

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES

THE NEWSLETTER OF UKOTA · SEPTEMBER 2023



Credit: Hugo Burnand and Royal Household.

Overseas Territories Mark the Coronation of HM King Charles III.

Welcome to the September 2023 UKOTA Newsletter

In the year of his coronation, we are delighted that His Majesty has agreed to appear on our front page. This commemorative newsletter reflects the Coronation and its celebration across the Overseas Territories, setting the tone for the exceptional content that lies within.

The pages ahead record the joy of the occasion and capture the spirit of unity, tradition, and progress that define this remarkable milestone in our collective history.

From an insightful article by Speaker Hoyle, sharing his passion for the UK Overseas Territories, to the latest developments and heart-warming stories in our Territory News section, this newsletter brings you closer to the essence of our worldwide family.

Join us in commemorating an extraordinary moment that symbolised the ties that bind the Territories and the UK together. We hope to rekindle cherished memories, spark engaging conversations, and nurture a deeper appreciation of the diverse and vibrant communities that are the UK Overseas Territories.

UK SPEAKER

Why I became a champion and advocate for the British Overseas Territories



Sir Lindsay Hoyle, Speaker of the UK House of Commons

©UK Parliament/Jessica Taylor

By Sir Lindsay Hoyle, Speaker of the UK House of Commons

From the Pitcairn Islands in the Southern Pacific Ocean to the British Indian Ocean Territory almost 10,000 miles away, the British Overseas Territories (OTs) all have one thing in common – they are British.

Yet, from my perspective, after 26 years as an MP in the UK, and the last three years as Speaker, there have been times when I have thought: You would never know it.

People talk about the Commonwealth, but in my view, the OTs have been the 'poor relation.' Despite Parliament passing laws and making decisions that affect the lives of our fellow UK passport holders across the OTs, they have – until recently – had no representation.

So, when I was elected Speaker in 2019, I made it a mission of mine to extend a welcoming hand to the 16 OTs. At every opportunity, be it meetings with UK Ministers, or through high profile events, I have raised their plight, invited their representatives into Parliament, and devised ways to bring them into the fold.

History was made in July 2021 when we hosted an inaugural virtual meeting of 10 of the OTs that have Speakers or Presiding Officers, with our gathering crossing six time zones.

In 2022 we held our first Commons and Overseas Territories Speakers' Conference in London, and our most recent event was hosted by Anguilla in April this year.

Not only were the discussions insightful and helpful, but they also brought a sense of community among us, with topics ranging from security and climate change to separation of powers in the OTs. Despite the differences in the size of our nations, we discovered that many of our concerns and issues are similar, if not the same.

I am pleased to say that our efforts to turn the spotlight on to the OTs are finally gaining traction. Only recently Alicia Kearns, chair of the UK Foreign Affairs Committee, agreed to establish a permanent sub-committee on the OTs – giving their democratically elected governments a direct link to Westminster.

The plan is for the committee to meet every two months to hear the voices of the OTs on issues of concern in security, health, education, and the environment, with members of relevant select committees invited to contribute to the debate.

This will enable OTs to scrutinise how the UK Government is discharging its responsibilities in relation to their governance.

At the same time, the Procedure Committee has agreed to launch an inquiry into options for OT representation in committee proceedings more generally.

And we have established an office in the heart of the Palace of Westminster for members of the UK Overseas Territories Association to meet, have access and representation here – just like their counterparts in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and Inter Parliamentary Union.

In the meantime, my office continues to find ways to make incoming representatives of the OTs feel more welcome, with the flying of flags when they visit the House of Commons, and on each of their national days.

Our annual Garden of Remembrance not only commemorates those who perished in war from the UK's 650 constituencies, but also those from the British Overseas Territories and the Nations of the Commonwealth.

Young people from the OTs have also had the chance to speak out in the House of Commons on the issues that matter to them, after we invited them to join the annual sitting of the UK Youth Parliament – a successful initiative we plan to continue.

As well as hosting an OT exhibition and conference, and numerous receptions, we have ensured the British Overseas Territories have had their place in UK Parliamentary democracy immortalised.

A stained-glass window featuring the heraldic shields of all 16 OTs and three Crown Dependencies has been embedded in Speaker's House – providing a permanent and tangible reminder of the strong and close links between the UK and its wider family.

So, while I remain Speaker, please be assured of my commitment to the OTs. They are important to me – they are part of our United Kingdom family – and I want to provide them with a platform on which to speak, to air their concerns, to share experiences and to enable us to learn from each other.

For as long as I can, I will be their champion, their advocate, and their friend.

Territory leaders traverse the globe to honour their new king



UK Overseas Territory Flags Flown for the Coronation Parade

Leaders of the UK Overseas Territories and their respective Governors were in attendance at the Coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla on Saturday 6th May. Some also attended the Small Island Developing States Breakfast on May 5th, hosted by The King, to welcome visiting delegations from across the Commonwealth and Overseas Territories, followed by The King's Reception later that evening.

The Coronation calendar of events came to a close with the King's Coronation Concert in Windsor on Sunday, May 7th, where the Overseas Territory Leaders and their Governors enjoyed a star-studded showcase of musical acts alongside British cultural icons from all across the UK and the Commonwealth.

Personnel from six British Overseas Territories (BOTs) regiments were among the thousands of troops taking part in the Coronation procession for King Charles III. The Royal Montserrat Defence Force, Cayman Islands Regiment, Falkland Islands Defence Force, Turks and Caicos Regiment, Royal Bermuda Regiment and Royal Gibraltar Regiment all participated alongside Armed Forces from the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth in the procession from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey, as the flags of each of the BOTs flew proudly in Parliament Square.

The policing operation for the Coronation also featured officers from nine BOTs, as the Falkland Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands, Bermuda, Anguilla, Gibraltar, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Cayman Islands and Sovereign Bases Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia all sent representatives from their respective police forces to London.

The role and participation of BOTs in the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla was particularly poignant due to His Majesty's long history with them, including visits to many of the BOTs over the course of the last fifty years. King Charles III's passion for biodiversity and the environment has formed a strong and indelible bond with the BOTs.

Worldwide family depicted in heart of Westminster



The Speaker of the House of Commons Sir Lindsay Hoyle with one of the two stained glass windows

The UK Parliament marked an historic moment with the unveiling of two stained glass windows adorned with the heraldic shields of the 16 British Overseas Territories and the three Crown Dependencies (CDs).

The event, held at Speaker's House, showcased the artwork as a permanent reminder of the strong links between the UK and its wider family.

The Speaker of the House of Commons Sir Lindsay Hoyle emphasised the significance of the OTs and CDs, pledging to provide them with a platform to share their experiences and foster mutual learning.

Representatives from all the OTs and CDs were present, and all expressed their pride in witnessing their territories being permanently represented in Parliament. The stained glass depictions stand as a testament to the shared history and heritage between the UK and its wider family, further strengthening their interconnected future.

Foreign secretary and Duke of Edinburgh attend Joint Ministerial Council



Overseas Territory Leaders at the JMC

The UK and Overseas Territories (OTs) convened for the Joint Ministerial Council (JMC) 2023 in May, following the postponement of the 2022 meeting. The event underscored the consistent dialogue and partnership between the UK and the OTs.

Attendees included Lord Goldsmith, former Minister for the Overseas Territories, who chaired the sessions along with representatives from various departments including the Home Office, HM Treasury, and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. Their discussions spanned critical areas including law enforcement, healthcare, and economic resilience.

A key visitor was the Foreign Secretary, James Cleverly, who highlighted the importance of collaboration between the territories, stating, "This Joint Ministerial Council demonstrates the importance of the partnership between us - we are family and united by shared values." His sentiments were further echoed when the Duke of Edinburgh arrived following the day's sessions to speak with the OT leaders and their delegations.

Discussions during the JMC had focused on collaboration on law enforcement, control of irregular mi-

gration and a holistic approach to crime prevention. Economic stability was another significant topic, with both groups resolved to ensure the Territories' resilience against external threats.

The UK's commitment to bolster the Overseas Territories' environmental protection efforts and combat climate change was evident. This promise resonated deeply, considering the Territories' pivotal role in global ecosystems. Similarly, strides in healthcare, especially with respect to the NHS Quota system and vaccine provisions, were commended.

Maritime topics were also addressed, with discussion of potential strategies around decarbonisation and sustainable marine economies. Issues concerning education and pensions, particularly in relation to maintenance loans and State Pensions, were also tackled.

The full Communiqué can be viewed via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2023-uk-and-overseas-territories-joint-ministerial-council-communication/2023-uk-and-overseas-territories-joint-ministerial-council-communication>

The JMC in May was a testament to the ongoing, pragmatic and modern partnership between the UK and its Overseas Territories. UKOTA looks forward to supporting their respective OTs, during and in the run up to the next JMC to be held in November 2023.

Falkland Islands Elected as Chair of UKOTA

In February 2023, at the UKOTA Annual General Meeting, the Falkland Islands were elected to the Presidency of UKOTA, taking over from the Turks and Caicos Islands. Richard Hyslop, the Falkland Islands Government Representative to the UK and Europe, will chair UKOTA for 2023, while The Honourable MLA Teslyn Barkman assumes the Presidency of the Political Council of UKOTA.

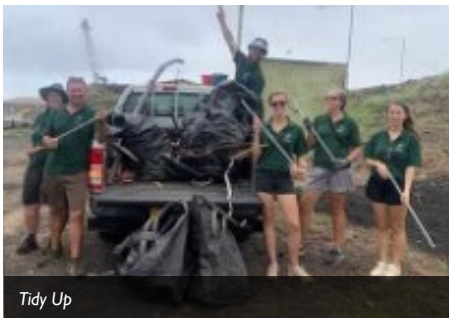
This transition comes on the heels of significant milestones for the Falkland Islands: the 40th anniversary of their liberation in 1982, and the commemoration of a decade since their resolute referendum to remain a part of the UK Overseas Territory family in 2023.

The UKOTA Chair stated, "It was an honour to be elected Chair of the UK Overseas Territories Association, back in February. The first six months have been incredibly busy preparing for the Overseas Territories involvement in the Coronation, which was quickly followed by a month-long UKOTA exhibition in Portcullis House, and the Overseas Territories Parliamentary Conference. This was followed by the May Joint Ministerial Council. Since May, a lot of work has gone into ensuring UKOTA is focused on our priority issues as we prepare for another Joint Ministerial Council in November and then a General Election in 2024."

Also elected at the AGM were Mrs Janice Pantou MBE, UK Representative for Montserrat as Honorary Secretary, and Chris Carnegie, UK Representative for the Government of Tristan da Cunha as Hon. Treasurer.

ASCENSION ISLAND

Coronation Ascension Tidy Up Scheme



Tidy Up

As part of the Coronation celebrations, AIG asked members of the public and key organisations to come together to help improve the general look of the island via the "Coronation Ascension Tidy Up" from 1st to 3rd May. The project repeated the highly successful "Jubilee Tidy Up" project of 2022. The project, which is in line with His Majesty's focus on volunteering and public service as part of the Coronation celebrations, saw many organisations and offices join with AIG to help make the island look a little smarter and tidier in the run up to the Coronation weekend. The RAF Detachment and Mitie concentrated their activities around making sure the airhead was ready for the return of the Voyager flights in May,



Tidy Up

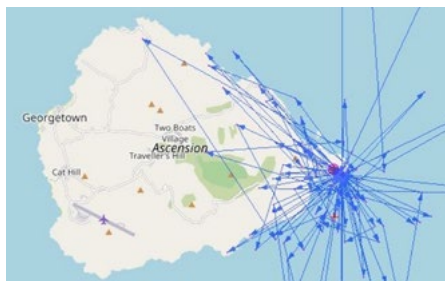
whilst other partners such as US Space Force, Encompass, DIO team, CSO and Sure also took part in the Coronation Tidy up. AIG itself carried out an extensive range of activities on the three days in question. Members of the public also took part by smartening the area around the exterior of their accommodation.

Protecting Seabirds Across Borders

The AIG Conservation and Fisheries Directorate are pleased to announce the beginning of a new Darwin Plus-funded project "Protecting Seabirds Across Borders".

Ascension's Marine Protected Area covers 445,000km², but many seabirds will range much further. Uncovering their distribution throughout the whole year and their potential interactions with high-sea fisheries will provide a better understanding of how these species use the wider Atlantic. This project will build on existing data and conduct additional seabird tracking work to fill key data gaps. Working with partners at Birdlife International, Global Fishing Watch, the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), the results will be used to advocate for greater protection across the Atlantic and help to refocus Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing surveillance efforts.

Initial tracking using satellite tags supported by the UK Government's Blue Belt Programme has shown juvenile frigatebirds taking short flights around the island as they develop their flying capabilities following fledging. Over the coming weeks and months, these individuals will venture more widely into the Atlantic and we will continue to provide regular updates on their adventures



Seabird

As part of Ascension's new approach to biodiversity monitoring to enhance conservation efforts, AIG Conservation hopes to utilise the new technology of Environmental DNA (eDNA) to extract and analyse eDNA from the island's environment. Environmental DNA refers to the genetic material left behind by organisms in their surrounding environment. By isolating and sequencing eDNA, we can identify the presence of various species without the need for traditional methods such as direct observation or capture. This non-invasive technique has revolutionised ecological research and provides valuable insights into the distribution and abundance of species.

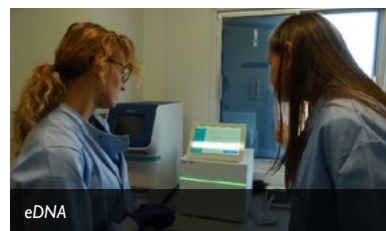


eDNA

AIG Conservation are proud to announce a ground-breaking milestone as the first eDNA sequencing run was completed on Ascension Island in our dedicated eDNA lab. This achievement marks a significant step in understanding and monitoring the delicate ecosystem of the island. This momentous occasion would not have been possible without funding from our partners: Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy Program, the UK Government's Blue Belt Programme, the Darwin Plus funded project DPLUS I 65, Blue Marine Foundation and the kind help of the wider island community.

The samples being analysed have come from a range of sources. Over the course of the past year the AIGCFD have been regularly collecting a variety of DNA samples such as water from inshore monitoring stations, plankton tows, settlement plates and pitfall traps. The Discovery research cruise helped gather offshore samples from deep within the Ascension marine protected area (MPA) and Tugboats based around Ascension for the runway repair project kindly allowed AIG Conservation onboard to take samples up to 12 miles offshore. Citizen scientists travelling on yachts from St. Helena to Ascension donated their time and became temporary research vessels to gather plankton and water samples while on route. There has been a huge amount of assistance from the Ascension fishing community via the donation of fish gut content samples to help with food web analysis. It is hoped that the data obtained will inform future conservation strategies, enable the protection of vulnerable species, and aid in the development of sustainable management practices for the Ascension's environment.

As a part of AIG Conservation's ongoing efforts, we plan to collaborate with research partners at the University of Edinburgh and the London Natural History Museum to share data from eDNA sequencing projects with public global databases to advance understanding of the world's biodiversity.



eDNA

Ascension Island – At a Glance

Capital: Georgetown | Size: 88 sq km | Population: 970 (2022) |
Currency: Pound Sterling | Time Zone: Greenwich Mean Time |

King Charles III's Coronation: A Marked Celebration for Anguilla



The Hon. Premier of Anguilla, Dr. Ellis L. Webster and H.E. The Governor travelled to London to attend the historic Coronation of HRH King Charles III at Westminster Abbey on 6 May this year. They also attended other official events hosted by the King on the eve of Coronation day, including the SIDS Breakfast and the King's Reception.

Further Anguillian representation saw the Inspector Helmut Mason, of the Royal Anguilla Police Force, join the Coronation Procession, a spectacular parade that exemplified the King's commitment to modernise the monarchy, reflecting a diverse, multicultural Britain.

The Hon. Premier said of the Coronation "I was honoured to attend the Coronation which was a historical event for the United Kingdom and the world. The ceremony was solemn and culminated with HRH King Charles III dedicating his life to service to God and the people. The weekend of events was a display of inclusiveness and commitment to the British Family."

The Hon. Premier and H.E. The Governor also

attended the King's Coronation Concert on Sunday 7 May at Windsor Castle. Also in attendance was The Hon. Minister Gumbs-Marie, who had arrived in London ahead of the Joint Ministerial Council, and the UK Representative, Dorothea Hodge. The Minister highlighted her experience at the concert, underscoring its environmental message the Minister described it as "an inspiring mixture of art and environmental activism. Amongst the beautiful renditions was a favourite of mine "Don't you forget about me" a plea to never neglect the environment."

Back home, Anguilla marked the coronation of King Charles III with a tree planting ceremony on 19 May, with members from Girlguiding Anguilla and Scouts of Anguilla hosted by H.E. The Governor and The Hon. Deputy Governor. The diverse range of fruit trees which included avocado, sugar apple, soursop, Julie mango, custard apple, golden apple, Bajan cherry, star fruit, pomegranate and guava were kindly donated by the Department of Natural Resources - Anguilla as part of their Disaster Resilience Project. The island also observed a public holiday on 19 June to honour the King's Coronation and birthday.

As the reign of King Charles III commences, Anguilla looks ahead with dedication to nurturing its ties with the United Kingdom. The coronation was a historic celebration, an affirmation of shared principles, a strengthening of historical connections and marking a new era with hope and unity.



ANGUILLA JOINS THE BLUE BELT PROGRAMME

In February 2023, Anguilla marked its dedication to environmental sustainability by joining the UK's Blue Belt Programme.

The announcement was

made jointly by Lord Zac Goldsmith, former UK Overseas Territories Minister, and Anguilla's Minister of Sustainability, Innovation and the Environment, Honourable Quincia Gumbs-Marie, at Crocus Bay, near Little Bay Marine Park.

After the ceremony, a tour of marine parks provided insight into Anguilla's conservation efforts and challenges. Joining the Blue Belt marks Anguilla's commitment to being a resilient and eco-friendly nation where environmental management, climate mitigation, and economic growth align. Led by Minister Gumbs-Marie, the Blue Anguilla (BANG) Task Force was formed in 2021 to develop a plan for blue economy goals. Meetings in January 2023 with Blue Belt Programme entities, including MMO, CEFAS, JNCC, and the FCDO, ensured that support matched Anguilla's needs.

The Blue Belt Team and the Blue Anguilla Team have been developing a support programme for Anguilla, now finalised and approved by the Blue Belt Programme Board and Anguilla's Executive Council. It's an ambitious initiative providing assistance in legislative revision, marine spatial planning, coastal monitoring, expansive EEZ surveillance, fisheries management, pollution control, education, and access to innovative financing.

Anguilla's Blue Belt commitment aims for the balanced development of a blue economy, protecting natural resources while enhancing sustainability measures. Anguilla strives to become the Caribbean's equivalent to Costa Rica, improving marine resource management.

By 2025, Anguilla commits to implementing a comprehensive, research-based marine management framework that takes into account the promotion of healthy oceans, cultural heritage and sustainable fisheries management. The collaboration with the Blue Belt will assist Anguilla in achieving the 2025 goals.

Minimum Wage In Anguilla Set For 2024 Implementation

Starting January 1st, 2024, Anguilla will establish a Minimum Wage. The Executive Council, based on the Minimum Wage Advisory Committee's proposal, has approved a minimum hourly wage of US\$6.00 or its EC equivalent.

This decision aligns with the Labour Relations Act 2018's Section 81 and has been published in the Official Gazette on July 10th, 2023. The public, comprising both employers and employees, has a month to provide written feedback on the wage rate.

Post this feedback period, the Executive Council will assess any input and sanction the Minimum Wage Order for the House of Assembly's endorsement. This six-month lead time up to 2024 ensures employers, including the Anguillian Government, adjust contracts to adhere to the new rate.



The objectives of introducing minimum wages include ensuring fair remuneration, enhancing individuals' living standards, preventing worker exploitation, and safeguarding families from unlivable incomes.

Chaired by economist Dr. Wycliffe Fahie PhD, the Advisory Committee was diverse, representing both employers and employees. It extensively researched, referring to the experiences of nearby regions, ILO guidelines, and the Anguilla Government's Statistics Department. They also held public consultations, aiming for a standard in sync with regional norms while acknowledging Anguilla's unique challenges.

The Committee emphasised transparency and emulated stakeholder involvement methods recommended by the ILO, seen in regions like Montserrat. Their approach involved comprehensive data gathering, employer-employee consultations, and public radio discussions focusing on sectors like construction, retail, and hospitality.

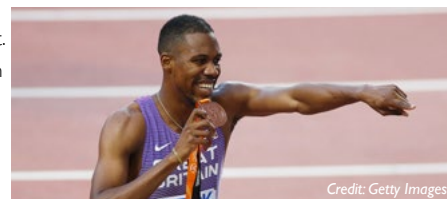
After evaluating various sectors' wage structures, the Committee suggested a unified national minimum wage, reasoning it would be easier to implement and manage at this initial phase.

A detailed 34-page report on the Committee's findings is accessible on the Government of Anguilla's website at gov.ai.

Young Anguillian Becomes the World's Fastest Man

Zharnel Hughes, born in Anguilla, with no conventional tracks and accustomed to sprinting on grass fields and racing on beaches against his father, last June became the world's fastest man at the Special Olympics New York City, beating British records in both the 100m and 200m events - records that had stood for nearly 30 years.

Subsequently, Hughes secured a bronze medal in the 100m at the World Athletics Championships in Budapest. His record-breaking performance perpetuates a tradition of British Olympians and record holders such as Shara Proctor, the long jump record holder, and Keith Connor, a triple jump record holder who also serves as an Australian Olympic coach, all hailing from the tiny island of Anguilla.



Credit: Getty Images

Anguilla – At a Glance

Capital: The Valley | Size: 91 sq km | Population: 15,000 (2018)

Currency: Eastern Caribbean Dollar (ECS) | Time Zone: Greenwich Mean Time -4 hours

BERMUDA

Bermuda Celebrates the Coronation with a Weekend of Festivities



Bermuda Soldier

Bermuda came together to celebrate the momentous Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty Queen Camilla, with various events throughout the weekend to illustrate the strong ties and shared history between the island and Great Britain.

On May 6, 2023, those observing Coronation Day witnessed a captivating blend of tradition and celebration, bringing together people from all walks of life in the community. The day began with a poignant Commemorative Tree Planting ceremony, symbolising growth, continuity, and prosperity under the reign of the newly crowned monarchs. Later in the day, the Bermuda Botanical Gardens came alive with the opening of The Coronation Garden, formally opened by the Acting Governor Mr Tom Oppenheimer, MBE and the Acting Premier, the Hon Walter

Roban JP, MP. The joyous setting provided a fitting backdrop as attendees explored the beautifully curated garden dedicated to honouring this historic event. The establishment of the Coronation Garden reflects His Majesty's work in support of the environment and sustainable farming.

The following day, Bermuda gathered for the Service of Thanksgiving at The Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity. The ceremony offered a chance for reflection, prayer, and collective expressions of appreciation for the Royal Family. A special service was also held at St Peter's Church in St George's, the oldest still-operational Anglican Church outside of the British Isles and holds the Royal designation of 'Their Majesties Chappell' as gifted by Queen Elizabeth II in her Diamond Jubilee year.

The culmination of the extended weekend's festivities was the public holiday on May 8, 2023, dedicated to recognising the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. The entire island was brimming with excitement as residents and visitors alike joined in the celebration. Children and families engaged in a variety of fun activities at the Royal Edition of the Children's Reading Festival. From storytelling sessions to interactive workshops, the festival provided an enriching experience for all. The Festival embodied Her Majesty the Queen's commitment to literacy, particularly for young people.

This historic moment marked the beginning of a new era for the British monarchy, and the island's enthusiasm in commemorating the event is a testament to the long history that Bermuda shares with the Monarchy.

Bermuda's Special Olympics Triumph in Berlin

Bermuda rejoiced as the island's largest-ever contingent of athletes returned home after a phenomenal showing at the Special Olympics World Games held in Berlin, Germany. Hundreds of supporters gathered at the LF Wade International Airport to express their pride and welcome back the 19 athletes who represented the country with extraordinary talent and unwavering determination.

From June 17 to 25, the Special Olympics showcased not only the athletes' exceptional sporting abilities, but also celebrated the universal values of inclusion and diversity. The event emphasised the importance of supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities through the power of sport. In the Opening Ceremony of the Games, the team was led by two Gombeyes whose traditional garments added more colour to the pomp and pageantry already on display.

Standout moments in Berlin included gold medal triumphs by Women's Singles tenpin bowler Alshauntae Symons and Men's Singles tennis player Micah Lambert. Bridget Marshall and Zafar



Bermuda Special Olympics Team

O'Loughlin added to the tennis medal haul with bronze medals in the Women's and Men's Singles categories, respectively, with Lambert and Marshall adding to the tally with a bronze in Mixed Doubles. The bowling events also saw strong performances from Patrick Thomas, Wayne Smith, and Tiannai Lowe, all clinching bronze medals. Solay Thomas impressed in the shot put, claiming a well-deserved bronze medal, while Kris Trott and Laura Repose showcased their skills in the level B 200 metres and 800 metres, both earning bronze. The Games ended with an impressive 11 medals for Bermuda, surpassing the 8 they collected at

the previous 2019 Games in Abu Dhabi.

Premier David Burt commended Bermuda's Special Olympics contingent for their accomplishments and recognised them as exemplary ambassadors for their country. The athletes' performances not only exemplified the best of the island on the international stage, but also inspired countless others with their courage, determination, and positive spirit.

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

A Grand Celebration, Virgin Islands mark King Charles' Coronation with Territorial Fervour



Officers of the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force.

As the United Kingdom prepared for the momentous occasion of King Charles' coronation, the celebrations were not limited to the mainland.

Spread across the globe are the British Overseas Territories, each with their own unique history, culture, and strong ties to the British Crown. From the Caribbean to the Atlantic, and even the Antarctic, King Charles' coronation was a time of grand festivity and reflection for the people living in the overseas territories. The Virgin Islands, known for their breathtaking landscapes, and rich heritage, prepared to mark this historic event with immense enthusiasm and territorial pride.

In the azure waters of the Caribbean Sea lies the Virgin Islands, a tropical paradise that boasts a rich cultural heritage and a vibrant festive atmosphere. The coronation of King Charles was marked by a

Coronation Brunch held at Government House in honour of the King and Queen Consort. A guard of honour and salute from the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force was followed by a 21 Gun Salute. The Acting Governor also officially declared May 8 as a public holiday.

Showcasing traditional music, and local delicacies, as King Charles ascended to the throne, Virgin Islanders celebrated with an array of events. The festivities showcased the spirit of the people who call the territory their home. The celebrations highlighted the unique blend of tradition and island charm that characterizes the Virgin Islands' identity as a British Overseas Territory. As the coronation festivities unfolded, the BVI stood in unity in their celebration, reaffirming their bond with the United Kingdom.



Couple celebrating the Coronation at Governors House

Kyron McMaster Shines Bright, Wins Silver Medal at World Athletics Championships in Budapest.



Kyron McMaster hurdles to a silver medal in Budapest

In a dazzling display of skill and determination, Kyron McMaster, the talented British Virgin Islands athlete has made a resounding impact on the world stage. His exceptional performance at the recently concluded World Athletics Championships in Budapest has earned him a well-deserved silver medal, solidifying his position as one of the top hurdlers in the world. His extraordinary journey and remarkable achievement are worthy of celebration.

Hailing from Tortola, the largest island in the British Virgin Islands, McMaster's love for athletics was ignited at an early age. Despite facing challenges in terms of limited resources and training facilities and the loss of his coach to Hurricane Irma in 2017, his natural talent and determination propelled him to new heights. His journey exemplifies the power of perseverance and the shared resilience of the Virgin Islands people. His silver medal win in Budapest is a testament to his hard work paying off.

The World Athletics Championships is a global event that showcases the best athletes from around the world. Held biennially, this prestigious competition provides a platform for athletes to exhibit their skills, athleticism, and mental fortitude.

Competing in the highly demanding 400-meter hurdles event, McMaster showcased his exceptional talent, leaving spectators in awe of his speed, agility, and technique. The two-time defending Commonwealth Games Champions' steadfast focus and determination were evident as he surged forward, crossing the finish line in an impressive time of 47.34 seconds, securing the

BVI Welcomes The Resumption Of Direct Flights To The Territory



Premier Wheatley and Minister Rymer welcome back the first of many direct flights to BVI.

In exciting news for travellers, June 2023 marked the beginning of a new era for the Virgin Islands as they welcome back non-stop flights. This much-anticipated development comes as a welcome relief for those who have been eagerly awaiting the opportunity to visit this stunning Caribbean destination without the hassle of layovers.

Known for their pristine beaches, crystal-clear waters, and vibrant marine life, the Virgin Islands are a paradise for nature lovers and adventure enthusiasts. Travelers can now easily access this tropical haven and experience its beauty firsthand. Whether you're seeking relaxation, thrilling water sports, or an immersive cultural experience, this destination has something for everyone. With the convenience of direct flights from Miami, USA, it has never been easier to plan your dream getaway to the Virgin Islands.

The tourism industry plays a vital role in the Virgin Islands, providing employment opportunities and contributing to the overall prosperity of the region. With the reintroduction of direct flights, the islands can expect an increase in visitor numbers, bringing economic growth and opportunities for local businesses.

silver medal, and etching his name into the record books.

This remarkable achievement is the result of 7 years of hard work, dedication, and unwavering support. Guided by his experienced coaches and fuelled by his own self-belief, McMaster has relentlessly pursued excellence. His commitment to his craft, combined with his natural talent, has allowed him to overcome obstacles and emerge as a force to be reckoned with in the world of athletics.

With his outstanding performance at the World Athletics Championships, he has firmly established himself as a rising star in the realm of hurdling. His silver medal win serves as a launchpad for future successes, inspiring a new generation of athletes from the British Virgin Islands and beyond.

British Virgin Islands – At a Glance

Capital: Road Town (Tortola) | Size: 153 sq km | Population: 32,000
Currency: US Dollar (US\$) | Time Zone: Greenwich Mean Time -4 hours

CAYMAN ISLANDS

King honoured



"Rich traditions come alive as the Cayman Folk Singers captivate the crowd during the Coronation celebrations in George Town, Grand Cayman."

As a member of the Global British Family, the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III was a significant moment in the Cayman Islands.

A special event – held on May 8 – was organised by the Cayman Islands Government to commemorate the coronation and honour the new King in a way that embraced the Cayman Islands' culture. Centred in the heart of Grand Cayman, on Cardinal Avenue, the festivities featured a diverse array of activities for families to enjoy, including live performances throughout the day by Cayman Islands folk singers and local bands. The celebrations were brought to a close by a spectacular fireworks display, lighting up the night sky.

The event was a testament to the Cayman Islands' pride in being a member of the UK Overseas Territories and exemplified the deep-rooted connection between the two nations. The overwhelming public participation demonstrated the shared enthusiasm and heartfelt best wishes of the Caymanian people as they joined the global celebrations marking a new era under King Charles III's reign.

Little Cayman considered for World Heritage Site status

For over the past 40 years, successive Cayman Islands Government administrations have worked to safeguard the natural environment by conserving the islands' flora and fauna.

The country has led the world in protecting marine habitats, and its first marine protected areas were designated almost 40 years ago. Today, an impressive 48% of the Cayman Islands' nearshore coastal waters are protected through an enhanced marine protected area network.

As a testament to the islands' efforts, with the backing of the UK Government, the Little Cayman Marine Parks and Protected Areas have been added to the Tentative List to become UNESCO World Heritage Sites for their exceptional importance to marine biodiversity and their incredible natural beauty.

"Little Cayman, Cayman Islands, is a unique geological and ecological phenomenon already recognised as a Mission Blue Hope spot, and this new acceptance will help bolster the legendary status of our marine environment," commented Peter Hillenbrand, co-founder and board member of the Central Caribbean Marine Institute, and Secretary of the Little Cayman District of the National Trust.

The Tentative List is published around every ten years by the UK Government.



"The Little Cayman Marine Parks and Protected Areas showcase outstanding natural beauty and are home to a wealth of diverse ecosystems. Photo provided courtesy of the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism."

Climate change policy enhanced to mitigate most severe risks

In 2021 the Cayman Islands Government launched a Climate Change Risk Assessment in partnership with the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UKCEH) and the Centre for Environment Fisheries & Aquaculture Science (Cefas) funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. The Assessment identified risks posed by climate change to the country's current and future needs, highlighting opportunities for increasing climate resiliency.

The assessment found that the three highest rated climate change risks - in terms of proximity and magnitude - to the islands are: increased frequency and severity of coral bleaching and coral disease outbreaks; decline of coral reef structure and integrity; and disruption of turtle distribution and population dynamics.

Armed with an understanding of the ongoing impacts and projected climate risks, work on an updated climate change policy has now begun to deliver a robust strategy for mitigating and adapting to the most severe anticipated risks

on the Cayman Islands' economy, society and natural environment.

The Cayman Islands Government is committed to implementing a sustainable approach to the development of the nation, as well as identifying ways of making existing infrastructure more efficient, introducing new technologies and innovations that reduce collective environmental footprint and collaborating with other governments, individuals, and companies to link prosperity, peace and planetary health.

Cayman Islands – At a Glance

Capital: George Town | Size: 264 sq km | Population: 71,105 |
Currency: Cayman Islands Dollar KYD | Time Zone: Greenwich Mean Time -5 hours |

FALKLAND ISLANDS

Celebrating the Coronation at Home and in the United Kingdom



Falkland Islands Defence Force Members at the Coronation

As proud members of the UK Family, the Falkland Islands put together a programme of events to celebrate the Coronation of HM King Charles III and HM Queen Camilla, organised by the Historic Dockyard Museum. This included a special Coronation themed afternoon tea, a community big lunch, a service in the Cathedral, and a concert in the Town Hall, with music provided by local military and civilian bands.

On the Sunday, members of the Royal Air Force, based in the Falkland Islands, organised a special fly past, involving a Voyager aircraft and three Typhoon jets. Finally, on the Monday, and reflecting similar events in the UK, a Big Help Out was organised with local people encouraged to get involved with a number of volunteering opportunities.

In the UK, the Falkland Islands were incredibly proud to have an active role in the Coronation itself, with 10 members of the Falkland Islands Defence Force involved in escorting Their Majesties from Westminster Abbey back to



March 1999 - HM The King as Prince of Wales admiring a Gentoo penguin colony on Sea Lion Island

Buckingham Palace. A member of the Royal Falkland Islands Police was honoured to be one of the street liners, and was lucky to be posted outside the Abbey! The Islands were represented at the Coronation Service by The Hon Teslyn Barkman MLA, an elected member of the Falkland Islands Legislative Assembly, and HE The Governor, Ms Alison Blake CMG.

Many members of the Royal Family have visited the Falkland Islands, including HM The King, who as Prince of Wales, visited the Islands in 1999.



Multicultural Falklands Book Launch in Stanley

Multicultural Falklands

Did you know that the Falkland Islands population of 3,600 is made up of 68 different nationalities? To celebrate this diversity, a new charity has been formed called Multicultural Falklands. In addition to organising a carnival and food festival, the organisation has now published a book which showcases the multicultural events held in the Islands last year, alongside profile pieces on people from across our community. As well as being launched in the Falklands, the book was also launched in the UK at a reception in Parliament, hosted by the Speaker of the House of Commons.



John Birmingham with Stephen Doughty MP, Mr Speaker, and David Lammy MP

Success in Guernsey

In July, the Falkland Islands sent our largest ever team of competitors to the 19th International Island Games in Guernsey. Along with a series of personal bests and excellent team performances, Team Falklands picked up a total of four medals. Our archery team won gold in the Recurve Head to Head Team

Knockout event. An individual silver was won in the Archery Men's Recurve Head to Head Knockout. The men's team also won silver in the Triple Bowls final. Last but not least, an individual bronze was won in the Fullbore Kings Individual event.



Team Falklands at the Guernsey 2023 Island Games

Support for Ukraine

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the people of the Falkland Islands have been resolute in their support for the people of Ukraine, flying their flag and raising over £42,000 to provide support. Not bad from a population of just 3,600! In addition to this Major Teraaka (Trucker) Middleton, a Falkland Islander serving in the British Army, is part of the team training Ukrainian soldiers in the UK.

Judge Malcolm Simmons, resident judge of the Falkland Islands, has been delivering training to Ukrainian war crime investigators on 'Command Responsibility' and admissibility of evidence, whilst the Falkland Islands' Knitting Club has been knitting hats and booties for babies born in war-torn Ukraine. We will continue to support the people of Ukraine at this challenging time.

Referendum 10th Anniversary

In March the Falkland Islands marked the 10th anniversary of our 2013 Sovereignty Referendum, where 99.8% of voters, on a turnout of 92%, voted to remain an internally self-governing UK Overseas Territory. This was self-determination in action!

Falkland Islands – At a Glance

Capital: Stanley | Size: 12,173 sq km | Population: 3,600 |
Currency: Falkland Islands Pound | Time Zone: Greenwich Mean Time -3 hours |

GIBRALTAR

Coronation



Coronation Parade

The people of Gibraltar came together to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III in

British Gibraltarian fashion, with a wide array of events throughout the first week of May to commemorate the occasion.

The celebrations commenced with a parade on 3rd May organized by the Ministry of Defence. Service personnel from British Forces Gibraltar and from Gibraltar's Essential Services were all represented in the parade held at Convent Place – the small, historic plaza located between the Governor's Residence and the Headquarters of HM Government of Gibraltar. Marching bands from the Royal Gibraltar Regiment and the Sea Scouts also played their part in the parade

The following day saw the Chief Minister Fabian Picardo, Minister for Education John Cortes and His Excellency the Governor, Vice Admiral Sir David Steel, visit schools in Gibraltar where young students were celebrating the coronation with parties, assemblies and games throughout the day.

Coronation Day saw Gibraltarians gathering in Casemates Square to watch the crowning of King Charles III on a big screen, whilst street parties with live music, dancing and fun activities for children could be found all around the Rock for the duration of the weekend. Gibraltar joined the rest of the United Kingdom by firing a 21 gun salute by the Royal Gibraltar Regiment following an inspection by the Commander of the British Forces Commodore Tom Guy.

The Chief Minister, who travelled to London with the Governor as invited guests to the Coronation, described the events as "remarkable" and "the most important event he had ever represented Gibraltar and its people at". The Governor added that "although Gibraltar may be a small place, to King Charles the Rock and its people could not be more significant or important".

Calentita Food Festival

The Rock's famous 'Calentita' Food Festival returned this year after a four year hiatus. Named after Gibraltar's local dish, the festival was a highlight of the cultural calendar until the Covid-19 pandemic. With live music from local musicians and DJs, hundreds of locals, tourists, families and friends gathered at 'the Piazza' outside City Hall to sample food and drink from all around the world.

The event was opened by the new Mayor of Gibraltar Carmen Gomez, who used the event to announce that she had applied to UNESCO for cultural status for the 'calentita' dish. The event organizers hope that the Festival will now continue to run on an annual basis.



Calentita Festival



Coronation and Schools

Island Games

In July, 73 athletes from Gibraltar travelled to Guernsey to compete in this year's Island Games. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, these were the first Island Games to be held since the Rock's successful hosting of the Games in 2019.

Team Gibraltar competed in 9 different sports and managed to bring home 16 medals to the Rock with 3 gold and 3 silver alongside 10 bronze medals. The highlights included a gold medal in the 200m Breaststroke for young female swimmer Asia Kent, and a gold medal for Olivia Head in the Women's Individual Town Criterium Cycling event.

Linda Alvarez, the President of the Gibraltar Island Games Association, said that Gibraltar should be proud of their achievements. She added that it was also encouraging to see the changing distribution of medals with Gibraltar's women recording more than the men this year.

Gibraltar – At a Glance

Capital: Gibraltar | Size: 6.5 sq km | Population: 33,686 |
Currency: Gibraltar Pound | Time Zone: Central European Time

MONTSERRAT

King Charles III Coronation



HE Acting Governor, Lyndell Simpson 21 Gun Salute

Acting Governor, Her Excellency Mrs. Lyndell Simpson presided over the Montserrat ceremony to mark the occasion of the Coronation of Their Majesties, the King and The Queen Consort on the morning of 6th May 2023 at Carr's Bay Gun Battery.

The honoured guests and members of the public who assembled at 10.40am sang both the Territorial Song and the National Anthem this was followed by a 21 Gun Salute by the Royal Montserrat Defence Force and three cheers to

Their Majesties by all present.

In London the Coronation Service and ceremony held at Westminster Abbey was attended by Her Excellency, the Governor Sarah Tucker, and the Premier, the Hon. Joseph E. Farrell. Officers from the Royal Montserrat Defence Force and the Royal Montserrat Police Service represented Montserrat in the Coronation Parade for His Majesty King Charles III and the Queen.

Royal Montserrat Defence Force First Female Officer



2nd Lt Carmencita Duberry.

The Royal Montserrat Defence Force commissioned a female officer for the first time in its 125 year history on 11th July 2023. Her Excellency, the Governor, Mrs. Sarah Tucker presided over the ceremony during which former Cadet Officer Carmencita Duberry, was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the RMDF.

Since she enlisted in 2007, Second Lt. Duberry undertook various roles in the RMDF and trained as an Emergency Medical Technician. She was a member of the Force's COVID-19 response team between 2020 and 2021 and worked directly with the Cuban Medical Brigade to ensure that the necessary logistics for the team were in place.



HE Sarah Tucker, Governor, Hon. Joseph E. Farrell, Premier

Plymouth The Buried City

It's been 28 years since the Soufriere Hills Volcano erupted, but the destruction wrought on the island was brought sharply into focus by the Channel 5 documentary, Ben Fogle and the Buried City. <https://www.channel5.com/show/ben-fogle-and-the-buried-city/season-1/ben-fogle-and-the-buried-city>



Ben Fogle and Dr. Thomas Christopher

A number of persons on island contributed to the documentary, including notable island forester and environmentalist, Scriber (James Daley), and Dr. Thomas Christopher, Research Fellow-Volcanologist UWI Seismic Research Centre and the Montserrat Volcano Observatory.



St. Anthony's Anglican Church I

Electricity Power Crisis

Major power failure due to the breakdown of ageing generators resulted in load-shedding and disruption in the power supply to all occupied areas of the island from 24th July 2023. Support has been received from HMG and regional bodies, and though power has been restored the impact will be felt for several more weeks.

The situation led Her Excellency, the Governor, Mrs. Sarah Tucker to convene a meeting of the National Advisory Council (NAC), on Tuesday 25th July. This rarely used body, comprises of the Governor who chairs the meeting, the Premier,

Minister nominated by Premier (Deputy Premier), Leader of the Opposition, Attorney General, Financial secretary and Commissioner of Police.

In a joint statement issued by HE Governor Sarah Tucker, the Hon. Joseph E. Farrell, and the Hon Dr. Samuel Joseph, Deputy Premier the staff at the Montserrat Utilities Ltd and supporting visiting engineers were lauded and thanked for their efforts to ensure that stable power returns to the island.

Montserrat – At a Glance

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

PITCAIRN ISLANDS

Pitcairn Island Celebrates King Charles III's Coronation



The Mayor of Pitcairn Island and HRH King Charles III at The King's Reception

Pitcairn Island, a gem among British Overseas Territories, recently held a place of honour at the Coronation of King Charles III in May 2023. A member of the UK's family of Overseas Territories since the 19th century, Pitcairn has always shared a bond with the Royal Family, cherishing its British heritage.

The Mayor of Pitcairn was privileged to attend the monumental event at Westminster Abbey, representing the island's unique community. The Mayor noted that the Coronation was an "amazing event and such an honour to represent Pitcairn Island and our community."

Further deepening Pitcairn's connections at the royal event, the Mayor participated in receptions for Heads of State at Buckingham

Palace. There, the Mayor met King Charles III and the Princess of Wales, signifying the Island's important position within the British Overseas Territories.

The Mayor also attended events at Church House, both before and after the Coronation, where notably the Mayor had interactions with the former OT Minister Lord Goldsmith and Leader of the opposition, Sir Keir Starmer.

As the islanders reflect on this historic moment, the entire community feels an immense sense of pride. The coronation not only commemorated a new era for the United Kingdom but also reinforced the enduring bond between Pitcairn Island and the British monarchy.

Platinum Blue Park Award for Pitcairn Island's MPA



Pitcairn Islanders

At the 5th International Marine Protected Area Congress (IMPAC5) in Vancouver, Canada from February 3-5, 2023, Pitcairn Island's Marine Protected Area (MPA) stood out, receiving the esteemed Blue Park Award for exemplary marine wildlife conservation. Among three globally recognized MPAs, Pitcairn Island was a beacon of commitment to marine biodiversity.



Pitcairn Island

Speaking on the announcement, Dr. Sarah Hameed, Director of the Blue Parks Program, shared, "The Blue Parks initiative recognizes outstanding efforts by governments, nonprofit

organisations, MPA managers and local communities working to protect ocean wildlife Blue Parks provides a standard for marine protection to ensure that it truly safeguards marine biodiversity. We're thrilled to welcome new MPAs to the Blue Parks Network."

The recognition underscores Pitcairn Island's dedication to environmental sustainability, particularly its protection of nearly the entirety of its EEZ (exclusive economic zone), spanning a vast 843,000 square km.

Melva Evans, MPA Officer for Pitcairn Islands MPA, said, "We are so excited to receive the Blue Park Award. We are a tiny, remote island with a population of under 50 people, so we thought awards went to bigger places. Yet we are making a global contribution and are proud to conserve our ocean biodiversity and pristine waters for everyone. We hope this inspires some of those bigger places to join us!"

Backed by the Blue Endowment Fund, the Blue Park Awards grant US \$10,000 (platinum level) and US \$8,000 (gold level) to winners. Additionally, a specially etched glass trophy acknowledges their outstanding work.

Joining the ranks of the Blue Parks Network in 2023, Pitcairn Island aligns itself with global leaders in marine conservation. With unwavering commitment to their ecological cause, the island serves as a glowing example, inspiring larger territories to heed the call for marine protection.



One Pitcairn's migrating Humpback Whales which visit the island from late July through to September each year

Pitcairn – At a Glance

Seat of Government: Adamstown | Size: 47 sq km | Population: 44 |
Currency: New Zealand Dollar (NZD) | Time Zone: Greenwich Mean Time -8 hours |

ST HELENA

Coronation

St Helena geared up for a once-in-a-lifetime celebration for the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and The Queen Consort. Things kicked off on Saturday 6 May at the Community Care Centre, where residents and Acting Governor Greg Gibson enjoyed High Tea.

The main Island celebrations then took place on Sunday 7 May. The day began with a parade of uniformed contingents and a commemoration service at midday on the Supreme Court terrace. This was followed by events and activities for people of all ages so everyone could celebrate this exceptional moment in history with their families and friends.



Coronation celebrations in Jamestown

The programme of events included:

A Royal Bake-Off cake contest, to award the most royally delicious pastry. Royal-themed marquee to watch the festivities whilst enjoying hot tea and delightful pastries.

On the big stage, little queens and little kings (aged between 7 - 11 year old) looked fantastic parading with their most beautiful costumes and smiles.

Over 40 intrepid participants competed to set the fastest time up Jacob's Ladder, trying their hardest to be at all - time record!

For everyone else, there were stalls, games, food, drink, novelty sport activities, bingo, and live music across the streets of Jamestown.

Finally, Miss St Helena cut a specially designed celebratory cake and shared it with the public before the celebrations continued long into the night.



cutting the Coronation cake



Egg Island landscape

St Helena is an isolated island in the South Atlantic Ocean. To put its location into perspective, its nearest neighbour is Ascension Island, at around 1100km away. This isolation has made the marine environment one of St Helena's most precious natural assets. It is valued for its beauty and diversity, its cultural and historical influences on our community, its economic benefits and its ability to provide health and wellbeing benefits. Its value lies not only in what can be harvested on a sustainable basis, but in the physical environment itself which shapes the lifestyle and culture of the community and which attracts tourists every year.

In September 2016, St Helena designated a 449,411 km² IUCN Category VI Marine Protected Area (MPA) covering its entire Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). This means all of its territorial waters are a protected area that allows sustainable use of its natural resources. This means that low-level human use, like one by one fishing, is permitted as long as it does not undermine the MPA's objectives of protecting and conserving the marine environment. As this is a legal designation, there are certain legal requirements that have been written into local legislation. The most relevant being that St Helena must adopt a Marine Management Plan (MMP) for the MPA. The law also states that the draft version of the MMP must be put out for public consultation. This is to ensure relevant stakeholders and the wider community (local and international) are given the opportunity to put their advice, opinions and knowledge forward to inform the draft version.

Throughout 2022 key stakeholders, including local and international NGOs, were invited to participate in a targeted consultation through questionnaires and workshops, as well as a targeted two week document review. The public consultation ran for 28 days in September and October and involved a plethora of community engagement activities. These included public meetings, focus group sessions, webinars, local information stalls and media presentations. Once all feedback from the consultation period had been gathered, the draft MMP was revised to reflect all responses. Following this it was republished and roll out of the plan began.

Marine management plans are a tool that guides managers, people using the marine environment and other interested parties on how the marine

St Helena Government adopts and rolls out new five year Marine Management Plan



protected area will be managed. Implementing the MMP requires ongoing and appropriate research, constantly evolving policy and legislation and, above all, community involvement and buy-in. It will be updated every five years, taking new evidence into account and reflecting new priorities as they evolve.

Oceans and seas cover more than 70% of the Earth's surface and, most importantly, generates the majority of the oxygen that we breathe. Oceans feed us, regulate our climate and serve an integral part in people's mental health wellbeing. Despite their importance, oceans are facing unprecedented threats as a result of human activity. Climate change is damaging key ecosystems, overfishing is threatening the stability of fish stocks and nearly 80% of the world's wastewater is discharged in the ocean without treatment.



Stakeholder workshop for MPA

St Helena is optimistic that by having the MPA in place along with the appropriate implementation and management, through the new Marine Management Plan 2023 to 2027 and future MMPs, our marine environment can remain the beautiful and diverse place that it is now.

The full MMP can be viewed online via www.sainthelena.gov.sh/wpcontent/uploads/2023/06/St-Helena-MMP_FINAL_2023.pdf

St Helena – At a Glance

Capital: Jamestown | Size: 410 sq km | Population: 4,439 |
Currency: \$ Helenian Pound | Time Zone: Greenwich Mean Time

TRISTAN DA CUNHA

Lifeline plea to cut risk and help islanders

The world's remotest community has appealed for help from London to mitigate the risks of extreme isolation.

The UK Territory of Tristan da Cunha currently has no means of physical access that is under islanders' control; instead it relies on occasional ships that fishers and researchers send for their own purposes and to their own timetables. Sometimes, lives are lost after lengthy waits for medical evacuation. Moreover, opportunities to boost marine science and eco-tourism are being lost.

Tristanians believe their plight is unique, and unacceptable for British subjects. They contribute powerfully to UK objectives such as ocean conservation (having designated the



The fishing boat Edinburgh is one of the few vessels that call at Tristan da Cunha

fourth-largest marine reserve on Earth), and now want the UK to step-up to its obligations. Westminster politicians have backed their call;

the island now awaits help from His Majesty's Government.

You've come HOW far??

A joyful Coronation weekend began with laughter for Tristan da Cunha's Chief Islander, when Cllr James Glass and his wife Felicity met His Majesty at Buckingham Palace on the eve of the ceremony.

King Charles could hardly believe the journey the pair had made to London from the middle of the South Atlantic: they'd embarked on a fishing boat 44 days previously.

Tristan da Cunha was included in all the central events of Coronation weekend, and James was interviewed by Sky News about his epic voyage..



King Charles III with James and Felicity Glass

Chief Islander honoured for ocean conservation

Tristan's unique contribution to marine preservation was recognised at Windsor Castle on 10th May, when HRH the Prince of Wales presented Cllr James Glass with his MBE medal. James was honoured for 'services to the marine environment of Tristan da Cunha', reflecting his key role in creating the archipelago's Marine Protection Zone as well as his decades of service to the Island Council.



Tristan's Chief Islander receives his award



Coronation service at St Mary's Church

Back on the Island, a special service was held in St Mary's Church to mark the Coronation, with a portrait of the new King and Queen taking pride of place on the altar. Tristan's key bank holiday of the austral autumn has now been re-named King's Day: after a public viewing of the Coronation on a large TV screen, islanders gathered at St Mary's School for fun and games. Later there was a buffet and refreshments for the whole community at the Prince Philip Hall, where everyone raised a glass for the newly crowned King.

Tristan da Cunha – At a Glance

Capital: Edinburgh of the Seven Seas | **Size:** 98 sq km | **Population:** 242 |
Currency: Pound Sterling | **Time Zone:** Greenwich Mean Time |

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

TCI Welcomes 16th Governor



Premier and Governor

The Premier officially welcomed the new Governor, Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam, to the Turks and Caicos Islands during her swearing-in ceremony at the House of Assembly in Grand Turk on 29th June.

In his welcome address, Premier Misick stated, "like the United Kingdom Government, illegal immigration and human trafficking remain among our greatest challenges and a pervasive risk to national security."

Although this remains the constitutional responsibility of your office, I view this responsibility as a partnership, as elected Governments have obligations to citizenry and visitors to protect our borders.

However, we again anticipate the same, if not even more vigor, from your office than your predecessors in seeking solutions to this vexing problem that seeks to threaten the security and economic well-being of these Islands." He added, "As you spend your days and years in these Islands, I would like for every morning that you rise, you are mindful of the people's aspirations, ambitions, and vision. More importantly, I call upon you to remind those in Whitehall."

Her Excellency Governor Selvaratnam is the first woman to serve as governor. She shared during her speech that she knows the significant concerns about national security, irregular migration, and the economy." Governor Selvaratnam noted that she would begin her governorship by visiting the islands' constituencies and meeting with government officials.

Bold Housing Policy Launched



The National Housing Policy was officially launched on Thursday, 27 July 2023. The policy addresses the housing needs of Turks and Caicos Islands citizens which in the initial phase of the launch, will feature three main programmes:

- [Housing Concessions for Residential Developers](#)
- [Home Improvement Programme for Existing Homeowners](#)
- [Community Renewal and Infilling](#)

The aim of the policy is to provide adequate shelter, affordable housing, and acceptable housing options throughout the islands in sufficient quantity and quality to rebalance the supply-demand curve and improve the living conditions for working people.

Children Celebrate Coronation



In honor of King Charles III's ascension to the throne, schools across the islands were encouraged to celebrate the momentous occasion within their classrooms and campuses. Following the coronation and bank holiday, schools were kindly requested to submit photographic evidence of their festivities. With creative and imaginative celebrations ranging from paper crowns to group gatherings, students fervently acknowledged the significance of this historic event.



Turks and Caicos – At a Glance

Capital: Cockburn Town, Grand Turk | Size: 616.3 sq km | Population: 42,953 (2019) |
Currency: United States Dollar (US\$) | Time Zone: Greenwich Mean Time -5 hours |

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