

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
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Buckinghamshire
HP22 6EB

Principal address

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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
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UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CONSERVATION FORUM

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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/1YqFix3dsOetbk6XaYOoJfZQyCPK0eGn>.

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.

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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.

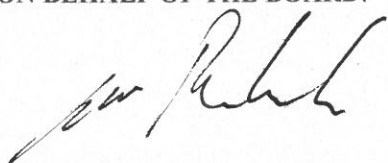
In so far as the trustees are aware:

- 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

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.

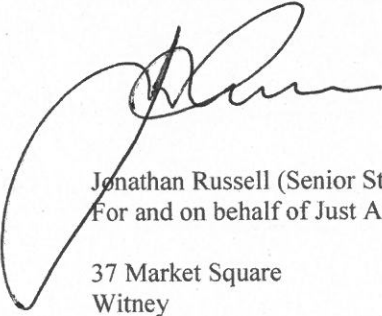
We are not responsible for preventing irregularities. Our approach to detect irregularities included, but was not limited to, the following:

- 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> |

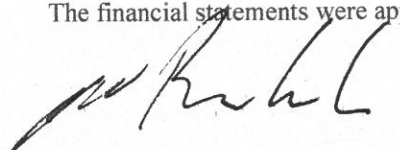
The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st March 2024, however

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.

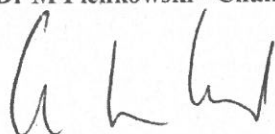
The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

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 |
| | 376,638 | 73,493 | 450,131 | 202,893 | 64,854 | 267,747 |

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

Montserrat 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 | <u>4,497</u> | <u>4,497</u> |
| DEPRECIATION | | |
| At 1 st April 2023 | 2,070 | 2,070 |
| Charge for the year | 809 | 809 |
| Eliminated on disposal | - | - |
| At 31 st March 2024 | <u>2,879</u> | <u>2,879</u> |
| NET BOOK VALUE | | |
| At 31 st March 2024 | <u>1,618</u> | <u>1,618</u> |
| At 31 st March 2023 | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |

10. DEBTORS

| | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Debtors and accrued income | 300,255 | 15,639 |
| Prepayments | 29,142 | 3,000 |
| | <u>329,397</u> | <u>18,639</u> |

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

| | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Other creditors | - | - |
| Accrued expenses | 14,635 | 14,779 |
| Income in advance | 36,654 | - |
| | <u>51,289</u> | <u>14,779</u> |

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 | 155 | - | - | - | 155 |
| Conference | (560) | 12,430 | (12,430) | - | (560) |
| Total Restricted Funds | <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 | - | 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> |

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 |
| | <u>444,390</u> | <u>241,139</u> |
| Investment income | | |
| Interest received | <u>2,634</u> | <u>7</u> |
| 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 | - | - |
| | <u>265,197</u> | <u>111,516</u> |
| Other incoming resources | | |
| Sales | 3,385 | 3,555 |
| Tax refund | 5,741 | 5,660 |
| | <u>9,126</u> | <u>9,215</u> |
| Total incoming resources | <u>721,347</u> | <u>361,877</u> |
| 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 | - |
| | <u>398,678</u> | <u>338,490</u> |
| Net incoming / (outgoing) resources | <u>322,669</u> | <u>23,387</u> |

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statement

