

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

England & Wales · Charity number 1058483

Details

Other names	UK DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM, THE FORUM, UKOTCF
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	03216892
Registered	1996-10-04
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

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2nd Floor
Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre
8 East Common
Gerrards Cross
SL9 7AD

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Email mpienkowski@ukotcf.org

Website www.ukotcf.org

Activities

Objects: [1] THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC BY INCREASING THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING AND PRACTICE OF THE CONSERVATION OF PLANTS, ANIMALS AND OTHER WILDLIFE, THEIR NATURAL HABITANTS AND THE NEED FOR SUCH CONSERVATION PARTICULARLY IN THE OVERSEAS TERRITORIES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM INCLUDING PROMOTING AND UNDERTAKING RESEARCH IN THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND PUBLISHING THE USEFUL RESULTS OF SUCH RESEARCH). [2] THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION GENERALLY AND SUCH OTHER PURPOSES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY AS SHALL BE EXCLUSIVELY CHARITABLE.

Activities: Education and Training Environment, conservation and heritage

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNITED KINGDOM
- Anguilla
- Antarctica
- Bermuda
- British Indian Ocean Territory
- British Virgin Islands
- Cayman Islands
- Cyprus
- Falkland Islands
- Gibraltar
- Guernsey
- Isle Of Man
- Jersey
- Montserrat
- Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie And Oeno Islands
- Saint Helena
- South Georgia And South Sandwich Islands
- Turks And Caicos Islands

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£576,757	£520,647	£486,422	0
2024-03-31	£721,347	£398,678	£436,086	0
2023-03-31	£362,378	£338,490	-	-
2022-03-31	£265,610	£262,084	-	-
2021-03-31	£302,191	£272,878	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr MICHAEL WILLIAM PIENKOWSKI	Chair	
ANDREW JOHN PEARCE		2022-03-30
Alexander John Randall		2019-11-19
Dr KATHLEEN MARY McNary		2015-09-16
Dr KEITH JOSEPH BENSUSAN		2022-07-22
Dr Nigel Robert Haywood CVO		2014-11-04
Helena Fay Bennett		2024-11-14
JOAN LORRAINE WALLEY		2020-02-19
Leigh Sheridan Morris		2023-01-01
Myles Gavin Darrell		2024-11-14
SARITA VIOLETA FRANCIS		2014-11-04

Accounts

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 2025
FOR UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

Auditors
Just Audit & Assurance Ltd
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 2025

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 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 Section 1A smaller entities, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' ("FRS 102"), the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

03216892 (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	(Chairman)
Lady (M C) Ground	
Dr N R Haywood	
Mrs S V Francis	
Dr K M McNary	
Mr P Beckingham	(until 14 November 2024)
Rt. Hon. the Lord (John) Randall of Uxbridge PC	
Mrs Joan Walley	
Mr Andrew Pearce	
Dr Keith Bensusan	
Mr Leigh Morris	
Mrs Helena Bennett	(from 14 November 2024)
Mr Myles Darrell	(from 14 November 2024)

Auditors

Just Audit & Assurance Ltd
37 Market Square
Witney
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UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025**

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 2024: Peter Beckingham, Dace Ground and Kathleen McNary. Peter Beckingham stood down and Dace Ground and Kathleen McNary were re-elected, alongside the election of Helena Bennett and Myles Darrell. 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 three times per year 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, and Treasurer. The Executive Director acts upon decisions of Council and instructions of the Chairman.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025**

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
Manx Wildlife Trust

The current organisations which are associates are:

Alderney Wildlife Trust
Anguilla National Trust
Anguilla Archaeological & Historical Society
Ascension Conservation Centre
Ascension Heritage Society
BirdLife Cyprus
Bermuda Audubon Society
Bermuda Zoological Society
UK Antarctic Heritage Trust
National Trust for the Cayman Islands
Chagos Conservation Trust
Central Caribbean Marine Institute
Akrotiri Environmental Education & Information Centre, Cyprus SBA
Falklands Conservation
La Société Guernesaise
Guernsey Nature Commission
The Nautilus Project, Gibraltar
National Trust for Jersey
Société Jersiaise
Jersey Marine Conservation
Jost van Dykes Preservation Society
Montserrat National Trust
Pitcairn Natural Resources Division
La Société Sercquaise
St Helena National Trust
Turks & Caicos National Museum
National Trust of the Turks & Caicos Islands
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 and 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 2025

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Overview

The UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum exists to promote awareness of, and conservation of, the rich and unique biodiversity, natural environment and related heritage across the UK's Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies (UKOTs and CDs). It is the only body devoted solely to this. For well over 30 years, it has worked 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. We work with some of the most vibrant communities with some of the most unique and precious biodiversity in the world. Our team, made up of some paid staff and many volunteers, fulfils a wide variety of roles in support of the dedicated conservation bodies in the UKOTs and CDs.

This year completed the UK Government part-funding (under the Darwin Plus Biodiversity Challenge Fund: *Securing Montserrat's threatened species & natural capital through community-action*, DPLUS155) of the *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* project on Montserrat. The project showed encouraging signs of community action but also highlighted the need for targeted conservation actions, particularly on managing some troublesome non-native invasive plant species and identifying what they are. The project showed the importance of multidisciplinary approaches throughout with researchers and conservationists working in partnership with government department, non-governmental organisations, and the community. Participants plan to continue as much as possible of the work despite the ending of grant support.

Events, field workshops, and volunteer-driven activities involving young people are all designed to foster a stronger public connection to natural spaces in the second Darwin Plus Biodiversity Challenge Fund currently underway. *Delivering biodiversity and human well-being gains for Montserrat's sustainable development* (DPLUS192). A highlight this year had to be the Higher Education Event that took place on Montserrat in November. Education and outreach plays a significant role in this project, as it always has for UKOTCF. As the 2030 Sustainable Development goals creep closer, this work is creating a bottom-up approach to environmental stewardship.

As a conservation body, we must celebrate achievements, but also address ongoing challenges. While significant progress has been made—from technological innovations in monitoring to strengthened institutional collaborations—there is still an urgent need to address persistent issues such as habitat-fragmentation, climate-change impacts, and species-decline. UKOTCF has long called call for sustained, long-term investments in research and community outreach to ensure that conservation actions remain both effective and adaptive and has made several representations this year to the new government via inquiries and spending reviews.

The receipt of a core grant from a charitable foundation and the funding which will result from Bob Conrich's generous legacy improved significantly the organisation's financial standing, allowing the best use to be made of the experience and dynamism of some additional personnel to help achieve all we outline here.

Organisational Development

An application for a fourth grant was made to the Garfield Weston Foundation this year (and awarded after the reported year). In the previous year it supported ongoing work, including: the organisation of the remote meetings of the UKOT/CD Environment Ministers' Council; UKOTCF's seminars for conservation practitioners on avian flu; support capacity in the UKOTs, including support for NGOs, young people (e.g. through higher education via new work with the Jersey International Centre for Advanced Studies (JICAS); respond (and encourage those in UKOTs to respond) to UK Parliamentary inquiries; expanding on work of Darwin-Plus and other projects.

At the AGM in November, Peter Beckingham stepped down from Council after 6 years of service. At the same time two new Council members were welcomed. Helena Bennett from the St Helena National Trust and Myles Darrell from the Bermuda National Trust.

Helena Bennett is a born and raised St Helenian or "Saint" as the people of St Helena refer to themselves. Growing up on St Helena Island surrounded by the ocean, marine conservation was Helena's first love and spent most of her earlier years volunteering in marine protection.

Helena is a qualified Internal Audit Practitioner and played a key role in St Helena's auditing arena. Helena was central in setting up St Helena Government's Internal Audit Office, introducing governance and ethical assessments, and the initial risk-management framework. However, the ocean which is St Helena's biggest tourist attraction remained a priority to

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Helena and, after 11 years of auditing, she joined the Economic Development Agency as its tourism manager and later the Director of Tourism. Here, Helena was able to work with the government and private sector in developing tourism-industry best practices and developed tourism products focused on St Helena's natural, built and cultural heritage. When the economic development project came to an end, Helena was successful in the competition for the position as Director within the St Helena National Trust, an organisation that Helena spent over 10 years volunteering as a council member. With the remit of the St Helena National Trust being to promote, conserve, educate and advocate for St Helena's natural, built and cultural heritage, Helena is focusing on ensuring longevity of project outputs, increasing the importance of the built and cultural heritage and developing a forum youth advocacy in conservation.

Helena is also the Chairperson for the Liberated African Advisory Committee, which is working on interpreting the island's role in slavery and the abolition of the transatlantic slave-trade. She sits as a member of the St Helena Heritage Society Board, a member of the St Helena Research Council whose purpose is to authorise and oversee research on St Helena, and a member of the St Helena Cloud Forest Project Strategic Board, a CSSF-funded project, whose role is to ensure the multi-partner project adheres to the goals of improving the water security and wildlife for St Helena. With a current Darwin-Plus project combatting plastic pollution in the South Atlantic, Helena also supports the UKOT plastics pollution network.

Myles, the Head of Natural Heritage at the Bermuda National Trust, is a horticultural enthusiast and environmentalist with a commitment to environmental protection and conservation. He also has a keen interest in the traditions of agriculture, gardening, and growth and a passion for his island home.

Myles was voted a Bermudian of the Year in 2023 for these works and his dedication to the community. In 2024, he was honoured as the Bermuda College Roche Science Week Speaker. His BSc degree in biology – with a strong focus on co-constructed, contextualized environmental science learning – was followed by a graduate diploma of teaching secondary science from Waikato University in New Zealand.

Most recently, Myles' primary focus has been on the conservation of Bermuda's native and endemic flora, including advocacy for their unique habitats. Engagement of the community in conservation work is also a key part of his role, and in this capacity he regularly leads field-work for corporate volunteer groups, community groups and students of all ages. His hope is that promoting knowledge of the environment will translate into caring for our natural heritage to protect it for future generations. When he is not working in the community, Myles spends time in the garden and enjoying his family, wife Sara and their two teenage daughters, who he says are his greatest source of motivation.

We welcomed two new associate organisations to our network. Jersey Marine Conservation (JMC) is an independent non-profit organisation, established in 2011, to protect and preserve the marine environment around Jersey in the Channel Islands. JMC was developed through the Société Jersiaise's Marine Biology Section with support from the Association of Jersey Charities and UK Marine Conservation Sea Search. The entirely volunteer-run organisation had built an impressive database of over 20,000 marine records by 2024, documenting vital habitats, including seagrass-meadows, maerl-beds, kelp-forests, and archaeologically significant wreck-sites. JMC conducts extensive educational outreach, coastal clean-ups, and innovative monitoring programmes using thermal drones and baited remote videos. The organisation collaborates with numerous academic and environmental partners, provides formal training in survey methodology, and supports university research. It received recognition for its contributions to marine conservation with UK National Biodiversity Network 2020 award.

The Guernsey Nature Commission is a charity in Guernsey, dedicated to promoting and protecting the island's natural environment. It plays a key role in ensuring that the island's ecosystems, wildlife, and natural habitats are preserved for future generations. This includes promoting sustainable practices among local communities and businesses, conducting research, and raising public awareness about the importance of conservation. As part of Guernsey's broader environmental strategy, the Nature Commission works to direct progress related to the States of Guernsey Strategy for Nature. Its primary mission is to enhance the natural environment of Guernsey and Herm within a generation. It aims to do this by: reporting on State of Nature for Guernsey and Herm, public engagement and education and raising awareness, data collection and managing the Guernsey Biological Records Centre.

Throughout 2024, diverse models to facilitate funding for conservation work have been explored, with discussions on the potential for a match-making facility between projects that require funding and funders who may want to help deliver international targets such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Biodiversity Framework. The ideas are simple, but if they work could be impactful. Plans and trials are well advanced and the intended launch is expected in 2025.

We give thanks to the generosity of the late Bob Conrich who, in addition to his strong support in life for UKOTCF and its important work, supported the Forum in his will after passing in 2021. It specified that the net proceeds of the sale of assets be passed to UKOTCF to support its work. For various reasons, it has taken some time to receive the first part of this

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income but this recently happened. UKOTCF Council decided that the best way of honouring Bob's wishes is to invest these funds so that the income from these can be used for many years to contribute to funding of some of the key activities for which other funding has proven difficult to resource, but which Council knew Bob supported.

Projects

The grant-funding for *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* project on Montserrat came to an end in September 2024. Some of the local participants intend to continue the project, MNT and UKOTCF offering what support they can. The project aim is to encourage individuals, organisations, community groups and businesses to maintain and protect a public or private space, in partnership with the Montserrat National Trust (MNT). It collected information on plants and insects and provides opportunities to get involved in conservation efforts. The project website (<https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/key-projects/adoptahomeforwildlife-main/>) details all of the achievements of the project to date, of which there are many, including: land-management; enhancing biological records, from local and international experts and citizen-scientists; building capacity through workshops and events and outreach. Some aspects of the project which have been most successful have been the knowledge gained, the biological records obtained and the galvanising of the community, including young persons. The relaunch of the Monty's Messengers club (for primary-school-age) and the Montserrat Heritage Radio Show were particular highlights, now used widely by others working on conservation on the island of Montserrat as tools for communicating important messages. These have been taken forward by the Montserrat National Trust and will continue into the future. As with all project reports submitted by the grantee to UK Government Darwin Plus, they are independently reviewed to establish if outputs have been achieved. The report was awarded an 'A' which means that its objectives were met. Comments included: "This was an ambitious and complex project which has made significant progress over the past three years for which the project team should be congratulated." This was pleasing given some of the challenges the project faced. It was pleasing to see that some similar initiatives are being taken forward by the Tourist Board in early 2025.

In the year, Council Member and Chief Executive Officer of the Manx Wildlife Trust, Leigh Morris, volunteered again to visit Montserrat in August; this coincided with a repeat visit from entomologist David Clements. Leigh's purpose was to again help build horticultural skills within the Montserrat National Trust. Leigh's article which details his visit and the support provided to the Trust can be found in *Forum News* 62 (<https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/newsletters/forum-newsvers2/>).

In June, personnel visited Montserrat as part of the Darwin-Plus-funded project *Delivering biodiversity and human well-being gains for Montserrat's sustainable development (DPLUS192)* or its working title *Biodiversity and Well-being toolkit* or just *toolkit*. Several partners in the project were part of the visiting team, which included UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UKCEH) and Meise Botanic Garden, Belgium. Reports on some of these activities are provided in the newsletter *Saving Our Special Nature of Montserrat* (<https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/newsletters/project-newsletter-1/>).

In November, Beth Penhallurick, Education Officer from the Manx Wildlife Trust, visited Montserrat to explore further linkages between the secondary schools on Montserrat and the Isle of Man. A full report written by Beth, as well as a blog written by Leigh Morris following his trip in August 2024 to work within the botanic garden and the wider community on horticulture (for both DPLUS155 & 192), can be found in the newsletter *Saving Our Special Nature of Montserrat* (<https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/newsletters/project-newsletter-1/>).

UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (UN FAO), through Youth United Nations Global Alliance, contacted UKOTCF and asked for a series of short clips from young persons for the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation's [Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture](#)'s next meeting. The theme they were asked to talk about was biodiversity and farming. Officers from the Manx Wildlife Trust had arranged for some short videos to be sent (with consent forms) in Isle Man and these were sent to UN FAO, which they were very pleased with. The video was published online in March (although the young people are not identified, the boy and girl in the exchange about wild garlic at about 1min55 are in the Isle of Man): https://youtu.be/sK_hXfkbsb4.

Working with a number of authors and co-authors, UKOTCF has throughout the year and earlier drafted (and re-drafted) parts of its publication aimed at celebrating *The Nature of the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies*. It is now well advanced. Chapters have been carefully crafted and range across terrestrial flora and fauna, marine diversity, conservation arrangements and mechanisms, human communities and sustainable livelihoods, invasive species and restorations, managing marine resources, climate-change and looking ahead. Image sorting has begun. Intended publication date is difficult to judge, but may be late 2025 all being well.

Awareness raising and information management

Forum News 60 was published and circulated in July. Articles include: meet the Adopters in *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* (DPLUS155); registration for avian flu webinar in September; new species of pseudoscorpions on Ascension Island;

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Celebrating Turks and Caicos Reef Fund's achievements; updates on other Darwin Projects (DPLUS188, 192, 196); environmental education on St Helena; linking with UKOTCF member organisations; UKOT/CD Environment Ministers' Council meeting statement (May 2024). *Forum News 61*, published in October, included articles on: UKOTCF's joint work with Montserrat National Trust, other organisations and individuals in Montserrat on several projects including *Adopters of Wildlife Homes*; surveys of several invertebrate animals; the Montserrat National Herbarium; new to science: 2 spider species on Ascension and a centipede from the Chagos Islands; UKOTCF existing and new Associate organisations, the Royal Naval Bird-watching Society and the Nautilus Project; sharks at Ascension; and the "Blue Belt" programme; open letter calling for environmentally sustainable approach to development in Cayman; celebration of the lives of the Late Mr Cedric Osborne OBE, OM of Montserrat, and the Late Mr Bob Conrich of Anguilla; special offer on UKOTCF-published book on major conservation success; first announcements of a UKOTCF online conference in October 2025, and of an online conference on St Helena 27 & 28 November 2024; summary of UKOTCF webinar on avian influenza held in September 2024; new UKOTCF Ant Working Group; news of UK Government's announcement about sovereignty of the Chagos Archipelago; an update on plastic pollution; experiences of a visitor in the Pitcairn Group and Awards under Darwin Plus main projects Round 12. At the end of the reported year, issue 62 was near completion for publication in April.

Three issues of *Saving Our Special Nature of Montserrat* were published throughout the year. Issue 16, in June, included articles on: meet the Adopters, Tim and Dwayne; from Montserrat to Montana – entomology travel with David; Biodiversity & Well-being toolkit; Montserrat Secondary School visit; citizen-science on Montserrat; Monty's Messengers' natural history collection at Little Bay; MNT's AGM and medicinal plant book pre-launch; MNT's Tea Party; and a visit to Elvis' farm. Issue 17, published in September 2024, included articles on: celebrating the work of *Adopt a Home for Wildlife*; lepidoptera (butterflies) & heteroptera (true bugs) surveys June – July; an introduction to new members of the team. Finally, issue 18 was published in March 2025 and included articles on Monty's Ambassadors (a youth group), building environmental education links between UKOTs & Crown Dependencies; new light shed on Montserrat's tarantulas after more than 120 years; art and nature provide wellness to the community on Montserrat; environmental education resources for Montserrat; an update on the Montserrat Herbarium; medicinal plants of Montserrat – Illustrations vs Reality; Flower Insect Timed Counts – measuring the abundance of pollinators in Montserrat; the scale insects of Montserrat; building horticulture capacity in Montserrat (part 2).

Influencing policy

Two meetings of the Environment Ministers' Council of the UKOTs and CDs took place during the year. In May 2024 and in March 2025 via Zoom. They were the eighth and ninth meetings of the Council of UKOT & CD Environment Ministers (or equivalents). Previous meetings took place in Gibraltar in 2015, Alderney in 2017, the Isle of Man in February 2018, and online in April 2021, October 2022 and May 2023. The full agreed statements from the meetings are available on UKOTCF's website (<https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/environment-ministers-council/>).

Around 30 persons attended the meeting in May via Zoom. Through coordination with officers of Defra, the then UK Defra Minister Rebecca Pow MP attended with several officials for part of the session. Several presentations were given including: Defra's work on disposable vapes legislation; the principal investigator on the Faraday Institute's SafeBatt project, on the safety of Lithium-ion batteries; work on plastic waste coordinated by Ascension Island Government, St Helena National Trust, St Helena Government and the Zoological Society of London (ZSL); Blue Belt initiative from UK FCDO; and the 30-by-30 initiative on Sark. The statement was circulated to participants and online (link above).

The second meeting took place in March 2025 with over 30 persons attending. Defra officers were particularly helpful again in arranging for the UK Defra Minister for Nature, Mary Creagh MP (and formerly a Chair of the Environment Audit select Committee) to attend part of the meeting. A statement was circulated shortly afterwards and made note of the presentations and discussion which included: a further presentation on Faraday Institution's ReLiB and SafeBatt projects about safe disposal of Li-ion batteries; a presentation from global lawyers DLA Piper on their *pro bono* work, and its potential relating to international conventions, implementation plans, nature finance, training resources for civil servants and identification of gaps in legislation; an update from Sark which had taken up the invitation in our earlier meetings from the IUCN-UK Protected Area Working Group and UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum to extend the analysis of the UK's contribution to the Global Biodiversity Framework target of protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030, known as 30-by-30, to an example UKOT or CD. To end was a presentation on the environmental importance and conservation needs of the Chagos Archipelago (British Indian Ocean Territory) from the NGO Chagos Conservation Trust and the Scientific Advisor to the BIOT Administration.

With a General Election taking place in July 2024, some changes in Members of Parliament and Ministers took place. In fact, out of 650 MPs elected, 350 had never been an MP previously. UKOTCF Council took the opportunity to create a deliberately eye-catching postcard sent to all elected MPs together with a letter outlining some of the opportunities and

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challenges. At the same time, letters were sent to the new Ministers in Defra and FCDO and to the newly elected Chair of the Environment Audit Select Committee. Part of the letter to FCDO called for:

“The territories need support, as agreed with UK Government in the Environment Charters, in: joining UK’s ratification of environmental international agreements, such as the Conventions on Biological Diversity, on Migratory Species and on International Trade in Endangered Species, where they have not already done so; in reaching international targets for biodiversity including, but not limited to, the Global Biodiversity Framework Targets (GBF) and the Sustainable Development Goals in UKOTs and CDs; incorporating biodiversity strategies; in the designation of Ramsar Convention Wetlands of International Importance and World Heritage Sites; and in high ambitions of UK on climate-change and green-energy transition and new agreements such as the Global Ocean Treaty, also known as the High Seas Treaty, and the Global Plastics Treaty.

“It is important to ensure that official and NGO bodies in the UKOTs and CDs are consulted at the start of planning policies, rather than tagging them on at the end to policies primarily shaped in GB & NI, and to invite UKOT and CD representation as part of UK delegations to COPs. If UK is able to boast as 12th coral-reef nation and its importance for endemics, UKOTs should be given seats at the table.

“During the 37 years that UKOTCF has been helping the conservation organisations in the UKOTs, the extremely cost-effective projects part-funded by UK funds (currently Darwin Plus) have demonstrated to the public of the world UK’s addressing its treaty commitments in respect of these uniquely important areas of sovereign UK territory. Prior to the UK exit from the EU, UKOTs were eligible for BEST funding. Now this is no longer the case, the UKOTs are even more reliant on the one main funding stream of Darwin Plus. As a minimum, there is a need to maintain current levels of Biodiversity Challenge Funding [Darwin Plus] and to raise ambition by increasing support, e.g. from UK Research & Innovation, but reduce bureaucracy in applications and reporting. Cost-effectiveness would be increased by making the presumption that funding for a project that is proving successful is extended to build on success, rather than requiring funded projects to be totally innovative. A restoration is needed of support for umbrella and networking bodies of which UKOT and CD bodies are members/associates, e.g. by funding conferences organised by umbrella bodies. DCMS needs to direct its Lottery funding bodies to open access for funding in UKOTs. “Blue-Belt” marine conservation funding should be maintained but made more open for access by non-government organisations that provide so much technical and practical support. An equivalent “Green-Dot” funding is needed to bring conservation of terrestrial wildlife (which includes most UKOT endemics) up to comparable levels, for nature-based, scalable solutions, especially for most threatened habitats. We are highlighting the importance of UK funding support in the upcoming UK Government Spending Review.

“UK Government must remain aware of, and alert to, the pressures on ministers and officials in several territories that their main source of income (due to UK-approved tax-systems) is taxation dependant on the built development of land; this is a perverse incentive against implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and environmental conservation, despite the natural environment being a key asset supporting the economies.

“We have, over the years, advised UK ministers and officials in FCDO, Defra, and other ministries – and remain very ready to do so. One area that we were able to make a significant impact was to provide briefings on environmental matters to Governors-designate before taking their new roles in the UKOTs. In the past, the Directorate leading on UKOTs would contact us directly to request such assistance. However, this system seems to have broken down somewhat. Despite our best efforts to engage with the previous government, we were excluded. UKOTCF had also previously been invited to various networking events organised by FCDO that were very useful for keeping in contact with officials, similar organisations to our own as well as others. Our Executive Director and Chairman seem, for example, to have dropped off the list of invitees to the receptions of the Joint Ministerial Council, and some UKOT Ministers have expressed regret at missing us.

“We would like to rebuild our long-established long-term strategic relationship with UK Government, which seems to have weakened over recent years for unknown reasons, but this may in part be due to FCDO staff turnover and a reduction in its direct involvement in most UKOT environmental matters. We have started a rebuild with Defra officials, who we know value this for various reasons, including corporate memory and the links with territory bodies, amongst others.”

Council looks forward to feedback from the new government's ministers, and the UKOTs and CDs stand ready to assist in ways UKOTCF has suggested or in response to specific UK government requests.

UKOTCF recognises the potential for Select Committees of the House of Commons to influence government policy and, with this in mind, submitted at the end of 2024 evidence to UK Parliament’s Environmental Audit Select Committee’s inquiry on governance in the marine environment, highlighting some of the concerns previously raised in earlier inquiries.

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UKOTCF's submission has been uploaded to the EASC website (<https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/134763/pdf/>). The main recommendations were:

A: The UK Government should publish the [UKOT Biodiversity] strategy without delay to ascertain whether it is fit-for-purpose and aligns with international treaties relating to the environment.

B: The UK Government and all Departments negotiating and implementing international treaties relating to the environment must work with UKOTs and CDs on extension of these, where requested, and offer support in working towards this including drafting local legislation to implement international commitments, where this could be a barrier to progress. Furthermore, the UK Government should liaise with stakeholders (such as the South Atlantic Plastics Network), which also includes other UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, as a way to expand its reach and assert tangible global leadership to the benefit of UKOTs and CDs.

C: The UK should consult each UKOT and CD on whether they would wish to have international agreements extended to them (e.g. ICCAT, the Ballast Convention). Ensuring that UKOTs and CDs are represented at high-level meetings such as Conference of the Parties (COPs) would provide a route by which the UKOTs and CDs could make informed decisions on whether to explore ratification of international treaties.

D: Governments cannot do everything and should make best use of, and support, the continued building of non-government organisations, which at times can be quicker to mobilise resources or can act in the long-term interests of inhabited UKOTs communities.

E: The UK Government should maintain and increase the level of support for UKOTs through its Biodiversity Challenge Funds: Darwin Local, Main and Strategic to reflect GBF targets to mobilise resources. They provide support for coordinated action to implement international treaties, at local level. It is this mechanism that allows the UK to demonstrate it not only has fine words but it supports action to protect globally important environments.

Part two of the new UK Governments Spending Review, the process the government uses to set all departments' budgets for future years, was accepting evidence in February. UKOTCF's submission focused on the importance of UK Government funding, especially through the Biodiversity Challenge Funds to meet its international targets. The results of the review are not expected until the summer.

Relations with UK Government and Government Agencies

Early in 2025, personnel met with the Coral Conservation in the Overseas Territories (C-COT) to understand if there were helpful ways to collaborate with them as they continue their networking in support of those working on coral conservation in the UKOTs. This meeting was followed up with JNCC, founder of the C-COT group, to discuss joint ways of working particularly on data-management and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility. Further conversations with the National Biodiversity Network and Defra, major contributors to the GBIF were also held.

UKOTCF were asked to provide some material for the UK's 2024 UK National Ramsar Report, which was being prepared in July for to the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP15) taking place in July 2025 in Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe). Some time was spent on this report, compiled by the JNCC, to ensure that non-government organisations contributions to wetland conservation were included.

Working for partners and responding to requests

Meetings of the Wider Caribbean Working Group were held in June, September and November 2024 and February 2025; Europe Territories Working Group in July, September and November 2024 and February 2025. Southern Ocean Working Group in May and September 2024 and January 2025. The new Ant Working Group met in January 2024 and March 2025.

In May, UKOTCF visited Sark to work alongside Carol Davidson Cragoe (La Société Sercquaise) on possibilities for meeting the UN's Convention on Biological Diversity's Global Biodiversity Target 3, sometimes called the '30-by-30 target'. This involved a series of preliminary discussions with the Sark community focussing on biodiversity, important habitats and how these could be protected and managed effectively on Sark. They met with members of La Société Sercquaise, Environment Committee Conseillers of the Chief Pleas and four Sark land-owners.

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The 'project' aims to investigate what opportunities there are for Sark to protect some of the special sites and species found there. It used experience gained during the work on Montserrat to discuss area-based conservation in a small island situation. It is being conducted under the auspices of La Société Sercquaise, the only natural history and heritage society on Sark. This is largely a voluntary organisation with limited resources. It holds biological (and other) records, thus is a major data-holder for the island. La Société Sercquaise has access to Digimap (an online service that provides access to allow digital map-data to be created). It can provide up-to-date data layers and mapping capabilities, although this is carefully managed and not publicly accessible.

An initial meeting was held with La Société Sercquaise volunteers about areas of importance for species, habitats and what data are held and where. Meetings were then held with two Conseillers of the Chief Pleas. After that, some meetings with supportive land-owners were held.

In 2022-4, UKOTCF undertook a wide consultation with our member and associate organisations, members of our regional working groups and others in our network to seek their views on both logistics and topics for a possible UKOTCF conference. Amongst respondents, there was unanimous support for it. Whilst many would have like a physical conference, resources for this proved unavailable. So it was decided that UKOTCF would hold an online conference, aiming to repeat the success of 2021. The conference will run from Monday 13 to Thursday 16 October 2025. The sessions, based on suggestions will be on the following topics: sharing experiences, including both practical conservation and building capacity (two sessions planned due to high interest); financing/resourcing; using technology and data to inform and monitor conservation process and novel approaches to address threats to biodiversity; achieving biodiversity & sustainability targets; identifying and preparing for future challenges and opportunities. A poster presentation session will enable a wider range of topics to be discussed. The conference will include the 3rd Sir Richard and Lady Dace Ground Lecture.

Our networks

During the year UKOTCF developed the idea of a working group for ants, especially invasive ones, given the interest from across the UKOTs. The inaugural meeting took place in September 2024. There are 25 persons in the group so far. It has not been limited to those in the UKOTs and includes experts in Poland and Guyana. This is a reflection of international work and collaboration needed for this type of specialist work. Another meeting took place in November and a special presentation evening in March.

The planned UKOTCF webinar on avian flu took place in September. *The status and impacts of Avian flu in the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies: webinar* received over 100 registrations with broad interest from various organisations and locations around the world. At any one time, around 50 persons were online. A link to the recording was shared with registered participants. Some positive feedback from participants was received. All thought it was a good way to network and get in touch with experts in the field (e.g. the keynote speaker was from Erasmus University and others from US Aid).

The Inter-Island Environment Meeting 2024 was held in St Helier, Jersey, in September 2024. The theme of the meeting was: Delivering Science and Policy into Action, specifically how to ensure that policies and strategies, guidance and research findings translate to positive action for the environment. Leigh Morris attended IIEM and represented UKOTCF. Planning started for the 2025 IIEM, which will be in the Isle of Man for the first time; UKOTCF and UKOTs will be participating (see www.mwt.im/IIEM25).

UKOTCF continues to play its part in the IUCN-UK National Committee ExCo; a way to maintain links with the UK conservation community. Personnel are continuing to work with the IUCN-NCUK's Protected Areas Working Group to investigate opportunities for UKOTs & CDs to participate.

Similarly, UKOTCF attends the UKOTs & CDs Plastic Pollution Steering Group, part of a Darwin Project being undertaken on Ascension and St Helena, supported by the Zoological Society London. This is a good way to follow some of the work on the UN Treaty on Plastics under development.

Co-ordinating with Others

A meeting of the Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership, run by organisers from the Plymouth University Marine Laboratory, took place in September to look at climate-smart marine spatial planning in the UKOTs. Around 100 attendees were there, including a good turn-out from the UKOTs.

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UKOTCF has linked with the UK Overseas Territories Association (UKOTA) several times throughout the year, including on the Ministers meeting. A meeting was held with UK Montserrat representative, Kei-Retta Farrell, with some very good ideas of how to energise the office, including working more closely with diaspora and ways to collaborate.

Additional meetings were held with the Caribbean-Coral Overseas Territories network following its workshop in London in November, the RSPB in December and the Environment Funders Network in January.

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 other 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, there is a need to expand on this. To that end, the Executive Director, Chairman and other Council members and officers will continue to explore other sources of financial support in the current and future financial periods. Council has asked its members with relevant experience to consider other potential funding sources, as well as authorising major work on its websites to increase potential via this medium.

Incoming resources were £576,757 (2024: £721,347) and total resources expended were £520,647 (2024: £398,678). Net incoming/(outgoing) resources on the unrestricted general fund were £20,823 (2024: £272,650). The overall financial position remains challenging because of the very limited regular income for necessary core activities. The income figure includes an estimate of the value of a bequest, but the funds were not received in the reported year. The trustees have decided to invest the bequest so that the income can supplement the limited income for some core activities for which UK Government grants were formerly a major source of income. Generally no such funds were awarded to UKOTCF for 5 years, until a welcome small grant late in the 2013-14 financial year, before a return to nil. A project grant in 2016-2018 was followed a small grant from Defra in 2020-21 of £9,000. It is to be hoped that the major grants awarded in 2021 and 2023 are signs of a change. The moderate success so far in securing alternative funds needs to be developed much further, with funding badly needed to maintain the services requested of UKOTCF by territory partners and UK Government. Net incoming/(outgoing) resources on the restricted funds were £(34,073) (2024: £50,019). 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 2025 the total funds of the Forum were £486,422 (2024: £436,086). Restricted funds stood at £16,872 (2024: £50,945) and the unrestricted general fund stood at £165,420 (2024: £385,141). 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 were 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. Furthermore, whilst UK Government's own agencies did not apply to the earlier funds, they now do so, resulting in the strange situation of Defra agencies applying to a Defra-run fund in competition with outside bodies. This questionable practice has resulted in the diversion of funds away from NGOs and UKOT bodies back into UK Government, with reduced capacity in the UKOTs and reduced ability to deploy voluntary effort in their support. 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 and now those for 2020 also. Neither does present funding allow for realistic capacity building, which can take several years. Those successes that the Forum

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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. Possibly partly as a result of UKOTCF expressed concern, in early 2019 UK Government issued a Call for Evidence on its funding of UKOT conservation, and UKOTCF provided evidence and encouraged its network to do so also. The diversion of UK Government officials on to Brexit matters and then the General Election delayed the analysis and publication of the summary of this evidence until the end of the reported year before last. Consequent actions are awaited but have been delayed further by the Covid-19 crisis, but some small improvements are now being made, with many more needed. The change of UK government and the final crisis caused by foreign regimes has further delayed a UK government strategy for the UKOTs.

Principal Funding Sources

Member organisations, in UK, the UKOTs and the Crown Dependencies 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.

Acknowledgements

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 including: Leigh Morris, Beth Penhallurick and Robin Clough. 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 and to Lady Dace Ground for continuing support to the Forum. Council thanks Peter Beckingham who stood down from Council at the AGM. The Forum would also like to thank its member organisations and individual supporters who support us via our *Friends of the UK Overseas Territories* membership. Those who have an interest in the UKOTs/CDs are encouraged to join us. The Forum is very grateful for financial assistance from the UK Government's Darwin Initiative and the Garfield Weston Foundation and other anonymous donors, the latter including Council members. Finally, Council remembers with great fondness Iain Orr, a stalwart of nature and culture who sadly passed away recently. Iain will be missed. A full tribute is included in *Forum News* 62.

Investment Policy

The Trustees have wide investment powers. During the year, they invested the legacy funds received in line with the known preferences of the late donor. The Trustees decided that the value of the legacy be not treated as available funds but instead be a designated fund invested via Resilience Asset Management in a way that as far as possible retains its real value while the income generated be available for deployment, in support of work enhancing information-flow and coordinating conservation actions between territories. 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.

In financial year 2024-25, UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum received the first part of the legacy from the late Mr Bob Conrich (an asset already reported in the 2023-24 annual report, but not actually received in that year). Further receipt of income from that source is expected to result from sale of another piece of land owned by Mr Conrich in the year 2025-26. In view of the long-term difficulties in funding some key activities of UKOTCF requested by territories, and in line with the known wishes of Mr Conrich, Council has decided to place the legacy in a designated fund which will be invested long-term, with the income from this investment being used to support unrestricted funds, in respect of work enhancing information-flow and coordinating conservation actions between territories. It is the policy of Council normally to do similarly with other unrestricted legacies or other major donations.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

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;
- 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 the 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

Just Audit & Assurance Ltd 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: 7 July 2025

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

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

Independent Auditors' Report to the members of the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum for the year ended 31 March 2025, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

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 and trustees 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, the Charitable Company's members as a body, and the Charitable Company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 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; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report.

We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard as applied to public interest entities, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work

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we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

- adequate and proper 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 charity has not kept sufficient accounting records; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement (set out on page 11), 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, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

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Our assessment focused on key laws and regulations the charitable company has to comply with and areas of the financial statements we assessed as being more susceptible to misstatement. These key laws and regulations included but were not limited to compliance with the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice and relevant tax legislation.

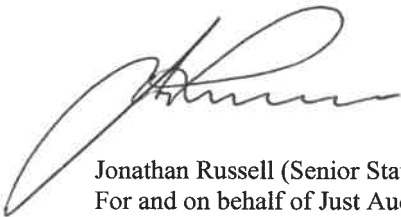
We are not responsible for preventing irregularities. Our approach to detect irregularities included, but was not limited to, the following:

- obtaining an understanding of the charitable company's policies and procedures and how the charitable company has complied with these, through discussions and sample testing of controls;
- obtaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the charitable company and how the charitable company is complying with that framework;
- an understanding of the charitable company's risk assessment process, including the risk of fraud;
- designing our audit procedures to respond to our risk assessment; and
- performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing estimates for bias.

Whilst considering how our audit work addressed the detection of irregularities, we also consider the likelihood of detection based on our approach. Irregularities arising from fraud are inherently more difficult to detect than those arising from error.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission, or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.



Jonathan Russell (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Just Audit & Assurance Ltd, Statutory Auditor

37 Market Square
Witney
Oxfordshire
OX28 6RE

Date: *9 July 2015*

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

	Note	Unrest'd Funds £	Design't'd Funds £	Restr'd Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	Unrest'd Funds £	Design't'd Funds £	Restr'd Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
INCOME									
Income and endowments from:									
Donations, legacies and subscriptions	2	166,732	67,449	118,954	353,135	376,638	-	73,493	450,131
Investment income	3	3,789	2,304	-	6,093	2,634	-	-	2,634
Income from charitable activities									
Project Income		2,133	-	-	2,133	3,385	-	-	3,385
Government grants	4	-	-	215,396	215,396	-	-	265,197	265,197
Total Income		<u>172,654</u>	<u>69,753</u>	<u>334,350</u>	<u>576,757</u>	<u>382,657</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>338,690</u>	<u>721,347</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:									
Charitable Activities	5	141,409		368,423	510,225	101,495	-	288,671	390,166
Governance costs	5	10,422		-	10,422	8,512	-	-	8,512
Total Expenditure		<u>151,831</u>	<u></u>	<u>368,423</u>	<u>520,647</u>	<u>110,007</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>288,671</u>	<u>398,678</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		20,823		(34,073)	56,110	272,650	-	50,019	322,669
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		(240,544)	240,544	-	-	-	-	-	-
OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS / (LOSSES):									
Gain/(Loss) on revaluation of investments		-	(5,774)	-	(5,774)	-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		<u>(219,721)</u>	<u>304,130</u>	<u>(34,073)</u>	<u>50,336</u>	<u>272,650</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50,019</u>	<u>322,669</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS									
Total funds brought forward		<u>385,141</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50,945</u>	<u>436,086</u>	<u>112,491</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>926</u>	<u>113,417</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>165,420</u>	<u>304,130</u>	<u>16,872</u>	<u>486,422</u>	<u>385,141</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50,945</u>	<u>436,086</u>

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

COMPANY NUMBER: 3216892 – ENGLAND AND WALES

BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	9	809	1,618
Fixed Asset Investments	10	236,681	-
Total Fixed Assets		237,490	1,618
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	11	138,455	329,397
Cash at bank and in hand		129,345	156,360
Total Current Assets		267,800	485,757
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	12	18,868	51,289
NET ASSETS		486,422	436,086
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds	14	165,420	385,141
Designated funds		304,130	-
Restricted funds		16,872	50,945
TOTAL FUNDS		486,422	436,086

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st March 2025, however

The members have required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small company's regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 7th July 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:



.....
Dr M Pienkowski - Chairman



.....
Dr K M McNary - Treasurer

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006. The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

Going Concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income: -

- Income is deferred only when it relates to specific expenditure incurred after the current accounting period.

Grants receivable

Grant income is recognised on a receivable basis. Any unspent grants at the end of the year are shown as restricted funds.

Investment income

Investment income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity's right to receive payment is established, and the amount can be measured reliably. Interest is accounted for on an accruals basis. Dividends are recognised when the shareholder's right to receive payment is established.

Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Donated Time

Trustees and other skilled volunteers donate their time on our projects due to insufficient external funding. This is translated into figures for disclosure in the accounts at a rate which would normally be charged for paid consultancy.

Charitable activities

Charitable activities comprise those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and service for its beneficiaries. They include both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery	- 33% on cost
Office Equipment	- 33% on cost

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. The costs of minor additions or those costing below £1,000 are not capitalised.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

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.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

2. DONATIONS, LEGACIES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

	2025			2024				
	Unrestrict'd Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Unrestrict'd Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Subscriptions	3,740	-	-	3,740	3,475	-	-	3,475
Legacies	8,943	67,449	-	76,392	231,604	-	-	231,604
Donations & tax refund	27,570	-	1,600	29,170	39,722	-	-	39,722
Grants receivable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donated time & expenses	126,479	-	117,354	243,833	101,837	-	73,493	175,330
	166,732	67,449	118,954	353,135	376,638	-	73,493	450,131

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2025 £	2024 £
Bank Interest received	3,789	2,634
Investment income from portfolio	2,304	-
	6,093	2,634

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Grants from DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) totalling £215,396 (2024: £265,197) were received supporting 3 year Darwin Montserrat projects, DPLUS155 commencing October 2021 and DPLUS192 commencing June 2023

5. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Charitable Activity £	Governance Costs £	2025 Total Funds £	Charitable Activity £	Governance Costs £	2024 Total Funds £
Donated time and expenses	231,366		231,366	170,156	-	170,156
Grants Payable	1,755	-	1,755	-	-	-
Travel and subsistence	608		608	468	-	468
Consultancy	31,356		31,356	53,071	-	53,071
Project implementation	227,475		227,475	155,671	-	155,671
Meetings and conferences	445	-	445	511	-	511
Subscriptions, publications and reference materials	8,738		8,738	3,653	-	3,653
Storage and general expenses	990		990	881	-	881
Bank charges	124		124	149	-	149
Accountancy	-	5,392	5,392	-	4,864	4,864
The audit of the charity's accounts	-	3,615	3,615	-	3,578	3,578
Portfolio management fees	393	-	393	-	-	-
Bad debts	-		-	-	-	-
Insurance	-	1,380	1,380	-	-	-
Legal fees	-	35	35	-	70	70
Postage, stationery, telecoms & IT costs	6,103		6,103	4,767	-	4,767
Small equipment, repairs and materials	63		63	-	-	-
Depreciation	809		809	809	-	809
Exchange losses	-		-	30	-	30
	<u>510,225</u>	<u>10,422</u>	<u>520,647</u>	<u>390,166</u>	<u>8,512</u>	<u>398,678</u>

Support costs have been allocated across charitable expenditure, as in previous years, in line with time spent on specific activities within this category.

6. NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES

Net resources are stated after charging/(crediting):

	2025 £	2024 £
External scrutiny	<u>3,615</u>	<u>3,578</u>

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

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

No trustees or related parties (2024 – none) were paid remuneration and/or fees in the year ended 31st March 2025 (2024: £ nil) in respect of core work.

One trustee and two related parties (2024 – two trustees and two related parties) were paid remuneration and/or fees in the year ended 31st March 2025 (2024: £36,880) for externally funded projects:-

As provided for in the DPLUS155 and DPLUS192 grants, Dr Mike Pienkowski received consultancy fees of £11,400 for services to Darwin Montserrat projects . From these fees, Dr Pienkowski returned a sum of £9,120 by way of an unconditional donation against which Gift Aid of £2,280 will also be recovered by UKOTCF.

Similarly, Mrs Ann Pienkowski, wife of Dr Pienkowski, received consultancy fee of £1,750 for services to the DPLUS155 project. From this fee, Mrs Pienkowski returned a sum of £1,400 by way of an unconditional donation against which Gift Aid of £350 will also be recovered by UKOTCF

Sarita Francis is both a Trustee of the UKOTCF and the Executive Director of the Montserrat National Trust (MNT), a charitable body based in Montserrat. As provided for in the DPLUS155 grant awarded by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), both UKOTCF and MNT are joint project partners and recipients of DEFRA funding. During the year, £2,602 was charged by MNT against the grant for project management services provided by Sarita Francis in relation to the DPLUS155 project. Ms. Francis is employed by MNT and received no additional remuneration in respect of these services.

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 £-Nil (2024: £3,194) was reimbursed to 0 (2024: 1) trustees during the year.

All production costs of the book “When the kite builds...” , published by the charity during 2022/23, were met by Dr & Mrs Pienkowski. UKOTCF pays for these to offset some of the production costs only once they are sold.

A share of proceeds supports charitable activities of the trust. During the year costs incurred associated with the publication are:-

Book sales (net of postage)	<u>£875</u>
Less costs:	
Publication and printing	£nil
Reimbursed to Dr Pienkowski	<u>£873</u>
Total costs	<u>£873</u>
Net Surplus	<u><u>£2</u></u>

From this reimbursement, Dr Pienkowski returned a sum of £400 by way of an unconditional donation against which Gift Aid of £100 will also be recovered by UKOTCF.

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any other contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year (2024: none).

Trustee Indemnity Insurance

The charity has in place a trustee indemnity insurance policy which provides cover for trustees against liabilities arising from their duties as trustees. The cost of this insurance is not separately identifiable as it forms part of a combined premium for the charity's overall insurance cover.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

8. TAXATION

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

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office Equipment £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION		
At 1 st April 2024	4,496	4,496
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
At 31 st March 2025	4,496	4,496
DEPRECIATION		
At 1 st April 2024	2,878	2,878
Charge for the year	809	809
Eliminated on disposal	-	-
At 31 st March 2025	3,687	3,687
NET BOOK VALUE		
At 31 st March 2025	809	809
At 31 st March 2024	1,618	1,618

10. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Listed Investments	
	2025 £	2024 £
COST OR VALUATION		
Market value at 1 st April	-	-
Additions - new cash invested	240,544	-
Additions - reinvested income	2,317	-
Bonus issues of shares (non-cash addition)	9,740	-
Management charges	(393)	-
Net gains/(losses) on revaluation	(15,527)	-
Market value at 31 st March	236,681	-
Fixed Interest Securities	100,638	-
Equity Investments	97,968	-
Alternative Investments	19,159	-
Cash held for investment	18,916	-
Total	236,681	-

The charity's investment portfolio is managed on a total return basis. Investments are held primarily in unitised funds with underlying exposure to equities, fixed interest, alternatives, and cash. The allocation at 31 March is shown above

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

11. DEBTORS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Debtors and accrued income	137,505	300,255
Prepayments	950	29,142
	<u>138,455</u>	<u>329,397</u>

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other creditors	-	-
Accrued expenses	18,868	51,289
Income in advance	-	-
	<u>18,868</u>	<u>51,289</u>

13. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	2025	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	2024
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Total	Funds	Funds	Funds	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	-	236,681	809	237,490	-	-	1,618	1,618
Current assets	178,108	67,449	22,243	267,800	400,392	-	85,365	485,757
Current liabilities	12,687	-	6,181	18,868	15,251	-	36,038	51,289
	<u>165,421</u>	<u>304,130</u>	<u>16,871</u>	<u>486,422</u>	<u>385,141</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50,945</u>	<u>436,086</u>

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Balance 1st April 2024 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Used £	Transfers between Funds £	Balance 31st March 2025 £
Restricted funds					
Data Base and Dissemination	2,197	-	-	-	2,197
Turks and Caicos Development	450	-	-	-	450
Montserrat	97	-	-	-	97
Darwin Montserrat	26,928	113,356	(140,284)	-	-
DPlus192	21,678	210,759	(217,749)	-	14,688
Montserrat Ecoplay	155	1,600	(1,755)	-	-
Conference	(560)	8,635	(8,635)	-	(560)
Total Restricted Funds	50,945	334,350	(368,423)	-	16,872
UNRESTRICTED General Fund	385,141	172,654	(151,831)	(240,544)	165,420
DESIGNATED Bon Conrich Fund	-	63,979	(393)	240,544	304,130
TOTAL FUNDS	436,086	570,983	(520,647)	-	486,422

	Balance 1st April 2023 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Used £	Transfers between Funds £	Balance 31st March 2024 £
Restricted funds					
Data Base and Dissemination	2,197	-	-	-	2,197
Turks and Caicos Development	450	358	(358)	-	450
Montserrat	97	-	-	-	97
Darwin Montserrat	(1,413)	152,706	(124,365)	-	26,928
DPlus192	-	173,196	(151,518)	-	21,678
Montserrat Ecoplay	155	-	-	-	155
Conference	(560)	12,430	(12,430)	-	(560)
Total Restricted Funds	926	338,690	(288,671)	-	50,945
UNRESTRICTED General Fund	112,491	382,657	(110,007)	-	385,141
DESIGNATED Bon Conrich Fund	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS	113,417	721,347	(398,678)	-	436,086

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.

The Trustees have established the Bob Conrich Fund as a designated fund, ensuring that legacies from Bob Conrich's estate are invested through Resilience Asset Management in a manner that, as far as possible, retains their real value. Any investment income generated may be used to support initiatives that enhance information flow and coordinate conservation actions across territories.

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

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

15. CONNECTED CHARITIES AND RELATED PARTIES

During the year, included in donated time and expenses was an amount of £179,654 (2024: £170,156) from Trustees/related parties.

As well as donating their time and expertise, the Trustees made unconditional donations of £23,492 (2024: £26,722) to the charity.

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 744 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, BH7 6BZ
Charity No: 1130188

16. DONATED TIME AND EXPENSES

Incoming and outgoing resources includes donated time of £231,367 (2024: £170,156) and donated expenses of £12,468 (2024: £5,174)

17. 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.

18. CONTROL

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

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Voluntary income		
Legacy income	76,392	231,604
Subscriptions and donations of money and time	271,305	212,786
	<u>347,697</u>	<u>444,390</u>
Investment income		
Interest and dividends received	<u>6,093</u>	<u>2,634</u>
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Core	-	-
Database and Dissemination	-	-
Conference (inc. exchange rate gains)	-	-
Darwin Montserrat	43,292	108,996
DPLUS192	172,104	156,201
Montserrat	-	-
Montserrat Ecoplay	-	-
Turks and Caicos Development	-	-
	<u>215,396</u>	<u>265,197</u>
Other incoming resources		
Sales	2,133	3,385
Tax refund	5,438	5,741
	<u>7,571</u>	<u>9,126</u>
Total incoming resources	<u>576,757</u>	<u>721,347</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Consultancy	262,722	223,227
Grants Payable	1,755	-
Project implementation	227,475	155,671
Travel and subsistence	608	468
Meetings and conferences	445	511
Post, stationery, telecoms and computer costs	6,103	4,767
Subscriptions, publications and reference materials	8,738	3,653
Storage and general expenses	990	881
Bank charges	517	149
Accountancy and audit	9,007	8,442
Small equipment, equipment repairs and materials	63	-
Depreciation	809	809
Bad debts	-	-
Insurance	1,380	-
Legal fees	35	70
Exchange rate losses	-	30
	<u>520,647</u>	<u>398,678</u>
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources	<u>56,110</u>	<u>322,669</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statement

Accounts

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 2024
FOR UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

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UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

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 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 Section 1A smaller entities, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' ("FRS 102"), the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

03216892 (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 (Chairman)
Lady (M C) Ground
Dr N R Haywood
Mrs S V Francis
Mrs K M Wood
Mr P Beckingham
Rt. Hon. the Lord (John) Randall of Uxbridge PC
Mrs Joan Walley
Mr Andrew Pearce
Dr Keith Bensusan
Mr Leigh Morris

Auditors

Just Audit & Assurance Ltd
37 Market Square
Witney
Oxfordshire
OX28 6RE

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

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 2023 and were re-elected: Sarita Francis, Nigel Haywood, John Randall and Joan Walley. 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 three times per year 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, and Treasurer. The Executive Director acts upon decisions of Council and instructions of the Chairman.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

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
Manx Wildlife Trust

The current organisations which are associates are:

Alderney Wildlife Trust
Anguilla National Trust
Anguilla Archaeological & Historical Society
Ascension Conservation Centre
Ascension Heritage Society
BirdLife Cyprus
Bermuda Audubon Society
Bermuda Zoological Society
UK Antarctic Heritage Trust
National Trust for the Cayman Islands
Chagos Conservation Trust
Central Caribbean Marine Institute
Akrotiri Environmental Education & Information Centre, Cyprus SBA
Falklands Conservation
La Société Guernesaise
The Nautilus Project, Gibraltar
National Trust for Jersey
Société Jersiaise
Jost van Dykes Preservation Society
Montserrat National Trust
Pitcairn Natural Resources Division
La Société Sercquaise
St Helena National Trust
Turks & Caicos National Museum
National Trust of the Turks & Caicos Islands
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 and 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

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Overview

The UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum exists to promote awareness of, and conservation of, the rich and unique biodiversity, natural environment and related heritage across the UK's Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies (UKOTs and CDs). It is the only body devoted solely to this. For well over 30 years, it has worked 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. We work with some of the most vibrant communities with some of the most unique and precious biodiversity in the world. Our team, made up of some paid staff and many volunteers, fulfils a wide variety of roles in support of the dedicated conservation bodies in the UKOTs and CDs.

Several projects are continuing with partners in the UKOTs, focusing on community conservation and partnerships. They dominate the work we are doing, as there are strict grant requirements which must be fulfilled. These projects have been designed at the request of bodies in the UKOTs seeking additional administrative and technical support, providing a personnel resource service to our partners. This enables us to be resource-enhancing and provides a buffer for times when our partners have gaps in personnel or resources. This has been a strength of the Forum for many years and, whilst it is small in itself, it always tries to meet requests from conservation practitioners in the UKOTs and CDs whatever they might be.

To support some of the influencing, awareness-raising, information services the Forum provides, we require resources ourselves. We were delighted to have received a third grant from the Garfield Weston Foundation this year. It will allow us to deliver some of the core activities as well as enhance some of the project work, we are committed to do.

Several new persons joined our team this year and they have been providing assistance in a variety of ways to the Forum, but also to conservation in general in the UKOTs and CDs.

Organisational Development

The *Hidden Histories* project came to an end in March 2023. This project was full of outputs, some expected and some unexpected. With the start of some other work inspired by this, the Forum was provided with an opportunity to bring in a member of the *Hidden Histories* team tempted by the flexibility and focus on UKOTs & CDs that working with the Forum provides. Jodey Peyton, an ecologist at the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, was moving to Austria to work for the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), but still wanted to remain involved with UKOTs & CDs after working with colleagues on Cayman, Cyprus, British Indian Ocean Territory and St Helena. Already in a short time Jodey has opened up new avenues and partnerships that will be explored in the next few years. Jodey has been working with Council member Keith Bensusan and other partners on Gibraltar, on initiatives to enhance researcher networks and make best use of the technical experts that are being built up in the UKOTs and can benefit others as well as on many other things including support to the working groups (having already had an impact as the new Secretary of SOWG), project management and developing new projects.

Building on the work of another Council member, Leigh Morris, who has been a driving force in developing novel approaches to funding conservation work, we welcomed input from Robin Clough, a UK-born entrepreneur with a background in natural sciences. Robin has been providing strategic advice and support as we open up a world of possibility by working with the private sector bodies with compatible desires to see a natural world rich in biodiversity and healthy, vibrant communities.

A third grant was awarded to UKOTCF by the Garfield Weston Foundation this year. In the previous year, it had supported ongoing work including: the organisation of the remote meeting of the UKOT/CD Environment Ministers; UKOTCF's seminars for conservation practitioners; support capacity in the UKOTs, including support for NGOs, young people (e.g. through higher education as mentioned with new work with JICAS (the Jersey International Centre for Advanced Studies); we aim to facilitate MSc students and PhD students) throughout the year; responding (and encouraging those in UKOTs to respond) to UK Parliamentary Inquiries; expanding on work of the Darwin Plus and other projects.

We welcomed a new associate member, the Nautilus Project, to our network. Based in Gibraltar, it aims to raise awareness of environmental issues in schools and in small groups. It was founded in 2015 by several passionate divers undertaking projects such as installing artificial reefs in waters around Gibraltar, beach clean-ups and delivering educational programmes.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

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Several volunteer researchers have worked with us throughout the year including Benjamin Parker and Cintia Biryani to enable us to collate information on various large tasks such as a review of impacts of UKOTCF and background material for a response to UK Parliamentary Inquiries.

Projects

We are always looking at ways to expand the impact of project work and sometimes this means incorporating opportunities of technical specialists to support and build capacity. In May, Council Member and Chief Executive Officer of the Manx Wildlife Trust, Leigh Morris, volunteered to use annual leave to visit Montserrat. The purpose was to help build the horticultural skills of the Montserrat National Trust. This was specifically to help develop the nursery plant propagation at the MNT botanical garden, to increase local plant production in order to support both the *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* project, part-funded by a Darwin Plus grant (DPLUS155) and the Planning Toolkit project (DPLUS192). In addition, he engaged more widely with the Montserrat Government Departments of Agriculture and Environment, local farmers, secondary school, and public. A full article is available on the website. Leigh had followed up on the possibility of twinning secondary schools on Montserrat with the Isle of Man. A meeting with teachers and Manx Wildlife Trust and One World Island of Man was held in November.

In June personnel visited Montserrat to support the mid-term review of the *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* requested by NIRAS/LTS (the administrator of the Darwin Plus grants). For best use of project resources, the opportunity was taken to include several other meetings and project activities, making the most of the trip. This required quite a lot of preparation and meant time away from project management. However, the project has made good progress. A first full year report was submitted on time by the end of April 2023 and a half-year report in October. Some new staff at the Montserrat National Trust should help to address some of the challenges of the first year including financial records and reporting, which continues to be a burden to Darwin grantees.

The visit included: meetings with Director of Montserrat National Trust to share project documents and progress; King's Birthday Parade attendance; a hike to Dry Waterfall; *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* site-visits to: Belham River Mouth, both sites off Hibiscus Drive, Cassava Ghaut, Pipers Lot, Lookout Primary School and Lawyers Mountain; a meeting with the Governor; appearances on the MNT Heritage Radio Show; a regular project team meeting; and a tour of Native Plant Nursery.

In April the Darwin-Plus-funded project *Delivering biodiversity and human well-being gains for Montserrat's sustainable development* (DPLUS192), with working title *Biodiversity and Well-being toolkit* or just *Toolkit* began. UKOTCF and Montserrat National Trust personnel met with Chief Planning Officer Jerome Meade to discuss the project and invited him to the official on-island project launch on 20th June. This was attended by HE Governor Sarah Tucker and Hon. Samuel Joseph, Deputy Premier and Minister for Communication, Works and Labour, and at least 28 persons; it was live-streamed by ZJB radio. At the request of Montserrat national radio ZJB, personnel gave a telephone interview on these projects for the Culture Programme on 24th June, immediately before driving to the airport to return home.

Overall, the project aims to (1) bring together voices that may not otherwise feed into public consultations; (2) create a biodiversity and human-well-being toolkit for the community, physical planners and developers; (3) monitor and evaluate outcomes for biodiversity and human well-being; (4) share outcomes with other UKOTs via existing knowledge-sharing networks. It built on ideas generated with the team on Montserrat and other newer partners including UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology and Meise Botanic Gardens.

One of the first outputs of the projects was bringing together information gathered by young cadets (youth volunteers with Montserrat National Trust) from the elders in the community on traditional medicinal use of plants. The first edition published as part of the *Hidden Histories* project in 2022 included fifteen plants. The second edition, expanded to include thirty plants with, for each, a full colour image, a description, note on location found around Montserrat (where known) and their traditional use, was designed and printed by the Field Studies Council in the UK. To save on printing and shipping costs, this was delivered to Montserrat by project team members and will continue on forthcoming trips. UKOTCF is the formal publisher and Montserrat National Trust the author. It was launched at the Trust's Flower Show and Tea party, an annual event during St Patrick's Week. Sales have generated some income for the Trust.

Throughout the year, the team has conducted several consultations with the local community to understand how the *Toolkit* could develop management options which would benefit the islands' biodiversity and its people. The first half-year report was submitted to NIRAS/LTS in October.

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UKOTCF continues to work with the Montserrat National Trust on the *EcoPlay* project, including the earlier sourcing of *pro bono* architect and the ongoing fund-raising.

Awareness raising and information management

Forum News 58 was published and circulated in July and *Forum News 59* was published in December. The newsletter provides both conservation news from across the UKOTs and CDs but also articles on items relevant to them and on the work UKOTCF does.

Edition 15 of *Saving Our Special Nature of Montserrat* was published online and circulated in August. It includes articles on individual *Wildlife Homes* and *Adopters* who are participating in the *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* project, and introductions to some of the new team members including Fay Needham, Finance Officer, Virginie Chris Sealys MNT's Conservation Officer and Samantha Paul in the Propagation Unit.

The annual Christmas card was sent out to UKOTCF's circulation list in December with a review of the year's headlines and looking ahead to 2024.

The series of videos on *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* sites ("*Wildlife Homes*") and the "*Adopters*" have been produced by UKOTCF's Honorary Environmental Education Officer and Secretary of the Wider Caribbean Working Group (Ann Pienkowski), using material filmed during project visits. These are firstly published on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@ukotcf4676/videos>) and website (<https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/key-projects/adoptahomeforwildlife>) with links from UKOTCF's website.

Work is well in hand on writing the book *The Nature of the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies*, updating the *Fragments of Paradise*, the publication which effectively founded the UKOTCF and coordinated conservation work in the UKOTs.

Influencing policy

Meetings of the Environment Ministers' Council of the UKOTs and CDs took place in May and November 2023 via UKOTCF's Zoom platform. These were the sixth and seventh meetings of the Council of UKOT & CD Environment Ministers (or equivalents). Previous meetings took place in Gibraltar in 2015, Alderney in 2017, the Isle of Man in February 2018, and online in April 2021 and October 2022. The agreed statement is available on UKOTCF's website. In the first part of the 6th meeting, the Ministers were joined by the UK Defra Minister, Lord Benyon and a supporting official.

At the end of 2022, NIRAS/LTS, the consultancy responsible for administering UK Government funding for biodiversity, via the now-called Biodiversity Challenge Funds (which encompasses Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus and Illegal Wildlife Trade), had informed UKOTCF that they wished to undertake a mid-term review of the DPLUS155 project (see Projects). This enabled the team to provide feedback on the fund and implementing the project. These recommendations are likely to be in a report (which is running some months behind schedule) and then shared with Defra.

UK Government continues to work on its Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy. It is expected to be published in 2024. UKOTCF and the UKOTs themselves have repeatedly stressed that, unlike the review of a decade earlier, it needs to be written jointly by the UKOTs and UK Government, with conservation NGOs fully engaged. This appears to be the case given the level of consultation. It will be important to make sure that any change in UK Government does not water-down or diminish the aspirations in the Strategy as it has been a lengthy and participatory exercise.

Council member and former Chair of the UK Parliament's Environmental Audit Committee, Joan Walley attended a meeting of the Environment Audit Committee to celebrate 25 years. UKOTCF supplied a note on what the next 25 years could focus on in terms of UKOTs and CDs.

In December, UKOTCF wrote to the recently appointed Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Shadow Secretary of State outlining the importance of the biodiversity in the UKOTs and the work of our partners.

Evidence to the UK Parliament's Foreign Affairs Select Sub-Committee inquiry on British Indian Ocean Territory was submitted in January. In it, some of the key points of associate organisation, the Chagos Conservation Trust (CCT) were emphasised. The evidence has been published online.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Relations with UK Government and Government Agencies

A round-table meeting was organised by UK Government's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in January, on Teams. Those attending included: senior Defra personnel, Darwin panellists, Darwin project leaders, other UK Government officials and agencies, and UKOTCF personnel, among others. Several presentations were given, e.g. *Cayman Magnificent Mangroves* as well as some open discussion on various aspects of the Biodiversity Challenge Funds, particularly what are currently known as the Darwin Fellowships. An update on the Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy was provided. After the meeting, Defra officials were in touch seeking feedback on the meeting as well as offering an opportunity to discuss other matters including Ministerial representation at the next Ministers meeting, engagement with UKOTs and other areas of common interest. This took place in March.

Personnel met with the new Directors at JNCC, resulting in several personnel put forward to join UKOTCF's working groups to either participate in person or receive minutes which could be helpful to their work given that issues are raised and ways to overcome these addressed.

Working for partners and responding to requests

Meetings of the Wider Caribbean Working Group were held in May, September, December 2023, and February 2024; and Europe Territories Working Group in July, November 2023 and March 2024. Southern Ocean Working Group met in September 2023 and January 2024.

Personnel had helped MNT with two applications to the new Darwin Plus Local fund (only for UKOT bodies and up to £50k). The projects aim to: develop a new trail and outdoor camping/practical education area (linked to work on one *Wildlife Home* under DPLUS155) and continue the work of the Mountain Chicken recovery project. Both projects, were successfully awarded funding. This was a useful exercise as it gave an insight into the application process (Darwin Local is almost a 'mini' Darwin Main application with many of the same headings). Projects in the second and third round had also been supported.

One of the questions the Forum is most frequently asked by partners in the UKOTs & CDs is "when is the next UKOTCF conference"? These have been held in 2000 (Gibraltar), 2003 (Bermuda), 2006 (Jersey), 2009 (Grand Cayman), 2015 (Gibraltar) and 2021 (online). Proceedings and other outputs are available at <https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/our-conferences/>. The answer is that UKOTCF is hoping to organise another conference in 2025. At present, we do not know whether this will be in person, online or both. It depends essentially on resources available. Whichever format we eventually use, an important first stage was to consult partners on the topics that they would like sessions to address or in which they would like to present. There are always more ideas for topics than we can address in a conference if we are to make progress on each. Also, our experience is that a great deal of preparatory work is needed to make the most of the conference sessions themselves. Accordingly, we invited suggested topics for inclusion in the conference and collated these over the summer so that we can feed into to conversations we have with potential hosts.

On request, high quality pdf copies of large information display boards, designed for Turks and Caicos National Museum botanic gardens in an earlier project, were supplied so that these could be replaced.

The RSPB and BirdsCaribbean had requested some support with their project to train bird-guiders in the Turks and Caicos Islands. They had requested physical copies of the books for participants and these were supplied at a discounted rate.

Our networks

The Inter-Island Environment Meeting, a collective of conservation bodies in the Isle of Man, Channel Islands and partners, took place over two days in September 2023 on Sark, hosted by La Société Sercquaise. UKOTCF personnel had attended with around 60 other attendees. A presentation on the work on Montserrat was given to the group, focusing on the current projects being undertaken there as an example of an integrated approach. A full article on the meeting can be found in *Forum News 59*.

UKOTCF continues to play its part in the IUCN-UK National Committee ExCo; a great way to maintain knowledge and contacts with the UK conservation community. Personnel are continuing to work with the IUCN-NCUK's Protected Areas Working Group to investigate opportunities for UKOTs & CDs to participate.

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A meeting of a newly established UKOTs & CDs Plastic Pollution Steering Group was held in April. This is part of a Darwin Project being undertaken on Ascension and St Helena, supported by ZSL. Meeting notes, speaker slides, and access to the Zoom meeting recording are available here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1YqFix3dsOetbk6XaYOoJfZQyjCPK0eGn>.

The second meeting was held in September. Personnel attended this and found it quite useful, especially as HMG were working at high-level on formulation of a UN Plastics Treaty. Some information was passed on to the UKOT/CD Environment Ministers Council, discussed with the Chair and worked into the agenda, given its relevance and leaders of the project were invited by Ministers to present at their 7th meeting.

Co-ordinating with Others

As previously reported, links with Jersey International Centre for Advanced Studies (JICAS) continue. An MSc student visited the Turks and Caicos Islands in summer looking at the carbon footprint of the tourism industry on Providenciales and working with Dr Eric Salamanca (Energy Analyst at Energy and Utilities Department, Turks and Caicos Islands Government; previously in TCI's Dept of Environment and Coastal Resources) and colleagues. They had now graduated after receiving a favourable mark in their dissertation.

Together with Dr Awantha Dissanyake from the University of Gibraltar, links with JICAS are being made and developing an early-career research group (or ECRN) is being explored. A concept note was being developed for the group and a first meeting took place in November with PhD students from Gibraltar, Jersey, Cayman attending.

An invitation to a reception at the UK Parliament Speaker's House were received. This was to celebrate the work of the St Helena Cloud Forest project. UKOTCF personnel attended, along with many partners and supporters of the project. The Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP and the then FCDO Minister Lord Goldsmith as well as Chief Minister of St Helena, Julie Thomas, and CEO of the RSPB, Becky Speight, provided presentations.

Other meetings attended included a reception in UK Parliament for the Great British Oceans in June, and the UK Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership (MCCIP) online workshop in January as a follow-up to the 2021 MCCIP UKOT climate change assessment.

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 other 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, there is a need to expand on this. To that end, the Executive Director, Chairman and other Council members and officers will continue to explore other sources of financial support in the current and future financial periods. Council has asked its members with relevant experience to consider other potential funding sources, as well as authorising major work on its websites to increase potential via this medium.

Incoming resources were £721,347 (2023: £362,378) and total resources expended were £398,678 (2023: £338,490). Net incoming/(outgoing) resources on the unrestricted general fund were £272,650 (2023: £40,086). The overall financial position remains challenging because of the very limited regular income for necessary core activities. The income figure includes an estimate of the value of a bequest, but the funds were not received in the reported year. The trustees are considering investing the bequest so that the interest can supplement the limited core income. 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 2013-14 financial year, before a return to nil. A project grant in 2016-2018 was followed a small grant from Defra in 2020-21 of £9,000. It is to be hoped that the major grants awarded in 2021 and 2024 are signs of a change. The moderate success so far in securing alternative funds needs to be developed much further, with true core funding badly needed to maintain the services requested of UKOTCF by territory partners and UK Government. Net incoming/(outgoing) resources on the restricted funds were £50,019 (2023: £(16,198)). 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 2024 the total funds of the Forum were £436,086 (2023: £113,417). Restricted funds stood at £50,945 (2023: £926) and the unrestricted general fund stood at £385,141 (2023: £112,491). 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.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

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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 were 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. Furthermore, whilst UK Government's own agencies did not apply to the earlier funds, they now do so, resulting in the strange situation of Defra agencies applying to a Defra-run fund in competition with outside bodies. This questionable practice has resulted in the diversion of funds away from NGOs and UKOT bodies back into UK Government, with reduced capacity in the UKOTs and reduced ability to deploy voluntary effort in their support. 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 and now those for 2020 also. 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. Possibly partly as a result of UKOTCF expressed concern, in early 2019 UK Government issued a Call for Evidence on its funding of UKOT conservation, and UKOTCF provided evidence and encouraged its network to do so also. The diversion of UK Government officials on to Brexit matters and then the General Election delayed the analysis and publication of the summary of this evidence until the end of the reported year before last. Consequent actions are awaited but have been delayed further by the Covid-19 crisis, but some small improvements are now being made, with many more needed.

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.

Acknowledgements

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 including: Benjamin Parker, Cintia Biryani, Robin Clough and others. 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 and to Lady Dace Ground for continuing support to the Forum. The Forum would also like to thank its members organisations and individual supporters who support us via our *Friends of the UK Overseas Territories* membership. Those who have an interest in the UKOTs/CDs are encouraged to join us. The Forum is very grateful for financial assistance from the UK Government's Darwin Initiative and the Garfield Weston Foundation and anonymous donors.

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 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

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;
- 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.

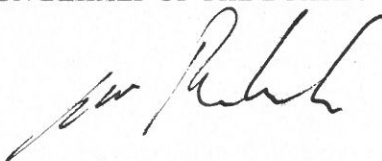
In so far as the trustees are aware:

- 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

Just Audit & Assurance Ltd 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: 19 June 2024

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

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

Independent Auditors' Report to the members of the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum for the year ended 31 March 2024, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

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 and trustees 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, the Charitable Company's members as a body, and the Charitable Company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 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; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report.

We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard as applied to public interest entities, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

- adequate and proper 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 charity has not kept sufficient accounting records; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement (set out on page 11), 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, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

Our assessment focused on key laws and regulations the charitable company has to comply with and areas of the financial statements we assessed as being more susceptible to misstatement. These key laws and regulations included but were not limited to compliance with the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice and relevant tax legislation.

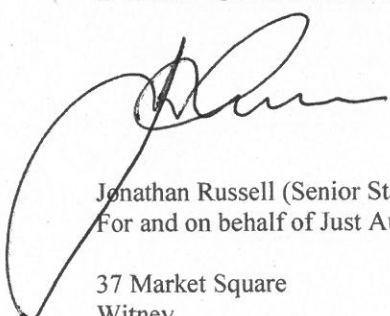
We are not responsible for preventing irregularities. Our approach to detect irregularities included, but was not limited to, the following:

- obtaining an understanding of the charitable company's policies and procedures and how the charitable company has complied with these, through discussions and sample testing of controls;
- obtaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the charitable company and how the charitable company is complying with that framework;
- an understanding of the charitable company's risk assessment process, including the risk of fraud;
- designing our audit procedures to respond to our risk assessment; and
- performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing estimates for bias.

Whilst considering how our audit work addressed the detection of irregularities, we also consider the likelihood of detection based on our approach. Irregularities arising from fraud are inherently more difficult to detect than those arising from error.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission, or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.



Jonathan Russell (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Just Audit & Assurance Ltd, Statutory Auditor

37 Market Square
Witney
Oxfordshire
OX28 6RE

Date: 25.06.2024

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCOPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrest'd Funds £	Restr'd Funds £	2024 Total Funds £	Unrest'd Funds £	Restr'd Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
INCOME							
Income and endowments from:							
Donations, legacies and subscriptions	2	376,638	73,493	450,131	202,893	64,854	267,747
Investment income	3	2,634	-	2,634	508	-	508
Income from charitable activities							
Project Income		3,385	-	3,385	3,555	-	3,555
Government grants	4	-	265,197	265,197	-	90,568	90,568
Total Income		382,657	338,690	721,347	206,956	155,422	362,378
EXPENDITURE ON:							
Charitable Activities	5	101,495	288,671	390,166	158,844	171,244	330,088
Governance costs	5	8,512	-	8,512	8,026	376	8,402
Total Expenditure		110,007	288,671	398,678	166,870	171,620	338,490
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		272,650	50,019	322,669	40,086	(16,198)	23,888
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		-	-	-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		272,650	50,019	322,669	40,086	(16,198)	23,888
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS							
Total funds brought forward		112,491	926	113,417	72,405	17,124	89,529
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		385,141	50,945	436,086	112,491	926	113,417

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

COMPANY NUMBER: 3216892 – ENGLAND AND WALES

BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST MARCH 2024

		2024 £	2023 £
	Notes		
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	9	1,618	-
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	10	329,397	18,639
Cash at bank and in hand		156,360	109,557
Total Current Assets		<u>485,757</u>	<u>128,196</u>
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	11	51,289	14,779
NET ASSETS		<u>436,086</u>	<u>113,417</u>
FUNDS	12		
Unrestricted funds		385,141	112,491
Restricted funds		50,945	926
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>436,086</u>	<u>113,417</u>

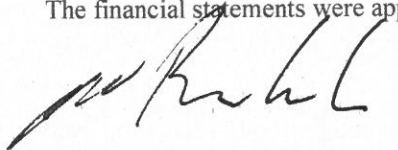
The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st March 2024, however

The members have required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2024 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

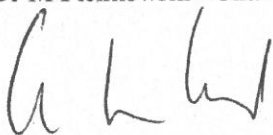
The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small company's regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 19th June 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:



.....
Dr M Pienkowski - Chairman



.....
Mrs K M Wood - Treasurer

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006. The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

Going Concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income: -

- Income is deferred only when it relates to specific expenditure incurred after the current accounting period.

Grants receivable

Grant income is recognised on a receivable basis. Any unspent grants at the end of the year are shown as restricted funds.

Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Donated Time

Trustees and other skilled volunteers donate their time on our projects due to insufficient external funding. This is translated into figures for disclosure in the accounts at a rate which would normally be charged for paid consultancy.

Charitable activities

Charitable activities comprise those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and service for its beneficiaries. They include both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery	- 33% on cost
Office Equipment	- 33% on cost

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. The costs of minor additions or those costing below £1,000 are not capitalised.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

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. DONATIONS, LEGACIES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
Subscriptions	3,475	-	3,475	3,650	-	3,650
Legacies	231,604	-	231,604	-	-	-
Donations & tax refund	39,722	-	39,722	39,913	2,150	42,063
Grants receivable	-	-	-	20,948	-	20,948
Donated time & expenses	101,837	73,493	175,330	138,382	62,704	201,086
	<u>376,638</u>	<u>73,493</u>	<u>450,131</u>	<u>202,893</u>	<u>64,854</u>	<u>267,747</u>

Outstanding legacy

The charity is the beneficiary of a further legacy entitling it to net proceeds from sale of a parcel of land in Anguilla. As sale of this land is uncertain at present, no provision has been made for income receivable from this bequest.

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2024 £	2023 £
Interest received	<u>2,634</u>	<u>508</u>

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Grants from DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) totalling £265,197 (2023: £90,568) were received supporting 3 year Darwin Montserrat projects, DPLUS155 commencing October 2021 and DPLUS192 commencing June 2023

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

5. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Charitable Activity £	Governance Costs £	2024 Total Funds £	Charitable Activity £	Governance Costs £	2023 Total Funds £
Donated time and expenses	170,156		170,156	197,222	-	197,222
Grants Payable	-	-	-	1,995	-	1,995
Travel and subsistence	468		468	2,148	-	2,148
Consultancy	53,071		53,071	11,583	-	11,583
Project implementation	155,671		155,671	94,789	-	94,789
Meetings and conferences	511	-	511	2,602	376	2,978
Subscriptions, publications and reference materials	3,653		3,653	9,972	-	9,972
Storage and general expenses	881		881	207	-	207
Bank charges	149		149	471	-	471
Accountancy	-	4,864	4,864	-	4,988	4,988
The audit of the charity's accounts	-	3,578	3,578	-	2,966	2,966
Bad debts	-		-	1,135	-	1,135
Legal fees	-	70	70	-	72	72
Postage, stationery, telecoms & IT costs	4,767		4,767	7,245	-	7,245
Small equipment, repairs and materials	-		-	29	-	29
Depreciation	809		809	690	-	690
Exchange losses	30		30	-	-	-
	<u>390,166</u>	<u>8,512</u>	<u>398,678</u>	<u>330,088</u>	<u>8,402</u>	<u>338,490</u>

Support costs have been allocated across charitable expenditure, as in previous years, in line with time spent on specific activities within this category.

6. NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES

Net resources are stated after charging/(crediting):

	2024 £	2023 £
External scrutiny	<u>3,578</u>	<u>2,966</u>

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

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

The trustees received no remuneration in the year ended 31st March 2024 (2023: £ nil) in respect of core work.

Two trustees and two related parties were paid remuneration in the year ended 31st March 2024 (2023: £5,410) for externally funded projects:-

As provided for in the DPLUS155 and DPLUS192 grants, Dr Mike Pienkowski received consultancy fees of £17,800 for services to Darwin Montserrat projects. From this fee, Dr Pienkowski returned a sum of £14,240 by way of an unconditional donation against which Gift Aid of £3,560 will also be recovered by UKOTCF

Similarly, Mrs Ann Pienkowski, wife of Dr Pienkowski, received consultancy fee of £9,000 for services to the DPLUS155 project. From this fee, Mrs Pienkowski returned a sum of £7,200 by way of an unconditional donation against which Gift Aid of £1,800 will also be recovered by UKOTCF

Monserrat National Trust received £5,280 from the DPLUS192 grant for time and services donated by Sarita Francis, Executive Director of MNT and also a trustee of UKOTCF, to production of a herbal medicine booklet.

Manx Wildlife Trust, a charity registered in Isle of Man and a full member of UKOTCF, received a fee of £4,800 for services provided to the DPLUS192 project by its Chief Executive Officer, Mr Leigh Morris, also a trustee of UKOTCF.

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 £3,194 (2023: £3,000) was reimbursed to 1 (2023: 1) trustee during the year.

All production costs of the book "When the kite builds...", published by the charity during 2022/23, were met by Dr & Mrs Pienkowski. UKOTCF pays for these to offset some of the production costs only once they are sold.

A share of proceeds supports charitable activities of the trust. During the year costs incurred associated with the publication are:-

Book sales (net of postage)	<u>£3,092</u>
Less costs:	
Publication and printing	£nil
Reimbursed to Dr Pienkowski	<u>£3,064</u>
Total costs	<u>£3,064</u>
Net Surplus	<u>£28</u>

From this reimbursement, Dr Pienkowski returned a sum of £1,100 by way of an unconditional donation against which Gift Aid of £275 will also be recovered by UKOTCF

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any other contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year (2023: none).

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

8. TAXATION

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

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office Equipment £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION		
At 1 st April 2023	2,070	2,070
Additions	2,427	2,427
Disposals	-	-
At 31 st March 2024	4,497	4,497
DEPRECIATION		
At 1 st April 2023	2,070	2,070
Charge for the year	809	809
Eliminated on disposal	-	-
At 31 st March 2024	2,879	2,879
NET BOOK VALUE		
At 31 st March 2024	1,618	1,618
At 31 st March 2023	-	-

10. DEBTORS

	2024 £	2023 £
Debtors and accrued income	300,255	15,639
Prepayments	29,142	3,000
	329,397	18,639

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Other creditors	-	-
Accrued expenses	14,635	14,779
Income in advance	36,654	-
	51,289	14,779

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

12. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
Fixed assets	-	1,618	1,618	-	-	-
Current assets	400,392	85,365	485,757	121,077	7,119	128,196
Current liabilities	15,251	36,038	51,289	8,586	6,193	14,779
	<u>385,141</u>	<u>50,945</u>	<u>436,086</u>	<u>112,491</u>	<u>926</u>	<u>113,417</u>

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Balance 1st April 2023 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Used £	Transfers between Funds £	Balance 31st March 2024 £
Restricted funds					
Data Base and Dissemination	2,197	-	-	-	2,197
Turks and Caicos Development	450	358	(358)	-	450
Montserrat	97	-	-	-	97
Darwin Montserrat	(1,413)	152,706	(124,365)	-	26,928
DP1922	-	173,196	(151,518)	-	21,678
Montserrat Ecoplay Conference	155 (560)	-	-	-	155 (560)
	<u>926</u>	<u>338,690</u>	<u>(288,671)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50,945</u>
UNRESTRICTED General Fund	112,491	382,657	(110,007)	-	385,141
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>113,417</u>	<u>721,347</u>	<u>(398,678)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>436,086</u>

	Balance 1st April 2022 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Used £	Transfers between Funds £	Balance 31st March 2023 £
Restricted funds					
Data Base and Dissemination	2,197	-	-	-	2,197
Turks and Caicos Development	450	523	(523)	-	450
Montserrat	97	-	-	-	97
Darwin Montserrat	13,805	146,990	(162,208)	-	(1,413)
Montserrat Ecoplay Conference	-	2,150	(1,995)	-	155
	575	5,759	(6,894)	-	(560)
	<u>17,124</u>	<u>155,422</u>	<u>(171,620)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>926</u>
UNRESTRICTED General Fund	72,405	206,956	(166,870)	-	112,491
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>89,529</u>	<u>362,378</u>	<u>(338,490)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>113,417</u>

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

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 AND RELATED PARTIES

During the year, included in donated time and expenses was an amount of £149,621 (2023: £158,149) from Trustees/related parties.

As well as donating their time and expertise, the Trustees made unconditional donations of £26,722 (2023: £25,784) to the charity.

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 Charity No: 1130188	744 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, BH7 6BZ
---	---

15. DONATED TIME AND EXPENSES

Incoming and outgoing resources includes donated time of £170,156 (2023: £197,222) and donated expenses of £5,174 (2023: £3,864)

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.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Voluntary income		
Legacy income	231,604	-
Subscriptions and donations of money and time	212,786	241,139
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	444,390	241,139
Investment income		
Interest received	2,634	7
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Core	-	20,948
Database and Dissemination	-	-
Conference (inc. exchange rate gains)	-	-
Darwin Montserrat	108,996	90,568
DPLUS192	156,201	-
Montserrat	-	-
Montserrat Ecoplay	-	-
Turks and Caicos Development	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	265,197	111,516
Other incoming resources		
Sales	3,385	3,555
Tax refund	5,741	5,660
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	9,126	9,215
Total incoming resources	<hr/>	<hr/>
	721,347	361,877
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Consultancy	223,227	208,805
Grants Payable	-	1,995
Project implementation	155,671	94,789
Travel and subsistence	468	2,148
Meetings and conferences	511	2,978
Post, stationery, telecoms and computer costs	4,767	7,245
Subscriptions, publications and reference materials	3,653	9,972
Storage and general expenses	881	207
Bank charges	149	471
Accountancy and audit	8,442	7,954
Small equipment, equipment repairs and materials	-	29
Depreciation	809	690
Bad debts	-	1,135
Legal fees	70	72
Exchange rate losses	30	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	398,678	338,490
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources	<hr/>	<hr/>
	322,669	23,387

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statement

Accounts

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 2023
FOR UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

Auditors
Just Audit & Assurance Ltd
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 2023

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 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 Section 1A smaller entities, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' ("FRS 102"), the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

03216892 (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 (Chairman)
Lady (M C) Ground
Dr N R Haywood
Mrs S V Francis
Mrs K M Wood
Mr P Beckingham
Rt. Hon. the Lord (John) Randall of Uxbridge PC
Mrs Joan Walley
Mr Andrew Pearce
Dr Keith Bensusan (Appointed 22 July 2022)
Mr Leigh Morris (Appointed 1 January 2023)

Auditors

Just Audit & Assurance Ltd
37 Market Square
Witney
Oxfordshire
OX28 6RE

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

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 July, Dr Keith Bensusan was co-opted to Council. In accordance with the Articles of Association and resolutions passed under them, the following directors retired by rotation at the AGM in 2022 and were re-elected: Dr Keith Bensusan, Andy Pearce and Dr Mike Pienkowski. Leigh Morris was co-opted in January. 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 three times per year 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, and Treasurer. The Executive Director acts upon decisions of Council and instructions of the Chairman.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

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
Manx Wildlife Trust

The current organisations which are associates are:

Alderney Wildlife Trust
Anguilla National Trust
Anguilla Archaeological & Historical Society
Ascension Conservation Centre
Ascension Heritage Society
BirdLife Cyprus
Bermuda Audubon Society
Bermuda Zoological Society
UK Antarctic Heritage Trust
National Trust for the Cayman Islands
Chagos Conservation Trust
Central Caribbean Marine Institute
Akrotiri Environmental Education & Information Centre, Cyprus SBA
Falklands Conservation
La Société Guernesiaise
National Trust for Jersey
Société Jersiaise
Jost van Dykes Preservation Society
Montserrat National Trust
Pitcairn Natural Resources Division
La Société Sercquaise
St Helena National Trust
Turks & Caicos National Museum
National Trust of the Turks & Caicos Islands
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 and 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 2023

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Overview

The UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum exists to promote awareness of, and conservation of, the rich and unique biodiversity, natural environment and related heritage across the UK's Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies (UKOTs and CDs). It is the only body devoted solely to this. For well over 30 years, it has worked 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. We work with some of the most vibrant communities with some of the most unique and precious biodiversity in the world. With a small team, made up of some paid staff and many volunteers, it fulfils a wide variety of roles in support of the tireless work of conservation bodies in the UKOTs and CDs.

Conservation bodies inevitably go through periods of time when grant funded projects change the balance of activities and they are slightly skewed in favour of the grant/contract requirements. UKOTCF has certainly been in this position this year, but continues to carry out its core aims in support of all its members, associate organisations and partners. Indeed, without grant income and lots of donated time, the core activities would not be possible. Some new faces joined our team and have been providing assistance to these tasks in a variety of ways.

During the year we organised a meeting for the Environment Ministers Council, a webinar on invasive species, and publication and launch of an important conservation book.

We received a second grant from the Garfield Weston Foundation this year as we continue to implement several other externally funded projects from the UK's Darwin Initiative and jointly from two UK Research Institutes Councils (Natural Environmental Research Council and the Arts and Humanities Research Council).

One of the aspects we undertook under this last and other projects was the consultation to develop a framework for best practice for bodies involved in funding and undertaking research and conservation in the UKOT. This built on our being ever mindful that examples of best practice such as detailed work in Montserrat could be championed to help promote and secure greater support for, and recognition of, the role of UKOTs and CDs in meeting UK biodiversity commitments and targets.

This will continue to feature in our activities in 2023-24, as will the discussions that Council and others have had throughout the year on how we might reach out to an even wider public in the UKOTs, CDs and elsewhere. Among the other challenges and opportunities of this year are expected to be: organising another meeting of the Council of Environment Ministers of UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies; undertaking much of the writing and editing our new book on the nature of the UKOTs and CDs; continuing the pioneering project *Adopt a Home for Wildlife*; and starting a new Darwin Plus supported project in Montserrat. This aims to (1) bring together voices that may not otherwise feed into public consultations; (2) create a biodiversity and human-well-being toolkit for the community, physical planners and developers; (3) monitor and evaluate outcomes for biodiversity and human well-being; (4) share outcomes with other UKOTs via existing knowledge-sharing networks. We expect also to continue to seek ways to enhance communications with Parliament, UK Government and the public, as well as to continue to explore and press for more funding opportunities to support the important conservation work in UKOTs and CDs. We anticipate maintaining our wide range of publications and other types of outreach.

Project work

The Darwin Plus project (PLUS155), which forms the present phase of our *Saving Our Special Nature of Montserrat* and *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* programmes, continued on Montserrat throughout the year (it started in October 2021 and will finish in September 2024). The Project Officers, who form part of the overall team, lead on activities on Montserrat with UKOTCF supporting from the UK and during visits. The independent assessor's report arrived just before a scheduled trip from UKOTCF in July. As noted earlier, with delays in Darwin's decision-making, the project had started half way through the 2021/2 financial year. This meant that a full-year report, despite only half a year of activities, had to be submitted before the end of April 2022. The project had been fast moving during this time with a lot achieved, so the report was full of progress. Despite its reporting on only the first 17% of the project's duration, the assessor scored the project a '2' which means that it is [already] expected to meet its target at project end. Only a '1' is higher: that it is expected to exceed its target – which would be an impracticable assessment at such an early stage.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

The team put together a packed itinerary for the visit of a team of highly qualified scientists in July. Luckily, most had been completed before some re-arranged/postponed activities due to circumstances beyond anyone's control, as anti-Covid precautions due to an outbreak in the local population, rather than the visitors. Entomologist David Clements joined UKOTCF on the trip and certainly made an impression on the project team and the community (an account of his first trip to Montserrat was given in *Forum News 57*). Preliminary surveys of the plant and insects at the *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* sites ("Wildlife Homes") have now been completed and management plans drafted.

Monty's Messengers, the kid's club re-invigorated by the Montserrat National Trust, with the help of the *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* project, has been meeting regularly throughout the year. The aim of this group is to provide primary children with a safe space to explore and be exposed to the natural environment as they learn important lessons on conservation, nutrition, living sustainability etc.

Questionnaires have been conducted to gain knowledge on community thoughts about biodiversity, ecosystem services and Natural Capital. The results have been analysed by the team and will be shared with the respondents.

In December 2022, another visit to Montserrat was undertaken by UKOTCF to conduct some filming and interviewing "Adopters" on their Wildlife Homes – and subsequent editing to make these videos available continued to the end of the reported year and beyond, with 13 already published and many more planned. UKOTCF personnel met with colleagues at Montserrat National Trust about project work present and future, with the Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Housing & Environment. They participated in radio and streamed video shows, e.g. Montserrat National Trust's Heritage Show and Rose Willock's Culture Show on ZJB radio. They met with Adopters to celebrate work so far, with presentations from Project Officers Ajhermae White, Elvis Gerald, Delmaude Ryan and Antwone Sinclair, and a contribution from Dr Mike Pienkowski. They explored some possible new Wildlife Homes with potential Adopters.

Three issues of the project newsletter *Saving Our Special Nature of Montserrat* were produced and published, in May, September and March.

Linking with other groups and partners on Montserrat and elsewhere have been made as we began in January 2022 the project funded jointly by the UK Research Institute's Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) under its call "*Hidden Histories*". This project includes partners from Cayman, Montserrat, Belgium and the UK. There are several work packages as part of this project, with UKOTCF involved in all.

WP1: Knowledge of the human-environment interplay on the UKOTs (Case Study 1: Medicinal plants and biodiversity of Montserrat; & Case Study 2: Invasive species of the Cayman Islands);

WP2: Develop best practice template for equitable biodiversity, ecological and biological research collaboration and data sharing between the UKOTs and UK – Developing a "Framework of best practice for environmental research and conservation for the UKOTs"

WP3: Mapping the representation of UKOTs data and materials in overseas collections. Methods to share data equitably to informing research and nature conservation

Under WP 1, Case study 1, the following was achieved between April 2022 and the project's end in March 2023:

1. Completion of colouring and activity guides, available online and as printed materials, for children on medicinal plants
2. Completion of booklet, available online and as printed materials, for adults on medicinal plants
3. Monty's Messengers session on natural history collections and invertebrate sampling attended by 23 children (aged 4-14)
4. Launch of medicinal plants booklets at Montserrat Museum (attended by >30 people including Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Housing & Environment and Minister of Communications).
5. Six radio interviews to promote project.
6. Three meetings during visit regarding developing the Montserrat Museum
7. Training sessions led by Leeds Museum and Galleries on online training resources and using Google Arts & Culture (attended by 8 persons)
8. Oral Histories training to at least 10 persons on Montserrat, with a follow-up advanced training on Oral History collecting (attended by 5 persons)
9. UK team lead Monty's Messengers wildlife session at Nantes River.
10. Pilot Bioblitz event at Montserrat Botanic Garden with over 20+ participants.
11. More records added to iNaturalist page – there are now over 2,500 records of 866 species, generated for Montserrat – this platform is being used to help document and learn about the biodiversity of Montserrat. The project team are the top 5 recorders.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

12. Successful funding application to the IPT Biodiversity Challenge Fund from Montserrat National Trust, with support from Meise Botanic Garden and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew for setting up a herbarium collection in Montserrat. (Total grant amount secured \$10k).
13. Successful funding application to Defra Darwin Plus (DPLUS192) from Montserrat National Trust, UKOTCF, Leeds Museums and Galleries and UKCEH for project: Delivering biodiversity and human well-being gains for Montserrat's sustainable development. (Total grant amount secured £485,986).

Under WP 1, Case study 2, the following was achieved from April-March:

1. Training in Oral Histories equipment was undertaken by the Leeds Museum and Galleries team, particularly on the impact of the green iguanas on local ecology.
2. A bioblitz event held at the MNT Botanic Garden with partners and representatives from the Meise Botanic Garden.
3. A workshop on perception of invasive and endemic iguana species on the Cayman Islands was held on 6th December 2022. The workshop led key informants through a series of discussion questions around their views and perceptions of endemic blue and invasive green iguanas.
4. Workshop report was published.
5. Completion of colouring guides for Cayman Islands available online and as printed materials
6. Additional biological records made for the Cayman Islands via iNaturalist
7. Training arranged for Luke Harding at Iguana Conservation conference in Gephy held in January 2023. This programme helps users to generate interaction maps.

Other WP1 Outputs included:

1. Draft of "The environmental consequences of colonialism, case studies from islands and the UK Overseas Territories" was shared with co-authors in January 2023
2. Draft of a data paper on iguana interactions
3. Draft of a paper that characterises collections and collectors of the island's biodiversity.

Under WP2: UKOTCF led the development of a best practice template for equitable biodiversity, ecological and biological research and conservation collaboration and data-sharing between the UKOTs and UK, developing a "Framework of best practice for environmental research and conservation for the UKOTs"

1. Following several wide rounds of consultations (involving all inhabited UKOTs) on drafts, the Framework was endorsed at a practitioner workshop in July (with 9 UKOTs represented – well over half those not administered by UK Government appointees).
2. The UKOT/CD Environment Ministers' Council meeting in October formally encouraged all others to adopt the Framework.
3. Article was published in December in *ECOS*: <https://www.ecos.org.uk/ecos-43-3-2-1-the-uk-overseas-territories-moving-away-from-colonialism-in-the-environment/> looking at the relationship between the UK and UKOTs with respect to conservation.
4. Paper drafted on methods and background to drafting framework of best practice.

Under WP3: Mapping the representation of UKOT data and materials in overseas collections. Methods to share data equitably to informing research and nature conservation, the following were achieved:

1. Poster created representing articles held for the Cayman Islands and Montserrat
2. Google Arts & Culture page created for the Cayman Islands.
3. Catalogue of collections from the UKOTs that are held around the world, uploaded to UKOTCF website see: <https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/key-projects/blue-iguanas-to-blue-vervain/>

The project has certainly strengthened many relationships and is leading to a lot of follow-up work. A final project meeting took place at the end of March via Zoom and was attended by >25 persons.

There have been some opportunities for *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* to complement the work under the *Blue Vervain to Blue Iguana* project (started in January 2022 and ending in March 2023). This makes good use of resources such as the new kid's club (Monty's Messengers – see above). Both the pilot bioblitz event (an event that focuses on finding and identifying as many species as possible in a specific area over a short period of time) and use of the application iNaturalist have been introduced on island to address some data-gaps and provide opportunities for the community to get involved in data-collection.

The Higher Education Evening postponed from July took place in August. This pilot event included members of the *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* team and *Blue Vervain to Blue Iguana* team as well as representatives from Antigua and Cayman.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

A proposal in partnership with the Montserrat National Trust and the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology was developed throughout the year. The project DPLUS192, titled “*Delivering biodiversity and human well-being gains for Montserrat’s sustainable development*” builds on ideas generated with the team on Montserrat and other newer partners, e.g. UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Leeds Museum and Galleries and Meise Botanic Gardens. The project will commence in April 2023 and will finish in March 2026. It aims to (1) bring together voices that may not otherwise feed into public consultations; (2) create a biodiversity and human-well-being toolkit for the community, physical planners and developers; (3) monitor and evaluate outcomes for biodiversity and human well-being; (4) share outcomes with other UKOTs via existing knowledge-sharing networks.

Organisational development

A second grant was awarded to UKOTCF by the Garfield Weston Foundation this year. This has supported most of our ongoing work including: the organisation of the remote meeting of the UKOT/CD Environment Ministers in October; UKOTCF’s seminars for conservation practitioners, the theme for 2022-23 being invasive species; support capacity in the UKOTs, including support for NGOs, and young people (e.g. through higher education as mentioned with new work with the Jersey International Centre for Advanced Studies (JICAS), we aim to facilitate MSc students and PhD students) throughout the year; respond (and encourage those in UKOTs to respond) to UK Parliamentary Inquiries, take part in All Party Parliamentary Group meetings, and work with the UK Parliament’s Environmental Audit Committee, especially in the run up to UNFCCC COP16 throughout the year; expanding on work of the DPLUS155 project; expanding work of UKCEH and developers’ guidelines. Expansion of the programme; helping to fundraise and support the ground-breaking *EcoPlay* project on Montserrat; expanding *Blue Iguana to Blue Vervain* project expands and continue work to facilitate more equitable research in the UKOTs.

We welcomed Jack Hayes to the team. Jack is working part-time for UKOTCF – in the role of Secretary of the Southern Oceans Working Group and a range of other tasks including helping with the invasive species webinar. Jack holds a BSc in Marine Biology from Swansea University and an MSc in Island Biodiversity and Conservation from the University of Exeter. His MSc, completed in summer 2022, focused on densities of the invasive lionfish at shallow-water habitat sites in the North Sound in the Cayman Islands and whether artificial habitats could be used to measure low densities. Jack has worked alongside the Cayman Islands Department of Environment and has particular interests in most things marine, particularly ichthyology, tropical marine ecology, climate change, sustainability and blue carbon. Jack spent most of his MSc studies on the Crown Dependency of Jersey, in the Channel Islands, as his post-graduate course on Island Biodiversity and Conservation was run by Exeter/ JICAS. When studying islands and the particular conservation issues they face, he developed an interest in conservation management plans, invasive species and the UKOTs. As a passionate conservationist, Jack is never too far from the sea as he is also a keen surfer.

Keith Bensusan joined our Council. Keith is General Secretary of the Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society (GONHS) and Director of the Gibraltar Botanic Gardens, as well as an environmental consultant through Wildlife (Gibraltar) Ltd. He is also a Research Fellow at the University of Gibraltar and a member of a number of statutory bodies in Gibraltar including the Nature Conservancy Council and CITES Scientific Authority.

Keith has had a lifelong interest in birds. He began birding at a very early age and his interests eventually diversified to other aspects of natural history. This led him to read Zoology, take an MSc in Biodiversity and Conservation, and finally a PhD on the ecology of migrant and resident birds around the Strait of Gibraltar. Apart from bird migration and ecology, Keith also has an interest in plants and is a keen entomologist, having worked on a range of groups. He has published on all of these subjects.

Keith has a keen interest in the wildlife of the UK Overseas Territories and its conservation. He finds the parallels and differences between the territories fascinating and believes that interchange of views, ideas and experiences via the Forum is an ideal way of tackling conservation problems effectively. He has been Chair of the UKOTCF’s Europe Territories Working Group (ETWG) since 2014.

We welcomed also Leigh Morris as a Council member. Leigh became CEO of Manx Wildlife Trust in the Crown Dependency of the Isle of Man in January 2020. He is a member of the UKOTCF European Territories Working Group and the Inter Island Environment Meeting (IIEM) partnership.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

Leigh's career began in horticulture, gaining qualifications in commercial crop production and an MSc in International Horticulture. He managed plant nurseries, before becoming a lecturer and subsequently a Division Head at the Welsh College of Horticulture. He joined the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) in 2004, as Head of the School of Horticulture, becoming Associate Director of Horticulture. His role included international botanic garden development and capacity building in several countries including a prolonged period in Oman. He also completed a short-term placement for Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), delivering training to Ethiopian farmers. Leigh chaired the Grow Careers initiative, and served as President of the Chartered Institute of Horticulture, a period when they were awarded Royal Charter.

Inspired at RBGE, Leigh's career developed a wider conservation focus, becoming a Trustee of the UK Marine Conservation Society, and Director of Community Conservation at the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, and was the first CEO of the National Land Based College. Leigh spent 2 years (2018-19) on the UKOT of St Helena delivering a training needs analysis of the island's agriculture for the St Helena Government and a subsequent up-skilling programme. Leigh helped guide the establishment of the Marine Team in the St Helena National Trust, and joined their Council as Vice-President. Leigh additionally undertook consultancy on both St Helena and Ascension Islands, supporting the waste management plan on Ascension, reviewing their hydroponic farm, and developing proposals to enhance recycling on St Helena. A keen scuba diver in his spare time, Leigh volunteered as a diver for the SHG on their annual reef surveys and a Darwin Project on lobsters.

Awareness raising and information management

Forum News 56 was published and circulated in July and *Forum News 57* was published in November.

Edition 12 of *Save Our Special Nature of Montserrat* was published online and circulated in May 2022, and edition 13 in September, using material from a trip to Montserrat in July. Edition 14 was produced in March 2023. Currently it is circulated to around 200 people in Montserrat and beyond, but some of these circulate further.

An annual Christmas card was sent out to UKOTCF's circulation list in December with a review of the year and looking ahead to 2023.

A series of videos on *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* sites ("Wildlife Homes") and the "Adopters" have been produced by Honorary Environmental Education Officer; these were filmed in the December visit. These are published on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@ukotcf4676/videos>) and website (<https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/key-projects/adoptahomeforwildlife>) with links from UKOTCF's website. The Communications Officer in Montserrat for the project (and for Montserrat National Trust) is linking to the video on social media. Several other videos on Wildlife Homes will be ready and released as soon as the Adopters for that site have had chance to check them. Others on other Wildlife Homes will follow over coming months.

As part of the project mentioned above, UKOTCF has developed a framework for research to support conservation efforts in UKOTs. It is hoped that this can be used to build a case for greater support for them as funded researchers in their own right. *Ecos* had recently published a paper by several in the team, coordinated by Mike Pienkowski, on part of this: <https://www.ecos.org.uk/ecos-43-3-2-1-the-uk-overseas-territories-moving-away-from-colonialism-in-the-environment/>

The NatureBureau, a long-established environmental consultancy, with book publishing arm, Pisces Publications, together with Sara Oldfield, the author of *Fragments of Paradise* (in many ways, UKOTCF's establishing document) and UKOTCF's (as called then) first Coordinator and later Chair, made contact with UKOTCF and asked if they would be interested in working with them on a new publication – a sort of re-visiting of that book but in a style combining coffee-table photographs with referenced scientific content. UKOTCF, working with Sara, is making a start on this.

In addition and marking World Wildlife Day in March 2023, UKOTCF Chairman, Mike Pienkowski launched his book "*When the Kite builds... Why and How we restored Red Kites across Britain*", which has a Foreword by UKOTCF Council member Lord (John) Randall. UKOTCF has published the book and, in turn, will benefit from the proceeds of the book and so has been assisting with promoting and selling it on the UKOTCF's website see:

<https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/books-for-sale/kite-book/>, where also a 35-minute video on aspects of the project can be viewed. This was prepared for the launch of the book in March at Wormsley in the Chilterns, one of the homes of the Getty family. The late Mr John-Paul Getty Jr (later Sir Paul) had allowed the use of his estate for the rearing and release of the first kites in England for over 100 years. At the launch, Mike presented a copy of the book to Sir Paul's grandson, Mr Alexander Getty. UKOTCF Council member Mrs Joan Walley drew attention to how the book, together with the video, provides an opportunity to promote further UKOTs' work across the UK as an example of citizen-science best practice.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

Influencing policy

The UK Government's Biodiversity Challenge Funds have now been divided into several strands of funding. These follow, in part, some of the recommendations made by the UKOTCF, and others in the Call for Evidence (2017). Darwin Plus Local is a new scheme within the existing UK government's Darwin Plus fund, which will fund "projects to protect the unique biodiversity and improve resilience to climate change within the UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs)". It will "support small scale environmental projects in the UKOTs, with the aim of building capacity in-territory and contributing to local economies". For the first round which closed in February, Darwin Plus Local will provide grants of up to £50,000 for organisations, and £20,000 for individuals. Applications can be made only by bodies in the UKOTs. The medium funding level grants continue under the Darwin Plus scheme. Whereas, the Darwin Plus Strategic fund (yet to be launched) will provide larger transformative environmental projects between £1m and £3m, aiming to encourage "greater ambition and collaboration across the OTs".

The meeting of the Environment Ministers' Council of the UKOTs and CDs took place in October 2022. Representatives from most UKOTs and CDs had expected to attend (except Pitcairn and Ascension). However, a few had some technical difficulties (some resolved by the team, but others could not join); the problems seemed to be due to clashes between the security systems of some participants' offices and the Zoom system. It is intended to resolve this in future by a slight lowering in security levels). Around 20 people took part. It was chaired by Gibraltar Environment Minister Prof John Cortés. The meeting covered items such as: the Framework for best practice in research in the UKOTs (as part of UKOTCF's work to influence UK Research Institutes to provide more support for the UKOTs); the work being done by the Protected Areas Working Group of the IUCN-UK Committee; the new All Party Parliamentary Group for Biodiversity in the UKOTs; plans for COP15 in Egypt and COP27 in Montreal. A statement had been drafted in advance, was modified by agreement and published online.

UKOTCF has maintained contact with the House of Commons Environmental Audit Select Committee to advocate the importance of including UKOTs in audits and policies relating to biodiversity. UKOTCF continues to brief parliamentarians in both houses of the UK Parliament, and it is helpful that some of our concerns have been reflected in parliamentary questions to the government so that information relating to UKOTs has become publicly available and can be referenced.

Relations with UK Government and Government Agencies

Briefings for new Governors of the UKOTs continued throughout the year. These provide information on the importance of biodiversity and UK's international responsibility towards them, background on the Environment Charters and active conservation bodies. In February a meeting was arranged with the new Governor of Cayman Islands. There are several forthcoming appointments and we hope to meet the appointees which will hopefully enhance relations between Governors' offices in the UKOTs and UKOTCF. UKOTCF personnel met with Adam Pile, Head of Caribbean and Southern Oceans Department of FCDO's Overseas Territories Directorate, while on Montserrat – which we hope will foster greater collaboration between FCDO and UKOTCF.

Defra launched a consultation in late 2022 on its OT Biodiversity Strategy. UKOTCF attended a workshop held in London in March and will submit a response to the public consultation, encouraging members and associate to do so also.

Working for partners and responding to requests

Meetings of Wider Caribbean Working Group were held in June and October 2022 and February 2023; Europe Territories Working Group in July, November and March; and Southern Ocean Working Group met in October and March 2023. The Chairman and Executive Director participated remotely in the Inter-Island Environment Meeting, in Alderney on 13 & 14 October. This normally annual event is organised in the Channel Islands, but involves also participants from the Isle of Man, UK, France and UKOTs. This meeting included sessions on corporate funding, coordinated by Leigh Morris, Director of Manx Wildlife Trust (and since joined UKOTCF Council).

UKOTCF responded to a request to nominate Pitcairn Marine Protected Area as a Blue Parks Nomination. This involved reviewing their application and filling in a form. In February 2023 it was announced that they had received a Platinum award. It is understood that a small grant would be received for this.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

In 2022, UKOTCF circulated information to partners on an international assessment of the barriers influencing the effectiveness of island ecosystem management by an Oxford University researcher. This has now been published. It is a synthesis of the views of 360 conservation practitioners working on island conservation in 77 jurisdictions. It notes "*Big egos, lack of staff training and policy enforcement*" as the major barriers to island conservation. See: <https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/pan3.10417>

Support was provided to several partners as they made submissions to the John Ellerman Foundation's call for proposals. Several projects have been successful and the impact of this fund for the UKOTs is starting to be visible across the UKOTs.

An online webinar was held on the challenge facing conservationists across the globe: invasive species in terrestrial situations. This was held on 6th & 7th March, 2023 via Zoom, with a special workshop on 8th March focusing on cane toad management. A recording of the webinar has been circulated to registered participants and those attending, of which there were over 100 from many of the UKOTs, CDs, UK and internationally; it is available also to others (<https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/other-territory-support/seminars-training/webinar-invasive-species/>)

Following a request from Bermuda National Trust to find a key speaker for a forthcoming international event on ecosystem restoration and sustainability, personnel contacted several possible speakers, and successfully connected BNT with Bryan Naqqi Manco of TCI Department of Environment and Coastal Resources who visited Bermuda for the first time.

The UK's Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) contacted UKOTCF personnel for advice during the 10-year review of UK's Tentative List to the World Heritage Convention.

A meeting was held in November with Simon Young as new mayor of Pitcairn as of January 2023 to explore ways in which support could be provided to the island.

During the visit to Montserrat in July, UKOTCF presented a cheque to the President of the EcoPlay Committee, Carol Osborne, for \$6000 (about £1800) collected for the project via UKOTCF's PayPal account – to facilitate contributions from outside Montserrat. EcoPlay is formally a joint MNT/UKOTCF project. Through its Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) account it can facilitate US donations via CAF America also.

Our networks

The Inter-Island Environment Meeting, a collective of conservation bodies in the, Channel Islands, but involving also the Isle of Man, UK and other partners, took place over two days in October 2022, hosted by the Alderney Wildlife Trust.

UKOTCF continues to play its part in the IUCN-UK National Committee ExCo; a great way to maintain knowledge and contacts with the UK conservation community. Personnel are working with the IUCN-NCUK's Protected Areas Working Group to investigate opportunities for UKOTs & CDs to participate.

Co-ordinating with Others

Connections with Jersey International Centre of Advanced Studies (JICAS) and other research institutes based in the UKOTs continue to be made.

The Turks and Caicos Islands Climate Change summit took place in April. Personnel had viewed this remotely. It can still be viewed on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qer7FiJAqU0>.

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 other 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, there is a need to expand on this. To that end, the Executive Director, Chairman and other Council members and officers will continue to explore other sources of financial support in the current and future financial periods. Council has asked its members with relevant experience to consider other potential funding sources, as well as authorising major work on its websites to increase potential via this medium.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

Incoming resources were £362,378 (2022: £265,610) and total resources expended were £338,490 (2022: £262,084). Net incoming/(outgoing) resources on the unrestricted general fund were £40,086 (2022: £(10,951)). 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 2013-14 financial year, before a return to nil. A project grant in 2016-2018 was followed a small grant from Defra in 2020-21 of £9,000. It is to be hoped that the major grant awarded in 2021 is a sign of a change. Whilst there is no guarantee of this, a further project grant will start in the 2023-24 financial year. The moderate success so far in securing alternative funds needs to be developed much further, with true core funding badly needed to maintain the services requested of UKOTCF by territory partners and UK Government. Net incoming/(outgoing) resources on the restricted funds were £(16,198) (2022: £14,477). 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 2023 the total funds of the Forum were £113,417 (2022: £89,529). Restricted funds stood at £926 (2022: £17,124) and the unrestricted general fund stood at £112,491 (2022: £72,405). 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 were 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. Furthermore, whilst UK Government's own agencies did not apply to the earlier funds, they now do so, resulting in the strange situation of Defra agencies applying to a Defra-run fund in competition with outside bodies. This questionable practice has resulted in the diversion of funds away from NGOs and UKOT bodies back into UK Government, with reduced capacity in the UKOTs and reduced ability to deploy voluntary effort in their support. 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 and now those for 2020 also. 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. Possibly partly as a result of UKOTCF expressed concern, in early 2019 UK Government issued a Call for Evidence on its funding of UKOT conservation, and UKOTCF provided evidence and encouraged its network to do so also. The diversion of UK Government officials on to Brexit matters and then the General Election delayed the analysis and publication of the summary of this evidence until the end of the previous reported year. Consequent actions are awaited but may be delayed further by the Covid-19 crisis, but some small improvements are now being made, with many more needed.

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.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

Acknowledgements

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: Dr Jamie Males, Paul Cawsey and Maddie Heap, Jack Hayes. 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 its member organisations and individual supporters who support us via our *Friends of the UK Overseas Territories* membership (not to be confused with the unrelated body Friends of the British Overseas Territories created more recently). Those who have an interest in the UKOTs/CDs are encouraged to join us. We thank also those who have donated via Gift Aid or Easy Fundraising. The Forum is very grateful for financial assistance from the UK Government's Darwin Initiative, United Kingdom Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) the Garfield Weston Foundation and other anonymous donors.

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;
- 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

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

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

Just Audit & Assurance Ltd 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: 10 July 2023

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

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

Independent Auditors' Report to the members of the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum for the year ended 31 March 2023, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

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 and trustees 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, the Charitable Company's members as a body, and the Charitable Company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 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; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report.

We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard as applied to public interest entities, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

- adequate and proper 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 charity has not kept sufficient accounting records; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement (set out on page 11), 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, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

Our assessment focused on key laws and regulations the charitable company has to comply with and areas of the financial statements we assessed as being more susceptible to misstatement. These key laws and regulations included but were not limited to compliance with the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice and relevant tax legislation.

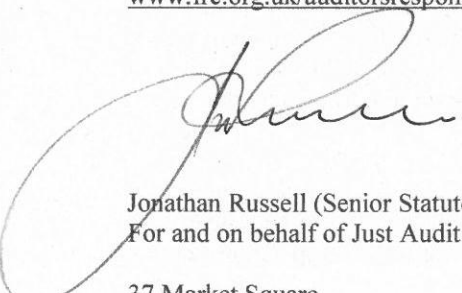
We are not responsible for preventing irregularities. Our approach to detect irregularities included, but was not limited to, the following:

- obtaining an understanding of the charitable company's policies and procedures and how the charitable company has complied with these, through discussions and sample testing of controls;
- obtaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the charitable company and how the charitable company is complying with that framework;
- an understanding of the charitable company's risk assessment process, including the risk of fraud;
- designing our audit procedures to respond to our risk assessment; and
- performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing estimates for bias.

Whilst considering how our audit work addressed the detection of irregularities, we also consider the likelihood of detection based on our approach. Irregularities arising from fraud are inherently more difficult to detect than those arising from error.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission, or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.



Jonathan Russell (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Just Audit & Assurance Ltd, Statutory Auditor

37 Market Square
Witney
Oxfordshire
OX28 6RE

Date:.....

14 July 2023

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCOPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

	Note	Unrest'd Funds £	Restr'd Funds £	2023 Total Funds £	Unrest'd Funds £	Restr'd Funds £	2022 Total Funds £
INCOME							
Income and endowments from:							
Donations, legacies and subscriptions	2	202,893	64,854	267,747	116,129	98,734	214,863
Investment income	3	508	-	508	7	-	7
Income from charitable activities							
Project Income		3,555	-	3,555	149	-	149
Government grants	4	-	90,568	90,568	-	50,591	50,591
Total Income		206,956	155,422	362,378	116,285	149,325	265,610
EXPENDITURE ON:							
Charitable Activities	5	158,844	171,244	330,088	120,696	134,848	255,544
Governance costs	5	8,026	376	8,402	6,540	-	6,540
Total Expenditure		166,870	171,620	338,490	127,236	134,848	262,084
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		40,086	(16,198)	23,888	(10,951)	14,477	3,526
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		-	-	-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		40,086	(16,198)	23,888	(10,951)	14,477	3,526
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS							
Total funds brought forward		72,405	17,124	89,529	83,356	2,647	86,003
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		112,491	926	113,417	72,405	17,124	89,529

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

COMPANY NUMBER: 3216892 – ENGLAND AND WALES

BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST MARCH 2023

		2023 £	2022 £
	Notes		
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	9	-	690
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	10	18,639	28,006
Cash at bank and in hand		109,557	77,796
Total Current Assets		<u>128,196</u>	<u>105,802</u>
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	11	14,779	16,963
NET ASSETS		<u>113,417</u>	<u>89,529</u>
FUNDS	12		
Unrestricted funds		112,491	72,405
Restricted funds		926	17,124
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>113,417</u>	<u>89,529</u>

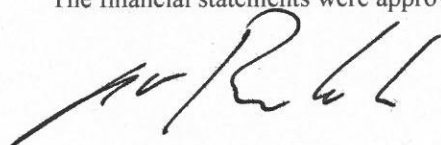
The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st March 2023, however

The members have required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

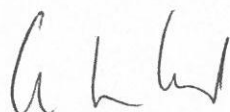
The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small company's regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 10th July 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:



.....
Dr M Pienkowski - Chairman



.....
Mrs K M Wood - Treasurer

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006. The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

Going Concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income: -

- Income is deferred only when it relates to specific expenditure incurred after the current accounting period.

Grants receivable

Grant income is recognised on a receivable basis. Any unspent grants at the end of the year are shown as restricted funds.

Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Donated Time

Trustees and other skilled volunteers donate their time on our projects due to insufficient external funding. This is translated into figures for disclosure in the accounts at a rate which would normally be charged for paid consultancy.

Charitable activities

Charitable activities comprise those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and service for its beneficiaries. They include both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery	- 33% on cost
Office Equipment	- 33% on cost

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. The costs of minor additions or those costing below £1,000 are not capitalised.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

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. DONATIONS, LEGACIES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 Total Funds £
Subscriptions	3,650	-	3,650	2,300	575	2,875
Donations & tax refund	39,913	2,150	42,063	4,262	97	4,359
Grants receivable	20,948	-	20,948	-	-	-
Donated time & expenses	138,382	62,704	201,086	109,567	98,062	207,629
	202,893	64,854	267,747	116,129	98,734	214,863

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2023 £	2022 £
Interest received	508	7

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Grants from DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) totalling £90,568 (2022: 50,591) were received supporting 3 year Darwin Montserrat project (DPLUS155) commencing October 2021.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

5. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Charitable Activity £	Governance Costs £	2023 Total Funds £	Charitable Activity £	Governance Costs £	2022 Total Funds £
Donated time and expenses	197,222		197,222	203,438	-	203,438
Grants Payable	1,995	-	1,995	1,500	-	1,500
Travel and subsistence	2,148		2,148	1,295	-	1,295
Consultancy	11,583		11,583	4,938	-	4,938
Project implementation	94,789		94,789	36,786	-	36,786
Meetings and conferences	2,602	376	2,978	-	-	-
Subscriptions, publications and reference materials	9,972		9,972	743	-	743
Storage and general expenses	207		207	-	-	-
Bank charges	471		471	561	-	561
Accountancy	-	4,988	4,988	-	3,809	3,809
The audit of the charity's accounts	-	2,966	2,966	-	2,696	2,696
Bad debts	1,135		1,135	-	-	-
Legal fees	-	72	72	-	35	35
Postage, stationery, telecoms & IT costs	7,245		7,245	5,593	-	5,593
Small equipment, small equipment repairs and materials	29		29	-	-	-
Depreciation	690		690	690	-	690
Exchange losses	-		-	-	-	-
	<u>330,088</u>	<u>8,402</u>	<u>338,490</u>	<u>255,544</u>	<u>6,540</u>	<u>262,084</u>

Support costs have been allocated across charitable expenditure, as in previous years, in line with time spent on specific activities within this category.

6. NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES

Net resources are stated after charging/(crediting):

	2023 £	2022 £
External scrutiny	<u>2,966</u>	<u>2,696</u>

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

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

The trustees received no remuneration in the year ended 31st March 2023 (2022: £ nil) in respect of core work.

One trustee was paid remuneration in the year ended 31st March 2023 (2022: nil) for externally funded projects:-

As provided for in the DPLUS155 grant, Dr Mike Pienkowski received consultancy fee of £5,410 for services to the Darwin Montserrat project. From this fee, Dr Pienkowski returned a sum of £4,328 by way of an unconditional donation against which Gift Aid of £1,082 will also be recovered by UKOTCF

Trustees' remuneration, when it occurs, 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 £3,000 (2022: £-) was reimbursed to 1 (2022: 0) trustees during the year.

All production costs of the book "When the kite builds..." published by the charity during the year were met by Dr & Mrs Pienkowski. UKOTCF pays for these to offset some of the production costs only once they are sold.

A share of proceeds supports charitable activities of the trust. During the year costs incurred associated with the publication are:-

Publication and printing	£3,258
Book Launch & Promotion	£2,670
Total costs	<u>£5,928</u>
Less Book sales (net of postage)	<u>(£2,605)</u>
Net Outlay	<u>£3,323</u>

The net outlay has been funded by an unconditional donation from Dr & Mrs Pienkowski of £3,000, against which Gift Aid of £750 has also been recovered by UKOTCF, and a donation of 66 copies of the book, value £999.

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any other contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year (2022: none).

8. TAXATION

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

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office Equipment £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION		
At 1 st April 2022	2,070	2,070
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
At 31 st March 2023	<u>2,070</u>	<u>2,070</u>
DEPRECIATION		
At 1 st April 2022	1,380	1,380
Charge for the year	690	690
Eliminated on disposal	-	-
At 31 st March 2023	<u>2,070</u>	<u>2,070</u>
NET BOOK VALUE		
At 31 st March 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 st March 2022	<u>690</u>	<u>690</u>

10. DEBTORS

	2023 £	2022 £
Debtors and accrued income	15,639	13,039
Prepayments	3,000	14,967
	<u>18,639</u>	<u>28,006</u>

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Other creditors	-	-
Accrued expenses	14,779	16,963
Income in advance	-	-
	<u>14,779</u>	<u>16,963</u>

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

12. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 Total Funds £
Fixed assets	-	-	-	690	-	690
Current assets	121,077	7,119	128,196	79,265	26,537	105,802
Current liabilities	8,586	6,193	14,779	7,550	9,413	16,963
	<u>112,491</u>	<u>926</u>	<u>113,417</u>	<u>72,405</u>	<u>17,124</u>	<u>89,529</u>

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Balance 1st April 2022 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Used £	Transfers between Funds £	Balance 31st March 2023 £
Restricted funds					
Data Base and Dissemination	2,197	-	-	-	2,197
Turks and Caicos Development	450	523	(523)	-	450
Montserrat	97	-	-	-	97
Darwin Montserrat	13,805	146,990	(162,208)	-	(1,413)
Montserrat Ecoplay	-	2,150	(1,995)	-	155
Conference	575	5,759	(6,894)	-	(560)
Total Restricted Funds	<u>17,124</u>	<u>155,422</u>	<u>(171,620)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>926</u>
UNRESTRICTED General Fund	72,405	206,956	(166,870)	-	112,491
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>89,529</u>	<u>362,378</u>	<u>(338,490)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>113,417</u>

	Balance 1st April 2021 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Used £	Transfers between Funds £	Balance 31st March 2022 £
Restricted funds					
Data Base and Dissemination	2,197	-	-	-	2,197
Turks and Caicos Development	450	935	(935)	-	450
Montserrat	-	5,499	(5,402)	-	97
Darwin Montserrat	-	110,256	(96,451)	-	13,805
Montserrat Ecoplay	-	-	-	-	-
Conference	-	32,635	(32,060)	-	575
Total Restricted Funds	<u>2,647</u>	<u>149,325</u>	<u>(134,848)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,124</u>
UNRESTRICTED General Fund	83,356	116,285	(127,236)	-	72,405
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>86,003</u>	<u>265,610</u>	<u>(262,084)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>89,529</u>

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

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 AND RELATED PARTIES

During the year, included in donated time and expenses was an amount of £158,149 (2022: £138,655) from Trustees/related parties.

As well as donating their time and expertise, the Trustees made unconditional donations of £25,784 (2022: £3,782) to the charity.

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 Charity No: 1130188	744 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, BH7 6BZ
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15. DONATED TIME AND EXPENSES

Incoming and outgoing resources includes donated time of £197,222 (2022: £203,438) and donated expenses of £3,864 (2022: £4,190)

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.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31STMARCH 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Voluntary income		
Subscriptions and donations of money and time	241,139	214,363
Investment income		
Interest received	508	7
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Core	20,948	-
Database and Dissemination	-	-
Conference (inc. exchange rate gains)	-	-
Darwin Montserrat	90,568	50,591
Montserrat	-	-
Montserrat Ecoplay	-	-
Turks and Caicos Development	-	-
	<u>111,516</u>	<u>50,591</u>
Other incoming resources		
Sales	3,555	149
Tax refund	5,660	500
	<u>9,215</u>	<u>649</u>
Total incoming resources	<u>362,378</u>	<u>265,610</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Consultancy	208,805	208,376
Grants Payable	1,995	1,500
Project implementation	94,789	36,786
Travel and subsistence	2,148	1,295
Meetings and conferences	2,978	-
Post, stationery, telecoms and computer costs	7,245	5,593
Subscriptions, publications and reference materials	9,972	743
Storage and general expenses	207	-
Bank charges	471	561
Accountancy and audit	7,954	6,505
Small equipment, equipment repairs and materials	29	-
Depreciation	690	690
Bad debts	1,135	-
Legal fees	72	35
Exchange rate losses	-	-
	<u>338,490</u>	<u>262,084</u>
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources	<u>23,888</u>	<u>3,526</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statement

Accounts

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 2022
FOR UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

Auditors
Just Audit & Assurance Ltd
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 2022

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 2021.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 Section 1A smaller entities, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' ("FRS 102"), the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

03216892 (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	(Chairman)
Mr W E F Samuel	(Resigned 31 July 2021)
Lady (M C) Ground	
Mr I C Orr	(Resigned 17 November 2021)
Dr N R Haywood	
Mrs S V Francis	
Mrs K M Wood	
Mr P Beckingham	
Rt. Hon. the Lord (John) Randall of Uxbridge PC	
Mrs Joan Walley	
Mr Andrew Pearce	(Appointed 30 March 2022)

Auditors

Just Audit & Assurance Ltd
37 Market Square
Witney
Oxfordshire
OX28 6RE

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

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022**

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 July, Bill Samuel stood down from Council, having kindly delayed this to oversee the completion of the annual accounts process and arrange a handover to the new Treasurer. In accordance with the Articles of Association and resolutions passed under them, the following directors retired by rotation at the AGM in 2021 and were re-elected: Peter Beckingham, Dace Ground and Kathleen Wood. Iain Orr retired by rotation and decided to stand down while continuing to support UKOTCF in other ways. Andy Pearce was co-opted in March. 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, and Treasurer. The Executive Director acts upon decisions of Council and instructions of the Chairman.

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

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands
Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society
Isle of Man Department of Environment, Food & Agriculture
Manx Wildlife Trust

The current organisations which are associates are:

Alderney Wildlife Trust
Anguilla National Trust
Anguilla Archaeological & Historical Society
Ascension Conservation Centre
Ascension Heritage Society
BirdLife Cyprus
Bermuda Audubon Society
Bermuda Zoological Society
UK Antarctic Heritage Trust
National Trust for the Cayman Islands
Chagos Conservation Trust
Central Caribbean Marine Institute
Akrotiri Environmental Education & Information Centre, Cyprus SBA
Falklands Conservation
La Société Guernesaise
National Trust for Jersey
Société Jersiaise
Jost van Dykes Preservation Society
Montserrat National Trust
Pitcairn Natural Resources Division
La Société Sercquaise
St Helena National Trust
Turks & Caicos National Museum
National Trust of the Turks & Caicos Islands
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 and 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.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Overview

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

The UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum exists to promote awareness and conservation of the rich and unique biodiversity, natural environment and related heritage across the UK's Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies (UKOTs and CDs). It is the only body devoted solely to this. For well over 30 years, it has worked 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. We work with some of the most vibrant communities with some of the most unique and precious biodiversity in the world. With a small team, made up of some paid staff and many volunteers, UKOTCF fulfils a wide variety of roles in support of the tireless work of conservation bodies in the UKOTs and CDs.

This year, we have started two exciting new projects in addition to our regular activities and ongoing work. They make best use of UKOTCF's knowledge and experience, network of conservation practitioners and their long-established working relationships with local communities in the UKOTs. Cross-over between these projects allows us to make best use of available resources and work more efficiently. Funding nature conservation work is never easy, but we have had some modest success this year. As such, we have set some ambitious targets for our partly externally funded project work, which we will be implementing over the next few years. *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* has created its target 10 sites for nature restoration/recovery and created a Kids Club within the Montserrat National Trust to lay the foundations for future conservation on the island. The *Blue Iguana to Blue Vervain* project has developed plant lists for Montserrat in order to document traditional and medicinal uses to ensure knowledge is not lost and has developed education material for use in Cayman on invasive species.

In addition to our work at grass roots level, we also bring people together at high-level meetings. The UKOT & CD Environment Ministers' Council meetings, for which UKOTCF acts as secretariat, took place at the end of April. It was attended by over 20 Ministers, equivalents and officials. It helped build up some momentum in advance of UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow, which took place in November.

Future conservationists (and researchers) also need to be supported and so we continue to build and maintain relationships with new and existing research and education institutes. A bursary has been established with the Jersey International Centre for Advanced Studies (JICAS). This year it will support a JICAS MSc student to carry out a research project in the Cayman Islands. The project was developed with and supported by the Cayman Department of Environment.

Our engagement with the wider world, as part of our awareness raising and information sharing activities, continues to grow. In some ways it is easier than ever before to do this, but in other ways it is important to maintain our current well-established ways to communicate. The newsletter *Forum News* is circulated initially to over 300 individuals and organisations – and we know is read by many others – and our website gets many hits from around the world. Social media platforms regularly engage with nearly 2,000 followers.

When pressure needs to be applied urgently as a result of immediate threats to biodiversity, we do not shy away from this. As such we have been following the crisis affecting corals in the Caribbean UKOTs from a novel disease, Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease. We ask questions and support our partners wherever possible, but also celebrate successes of those working to prevent utter devastation. Some of this support has been through UK channels including UK Parliament.

In the coming year, we have major work to do on projects to meet requests from territories and on continuing to seek resources to enable other such urgently requested work. This is especially in regard to terrestrial conservation, which territories agree has been rather under-privileged for some years in UK Government grant-funding. There is real urgency for governments and voluntary organisations to create renewed momentum on the deliberations of both Climate-Change CoP 27 and the postponed Biodiversity Convention CoP, to ensure that climate and nature recovery gets prioritised – and nowhere more so than on the UKOTs that contribute so much to UK biodiversity. UK and the UKOTs, with the support of many NGOs and others, have been making great strides in protecting the seas around oceanic UKOTs – but we must not forget that, in terms of biodiversity, it is the terrestrial habitats in the UKOTs that hold the greatest levels of endemics for which the UK is responsible on the international stage, and funding for this is needed urgently.

Project work

The proceedings of the UKOTCF online conference (held in March 2021) were published on the website in July 2021 and circulated to participants. Overall, the team is pleased with the results and the amount of positive feedback received on the conference as a whole, and already on the proceedings.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

The UKOT & CD Environment Ministers' Council meeting took place online on UKOTCF's Zoom platform at the end of April. Timing, by its Co-Chair, Hon. Prof. John Cortés in consultation with UKOTCF as the secretariat, was deliberate so as to have conference conclusions and recommendations as input for the ministers to consider. Some elements of the online conference were re-used, e.g. music, slides, some selected recorded presentations and speakers (with permission from them). Some work was necessary to facilitate the Ministers in considering a draft statement agreed at the meeting. UKOTCF, in close consultation with Minister Cortés, organised and ran the meeting for the ministers. The final statement was published online, as was some visual material from which territory governments could extract material to support their own publicity. Subsequently, as directed by the Ministers, the Secretariat helped with a letter of support sent to St Vincent and the Grenadines in light of the volcanic disruption, a letter to Alok Sharma (UK minister chairing the Climate-Change Conference of the Parties) with regards to UKOT representation at the forthcoming UNFCCC CoP, and a letter to Lord Goldsmith on the recommendations of the Ministers' Council. The response from the UK Government Minister of Environment, on both the Ministers' Council statement and the UKOTCF conference recommendations, was published in full in *Forum News* with agreement by the UKOT/CD Ministers' Council co-chair.

UKOTCF and Montserrat National Trust (MNT) were successful in securing a grant under the Darwin Initiative and started the project in October. Despite the delay in funding decision, this combined nicely with the postponed trip by UKOTCF which meant the launch could take place while they were on island. The project titled *Securing Montserrat's threatened endemic species and natural capital through community-action* and its local name, *Adopt a Home for Wildlife*, enables Montserratians to undertake informed decisions and actions on land they manage so that Montserrat's unique wildlife and ecosystems thrive. Livelihoods, based on sustainable-use of natural resources will be demonstrated and promoted. A network of community-led managed conservation areas will be established, stimulating action and engagement among Montserratians, addressing urgent challenges to the islands' biodiversity especially invasive plants.

During the visit in October and in the first few months that followed, the following was achieved: a Memorandum of Understanding was agreed and signed between H.E. the Governor, the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Housing and Environment, MNT and UKOTCF; project launch took place at the Trust with the Governor, Environment Minister, MNT, UKOTCF and some participants speaking, and was streamed live on Facebook and on Montserrat radio; several visits to some of the sites (including the new donation of 13 acres of land); some new "Adopters" of "Wildlife Homes" recruited; some visits to existing sites; restructuring of project team to several part-time posts agreed between MNT and UKOTCF to maximise local capacity-building and continuity beyond project end; project team assembled with 7 Montserratians employed part-time to share the training and experience; a project committee meeting; work programmes for the officers developed; some quotes secured for capital items that need to be ordered; half-hour radio interview on Montserrat radio and 1 hour on an online video station; session at Governor's regular press conference resulting in live broadcasts and the project a main item on the radio news; draft list of *Adopted sites (Wildlife Homes)* developed.

Some additional capacity for the project was achieved via a volunteer, Maddie Heap, who joined in January to fill a need identified by MNT. Her role was getting the baseline vegetation and invertebrate surveys tested and made operational at the sites. Several persons were found after an advert was published online. After interview by MNT and UKOTCF, Maddie was welcomed to the team. Over the Christmas period, Maddie, UKOTCF and MNT dealt with paperwork and logistics. Maddie travelled to Montserrat in early January and, after 5 days of quarantine required of all, integrated well into the team. As result of all her hard work with the rest of the Montserrat team, they have been able to make a lot of progress on project activities. Back in UK, Maddie continues to help, especially with the development of management plans.

Several other partners, making best use of time and resources, including Montana State University and the Species Recovery Trust (their Vicky Wilkins, formerly of Buglife, having been instrumental in raising capacity of St Helena to undertake invertebrate conservation).

The second main project currently active was awarded a grant at the end of 2021. This falls under the United Kingdom Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) as part of their call: "[Hidden Histories of Environmental Science: Acknowledging legacies of race, social injustice and exclusion to inform the future](#)". The project is led by the UK Centre for Hydrology & Ecology with UKOTCF and other partners including: the National Trust for the Cayman Island, The Montserrat National Trust, Meise Botanic Garden in Belgium and Leeds Museum. The project runs from January 2022 until March 2023.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

The working title for the project is: *From Blue Iguanas to Blue Vervain: Sharing the colonial histories from the UK Overseas Territories*. It focuses on the current impacts and the role of colonialism on the UKOTs to understand the historical importance of non-native species in shaping the current cultural and ecological climate on the UKOTs. It includes two case studies, in Montserrat and the Cayman Islands, to address three questions relating to rediscovering hidden knowledge on people, plants and animal species to empower data-sharing between the UKOTs and UK.

UKOTCF has published a webpage for the project on its website including a project logo designed by Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, under guidance from the two National Trusts. As well as inputting into all work packages, UKOTCF is responsible for implementing Work Package 2 “Develop best practice template for equitable biodiversity, ecological and biological research collaboration and data sharing between the UKOTs and UK”.

Aside from specific funding for PhD studies, this does look to be the first project funded in this way from UK Research Council sources in the UKOTs and a significant milestone.

UKOTCF continues to provide additional support to MNT when it can. One request was to source possible designers who could draw up some plans for a small piece of land which the Trust had acquired adjacent to the Botanic Gardens. UKOTCF made some inquiries and an architect, Yasmin Shariff, at Dennis Sharp Architects, based in London, agreed to provide some *pro bono* design expertise to the Trust. The intention is to use the parcel of land, *EcoPlay*, to provide a space for children to enjoy nature and the outdoors. Continuing support includes helping with some aspects of fundraising, so that UKOTCF has created a page on the UKOTCF website in order to facilitate PayPal payments from the US and UK to complement MNT’s local fundraising. Around £300,000 is needed and about a third has been pledged so far (mainly from local sources). UKOTCF participated in the launch in October which included the Premier, Minister of Education, Deputy Governor and others.

The ongoing project to highlight the endemics species found in the UKOTs continues. In addition, International Union for the Conservation of Nature personnel have made enquiries about access to this in respect of proposed Red Data listing work. As this is not an externally funded project, it continues as resources allow.

Some preparatory work has been completed during the year on progress in implementing Environment Charters, Aichi Targets, Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Sustainable Development Goals. This will enable several volunteers, who had agreed to help with this exercise, to undertake the first stages of data collection in their own time. This project also depends on the time availability of volunteers, its rate of progress is also variable.

The NatureBureau, is a long-established environmental consultancy, with book publishing arm, Pisces Publications. Together with Sara Oldfield, the author of *Fragments of Paradise* (in many ways, UKOTCF’s establishing document) and subsequently UKOTCF’s (as called then) first Coordinator a later Chair (until she managed to get Mike Pienkowski to take the role for his first term), made contact with UKOTCF. They asked if UKOTCF would be interested in working with them on a new publication – a sort of re-visiting of that book but in a style combining coffee-table photographs with referenced scientific content. UKOTCF, working with Sara is making a start on this. UKOTCF and Sara have final drafts of Chapter titles and outlines and are starting to make contact with potential authors and potential sponsors.

Awareness raising and information management

Forum News 54 was published and circulated in May and *Forum News 55* was published in November.

In April 2021, the tenth edition of *Save Our Special Nature of Montserrat* was published online and circulated. In November, Issue 11 was published and circulated. This outlined the successful grant awarded, the new Project team members and some highlights from the UKOTCF visit earlier that month.

Virtual tours of Gibraltar and Tristan da Cunha were made live during the year, making a complete set for UKOTs. Guernsey and Sark are in draft and it is hoped will be finished within the new financial year. This will complete the set for CDs a well. Other information and publicity materials which continue to be developed, include editing videos recorded while on Montserrat, will be made available and used throughout the current project.

The *Marine Biologist* magazine dedicated an issue to the marine environment in the UK Overseas Territories. UKOTCF were invited to provide an overview, with a view to including further articles in future. The readership of the magazine is over 5,000 and so it is a good opportunity to raise awareness of the UKOTs in general. This was published online in January 2022, the publishers deciding to make this article freely available to showcase the issue.

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Influencing policy

UKOTCF has provided requested briefings for the UKOT/CD Environment Ministers' Council for other meetings, including of both UK bodies and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP26). Several governments and representatives of governments of the UKOTs, as well as a youth delegation from the Cayman Islands, were in Glasgow in November. An event 'Our Vision for Healthy Oceans' was organised on Nature Day in the UK Pavilion, to coincide with the agreement of a '[Overseas Territories Climate Change Pledge](#)'. The international Leadership Pledge has now been signed by over 80 leaders, including some of the UKOTs and CDs.

In relation to Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD), a large Darwin Initiative grant on SCTLD has been awarded to Joint Nature Conservation Committee for £496,257. This is in addition to the £200,000 already received and £100,000 from another source. UKOTCF follows this closely and has attempted several ways in which to ensure that NGOs desperately fighting this terrible disease are also supported to carry out urgent work, including raising the issue with the UK Minister of Environment. However, obtaining clear information from JNCC has proven exceptionally difficult, and UKOTCF remains concerned that only a small proportion of these funds have reached those bodies actually battling the disease in the field. Indeed, the NGO which first tackled this in a UKOT for over 3 years has still received no support from UK public funds, despite UK ministerial statements to the contrary. In addition, JNCC continues to advise against the use of the only control method to be found really effective.

The announcement of awards under Darwin Plus (until last year including all UKOTs) were made in early June. Without consultation, the UK Government removed the four UKOTs (Montserrat, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, Pitcairn) eligible for Official Development Assistance (ODA) from Darwin Plus, and put them with foreign countries in Darwin Main in 2021. This thereby also removed these territories, for the first time in 20 years, from a fund devoted to biodiversity conservation (as other factors, such as poverty alleviation, livelihoods and gender equality, have equal weight and need to be addressed in Darwin Main). This seemed a very retrograde step, especially when UK Government is claiming a global conservation lead, and also a reversal of a governmental commitment. Although these other factors are very important, they do have other funds allocated to them, whereas biodiversity conservation does not. Alongside the four governments concerned, the Chair of the UKOT Environment Ministers' Council, RSPB, UKOTCF, MNT and CABI signed a letter sent to UK Government calling for a restoration of equal treatment for these four territories, with the others. United Kingdom Overseas Territories Association (UKOTA) informed UKOTCF that the Governments of the UKOTs met virtually in August and, as a result, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) agreed to the desire to move back into Darwin Plus with immediate effect and included in the 10th round of Darwin Plus launched in August 2021 – although rather too late to allow many applications to be prepared.

UKOTCF continues to look for any opportunities to raise awareness of the UKOTs & CDs within UK Parliament. One such opportunity was recently advertised through the Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology. One of their roles is to provide briefings on emerging issues. These briefings called 'POSTNotes' are made available to Parliamentarians (as well as widely available online) on a variety of subjects. One such POSTNote during the year was on blue carbon. Given the interest at the UKOTCF online conference, particularly in UKOTs with seagrass meadows, mangroves and peatland, UKOTCF supplied some information relevant to the topic. This was published shortly after with some contributions from the UKOTs.

In the autumn, the UK Parliament's Environmental Audit Select Committee published its *Biodiversity and Ecosystems* inquiry report. There were elements from previous inquiries, to which UKOTCF had submitted evidence, that referenced recommendations for the UKOTs, e.g. the *Sustainable Seas* inquiry. Linked to this, the UK Parliament published a report online in October called "*The UK Overseas Territories: Climate change and biodiversity*". The report seemed to be an amalgamation of various reports over the years, to which UKOTCF had contributed and, as a result, it included several recommendations from UKOTCF including on the importance of biodiversity in the UKOTs, the importance of science-based decision-making, and the impacts of invasive species.

A response was submitted to the inquiry on Natural Capital Accounting. The UKOTCF online conference collated some information on this in 2021. This has now been published online.

Relations with UK Government and Government Agencies

Several key meetings took place during the year. In May a meeting was held with the Director of Strategy and Policy Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands (SGSSI), formerly Head of Defra's Marine Environment in the International Team. He has worked mainly on the High Seas Treaty and the post-2020 framework. Points of discussion included: building resilience, protected areas and new legislation for SGSSI.

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Briefings for new Governors of the UKOTs continue. These provide information on the importance of biodiversity and UK's international responsibility towards them, background on the Environment Charters and active conservation bodies. In February a meeting was arranged with the new Governor of Montserrat, this at her request being UKOTCF's first meeting in London for over two years because of Covid precautions.

As part of UKOTCF's growing partnership with the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UKCEH), UKCEH invited UKOTCF to become their Business Associate in a bid to JNCC. This bid was successful, so it could mean that UKOTCF may be involved in appropriate work for which CEH bids in future.

UKOTCF will try to attend meetings organised by others when invited. The UK Marine Climate Change Partnership (MCCIP), in collaboration with the UK Government and Agencies, the United Kingdom Overseas Territories Association (UKOTA) and Great British Oceans (GBO) launched the first comprehensive assessment of climate change impacts on the UK Overseas Territories. The meeting included a passionate address from Professor Cortés, using material from the UKOT/CD Environment Ministers Statement and his address to UKOTCF's online conference.

In April, the UK Government held an online information session on its' Blue Planet Fund. This is financed from the UK Official Development Assistance Budget with £500 million aiming to "help developing countries reduce poverty, protect and sustainably manage their marine resources and address human-generated threats across four key themes: marine biodiversity, climate change, marine pollution, and sustainable seafood". The Fund will be managed by Defra and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and will be launched soon. Sadly, it seems that the only way this could be accessed by UKOTs is to actively lobby or work with Governors Offices in the UKOTs as there is no call for proposals. It was clear that the requirement for poverty reduction will be included, thereby making support for biodiversity conservation even in the four UKOTs theoretically eligible (Montserrat, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, Pitcairn) unlikely – despite Minister Lord Goldsmith highlighting this new fund in his speech to the UKOTCF conference.

Working for partners and responding to requests

Meetings of Wider Caribbean Working Group were held in April, June, September, November and February; and Europe Territories Working Group in April, July, November and March. Southern Ocean Working Group met in March 2022.

The most urgent issue reported by partners in the UKOTs during its WCWG is on SCTL (see also above). While in Montserrat, UKOTCF personnel attended a JNCC SCTL classroom-based workshop. This provided some useful insights into the approach being taken and treatments being recommended by the technical advisors HMG has chosen to work with. This was disappointing in that the specialist appointed by JNCC advised strongly against the use of the proven method. UKOTCF continues to highlight the importance of NGO involvement and effective treatments and a flexible approach to this issue given its severity.

Consultancy eftec, has been implementing a Darwin Plus project for several years focusing on Natural Capital Accounting (NCA); a presentation was given at the UKOTCF conference on this. In the final stages of the project, which aimed to build a set of accounts and a practitioners' network, UKOTCF was asked to make a remote presentation at the final conference, held in part on Anguilla, on the importance of working with NGOs and experiences of UKOTCF as a long-time network.

Funding remains a key area of importance for many partners, particularly in those which have seen drastic falls in income during the pandemic. When new funding emerges, which UKOTs can apply for, details are circulated to members and associate organisations. This year the Mohammed Bin Zayed covid response call was providing two rounds of funding to support grass-roots conservation organisations with operating costs (a rare core grant). Two UKOTs have been able to benefit from this. The National Parks Trust for the Virgin Islands received a grant to assist with fieldwork costs on Anegada, and the Montserrat National Trust received a grant of \$15,000.

By invitation, UKOTCF attended a strategic meeting for the Montserrat National Trust (with a grant managed by the RSPB). A similar exercise had been undertaken at the Turks and Caicos National Trust, which was also attended. Some views and comments were fed into the process during and after the meeting, and MNT and TCNT indicated that these were useful.

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Our networks

The Inter-Island Environment Meeting, a collective of conservation bodies in, Channel Islands, with participation by partners in the Isle of Man, UK, France and others, took place over two days from Thursday 21 October. Hosted by Jersey Biological Records Centre via remote communications, it included several presentations and discussion, in which UKOTCF participated. The keynote speech was delivered by the National Biodiversity Network (NBN). Other presentations included: an ecosystem-based approach to marine conservation and fisheries management by Sam Blampied, sea-fans of Jersey by Kevin McIlwee, results from the Bailiwick Bat Survey from Phil Atkinson and mainstreaming biodiversity and Natural Capital by Alex Herschel. These are all available via YouTube.

Other interesting workshops attended included the Blue Marine Foundation Blue Carbon conference titled *Blue Carbon – a new frontier for conservation?* held in June.

Co-ordinating with Others

UKOTCF chairman continues to sit on the Executive Committee of the UK National Committee of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN-NCUK Exco). During the year the IUCN-NCUK Protected Areas Working Group (on which UKOTCF chairman also sits) had requested some information on UKOTs and CDs. UKOTCF advised territories and this is being pursued.

UKOTCF continues to liaise with Jersey International Centre of Advanced Studies (JICAS) and research institutes based in the UKOTs. This year, JICAS, with support from UKOTCF (via a donation), made a bursary available for students to undertake research projects as part of their MSc courses. Two students visited Anguilla in summer 2021 undertaking research, one in the marine environment and one on iguanas. In addition, with information and contacts provided by UKOTCF, a summer course on island archaeology, featuring the Turks and Caicos National Museum, was organised.

The Small Islands Organisation (SMILO) is an NGO which assists small islands of less than 150 km² (of any nation) that wish to work towards managing their territory more sustainably. Their interim report mapping the world island networks and organisations, which UKOTCF fed some information into, was published http://www.smilo-program.org/images/Intermediary_report_Island_Networks_and_Organisations_2021.pdf.

Organisational development

Around the turn of the financial year, we lost the services of Voluntary Conservation Officer Catriona Porter. Catriona had done an amazing amount of work in the year that she was with us (about twice as long as originally envisaged). This had included re-invigorating the Southern Oceans Working Group and taking a lead in several other projects. She was fortunate enough to get a job in the field for which she was well qualified but found that the reduction in available time meant that she could no longer deliver the voluntary UKOTCF work to the high standard to which she set herself. We wish her well, and hope that she is able to re-engage with UKOTCF at some time in the future.

In addition to the core team, several volunteers have helped throughout the year. Paul Cawsey continues to provide support to a number of core activities, and has assumed the Secretaryship of the Southern Ocean Working Group, following Catriona, as well as some project work. He helped to coordinate the first SOWG meeting held since last year, which had generated quite a bit of interest. He also helped to write a paper on honey bee cultivation in stingless bees (*Melipona*) for the Montserrat project.

Maddie Heap, as Voluntary Conservation Officer to the DPLUS155 project (see above), is keen to continue working with the team and UKOTCF more generally, but with a view to re-visiting as resources allow (including an expression of interest in working on a PhD project). Maddie has proved to be an excellent addition to the team and UKOTCF is keen to ensure that she is retained either by the Trust, UKOTCF or a combination of both.

Following some very positive correspondence with the CEO of Falklands Conservation, with regards to the conference, but also on a number of matters over several years, a suggestion that they re-join UKOTCF as an associate organisation was made. This had been warmly welcomed by them. Paperwork has been signed and the website was updated.

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Fundraising continues to be an important aspect of general organisational work. This includes: writing grant applications, handling legacy donations, exploring novel sources of funding and maintaining the existing membership and individual subscriptions with where applicable, a Gift Aid top-up at no further cost to the person donating. A report to the Garfield Weston Foundation was submitted in November 2021 upon completion of the one-year core grant. A further application has been welcomed.

At the AGM in November, Iain Orr stood down from Council, but remains as an Advisor and link to UK Parliamentary officials. In addition to his long service on Council, Iain had preceded this by several years as UKOTCF's main contact in FCO, at the Environment, Science and Energy Department, later the Environment Policy Department. At the time, FCO and UKOTCF were the only organisations working routinely on conservation across all UKOTs. It was the time of closest working between UK Government and NGOs on UKOT conservation, sometimes with up to two phone-calls per day. This collaboration was a highly productive time and much progress was made.

Bill Samuel also stood down having kindly delayed his retirement for some months to allow smooth transition to the new Treasurer. Bill had served on Council for many years. In addition to his Treasurer role, he had served on the Personnel Committee. Bill's wise advice had helped greatly so that some major issues could be navigated successfully.

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 other 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, there is a need to expand on this. To that end, the Executive Director, Chairman and other Council members and officers will continue to explore other sources of financial support in the current and future financial periods. Council has asked its members with relevant experience to consider other potential funding sources, as well as authorising major work on its websites to increase potential via this medium.

Incoming resources were £265,610 (2021: £302,191) and total resources expended were £262,084 (2021: £272,878). Net incoming/(outgoing) resources on the unrestricted general fund were £(10,951) (2021: £5,829). 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 2013-14 financial year, before a return to nil, with a small grant from Defra in the previous year of £9,000. It is to be hoped that the major grant awarded in 2021 is a sign of a change but there is no guarantee of this. The moderate success so far in securing alternative funds needs to be developed much further, with true core funding badly needed to maintain the services requested of UKOTCF by territory partners and UK Government. Net incoming/(outgoing) resources on the restricted funds were £14,477 (2021: £23,484). 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 2022 the total funds of the Forum were £89,529 (2021: £86,003). Restricted funds stood at £17,124 (2021: £2,647) and the unrestricted general fund stood at £72,405 (2021: £83,356). 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 were 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. Furthermore, whilst UK Government's own agencies did not apply to the earlier funds, they now do so, resulting in the strange situation of Defra agencies applying to a Defra-

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run fund in competition with outside bodies. This questionable practice has resulted in the diversion of funds away from NGOs and UKOT bodies back into UK Government, with reduced capacity in the UKOTs and reduced ability to deploy voluntary effort in their support. 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 and now those for 2020 also. 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. Possibly partly as a result of UKOTCF expressed concern, in early 2019 UK Government issued a Call for Evidence on its funding of UKOT conservation, and UKOTCF provided evidence and encouraged its network to do so also. The diversion of UK Government officials on to Brexit matters and then the General Election delayed the analysis and publication of the summary of this evidence until the end of the previous reported year. Consequent actions are awaited but may be delayed further by the Covid-19 crisis.

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: Dr Jamie Males, Catriona Porter, Paul Cawsey and Maddie Heap. 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 and to Lady Dace Ground for continuing support to the Forum this year. We are also grateful to Anthony Leask for continuing to support conservation efforts in the territories. Sincere thanks to Iain Orr and Bill Samuel for their many years of service to the Forum as Council members and close supporters. We will miss you, but wish you the best. The Forum would also like to thank its member organisations and individual supporters who support us via our *Friends of the UK Overseas Territories* membership. Those who have an interest in the UKOTs/CDs are encouraged to join us. The Forum is very grateful for financial assistance from the UK Government's Darwin Initiative, United Kingdom Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) the Garfield Weston Foundation, Bill Samuel, those donating via EasyFundraising or Amazon Smile and anonymous donors.

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

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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;
- 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

Just Audit & Assurance Ltd were the charitable company's auditors and have expressed a willingness to continue in that capacity.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:



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DR M PIENKOWSKI - TRUSTEE

Date: 22 July 2022

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

Independent Auditors' Report to the members of the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum for the year ended 31 March 2022, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

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 and trustees 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, the Charitable Company's members as a body, and the Charitable Company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2021 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; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report.

We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard as applied to public interest entities, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work

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we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

- adequate and proper 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 charity has not kept sufficient accounting records; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement (set out on page 11), 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, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

Our assessment focused on key laws and regulations the charitable company has to comply with and areas of the financial statements we assessed as being more susceptible to misstatement. These key laws and regulations included but were not limited to compliance with the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice and relevant tax legislation.

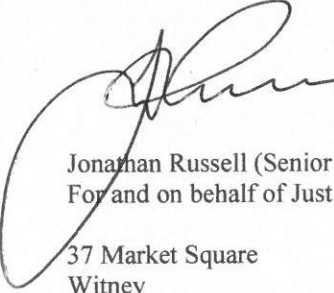
We are not responsible for preventing irregularities. Our approach to detect irregularities included, but was not limited to, the following:

- obtaining an understanding of the charitable company's policies and procedures and how the charitable company has complied with these, through discussions and sample testing of controls;
- obtaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the charitable company and how the charitable company is complying with that framework;
- an understanding of the charitable company's risk assessment process, including the risk of fraud;
- designing our audit procedures to respond to our risk assessment; and
- performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing estimates for bias.

Whilst considering how our audit work addressed the detection of irregularities, we also consider the likelihood of detection based on our approach. Irregularities arising from fraud are inherently more difficult to detect than those arising from error.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission, or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.



Jonathan Russell (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Just Audit & Assurance Ltd, Statutory Auditor

37 Market Square
Witney
Oxfordshire
OX28 6RE

Date: 31.08.22

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCOPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

	Note	Unrest'd Funds £	Restr'd Funds £	2022 Total Funds £	Unrest'd Funds £	Restr'd Funds £	2021 Total Funds £
INCOME							
Income and endowments from:							
Donations, legacies and subscriptions	2	116,129	98,734	214,863	201,074	101,012	302,086
Investment income	3	7	-	7	45	-	45
Income from charitable activities							
Project Income		149	-	149	60	-	60
Government grants	4	-	50,591	50,591	-	-	-
Total Income		116,285	149,325	265,610	201,179	101,012	302,191
EXPENDITURE ON:							
Charitable Activities	5	120,696	134,848	255,544	188,589	77,528	266,117
Governance costs	5	6,540	-	6,540	6,761	-	6,761
Total Expenditure		127,236	134,848	262,084	195,350	77,528	272,878
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(10,951)	14,477	3,526	5,829	23,484	29,313
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		-	-	-	20,607	(20,607)	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(10,951)	14,477	3,526	26,436	2,877	29,313
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS							
Total funds brought forward		83,356	2,647	86,003	56,920	(230)	56,690
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		72,405	17,124	89,529	83,356	2,647	86,003

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

COMPANY NUMBER: 3216892 – ENGLAND AND WALES

BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	9	690	1,380
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	10	28,006	2,803
Cash at bank and in hand		77,796	88,619
Total Current Assets		<u>105,802</u>	<u>91,422</u>
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	11	16,963	6,799
NET ASSETS		<u>89,529</u>	<u>86,003</u>
FUNDS	12		
Unrestricted funds		72,405	83,356
Restricted funds		17,124	2,647
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>89,529</u>	<u>86,003</u>

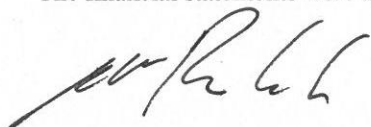
The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st March 2022, however

The members have required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2022 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

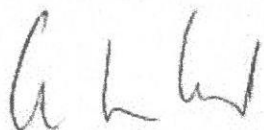
The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small company's regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 22nd July 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:



.....
Dr M Pienkowski - Chairman



.....
Mrs K M Wood - Treasurer

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006. The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

Going Concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income: -

- Income is deferred only when it relates to specific expenditure incurred after the current accounting period.

Grants receivable

Grant income is recognised on a receivable basis. Any unspent grants at the end of the year are shown as restricted funds.

Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Donated Time

Trustees and other skilled volunteers donate their time on our projects due to insufficient external funding. This is translated into figures for disclosure in the accounts at a rate which would normally be charged for paid consultancy.

Charitable activities

Charitable activities comprise those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and service for its beneficiaries. They include both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery	- 33% on cost
Office Equipment	- 33% on cost

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. The costs of minor additions or those costing below £1,000 are not capitalised.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

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. DONATIONS, LEGACIES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 Total Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 Total Funds £
Subscriptions	2,300	575	2,875	2,520	560	3,080
Donations & tax refund	4,262	97	4,359	15,732	24,596	40,328
Donated time & expenses	109,567	98,062	207,629	182,822	75,856	258,678
	116,129	98,734	214,863	201,074	101,012	302,086

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2022 £	2021 £
Interest received	7	45

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Grants from DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) totalling £50,591 (2021: Nil) were received supporting 3 year Darwin Montserrat project commencing October 2021.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

5. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Charitable Activity £	Governance Costs £	2022 Total Funds £	Charitable Activity £	Governance Costs £	2021 Total Funds £
Donated time and expenses	203,438		203,438	252,033	-	252,033
Grants Payable	1,500	-	1,500	-	-	-
Travel and subsistence	1,295		1,295	3,198	-	3,198
Consultancy	4,938		4,938	-	-	-
Project implementation	36,786		36,786	-	-	-
Meetings and conferences	-	-	-	3,610	-	3,610
Subscriptions, publications and reference materials	743		743	-	-	-
Storage and general expenses	-		-	-	-	-
Bank charges	561		561	668	-	668
Accountancy		3,809	3,809		4,478	4,478
The audit of the charity's accounts		2,696	2,696		2,248	2,248
Legal fees		35	35		35	35
Postage, stationery, telecoms & IT costs	5,593		5,593	5,918	-	5,918
Small equipment, small equipment repairs and materials	-		-	-	-	-
Exchange losses	-		-	-	-	-
	<u>255,544</u>	<u>6,540</u>	<u>262,084</u>	<u>266,117</u>	<u>6,761</u>	<u>272,878</u>

Support costs have been allocated across charitable expenditure, as in previous years, in line with time spent on specific activities within this category.

6. NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES

Net resources are stated after charging/(crediting):

	2022 £	2021 £
External scrutiny	<u>2,696</u>	<u>2,248</u>

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

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

The trustees received no remuneration in the year ended 31st March 2022 (2021: £ nil) in respect of core work.

No remuneration was paid in the year ended 31st March 2022 (2021: nil) for externally funded projects:-

Trustees' remuneration, when it occurs, 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 £- (2021: £-) was reimbursed to 0 (2021: 0) 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 (2021: None).

8. TAXATION

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

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office Equipment £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION		
At 1 st April 2021	2,070	2,070
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
At 31 st March 2022	2,070	2,070
DEPRECIATION		
At 1 st April 2021	690	690
Charge for the year	690	690
Eliminated on disposal	-	-
At 31 st March 2022	1,380	1,380
NET BOOK VALUE		
At 31 st March 2022	690	690
At 31 st March 2021	1,380	1,380

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

10. DEBTORS

	2022 £	2021 £
Debtors and accrued income	13,039	2,042
Prepayments	14,967	761
	<u>28,006</u>	<u>2,803</u>

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022 £	2021 £
Other creditors	-	-
Accrued expenses	16,963	6,799
Income in advance	-	-
	<u>16,963</u>	<u>6,799</u>

12. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 Total Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 Total Funds £
Fixed assets	690	-	690	1,380	-	1,380
Current assets	79,265	26,537	105,802	87,411	4,011	91,422
Current liabilities	7,550	9,413	16,963	5,434	1,365	6,799
	<u>72,405</u>	<u>17,124</u>	<u>89,529</u>	<u>83,357</u>	<u>2,646</u>	<u>86,003</u>

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022**

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Balance 1st April 2021 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Used £	Transfers between Funds £	Balance 31st March 2022 £
Restricted funds					
Data Base and Dissemination	2,197	-	-	-	2,197
Turks and Caicos Development	450	935	(935)	-	450
Montserrat	-	3,260	(3,163)	-	97
Conference	-	32,635	(32,060)	-	575
Darwin Montserrat	-	110,256	(96,451)	-	13,805
Total Restricted Funds	2,647	149,325	(134,848)	-	17,124
UNRESTRICTED General Fund	83,356	116,285	(127,236)	-	72,405
TOTAL FUNDS	86,003	265,610	(262,084)	-	89,529

	Balance 1st April 2020 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Used £	Transfers between Funds £	Balance 31st March 2021 £
Restricted funds					
Data Base and Dissemination	2,197	-	-	-	2,197
Turks and Caicos Development	455	3,876	(3,881)	-	450
Montserrat	-	4,059	(4,059)	-	-
Conference	(2,882)	93,077	(69,588)	(20,607)	-
Darwin Montserrat	-	-	-	-	-
Total Restricted Funds	(230)	101,012	(77,528)	(20,607)	2,647
UNRESTRICTED General Fund	56,920	201,179	(195,350)	20,607	83,356
TOTAL FUNDS	56,690	302,191	(272,878)	-	86,003

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.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

14. CONNECTED CHARITIES AND RELATED PARTIES

During the year, included in donated time and expenses was an amount of £138,655 (2021: £212,520) from Trustees/related parties.

As well as donating their time and expertise, the Trustees made unconditional donations of £3,782 (2021: £11,674) to the charity.

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	744 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, BH7 6BZ
Charity No: 1130188	

15. DONATED TIME AND EXPENSES

Incoming and outgoing resources includes donated time of £203,438 (2021: £252,034) and donated expenses of £4,190 (2021: £6,644)

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.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Voluntary income		
Subscriptions and donations of money and time	<u>214,363</u>	<u>199,593</u>
Investment income		
Interest received	<u>7</u>	<u>45</u>
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Database and Dissemination	-	-
Conference (inc. exchange rate gains)	-	93,076
Darwin Montserrat	50,591	-
Montserrat	-	4,059
Hidden Histories	-	-
Turks and Caicos Development	-	3,877
	<u>50,591</u>	<u>101,012</u>
Other incoming resources		
Sales	149	60
Tax refund	500	1,481
	<u>649</u>	<u>1,541</u>
Total incoming resources	<u>265,610</u>	<u>302,191</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Consultancy	208,376	252,033
Grants Payable	1,500	-
Project implementation	36,786	-
Travel and subsistence	1,295	3,198
Meetings and conferences	-	3,610
Post, stationery, telecoms and computer costs	5,593	5,918
Subscriptions, publications and reference materials	743	-
Storage and general expenses	-	-
Bank charges	561	668
Accountancy and audit	6,505	6,726
Small equipment, equipment repairs and materials	-	-
Depreciation	690	690
Legal fees	35	35
Exchange rate losses	-	-
	<u>262,084</u>	<u>272,878</u>
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources	<u>3,526</u>	<u>29,313</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statement

Accounts

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 2021
FOR UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

Auditors
Just Audit & Assurance Ltd
37 Market Square
Witney
Oxfordshire
OX28 6RE

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Statement of Financial Activities	17
Balance Sheet	18
Notes to the Financial Statements	19 to 25
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	26

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

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 2021.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 Section 1A smaller entities, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' ("FRS 102"), the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

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 (Chairman)
Mr W E F Samuel
Lady (M C) Ground
Mr I C Orr
Mr W B McCleary (Resigned 4th November 2020)
Mr N R Haywood
Mrs S V Francis
Mrs K M Wood
Mr P Beckingham
Rt. Hon. the Lord (John) Randall of Uxbridge PC
Mrs Joan Walley

Auditors

Just Audit & Assurance Ltd
37 Market Square
Witney
Oxfordshire
OX28 6RE

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

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

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 2020 and were re-elected: Mike Pienkowski and Bill Samuel. John Randall was co-opted in November and Joan Walley in February. 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, and Treasurer. The Executive Director acts upon decisions of Council and instructions of the Chairman.

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

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

Isle of Man Department of Environment, Food & Agriculture
Manx Wildlife Trust

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
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 and 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.

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 across the UK’s Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies (UKOTs and CDs) – and is the only body devoted solely to this. For well over 30 years, it has worked 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. Its small team, made up of volunteers and some paid staff, fulfils a wide variety of roles in support of the tireless work of conservation bodies in the UKOTs and CDs.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

In an extraordinary year, there have been many challenges in all our lives and for nature conservation across the UKOTs and CDs. The link between human health, well-being and the natural environment has never been more obvious or profoundly felt. Recognising the enormous loss people have felt, and our deepest sympathies to those who have lost someone, the Forum's hope for the future with so many high-profile meetings pertaining to the environment coming up (e.g. UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP26, in which the UK has a major lead as host; Conservation on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP15), is that the loss of biodiversity, at the hands of damaging human activities, is halted. As we enter the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, there may be opportunities to restore and re-wild damaged ecosystems. Funding continues to be a major limiting factor in starting, continuing and expanding nature conservation, but there are new opportunities such as carbon credits, and blended financial investments, which are becoming more accessible.

On a practical level, many of our partner organisations have told us that they were able to keep some projects going, be they surveys during permitted exercise, or desk-based work. They also reported that there was some evidence to suggest that local communities spent much more time in and around nature, something echoed across the world. For those UKOTs and CD highly dependent on tourism, their economies (including the funding of conservation) are likely to be impacted for some time, and so harnessing local appreciation and support for conservation will be fundamental to limit the impact of reduced income on conservation efforts.

Congratulations go to our associate Turks and Caicos Reef Fund for, almost alone, discovering in TCI, and leading the fight against, the rapidly destructive Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD) – which has somewhat more impact on coral-reefs than the tragic Covid-19 pandemic has on human populations – noting with sympathy the personal tragedies that many of us have suffered with the latter. The reefs are of huge environmental and economic importance to TCI, and much of the economy ultimately depend on these. TCRF managed, despite Covid-lockdowns, to confirm effective techniques on SCTLD and advise other territories. Tragically, support for TCRF from UK Government did not materialise and many TCI reefs have been lost. It is hoped that support will be more forthcoming for the land-based rearing for eventually re-establishment that TCRF and other experts have identified as the next stage.

Our impact this year is documented throughout. However, here are some highlights. Significant efforts had been put earlier into a submission to the UK Government's Call for Evidence on its future funding of conservation in UKOTs. The 2020 Budget announced: "The government is tripling funding [to around £10m pa] for the Darwin Plus programme to help protect and conserve the globally significant biodiversity found in UK Overseas Territories." Just over £5m was awarded to projects in the most recent round. Two of the successful projects, with approximately £600,000 of funding, were facilitated in some way by UKOTCF: a project on experimental reintroduction of mountain chicken frogs, because a land-owner recruited as one of our *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* participants is providing the site; and, also in Montserrat, a marine turtle action-plan programme. During the call for evidence, UKOTCF recommended strongly for UK Government to allow room to be a responsive funder able to react to emerging issues. It is pleasing to see that this has happened on two occasions throughout the year. First, the Covid response awarded in summer 2020 was £168k for 5 projects. Second, it has released some funding (around £200,000) to deal, via JNCC, with the threat of Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (although it is not yet clear how this is being deployed).

The Jersey International Centre of Advanced Studies (JICAS) has continued to work with us to encourage students from UKOTs to take part in their innovative MSc programme. As a result of coordination with JICAS, which began after meeting at the Jersey Biodiversity Conference in 2019, over 5 meetings have taken place with contacts in the UKOTs and 3 bursaries have been created for research projects. 50% reduction in MSc fees have been offered to UKOT students who study in Jersey and UKOTCF has facilitated several interviews of potential students for September 2020 & 2021.

Zoom has inevitably taken over our lives, but this meant that we were able to organise and deliver our first online conference in March. It took place over 4 days in March. There were 184 registered participants from 25 countries or territories, including all 5 Crown Dependencies, 15 of the 16 UK Overseas Territories, UK, USA, Europe, S America and elsewhere. On any one day, there were more than 100 participating. Although only registered participants have access to the recordings, in those territories without total lockdown, we know that the recordings are being viewed by colleagues.

As a result of the earlier Environment Minister's Council meetings and following Joint Ministerial Council meetings, several articles were published in the Gibraltar press outlining their Minister's involvement at COP meetings, representing the UKOTs and CDs.

Improvements in the website have led to personnel being able to do much more in terms of modifications and additional features. For example, the booking system for the UKOTCF online conference was semi-automated.

This year we had a new member, the Manx Wildlife Trust. They have already been very involved including attending and

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contributing to the conference as well as being an active member of the Europe Territories Working Group.

A small, but welcome, grant was received from the Garfield Weston Foundation, taking us through to 2022. This will allow us to provide some of our core functions requested by territories as we await to hear from several other funding bodies delayed as a result of the pandemic.

Project work

One of the most frequent enquiries from UKOTs and CDs to us has been “when is the next UKOTCF conference?” This is because, as reported by UKOT participants, the conferences have proved invaluable in enabling successful conservation initiatives, which would not otherwise have occurred. Whilst not abandoning the idea of physical conferences in the future (because they clearly add elements still not possible remotely), it is clearly going to be well into 2021 at least before large physical meetings become practicable again.

The conference titled: “*Staying Connected for Conservation in a Changed World: UKOTCF’s 6th conference on conservation and sustainability in UK Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and other small island states,*” was held on 2nd, 3rd, 9th & 10th March 2021.

UKOTCF organised conferences for conservation practitioners in the UKOTs, CDs and a few territories of other states or small independent states in 2000 (Gibraltar), 2003 (Bermuda), 2006 (Jersey), 2009 (Cayman) and 2015 (Gibraltar). UKOTCF also helped FCO in organising and running a conference arranged at short notice in London in 1999. The conferences until 2009 received major financial support from UK Government, as well as from the host territory (with major in-kind work contributions from UKOTCF). HM Government of Gibraltar funded the 2015 conference, with a small contribution from UK Government (and a very large donation of work-time by UKOTCF). Conferences were due to take place in 2018 or 2020 but the host territories were struck by the severe 2017 hurricanes just as these were about to be confirmed, and the resulting financial, structural and social damage made these impossible. Other possibilities were being investigated but then Covid-19 intervened.

Our solution was holding an online conference using Zoom. A wide consultation with member and associate organisations, members of its regional working groups and others in our network to seek their views on both logistics and topics was undertaken in October. Amongst respondents, there was unanimous support for a conference. Without travel and accommodation dimensions, the conference was not constrained to one block of time, and most people opted for two blocks of 2-days in adjacent weeks.

To allow for live participation as widely as possible from across the UKOTs, CDs and others interested (including overseas entities of other nations, several of which have participated in previous UKOTCF conferences), the conference ran from noon to 8pm GMT on each day with several breaks. This allowed participation at not totally unreasonable hours from almost all UKOTs and CDs (with apologies to Pitcairn and BIOT!).

Although the team had been quite successful in generating sponsorship (via ‘in-kind’ support, supply of goods, funding), a huge amount of volunteer effort was needed – and supplied – to make it happen. The conference page is at: <https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/our-conferences/onlineconference2021/>

The conference opened with a statement by The Rt Hon Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park, Minister of State for Pacific and the Environment at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; and an address, and responses to questions, by Hon. Professor John Cortés, HM Government of Gibraltar’s Minister for the Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change, Heritage, Education and Culture, and Chairman of the UK Overseas Territories & Crown Dependencies Environment Ministers’ Council.

There were two 2.5-hour main sessions, plus one 1-hour session per day. The short sessions were used for a variety of functions, including the opening, a special session on large-scale novel funding, a poster session (without a restriction on topics, other than relevance to UKOTs/CDs, as is usual at our conferences), and a closing session. The posters were available for viewing throughout the conference period, not just in the dedicated session(s) and the winners of the student poster competition were announced on the final day.

The topics for the main sessions were: 1. Progress (or otherwise) in reaching environmental targets; 2. Engaging people; the wider benefits of conservation and healthy ecosystems; 3. Facilitating local leads in conservation; 4. Coping with recovery after hurricanes and natural disasters by building resilience; 5. Nature-based solutions for the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration: Terrestrial; 6. Nature-based solutions for the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration: Marine; 7. Funding mechanisms – tourism and alternatives (with another shorter session held on the second day focusing on sustainable finance); 8. Plugging the gap: innovative approaches and capacity-building.

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The gaps in sessions featured music from territory musicians, which was very popular and highlighted the link between the arts and nature: Mera Royle and Scran from the Isle of Man, Stuart Wilson from Cayman; Dean Sparks from the Turks and Caicos Islands and Dominic Lambert. Some short videos were also included, for example following Sammy, the rat-detector dog on South Georgia and several from UKOTCF by Ann Pienkowski. During the conference, Shakira Christodoulou, from Sark, composed poetry bringing together many of the elements discussed. This was delivered during the closing session.

The final session included the first in the series of high-level presentations inaugurating the Sir Richard and Lady Ground Lectures on Nature Conservation in UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies. This was “*Three essential elements for conservation success in the Overseas Territories*” by the long-serving and highly respected Director of Cayman Islands Department of Environment, Gina Ebanks-Petrie.

A fuller summary of the conference, including the full texts of the addresses by Prof. John Cortés, Dace Ground introducing the first Ground Lecturer, and Gina Ebanks-Petrie, plus Shakira’s poetry, has been published in *Forum News 54* (May 2021). The conclusions and recommendations are at:

https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/UKOTCFconf2021_ConcRec_210311.pdf.

Conference proceedings will be published in due course.

Related to this, Gibraltar’s Minister for Health, Environment and Climate, Professor John Cortés has asked UKOTCF to organise a meeting of the UKOT/CD Environment Ministers Council, which he chairs. The conclusions and recommendations from the conference have been presented to the Ministers, and will be incorporated in the agenda at their meeting, in late April.

Occasionally, personnel are able to visit some of the UKOTs. This means that they are able to meet with partners and have in depth discussions on environmental matters, needs etc. As noted in last year’s report, in March 2020, one such trip was organised to the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI), which would have been combined with a visit to Montserrat had Covid-19 restrictions not come into action. However, to continue and expand some of the work on Montserrat, especially the successfully trialled ‘*Adopt a Home for Wildlife*’ initiative, a funding application to the UK’s Darwin Initiative had been submitted in collaboration with the Montserrat National Trust and some other partners.

Some very positive news from Montserrat results from fieldwork conducted during UKOTCF-organised visits to Montserrat in 2017, by the Montana State University team. Justin Runyon has now published the findings on a group of flies known to predate on mosquito larvae. *The Dolichopodidae* [long-legged flies] *of Montserrat* was published in 2020: <https://zookeys.pensoft.net/article/55192/list/7/>. This is an open-access article available to everyone. A summary of the findings: 63 species in 27 genera recorded; eleven species new to science discovered; six species have been found only on Montserrat and are endemic, with three named for the island: *Medetera montserratensis*, *Chrysotus montserratensis*, and *Sympycnus montserratensis*; Montserrat has more species than predicted on the basis of its size (especially since less than half the island was sampled due to the exclusion zone); Three of the six species endemic to Montserrat are restricted to lower elevation/dry forests, indicating importance of conserving some of these habitats; a discussion on the potential negative effect that large numbers of mangos might be having on aquatic insects (e.g. at Fogarty Ghaut). This warrants more study.

The project looking at endemic species in the UKOTs and CDs, being led by Dr Jamie Males, is on-going. Progress has been made in cataloguing some of the main groups and this information is being used to feed into a related project, led by Council member Lord (John) Randall, arranging for MPs, Members of the House of Lords, and other sports and other high-profile individuals linked to the UKOTs/CDs to *Champion Species* to celebrate UKOT/CD biodiversity. The pandemic had stalled things slightly, but there had been a lot of interest in the species profiles drawn up with consultation with UKOTs (both governmental and NGO). Presentations on both were given at the UKOTCF online conference with a lot of interest generated.

Awareness raising and information management

A significant amount of time was spent throughout the year in preparing the new website using WordPress as the content management system. This replaced the existing platform (and its in-house, non-portable content management system) to reduce dramatically the costs involved in running a website. This was a huge task, but the team is pleased with the results. The new site was launched in July. The cost savings were significant, but the site carries most of the functions that the previous one did. In fact, some improvements and additional functions have been added with a much more flexible structure. Any difficulties so far have been managed in-house. This is partly because of the website’s user-friendly interface, which makes it possible to make quick changes/improvements.

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Several virtual tours were added during the year celebrating Bermuda and Anguilla. Drafts for several of the remaining tours, Gibraltar, Sark Tristan da Cunha and Guernsey, are in various stages, with a view to have a complete set in the year, dependent on other demands on the time of the series editor, Ann Pienkowski, Honorary Environmental Education Coordinator.

Forum News 52 and *53* were published and circulated in July and November respectively. The popular version of the annual report was also circulated in July.

The UKOTCF Christmas Card was circulated by in December. The idea behind it is always to provide a brief summary of activities throughout the year and looking towards the year ahead.

Social media accounts continue to be a good source and way of sharing information. While there are many different platforms in use, most of our focus is on Twitter and Facebook. By the end of the year, UKOTCF has amassed nearly 2,000 followers on Twitter. An additional advantage of numbers reaching this level is that @UKOTCF is tagged into other content, which contributes towards raising our profile further. In March the Twitter account had over 15,000 impressions, mainly around conference activity.

Influencing policy

The UK Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee (FAC) launched a call for evidence on environmental diplomacy with a deadline at the end of May. The full inquiry response is online on the Committee's web-page with all other written submissions.

In early 2020, a submission was made to the Public Accounts Committee inquiry looking at Defra's 25-year strategy. The report has now been published, in February 2021, with little mention of UKOTs.

During the year, personnel met with Richard Benwell, Head of Wildlife & Countryside Link (WCL). Points of discussion included priorities, the Environment Bill, international conferences due in 2021 and linking UKOTs with those.

With the anticipated merger of two UK Ministries, the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development, the UK Government's 25-year plan and the Environment Bill, a briefing paper relating to was produced and made available online:

www.ukotcf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Briefing-Paper_UKOTs25yearplanEnvironmentbillMergerFCO-DFID_Sept2020.pdf). Thinking positively, the new department, formed in September, could provide a chance to get more support into the environment in UKOTs. It has not always been UKOTCF's experience that DFID, with notable exceptions, pursued the environment's best interest in some of the UKOTs.

The All Party Parliamentary Group for Nature reconstituted during the year and held a virtual event in July on the *Global Deal for Nature and a Green Recovery* as a response to the pandemic. The online panel discussion, hosted by the chair of the group, Barry Gardiner MP, included: Kate Cole, East Sussex County Council and representing the Association of Local Government Ecologists; Stephanie Wray, Managing Director of RSK Biocensus Ltd and Chair of CIEEM's Strategic Policy Panel; Martin Harper, Global Conservation Director of the RSPB; and UKOTCF's Dr Mike Pienkowski.

Related to this, and something which was discussed in the ETWG, is that JNCC and Defra are investigating the possibility of those UKOTs in Europe, previously covered by EU Habitats and Birds Directives, joining the Emerald Network. The intention is that all Special Protection Areas and Areas of Special Conservation Interest in mainland UK would be transferred to the Emerald Network of the Bern Convention. EU legislation was based on the earlier Bern Convention, but added enforceability. The Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas and Gibraltar are currently considering this with a view that it might add a level of awareness rather than protection, as the Bern Convention does not add the legal bite that the EU regulations did. However, UK, Gibraltar and SBAA could legislate themselves to restore the potential for themselves to be taken to court to ensure protection if they wanted to – but this seems unlikely.

During the year, there have been several opportunities to contact the UK's Minister for the Environment (and UKOT lead) Lord Goldsmith, including on some urgent conservation matters in the UKOTs (Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease), links with OTEC (outlined below), and involvement in the conference and Minister's Council. He provided a pre-recorded message to the UKOTCF conference. He has been invited by Professor Cortés (HM Government of Gibraltar's Minister for the Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change, Heritage, Education and Culture; and Chairman of the UK Overseas Territories & Crown Dependencies Environment Ministers' Council) to take part in the UKOT/CD Environment Ministers' Council meeting taking place in April.

Prof Cortés was successful in leading the discussions on the environment at the Joint Ministerial Council, with a briefing

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from UKOTCF. Via the JMC, FCDO was proposing sign-up to the Leadership Pledge. This has now been signed by over 80 leaders, including some of the UKOTs and CDs. Professor Cortés has been selected as the representative of the UKOTs in a meeting ahead of the COP26 which the UK and Italy will be hosting in Glasgow in November 2021.

There had been some changes to the dedicated funding for UKOTs within the Darwin Initiative during the year. As a result, personnel had been invited to a meeting, convened by UKOTA, regarding the difficulties arising from the ODA-eligible UKOTs being moved to Darwin Main funding, rather than Darwin Plus. Some thoughts on the decision-making process as well as some feedback on the application process itself were provided. There had been no prior consultation on the changes and so, following the meeting, which included representatives from St Helena Government, Tristan da Cunha Government, Montserrat Government, CABI, RSPB, UKOTCF and MNT a letter was sent by UKOTA to Defra requesting a meeting.

Relations with UK Government and Government Agencies

Meetings were held with the new Governors for Bermuda and Anguilla. The former, Rena Lalgie, comes from HM Treasury as Director of Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation and, before that, a string of appointments in the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills. The latter, Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam, a lawyer comes from the Cabinet Office and had held several senior legal and administrative roles within UK Government, including most recently the Director of the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry. The purpose of these briefings is to provide information on the importance of biodiversity and UK's international responsibility towards them, including some background on the Environment Charters. Some key contacts are also provided relating to those environmental bodies most active in the territories.

JNCC continued to invite the Forum to provide information on various reports being prepared on behalf of UK Government to International Conventions. In March, this included input into the draft report to the Ramsar COP. It was pleasing that so much material from NGOs in support of UKOT&CD Governments was included (some from partners via UKOTCF).

Working for partners and responding to requests

Requests are often received from those undertaking research in the UKOTs & CDs. During the year, some information was provided to a PhD candidate from the Gibraltar Botanic Gardens, particularly in making some contacts in the Caribbean. The study is investigating the phylogenetics and evolutionary history of the cacti genus *Pilosocereus* in the Caribbean and Andean regions and ultimately assess the conservation status of taxa in most need of protection.

Several links were facilitated, including: some military personnel looking for volunteer opportunities in Cyprus SBAs; beach cleaning groups wishing to be in touch with local authorities on Cyprus SBAs; and Centre for Environment and Hydrology (CEH), and UKOTCF associate organisation, Chagos Conservation Trust (CCT) with regards to a project on invasive species in British Indian Ocean Territory.

Circulations on funding opportunities (as well as information informing new areas of funding, such as the Environment Funders Network) and relevant UK Parliamentary inquiries were sent. Some examples include: the call for proposals launched by the European Union BEST 2.0 Programme (called BEST 2.0+), the last for which UKOTs will be eligible because of Brexit; and PADI \$12k grant for research and educational projects focused on understanding and protecting aquatic environments. In addition, changes to the Mohamed Bin Zayed funding criteria for 2020, with the next two rounds of funding focussing on core grants of up to \$25,000 to fund staff and salaries during the pandemic, were advised to several UKOT partners, some of which are exploring this.

Personnel met online with new CEO of the Manx Wildlife Trust, Leigh Morris. He previously spent some years on St Helena where he had several contracts (working on waste-management) and working with local NGOs, such as St Helena National Trust (and also Blue Marine Foundation).

Links with World Heritage UK were made and images of Henderson Island were supplied for their website so that UKOTs are not under-represented amongst the UK's 31 World Heritage Sites.

Some information had been supplied to a journalist from *Telegraph* newspaper on invasive species.

Details were shared via various channels of a survey from a researcher at Oxford University, on the effectiveness of island ecosystem management, aiming to identify common barriers and solutions, and to compile a list of training needs (which they plan to act on).

Our networks

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Meetings of the Wider Caribbean Working Group were held in May, June, September, November and January, of the Southern Ocean Working Group in July and October and February, and the Europe Territory Working Group in May, October and January.

The Inter-Island Environment Meeting (IIEM), hosted by Guernsey took place via remote communications this year. It was held over two days on 17th & 18th September with over 80 attending the presentations (including UKOTCF personnel), and around 50-60 attendees in the afternoon workshops. Presentations are available here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9h4_ysO6nm3HP6Xw9gYodw

An invitation to take part in a Roundtable event at the end of November was received. This was organised by On the EDGE Conservation (OTEC). They are a charitable philanthropic foundation “dedicated to championing the often-overlooked Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered [EDGE] species through supporting innovative conservation, science and storytelling.” The aim of the Roundtable was to bring together philanthropic organisations, non-governmental organisations and charities to facilitate a policy discussion about the steps required to achieve a stronger commitment from the UK Government to protect our evolutionary heritage in the run up to COP15.

Organisations participating included: Fauna & Flora International, Shark Trust (interested in UKOTs as work with Falkland Conservation), Synchronicity Earth, Zoological Society of London, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UNEP-WCMC, People's Trust for Endangered Species, IUCN SSC Post-2020 Taskforce, National Geographic Society, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, The Oak Foundation and the International Conservation Foundation-UK. While most of these are well-known, the ICCF-UK supports the UK Parliament's All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on International Conservation. The APPG on International Conservation was launched in 2019, providing “a forum to address wildlife conservation and biodiversity issues affecting our planet, including but not limited to ecosystem collapse, species extinction, land degradation, invasive species, illegal fishing, and other threats to international conservation.”

Some follow up had been done with several organisations including Peoples Trust for Endangered Animals, who have funded UKOT work previously (in TCI) and they provided some funding for the conference as a sponsor.

The Round Table was followed up by a high-level panel event which took place on the 8th December, with experts and senior political figures to discuss biodiversity and prioritising conservation efforts in the run-up to the Convention on Biological Diversity's COP15. An introduction was provided by David Lammy MP. Other speakers included Al Gore, 45th Vice President of the United States, The Rt Hon Lord Zac Goldsmith, Minister for Pacific and the Environment, Professor Jonathan Baillie, former Chief Scientist at the National Geographic Society, and Dr Nisha Owen, Director of Conservation at OTEC and Chair of the IUCN SSC Phylogenetic Diversity Task Force.

This was followed by the Roundtable participants with a letter to Lord Goldsmith, which UKOTCF had provided comments on mentions of UKOTs and CD. The final letter had been shared on social media.

Co-ordinating with Others

The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's Overseas Territories Special Interest Group (OTSIG) and Marine Conservation Society, together with marine practitioners from the UKOTs, organised a webinar about marine management issues in the Caribbean in a post Covid-19 world. This took place in June. UKOTCF helped publicise the event.

UKOTCF continues to liaise with Jersey International Centre of Advanced Studies (JICAS). This year, 4 applications were received from UKOT candidates although, because of travel restrictions, they were unable to take up their places. Bursaries have been made available for students to undertake research projects as part of their MSc courses in several UKOTs. Two students visited Anguilla in the summer undertaking research, one in the marine environment and one on iguanas. In addition, with information and contacts provided by UKOTCF, a summer course on island archaeology, featuring the Turks and Caicos National Museum, has been organised.

Economics For The Environment Consultancy Ltd (eftec) is leading a Darwin-Plus-funded programme of natural capital accounting across the Caribbean UKOTs. This involves primarily collecting and collating environmental economic data for use in government decision-making. One of the phases of work is to develop a natural capital accounting practitioner's network (mostly working with the local government environment and statistics departments), which will also include the hiring of a local coordinator to facilitate the network. After meeting with eftec, personnel understood that the plan seems to involve quite a lot of capacity-building and scope for longer-term embedded accounting of the natural environment. One way to collaborate was to invite them to present at the UKOTCF conference, which was done.

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An introductory meeting was held with the [Small Islands Organisation](#) (SMILO), a small NGO based in Marseille. In summary, they support small islands of less than 150 km² towards the sustainable management of their territory and resources, in relation to water and sanitation, waste, energy, biodiversity, landscapes and heritage issues. They have developed the *Sustainable Island label*, which rewards the positive local dynamics and sustainable practices. They further coordinate an international network, with members from Europe and the Mediterranean, West Africa, the Indian Ocean, and Southeast Asia. They encouraged UKOTCF to supply information for their mapping of island networks and organisations that have a major environmental focus on islands, or that focus on islands' heritage preservation. They work with various partners, including the [Conservatoire du Littoral](#), the [Global Island Partnership](#)(GLISPA), [Green Cross France et Territories](#), [Island Conservation](#), [Local 2030 Islands Network](#) and the [PIM Initiative](#).

Several personnel attended some of the sessions of the large conference organised by Island Innovation. An article had been included in *Forum News*, outlining relevant sessions to UKOTs & CDs.

The new CEO of Plantlife, Ian Dunn (formerly of British Antarctic Survey), and Head of Conservation, Nicola Hutchinson, discussed opportunities for Plantlife to be more involved in UKOT & CD conservation. Plantlife had been an active member of UKOTCF up to about 20 years previously, and were now interested in picking up the work on Tropical Important Plant Areas, as they do coordinate with RBGK elsewhere. They are following up with UKOTs, including Turks and Caicos Islands.

Organisational development

There were a few changes throughout the year. Dr Nicola Weber, while still maintaining a link to UKOTCF, now has a permanent lectureship at Exeter University as well as a large grant to develop a marine turtle species-plan for Montserrat; the latter was a result, in part, of some of the facilitation work done by UKOTCF and her helping with that.

In order to continue some core activities, as well as some new ones, two new volunteers have been welcomed to the team. Catriona Porter holds an MSc in Animal Behaviour and Welfare from Queen's University Belfast. Her research interests are focused on the impacts of sensory stimuli on behaviour, and the potential to utilise currently under-researched sensory modalities to improve welfare. Her Master's research examined the impacts of olfactory stimulation upon the activity budget and enclosure usage in zoo-housed Asian elephants. Catriona has a range of husbandry experience with both domestic and exotic animals, from cats and horses to chimpanzees and giraffes. She is passionate about science communication, and has been involved with several wildlife organisations, including RSPB and Ulster Wildlife. Amongst other contributions, she has taken on the role of Secretary to the Southern Ocean Working Group. She has produced three SOWG newsletters and has written several articles, including summarising key topics, as well as organising the SOWG meetings and greatly increasing participation. She would like to continue assisting UKOTCF into 2021, partly because her travel plans are somewhat up in the air, but because she is finding it rewarding in skills, experience and the friendly people. She helped greatly in the conference preparations.

Paul Cawsey graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Agricultural and Environmental Science from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and an MSc in Conservation and Land Management from Bangor University. His career to date has seen him working for a number of companies and organisations involved in conservation and land management, from ecological surveying through to a stint as head of department / lecturer at two land-based colleges and even travelling globally to present courses on renewable energy. He is bravely stepping into a new research area to help contact the UKOT diaspora to investigate its potential for supporting our new project on championing. He also expects to use his entomological expertise to support Jamie Males in the endemics project.

Dr Jamie Males continues to be our Voluntary Conservation Officer leading the review of endemic species. Recent discussions are focused on the next steps in this project, which will be to publish some of the material in various ways (e.g. summary tables, initial analysis, raw data etc.) while continuing to work on collating other taxa. He has played a key part in conference organising, particularly with session-running and sponsorship. He has also continued to provide assistance to the WCWG, which is much appreciated.

Katie Shaw left us as she is due to complete her MSc soon as well as undertaking other voluntary work.

Boyd McLeary stepped down after another term on Council, which expressed UKOTCF's thanks for his efforts over the years, ranging from very full and stimulating contributions in Council's discussions, his particular links with BVI, following his Governorship there, and links to business connections, to his time as Chairman of the Wider Caribbean Working Group and then taking the lead in our involvement in climate-change and renewable energy issues.

Several funding decisions were delayed during the year by Covid-19, including one from the Royal Bank of Canada, but

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this was to be expected given the impact the pandemic was having.

A welcome core grant was received from the Garfield Weston Foundation in December.

The Manx Wildlife Trust joined as member organisation. They are part of the Wildlife Trust movement and the leading nature conservation charity in the Isle of Man. They aim to protect the Island's wildlife and help people feel more connected to nature. They have already been very involved with UKOTCF joining the Europe Territories Working Group and with significant input into the UKOTCF online conference.

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 other 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, there is a need to expand on this. To that end, the Executive Director, Chairman, Environmental Education Co-ordinator and other Council members and officers will continue to explore other sources of financial support in the current and future financial periods. Council has asked its members with relevant experience to consider other potential funding sources, as well as authorising major work on its websites to increase potential via this medium.

Incoming resources were £302,191 (2020: £244,947) and total resources expended were £272,878 (2020: £245,012). Net incoming/(outgoing) resources on the unrestricted general fund were £5,829 (2020: £3,160). 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 2013-14 financial year, before a return to nil, with a small grant from Defra in the reported year of £9,000. The moderate success so far in securing alternative funds needs to be developed much further. Net incoming/(outgoing) resources on the restricted funds were £23,484 (2020: £(3,225)). 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 2021 the total funds of the Forum were £86,003 (2020: £56,690). Restricted funds stood at £2,647 (2020: £(230)) and the unrestricted general fund stood at £83,356 (2020: £56,920). 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 were 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. Furthermore, whilst UK Government's own agencies did not apply to the earlier funds, they now do so, resulting in the strange situation of Defra agencies applying to a Defra-run fund in competition with outside bodies. This questionable practice has resulted in the diversion of funds away from NGOs and UKOT bodies back into UK Government, with reduced capacity in the UKOTs and reduced ability to deploy voluntary effort in their support. 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 and now those for 2020 also. 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. Possibly partly as a result of UKOTCF expressed

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

concern, in early 2019 UK Government issued a Call for Evidence on its funding of UKOT conservation, and UKOTCF provided evidence and encouraged its network to do so also. The diversion of UK Government officials on to Brexit matters and then the General Election delayed the analysis and publication of the summary of this evidence until the end of the previous reported year. Consequent actions are awaited but may be delayed further by the Covid-19 crisis.

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: Catherine Wensink, Dr Jamie Males, Catriona Porter, Paul Cawsey, Dr Nicola Weber and Katie Shaw. 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 and to Lady Dace Ground for continuing financial support the Forum this year, with contributions also from Mike and Ann Pienkowski, as well as anonymous donors. 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 the Garfield Weston Foundation, Mr Peter Flockhart, and anonymous donors. During the conference, the Forum had so much support and is most grateful to all the speakers, poster-presenters, topic-team members, chair-persons, question-masters, rapporteurs, organising team, musicians, poet, participants and all others who helped, including sponsors: SWA Environmental; Environment Systems; JICAS: the Jersey International Centre of Advanced Studies; GONHS: Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society; Bermuda National Trust; Manx Wildlife Trust; Isle of Man Government Department of Environment, Food & Agriculture; National Parks Trust of the Virgin, Islands; Amphibian & Reptile Conservation; RSPB, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds; St Helena Government and its St Helena Research Institute; St Helena National Trust, People's Trust for Endangered Species; Environment Job; Defra: the Department for Food, Agriculture & Rural Affairs; Halo Coffee; Lefrik Eco-Friendly Fabric and anonymous donors.

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).

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

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;
- 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

Just Audit & Assurance Ltd 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: 21 July 2021

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

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

Independent Auditors' Report to the members of the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum for the year ended 31 March 2021, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

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 and trustees 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, the Charitable Company's members as a body, and the Charitable Company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2021 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; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report.

We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard as applied to public interest entities, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

- adequate and proper 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 charity has not kept sufficient accounting records; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement (set out on page 11), 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, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

Our assessment focused on key laws and regulations the charitable company has to comply with and areas of the financial statements we assessed as being more susceptible to misstatement. These key laws and regulations included but were not limited to compliance with the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice and relevant tax legislation.

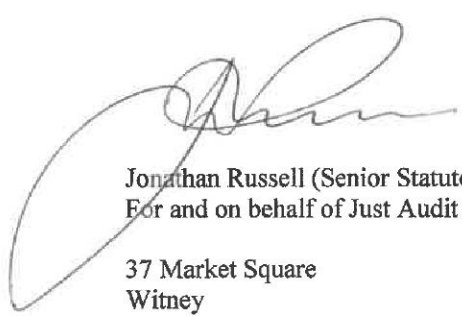
We are not responsible for preventing irregularities. Our approach to detect irregularities included, but was not limited to, the following:

- obtaining an understanding of the charitable company's policies and procedures and how the charitable company has complied with these, through discussions and sample testing of controls;
- obtaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the charitable company and how the charitable company is complying with that framework;
- an understanding of the charitable company's risk assessment process, including the risk of fraud;
- designing our audit procedures to respond to our risk assessment; and
- performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing estimates for bias.

Whilst considering how our audit work addressed the detection of irregularities, we also consider the likelihood of detection based on our approach. Irregularities arising from fraud are inherently more difficult to detect than those arising from error.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission, or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.



Jonathan Russell (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Just Audit & Assurance Ltd, Statutory Auditor

37 Market Square
Witney
Oxfordshire
OX28 6RE

Date: 26.7.21

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

	Note	Unrest'd Funds £	Restr'd Funds £	2021 Total Funds £	Unrest'd Funds £	Restr'd Funds £	2020 Total Funds £
INCOME							
Income and endowments from:							
Donations, legacies and subscriptions	2	201,074	101,012	302,086	202,658	41,511	244,169
Investment income	3	45	-	45	100	-	100
Income from charitable activities							
Project Income		60	-	60	217	461	678
Total Income		<u>201,179</u>	<u>101,012</u>	<u>302,191</u>	<u>202,975</u>	<u>41,972</u>	<u>244,947</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:							
Charitable Activities	5	188,589	77,528	266,117	192,611	45,197	237,808
Governance costs	5	6,761	-	6,761	7,204	-	7,204
Total Expenditure		<u>195,350</u>	<u>77,528</u>	<u>272,878</u>	<u>199,815</u>	<u>45,197</u>	<u>245,012</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		5,829	23,484	29,313	3,160	(3,225)	(65)
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		20,607	(20,607)	-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		<u>26,436</u>	<u>2,877</u>	<u>29,313</u>	<u>3,160</u>	<u>(3,225)</u>	<u>(65)</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS							
Total funds brought forward		<u>56,920</u>	<u>(230)</u>	<u>56,690</u>	<u>53,760</u>	<u>2,995</u>	<u>56,755</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>83,356</u>	<u>2,647</u>	<u>86,003</u>	<u>56,920</u>	<u>(230)</u>	<u>56,690</u>

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

COMPANY NUMBER: 3216892 – ENGLAND AND WALES

BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	9	1,380	-
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	10	2,803	2,099
Cash at bank and in hand		88,619	60,807
Total Current Assets		<u>91,422</u>	<u>62,906</u>
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	11	6,799	6,216
NET ASSETS		<u>86,003</u>	<u>56,690</u>
FUNDS	12		
Unrestricted funds		83,356	56,920
Restricted funds		2,647	(230)
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>86,003</u>	<u>56,690</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st March 2021, however

The members have required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2021 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small company's regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 21st July 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
Dr M Pienkowski - Chairman

.....
Mr W E F Samuel - Treasurer

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006. The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

Going Concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income: -

- Income is deferred only when it relates to specific expenditure incurred after the current accounting period.

Grants receivable

Grant income is recognised on a receivable basis. Any unspent grants at the end of the year are shown as restricted funds.

Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Donated Time

Trustees and other skilled volunteers donate their time on our projects due to insufficient external funding. This is translated into figures for disclosure in the accounts at a rate which would normally be charged for paid consultancy.

Charitable activities

Charitable activities comprise those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and service for its beneficiaries. They include both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery	- 33% on cost
Office Equipment	- 33% on cost

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. The costs of minor additions or those costing below £1,000 are not capitalised.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

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. DONATIONS, LEGACIES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 Total Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020 Total Funds £
Subscriptions	2,520	560	3,080	2,700	-	2,700
Donations & tax refund	15,732	24,596	40,328	48,252	1,457	49,709
Donated time & expenses	182,822	75,856	258,678	151,706	40,054	191,760
	201,074	101,012	302,086	202,658	41,511	244,169

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2021 £	2020 £
Interest received	45	100

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

There was no income from the Department for International Development (DFID) or Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), into which DFID was merged, for the reported year (2020: nil).

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

5. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Charitable Activity £	Governance Costs £	2021 Total Funds £	Charitable Activity £	Governance Costs £	2020 Total Funds £
Donated time and expenses	252,033		252,033	190,690	-	190,690
Grants Payable	-	-	-	1,230	-	1,230
Travel and subsistence	3,198		3,198	-	-	-
Consultancy	-		-	20,601	-	20,601
Project implementation	-		-	13	-	13
Meetings and conferences	3,610	-	3,610	16,130	312	16,442
Subscriptions, publications and reference materials	-		-	-	-	-
Storage and general expenses	-		-	-	-	-
Bank charges	668		668	570	-	570
Accountancy		4,478	4,478	-	4,248	4,248
The audit of the charity's accounts		2,248	2,248	-	2,609	2,609
Legal fees		35	35	-	35	35
Postage, stationery, telecoms & IT costs	5,918		5,918	8,537	-	8,537
Small equipment, small equipment repairs and materials	-		-	-	-	-
Exchange losses	-		-	37	-	37
	<u>266,117</u>	<u>6,761</u>	<u>272,878</u>	<u>237,808</u>	<u>7,204</u>	<u>245,012</u>

Support costs have been allocated across charitable expenditure, as in previous years, in line with time spent on specific activities within this category.

6. NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES

Net resources are stated after charging/(crediting):

	2021 £	2020 £
External scrutiny	<u>2,248</u>	<u>2,609</u>

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

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

The trustees received no remuneration in the year ended 31st March 2021 (2020: £ nil) in respect of core work.

No remuneration was paid in the year ended 31st March 2021 (2020: nil) for externally funded projects:-

Trustees' remuneration, when it occurs, 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 £- (2020: £103) was reimbursed to 0 (2020: 1) trustee 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 (2020: None).

8. TAXATION

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

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office Equipment £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION		
At 1 st April 2020	-	-
Additions	2,070	2,070
Disposals	-	-
At 31 st March 2021	<u>2,070</u>	<u>2,070</u>
DEPRECIATION		
At 1 st April 2020	-	-
Charge for the year	690	690
Eliminated on disposal	-	-
At 31 st March 2021	<u>690</u>	<u>690</u>
NET BOOK VALUE		
At 31 st March 2021	<u>1,380</u>	<u>1,380</u>
At 31 st March 2020	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

10. DEBTORS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Debtors and accrued income	2,042	-
Prepayments	761	2,099
	<u>2,803</u>	<u>2,099</u>

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other creditors	-	-
Accrued expenses	6,799	6,216
Income in advance	-	-
	<u>6,799</u>	<u>6,216</u>

12. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 Total Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020 Total Funds £
Fixed assets	1,380	-	1,380			
Current assets	87,411	4,011	91,422	63,136	(230)	62,906
Current liabilities	5,434	1,365	6,799	6,216	-	6,216
	<u>83,357</u>	<u>2,646</u>	<u>86,003</u>	<u>56,920</u>	<u>(230)</u>	<u>56,690</u>

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Balance 1st April 2020 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Used £	Transfers between Funds £	Balance 31st March 2021 £
Restricted funds					
Data Base and Dissemination	2,196	-	-	-	2,196
Turks and Caicos Development	455	3,876	(3,881)	-	450
Montserrat	-	4,059	(4,059)	-	-
Conference	(2,881)	93,077	(69,588)	(20,607)	-
Darwin Montserrat	-	-	-	-	-
Total Restricted Funds	(230)	101,012	(77,528)	(20,607)	2,647
UNRESTRICTED General Fund	56,920	201,179	(195,350)	20,607	83,356
TOTAL FUNDS	56,690	302,191	(272,878)	-	86,003

	Balance 1st April 2019 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Used £	Transfers between Funds £	Balance 31st March 2020 £
Restricted funds					
Data Base and Dissemination	2,196	2,731	(2,731)	-	2,196
Turks and Caicos Development	5,312	14,613	(19,470)	-	455
Montserrat	-	16,764	(16,764)	-	-
Conference	(4,513)	7,864	(6,232)	-	(2,881)
Darwin Montserrat	-	-	-	-	-
Total Restricted Funds	2,995	41,972	(45,197)	-	(230)
UNRESTRICTED General Fund	53,760	202,975	(199,815)	-	56,920
TOTAL FUNDS	56,755	244,947	(245,012)	-	56,690

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.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

14. CONNECTED CHARITIES AND RELATED PARTIES

During the year, included in donated time and expenses was an amount of £212,520 (2020: £185,151) from Trustees/related parties.

As well as donating their time and expertise, the Trustees made unconditional donations of £11,674 (2020: £33,730) to the charity.

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 744 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, BH7 6BZ
Charity No: 1130188

15. DONATED TIME AND EXPENSES

Incoming and outgoing resources includes donated time of £252,034 (2020: £190,690) and donated expenses of £6,644 (2020: £1,070)

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.

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Voluntary income		
Subscriptions and donations of money and time	199,593	190,625
Investment income		
Interest received	45	100
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Database and Dissemination	-	2,731
Turks and Caicos Development	3,877	14,612
Montserrat	4,059	16,764
Conference (inc. exchange rate gains)	93,076	7,865
	101,012	41,972
Other incoming resources		
Sales	60	217
Tax refund	1,481	12,033
	1,541	12,250
Total incoming resources	302,191	244,947
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Consultancy	252,033	211,291
Grants Payable	-	1,230
Project implementation	-	13
Travel and subsistence	3,198	-
Meetings and conferences	3,610	16,442
Post, stationery, telecoms and computer costs	5,918	8,537
Subscriptions, publications and reference materials	-	-
Storage and general expenses	-	-
Bank charges	668	570
Accountancy and audit	6,726	6,857
Small equipment, equipment repairs and materials	-	-
Legal fees	35	35
Exchange rate losses	-	37
	272,878	245,012
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources	29,313	(65)

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statement