



UKOTA statement: Precious environments: conservation needs both strategic support and local ownership

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The UK Overseas Territories are recognised for their remarkably rich and varied natural environments. They collectively hold:

- One third of the world's albatross
- A quarter of the world's penguins
- The world's largest coral atoll
- Around 90% of the UK realm's biodiversity
- The world's fifth largest marine estate (approx. 5,748,600 km<sup>2</sup>, of which 63% is protected)

Environment is a devolved responsibility of the locally elected Governments.

The territories are contributing to the UK Government's Initiative to protect 30% of the world's ocean by 2030 (declared in September 2019) and the commitment to protect 30% of land for nature by 2030 (declared in September 2020), to help reverse the devastating worldwide loss of biodiversity.

A UKOTA spokesperson said: "It is important that the UK Government works with the territories' governments to provide long-term strategic support. Combined with local ownership to ensure sustainability of conservation projects, this partnership working is of global environmental significance".