



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# United Kingdom Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy

Consultation on a new UK Overseas Territories  
biodiversity strategy: Call for Evidence

December 2022

We are the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. We're responsible for improving and protecting the environment, growing the green economy, sustaining thriving rural communities and supporting our world-class food, farming and fishing industries.

We work closely with our 33 agencies and arm's length bodies on our ambition to make our air purer, our water cleaner, our land greener and our food more sustainable. Our mission is to restore and enhance the environment for the next generation, and to leave the environment in a better state than we found it.



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# Background

The UK Overseas Territories (OTs) are global biodiversity hotspots. Supporting every one of Earth's major ecosystems, from rainforests to polar tundra, the rich diversity of habitats in the OTs support a host of unique species, including endemic species - those found nowhere else on earth.

With pressures on global biodiversity growing, we want to do more to safeguard the future of habitats and species in the OTs. In line with our commitment to halt and reverse the decline of biodiversity, we have committed to develop a new, living, UK OT biodiversity strategy. The strategy will be guided jointly by the priorities and visions of the UK Government and fourteen OTs, and developed as a tool to guide future investment in protecting and restoring OT biodiversity.

Earlier this year, we invited representatives from the OTs to comment on HMG's current [UK OT biodiversity strategy](#), which was first produced in 2009, [and last reviewed in 2014](#). The discussion culminated in an agreement from all present to work together on the new strategy, to secure better outcomes for biodiversity in the OTs

Working in close partnership with the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), Defra is launching this call for evidence to consult as widely as possible on the development of the new strategy. Responses will be analysed together with information sought in response to questionnaires, via remote and on-island workshops and in discussions with wider stakeholders.

# Objectives

We are seeking feedback on the current strategy, and views on the development of a new strategy which can achieve greater impact in protecting and restoring the biodiversity of the UK OTs.

We want to hear if and how stakeholders have used the current UK OT biodiversity strategy, how it has been useful, what have been its limitations, and what should be contained in a new strategy to help make a sustained impact to biodiversity and a reversal of species decline in the OTs. We are interested in hearing from individuals, researchers, NGOs and businesses residing in or with interest in biodiversity conservation in the UK OTs.

The objectives of this call for evidence are:

1. To provide an opportunity for all interested stakeholders to submit their views relating to a new OT biodiversity strategy
2. To understand the opportunities and limitations relating to HMG's current OT biodiversity strategy, and relatedly, how we can make a new strategy as useful and effective as possible.

# Confidentiality and data protection information

1. A summary of responses to this consultation will be published on the Government website at: [www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra). An annex to the consultation summary will list all organisations that responded but will not include personal names, addresses or other contact details.

1.1 Defra may publish the content of your response to this consultation to make it available to the public without your personal name and private contact details (e.g. home address, email address, etc).

1.2 If you click on 'Yes' in response to the question asking if you would like anything in your response to be kept confidential, you are asked to state clearly what information you would like to be kept as confidential and explain your reasons for confidentiality. The reason for this is that information in responses to this consultation may be subject to release to the public or other parties in accordance with the access to information law (these are primarily the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs), the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)). We have obligations, mainly under the EIRs, FOIA and DPA, to disclose information to particular recipients or to the public in certain circumstances. In view of this, your explanation of your reasons for requesting confidentiality for all or part of your response would help us balance these obligations for disclosure against any obligation of confidentiality. If we receive a request for the information that you have provided in your response to this consultation, we will take full account of your reasons for requesting confidentiality of your response, but we cannot guarantee that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

1.3 If you click on 'No' in response to the question asking if you would like anything in your response to be kept confidential, we will be able to release the content of your response to the public, but we won't make your personal name and private contact details publicly available.

1.4 There may be occasions when Defra will share the information you provide in response to the consultation, including any personal data with external analysts. This is for the purposes of consultation response analysis and provision of a report of the summary of responses only.

1.5 This consultation is being conducted in line with the Cabinet Office "Consultation Principles" and be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance>.

1.6 Please find our latest privacy notice uploaded as a related document alongside our consultation document.

1.7 If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to:

## **United Kingdom Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy: Call for Evidence**

Consultation Coordinator, Defra

2nd Floor, Foss House, Kings Pool,

1-2 Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PX

Or email: [consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk](mailto:consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk)

# Questions

Please provide evidence to support your responses, and where possible refer to the territory/region.

1. Would you like your responses to be confidential?

Yes

No

If you answered Yes to this question, please give your reason.

2. Who do you represent?

Individual or member of public

Organisation or Non-Governmental Organisation

Academia or education

Private Sector

OT government

UK government department or Arms-length body

Other (please specify

3. Where are you based?

UK Overseas Territories

UK

Other (not based in the UK or the UK Overseas Territories)

4. If answered ("UK Overseas Territories") to Question (3); which territory do you permanently reside in?

Ascension Island

Anguilla

Bermuda

British Antarctic Territory

British Indian Ocean Territory

British Virgin Islands

Cayman Islands

Falkland Islands

Gibraltar

Montserrat

Pitcairn Islands

South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands

Sovereign Base Area, Akrotiri and Dhekelia

St Helena Island

Tristan da Cunha

Turks and Caicos Islands

5. In what way are you involved in biodiversity conservation in the OTs?



6. Were you familiar with the current OT biodiversity strategy (published in 2009) prior to this call for evidence?  
Yes  
No  
Unsure
7. Have you previously used and/or referred to the 2009 OT biodiversity strategy?  
Yes  
No  
Unsure
8. If answered (Yes) to Question (7); how have you used the 2009 OT biodiversity strategy. Please explain how?
9. Below are the strategic priorities of the current strategy. Please indicate which of the strategic priorities you think are still relevant to biodiversity conservation in the OTs? Please select those that apply.
- Obtaining data on the location and status of biodiversity interests and the human activities affecting biodiversity to inform the preparation of policies and management plans (including baseline survey and subsequent monitoring);
  - Preventing the establishment of invasive alien species, and eradicating or controlling species that have already become established;
  - Developing cross-sectoral approaches to climate change adaptation that are consistent with the principles of sustainable development;
  - Developing tools to value ecosystem services to inform sustainable development policies and practices;
  - Developing ecosystem-based initiatives for the conservation and sustainable use of the marine environment.
10. Are there any other high-level priorities that should be included in the new OT biodiversity strategy? If yes, please explain (300-word limit).
11. What do you think the limitations of the 2009 OT biodiversity strategy are (500-word limit)?
12. What do you think would make a new OT biodiversity strategy more effective? Please structure your answer under the following headings where appropriate:
- Structure and format of the strategy (300-word limit)
- Provision of support and/or commitments from/between UK Government and the OTs (300-word limit)
- Monitoring and evaluation of the strategy (300-word limit)

Other comments on how to make the strategy most useful and effective (300-word limit)

13. Do you have any further comments or suggestions relating to a new OT biodiversity strategy? (500-word limit?)

14. Please provide your details:

Organisation\*

Name\*

Contact email\*

15. Do you give permission for us to contact you to discuss your response in more detail?

Yes

No

16. We may want to publish in part or whole, the responses from your organisation in our final report and on social media. Please can you confirm how you would like your response to be treated: \*

Publish my response, including the name of my organisation

Publish my response in anonymised form only (no name, email or organisation)

Do not publish my response

## How to respond

The call for evidence is open for 12 weeks from Friday 16 December 2022 and closes on Friday 24 March 2023.

Please submit your responses in any of the following ways:

By email: [OTBDS@defra.gov.uk](mailto:OTBDS@defra.gov.uk)

By post:

CfE Biodiversity in the OTs

Defra

Strategy Unit

1<sup>st</sup> Floor Seacole

2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

Please ensure you answer the questions in the document above and adhere to the word counts indicated.

# Consultee Feedback on the Online Survey

Dear Consultee

Thank you for taking your time to participate in this online survey. It would be appreciated, if you can provide us with an insight into how you view the tool and the area(s) you feel is in need of improvement, by completing our feedback questionnaire.

## **Overall, how satisfied are you with our online consultation tool?**

Please give us any comments you have on the tool, including suggestions on how we could improve it.

Answer component: Single choice radio buttons

Very satisfied

Satisfied

Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

Dis-satisfied

Very dissatisfied

Don't know

Please give us any comments you have on the tool, including suggestions on how we could improve it.