



HM Government

# Promoting a sustainable future for the UK Overseas Territories

A summary of projects funded by the UK Government's Conflict, Stability and Security Fund



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King Penguins returning from the sea at Volunteer Point in the Falklands.  
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# Foreword by Minister for the Overseas Territories

Since I was appointed Minister for the Overseas Territories, we have faced huge challenges from COVID-19. Next year, when we produce a similar document highlighting the work done by the Conflict Stability and Security Fund (CSSF), the activities undertaken will look very different. The CSSF is playing a vital role in our response to COVID-19 across the globe and particularly in the Overseas Territories.

Despite the unprecedented times we find ourselves in, it is important to consider the valuable achievements undertaken by the CSSF in the UK's Overseas Territories over the last four years.

The UK Overseas Territories play an important and distinctive role in what makes the United Kingdom the nation it is today. Each territory is unique in its economy, biodiversity and vibrant culture, linked to the United Kingdom through our shared and varied histories. The UK Overseas Territories include the world's remotest inhabited island, Tristan da Cunha, and one of the world's wealthiest populations, Bermuda.

The UK Government and OT Governments are ambitious for our territories, working with the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) to see our communities flourish, with strong and sustainable local economies, and recognising our chance to set world standards in the extraordinary natural environments we are part of.

The UK Overseas Territories play an important and distinctive role in what makes the United Kingdom the nation it is today. Each territory is unique in its economy, biodiversity and vibrant culture, linked to the United Kingdom through our shared and varied histories.



**Baroness Sugg**  
*Minister for the Overseas Territories  
and Sustainable Development*

Through the CSSF, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), has been working with eight key implementing departments across the UK Government to deliver two thematic programmes of work with our Overseas Territories; focusing on justice, security and governance, and the environment. As the FCO Minister responsible for the UK's Overseas Territories, I am delighted to present this report highlighting the important work the CSSF and its partners have delivered.

From protecting the marine environment under the Government's 'Blue Belt' strategy to supporting the internal security of the Overseas Territories, the two programmes detailed within this report have tackled a wide and changing set of tasks. Without the hard work of our Overseas Territories themselves, their governing bodies and numerous committed organisations the real progress and change seen in this report would not be possible – my sincere thanks to all of them.

This report is a demonstration of the real difference that can be made through a truly cross government approach to tackling the major issues, an approach which is proving invaluable in our response to COVID-19.

We remain committed and ambitious to do so much more. We will continue make sure that HMG is ready to assist all its Overseas Territories, both in light of the immediate challenges they face with COVID-19 and in the future.



The British Overseas Territories (OTs) are a set of largely self-governing territories spanning nine time zones, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, the Antarctic to the Caribbean. They vary in shape, size, climate, flora and fauna. From some of the world's richest territories to some of the remotest inhabited lands on earth, the Overseas Territories demonstrate an incredible range of diversity, natural beauty, and history.

These territories are not part of the UK and each has its own constitution, but all share a bond with the UK and a pride in their deeply-rooted British identities. While the OTs are highly diverse, many share a similar set of challenges, and it is the UK's duty to assist them in overcoming these challenges. The UK is responsible for ensuring the security, defence and good governance of the OTs and their people, most of whom are British nationals. This responsibility is underpinned by international law. One of the key mechanisms used by the UK Government to support the OTs in this regard is the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF).

The CSSF uses a government-wide approach to work towards national security and UK aid objectives, supporting the government's priority of reducing poverty and helping the world's most vulnerable. It supports security, defence, peacekeeping, peace-building and stability activity, and its cross-government structure harnesses resources and expertise from across government departments.

Success in the Overseas Territories often requires many departments to play their part, and the CSSF provides an effective mechanism for doing this.

Success in the OTs often requires many departments to play their part, and the CSSF provides an effective mechanism for doing this.

Since 2015, the CSSF has brought together a wide range of government partners, including the FCO, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Justice, Department for International Development, Home Office, and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. This has contributed to real progress in a number of key areas including:

- strengthening individual territories' domestic resilience against future natural disasters
- strengthening law enforcement and security
- continuation and expansion of the Blue Belt programme and environmental commitments
- reforming justice and governance
- supporting territories in strengthening their child safeguarding systems
- promoting collective responsibility for compliance with international maritime commitments

CSSF has also played a key role in aiding recovery following the devastating impact of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in September 2017, which caused widespread devastation across the British OTs of Anguilla, the Virgin Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands. The UK Government response to the hurricanes was funded largely through the CSSF and the residual recovery work has been formalised into two territory-specific hurricane relief programmes.

However, this publication focuses on the two cross-cutting CSSF programmes which operate across all OTs. These are the Justice, Security and Governance programme and the Maritime Governance and Environment programme. This publication showcases a selection of the invaluable work undertaken by these two programmes and the excellent results that are being delivered across the OTs.



*One of the beautiful beaches in the Cayman Islands.  
Copyright: Andy Tate.*



*Jonathan, believed to be the world's oldest known land animal, is roughly 188 years old and lives in St Helena.  
Copyright: St Helena Government.*



*Two elephant seal pups on Sea Lion Island off the coast of the Falkland Islands.  
Copyright: Jeremy Richards.*



Anguilla is one of five British OTs based in the Caribbean. It is believed to have been named by Christopher Columbus and is derived from the Italian *anguilla*, meaning eel, in reference to the shape of the island. Anguilla first became a British colony in 1667, before being federated with Saint Kitts and Nevis in 1871. It was not until 1980 that Anguilla formally seceded from Saint Kitts and Nevis and became its own British Crown Colony (now a British Overseas Territory).

The CSSF's Maritime, Governance and Environment programme has supported Anguilla in enhancing its maritime capabilities. The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) has helped with the development of natural capital (e.g. mangroves, coral reefs and ponds). As part of this, the JNCC has conducted a natural capital assessment to calculate the disaster resilience offered by such environmental features. This assessment demonstrated the importance of marine and terrestrial habitats in protecting and maintaining the island's economy. The programme has also helped enhance the protection provided by Anguilla's natural capital which could reduce future damage from natural disasters.

Following CSSF funded maritime surveys, Anguilla is one the best charted territories in the Caribbean.



*Hurricane damage following hurricanes Irma and Maria in September 2017. Copyright: Amanda Gregory, JNCC.*



*Search and rescue planning training delivered by the Maritime & Coastguard Agency. Copyright: Maritime & Coastguard Agency.*

The Maritime & Coastguard Agency and the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office have also played important roles in delivering CSSF-funded projects in Anguilla. The Maritime & Coastguard Agency have provided training for ferry operators to make sure they meet international safety requirements as well as extra training for local surveyors to ensure the capability is sustainable. The United Kingdom Hydrographic Office has worked with local marine stakeholders in Anguilla to better understand their seabed mapping capabilities. They then led the process of collecting seabed mapping data from around the island. The data collected has been used by the Government of Anguilla for a wide variety of activities, from habitat mapping to disaster preparedness. Following the new surveys, Anguilla is now one of the best charted territories in the Caribbean. This will allow ships to confidently navigate in the area, increase cargo loads and open new opportunities for Anguilla to grow its economy.

The CSSF's Justice, Security and Governance programme has also been playing an important role on the island, particularly on developments in child safeguarding. In 2019, the Anguillan Parliament passed the Child Protection Act to promote the wellbeing and protection of its children. The programme funded technical expertise to support the drafting of this new legislation and is supporting its implementation. The CSSF continues to support Anguilla's police, social workers and educators to enhance their capability to protect children.

Arboviruses such as dengue, chikungunya and Zika viruses have emerged and spread with alarming speed over the last decade in the Americas. Following Hurricanes Irma and Maria, vector (mosquito) surveillance and control vehicles and equipment were provided to Anguilla through Public Health England. This has improved the capability of local vector control officers to perform their duties and to engage in more efficient house-to-house surveys.



## Fact file

- 📍 Capital: The Valley
- 📍 Location: Eastern Caribbean

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- 🌐 Land size: 91 km<sup>2</sup> (35 miles<sup>2</sup>)
- 👤 Population: approx. 15,000 (2018)

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- £ Currency: Eastern Caribbean Dollar
- £ Nominal GDP: EC\$870.5 million = US\$332.4 million
- £ GDP per capita: \$18,861 (2017)

### Did you know?

The Anguillian flag is the only flag in the world to depict one dolphin, let alone three.

### Government departments at work here

- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Ministry of Defence
- Maritime & Coastguard Agency
- National Crime Agency, Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command
- Home Office
- Crown Prosecution Service
- United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
- Department of Health and Social Care
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee
- Animal and Plant Health Agency
- Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK
- Government Partnerships International

See glossary on page 40 for further information.



Bermuda was discovered in 1505 by Spanish sailor Juan de Bermúdez. The island originally had no indigenous population and was used by Spanish and Portuguese ships as a staging post to take on fresh supplies. The island was first settled in 1612 by English travellers, who christened the first capital ‘New London’ (later renamed to St Georges Town). The city of Hamilton, named after the then Governor of Bermuda Henry Hamilton, became the territory’s capital in 1815. The most populous of the British OTs, Bermuda has long had one of the world’s highest GDP per capita, mainly due to its thriving offshore insurance and tourism sectors.

Under the MGE programme, the Maritime & Coastguard Agency has recruited a Coastal State Regional Co-ordinator from Bermuda to advise Caribbean OTs on compliance with international navigation obligations.



*Representatives of Bermuda’s search and rescue authority working with Her Majesty’s Coastguard.  
Copyright: Red Ensign Group.*

The Maritime & Coastguard Agency has also funded projects designed to increase Bermuda's pollution response capability. The projects include training for more than 60 people, provision of storage for oil spill response equipment and a full assessment of the pollution risks.

Through the Justice, Security and Governance programme, support has been provided to the Government of Bermuda to assist its development of a multi-agency approach to child safeguarding. In 2018, a criminal justice adviser from the Crown Prosecution Service delivered a CSSF-funded training course to social workers, police and prosecutors. The training course focused on prosecution in the area of child sexual exploitation and was delivered together with an Inspector from the UK's National Crime Agency. Over two days, frontline staff from the three agencies were introduced to the issues and difficulties faced when dealing with these sensitive cases. The training will modernise the handling of sexual offence cases in line with international standards.

As part of the Justice, Security and Governance programme, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK have facilitated a number of secondments to public accounts committees, allowing these committees to work with experienced clerks from other legislatures to explore new ways of working and address specific challenges. In February 2019, a Clerk from the House of Commons was seconded to the Bermuda committee to support its members in drafting a procedural manual. By facilitating the exchange of good practice, the project has supported the public accounts committee in its role of providing effective parliamentary oversight and financial scrutiny.

Port of entry arrangements in each OT are a key requirement for compliance with the International Health Regulations. Public Health England has supported Bermuda by providing specialist advice, technical guidance, and training on public health regulations related to ports of entry such as airports. The Bermuda Health Services Director also visited London Heathrow airport to better understand the border health arrangements in place and what elements might be usefully adapted to the new Bermuda airport.



## Fact file

-  Capital: Hamilton
-  Location: North Atlantic Ocean

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-  Land size: 53.2 km<sup>2</sup> (20.5 miles<sup>2</sup>)  
– 27% water
-  Population: 63,919 (2018 estimate)

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-  Currency: Bermudian Dollar
-  Nominal GDP: US\$6,500 million (2018 estimate)
-  GDP per capita: \$98,125 (Bermuda National Economic Report), S&P forecast \$102,000 for 2019

### Did you know?

Bermudians are referred to as 'onions', a nickname which dates from the 19th century, when onions were one of the island's main exports. Prior to this, the island was known as the 'Isle of Devils', due to the frequent storms and shipwrecks that would occur near its shores.

### Government departments at work here

- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Ministry of Defence
- Maritime & Coastguard Agency
- National Crime Agency, Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command
- Home Office
- Crown Prosecution Service
- United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
- Department of Health and Social Care
- Animal and Plant Health Agency
- Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK

See glossary on page 40 for further information.



Christopher Columbus first sighted the Cayman Islands in May 1503, initially naming the group of islands ‘Las Tortugas’ for the large number of giant tortoises he found there. The Cayman Islands are a group of three islands: Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

Although the islands were formally made a dependency of Jamaica by the British Government in 1863, when Jamaica achieved independence in 1962, the islands opted to remain under the British Crown. The Cayman Islands are renowned for its scuba diving and snorkelling and in particular its opportunities to swim with stingrays and turtles.

Through the CSSF’s Maritime Governance and Environment programme, the Maritime & Coastguard Agency have been working with Her Majesty’s Coastguard to establish the Cayman Islands Coastguard. As the cruise industry is a significant contributor to the local economy, the Cayman Island Coastguard has been working to develop their search and rescue capabilities. In addition, the programme has assisted in setting up a Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre which handles maritime emergencies.

Representatives from the Cayman Islands attended a maritime training course which included sessions on maritime craft handling, navigation instructorship and a basic outboard motor engineering.



*The NCA CEOP team and HRH The Duchess of Cornwall celebrating the opening of the Kids Helpline and the 2 year anniversary of the Teens and Young Adult Service.*



*The beautiful waters around the Cayman Islands are popular with turtles. Copyright: Andy Tate.*

All of this has helped to maintain and develop expertise on Grand Cayman, while raising the profile and capability of local search and rescue.

CSSF funding has also contributed to improved Digital Forensic capabilities that preserve, capture and analyse information from digital sources. This requires a combination of technology, skilled people and appropriate working practices to be a success. Guidance and specialist training to help develop local skills and working practices has also been provided by the CSSF. The hub and spoke model that has been implemented allows digital forensic teams from different OTs to share advice on tactics and methodologies that are successfully being used. The central hub location, established through joint funding from the project and from the Cayman Government, will continue to act as the focus point for this work. Although the project was designed to tackle child sexual abuse and exploitation online, the hub can be used to support investigation of a range of cyber offences.

The FCO's Child Safeguarding Unit has worked with the Cayman Islands Government as part of the Justice Security and Governance Programme to promote effective multi-agency working. This includes supporting Cayman in the development of its multi-agency safeguarding hub, and its Child Safeguarding Board to establish a dedicated and accountable child safeguarding structure that works in a collaborative way.

The FCO and Crown Prosecution Service work through the CSSF to provide a criminal justice adviser. This role supports the OTs to build local capacity to maintain law and order and support the development of police and prosecutors to tackle new and emerging criminal trends. The criminal justice adviser assisted the Cayman Islands with the introduction of a specialist domestic violence court to allow cases to proceed to trial much more quickly. This will reduce the upset to victims exacerbated by a lengthy court process and ensure perpetrators are brought to justice swiftly. This support also included developing a policy for prosecutors, and delivering training for police and prosecutors ahead of the opening of the new court.



## Fact file

📍 Capital: George Town, Grand Cayman

📍 Location: Western Caribbean Sea

🌐 Land size: 212 km<sup>2</sup> (549.1 miles<sup>2</sup>)

👤 Population: 65,118

£ Currency: Cayman Islands Dollar

£ Nominal GDP: US\$4,309 million

£ GDP per capita: \$65,472 (2017)

### Did you know?

The name Cayman is derived from caiman, a relative of the alligator, who were known to live on the island.

### Government departments at work here

- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Ministry of Defence
- Maritime & Coastguard Agency
- National Crime Agency, Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command
- Home Office
- Crown Prosecution Service
- United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
- Department of Health and Social Care
- Animal and Plant Health Agency
- Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK

See glossary on page 40 for further information.



Montserrat has been inhabited for over 2,000 years, and was named in 1493 by Christopher Columbus. The island primarily consists of three large groups of hills: the Silver Hills in the north, the Centre Hills in the middle and the Soufrière Hills in the south, which include a large volcano. The landscape was altered dramatically in the 1990s when, after lying dormant for over 300 years, the Soufrière Hills volcano erupted, burying the island’s capital, Plymouth, and creating an exclusion zone which covers almost two-thirds of the island.

The impact of the volcanic eruption was significant, with more than 50% of the population being forced to leave the island. In addition to the huge human and economic impact, the eruption also resulted in a great deal of lost environmental data. The Joint Nature Conservation Committee, working through the CSSF’s Maritime Governance and Environment programme, has supported the Government of Montserrat to develop an online repository which enables them to access historical and new environmental data. This is in addition to a mapping system which displays spatial data. An off-island data archive provides a back-up system to ensure future data security and resilience.

Montserrat’s ability to perform search and rescue, law enforcement and border patrol operations has been significantly increased by the procurement of a state-of-the-art patrol vessel.



*The new Montserrat Patrol Vessel, the Heliconia Star.  
Copyright: Kirstie Nash.*

A three-day Public Accounts Committee workshop was held in Montserrat in November 2017, facilitated by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK. Comprising members of the legislature, Public Accounts Committees are the main way that elected representatives scrutinise government funds and spending on behalf of the electorate.

Following the workshop, the committee identified a number of future actions, such as developing a forward work plan, holding public evidence sessions, producing publicly available reports, laying reports before the Legislative Assembly and reviewing the Public Accounts Committee's standing orders. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK also facilitated the secondment of the Clerk of the Committee on Finance in the Northern Ireland Assembly to the Montserrat Public Accounts Committee in April 2018. The clerk worked with the committee to produce forward work plans, briefings and reports. This support helped the committee run its first ever enquiry, ensuring the government is held to account for public spending.

Montserrat's ability to perform search and rescue, law enforcement and border patrol operations has been significantly increased by the procurement of a state-of-the-art, CSSF-funded patrol vessel called the *Heliconia Star*. The vessel has played a role in a number of key operations, including intercepting boats suspected of human trafficking, carrying out rescue missions and supporting the work of the Montserrat Volcano Observatory. The existence of a vessel equipped for search and rescue is vital to ensure compliance with the International Maritime Organisation's Ill Code Audit, which will take place in 2020 and measure compliance by the UK and the OTs with international maritime regulations.



*A view of the Soufrière Hills volcano.  
Copyright: Kirstie Nash.*



## Fact file

- 📍 Capital: Plymouth (de jure), Brades (de facto)
- 📍 Location: Eastern Caribbean, West Indies

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- 🌐 Land size: 100 km<sup>2</sup> (39 miles<sup>2</sup>)
- 👤 Population: 4,650 (2019)

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- £ Currency: Eastern Caribbean Dollar
- £ GDP: US\$62.1 million

### Did you know?

In the 1980s, the AIR studio founded by the Beatles producer, Sir George Martin, became a popular recording destination for artists of the day including Sir Elton John, Dire Straits, The Police, Eric Clapton, Sir Paul McCartney and the Rolling Stones.

### Government departments at work here

- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Ministry of Defence
- Maritime & Coastguard Agency
- National Crime Agency, Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command
- Home Office
- Crown Prosecution Service
- United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
- Department of Health and Social Care
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee
- Animal and Plant Health Agency
- Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK
- Government Partnerships International

See glossary on page 40 for further information.



# Turks and Caicos Islands

The Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) are a group of almost 50 tropical islands ranging from the seven main islands, which include Providenciales and Grand Turk, to uninhabited cays. The islands were first declared a British colony in 1783 with the signing of the Treaty of Paris between Britain and France. In 1962, the Turks and Caicos Islands became its own Crown Colony and in 1973 received their own governor (after both Jamaica and The Bahamas became independent).

The CSSF's Justice, Security and Governance programme has played an important role in helping TCI develop its public institutions. The CSSF has funded a regional criminal justice adviser, who has been working with the Commissioner of Police and the Director of Public Prosecutions in the TCI to improve the standard of police files and legal case reviews. The criminal justice adviser has supported a working group to introduce a standardised police file and to develop a prosecution policy, both of which will be adopted into TCI procedure.



*Birds eye view of Grand Turk.  
Copyright: Dave and Janice Moore.*

The Royal Navy led a navigation and training course in TCI in June 2019 with police responsible for upholding maritime security.



Opening of 'The Ethel Ingham Centre' in TCI in December 2018. Copyright: NCA.

The Justice, Security and Governance programme has also contributed to the establishment of the Ethel Ingham Safeguarding Centre. The centre has been established to enable police officers and social workers to co-locate and promote a multi-agency approach to the protection of children and vulnerable adults. The programme has provided specialist child safeguarding training and mentor support to police officers, social workers and educators to increase the capabilities of frontline staff.

The Royal Navy led a navigation and training course in TCI in June 2019 with police responsible for upholding maritime security. The project supported best practice in small boat handling, navigation and engineering. The course developed and improved the standards of tactical boat handling, maintenance and interception of illicit products. Members of the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service assisted in delivering the course, promoting learning and interoperability across the OTs.

TCI have one of the largest domestic fleets within the UK OTs, catering for everything from fishing vessels to dive boats. The safe construction and operation of these vessels is paramount. Under the CSSF Maritime Governance and Environment programme, the Maritime & Coastguard Agency have been training local vessel surveyors in TCI through an online distance training package followed by on-the-job training. This training has been essential in developing the islands' capabilities to survey and inspect their vessels and ensuring they meet international safety standards.



## Fact file

- 📍 Capital: Cockburn Town
- 📍 Location: Caribbean, Northern West Indies

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- 🌐 Land size: 616.3 km<sup>2</sup> (238.0 miles<sup>2</sup>)
- 👤 Population: approx. 42,953 (2019)

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- £ Currency: US Dollar
- £ Nominal GDP: US\$ 959.5 million (2018 estimate)
- £ GDP per capita: \$28,689 (2017)

### Did you know?

Despite being a British Colony, Turks Island salt merchants sold salt to George Washington's Revolutionary Army during the American War of Independence from 1775 to 1783.

### Government departments at work here

- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Ministry of Defence
- Maritime & Coastguard Agency
- National Crime Agency, Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command
- Home Office
- Crown Prosecution Service
- United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
- Department of Health and Social Care
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee
- Animal and Plant Health Agency
- Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK

See glossary on page 40 for further information.



The Virgin Islands (also known as the British Virgin Islands or BVI, to differentiate from neighbours the US Virgin Islands) are part of a volcanic archipelago in the Caribbean and consist of Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada, Jost Van Dyke and many smaller islands. The islands were used by Sir Francis Drake in the late 1590s to stage attacks on passing Spanish ships, and later as a hideaway for marauding pirates. The famous Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, a Spanish galleon transporting bullion back to Spain, sought shelter in the BVI in 1750 when its crew mutinied and purportedly buried half the ship's treasure somewhere on Norman Island. Much digging later and the treasure has yet to be found!

In September 2017, Hurricanes Irma and Maria caused extensive damage across the islands. Hurricanes can cause changes in the structure of the seabed which can make access to islands difficult at times when it is of crucial importance. In the immediate aftermath, the UK Government provided a comprehensive package of recovery support, one element of which was seabed mapping. The United Kingdom Hydrographic Office worked with the Governor's Office, the British military and



*Debris from Hurricane Irma*

The fully equipped clinic enables the BVI Government to provide responsive healthcare assistance to less accessible areas of the islands.

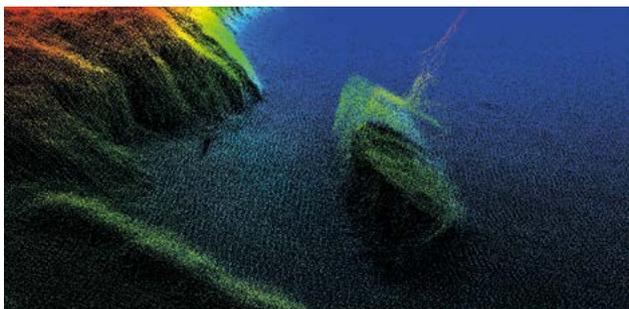
the Disaster Response Centre to enable disaster relief efforts to reach BVI. Using satellite data, they produced a special purpose seabed map in just a few hours, which was distributed to local mariners and to Royal Marines on board HMS Ocean.

In addition to this immediate recovery work, the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office worked with the BVI port authorities to update their seabed mapping. This work contributed to the reopening of Road Harbour Port and an increase to incoming and outgoing cargo ships.

The Maritime & Coastguard Agency, working with the BVI Government, provided pollution response equipment to BVI. BVI is now able to deal with small-scale oil incidents occurring at sea. A CSSF-funded legal consultant has also worked closely with BVI Government to ensure there is a proper legislative framework in place in the event of a maritime incident.

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee, through the Maritime Governance and Environment programme, has sponsored a study to assess the monetary benefits of BVI's coastal zone biodiversity (such as mangrove and nearshore reefs) to the economy. Studies of this kind contribute to disaster preparation and response strategies. Approximately 40% of BVI's tourist infrastructure lies in the coastal zone, making it vulnerable to hurricane-associated storm surge – and these risks are increasing due to climate change. The island's coral reef systems perform a key role in protecting critical infrastructure with an estimated value of US\$74 million per year in avoided damage, with benefits at community and national level.

In 2018, the Governor of BVI presented a mobile health clinic to the BVI Health Service Authority. Recommended by Public Health England and sourced by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the fully equipped clinic enables the BVI Government to provide responsive healthcare assistance to less accessible areas of the islands and for those unable to travel to medical centres.



United Kingdom Hydrographic Office survey showing a ship wreck within BVI waters.

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## Fact file

📍 Capital: Road Town

📍 Location: Caribbean

🌐 Land size: 153 km<sup>2</sup> (59 miles<sup>2</sup>)

👤 Population: 30,030 (2019)

£ Currency: US Dollar

£ Nominal GDP: US\$ 1,305.8 million

£ GDP per capita: \$31,917 (2017)

### Did you know?

The islands were named 'Santa Ursula y las Once Mil Virgenes' by Christopher Columbus in 1493 after the legend of Saint Ursula and the 11,000 virgins. Virgin founder Sir Richard Branson bought one of the islands – Necker Island – in the late 1970s.

### Government departments at work here

- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Ministry of Defence
- Maritime & Coastguard Agency
- Home Office
- Crown Prosecution Service
- United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
- Department of Health and Social Care
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee
- Animal and Plant Health Agency
- Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK
- Government Partnerships International

See glossary on page 40 for further information.



Surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea, Gibraltar is one of two British OTs located within Europe (the other being the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia on the island of Cyprus). Captured during the War of the Spanish Succession in 1704, Gibraltar was formally ceded to Britain in 1713 as part of the Treaty of Utrecht. In 1967, Gibraltar voted in a national referendum to remain under British sovereignty, with its own local democratic institutions. Gibraltar is also well known for its population of Barbary Macaques.

With help from the CSSF's Justice Security and Governance programme, the Royal Gibraltar Police have been able to boost their counter-terrorism capacity and capability. The support has enabled the Royal Gibraltar Police to mainstream the principles of Project Servator, which aims to deter, detect and disrupt a range of criminal activity while providing a reassuring presence for the public.

The Royal Gibraltar Police now boasts three tiers of command for firearms operations with commanders able to assess UK counterparts.



*Europa Point lighthouse is at the southernmost point of the Rock of Gibraltar.*

*Copyright: Jason K Easter.*



*Gibraltar's law enforcement community marks the 1st anniversary of Project Servator.*

Officers also received training on critical incident response and counter-terrorism forensic management. This included attachments to the Metropolitan Police SO15 International Operations Command. A substantial number of Gibraltar's officers undertook both command and operative experience with workshops, training and attachments. Practical firearms training was also enhanced, with a robust command structure established as a result.

The Royal Gibraltar Police now boasts the three tiers of command for firearms operations, with gold commanders now of a high enough standard to assess UK Police Gold Commanders at Ryton College of Policing in Coventry. Gibraltar's officers are equipped with new protective clothing and equipment and are prepared to face the new threats. Along with the Government of Gibraltar, the CSSF also co-funded the construction of a purpose-built police training facility, which will mean future training can be conducted in Gibraltar rather than in the UK.

The Commissioner of the Royal Gibraltar Police (RGP) stated that that funding provided has uplifted their counter terrorism capacity and capability, and that "the RGP is in a much better place today than a few years ago because of the increased funding". The CSSF also provided funding for training and equipment for the Gibraltar Defence Police, whose Chief Police Officer said "we are now significantly better off and are much closer to meeting the desired UK standard as set by the College of Policing".



## Fact file

- 📍 Capital: Gibraltar
- 📍 Largest district: Westside
- 📍 Location: Iberian Peninsula

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- 🌐 Land size: 6.7 km<sup>2</sup> (2.6 miles<sup>2</sup>)
- 👤 Population: 32,194 (2015)

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- £ Currency: Gibraltar Pound
- £ GDP per capita: \$92,843 (2016)

## Did you know?

The name 'Gibraltar' is the Spanish derivation of the Arabic name *Jabal Tāriq*, meaning 'mountain of Tāriq', which is named after Umayyad General Tariq Bin Ziyad, who captured the rock in AD710.

## Government departments at work here

- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Maritime & Coastguard Agency
- United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
- Department of Health and Social Care
- Animal and Plant Health Agency
- Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK

See glossary on page 40 for further information.



## Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia

The 1960 Treaty of Establishment created the independent Republic of Cyprus, with the UK retaining sovereignty over two areas in the south west (Akrotiri) and east (Dhekelia). These are known collectively as the Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs). The SBAs consist of 98 square miles or 3% of the total land area of Cyprus. Uniquely the SBAs are administered by the Ministry of Defence rather than the FCO.

The OT is a separate legal entity from the UK and has a government (Sovereign Base Areas Administration – SBAA) distinct from that of the UK. It makes its own laws, has its own court system, police force and customs and immigration force.

The CSSF is currently funding the development and construction of a joint policing and security co-ordination and control centre looking at delivering a more effective multi-agency approach to security in the SBAs. This project, managed through the Justice, Security and Governance Programme, aims to unite the efforts of the SBA police force, the customs and immigration team and the MOD's guard force to enable better co-ordination and control to support law enforcement.

In 2017 the CSSF supported the SBAA in Cyprus to put an end to the illegal trapping of migrating birds.

The SBAs Administration procured a specialist drone which is capable of capturing images of trappers from a height of 500 metres and a distance of more than two kilometres from known trapping sites.

Every year millions of migrating birds fly between Africa and Europe, crossing over Cyprus en route. Poachers target the birds, seen as a delicacy in some parts of the world, to sell them on the black market. The SBAA procured a specialist drone which is capable of capturing images of trappers from a height of 500 metres and a distance of more than two kilometres from known trapping sites. The drone and associated technologies have been instrumental in changing the SBA's ability to locate and identify trappers in remote rural areas, securing evidence of their offending and ensuring that trappers face the full force of the law. Over the last two years the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Birdlife Cyprus calculate the SBAs have reduced illegal trapping of migratory birds by 90%, with consequential beneficial effects on the numbers of these species in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.



*This new specialised drone is capable of capturing images from up to two kilometres away.  
Copyright: Sovereign Base Areas Administration.*



## Fact file

- 📍 Capital: Episkopi Cantonment
- 📍 Location: Cyprus, Mediterranean

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- 🌐 Land size: 98 miles<sup>2</sup>
- 👤 Population: approximately 18,500 (a military and civilian component of 6,500, and 12,000 Cypriot nationals)

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- £ Currency: Euro

## Did you know?

The wetlands in the SBAs are a popular resting and wintering location for up to 20,000 Greater Flamingos.

## Government departments at work here

- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Ministry of Defence
- Home Office

See glossary on page 40 for further information.



Ascension Island was first sighted by the Portuguese explorer João da Nova in 1501, however its discovery is credited to Portuguese navigator Alfonso d’Albuquerque on Ascension Day 1503, who christened the island ‘Ilha da Ascensão’ (Island of Ascension). It was not until 1815 that the island was first inhabited, when British soldiers were garrisoned there to deter French soldiers from attempting to rescue the imprisoned Napoleon in nearby St Helena. The majority of the vegetation on the island has been introduced by humans, with the majority introduced by Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker at the behest of Charles Darwin in the late 1840s.

Ascension Island is situated in the tropical South Atlantic, encompassing a 445,390 km<sup>2</sup> Exclusive Economic Zone.

The ambitious Marine Protected Area now covers 100% of Ascension’s Exclusive Economic Zone, making it one of the largest in the world.



*A green turtle hatchling on the beach in Ascension.  
Copyright: Sam Weber.*

In August 2019, through the Maritime Governance and Environment programme, the Governor of St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha set about designating a large-scale Marine Protected Area in Ascension waters, along with:

- the Ascension Island Council
- the CSSF Blue Belt team
- the Ascension Island Government Conservation and Fisheries Directorate (AIGCFD)

The ambitious Marine Protected Area now covers 100% of Ascension's Exclusive Economic Zone, making it one of the largest in the world. It's also the ideal setting for protecting Ascension's large green turtle rookery, which is home to thousands of endangered green turtles relying on the island's safe beaches to make their nests.

The Blue Belt team have also been working with the AIGCFD, fitting satellite and acoustic tags to a range of fish and seabird species as well as undertaking ecological surveys of the shallow water seamounts. This has provided information about how marine species use Ascension's Exclusive Economic Zone and what protection would be provided by the Marine Protected Area.

One of the biggest threats to Ascension's flora and fauna are non-native invasive species. Through the Maritime Governance and Environment programme, the Great British Non-Native Species Secretariat has worked alongside the Ascension Island Government to identify potential invasive species and develop action plans to prevent their introduction, as well as responding to those already introduced. Through this work, 38 potential invasive species were identified with 15 pathways identified as routes to possible introduction. Of particular concern are six species of fire ant which would devastate the native land crab and turtle nestlings, as well as impacting recreational areas through their predatory habits and severe stings.

The marine environment around Ascension is a major carbon store and the removal of carbon emissions from the atmosphere, known as 'Blue Carbon', helps to combat global climate change. In 2017 and 2018, through the CSSF Maritime Governance and Environment programme, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee conducted a carbon valuation for Ascension Island's territorial waters with the value of the island's Exclusive Economic Zone estimated at £1 million to £2 million. This natural capital value is projected to rise significantly to around £6-12 million by 2050, making this a significant potential natural asset for such a small island.



## Fact file

- 📍 Capital: Georgetown
- 📍 Location: South Atlantic Ocean, around 966 miles (1,600 km) from the coast of Africa
- 🌐 Land size: 91 km<sup>2</sup> (34 miles<sup>2</sup>)
- 👤 Population: 762 (as of 30 June 2019) – all military or contractors with no right of abode
- £ Currency: St Helena Pound

### Did you know?

The Island of Ascension is actually the peak of a large dormant volcano.

### Government departments at work here

- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Maritime & Coastguard Agency
- United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
- Department of Health and Social Care
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee
- Animal and Plant Health Agency

See glossary on page 40 for further information.

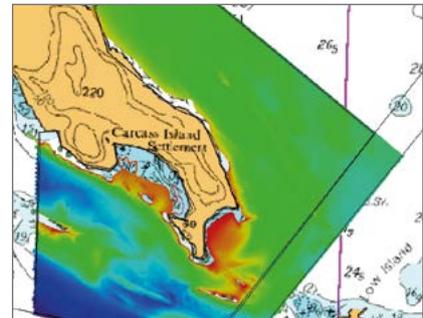


# Falkland Islands

The Falkland Islands are located in the South Atlantic Ocean, comprising East Falkland, West Falkland and over 700 smaller islands that have been under British rule since 1833. They are home to large populations of birds, though many groups no longer breed on the main islands due to competition from introduced species.

As the Falkland Islands continue to receive more expedition cruise ships into its waters than ever before, the work of organisations such as the Maritime & Coastguard Agency and the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office, under the Maritime Governance and Environment programme, have been vital in helping the Falkland Islands develop its maritime capabilities.

The Maritime & Coastguard Agency have assisted the Falkland Islands Government to carry out extensive reviews of its maritime legislation, bringing its legislative framework in line with international standards.



Seabed mapping survey around Carcass Island to improve the safety of navigation. © Crown Copyright and/or database rights. Reproduced by permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office and the UK Hydrographic Office.

Data collected during surveys has supported habitat mapping, development of marine protected areas, fisheries management and disaster preparedness.



*The Falklands are home to over half a million sheep, not to mention a sizeable population of Gentoo Penguins.  
Copyright: Jeremy Richards.*

As the number of cruise ships visiting the island has increased, the risk to the natural environment from oil spills has increased. To ensure the Falkland Islands have the capability to respond effectively to a small-scale oil spill, the CSSF and the Falkland Islands Government have together funded the purchase of additional pollution response equipment to supplement existing supplies. Alongside training, this will maintain and increase their capacity and capability in their immediate high risk areas.

The United Kingdom Hydrographic Office has commissioned modern seabed mapping surveys in the areas most visited by these vessels. This will not only reduce the risk of a maritime incident occurring, but data collected during the survey has been passed to the Falkland Islands Government in support of other activities such as habitat mapping, development of marine protected areas, fisheries management, and disaster preparedness. This will enable the Falkland Islands to develop their maritime economy in a sustainable way.

CSSF funding has also been used to support the development of a sustainable and diverse economy. This work has included projects on labour force and tourism development, analysing trends in tourism and creating strategies to attract new visitors with adventure tourism and other initiatives.

Work has also centred on socio-economic forecasting, scenario development and determination of long-term vision for the islands to support sustainable growth. Specialists in labour and tourism are working in collaboration, along with the Falkland Islands Development Corporation, to start to develop a website platform for the Falkland Islands. It will provide potential visitors and workers with advice and guidance on what is required to live and work in the islands, and give an overview of life in the small community.



## Fact file

- 📍 Capital: Stanley
- 📍 Location: South Atlantic Ocean

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- 🌐 Land size: 12,200 km<sup>2</sup>  
(4,700 miles<sup>2</sup>)
- 👤 Population: 3,032 (2016 census)  
– less than 300 people live outside the capital, Stanley

---

- £ Currency: Falkland Islands Pound
- £ GDP per capita: £93,300

### Did you know?

There are over 500,000 sheep in the Falkland Islands and just over 3,000 people, which averages to approximately 148 sheep per person.

### Government departments at work here

- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Ministry of Defence
- Maritime & Coastguard Agency
- National Crime Agency, Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command
- Home Office
- United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
- Department of Health and Social Care
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee
- Animal and Plant Health Agency
- Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK

See glossary on page 40 for further information.



# South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands

**South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (SGSSI) is a sub-Antarctic archipelago in the Atlantic sector of the Southern Ocean. The territory is famous for its near-pristine environment and has one of the highest concentrations of wildlife in the Southern Atlantic Ocean.**

The island of South Georgia was discovered in 1675 by Anthony de la Roché but it was not until 1775 that the first landing was made by Captain James Cook. Disembarking on South Georgia, Captain Cook claimed the island for King George III, naming it South Georgia in his honour.

The SGSSI waters are an incredibly rich and diverse ecosystem. In recognition of this, in 2012 over one million km<sup>2</sup> of ocean was designated a Marine Protected Area to protect this exceptional environment. In 2017 and 2018, the CSSF Blue Belt programme supported the Government of SGSSI (GSGSSI) during its first five-year review of the Marine Protected Area. The review assessed the effectiveness of current management measures and considered priorities for upcoming scientific research and monitoring, factoring in the evidence of ecosystem change and from future threats such as climate change.

GSGSSI announced extensions to the Marine Protected Area to include an expanded no-take zone, which is an area of sea closed to all commercial fishing.

Based on this review, GSGSSI announced extensions to the Marine Protected Area to include an expanded no-take zone, which is an area of sea closed to all commercial fishing, and seasonal closures to the krill fishery, in order to reduce potential competition between the fishery and the food sources of marine life. The enhancements also included a ban on the carriage and use of heavy fuel oils, further limiting the potential human impacts on the ecosystem.

Working in collaboration with GSGSSI, the Great Britain Non-Native Species Secretariat has been working to identify potential invasive threats to the islands. This has identified 20 possible species of non-native threats to the flora and fauna, with 10 possible pathways of introduction. A set of action plans have been drawn up to assist GSGSSI in preventing the introduction of these invasive species.

In addition to the pathway action plans, GSGSSI have access to an online biosecurity toolkit and a fieldguide to invasive invertebrates. Work is also taking place to provide GSGSSI with draft model biosecurity legislation. This work builds on the successful eradication of invasive rodent species from South Georgia, which has begun to produce a recovery in native bird populations including the South Georgia pipit, the world's most southerly songbird, and the South Georgia pintail, the world's only known carnivorous duck.

The GSGSSI are working with the British Antarctic Survey to also modernise the wharf at King Edward Point to support the new polar research vessel, Royal Research Ship Sir David Attenborough, helping to deliver a new generation of science and environmental protection around SGSSI.



*A seal contemplates life in SGSSI.  
Copyright: Tom Chance.*



## Fact file

📍 Capital: King Edward Point

📍 Location: Southern Ocean

🌐 Land size: 3,755 km<sup>2</sup>  
(South Georgia)

👤 Population: No permanent population but a continuous presence of officials from the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, and British Antarctic Survey scientists

£ Currency: Pound Sterling

### Did you know?

Polar explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton died and was buried on South Georgia in 1922, preparing for his fourth Antarctic expedition. Today, you can visit his grave at the cemetery in Grytviken on South Georgia.

### Government departments at work here

- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
- Marine Management Organisation
- United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
- Animal and Plant Health Agency

See glossary on page 40 for further information.



The island of St Helena in the South Atlantic is believed to have been discovered in 1502 by João da Nova and is named after the Roman empress Saint Helena. In 2002, the island celebrated its quincentenary, which included the launch of the St Helena National Trust. The island is renowned for its vibrant natural history and architecture, from the globally unique plants to the sheer number of listed buildings in Jamestown.

The CSSF Maritime Governance and Environment programme works to support the island's natural habitat and marine environment. In 2018, the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office undertook a seabed mapping survey in the waters around St Helena identifying six previously uncharted wrecks and five unknown dangers. The survey has updated the maritime navigational charts which support safe maritime trade, search and rescue capability, pollution response projects and will help develop St Helena's sustainable ocean economy.

The CSSF-funded Blue Belt programme is working with the St Helena Government to implement a 446,000 km<sup>2</sup> Marine Protected Area within their waters.



*This statue of Napoleon Bonaparte can be found in the Briars pavillion where he lived for a few months before being moved to Longwood House.  
Copyright: Ed Thorpe.*



Image of a wreck taken from a United Kingdom Hydrographic Office survey within St Helena waters. © Crown Copyright and/or database rights. Reproduced by permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office and the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office.

As a remote and small island, St Helena is vulnerable to invasive species. With the help of the Great Britain Non-Native Species Secretariat, action plans are being drawn up to reduce the risk of the arrival of non-native species identified to be of most concern to the island. Future work includes a risk assessment, the development of biosecurity legislation, and contingency planning support for protecting wildlife and preventing diseases in livestock (including invertebrate diseases) and wildlife.

The CSSF-funded Blue Belt programme is working with the St Helena Government to implement a 446,000 km<sup>2</sup> Marine Protected Area within their waters. It has established a tagging programme, tagging over 3,000 tuna, grouper and wahoo since December 2015. Local staff and fisherman have been taught how to tag and effectively document tuna releases and recaptures around the island. To aid retention, the team have recently deployed inshore and seamount acoustic listening stations to monitor fish movements and promote future fish stocks. The data collected is contributing to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna stock assessments.

St Helena has made significant progress on strengthening child safeguarding systems. With support from the UK Government, St Helena recruited additional social workers, provided training to frontline workers on child safeguarding, and established a Safeguarding Board. The CSSF Justice, Security and Governance programme worked with the Government of St Helena to provide technical advice through a UK non-departmental body, the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service, on how that progress could be embedded and built upon.



## Fact file

- 📍 Capital: Jamestown
- 📍 Location: South Atlantic Ocean (part of St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha)
- 🌐 Land size: 122 km<sup>2</sup> (47 miles<sup>2</sup>)
- 👤 Population: 4,415 (September 2019)
- £ Currency: St Helena Pound
- £ GDP: £42.4 million (2017/18)

### Did you know?

Following his defeat at the Battle of Waterloo and having fled France, Napoleon Bonaparte was imprisoned by the British on the island of St Helena from 1815 until his death in 1821.

### Government departments at work here

- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Ministry of Defence
- Maritime & Coastguard Agency
- Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
- Marine Management Organisation
- Home Office
- United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
- Department of Health and Social Care
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee
- Animal and Plant Health Agency
- Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK

See glossary on page 40 for further information.



Tristan da Cunha is the most remote inhabited island in the world. Consisting of a selection of volcanic islands, of which Gough Island and the wonderfully named Inaccessible Island are two, the islands were first discovered in 1506 by Portuguese explorer Tristao da Cunha. Tristan’s only permanently inhabited settlement was named Edinburgh of the Seven Seas after a visit by Duke of Edinburgh, HRH Prince Alfred and Queen Victoria in 1867, but is now known locally as the Settlement. As well as its remote location, Tristan is also known for its outstanding wildlife and its range of sea birds.

Through the CSSF Maritime Governance and Environment programme, the Great British Non-Native Species Secretariat has worked with the Tristan Government to identify potential invasive species to the island. In addition to classroom training, the secretariat has produced a biosecurity manual for Tristan which includes step-by-step inspection guides for non-technical officials on what to inspect, what to look out for and who to call or what to do if species are found.

The Tristan Government has committed to developing and implementing a marine protection strategy for its Exclusive Economic Zone by 2020.



*A view of the island of Tristan da Cunha as seen from space.*



*The newly refurbished Wave Dancer during a sea trial.*

As part of the CSSF Blue Belt programme, the Tristan Government has committed to developing and implementing a marine protection strategy for its Exclusive Economic Zone by 2020. The strategy focuses on protecting Tristan's vulnerable species and ecosystems while maintaining sustainable fishing. The main threats to the ecosystems come from:

- unintentional ensnarement of seabirds, turtles and sharks from longline fishing
- the risk of marine pollution incidents from ship traffic
- damage caused to vulnerable marine ecosystems by unsustainable fishing methods

The programme has also been developing a stock assessment and improved legislation for the bluenose fish, further evaluating the impacts of both longline and bottom trawl fishing. This is a high priority for Tristan da Cunha, as fish that gather over seamounds, such as bluenose, can be overexploited rapidly and both longline and trawl fishing have impacts on the marine ecosystem.

After being transported to the UK from Tristan da Cunha in 2018, the fishery patrol vessel Wave Dancer completed a full refurbishment at Berthon Marine in Lymington on the English south coast. The Wave Dancer is vital to the Tristan Fisheries Department as it is their only vessel which can reach the outer islands in adverse weather. It can also act as a rescue boat, having rescued a number of casualties from passing vessels to the nearest mainland. Having undergone her restoration, the Wave Dancer was back in operation in Tristan da Cunha in late 2019.



## Fact file

📍 Capital: Edinburgh of the Seven Seas

📍 Location: South Atlantic Ocean (part of St Helena, Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha)

🌐 Land size: 207 km<sup>2</sup> (80 miles<sup>2</sup>)

👤 Population: 250 (2018 estimate)  
293 (2016 census)

£ Currency: Pound Sterling

### Did you know?

Tristan rock lobster is a major export for the territory and features on both its coat of arms and flag.

### Government departments at work here

- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Ministry of Defence
- Maritime & Coastguard Agency
- Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
- Marine Management Organisation
- United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
- Department of Health and Social Care
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee
- Animal and Plant Health Agency
- Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK

See glossary on page 40 for further information.



**Gough Island is an uninhabited island discovered by the Portuguese explorer Captain Gonçalo Álvares in the early 16th century. The island is part of the Tristan da Cunha archipelago and became a world heritage site in 1995, described by UNESCO as one of the best-kept marine ecosystems in the South Atlantic, as well as one of the most important seabird colonies in the world.**

Through the CSSF, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Government of Tristan da Cunha are working together to eradicate mice accidentally introduced to Gough Island by sailors during the 19th century. These have now evolved to become 50% larger than their ancestral relatives by exploiting all the food sources on the island including vulnerable seabird chicks.

These voracious invaders are threatening the critically endangered Tristan albatross and Gough bunting, which in turn threatens Gough's status as one of the premier seabird nesting sites.

Although COVID-19 has affected the project, May 2021 should see the arrival of the RSPB operations team, including four helicopters and pilots, 400 drums of fuel and 210 tonnes of rodenticide bait which will be spread via helicopter across the island.

The ultimate goal of the CSSF remains to eradicate mice from Gough Island and leave seabird chicks free to fledge without threat of these furry invaders.



*A native Gough Island Albatross fledgling.  
Copyright: RSPB.*

The project has also given the Tristan community additional opportunity to travel to and from the island, especially if there are urgent needs for medical evacuation or treatment. It is also providing support to other research work which has identified a new breeding site for the threatened blue shark.

The ultimate goal of the project remains to eradicate mice from Gough Island and protect the seabird colonies. Monitoring will continue for a further two years following the project's conclusion to ensure its success and the repopulation of the Tristan albatross and Gough bunting.



*The Agulhas II transporting the equipment needed to eradicate mice on Gough Island.  
Copyright: RSPB.*



## Fact file

-  Land size: 65 km<sup>2</sup>
-  Location: South Atlantic Island (Part of St Helena, Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha)

### Did you know?

Gough Island derives its name from Captain Charles Gough of the *Richmond*, who rediscovered the island on 3 March 1732.

### Government departments at work here

- The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in partnership with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

See glossary on page 40 for further information.



Rest of the World

# British Antarctic Territory

The 1959 Antarctic Treaty preserves Antarctica as a place for peace and scientific investigation, providing an internationally agreed regime for the governance of the continent. The British Antarctic Territory (BAT) comprises a wedge-shaped sector of Antarctica including the South Shetland Islands, the South Orkney Islands and Antarctic Peninsula.

While BAT is mainly home to a variety of penguins and seals, there are also three research stations operated by the British Antarctic Survey. The largest station, Rothera, is a biological research centre and hub for supporting air operations across BAT. The UK Antarctic Heritage Trust manages the historic base at Port Lockroy. The Royal Navy ice patrol vessel, HMS Protector, provides a further presence in the territory.

The waters around BAT are among the most productive in the Southern Ocean, supporting large populations of krill, which feed larger predators such as baleen whales, penguins and seals. A fishery for Antarctic krill operates during the austral summer (November to March), together with a fishery for the valuable Antarctic toothfish. Both are managed by an international body, the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, which aims to ensure sustainable, highly precautionary fisheries while protecting marine life.

CSSF funding has helped update vital shipping charts which are available to all mariners navigating BAT.



*HMS Protector, the Royal Navy's ice patrol vessel.  
Copyright: Polar Regions Department.*

In 2019, the CSSF Blue Belt programme undertook a review of fishing activity and potential impacts in the region to help inform management strategies. Through this the team were able to provide support for the five-year review of the South Orkney Islands' Marine Protected Area, which was designated in 2009 and became Antarctica's first such area.

There are a growing number of tourists to Antarctica each year. Most visit by vessel, which rely on sea charts for navigation. In 2017 the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office undertook to review the outdated existing charting of BAT. Through the CSSF Maritime Governance and Environment programme, they worked with BAT stakeholders to assess their compliance against international maritime requirements and obligations under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Safety of Life at Sea Convention.

This important piece of work was supported by the FCO Polar Regions Department to improve the navigation in this environmentally sensitive area and decrease risk of a maritime incident. The United Kingdom Hydrographic Office has been able to produce nine new charts covering important shipping areas within BAT, with a further three being completed by March 2020. Together, these 12 charts provide essential information within the International Hydrographic Organisation's international chart scheme and are available to all mariners navigating BAT.

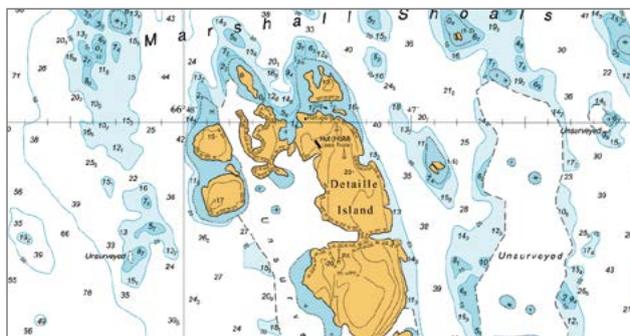
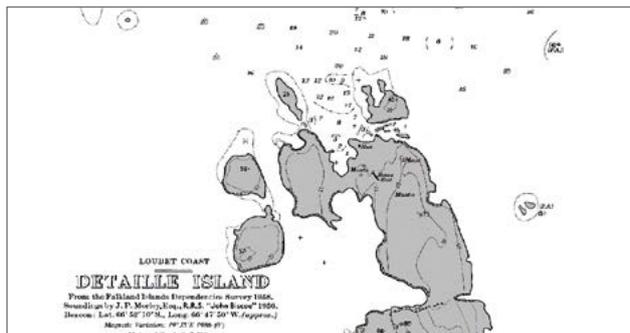


Image of old and new charts in BAT.

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## Fact file

📍 Administrative centre: London (largest British science base in the Territory is Rothera Research Station)

📍 Location: Antarctica

🌐 Land size: 1,709,400 km<sup>2</sup> (660,000 miles<sup>2</sup>)

👤 Population: No indigenous population, presence in territory provided by scientific stations

£ Currency: Pound Sterling

### Did you know?

In 2012, a 437,000 km<sup>2</sup> triangle of central Antarctica was named Queen Elizabeth Land to mark HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

### Government departments at work here

- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
- Ministry of Defence
- British Antarctic Survey
- United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
- Animal and Plant Health Agency

See glossary on page 40 for further information.



# British Indian Ocean Territory

The British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) is an archipelago of 58 islands situated in the central Indian ocean, the largest of which, Diego Garcia, is home to a joint US-UK defence facility. The territory contains some large reefs, and, to date, the marine environment remains largely unexplored. The UK remains committed to implementing the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea Arbitral Award of 2015.

BIOT has an extraordinary environment with some of the cleanest seas on earth, which contain over 300 species of coral as well as being home to the largest land arthropod in the world, the coconut crab.

In April 2010, the 347,000 km<sup>2</sup> maritime zone surrounding BIOT, containing large coral reefs and unexplored marine environments, was declared a Marine Protected Area. The CSSF Maritime Governance and Environment programme, through the Blue Belt programme, has been supporting the BIOT Administration to develop new conservation priorities aiming to conserve, protect and manage this unique environment.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has been working with the GB Non-Native Species Secretariat to identify potential non-native threats to the islands.



*Close up shot of the world's largest arthropod, the coconut crab.*



*The diverse coral reef found in the waters surrounding BIOT.*

In March 2019, Blue Belt scientists worked with BIOT environment officers to survey the waters around Diego Garcia, collecting samples from the lagoon and on the outer coasts. The information gathered from these samples will contribute and assist in the management of water quality within the lagoon and Diego Garcia.

Invasive species can be devastating to any island, but in particular to BIOT considering their vast marine environment. Great Britain Non-Native Species Secretariat (NNSS) has identified 28 invasive species including a species of fire ant known for its severe sting and predatory habits. The ant would be a direct threat to the native coconut crabs as well as to people in recreational areas.

The NNSS is drawing up an action plan to prevent the introduction of these species reducing the risk of their arrival. Continued support is being provided through training and access to an online biosecurity toolkit and learning website.



## Fact file

📍 Administrative centre: London

📍 Location: Indian Ocean

🌐 Area: Approx 640,000km<sup>2</sup>  
(total land 60km<sup>2</sup>)

### Did you know?

The British Indian Ocean Territory is home to a large and thriving population of coconut crabs. The pincers of an adult crab are stronger than a lion's jaws. They're also referred to as 'robber crabs' as they like to carry their food away when they find it on the forest floor.

### Government departments at work here

- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
- Marine Management Organisation
- United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
- Ministry of Defence
- Animal and Plant Health Agency

See glossary on page 40 for further information.



**The Pitcairn Islands are an isolated archipelago located in the South Pacific and are made up of four islands, only one of which is inhabited. Pitcairn Island and Henderson Island are volcanic, while Ducie and Oeno are flat atolls.**

The Pitcairn exclusive economic zone, covering an area of 841,200 km<sup>2</sup> was declared a Marine Protected Area in 2016. Since then, the Blue Belt Programme has supported the development of a Marine Protected Area management plan and provided training to local staff.

Pitcairn's Marine Protected Area is also providing opportunities for the Blue Belt programme to undertake habitat monitoring surveys. By using high-resolution satellite data, the team are able to analyse variances in the seabed, identifying areas of shallow or particularly sensitive habitats where anchoring or other seabed activities can be carefully monitored.

The Non-Native Species Secretariat is providing Pitcairn with access to technical expertise as well as creating a comprehensive biosecurity manual and helping to adapt biosecurity legislation.



*The Pacific rat is a major threat to breeding seabirds*



*Humpback whales are frequent visitors to the waters around Pitcairn Island.  
Copyright: Matt Jolly.*

In recent years there has been growing interest from the local community in providing whale watching trips between May and October, for tourists to see humpback whales and other marine life. Brochures and leaflets explaining the code of conduct for these trips have been developed with funding from the Blue Belt programme. In late 2019, training was provided for boat operators and other members of the local community to ensure that the code of conduct is effectively implemented.

Through the Maritime Governance and Environment programme, the Great Britain Non-Native Species Secretariat (NNSS) have been providing support to improve Pitcairn's biosecurity. This includes the identification of potentially invasive species, with 32 such species of concern being identified. A particular risk is the Pacific rat, which is a major threat to breeding seabirds. The NNSS is also providing Pitcairn with access to technical expertise, a field guide to pest species of concern to the island, a comprehensive biosecurity manual and draft model biosecurity legislation.

For remote island communities like Pitcairn, the collection of seabed mapping data is vital to supporting sustainable economic growth and protecting their communities from the effects of climate change. In 2017, the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office worked with local marine stakeholders in Pitcairn to assess their capabilities in collecting this data and compliance against international instruments and obligations under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Safety of Life at Sea Convention.



## Fact file

📍 Capital: Adamstown

📍 Location: Pacific Ocean

🌐 Land size: 47 km<sup>2</sup> (18 miles<sup>2</sup>)

👤 Population: 47 plus 5 'expatriate' professional posts (police officer, family and community adviser (social worker), teacher, doctor and FCO administrator)

£ Currency: New Zealand Dollar

### Did you know?

The earliest settlers of the Pitcairn Islands were Polynesians who traded goods between the islands despite the long canoe voyages. Archaeologists believe that they were living on the islands as late as the 15th century.

### Government departments at work here

- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
- Marine Management Organisation
- United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
- Department of Health and Social Care
- Animal and Plant Health Agency

See glossary on page 40 for further information.

# Glossary of terms

CSSF cross-cutting programmes

JSG – Justice, Security and Governance programme

MGE – Maritime Governance and Environment programme

UK Government organisations, departments, agencies and other public bodies



## Animal and Plant Health Agency

Executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which safeguards animal and plant health across the UK. It holds the Great Britain Non-Native Species Secretariat, which helps co-ordinate the approach to invasive non-native species in Great Britain as well as providing expertise to the Overseas Territories.



## British Antarctic Survey

Research body operating in the polar regions, using the area to enhance our understanding of the earth and research into global issues.



## Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

Cafcass is a UK non-departmental public body that is accountable to the Ministry of Justice and which represents children in family court cases in England. Cafcass supports the CSSF programme by providing social work expertise particularly in the field of multi-agency working.



## Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK

CPA UK strengthens parliamentary democracy by bringing together UK and Commonwealth parliamentarians and officials to share knowledge. The UK Overseas Territories project is a four-year programme of support to strengthen oversight of public finances and governance. In consortium with the UK National Audit Office and the UK Government Internal Audit Agency, it works with partners in the UK and Overseas Territories to provide technical assistance, training and mentoring to support effective practices in public financial management and governance.



## Crown Prosecution Service

The CPS prosecutes criminal cases that have been investigated by the police and other investigative organisations in England and Wales. Its international criminal justice advisers help states tackle crime by supporting attorney generals, directors of public prosecutions, judges and police across the world. The CPS works with states to develop and provide training and guidance on issues such as asset recovery, supporting vulnerable witnesses and modernising the criminal justice system.




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### **Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science**

A government agency and one of the delivery bodies of the Blue Belt programme, responsible for scientific assessments and ongoing monitoring.




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### **Government Partnerships International**

Government Partnerships International is a cross-cutting unit, located in the Stabilisation Unit, providing peer-to-peer support in OTs to help them deliver better public services to citizens. Their work in the OTs includes leadership training, advice on HR reform and support on the drafting of ministerial codes.



Home Office

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### **Home Office**

The HO supports the Overseas Territories in areas from citizenship and passports to border security and customs. Through Border Force, they provide technical expertise to territories to improve border integrity and security, including seconding staff to create new processes, policies and training programmes.



Marine Management Organisation

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### **Marine Management Organisation**

A non-departmental public body accountable to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. It is one of the delivery bodies of the Blue Belt programme, responsible for compliance and enforcement, and ensuring there are effective management regimes in place, with the required legislative frameworks.



Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

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### **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

UK Government department responsible for safeguarding and supporting the natural environment. Defra co-ordinates work around the Animal and Plant Health Agency, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds CSSF projects.



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

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### **Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

Promotes the interests of the UK overseas. The FCO co-ordinates the CSSF through a number of programmes worldwide. The FCO also oversees the Blue Belt programme.



Joint Nature Conservation Committee

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### **Joint Nature Conservation Committee**

Advises the UK Government and devolved administrations on UK-wide and international nature conservation, and provides technical and scientific advice to the Overseas Territories to support their biodiversity and wider environmental management strategies. It leads the natural capital projects to develop Overseas Territories' economies and increase their resilience to natural disasters through the protection and development of their natural capital assets.



**Maritime &  
Coastguard  
Agency**

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### **Maritime & Coastguard Agency**

UK Government agency responsible for maritime safety and protection of the marine environment. It is also responsible for compliance with international maritime conventions across the Red Ensign Group family to ensure all territories have the right protections in place and have mitigated against the risks of maritime incidents. The agency is working with the Overseas Territories to improve their maritime legislation, policies and procedures, and training surveyors, search and rescue and pollution response responders to improve effective capabilities.



**Ministry  
of Defence**

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### **Ministry of Defence**

The MOD works for a secure and prosperous UK with global reach and influence. It has worked with the Caribbean OTs to train coastguards and marine police units to support improved maritime security, and to supplement existing cross-government work within the Caribbean.



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### **National Crime Agency, Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command**

CEOP is the online child protection arm of the National Crime Agency. The NCA works to cut serious and organised crime, build intelligence of threats, pursue offenders and develop specialist capabilities on behalf of law enforcement and other partners. CEOP brings technical expertise to support the OTs' policing sector.



**Public Health  
England**

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### **Public Health England**

An executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care. It provides evidence-based, scientific expertise to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities. It runs a programme focused on improving global health security and non-communicable diseases in the OTs.



**United Kingdom  
Hydrographic Office**

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### **United Kingdom Hydrographic Office**

A world-leading centre for hydrography, specialising in marine geospatial data that supports the safe and responsible use of our oceans. UKHO teams are working with Overseas Territories to help them fulfil their international maritime safety obligations by gathering seabed mapping data, which is a critical path of national infrastructure supporting safe maritime trade and the development of a sustainable blue economy.

## Foreign and Commonwealth Office teams

### Blue Belt

Sits within the Maritime Governance and Environment programme. It supports the delivery of the UK Government's commitment to protect over four million square kilometres of marine environment across the Overseas Territories through:

- improving scientific understanding of the marine environment
- developing and implementing evidence-based, tailored marine management strategies including surveillance and enforcement
- ensuring management is sustainable and long term

### Child Safeguarding Unit

Sits within the Justice, Security and Governance programme. The unit works with governments of the Overseas Territories to help them to strengthen their child safeguarding systems, by providing technical advice and expertise. The support is delivered through a range of partners including the National Crime Agency, Crown Prosecution Service, NHS England, Cafcass, Barnardo's and UNICEF. It is focused on enhancing legislation, strengthening multi-agency working and increasing the child safeguarding capabilities of police, prosecutors, social workers, educators and the health sector.

## Other organisations working in partnership with UK Government



### Barnardo's

A UK-based children's charity that protects and supports the UK's most vulnerable children and young people. It has been providing expertise on safeguarding in the education sector through its training and consultancy arm.



### Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Charitable organisation dedicated to the conservation and protection of species and habitats in the UK and internationally. Leading the partially CSSF-funded Gough Island Restoration Programme to eradicate invasive mice from Gough Island.

## Technical terms

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### **Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources**

Established in 1982 with the purpose of conserving Antarctic marine life, focusing especially on the exploitation of krill resources.

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### **Conservation Management Plan**

A plan designed to assist with the management of assets, explaining their significance, current and future use.

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### **Exclusive Economic Zone**

Area beyond and adjacent to the territorial sea in which the coastal state has sovereign rights over the exploitation, exploration, conservation and management of the living and non-living resources in both the water column, seabed and subsoil.

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### **Marine Protected Area**

Designated areas of the ocean designed to protect and preserve the natural environment within.

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### **No-take zone**

A designated area where the removal or extraction of any resources (including natural minerals or marine life) is prohibited.

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### **Public Accounts Committee**

A committee of elected members, and sometimes lay-members appointed by the legislature. They scrutinise government expenditure and taxpayers' money, ensuring transparency and accountability within government, and making recommendations to ensure taxpayers receive best value for money.

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### **Safety of Life at Sea**

An international convention specifying the minimum standards required by any country of the construction, equipment and operations of all their vessels.

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### **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea**

The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out.



