

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES

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RFA Mounts Bay visits the British Virgin Islands

Ministry of Defence Crown copyright 2017

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Brexit looms large over London meetings



OT delegation leaders with Minister Lord Ahmad of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Minister Robin Walker of the Department for Exiting the EU

© Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Overseas Territory leaders met in London during June for the pre Joint Ministerial Conference (JMC) and talks with UK Ministers, and Brexit was high on the agenda.

At the JMC (European Negotiations) meeting which was held at Lancaster House, the OTs highlighted major issues around the UK's exit from the European Union, from the smooth operation of borders to the preferential treatment of fish and meat exports. Development and environment funding, a level EU playing field for Caribbean OTs' financial services and the need for new laws - all were raised during the meeting.

The Territories seek assurance from Her Majesty's Government that measures will be put in place to protect their interests. Delegates were reassured to hear Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, the Minister with responsibility for the OTs at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, state "You're part of us, part of Global Britain. You're family."

At the pre JMC, which was held the previous day at Church House in Westminster and Chaired by Hon. Teslyn Barkman MLA from the Falkland Islands, leaders discussed a range of issues affecting the Overseas Territories. Following the catastrophic events of last year, hurricane preparedness was central; the leaders from the British Virgin Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands informed the meeting on the progress towards recovery in their territories and the measures that they are taking to prepare for this year's hurricane season.



UKOTA members meeting at the pre Joint Ministerial Council

© Adam Howe Photography

Environmental topics such as extreme weather events, OT representation at the COP 24 climate-change conference to be held in Poland in December; and the Blue Belt agenda, were

all discussed and it was agreed that it would be beneficial to hold a workshop on these issues at the substantive JMC, which will be held in London at the beginning of December.

EU Overseas Countries and Territories Association meeting

Representatives from the UK Overseas Territories attended a meeting in Brussels of the Overseas Countries and Territories Association (OCTA) in July. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how the UK OTs might be able to remain connected to OCTA after Brexit. Most of OCTA's current members are the British OTs and their exit will prompt an array

of operational and strategic constraints for the Association. In preparation for the Ministerial Conference, to be held in early 2019, the Executive Committee decided to commission a legal consultant to advise on the various options available for continued partnership with the British OTs.

Environmental issues discussed at No.10



UK Overseas Territory Representatives at No. 10

No.10 Downing Street was the setting in May for an important discussion with Sir John Randall, the Prime Minister's Special Adviser for the Environment. UK OT Representatives briefed Sir John on key issues affecting the Territories, which house over 90% of the UK's biodiversity. The Blue Belt programme aims

to deliver new marine protection to over four million square kilometres of OT ocean: Representatives stressed that it must be locally controlled and based on sound science. The meeting also explored post-Brexit funding for environment projects, and the threat to small islands from climate change.

Foreign Affairs Select Committee inquiry

The Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Select Committee has announced that it is conducting a major inquiry into the future of the UK's Overseas Territories, especially in the light of Brexit.

The inquiry will look at how the Foreign Office manages its responsibility to ensure the security and stability of the UK's 14 Overseas Territories.

In particular, the Committee will take evidence on:

- The governance of the OTs, including their adherence to human rights frameworks;
- The benefits to the UK and the OTs of the relationship between them;
- The financing of the OTs;

■ Representation of the OTs in the UK and in the Commonwealth and other international fora;

■ Assets and liabilities (including but not limited to ecological richness and the effects of extreme weather; and natural resources such as minerals and fish).

The Chairman of the Committee, Tom Tugendhat MP, in welcoming the inquiry said "The Overseas Territories have a special place in our Constitution, they are self-governing but part of the United Kingdom. As our place in the world changes, we need to think about the effect on them and whether the structure of our relationships still works. The Committee will look at these distant parts of our community and look at how we work to support all our communities."

Identity explored by OT students

The third UKOTA Student Conference has been confirmed for 3 November and will be held in the Flett Theatre at the Natural History Museum. The conference will focus on the theme of 'Identity' with the aim of showcasing the similarities and uniqueness of each of the Territories. A Film Festival will also be held, Overseas Territories students who are studying in the UK will produce 60 second videos highlighting three distinct aspects of their Territory's identity. A mix of speakers will also provide insight on the subject of identity to inspire the students.

The conference aims to strengthen the relationships between the Overseas Territories by providing opportunities for their future leaders to make lasting friendships.



Eric Bush JP

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UKOTA Chair

Cayman Islands Representative, Eric Bush JP, was elected UKOTA Chair in February. The Premier of the Cayman Islands, Hon. Alden McLaughlin Jr., MBE JP MLA, is President of the UKOTA Political Council.

Two main objectives of the year for the Chair are to write a new Joint Position Paper that seeks to enhance the relationship between the UK and its Overseas Territories, and to renew the Constitution of UKOTA.

BERMUDA



The FinTech Advantage

The Government of Bermuda is moving prudently, and quickly, to make the island the leading FinTech regulated jurisdiction for digital assets.

How does an island of 21 square miles support FinTech entrepreneurs in an age of economic innovation, while protecting the interests of consumers and investors? The way forward has been to focus on creating and implementing regulation for the industry, where none existed, as the island has declared itself open for business for the FinTech industry.

Legislation has been introduced to regulate Initial Coin Offerings (ICOs) and apply appropriate protections for digital asset business.

The way forward is to develop the structure to support a well-regulated environment. This includes rules for those raising funds through ICOs and strong guidelines for the operation of digital asset businesses, protecting investors and clients.

ICO Regulations outline the requirements for ICOs and compliance guidance for those conducting ICOs.

It is important to strike a balance, encouraging innovation, protecting investors and managing the inherent risks of a new industry. The Act and the regulations address those concerns.

Creating an environment for the FinTech industry to operate in Bermuda provides a potential economic pillar; brings in new business, helps boost GDP and creates meaningful jobs with opportunities for training and retooling workers.

Legitimate companies want stable jurisdictions that have a global standard of regulation. Within eight months of the Government's creation of a Blockchain Technology Task Force, 19 FinTech-related companies were incorporated in Bermuda, with an additional 24 in the process of incorporation.

The financial services regulator; the Bermuda Monetary Authority (BMA), has been closely involved in ensuring the appropriate supervisory environment is being established. The BMA is considered a 'thought leader' in the global development of regulation.

In order to provide banking services to Bermuda-based FinTech companies, the Banks and Deposit Companies Act was updated this summer to create of a new class of banks. Innovative companies who are operating in the FinTech industry have found the greatest challenges to be banking. Therefore Bermuda set out to find a solution.

In addition to addressing the needs of this developing industry, the Government is actively working to introduce a national E-ID System, upgrade Land Title Registration using blockchain technology and develop a Bermuda FinTech Innovation Hub creating a think tank environment where innovation and creative solutions can germinate and thrive.

The Bermuda Business Development Agency (BDA), provides a single point of contact helping businesses to quickly and easier establish their presence in Bermuda, connecting them with corporate service providers and a legal support team for the company registration

Bermuda – At a Glance

Capital: Hamilton | **Size:** 53.3 sq km | **Population:** 63,779 (2016 census) |
Currency: Bermudian Dollar (BMD) | **Time Zone:** Greenwich Mean Time -4 hours |

British Virgin Islands

Change of UK Representative



Benito Wheatley completed his tenure as the BVI Government's UK and EU Representative on 15 June, after serving at the mission for seven years. During his time in office he was instrumental in steering the Territory's representation through critical matters including Brexit, the release of the Panama Papers and most recently, in Hurricane Irma relief efforts.



Elise Donovan has been appointed as the interim Representative and will serve in that capacity until a new Representative is appointed in 2019. Ms. Donovan previously served as the BVI's Representative in Hong Kong, where the BVI has important trade links in the financial services industry. Most recently Ms. Donovan was instrumental in spearheading a two-week trade mission led by BVI's Premier to Hong Kong and four other Asian cities in June.

Historic Gold for Gold Coast Commonwealth Games



On 15 June the Territory welcomed home its athletes who participated in the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. There was a parade to highlight the accomplishments of the athletes who made the Territory proud, including Kyron McMaster who secured the BVI's first Commonwealth Games Gold Medal in the Men's 400m hurdle event.

Re-Elected as Vice Chair of ECLAC

The BVI has been re-elected as Vice Chair of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean's Caribbean Development Cooperation Committee (CDCC), which serves as a permanent subsidiary body of the United Nations for the Caribbean.

The election took place at the 27th Session of the CDCC in St. Lucia during April. Deputy Secretary in the Premier's Office, Mrs. Elvia Smith-Maduro, representing the Territory



remarked "We are honoured to be re-elected Vice Chair of CDCC and look forward to supporting St. Lucia as Chair. We will also continue to advocate on behalf of other Associate Members, particularly those recovering from hurricanes Irma and Maria. We will of course support CDCC efforts to find solutions to the external pressures facing the Caribbean's finance centres."

Territory Prepares for the 2018 Hurricane Season

After the many valuable lessons learned in the catastrophic 2017 Hurricane season, the territory has engaged in a series of hurricane preparedness exercises focusing on collaboration and coordination across Government organisations and departments, non-Government organisations and communities.

Premier Dr: the Honourable D. Orlando Smith OBE, Ministers of Government and His Excellency Governor Gus Jaspert are working closely together on disaster preparedness. The Cabinet of the Virgin Islands recently approved just under \$4 million to assist in the prioritisation of the Disaster Readiness Program being

implemented through various ministries and coordinated by the Department of Disaster Management.

A logistics support system has been established to allow for efficient distribution of aid and assistance before, during and after disasters and a two-day workshop has been carried out to train persons to lead on the coordination of the humanitarian supply chain. Further to this, a series of Community Emergency Response Training workshops were held throughout the Territory covering areas such as basic search and rescue, damage assessment, first aid, shelter management and psychological support. Another area of

focus is the readiness of telecommunications and emergency communications systems. A BVI delegation recently attended a Communications and Emergencies workshop in Barbados, sponsored by the United Nations Children Fund.



British Virgin Islands – At a Glance

Capital: Road Town (Tortola) | **Size:** 153 sq km | **Population:** 30,000 |
Currency: US Dollar (US\$) | **Time Zone:** Greenwich Mean Time -4 hours |

Cayman Islands

60th Anniversary of the Coat of Arms



This year Cayman celebrates the 60th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II granting the Islands its own Royal Coat of Arms on 14 May 1958. In 2019 the Cayman Islands will celebrate the Diamond Jubilee 60th anniversary of being granted its first Constitution.

Both Diamond Anniversary events are milestones in the Cayman Islands' relationship and continued close ties to Britain.

The Cayman Islands Government Office in the UK (CIGO UK) held a major celebratory event on 14 May in the Durbar Court of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Over 500 people including the Foreign Secretary, Parliamentarians and senior officials from the UK and other Overseas Territories attended. There was a large representation from the Cayman Islands, Friends of Cayman, Cayman students and businesses from the UK and internationally.

A short film telling the story behind the Coat of Arms was produced by CIGO UK and it will be used in future as material for educational and information campaigns. Cayman inspired food and beverages were served to bring a real taste of Cayman to the reception.

Cayman culture was on display throughout the

FCO and Durbar Court. A wall of photography showed guests all aspects of life, culture, history and people from the Cayman Islands. In addition, photographs of key milestones from each decade starting at 1958 to 2018 were on display in a dedicated exhibition room to commemorate developments since the Coat of Arms was granted.

Swanky Kitchen Band then delivered a live performance. They delighted the audience and got guests dancing with their own style of indigenous Caymanian music which traces its roots back to the British Isles.

The CIGO UK Brand Refresh with www.cigouk.ky

CIGO UK has undergone the first phase of a brand refresh with an ongoing effort to modernise the branding of its communications.

The launch of the CIGO UK website www.cigouk.ky is a significant milestone in CIGO UK communications. Focusing on news and Caymanian culture and heritage in the UK, the site shares the work of CIGO UK throughout Europe and in Cayman.

Key features of the new website include: an online gallery of videos showcasing the work of CIGO UK; the publication of news; a live twitter feed from Cayman Islands Representative in the UK Eric Bush, and a new Facebook page @cigouk.



Cayman Islands – At a Glance

Capital: George Town | **Size:** 264 sq km | **Population:** 60,765 |
Currency: Cayman Islands Dollar KYD | **Time Zone:** Greenwich Mean Time -5 hours |

Commonwealth Games 2018

The Cayman Islands has been competing in the Commonwealth Games since 1978, and a team of 21 athletes were proudly sent to the 2018 Commonwealth Games held in Australia in April. This was the 11th year of participation in the categories of athletics, boxing, cycling, gymnastics, shooting, squash and swimming. Whilst no Cayman Islands medals were won at the Games, it was indeed a celebration amongst Commonwealth countries and fellow Overseas Territories.



Team Cayman

Cayman Connection UK Celebrates 5th Anniversary



Youth, parents and other Caymanians, participated in a happy, fascinating and enlightening event to celebrate the fifth anniversary of Cayman Connection UK in Cayman in July.

Aspiring students in the UK networked and learnt about how to prepare for and then navigate the UK scene when they take up residence there for further education.

The event also featured developments from the search for relatives of the first settlers, including attendance by a family visiting from the US who are directly related to the first settler, Walter, and a fascinating talk from Olivaire Watler about DNA research into blood lines of the first settlers.

Finding Walters and Bawdens



The Cayman Islands Government Office in the UK launched two campaigns this year to find relatives of 'Walter' and 'Bawden' two of the first settlers in the Cayman Islands more than 360 years ago, in 1658.

The two first settlers of our previously uninhabited tropical paradise are believed to be a man called 'Walter' and a man called 'Bawden' – both said to have been members of Cromwell's forces in the West Indies. Their names subsequently morphed into 'Watler' and 'Bodden', which to this day are prevalent family names on the Islands.

The search for relatives of Cayman's first settlers is part of a campaign to raise the awareness, knowledge and understanding of the 360-year relationship that exists between the Cayman Islands, Cornwall and Wales specifically; and Britain as a whole.

Falkland Islands

Brexit implications

As part of the Government's Brexit engagement strategy, an economic impact assessment has been undertaken looking at various scenarios resulting from the UK leaving the EU with a poor deal or no deal. Specifically, this assessment looks at the impact of WTO Most Favoured Nation (MFN) tariffs being imposed on the Islands' meat and fish exports to the EU.

The tariffs for current fish exports range from 6 – 18% and for meat 12.8%, plus an amount of around €155 per 100kg, depending on the cut. This equates to an average meat tariff of 42%. Such a scenario is estimated to result in immediate losses of up to £9 million for the Islands' fishing industry and would make all meat exports to the EU unviable.

This compelling research highlights the fact that the fishing industry is responsible, on average, for 41% of Falklands' GDP and in 2016, for two-thirds of corporation tax receipts. It also makes clear the importance of agriculture to local employment – combined with wool production and exports, the agricultural sector is the second largest employer.

Given that one-third of meat and 94% of all fish is exported to the EU, any post Brexit tariff



Falkland Islands seafood exports that enter the EU via Spain, before being distributed within Europe and globally.
Image: © Loligo Seafood.

or quota barriers would have a detrimental impact on the economy and taxation revenues, damaging the Government's ability to deliver essential public services and to invest in critical infrastructure for the future growth of the Islands.

Falkland Islands seafood exports that enter the EU via Spain, before being distributed within Europe and globally.

To highlight the concerns, a series of meetings took place in Brussels at the end of April with UK, Irish, Croatian and Spanish MEPs, who have specialist fishing interests. The delegation was formed of representatives of the Falkland Islands Fishing Companies Association (FIFCA), Richard Hyslop (Senior Policy Adviser, Falkland

Islands Government) and the Hon. Teslyn Barkman MLA, portfolio holder for Fisheries.

The delegation met with MEPs Richard Ashworth, John Flack, Verónica Lope Fontagne, Ashley Fox, Clara Eugenia Aguilera Garcia, Ian Hudghton, Seán Kelly, Rupert Matthews, Baroness Mobarik CBE and Ruza Tomasic.

Brexit and trade will be a major focus on the Islands' stand at the UK Party Conferences this September and October.

The EU has also historically recognised and supported the strategic importance of the wildlife and environments of the Overseas Territories through an instrument called Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services in Territories of Europe Overseas (BEST). This aims to support the remarkable wildlife in the Territories of EU Member States. We therefore look to the UK to match the current BEST EU funding to UK Overseas Territories of at least £1 million per year. Any shortfall will be sorely felt by some of the most vulnerable ecosystems in the world.

Business is booming

The biannual Business Climate Survey, conducted by the Falkland Islands Development Corporation, shows a significant increase in business numbers and confidence in the Islands since 2016. The survey completed by around half the businesses reveals that 22 new companies have been established in the past two years. Growth is primarily in the tourism, construction, retail, fishing and the business services sectors. This almost equals the 24 start-ups in the preceding five years. The growth in confidence is also borne out in financial returns with a 9% increase in companies turning over more than £100,000 per annum.

Extensive infrastructure programme announced

The Government has set out an ambitious programme to deliver significant capital and infrastructure projects over the next five years. The plans include a new power station, development of a new port, improvements to the Mount Pleasant Airport passenger terminal, a new vulnerable persons unit and expansion of the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital. The Government will also continue to expand the ongoing roads and house-building schemes. In addition to offering local job opportunities, the ambitious development programme will require overseas construction labour. This programme is separate to any future hydrocarbon development, but will assist such schemes if they go ahead.

Already contracted is One Creative Environments Ltd. from Worcester, UK, who are extending and modernising the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital and designing and project-managing a new vulnerable persons unit in Stanley.



The planned design of the vulnerable persons unit in Stanley.
© ONE Creative Environments Ltd.

Falkland Islands – At a Glance

Capital: Stanley | **Size:** 12,173 sq km | **Population:** 3,200 |
Currency: Falkland Islands Pound | **Time Zone:** Greenwich Mean Time -3 hours |

The Force is Strong with new Skywalk

Mark Hamill, the actor who plays Luke Skywalker in the Star Wars film series, opened the Skywalk at the top of the Rock of Gibraltar in March. Standing 340 metres directly above sea level, the Skywalk is higher than the tallest point of London's The Shard.

The Skywalk offers breath-taking 360° views spanning three countries and two continents and is set to become Gibraltar's premier tourist attraction, with links to other sites within the Upper Rock Nature Reserve including the thrilling Windsor Suspension Bridge and the famous Apes' Den, via a series of walking trails.

Built on the foundations of an existing WWII base structure, the Skywalk is designed to withstand wind speeds of over 150km/hour and can carry the weight of 340 people standing on it at the same time – although visitor numbers will be limited to 50 at any one time. The floor and balustrade panels are made up of four layers of laminated glass (with a total thickness of around 4.2cm). Laid out side-by-side, the 42 glass panels would cover more than 750m², roughly the equivalent of four tennis courts. The walkway is 2.5m wide and projects a maximum of 6.7m from the main structural support point. 70m of rock anchors and 30,000kg of steel secure the Skywalk to the Rock.

Flanked by Boogie Storm, the dance group famous for their tight routines, performed in iconic Stormtrooper outfits, Mr Hamill officially declared the Skywalk open. Ceremonially cutting the red ribbon with a 'lightsabre', Mr Hamill announced: "the Force is strong with the Skywalk". The Chief Minister, the Hon Fabian Picardo QC, joined Mr Hamill at the official opening. Mr Picardo commented: "I am delighted to welcome Mark Hamill to Gibraltar for a very special inauguration of the Skywalk. At the top of the Rock of Gibraltar the Skywalk will serve as a stunning attraction for years to come, and it is only fitting that Mr Hamill, best known as 'Luke Skywalker' himself, should take the first steps."



Mark Hamill and the Chief Minister on the Skywalk

Gibunco Gibraltar International Literary Festival 2018

In November, the fifth International Literary Festival, sponsored by shipping and property company Gibunco, will be hosted on the Rock, where world-class writers and speakers come together for four days of public events, staged in the famous Regency Garrison Library and other historic buildings within the walled and ancient City of Gibraltar.

The four day event will feature talks and events covering everything from literature



Deputy Chief Minister Dr Joseph Garcia addresses the 2017 Festival

and journalism, to history, travel, food and the world with guest speakers such as Nicholas Parsons, Dr Bettany Hughes, Jonny Ball and Lord Peter Hennessy, to name a few. Gilbert Licudi QC, Minister for Tourism said, "The Festival is now established as a benchmark for others in the English speaking world and the Government is committed in its support of this magnificent event."

Swimming Success for Local Open Water Swimmer

Local open water swimmer, Nathan Payas, has been congratulated on becoming the first Gibraltarian swimmer to complete Open Water Swimming's Triple Crown – he has now swum the Catalina Channel in California, the English Channel and the Twenty Bridges Challenge around Manhattan. Nathan has also swam to Africa and back across the Strait of Gibraltar when, as part of his training he completed

a double swim round the Rock passing through 'jellyfish alley' twice! In July, Nathan won the 20 Bridges Race around Manhattan Island, covering a course of 46 km in a time of 7 hours and 21 minutes. This was a particularly creditable performance as, during his training weeks, he suffered an injury to his ribs which limited his preparations in the run-up to the race.

Gibraltar – At a Glance

Capital: Gibraltar | Size: 6.5 sq km | Population: 34,000 (2014) |
Currency: Gibraltar Pound | Time Zone: Central European Time |

Montserrat

Lord Ahmad explores ideas for Island's development

The Minister of State for the Overseas Territories at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, visited Montserrat on 31 May and 1 June as part of a week-long visit to the region.

Lord Ahmad, who was hosted by His Excellency the Governor Andrew Pearce during the two day visit, met the Premier, Government ministers and senior officials. The Minister also met local business leaders to explore ideas for developing and diversifying Montserrat's private sector economy when he was joined by a business delegation from the UK. The Minister was also keen to hear about the Island's preparedness for the forthcoming hurricane season and discussed what further assistance may be needed. The Minister attended the formal commissioning and dedication of the MV Heliconia Star, the long-awaited new Royal Montserrat Police Service vessel purchased by the FCO.

Chevening Scholarship



Three young Montserratians have been awarded the prestigious Chevening Scholarship for the academic year 2018/ 2019. The Governor's Office announced that Ms

Jameli Melissa Greenaway, currently working in the Attorney General's office will be studying for an LLM in Banking and Finance Law at Queen Mary University London. The two other awardees are Ms Tanisha Christopher of ZJB Radio, who will be studying for a MA in Global Communication and Development at Loughborough University, and Ms Deidre Allen based at Environmental Health who will be completing a MSc in International Development – Environment Climate Change and Development at the University of Manchester. His Excellency the Governor, in offering warm congratulations said "This Island has been sending scholars to the UK to study since the 80s and this is the first time we have received three Chevening Scholarships in one year."

Joint visit by Armed Forces Minister and RFA Mounts Bay



Mark Lancaster MP

The Right Honourable Mark Lancaster MP, and Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) Mounts Bay both visited the Island at the end of July, as part of the UK Government's preparedness for the forthcoming hurricane season.

The Armed Forces Minister arrived early on 26 July for one day. In addition to meeting the Hon. Premier Donaldson Romeo and Cabinet members, the Minister met with key safety and security agencies and was able to see the capabilities that RFA Mounts Bay can provide.

The Minister said he was "delighted to have this opportunity both to visit Montserrat, and see first-hand the support that the UK is providing through the presence of RFA Mounts Bay. His Excellency the Governor also welcomed the Minister's visit and RFA Mounts Bay." Captain Peter Selby, the ship's Commanding Officer, said "RFA Mounts Bay is no stranger to Montserrat following a successful visit in August 2017" He added "for me, and many of the ship's company this is our first visit and I am looking forward to seeing and hearing about all the work that has been done to prepare for the season, while also enjoying some of Montserrat's famous hospitality, which our predecessors have talked so much about."



Crew RFA Mounts Bay with children at summer school

© HM Governor's Office, Montserrat

Link with Antigua to promote Eco-tours

On 31 July the Governments of Montserrat and Antigua and Barbuda signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to include passenger eco-excursions to Montserrat, as part of the list of activities offered to cruise line clients who visit Antigua.

The MOU was signed in Antigua and Barbuda by the Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Premier (Montserrat), Daphne Cassell and the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism and Investment (Antigua and Barbuda) Walter Christopher, on behalf of their respective Governments.

The MOU took effect from 1 August for a period of two years. Under the agreement, cruise lines that regularly visit Antigua will promote the 'Eco-excursion tour to the Caribbean Modern

Day Pompeii' on Montserrat, along with a list of other excursions in Antigua.

Mrs. Daphne Cassell said, "The signing of the MOU will be instrumental in advancing the Premier's vision and the efforts of the Tourism Division for an established tourism partnership with Antigua and Barbuda, and is expected to result in an increase in the number of day tour passengers to the Island."

Mr. Walter Christopher noted that there has been a strong relationship between Montserrat and Antigua and Barbuda over the years. He said, "We will continue to facilitate our cooperative relationship through this tourism partnership. Historically we have had a good relationship with Montserrat and we will continue to do what it takes to nurture it."

Montserrat – At a Glance

Seat of Government: Brades | Size: 102 sq km | Population: 4,922 |
Currency: Eastern Caribbean Dollar (EC\$) | Time Zone: Greenwich Mean Time -4 hours |

Recycling project

On remote islands, as anywhere else, the accumulation and disposal of waste products can become a problem, but thanks to an EU Pacific Regional funded project, recycling issues on Pitcairn are now being addressed.

Funding provided under the European Development Fund (EDF) 10 Regional Programme INTEGRÉ is a collaborative arrangement with Pitcairn and their EU Pacific friends, French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Wallis and Fortuna, with Pitcairn's involvement focussing on recycling of waste products and prevention of soil erosion.

To combat soil erosion on the eastern side of the islands, as a result of predominantly easterly winds, the project supplied matting, netting and four temporary workers from Tahiti to assist with the installation. A botanical garden has also been funded under the project to showcase Pitcairn's many endemic plants.

To assist with recycling, the project has provided a waste management centre, a number of chippers and machines to break down waste into reusable components, and to provide



Recycling plant under construction

opportunities to recycle items such as glass, plastics, clothing and machine parts. Households will be provided with colour coded bins in order to sort their waste and non recyclable waste is now compacted rather than burnt. One of the chippers provided under the INTEGRÉ project will enable collected plastics to be shredded and used in areas such as road surfacing.

The project also provided a glass blowing facility and an expert to teach the community to create

innovative recycling opportunities, turning bottles into jewellery, ornaments and souvenirs.

The community are now looking at ways to innovatively reduce waste. Michelle Christian, Divisional Manager of Pitcairn's Environmental, Conservation and Natural Resources Division, stated that "Recycling is increasing awareness of protecting our environment and involving the community in the project."

Plastic invasion

Tackling plastics as we know can be a major problem, one of the groups uninhabited outer islands, Henderson Island, has, given the tides, currents and prevailing winds, accumulated an estimated 19 tons of plastic on the east beach and a major clean up is now planned on this UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The clean up crew will be largely volunteers and Pitcairn Islanders, on a chartered vessel, and is planned to take place in 2019. The project is being funded by the Pew Trust with support from the FCO and other NGOs.

One of the chippers provided under the INTEGRÉ project will enable collected plastics to be taken to Pitcairn, shredded and re used.

Henderson is home to five species of endemic birds and an important breeding ground for the green turtle, which is under threat.



The accumulated plastic rubbish on the east beach and a pristine beach on Henderson island

Pitcairn – At a Glance

Seat of Government: Adamstown | Size: 47 sq km | Population: 57 |
Currency: New Zealand Dollar (NZD) | Time Zone: Greenwich Mean Time -8 hours |

Committed to the 'Green' Agenda

GLOBAL AWARD FOR ENERGY

St Helena has won the 'Greening the Islands' award for Energy with their project '100% Renewable St Helena.' The award was announced at the Greening the Islands Conference held in Menorca in May this year.

The award comes after a bid submission by St Helena Government, Connect Saint Helena Ltd and Enterprise St Helena recognising the work to create a 100% renewable energy system on the Island.

St Helena was one of three winners and was unanimously supported by an expert international jury of technicians and policy makers and voting by an online community of participants who joined the conference online.

The Island is working towards becoming 100% self-sufficient through renewable energy by April 2022. This will be achieved through a mixed model of renewable energy production and storage, and a targeted strategy to reduce demand through greener and more efficient products and practices.

St Helena's strategy for 100% renewable energy will make the Island a leader among UK Overseas Territories. Using a combination of solar, wind and storage, St Helena intends to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels, with their high import costs and volatile market prices. The renewable energy project will achieve a reduction in the importation of diesel, and aligns with the Island's Sustainable Economic Development Plan 2018-2028 goals to improve



infrastructure and reduce imports.

St Helena remains committed to the use of green technology and developing the Island sustainably.

New Recycling and Plastic Monitoring Scheme

St Helena has secured funding and support from the UK Government for a new scheme to reduce and monitor plastic pollution on the Island.

The grant of £72,000 will be used to establish a monitoring and education programme which aims to reduce the amount of plastic entering the marine ecosystem, establish plastic recycling, and reduce the cost of waste disposal.

The project - 'Sustainably managing plastic waste on St Helena to minimise marine debris' - will be delivered in partnership between the Marine Section of the Environmental Management Division's (EMD) and Waste Management Services (WMS), the Saint Helena National Trust, and SHAPE - St Helena's Active Participation in Enterprise - a non-profit organisation that provides a support environment for vulnerable adults to develop their skills for employment.

The aims of the project are to:

- Establish a marine debris monitoring programme along St Helena's coastline.
- Monitor the use of single use plastic on-Island and how much of this enters St Helena's waters.
- Educate and raise awareness of marine debris and its negative impact.
- Locally manufacture plastic recycling equipment.



Beach Clean-Up at Shark's Valley



Collecting plastic debris at Sandy Bay Beach

- Purchase dedicated bins for plastic recycling for distribution around the Island.
- Promote and incentivise innovative reuses of plastics on-Island.

St Helena Government's Director of Environment & Natural Resources, Derek Henry, said:

"This project provides a fantastic opportunity for St Helena to become involved in reducing the amount of plastic that enters our marine ecosystem. It will involve the whole community and will educate and set up the processes for monitoring and reducing plastic waste to create a better marine environment around our Island."

EMD Environmental Risk Manager, Mike Durnford, added:

"We're committed to helping our customers keep St Helena clean. This project, designed to raise awareness on the negative impact of marine debris and enable innovative recycling and reuse of plastics on-Island, is a hugely exciting milestone in our sustainability journey and in line with Waste Management Services' mission statement of 'working in partnership with customers for a cleaner and greener St Helena'. Community engagement, to responsibly dispose of plastic waste, is critical for the project to be successful."

St Helena National Trust Marine Manager, Beth Taylor, concluded:

"We are thrilled to be part of this wave of change on St Helena. This collaborative project is ambitious, innovative, and wide reaching in its scope and it shows just how committed the Island is to tackling marine debris. I can't wait to see the physical evolution of plastics, from marine debris to useful and unique items, developed by the wonderfully creative community at SHAPE."

St Helena – At a Glance

Capital: Jamestown | Size: 410 sq km | Population: 4,289 |
Currency: St Helenian Pound | Time Zone: Greenwich Mean Time |

Tristan da Cunha

Two centuries of sharing



Rhyanna Swain, Janice Green and Jade Repetto are shown the precious document by the British Library's William Frame.

Three students from the world's remotest community have come face to face with the document that established their Island's special way of life.

Rhyanna Swain, Janice Green and Jade Repetto are the first Tristanians in a generation to come to the UK for 'A'-level study. A highlight of their first year at college has been a trip to the British Library in London, to mark the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Atlantic island's civilian community. Three men elected to remain on Tristan when a British military garrison withdrew, and signed a remarkable document committing to a mutually-supportive lifestyle. William Glass led the trio, and each of the girls is his distant descendant. He committed the Tristan pioneers to share goods, livestock, costs and profits equally, and stated that none should 'assume any superiority whatever, but all to be considered as equal in every respect'.

Two centuries later, William's ideas still influence life on Tristan. Precious grazing land is shared between households, fresh produce is gifted to neighbours, and tasks such as major house repairs are a communal enterprise.

The three young Tristanians were filmed by BBC TV on their visit to London. They won't forget their encounter with the community's founding document, and will do their bit to continue the special ethos of their Island.



The students being interviewed on the London Eye

Harbour work pays tourist dividend

Work to deepen Tristan's tiny Calshot Harbour has already paid dividends. The 32,000 tonne cruise ship Seabourn Sojourn has made a maiden visit to the Island, and became the first to deliver passengers ashore using its own tenders. The Island's population more than doubled that day, and hundreds of visitors will carry memories of a friendly welcome back to their homes around the world.

Blue Belt: driven by sound science, locally owned



Stoloteuthis leucoptera, also known as the butterfly bobtail squid, caught in a midwater trawl over the Tristan seamounts © CEFAS

Good progress has been made towards the declaration of new environmental protection for Tristan's vast ocean zone.

With support from the UK Government, Tristan da Cunha is on track to launch the regime by 2020. The aim is to combine world-class ocean stewardship with the certified sustainable fisheries that account for around 90% of the Island's economy. A workshop in London during July brought together the Tristan Government, environment campaigners and key UK agencies. They studied the results of fresh scientific research into the marine ecology of the Tristan da Cunha zone. This will provide baseline data for the protected ocean area. It also brought to light some unseen 'creatures of the deep' that became the stars of a summer exhibition at the Natural History Museum.



www.tristandc.com © Colette Halter-Pernet

Tristan da Cunha – At a Glance

Capital: Edinburgh of the Seven Seas | Size: 98 sq km | Population: 253 |
Currency: Pound Sterling | Time Zone: Greenwich Mean Time |

Turks and Caicos Islands



(L-R) Deputy Governor, Hon. Anya Williams; His Excellency the Governor, Dr. John Freeman; Capt. Peter Selby, Premier of the TCI, Hon. Sharlene Cartwright-Robinson

RFA Mounts Bay Visits

On 27 June RFA Mounts Bay visited Grand Turk, as part of the continuing UK hurricane preparedness and assistance in the region. The crew met with His Excellency the Governor Dr. John Freeman, Premier Hon. S. Cartwright-Robinson, and Deputy Governor Hon. Anya Williams, as well as the Director of the Department of Disaster Management and Emergencies (DDME), Dr. Virginia Clerveaux and had a site visit of the Jags McCartney International Airport in Grand Turk.

Mounts Bay's Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) troops carried out a range of hurricane preparedness tasks on the Islands, including work at the Customs Yard and testing of DDME radio equipment.

During their visit to the Island, the troops were able to discuss with the local officials, TCI's readiness for this hurricane season and how the UK may be able to support local efforts in the event of another hurricane hitting the Islands.

International military share best practice



Participants of CRIOC and Turks and Caicos delegates.

Ahead of the hurricane season, the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force, in partnership with DDME, hosted a meeting of the Caribbean Region Information Operations Council (CRIOC). CRIOC is a unique organisation that integrates military personnel from the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, Bahamas

and the Netherlands, to coordinate hurricane response and collaboration in the region.

The discussions, spanning four days, examined the strengths and limitations of the members and how they can better coordinate during the upcoming hurricane season.

Rebuilding after hurricanes Irma and Maria

The Islands are on the path to rebuilding after the devastating effects of hurricanes Irma and Maria, that damaged every island in the chain in September 2017.

In rebounding from these events, the Government has seized the opportunity to rebuild a stronger and more resilient TCI from an infrastructural and social perspective. To meet this objective a National Recovery Task Force has been formed to strategically manage the recovery process.

This Task Force, which is comprised of a cross-section of representatives from the public and private sectors, will coordinate inter-agency, local, regional and international actions and resourcing arrangements, to efficiently and effectively manage all recovery aid in a prudent, transparent and accountable manner. This body will approach the nation's recovery in a manner that is cohesive, holistic, cost-efficient and avoids waste and duplication of efforts over the next four years.



Rebuilding the hospital

Turks and Caicos – At a Glance

Capital: Cockburn Town | Size: 98 sq km | Population: 36,689 (2015) |
Currency: United States Dollar (US\$) | Time Zone: Greenwich Mean Time -4 hours |

Unique biodiversity of the Overseas Territories

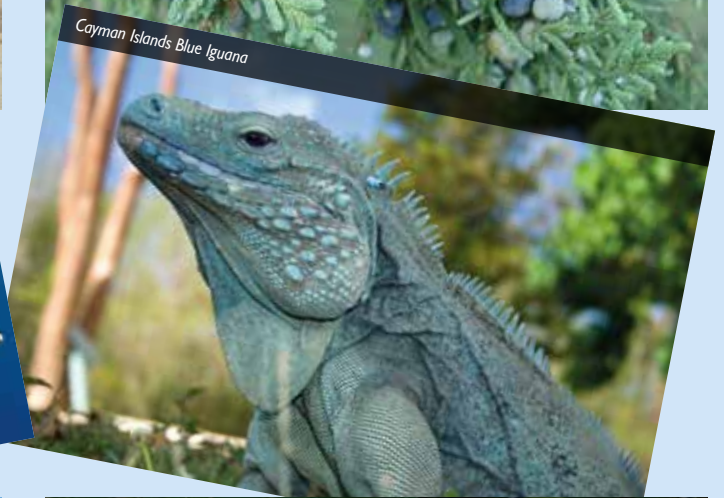
Ascension Island Turtle



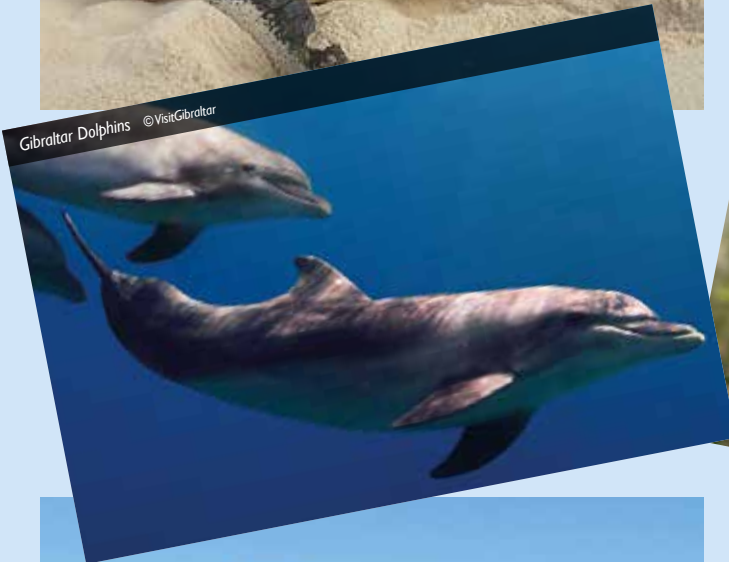
Bermuda Cedar Tree



Cayman Islands Blue Iguana



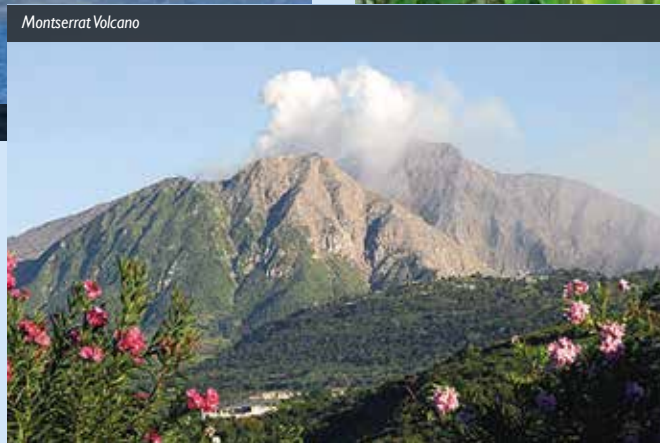
Gibraltar Dolphins © VisitGibraltar



Pitcairn Islands Breadfruit Tree



Montserrat Volcano



Tristan da Cunha Albatross



Global Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

In May 2018 new Data Protection Regulations became legislation.

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) affects how we are able to communicate with our readers.

If you have received this newsletter in the post, we hold your postal information electronically

as you have expressed an interest in the Overseas Territories.

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