carter, Emma Cary, Felix Driver, Joanna Jones, David and Ann Quick, Callum Waldie and the specialist time donated by Dr Jo Treweek, as well as much time donated by Catherine Wensink. Although all Council members donate time to UKOTCF, Council would like to acknowledge the very large quantities donated by Mike and Ann Pienkowski, on which UKOTCF depends. The Forum would also like to thank existing *Friends of the UK Overseas Territories*, and encourage those who have an interest in the UKOTs/CDs to join. The Forum is very grateful for financial assistance as project grants and donations, from HM Government of Gibraltar, Defra, players at EVE\_NT, and Ian Thornhill. The Forum is grateful also to member organisations and others for allowing meetings to take place at their offices during the year, particularly HM Government of Gibraltar.

#### **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.

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.

#### **Trustee's responsibilities statement**

The trustees (who are also directors of the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

**UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2015**

- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

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

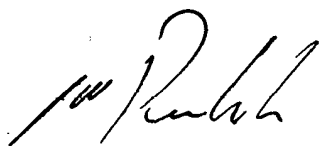
In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

**Auditors**

Rees Russell LLP were the charitable company's auditors and have expressed a willingness to continue in that capacity.

**ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:**



.....  
Dr M Pienkowski - Trustee

Date : 5<sup>th</sup> June 2015

## **UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM**

### **AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM**

#### **Independent Auditor's Report to the members of the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum**

We have audited the financial statements of UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008) (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities).

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

#### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditor**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement (set out on page 12), the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's [(APB's)] Ethical Standards for Auditors.

#### **Scope of the audit of the financial statements**

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charitable company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the trustees; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Trustees' Annual Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

#### **Opinion on financial statements**

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to smaller entities); and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

#### **Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.



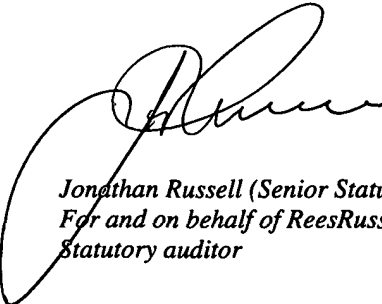
**UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM**

**AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF**  
**UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM**

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime



*Jonathan Russell (Senior Statutory Auditor)*  
*For and on behalf of ReesRussell LLP*  
*Statutory auditor*

*37 Market Square*  
*Witney*  
*Oxon*  
*OX28 6RE*

*10 June 2015*

**UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2015**

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2015 Total funds £	2014 Total funds £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	Notes				
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>					
Voluntary income	2	156,134	162,829	318,963	319,630
Investment income	3	25	-	25	18
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>					
Project Income	4	-	173,081	173,081	80,647
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<u>156,159</u>	<u>335,910</u>	<u>492,069</u>	<u>400,295</u>
 <b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
Charitable Activities	6	148,272	266,827	415,099	383,459
Governance costs	6	7,144	-	7,144	7,334
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<u>155,416</u>	<u>266,827</u>	<u>422,243</u>	<u>390,793</u>
 <b>NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES</b>		743	69,083	69,826	9,502
 <b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		<u>16,210</u>	<u>26,625</u>	<u>42,835</u>	<u>33,333</u>
 <b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u>16,953</u>	<u>95,708</u>	<u>112,661</u>	<u>42,835</u>

**UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM**

**COMPANY NUMBER: 3216892 – ENGLAND AND WALES**

**BALANCE SHEET AT 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2015**


	Notes	2015 £	2014 £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	10	22,092	28,248
Cash at bank and in hand		116,079	28,475
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		138,171	56,723
<b>CREDITORS</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	11	7,683	
Deferred income		17,827	13,888
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		112,661	42,835
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>FUNDS</b>	13		
Unrestricted funds		16,953	16,210
Restricted funds		95,708	26,625
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<u>112,661</u>	<u>42,835</u>

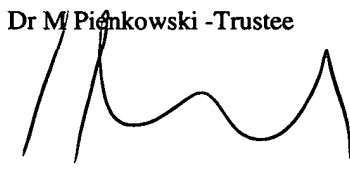
The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477(1) of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st March 2015, however

The members have required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2015 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to the small companies regime 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 5<sup>th</sup> June 2015 and were signed on its behalf by:

  
.....  
Dr M Pienkowski -Trustee

  
.....  
Mr W E F Samuel -Trustee

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2015**

**UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2015**

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can be used only for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. The income and expenditure relating to individual restricted funds balance over the life of the project to which they relate, and not necessarily within any one financial year. The end-of-year total for any such fund will depend on the precise timing of receipts and payments relative to the end of year.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the report of the trustees.

**Foreign currencies**

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating result.

**2. VOLUNTARY INCOME**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2015 Total funds £	2014 Total funds £
Subscriptions	1,980	-	1,980	4,340
Donations & sales	3,733	-	3,733	3,405
Donated time and expenses	150,421	162,829	313,250	311,885
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	156,134	162,829	318,963	319,630
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**3. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	2015 £	2014 £
Interest received	<hr/> <hr/> 25	<hr/> <hr/> 18

**4. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

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

	2015 £	2014 £
Environmental Education	-	-
Communication for Overseas Territories Environment Programme	-	-

**UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2015**

**5. GRANTS RECEIVABLE**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2015 Total funds £	2014 Total funds £
UK Government grants	-	-	-	20,000
Grants from other institutions	-	154,140	154,140	33,773
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	154,140	154,140	53,773
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The Government of Gibraltar have provided grant funding in respect of costs of preparations and supporting participants for the conference being held in Gibraltar in July 2015.

Grants in 2014:

Grants received in the year amounted to £20,000 from DEFRA in support of the initial start up costs of the Charity's proposed conference to be held in 2015.

A further grant of CAD\$50,000 was received from the RBC Foundation to establish and fund the Wise Water project being carried out in Turks and Caicos Islands.

**6. RESOURCES EXPENDED**

	Charitable activity £	Governance costs £	2015 Total funds £	2014 Total funds £
Donated time and expenses	313,250	-	313,250	311,885
Travel and subsistence	62	-	62	-
Consultancy	29,675	-	29,675	32,891
Project implementation	11,258	-	11,258	6,254
Meetings and conferences	54,293	259	54,552	27,318
Subscriptions, publications and reference materials	101	-	101	414
Storage and general expenses	-	13	13	(141)
Bank charges	747	-	747	690
Accountancy	-	5,076	5,076	5,100
The audit of the charity's accounts	-	1,761	1,761	1,800
Exchange losses (gains)	(141)	-	(141)	377
Legal fees	-	35	35	102
Postage, stationery and telecoms	5,854	-	5,854	4,103
Small equipment and materials	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	415,099	7,144	422,243	390,793
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2015**

**7. NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES**

Net resources are stated after charging/(crediting):

	2015	2014
	£	£
External scrutiny	1,761	1,838
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**8. TRUSTEES' AND COMPANY SECRETARY'S REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

The trustees received no remuneration in the year ended 31st March 2015 (2014: nil) in respect of core work.

The following remuneration was paid for externally funded projects:-

Dr C Tydeman £Nil (2014: £5,400)

Dr M Pienkowski £8,750 (2014: £7,240, this including £5,200 recorded in 2013 accounts as due in that year)

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 £1,766 (2014: £1,768) were reimbursed to 2 (2014: 2) 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 (2014: none).

**9. TAXATION**

The company is a registered charity and is, therefore, exempt from direct taxation. VAT incurred is included as part of the relevant cost.

**10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2015	2014
	£	£
Debtors	22,092	28,248
Prepayments	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	22,092	28,248
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2015**

**11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	£	£
Other creditors	1,683	-
Accrued expenses	6,000	6,000
Income in advance	17,827	7,888
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	25,510	13,888
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**12. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	<b>2015 Total funds £</b>	<b>2014 Total funds £</b>
Current assets	24,636	113,535	138,171	56,723
Current liabilities	7,683	17,827	25,510	13,888
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	16,953	95,708	112,661	42,835
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

**13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	Balance 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2014 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Used £	Balance 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Data Base and Dissemination	2,196	-	-	2,196
Turks and Caicos Development	16,182	80,394	72,784	23,792
Montserrat	-	26,015	35,449	(9,434)
Conference	-	212,925	133,771	79,154
TCI Wise Water	8,247	16,576	24,823	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	26,625	335,910	266,827	95,708
 <b>UNRESTRICTED General Fund</b>	 16,210	 156,159	 155,416	 16,953
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
 <b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	 42,835	 492,069	 422,243	 112,661
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>



**UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2015**

**MOVEMENT IN FUNDS – (continued)**

All restricted funds have arisen from specific grants or from donations to specific funds by virtue of trustees or others providing their services on project work for which they do not receive remuneration. The purpose of each fund is to fulfil the work remit of those specific monies. 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.

**14. 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
Royal Zoological Society of Scotland	134 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 6TS (Resigned 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2014)
Zoological Society of London	Outer Circle, Regents Park, London NW1 4RY (Resigned 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2014)

**15. DONATED TIME AND EXPENSES**

Incoming and outgoing resources includes donated time of £305,392 (2014: £309,126) and donated expenses of £7,858 (2014: £2,759)

**16. MEMBERS LIABILITY**

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

**17. CONTROL**

The charity is controlled by the trustees who are all directors of the charity.