

# UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES



THE NEWSLETTER OF UKOTA · SEPTEMBER 2021

## PRECIOUS ISLAND ENVIRONMENTS AWAIT COP26

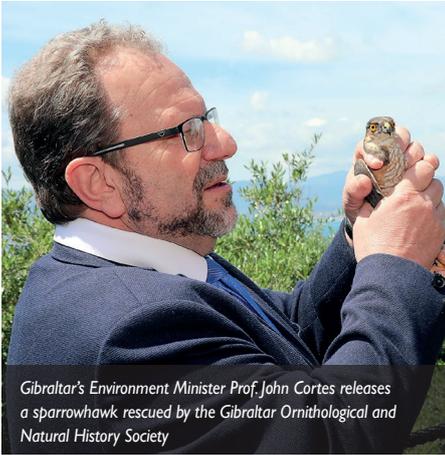
*Kelp is a vital component of several Territories' healthy seas, and is threatened by ocean warming. (Sue Scott)*

| **Territories' historic nature pledge** |

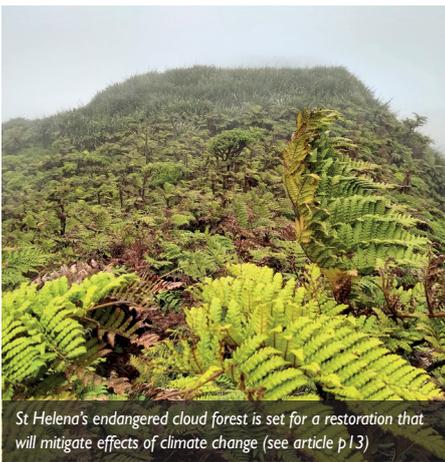
| **Countdown to London talks** |

| **New pact with EU territories** |

# UK territories seek



Gibraltar's Environment Minister Prof. John Cortes releases a sparrowhawk rescued by the Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society



St Helena's endangered cloud forest is set for a restoration that will mitigate effects of climate change (see article p13)

Environment ministers of the Overseas Territories, which together are responsible for some 95% of total British biodiversity on the planet, are set to curtain-raise this November's COP 26 climate change conference with a powerful declaration.

They are pledging their commitment to play an active part in protecting the Earth for future generations.

The territories, many of which were explorers' stepping-stones though the vastness of globe's seas and oceans, are now also in the front line of the looming likelihood of a climate change catastrophe. People, economies, and unique animal habitats jointly face an existential threat if action is not swift.

Their Premiers are working together and determined to make their united voices heard in Glasgow. Participation at COP26 will help protect the collective safety and prosperity of these British territories. Mostly islands, sprinkled across the world from the Antarctic to the Pacific, South Atlantic, Mediterranean and the Caribbean, each faces unique challenges.

Through the representation of the UK Overseas Territories Association currently chaired by Bermuda, politicians and officials from 12 jurisdictions have been working closely with the British Government and many non-governmental organisations to ensure that they can develop, finance, and put into effect policies that will protect the complex network of their land and sea resources in a sustainable way.

"This has to be a partnership. Between us, the Overseas Territories and the UK hold jurisdiction over the planet's fifth-largest marine estate. Our territories range from volcanic islands to frozen icefields, and it is important to us that people in Britain realise the scope of the responsibility we share as the diverse British family that we are," says UKOTA.

"Our presence at COP meetings in support of the United Kingdom team provides vital eyes and ears to ensure we approach these crucial issues in concert and that we are properly resourced to meet the targets we sign up to."

Having the ear of UK ministers is essential. The territories share the conviction that

**Cayman Islands** have set up a new Ministry of Sustainability and Climate Resiliency, to take action on climate-change adaptation, environmental protection and renewable energy.

**Falkland Islands** are home to amazing wildlife and also serve as a platform for Antarctic science, helping to contribute to global understanding of climate change.

**Gibraltar** has declared a climate emergency: the Rock is working towards net-zero carbon by 2030, and on unlocking green finance through a new legal framework.

**St Helena** is transitioning towards being 100% self-sufficient in energy from renewable sources – wind and solar – within the next two years.

## High hopes for in-person meeting of ministers

November is set to bring the first opportunity in two years for leaders from across the UK Overseas Territories to come together with senior officials and ministers from the UK Government.

The Joint Ministerial Council is a forum for robust discussion on issues of mutual importance, and helps celebrate and strengthen the special partnership we as UK Overseas Territories have with London. After a gap due to Covid restrictions, it will also mean some recently-elected OT leaders can at last meet their opposite numbers.



The Locarno Suite at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office will be the JMC venue

This year's Council is scheduled for 16-17 November in London and will directly follow COP26. Conversations begun in Glasgow

will be high on the agenda, while other likely topics include economic recovery post-pandemic, the UK/OT relationship, health, security, and inclusivity.

The event, chaired by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, UK Minister for the OTs, and UKOTA President Hon. E. David Burt JP MP, Premier of Bermuda, will bring the UK family together to tackle challenges, celebrate successes, and look to the future.

# voice at COP 26

COP26 will be an important platform to engage with worldwide partners to promote environmentally friendly economic models and move towards fully viable green energy sources.

With economies that have become increasingly dependent on the preservation of their unique flora, fauna, and marine life, the territories are making environment and climate change core issues for their countries. Facing increasing exposure to extreme weather, they are also looking to the United Kingdom for practical, financial, and political support to achieve their goals.

Challenges include adapting to climate change to preserve unique sites, biosecurity to safeguard against invasive species, protecting sustainable fishing and other industries, and finding viable pathways to totally green living.

All the Overseas Territories are committed to ensuring the protection of their fragile ecosystems, reducing carbon footprint and mitigating the impact of climate change. They are calling on Boris Johnson and his government to recognise the importance of working together as one team



Solar energy on Tristan da Cunha helps reduce dependence on imported diesel

**Turks and Caicos** as low-lying islands are threatened by the prospect of floods and intensifying hurricanes; a new climate-change policy supports action to mitigate these harms.

**Montserrat** is working to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and to power the island from indigenous sources: geothermal, wind and solar.

**Tristan da Cunha** is a global leader in marine conservation, and is researching renewable energy to reduce imports of diesel that is delivered via a 2,800km shipping link

**Pitcairn Islands** are home to many unique species and to some of the world's most pristine coral reefs; the islands have declared a vast Marine Protected Area.

## New partnership with EU islands

With Brexit now complete, the UK Overseas Territories Association has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Overseas Countries and Territories Association of the EU. The pact commits the two groupings to continued friendly collaboration; it was signed at an online ministerial conference convened in June by New Caledonia which holds the OCTA chair.



New Caledonia President Thierry Santa chaired the meeting at which the Memorandum was agreed. © OCTA

"The health crisis has revealed the importance of co-operation and solidarity with our neighbouring countries and territories," said the President of New Caledonia, Thierry Santa. "It is an opportunity for the citizens of our territories to get to know each other; to exchange our experiences and to maintain our collaboration for the future while making the most of all the existing levers for the benefit of our populations."

# Ascension Island

## Runway repairs on course

The last year has brought major progress for long-awaited repair works to Ascension's strategically important runway at Wideawake Airfield.

A huge logistical effort, following strict Covid protocols, has seen consultants, contractors and equipment arrive on the island. Aggregate will continue to be offloaded, in difficult 'open water' conditions, for some months. The island has been delighted to welcome over 200 people

working on the contract; they settled in well and are working hard.

The facility was constructed by the US military in 1942 and provided a staging point for more than 25,000 flights in World War Two. It was a crucial link for the UK's retaking of the Falkland Islands in 1982. The repair project follows a 2017 assessment of damage and the suspension of many regular flights. It is planned that the runway will be back to full capacity by late 2022.



## Ocean protection now in place



One of the largest Marine Protected Areas in the world is now legally in place around Ascension. The conservation measures extend across the island's entire Exclusive Economic Zone, covering 445,000 km<sup>2</sup> in which commercial fishing is banned and mineral extraction prohibited. The move followed many years of data gathering, planning and consultation. The island is grateful to the UK government's Blue Belt Programme, UK government Darwin and EU Best funding, the Great British Oceans Coalition and many others. After extensive consultation, the Ascension Island MPA Management Plan was published earlier this year and the MPA has been implemented. The Plan focuses on how the island will manage the MPA over the next five years, ensuring this important and valuable environment is protected for generations to come.

## Vital work goes on despite pandemic

The nature of Ascension's work meant it was not an option to close borders against the threat of Covid-19, so the island continued to allow people to arrive and depart. To facilitate this, strict quarantine rules were quickly put in place. Thankfully, these measures prevented community spread of the infection. Ascension is grateful to the UK government for early supply of PPE and other equipment, testing capability, vaccines and access to expert advice. Colleagues in the RAF and US Air Force assisted with moving equipment and people, while the island's own medical, policy, operational and legal teams all contributed to keeping Ascension safe. Throughout the pandemic, the island's day-to-day work has continued.

## 95 year-old law finally updated

2021 has seen the culmination of a two-year effort to update Ascension's Workers Protection Ordinance. The previous legislation dated back to 1926, and the main objectives were: to regularise good practices already adopted within the HR policies of island employers, to safeguard employees' basic welfare needs, and to balance the interests of employers and employees, in particular when it comes to dismissal. Despite Covid delays the timetable stayed on track, with a public consultation before the changes were agreed by the Island Council and accepted by the Governor in March 2021.

## Defending against nature's invaders

Ascension has implemented a new Bio Security Ordinance, to help protect the island's environment, economy and human health from the introduction of non-native plants and animals. The island has already seen the damage caused by invasive species over the years: it has witnessed damage caused by species such as rats, myna birds, wasps, scorpions, mosquitos, Mexican thorn bushes and termites. It was important to keep away fire ants, venomous snakes/spiders, malarial mosquitos, fire ants and lion fish.

Ascension's Island Council recommended the law, which was achieved with help from conservation and legal teams. It brings fresh powers to control what can come on to the island, to help ensure that no new invasive species are introduced.

## Ascension Island – At a Glance

Capital: Georgetown | Size: 88 sq km | Population: 806 (2016 census) |  
Currency: Pound Sterling | Time Zone: Greenwich Mean Time

# Anguilla

## New direct flights to island



American Airlines is to launch new non-stop flights between Miami International Airport and Anguilla's Clayton J. Lloyd International Airport. The announcement was made in July by the airline's Miami Hub Vice President Juan Carlos Liscano, and the twice-weekly flights will start on 11th December.

Anguilla's Minister of Tourism, the Hon. Haydn Hughes, warmly welcomed the new service. "We are delighted that American Airlines will be inaugurating a twice weekly, scheduled service into Anguilla this winter" he said. "This introduction of direct service into Anguilla from the US mainland is a goal we have long been working towards, and we are thrilled that our efforts have now borne fruit. This is a tremendous vote of confidence in our

destination, as American Airlines has the equipment and the route network that will enable us to significantly increase our arrivals and further develop our tourism product"

The direct flights will operate on Wednesdays and Saturdays and are already available for sale.

"The introduction of these scheduled flights will be a game changer for our tourism industry", enthused Anguilla Tourist Board Chairman Kenroy Herbert. "Access is the most critical factor for any destination, and the Miami gateway provides excellent connectivity from the West Coast of the USA, so it opens up lucrative new markets for Anguilla. This new service will create a host of business and leisure tourism opportunities for our island."

## Visas for digital nomads

Anguilla's 'Nomad Visa' programme, created during the Covid-19 epidemic, is designed to spur long-stay travel in a region that depends on it economically. Anguilla's programme is unique in that it specifically targets families and students, alongside digital nomads and remote workers.

The Nomad Visa gives an opportunity for people to put work and life back into balance, in a destination that turns each day into a working vacation - allowing them to stay from 91 days to 12 months at a cost of \$2,000 per individual. For families of up to four, the cost is \$3,000 with just \$250 extra charged for any further family members. Application is made online and takes only 7 days to process.

To qualify, applicants must be remote workers with enough income to support themselves during their stay, have an insurance policy covering Covid-19, and be willing to undergo PCR tests.

By August, Anguilla had experienced just 127 confirmed cases of Covid-19, meriting inclusion on the UK's travel 'green list' for travel and enabling the island to welcome visitors.



## Anguilla – At a Glance

Capital: The Valley | Size: 91 sq km | Population: 15,000 (2018) |  
Currency: Eastern Caribbean Dollar (EC\$) | Time Zone: Greenwich Mean Time -4 hours |



## Flora Duffy Wins Gold at Summer Olympics: “We are immensely proud.”

Flora Duffy has delivered an historic achievement in winning an Olympic Gold medal for Bermuda in the Women's Triathlon at Japan 2020. Flora becomes the first Bermudian to win an Olympic Gold, and the second to win an Olympic medal, with Clarence Hill having won bronze in heavyweight boxing during the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal.

Flora's victory was in a time of 1:55:36, which was more than one minute ahead of the silver medalist, with Ms Duffy making a dominant showing to win the Gold. With multiple world titles and now an Olympic Gold medal, Flora has secured her position as one of the best triathletes of all time. She has also given Bermuda the distinction of being the smallest nation in the world ever to win a Gold Medal at the Summer Olympics.

After the race Flora said “I've had an extra year with this pressure on me. Although it was difficult to manage and navigate all that pressure, what a special moment to come down the finishing shoot and just to enjoy it and have my moments. It's incredible. It was worth it: there's been many tears, many heartbreaks, many times I was like 'am I ever going to be healthy again, can I ever race at the top?' I just kept believing and I have a really great support system around me.”

Bermuda's Premier the Hon. E. David Burt, JP, MP said “Words almost cannot do justice to such an incredible effort from an incredible athlete. This remarkable achievement is a true testament to Flora's unwavering commitment and genuine perseverance in training and preparation. Bermuda is bursting with pride and admiration for this humble champion.”

The Minister of Youth, Culture and Sport Dr. Ernest Peets said, “Bermuda's

sporting community is united in saluting this amazing Olympic victory. Every athlete must be inspired by what we saw in Tokyo. Flora Duffy is a sporting giant and Bermuda could not be more proud of her and her success.”

And the Deputy Premier the Hon. Walter Roban, JP, MP, added, “It is beyond words to finally witness Bermuda winning gold at the Olympics. Flora has made us all proud.”

Immediately following the Olympics Flora achieved her latest victory winning the World Triathlon Championship Series in Montreal, Canada on August 14th.

### 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

## Islands grateful to UK Government for Covid-19 Vaccines

After over a year of thankfully low rates of Covid-19 in the BVI, July saw the Territory faced with its most severe outbreak since the start of global pandemic. At its peak, the local outbreak saw a total of 1604 active cases and brought the total of Covid-19 related deaths to 37: a significant number for a population of approximately 35,000.

In a bid to stem the impact of the virus, the BVI Government, with assistance from the UK, intensified its vaccination programme and launched "Operation Protect Each Other Vaccination Drive-Thru" across the territory.

Minister for Health and Social Development Hon. Carvin Malone gave an address describing



vaccines as the "best defence in protecting our beloved Virgin Islands against Covid-19 and its variants". He expressed that the Virgin Islands owe a debt of gratitude to the United Kingdom Government for providing an additional 3,040



doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine. The UK Government also committed to providing the Territory with an unlimited supply of vaccines as needed and provided 10,000 PCR test kits along with 15,000 rapid test kits.

## BVI talks climate change ahead of COP 26

The BVI Government has reaffirmed that the University of Southampton is a key partner of the BVI as preparations are made ahead of the Glasgow Climate Change Conference hosted by the UK. To strengthen cooperation, the Government and University held a virtual policy/academic exchange in May in which they discussed areas of mutual interest such as climate change, maritime management, coastal management, marine biodiversity and cooperation on higher education.

Deputy Premier Dr Natalio Wheatley said: "We were highly impressed by the range and depth of academic expertise demonstrated by faculty members at the University of Southampton in their presentations during the various segments of the programme. The capability of the University presents an opportunity for the Government and academic institutions such as the H. Lavity Stoutt Community College to partner with Southampton on research and to address several of the policy challenges we face, such as mitigating the impact of climate change on the agriculture and fisheries sectors and

our marine biodiversity due to changing weather patterns and the warming of the ocean. There are a host of areas in which we can cooperate."

The BVI Government and University of Southampton have committed to continuing to explore areas of cooperation and joint activities.

### Road to COP26

The BVI continues to engage with the UK Government as the UK prepares to host the COP26 climate change Summit in Glasgow. The BVI is a clear example of the impact climate change can bring to small island nations, as the Territory was ravaged by, and continues to recover from, the category 5 hurricanes of 2017. The BVI would like to have meaningful engagement at COP26 and lend its voice to the all-important climate change conversation, which if left unaddressed threatens the very existence of the island chain Territory.

## Talks to re-start cruise calls

As part of the Government of the Virgin Islands' commitment to the healthy restart of the cruise industry, the Premier and Minister of Finance, Honourable Andrew A. Fahie, has hosted a series of meetings with cruise lines. On the agenda was the resumption of cruise calls for fully vaccinated passengers to the Virgin Islands and the wider region. Operators based in the USA and worldwide joined the Premier for the talks.



Premier Andrew A. Fahie with Steve Moeller, Senior Vice President for Commercial Development at Norwegian Cruise Line

## 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 |

## New PACT Government & 100 Days in Office Report



Premier Wayne Panton addresses the crowd in front of the Parliament building after being sworn in.

Following elections in April 2021, a new Government was formed. The incoming Premier Wayne Panton commented: "The government that I am humbled to lead will be people-driven, accountable, competent and transparent (PACT)."

The PACT Government's Strategic Policy and Report on its first 100 days in office has been published on the official Cayman Islands Government website.

The PACT administration's early achievements are listed in the report under several broad areas including re-opening borders, education, healthcare, people and social policy, good governance, safety, environment and sustainability, employment and labour, sports and culture, infrastructure, financial services, and tourism.

## Ministerial Code of Conduct Approved

The PACT Government made history in July 2021 with the enactment of the Cayman Islands' first-ever Ministerial code of conduct.

The comprehensive general code of conduct also gives guidance on a wide range of specific issues, including dealing with possible or perceived conflicts of interest; the acceptance of gifts and/or favours; and Ministerial travel.

The Code of Conduct reinforces the PACT Government's commitment to be people-driven, accountable, competent and transparent. It sets out standards for adhering to the principles of good governance. It also promotes greater accountability within the executive branch.

Under the Code, Ministers are required to behave in a way that protects the integrity of the decision-making process and upholds the highest standards of propriety. They must



Cabinet members with their copies of the Code of Conduct (L-R seated) Minister Sabrina Turner, Deputy Premier Chris Saunders, Premier Wayne Panton, Governor Martyn Roper, Minister Bernie Bush and Minister Juliana O'Connor-Connolly, (L-R standing) Cabinet Secretary Samuel Rose, Attorney General Samuel Bulgín, Minister Jay Ebanks, Deputy Governor Franz Manderson, Minister André Ebanks and Minister Kenneth Bryan.

comply with the Ministerial Code of Conduct at all times.

One portion of the Code of Conduct mandates that Cabinet Ministers are expected to comply with the Nolan Principles, otherwise known as the Seven Principles of Public Life.

## New Representative to the UK



Dr. Tasha Ebanks Garcia was appointed to represent the Cayman Islands Government in the United Kingdom from 1 May 2021.

The UK Representative leads the Cayman Islands Government Office based

in London. Dr. Tasha Ebanks Garcia joined the Cayman Islands Civil Service in 2013, as a Deputy Chief Officer in the Ministry of Education, Employment and Gender Affairs. In 2017 she was recruited by the Office of the Deputy Governor to serve as the Deputy Chief Advisor.

Having worked across a range of policy areas, she has had the opportunity to provide advice and deliver internal consultancy services to Ministries across the Government.

## Focus on Hurricane Preparedness

Each year in June, the Cayman Islands Government gears up for the upcoming hurricane season. This year extra steps have been taken to be fully prepared for a hurricane or national crisis (before, during and after).

These extra efforts included a meeting of the Hazard Management Executive and joint hurricane preparedness exercises by the Royal Cayman Islands Police Air Operations Unit and the Cayman Islands Regiment.



Hurricane Preparedness Meeting

Governor Martyn Roper commented: "It's been really reassuring to look around and see the work going on across the Cayman Islands to ready the country for hurricane season. Members of our disaster preparedness community are constantly developing their skills in this area and their commitment to keeping the country safe is second to none."

# Falkland Islands

## Looking forward at 40: anniversary events in 2022

June 14th 2022 will be a significant date for the Falklands as it will be exactly 40 years since the Islands were liberated by the British Armed Forces from Argentine occupation. The Falkland Islands Government is planning a series of events to suitably mark the anniversary.

As well as commemorating the sacrifices made by everyone involved in the liberation of the Islands, the anniversary also gives us the opportunity to reflect and celebrate all the achievements and progress of the past four decades, and an opportunity to promote and raise awareness of the Falkland Islands as they are today – diverse, open, democratic,



entrepreneurial, internally self-governing, and self-reliant in all areas apart from defence and foreign affairs.

We appreciated the support given by many Overseas Territories in 1982 and are keen to hear any stories about the support given.

## Protecting sea birds and mammals

The Falkland Islands run one of the most successfully-managed fisheries in the world, with conservation measures in place for both the target fish species and also interacting wildlife, such as the iconic Black-browed Albatross, Petrels, South American fur seals and South American sea lions. These species can be attracted to fishing vessels for an 'easy meal' by foraging caught fish or discards from the vessel's processing plant.

Since 2002 our Fisheries Department has worked closely with fishing companies to design measures to mitigate seabird and marine-mammal bycatch. Successful measures include bird-scaring lines, seal exclusion devices and discard management. The partnership between government and the fishing industry has resulted in a dedicated marine-mammal observer in place since 2017, meaning that our squid fishery is the only trawl fishery in the Southwest Atlantic with full observer coverage and outstanding seabird and marine mammal bycatch mitigation.

## World's first Key Biodiversity Area for Sei whales

In May 2021, the Falkland Islands were designated the world's first Sei whale Key Biodiversity Area. This designation is based on cetacean survey work undertaken over the past five years by Falklands Conservation with support from the UK's Darwin Plus scheme and Falkland Islands Government Environmental Studies funding.



## Armed Forces Day 2021

Did you know there are Falkland Islanders serving in all three branches of the UK Armed Forces? Armed Forces Day was therefore not just an opportunity to thank all members of the UK Armed Forces who do so much to defend the

Falkland Islands' right to self-determination, it was also an opportunity to highlight why Islanders chose to serve in the UK military and their positive experiences.



## UN Special Committee C-24 on Decolonization

The Chair of the Legislative Assembly, MLA Mark Pollard, and Deputy Chair MLA Leona Roberts made a heartfelt entreaty to the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization (C-24) in June. They spoke of their personal family histories as well as their hopes for the future of their children and the Falkland Islands as a whole.

MLA Mark Pollard related how in 1982 the innocence of a nation was taken away overnight with "reminders of death and destruction part of everyday life... yet Argentina has never shown remorse for their actions." He ended, "I am here to beg you to allow my children to grow up knowing only peace... and to recognise my people's right to determine their own future."

MLA Leona Roberts spoke of nine generations of her family in the Islands and a country born of "natural migration and organic growth." She reminded the committee the Falkland Islands has continued to behave with decency towards Argentina, by sharing of data on fish stocks and support for work to identify fallen soldiers through DNA.

Both representatives asked members to consider the true purpose of the C-24 in standing up for the rights of nations under threat of external control in all its guises, and to not allow itself as a UN committee to risk becoming a tool for colonisation by supporting Argentina's constitutional claim.



## 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 |

## Vaccination – Operation Freedom

In early April 2021, Gibraltar became the first territory in the world to offer the Covid-19 vaccine to all residents over the age of 16. The campaign was dubbed 'Operation Freedom', and HM Government of Gibraltar coincided the vaccine rollout with the gradual removal of social restrictions on the Rock. The success of 'Operation Freedom' has meant that Gibraltar and the Gibraltarians have enjoyed a more normal summer that was envisioned earlier in the year, when the pandemic unfortunately accounted for the lives of close to 100 Gibraltarians.

As of August 2021, the Gibraltar Health Authority had fully vaccinated 39,346 people which represented over 116% of the population. This is due to HM Government of



Staff at the Gibraltar Health Authority ready to commence 'Operation Freedom'

Gibraltar offering the vaccine to cross-border workers who live in neighbouring Spain. Over 97 per cent of the Gibraltarian population have now received both doses of the vaccine.

The Chief Minister, Fabian Picardo, thanked

the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and Ministry of Defence for their vital role and support in delivering the vaccine to Gibraltar, in turn helping Gibraltar return to a closer version of pre-Covid reality.

## Joint Ministerial Council

UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab and Minister Wendy Morton visited Gibraltar in March for a historic Joint Ministerial Council held at No 6 Convent Place – the first time the council had convened in Gibraltar since it was established in 2016. In a joint statement issued with the Chief Minister, The Foreign Secretary reiterated the UK Government's "commitment to British sovereignty and to the stability and the prosperity of the people of Gibraltar as part of the UK family".



Chief Minister Fabian Picardo, UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab and Deputy Chief Minister Joseph Garcia ahead of the Joint Ministerial Council held in Gibraltar.

## Gibraltar appoints new mayor

In June, Gibraltar appointed a new mayor, Christian Santos. The mayoral term in Gibraltar lasts for one year, and whilst it is a non-political civic and ceremonial role, the mayor is heavily involved in cultural and social events on the Rock. Upon his appointment His Worship the Mayor launched the 'We Are One' Campaign, which aims to celebrate the rich diversity of the community and how Gibraltarians of all backgrounds and walks of life have come together and lived as one. The Mayor's Office launched a social-media campaign and has already hosted many different events at the City Hall. The year ahead will see the celebration of our different religious feasts and faith communities, annual charitable undertakings which express the generous spirit of the Gibraltarians, and work with many different organisations.

The Mayor said: "We would like to make the City Hall a place where all feel welcome at home. By having a central point where members of our society can come together, I hope to be able to raise awareness of the issues that are important to us all".

## Rumble on the Rock

The Europa Sports Complex, a development for the Island Games hosted in Gibraltar in 2019, played host to the first Heavyweight Boxing fight on the Rock in March when British Heavyweight Dillian Whyte regained his title against Alexander Povetkin. Due to the coronavirus pandemic and the travel restrictions, Gibraltar was chosen as a late replacement for the original venue due to its successful vaccine rollout. 'Rumble on the Rock' gained wide-ranging coverage due to it being one of the first pilot sporting events since the onset of the second wave of the pandemic in late 2020. Close to 500 spectators were allowed to attend the event and it was deemed to be a success by both the boxing world and the local authorities. Gibraltar hopes that this may act as a catalyst to host future events on the Rock in the coming years.

## Gibraltar – At a Glance

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

# Montserrat

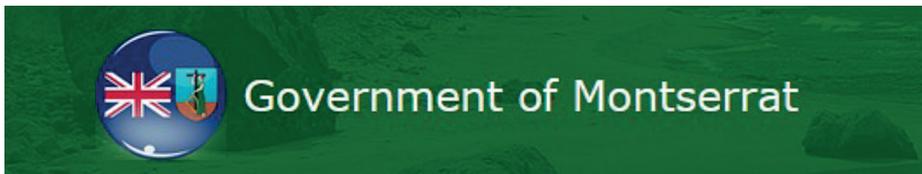
## Premier leads vaccine campaign

Montserrat's Premier, Hon. Joseph E. Farrell, was among the first to receive the Oxford AstraZeneca Covid-19 Vaccine supplied by the UK government. The Governor, His Excellency Andrew Pearce, received his vaccine shortly afterwards.

Commenting on the importance of being vaccinated, the Premier said "I think it is so important that I take my vaccine. I know what the consequences are of an infection from the coronavirus and as a result of that I think I need to protect myself, my family and of course the citizens of Montserrat, with whom I come in contact."



## Training future island leaders



Senior leaders from within the Government of Montserrat have joined an 11-month learning programme designed to foster the development and sustainability of strong leadership within the public service.

The Senior Leaders Development Programme will run until June 2022. It was designed by the Learning and Development Division within the Human Resources Management Unit at the direction of the Honourable Deputy Governor, Mrs. Lyndell Simpson, to help fill leadership gaps in the service. The programme will allow public officers from the Senior Assistant Secretary

level up to the Permanent Secretary level to gain insight into strong effective leadership, so supporting succession planning within the Government of Montserrat.

This is intended to promote the development of a well-trained, motivated and ethical public service, capable of competently managing resources, people and programmes. The aim is to boost skills in effective planning, building stakeholder relationships, customer service and delivery, leading in complexity, relationship management, conflict management and emotional intelligence.

The 33 participants started with an assessment of their own leadership competencies, strengths and weaknesses, after which they were each paired with an executive coach.

The Caribbean Centre for Development Administration will facilitate the second stage of the programme which will consist of virtual and face to face workshops, as well as individual and group coaching sessions over the next year.

## 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 |

## Island's power transformation

Pitcairn is on the way to replacing fossil fuels with power from South Pacific sunshine.

The EU commissioned a study in 2017, which led to the European Development Fund agreeing to fund a renewable-energy project as part of a regional scheme. Pitcairn has been working with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in New Caledonia. SPC manage the project on behalf of the EU, which is the largest single donor to the Pacific Community. Pitcairn works with all the EU Overseas Territories in the Pacific: New Caledonia, Wallis-and-Futuna and French Polynesia.

Although the UK has now left the European Union, Pitcairn's relationship with the EU will continue until the project has been completed.

The initial intention was for a one-off tender process and a site visit for the successful bidder for a 'design, build, install and train' contract, but as Covid-19 intervened and with borders closed, a rethink was necessary.

After further consultation, it was decided to progress with Stage 1 to design the project and thereafter to go out to tender for the build, install and train components.

Solar power to replace fossil fuel fits well with Pitcairn's blue and green economic objectives. The aim of the exercise is to ensure that every Pitcairn home and government building has a solar-energy power connection from the grid.

A large number of companies from around the world tendered for the first stage of the project. All were of a high calibre and after much deliberation the contract was awarded to One Energy Island, a South Korean Company which has successfully undertaken other similar projects in the Pacific region.

While a site visit was obviously preferable to desk study, a number of instruments were developed such as very high-resolution satellite photography and data which enabled the topography of the island to be factored into the planning process.

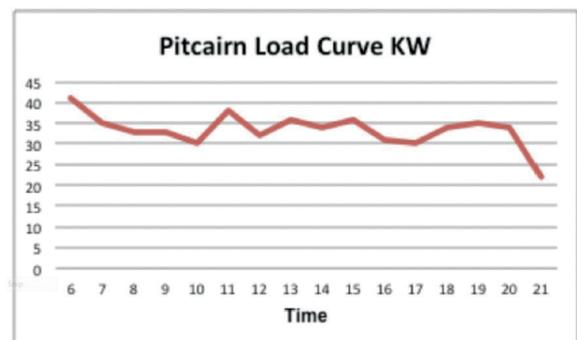
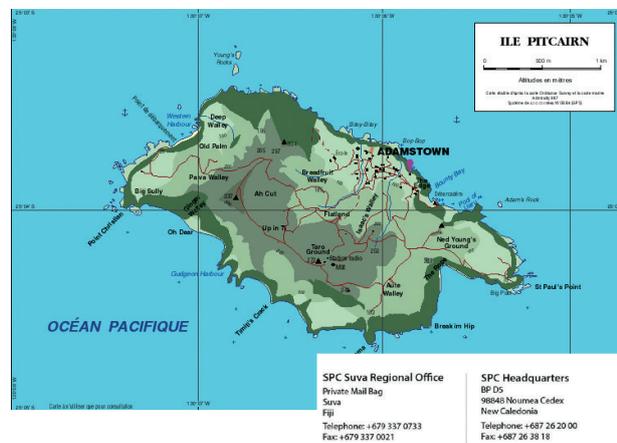


A Pitcairn steering committee was formed and several meetings were held, on island and by teleconference, with our partners as the Solar Energy project began to take shape.

The final tender document was approved by all parties in July 2021 and the island is now proceeding to international tender for the next

stage to build, design and install Pitcairn's solar power system.

If Covid restrictions allow, it's hoped that the process will be completed by the third quarter of 2022, both reducing the island's carbon footprint and making power supply much more affordable for the Pitcairn community.



### 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 |

## Rescue for precious cloud forest will aid climate resilience

St Helena has developed a flagship 'nature-based solution' to boost water security, biodiversity and eco-tourism.

The UK Government will be committing up to £900k this year to the St Helena Cloud Forest Project to prevent remaining fragments from being lost forever.

The cloud forest on St Helena is situated within the Island's only national park – Peaks National Park - and holds at least 250 unique species that are found only, or almost only, within its remnant fragments. Unfortunately many have already been lost, with the cloud forest having declined from an estimated 600 hectares before humans' arrival to just 16 hectares today due to historic clearances and the spread of invasive plants.

This crumbling of the cloud forest threatens the 4,439 people who live on St Helena as the habitat is very important for the Island's water security. Almost 40% of the Island's fresh water is sourced from water catchments within the central Peaks area, 60% of this water being derived by the process of mist capture from the cloud forest.

This highly threatened forest is a key element of St Helena's sustainable future and the single most important site on British soil from a species perspective.



The exciting 3-year partnership-based project will up-scale cloud forest restoration activities for biodiversity, water security and socio-economic benefits on the Island. Rehabilitation of the forest will play a key role in St Helena's long-term climate resilience and water security, safeguard an internationally important wildlife hotspot from further extinctions, and support the sustainable development of the Island through eco-tourism.

The ultimate aim of the project is to increase cloud forest habitat by 25% within five years, which would increase the water supply on St Helena for future generations and secure the habitat of a sixth of the UK's unique biodiversity.

The Cloud Forest Project has been funded through the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office's 'Conflict, Stability & Security Fund'. The project, and a Peaks Management Plan, were established through a highly collaborative partnership between individuals, companies, non-governmental organisations and the St Helena and UK Governments working together: it could serve as a blueprint for future partnerships.

The support for this project is very much welcomed by St Helena Government but future funding will be needed to further restore the forest.

## New materials recycling facility

£165,000 has been allocated to fund a new materials recycling facility on the Island.

Given its small nature and remoteness, St Helena has relied on landfill as the primary method of waste management. Volumes of waste are increasing, and available space at the Island's only landfill site is reducing. The introduction of the Materials Recycling Facility will delay the need for more landfill space by increasing the Island's capacity for recycling. Facilities will be installed at the landfill site to

recycle aluminium and steel cans, and plastic and cardboard waste.

The new facility has been funded through the UK's 'Conflict, Stability & Security Fund' as part of an initiative by the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office in the lead-up to the COP26 climate-change conference. It follows the UK's pledge made at last year's Joint Ministerial Council to continue support for its Overseas Territories.



### St Helena – At a Glance

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

# Tristan da Cunha

## Restoration brings hope for endangered albatross



An epic operation to rescue seabirds from predatory invasive mice has successfully passed its most important milestone.

During June and August, in the teeth of winter weather on the edge of the Roaring Forties, helicopter crews spread bait across Gough Island, part of a UNESCO World Heritage site in the Tristan da Cunha archipelago.

The restoration of Gough – delayed a year by the pandemic – assumed even more urgency in 2021 when it emerged

the mice were killing critically-endangered adult albatrosses as well as their young. In total, an estimated two million seabird chicks and eggs were being lost each year.

A team of fifty people, recruited from across four continents, was stationed on Gough to deliver the operation. The restoration was led by the RSPB with the Government of Tristan da Cunha and was supported by the UK Government and a host of other donors. Together, they have made possible a conservation project of truly global significance.

## Vaccine success as Covid-19 threatens island

Tristan da Cunha is one of a handful of places worldwide that has still experienced no cases of Covid-19: its consequent appearance on the UK's 'green list' generated considerable publicity for the remotest community on earth. But in July, the pandemic came uncomfortably close.

The fishing and supply ship MFV Edinburgh arrived at Tristan after a 10-day voyage from Cape Town, and several on board tested positive for the disease.

Severe precautions were immediately taken, with just four Covid-free passengers being allowed to disembark and all others returning across the South Atlantic along with all the cargo. Tristan da Cunha then entered a ten-day lockdown with all social activity suspended, before final negative tests proved the island had remained free of the disease.

After such a near miss, the Tristan community reflects with even more gratitude on the huge logistical effort behind the UK's delivery of vaccines to the island. The supply was flown from RAF Brize Norton to the Falkland Islands, and then loaded onto the Royal Navy's offshore patrol vessel HMS Forth. The ship carried the precious consignment 4,000 km for delivery to the island, with the vaccines' temperature carefully controlled throughout.



Royal Navy surgeon Lt Cdr Rory Goodenough delivers the vaccines to Camogli Healthcare Centre manager Vera Glass, watched by the island's doctor Alex Wanner and joint administrator Fiona Kilpatrick

Tristanians responded with overwhelming positivity to the opportunity of vaccination. A village-hall meeting gave a chance to ask any questions, and the island's respected elders were among the first to receive the jabs. As of August, only 8 adults remained unvaccinated, mostly for medical reasons.

For a community with limited healthcare facilities and little resistance to respiratory illness, the support of the UK Government has literally been a lifeline.



## Remembering Prince Philip

The death of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh had a special poignancy for Tristan da Cunha. Prince Philip had been the only living member of the Royal Family to have visited the island. He steered the boat that brought him ashore in 1957, and islanders still recall the energy and generosity with which he engaged in village activities including a traditional dance. He unveiled the plaque that named Tristan's community centre the Prince Philip Hall.

Chief Islander James Glass was working on Gough Island and personally flew the flag there at half mast on hearing the news. His tribute concluded: "His Royal Highness took a continuing interest in Tristan, which is the remotest settlement on earth. From across the miles, we send our deepest condolences to Her Majesty".

### Tristan da Cunha – At a Glance

Capital: Edinburgh of the Seven Seas | Size: 98 sq km | Population: 244 |  
Currency: Pound Sterling | Time Zone: Greenwich Mean Time |

# Turks and Caicos Islands

## New Government elected



Premier C. Washington Misick, OBE, MP

Following the February 19th General Elections, a new government assumed office with Hon. C. Washington Misick, OBE JP MP as the country's fifth Premier. The Governor, H.E Nigel Dakin, administered the oath of office to the newly elected Premier and Deputy in front of their spouses as well as Deputy Governor H.E Anya Williams. The new Premier assumed office after thirty years in front line politics, having previously served as Chief Minister from 1991-1995. Mr Misick was educated at West Indies College and studied Business Studies and Business Administration & Accounting at University of Technology in Jamaica. He also studied at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

## Regiment builds capacity and training with British Forces

The Premier Honourable Charles Washington Misick attended the official opening ceremony of the Turks and Caicos Islands Regiment's training camp for forty new recruits in partnership with the Short Term Training Team of the British Army's Household Cavalry. A two-day capacity building seminar was also conducted by the Royal Navy Defence Attaché, ahead of the start of the two-week training for new recruits. The Defence Attaché's team are based in Jamaica and travelled to the Islands to conduct this important exercise.

Both the Premier and Deputy Governor Anya Williams thanked the UK units for their assistance to the new recruits and to the Islands generally, also noting the local leaders who have been essential in making the exercise a reality.

The Household Cavalry team of 14 officers were on island to train the first locally-recruited marines who have joined the TCI Regiment. Forty-one recruits will be trained in various areas such as military studies, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and seamanship and navigation. Training in those areas was also extended to members of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force Maritime Division.



TCI Regiment alongside Royal Navy Defence Attaché



Premier C. Washington Misick, Deputy Governor Anya Williams along with other government officials, members of the STTT and TCI Regiment recruits

## RAF delivers vaccines

HE Deputy Governor Anya Williams, and Minister for Border Control Honourable Otis Morris, welcomed the arrival of the Royal Air Force who delivered a 4th batch of Covid-19 vaccines, as well as the British Army Household Cavalry Short Term Training Team (STTT). With the 7,020 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, health professionals will be able to continue the vaccination programme which has now reached 62% across the Islands. It is the government's hope that with the arrival of this latest batch, the country will achieve its target of 70% vaccination rate.



RAF Aircraft and crew on arrival at Providenciales International Airport met by Deputy Governor Anya Williams and Minister Otis Morris

## 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 -4 hours |

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