



Overseas Countries and Territories: Environmental Profiles

FINAL REPORT

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Consortium



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Authors of the Report

Jose de Bettencourt

Helena Imminga-Berends

Project manager

Camille Vassart on behalf of Prospect C&S

Contractor's name and address

Safège Consortium

Gulledelle 92

B-1200 Brussels - BELGIUM

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACAP	Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels
ACOR	Association Française pour les Récifs Coralliens
ACP	Africa Caribbean and the Pacific
ACS	Association of Caribbean States
AEPS	Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy
AFD	French Development Agency
AMAP	Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme
AMOC	Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation
AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States
APEC	Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation
BAS	British Antarctic Survey
BEST	EU Voluntary Scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas
BRGM	Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières
CAFF	Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna
CANARI	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARIFORUM	Caribbean Forum
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCAMLR	Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
CCAS	Convention on Conservation of Antarctic Seals
CCC	Cod and Climate Change Programme
CCCCC	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
CDS	Catch Documentation Scheme
CEHI	Caribbean Environmental Health Institute
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
CMS	Bonn Convention on Migratory Species
CNRS	Centre National pour la Recherche Scientifique
COLTO	Coalition of Legal Toothfish Operators
COMESA	Common market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CoP	Conference of the Parties
CPA	Country Poverty Assessment
CPACC	Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change
CR	Critically endangered (IUCN classification)
CRAMRA	Convention on the Regulation of Antarctic Mineral Resource Activities
CRISP	Coral Reefs in the South Pacific
CROP	Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
CSME	Caribbean Single Market and Economy
Darwin Plus	Fuses OTEP and Darwin (OCT component) in what concerns competitive funding to deliver long-term strategic outcomes for the natural environment in the UK's Overseas Territories
DCNA	Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of UK government
DFID	DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT of UK government
DK	Denmark

DPSIR	Driver, Pressure, State, Impact and Responses
ECCB	Eastern Caribbean Central Bank
EDF	European Development Fund
EE	Energy efficiency
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIB	European Investment Bank
EN	Endangered (IUCN classification)
ENSO	El Niño Southern Oscillation
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
EPD	Environment, planning and development
EPPR	Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FCO	Foreign & Commonwealth Office UK Government
FEA	Fonds pour l'Environnement et l'Agriculture
FR	France
GCRMN	Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GGF	Good Governance Fund
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIWA	Global International Water Assessment
GLIPSA	Global Islands Partnership
HMS	His Majesty's Ship
I&M	Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment
IAATO	International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators
IAC	Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
IBA	Important Bird Area
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICCAT	International Commission for the conservation of tuna-like fish in the Atlantic
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
ICES-CCC	ICES Cod and Climate Change Programme
ICRI	International Coral Reef Initiative
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IFRECOR	Initiative Française pour les Récifs Coralliens
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development (UK)
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INTEGRE	Initiative des Territoires du Pacifique pour la gestion régionale de l'environnement
IOC	Indian Ocean Commission
IPCC	International Panel on Climate Change
IRD	Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (FR)
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IUU	Illegal unregulated and unreported fishing
JCNB	Joint Commission on Narwhal and Beluga
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee UK Government
LPO	Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux
LSB	Landbased Sources of Marine Pollution (protocol of the Cartagena Convention)
MAB	Man and Biosphere (Reserve)
MACC	Mainstreaming Adaptation to Climate Change
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding

MPA	Marine Protected Area
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
n.a.	not available
NAFO	North Atlantic Fisheries Organisation
NAMMCO	North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NEMS	National Environmental Management Strategy
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NL	Netherlands
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NT	National Trust
NZ	New Zealand
OAD	Overseas Association Decision
OAU	Organisation of African Unity
OCTA	Overseas Countries and Territories Association
OCTs	Overseas Countries and Territories
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
OT	Overseas Territories (commonly used in texts from the UK)
OTCF	UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum
OTEP	Overseas Territories Environment Programme (replaced by Darwin Plus)
PAME	Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment
PCCFAF	Pacific Climate Change Finance Assessment Framework
PECCO	Pacific Environment and Climate Change Outlook
PEP	Poverty and Environment Partnership
PGA	Plan Général d'Aménagement
PGEM	Plan de Gestion de l'Espace Maritime
PID	Pacific Islands Development Programme
PILN	Pacific Invasives Learning Network
PIP	Pacific Invasives Partnership
PNG	Papua New Guinea
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutant
PPCR	Pilot Program for Climate Resilience
PROE	Programme régional océanien de l'environnement
PWSD	Public Works and Services Department
RE	Renewable Energy
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
RIP	Regional Indicative Programme
RSP	Regional Seas Programme or Regional Strategy Paper
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SAERI	South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute
SAWG	South Atlantic Working Group (of the UK OTCF)
SCOR	Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research
SCP	Strategic Country Programme
SD	Sustainable Development
SDP	Sustainable Development Plan
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEAFO	South-East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SIDSnet	Small Island Developing States Information Network
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises

SOPAC	South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission
SORP	Southern Ocean Research Partnership
SPA	Specially Protected Area
SPAW	Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
SPC	Secretariat of Pacific Community
SPD	Single Programming Document
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
SPT	South Pacific Tourism Organisation
STZC	Sustainable Tourism Zone of the Caribbean
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
TAO	Territorial Authorising Officers
TEP	Tonne Equivalent Pétrole (TEP Vertes is a climate change mitigation programme in the Pacific)
UK	United Kingdom
UKAHT	United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust
UKOTA	Association of OCT linked to the UK
UKOTCF	United Kingdom Overseas Territories Conservation Forum
UN	United Nations
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organisation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
VROM	Netherlands environment ministry
VU	Vulnerable (IUCN classification)
WH	World Heritage
WIDECAST	Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network
WRI	World Resources Institute
WTO	World Trade Organisation
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

AI	Ascension Island
ANG	Anguilla
ARU	Aruba
BAT	British Antarctic Territories
BIOT	British Indian Ocean Territory
BLM	Saint-Barthélemy
BM	Bermuda
BON	Bonaire
BVI	British Virgin Islands
CAY	Cayman Island
CUW	Curaçao
FLK	Falkland Islands
FP	French Polynesia
GL	Greenland
MSR	Montserrat
NC	New Caledonia
PIT	Pitcairn
SAB	Saba
SGSSI	South Georgia and South Sandwich islands
SH	Saint Helena
SHATdC	St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha
SPM	St Pierre and Miquelon
StEus	Sint Eustatius
SXM	Sint Maarten
TAAF	French Southern and Antarctic Territories
TCI	Turks and Caicos islands
TdC	Tristan da Cunha
W&F	Wallis and Futuna

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This report contains environmental profiles for the 25 Overseas countries and territories (OCTs)¹ associated with the European Union. These environmental profiles are set in a socio-economic developmental perspective so that the findings can be used to assist in programming projects in the framework of the EU 2014-2020 cooperation programming. A specific regime is applied to OCTs as specified in the Overseas Association Decision adopted on November 2013². Greenland is also in a special position in so far as it receives budget support from the General budget. The OCTs, the EU Member States to which they are linked and the European Commission hold an annual forum to discuss progress.

This report was prepared at the request of the European Commission, in collaboration with OCTA (the OCTs association). It was conducted primarily by means of desk research, drawing on data in the public domain - data collection visits were not made to the territories themselves. These public domain data were supplemented by a questionnaire sent to all the territories dealing with environmental and sustainable development issues, institutions, human resources, policies, budgets for the environment, and international cooperation. Feedback from the administrations of the OCTs, Member States, the Commission services and some nature conservation NGOs helped drafting these profiles. Considering that the whole work is based on desk studies, these environmental profiles are a snapshot, a summary of currently published information, and are not exhaustive. Therefore the profiles may be revised/updated for example with information that will become available through the on-going work on the 7 regional ecosystem profiles of the BEST III preparatory action.

The OCTs are situated in 5 distinct regions³ and display great diversity in terms of geography, economy, population and key circumstances. They extend from the tropics to the polar regions, include the world's largest island (Greenland) and the tiny Dutch special municipality of Saba (13 km²), have populations ranging from over a quarter of a million down to around 50, and a wide range of incomes, from Bermuda occupying the 6th worldwide place to islands which have a barter economy (Pitcairn, Tristan da Cunha).

Despite the differences, these territories also share a number of characteristics. All of them, including the more affluent, are to some degree economically vulnerable: they are dependent on a small number of sectors, e.g. tourism, fishing, mining, which makes the economy vulnerable to conjunctural and/or structural changes in those sectors (e.g. collapse of fish stocks, tourist cycles and fashions). The main income of Bermuda and of several Caribbean OCTs is finance industry. Their small size means diseconomies of scale and limited human resources. Their often remote location, insularity and fragmentation mean high transport costs, making imports expensive and exports uncompetitive.

In addition to their economic vulnerability, many OCTs lie in areas which make them vulnerable to natural disasters - cyclones, hurricanes and tropical storms, earthquakes, volcanic activity and tsunamis. These events are often especially devastating to small islands because the proportionate impact is much greater than for larger states and because of the difficulty of evacuation. This stresses the importance of a healthy environment: as stated by the Executive Secretary for the Convention on Biological Diversity on the occasion of World Environment Day (5 June 2014), *Resilient and healthy ecosystems are a cost-effective way of managing some of the adverse impacts of climate change, such as increased storm surge flooding and erosion.*

The OCTs have high natural capital, important for the whole world. They contain an estimated 16% of the world's freshwater, most of it locked up in the ice-sheets of Greenland and the Antarctic OCTs. The

1 Greenland (DK), French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Saint-Barthélemy, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Southern and Antarctic French Territories, Wallis and Futuna (F), Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius (NL), Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, British Antarctic Territories, British Indian Ocean Territory, the Cayman Islands, the Falkland Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha, South Georgia and South Sandwich islands, Turks and Caicos, (UK)

2 Council Decision 2013/755/EU of 25 November 2013 on the association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Union ('Overseas Association Decision'), Official Journal of the European Union, L 344, Volume 56, 19 December 2013

3 Caribbean, Pacific, North Atlantic, South Atlantic and Indian Ocean.

Greenland ice-sheet and the Antarctic will play a pivotal role in regard to sea-level over the next century and beyond. The EEZ of the OCTs is over 20 million km² (double the EEZ of USA which is the largest national EEZ in the world)⁴ which is a source of wealth uncounted so far but extremely high. The OCTs geographical dispersion, insularity and remoteness promotes a huge biodiversity and a strong level of endemism⁵. For example the UK OCTs have 90% of all the UK + OCTs biodiversity combined⁶. The OCTs have about 7% of all coral reefs in the world⁷, the reefs of Bonaire are the best preserved of the Caribbean region and the most pristine ones are found on another OCT ((British Indian Ocean Territory - BIOT). New Caledonia has the largest lagoon of the world and the second longest barrier reef. French Polynesia and British Indian Ocean Territory both have atolls amongst the largest in the world.

OCTs are also championing several environmental management initiatives. OCTs have the largest protected area in the world (Northeast Greenland National Park in Greenland), and the Coral Sea MPA of New Caledonia (2014) may hold currently the title of the world's largest protected marine area, covering 1.3 million km². Besides, BIOT is one of the largest marine no-take protected area in the world (640.000 km²) and South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands have one of have the largest sustainable fisheries marine protected areas (1 million km²). In several other OCT's EEZ sustainable fisheries MSC⁸ certificates were obtained. The intention of Pitcairn to establish a large MPA is being analysed by the UK government.

The main issues at stake in the EU OCTs related to environment and more broadly with sustainable development are many and interconnected, and it is fundamental to take climate change impacts into account. The main issues are:

Climate change – Greenland, the British Antarctic Territory and TAAF are well placed to study and understand the effects of global climate change. Ongoing processes in these territories have worldwide impacts: changes in melting of glaciers, sea ice extent, water mass formation. Several OCTs are particularly vulnerable to sea-level rise, and some effects are already visible. Many OCTs lie on the path of hurricanes and increased violence storms are expected more frequently, but also changes in precipitation patterns. Besides, changes in ocean temperatures, salinity and currents will bring changes in marine ecosystems, endanger coral reefs which play a key role in the physical defence and economies of many territories, and have unpredicted effects on fish stocks. Jointly, the OCTs have a comparative advantage in studying first hand these phenomena, and in testing adaptation and mitigation measures that can then be transferred to other neighbouring countries (in line with Art 7 of OAD).

Biodiversity and ecosystems services - The OCTs have a much higher biodiversity than the entire European Union. Many OCTs are important hotspots for flora, birds and seabirds, sea turtles, reptiles and other species, some of which are endangered. A very high proportion of the world's black-browed albatross, for example, breed on either the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, the Crozet archipelago or Kerguelen islands (TAAF). The OCTs are also very important for migratory species. As the EU and MS commit to support the achievement of international (namely Aichi targets⁹) and EU biodiversity targets¹⁰ (namely target 6), the conservation and sustainable use of OCTs biodiversity is key to comply with international obligations. Furthermore, ecosystems provide services to population and tourists which can and should be valued in order to better understand their importance and the need to promote their protection, and for governments to compare its value with other options when planning for development. For OCTs, which are mostly islands, the main services provided by ecosystems are tourism assets (touristic activities depend on the quality of natural environment), fisheries (fisheries are usually an important source of income for population and governments and source of protein for the population, and is also often practiced for recreational purposes), coastal protection (reefs and mangroves buffer impacts of extreme natural events and sea level rise avoiding further losses), forests (protect watershed and

4 Actually the countries to which OCTs are connected (France, UK, Denmark and the Netherlands) have extensive EEZ due to the OCTs.

5 Species found on that territory only.

6 FCO, 2012, Overseas Territories: Security, Success and Sustainability.CM8374 3 <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

7 BEST Facilitating Project co-ordinated by IUCN- EU Overseas Roundtable Meeting - September, 27, 2013 (work in progress)

8 <http://www.msc.org/track-a-fishery/fisheries-in-the-program/certified>

9 www.cbd.int/sp/targets/default.shtml

10 EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy, <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/2020.htm>

avoid land erosion). Besides, ecosystems serve for cultural and recreational purposes to the population (important for the wellbeing and health of the population), and the uniqueness of certain ecosystems and species may attract funding for their protection filling what otherwise would be an insuperable gap – for example it has been estimated that mainland Netherlands population is willing to pay about € 34 million per year for the protection of nature of Caribbean Netherlands¹¹– these are expressions of the non-use value. These are fairly new concepts and still not deeply rooted into governance. Therefore, ecosystems are coming under multiple threats, which include: inconsiderate economic development, land erosion and siltation of rivers due to clearing of land for development or agricultural purposes, seabird by-catch and injuries from fishing, and the introduction of invasive species notably rats, rabbits, goats, some flora species and the lionfish (the later particularly in Caribbean and Bermuda waters). Particularly the invasive species problem is common to all OCTs. Eradication/control has been carried out in many OCTs, mostly concerning land mammals. Addressing invasive species problems regarding flora and the marine environment is even more challenging. In many OCTs a baseline biological assessment is still required to enable devising proper control on invasive species, especially flora and in the marine environment.

Waste and wastewater management - The last decades brought rapid increase of waste volumes and dangerousness as a result of rising living standards and tourism, massive use of motor vehicles, development of informatics and mobile communication. Besides, many of the existing solid waste dumps (with some degree of protection) are full or nearly full; there are many informal or unauthorized waste dumps; seldom are modern technologies and methods used in waste management; toxic waste is stored with normal household waste (hazardous waste types such as used oils, batteries, end of life vehicles, asbestos, pesticide waste, hospital and slaughterhouse waste, constitute a particular problem). In some OCTs there are also issues regarding the elimination of waste from cruise ships and yachts (Caribbean, Pacific, Falkland Islands). There is too much waste to be dealt with but not enough volume to justify investments on certain types of waste valorisation equipment. There are difficulties in finding suitable sites for waste disposal, and lack of agreements with other countries to receive the waste streams unable to be locally managed. Similarly, many OCTs consider a priority to be addressed the contamination caused by release of untreated wastewater effluent into groundwater aquifers or directly to surface water bodies due to poorly designed sanitation facilities or to insufficient sanitation systems. This causes pollution of rivers and coastal water and eutrophication.

Coastal zones - There is a growing understanding among the OCTs' decision makers of the services provided by coastal ecosystems such as coral reefs, mangroves, dunes, and forests to reduce the possible impacts of natural hazards, particularly hurricanes and floods, as well as to delay impacts of sea level rise. However, these coastal ecosystems suffer several pressures which include pollution and siltation of coastal waters. Main pressures originate from non-regulated development at the coastal zone (change of natural spaces by cement and tarmac), the need for locally sourced construction materials (such as sand, gravel, wood, coral stone), untreated sewage pumped out into the sea, lack of storm water (particularly flowing through towns) treatment, waste dumps (illegal or non-adequate landfills) by the sea releasing leachates, non-environmentally friendly agricultural activities, inland based activities (e.g. deforestation and mining) causing siltation of rivers and estuaries and accidents from oil terminals or ships. There is a need to strengthen integrated coastal zone management.

Many OCTs are providing growing attention to the sea as a driver of the economy (the so called Blue economy). There is a shift from considering separately fisheries, tourism, mineral and hydrocarbon exploration and transport and logistics towards an integrated maritime approach. Many OCTs governments are more and more valuing their natural assets – for instance for tourism income – and request support to increase marine knowledge and strengthen maritime spatial planning to ensure an efficient and sustainable management of activities at sea.

Governance – In many OCTs there seems to be a low level of awareness of decision makers concerning the importance of physical planning or environmental impact assessment procedures. Issues related to

11 www.ivm.vu.nl/en/projects/Projects/economics/Bonaire/non_use_value/index.asp

land ownership prevent the establishment of protected areas in several OCTs. In particular least populous OCTs experience a lack of human resources, in terms of numbers of qualified staff. The limited capacity (also in terms of consultants, engineers, contractors) poses difficulties for improved studies, finding of possible solutions, and consequent decision-making. There is limited or no control over the impact of waste or wastewater disposal/release. There are challenges in establishing environmental standards and legislation and regulations (up to date requirements which are simultaneously realistic regarding the existing infrastructure) or weaknesses in its implementation. Locally available long-term financing as required by modern technologies is often not available. Foreign aid is usually geared towards developing modern infrastructure and setting up processes, but cost recovery – at least of operation and maintenance costs – is necessary for long term viability. Services need to be paid for but there is in many cases a lack of willingness or possibility to pay. Especially on solid waste, there is a near absence of concerted policies aimed at reducing the production and accumulation of waste and very limited recycling initiatives. Besides, many territories lack agreements with other countries or territories to be able to export valuable waste streams. Despite all this, some territories are finding inventive means of tackling environmental governance problems.

Dependency on fossil fuels - OCTs are, at different speeds, increasing green energy use and reducing dependency on fossil fuels. As in other parts of the world, renewable energy (RE) penetration is evolving faster than energy efficiency. According to a recent EU study¹² of the situation in the OCTs, there has been an increase of 57% in RE installed capacity (+121 MW) over the last 5 years, while conventional installed electrical capacity increased 27% (+283 MW). There are also some energy efficiency actions such as the thermal regulations and energy assessments to identify inefficiencies. The same study mentions that electricity demand growth is at a rate of 3% to 5% per year despite general slowdown of the economies, and that transport represents an important share of the primary energy demand. The environmental profiles confirm that many OCTs are prioritizing green energy. However, there is still a long way to go for a proper energy reform to take place. There is a need to establish an holistic approach to energy (electricity and transportation), assessing the renewable energy resource potential, finding the adequate RE source mix, solving technical issues linked to limitation and confinement of the grids, enabling and promoting private sector involvement, establishing the cost recovery framework, and promoting energy efficiency. Some OCTs with more renewable energy potential are starting to consider electric cars. Although the majority of the OCTs have not started the procedure to extend UNFCCC¹³ and Kyoto Protocol to their territories, many OCTs see this move as their contribution to greenhouse gas emission reduction.

Careful thought needs to be given to whether projects dealing with nature protection and more broadly with improved environmental management (waste, water, energy, coastal, marine, etc.) and sustainable development can best be tackled at the territorial, regional or at the global level. Regional cooperation, where possible and appropriate, need not be restricted to the OCTs. Where problems are shared with other territories in the region (ACPs or Outermost Regions) consideration should be given to cooperating with them as well. This in line with Art 7 of Council Decision 2013/755/EU. Natural candidates can be found in the Caribbean and in the Pacific region.

The South Atlantic OCTs are all linked to the UK and the territories are starting to collaborate more with each other.¹⁴ In particular the Falkland Islands promotes this collaboration. The region has a comparative advantage on the study of the Southern Atlantic Oceans, as the OCTs spread from the Antarctic to nearly the equator, like no other entity in the world.

In the Indian Ocean BIOT (UK) and TAAF (FR) are uninhabited OCTs, with restricted access (military presence on some islands), and administered either from a Territory nearby or directly from the

12 Renewable Energy and Clean Policy in Overseas Countries and Territories - draft report. Consultants have had access to a presentation at the OCTA-EU Partnership Working Party 3 (PWP3) held on the 25 September 2013.

13 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

14 It should be referred that Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha are in fact three separate territories with their own governments and difficulties arise from treating them as one

associated Member State. Although there has not been direct cooperation between the two in the past, there are areas in which this is possible such as monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries, campaigning for high seas fisheries regulations to be established, and on research for instance on climate change or invasive species.

Finally the North Atlantic OCTs are very different from each other, and each one is neighbour to an industrialized country with which they have special relationships. In the case of Greenland a majority of the regional environmental issues are addressed at the Arctic Council¹⁵, while Saint Pierre and Miquelon relates to Canada on environmental issues, and Bermuda's main trading partner is the USA¹⁶, while it relates to the UK on environmental issues. It is noteworthy that Bermuda has a prominent role on the Sargasso Sea leading the process of establishment of the Sargasso Sea Commission (Azores, Monaco, UK and US).

There are some areas that can be tackled at a global level, as the challenges are common to all OCTs. On biodiversity, an international action to build capacity for invasive species control, in particular in what concerns flora and the marine environment, starting by supporting an increased knowledge base is advisable¹⁷. The European Preparatory Action 'BEST'¹⁸ proved to be a useful tool by making seed funding available for OCTs, to implement some enabling projects. A similar type of initiative can be thought for climate change. The EU can be a catalyst of *Green Growth* and of *Blue Economy*¹⁹ development in the OCTs through global coordinated action. The OCTs will benefit from shared debate and training; from sharing of possible national solutions (e.g. on dedicated websites); sharing of know-how and experience between regions (e.g. sustainable fisheries in the South Atlantic) through visits and technical assistance between OCTs, twinning, from regional articulation when adequate to provide scale to possible investments benefiting several OCTs (e.g. regional waste management or electricity inter-island connection in the Caribbean – bankable projects which would not be so if considered island per island). Some of these initiatives can result in solutions of interest to neighbouring ACP countries and Outermost Regions and involve them. Increased controls on high-sea fisheries and the debate on large marine protected areas and their surveillance are prone to be tackled at a global level – they require action at international fora, and OCT can make a strong case.

15 Canada, Denmark/Greenland, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden.

16 U.S. policy toward the United Kingdom is the basis of U.S.-Bermuda relations. The USA is Bermuda's principal trading partner. Bermuda cooperates with the USA to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing. An estimated 8,000 registered U.S. citizens live in Bermuda, many of them employed in the international business community. There also are a large number of American businesses incorporated in Bermuda. (<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5375.htm>)

17 Promoting the involvement of the regional research institutions existing in some OCTs (working together with the territorial bodies) and promote their interaction with EU research centres, advocating for a special fund on Horizon 2020 would bring several side-advantages as well.

18 Voluntary scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of the EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories

19 The EU has a comparative advantage on the planning aspects with the experience on the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC

Map with the overseas countries and territories of the European Union:



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

The purpose of this assignment is to update the 2007 OCTs Environmental Profiles. Currently there are 25 Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) which have a relationship with the European Union.

The purpose of the assignment is to:

- 1) Provide a comprehensive update to the January 2007 OCT Environmental Profiles, particularly focusing on any significant developments since 2006
- 2) Through these Environmental Profiles, provide a useful base of information:
 - for OCTs, the Member States to which they are linked and the European Commission (Directorate General for development and Cooperation – EuropeAid) in the context of the 11th EDF programming process
 - for OCTs and the EU, in the frame of the implementation of relevant post-2013 Union programmes to which OCTs are eligible (including, inter alia, the Global Public Goods and Challenges thematic programme of the Development Cooperation Instrument, the LIFE²⁰ programme and Horizon 2020)
 - for relevant stakeholders in the frame of the current and upcoming projects implemented under the BEST Initiative to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services in EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories.

1.2 WHAT ARE THE OVERSEAS COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES?

OCTs are non-sovereign territories and countries constitutionally linked to four EU Member States. They are in varying degrees self-governing and do not form part of the European Union. European Union legislation does not apply to OCTs unless specifically provided. There are currently 25 OCTs, one linked with Denmark, six with France, twelve with the UK, and six linked to the Netherlands²¹. Regardless of their individual constitutional arrangements with the Member State to which they are linked, OCTs have the same status vis-à-vis the EU.

Region	OCT	Abbrev. used	Member State
Pacific	French Polynesia	FP	FR
	New Caledonia	NC	FR
	Pitcairn	PIT	UK
	Wallis & Futuna	W&F	FR
North Atlantic	Bermuda	BM	UK
	Greenland	GL	DK
	St Pierre and Miquelon	SPM	FR
South Atlantic	British Antarctic Territories	BAT	UK
	Falkland Islands	FLK	UK
	St Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha	SHATdC	UK
	South Georgia and South Sandwich islands	SGSSI	UK
Indian Ocean	British Indian Ocean Territory	BIOT	UK
	French Southern and Antarctic Territories	TAAF	FR

20 See Guidelines for applicants 2014 'LIFE projects shall take place in the territory of the European Union Member States. The LIFE Programme may also finance activities outside the EU and in overseas countries and territories (OCTs), provided that the coordinating beneficiary is based in the EU and strong evidence is provided that the activities to be carried out outside the EU are necessary to achieve EU climate/environmental objectives and to ensure the effectiveness of interventions carried out in the Member State territories to which the Treaties apply'. http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/toolkit/pmtools/life2014_2020/guidelines.htm

21 Of the six, three are autonomous countries and three are special municipalities.

Caribbean	Anguilla	ANG	UK
	Aruba	ARU	NL
	British Virgin Islands	BVI	UK
	Bonaire	BON	NL
	Cayman Island	CAY	UK
	Curaçao	CUW	NL
	Montserrat	MSR	UK
	Saba	SAB	NL
	Saint-Barthélemy	BLM	FR
	Sint Eustatius	StEus	NL
	Sint Maarten	SXM	NL
	Turks and Caicos islands	TCI	UK

Since the 2007 report, the Netherlands Antilles split into 2 autonomous countries and 3 special municipalities linked to Netherlands. Regarding France, Mayotte became an outermost region and Saint-Barthélemy became an OCT. In 2013, Bermuda adhered to the Association.

St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha are only loosely linked together, have largely separate administrations, legislation and economies, and in many ways are more usefully regarded as separate territories. At times they are treated separately in this report. They constitute, however, a single OCT vis-à-vis the European Union.

The five 'regions' into which the OCTs are grouped in the above table are somewhat arbitrary. The Caribbean and Pacific regions are obviously coherent geopolitical regions, and the OCTs of the South Atlantic, although the inter-territorial distances are very large, have a number of concerns and circumstances in common. The North Atlantic region, on the other hand, seems a heterogeneous group of territories, each one with its own concerns and partners. The territories included under Indian Ocean have in common being non-inhabited territories, administered from distance by the member state, and with restricted areas due to military presence. The French Southern and Antarctic Territories (TAAF) is composed of one part in the Antarctic (Adelie Land) and sub Antarctic with issues more similar to the South Atlantic OCTs (Antarctica, fishing, seabirds), and on the other part in the Indian Ocean (Scattered islands).

1.3 SCOPE OF THE TERM ENVIRONMENT

'Environment' is rather a vague term. For the purpose of these environmental profiles the term environment includes the quality of all the environmental media (surface waters, groundwater, the surrounding seas, the air, and the soil), the quality and diversity of habitats and wildlife, and the way in which these are being impacted by human action.

Besides, the terms of reference specifically asked for a broad sustainable development approach. Therefore climate change and natural hazards, physical planning, energy, green growth and blue growth (including fisheries) are included. These topics are intertwined with several environmental aspects and they are tackled from an environmental perspective, and less from an economic development perspective although it is also taken into account.

As an example, the health of habitats such as coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangrove provides services as nurseries or foraging grounds for fish, or defend the coasts from storms. These have an associated value per se which is often unaccounted for. Not to mention that for many OCTs they constitute the asset tourists look for. The health of those ecosystems depend on proper wastewater and waste management, regulated physical development, and sustainable use of resources (biological or not).

1.4 VULNERABILITY

A number of attempts have been made to quantify the concept of vulnerability. The environmental profiles subject of the present study use as baseline the work done by South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and their partners²². The index was developed through consultation and collaboration with countries, institutions and experts across the globe, and included environmental vulnerability as well as vulnerability to natural hazards. It is worth mentioning that the 2005 vulnerability profiles for the OCTs had substantial data gaps. Nevertheless, as these vulnerability profiles are aged, nearly 10 years old, when compared to the current situation they provide a notion on the evolution of key vulnerability issues.

In 2005, all the OCTs were considered vulnerable and some highly or extremely vulnerable. The following table describes the situation according to that study:

Extremely Vulnerable	Highly Vulnerable
Bermuda British Virgin Islands French Polynesia	Cayman Islands Montserrat Former Netherlands Antilles
Motives: Common to all are lowland areas, endangered species, and species migrating to outside of the territory. In the case of Bermuda in addition of densely population with high SO ₂ emission levels. For French Polynesia ecosystem imbalance, landslides and species extinctions.	Motives: Common to all are lowlands and endangered species. Moreover Montserrat has high vulnerability to volcanoes and tsunamis; Cayman has been having extinctions and had weak legislation regarding MEAs, while in the former Netherlands Antilles the specific problem was linked to mining and high SO ₂ emission levels.

Based on the outcomes of 5th Assessment Report²³ of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and on the 4th Global Biodiversity Outlook²⁴, it appears likely that the vulnerability of OCTs has increased.

On the natural hazard side, not only do the OCTs have a high likelihood or high frequency of hazardous events, but when such an event occurs the impact is relatively much higher than for a larger state, making it far more disruptive. Very low lying islands and populated coastal areas are more vulnerable to sea level rise, and in extreme cases can disappear.

With a sustainable development approach, it is worth mentioning here that overall the OCTs are economically vulnerable. Some common characteristics include:

- Heavy dependence on small number of sectors (e.g. tourism, fishing, financial markets, mining industry) making the economy vulnerable to conjunctural and/or structural changes in that sector (e.g. collapse of fish stocks, global economic crisis leading to less tourist and to shutdown of companies);
- Inability to benefit from economies of scale due to small scale and isolation, limited human resources;
- Remote situation for many outside of Caribbean and lack of transport infrastructure, so high transport costs, making imports expensive, exports uncompetitive and returning of waste costly.

²² <http://www.vulnerabilityindex.net/Files/EVI%20Country%20Classification.pdf>

²³ <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/>

²⁴ <http://www.cbd.int/en/gbo4>

1.5 METHODOLOGY

These updated profiles are particularly focused on any significant developments since 2006, changes in priorities, evolution of good governance and environmental components indicators (or aspects in the absence thereof). The profiles also contain details of the main environmental challenges and vulnerabilities, with an assessment of how severe/urgent the challenges are, and its relationship with the socio-economic situation.

The 2007 OCT Profiles used the DPSIR model (Driver, Pressure, State, Impact and Responses) analysing what causes the problem, how exactly does it affect the issue/ region in question, how bad is the situation already, what are the socio-economic and environmental impacts and which responses are being given or are possible. Besides conducting an update of that analysis, the updated profiles also use the vulnerability analysis to address climate change issues and to link the different scales of the different types of profiles.

The study was essentially conceived as a desk study: data collection visits were not made to the territories themselves. It was intended that use should be made of the data already available within the Commission, with the MS, with the representatives in Brussels of the OCTs and in the public domain: see the table below.

A questionnaire was also designed by the consultants for completion by the OCTs to collect data which might not be readily available in the public domain, dealing with institutions, manpower, policies and budgets for the environment, as well as overall priorities and best practice.

Source	From OCTs	From MS	From EU	From other sources
Existing Documents	Structuring documents such as policies, strategies, plans, white papers etc. Situation assessments such as state of the environment reports, biodiversity assessments, etc. Working plans of institutions. Documents on programmes and projects. Single Programming Documents made for EDF funding	Policies on international environmental issues Policies on OCTs Overviews of situation in OCTs, studies etc.	Environmental and cooperation policies Policies and legislation in relation to OCTs Regional strategies	Global and regional environmental agreements (MEAs) Policies and actions by worldwide organisations like UNEP or regional organizations SPREP in the Pacific, Antarctic Treaty, Arctic Council, Barbados Action Plan, etc.
	Meetings of OCTs and the OCT Association	Meetings with MS government officers dealing with OCTs, OCTs representatives in the MS, and with NGOs working in OCTs	Meetings with different EU DGs working with OCTs	Studies on climate change, natural hazard, biodiversity, CO ₂ emissions, international waters, state of coral reefs worldwide, socio-economic indicators, etc.
Questionnaire	Prepared by the consultants, on key concerns, achievements, best practices, institutions, policies, legislation, awareness, budgets and cooperation			
Public sources	Websites of ministries, institutes, NGOs, newspapers in OCTs	Websites from ministries and institutes	Websites from different DGs	UNEP, IUCN, WRI, CIA, World Bank, WWF, GIWA, ICRI, etc.

The draft final profiles (territorial, regional, main) report was circulated to all stakeholders for discussion and comment. The drafts were revised in the light of comments received.

1.6 STRUCTURE OF THIS REPORT

The report comprises two parts, i.e. Part 1, which is this main report, and Part 2 which comprises five volumes, i.e. one volume for each of the five regions:

- Section A - Caribbean Region;
- Section B - Indian Ocean Region;
- Section C - North Atlantic Region;
- Section D - Pacific Region;
- Section E - South Atlantic Region.

This volume contains an overview of the state of the environment in the OCTs and the main environmental issues highlighted during the study, with a broad analysis. Part 2, the regional reports, contain the environmental profiles for each of the territories in that region plus a regional section which looks at the overall situation from the regional perspective.

The report contains recommendations relating to the main issues of each territory at the end of each individual territory profile in Part 2. Recommendations for cooperation at the regional level are included at the end of the appropriate regional section in Part 2. Finally recommendations for cooperation with OCTs at the interregional or global level in this volume. It should be noted that the different levels of recommendations do not repeat themselves, but are complementary. In this way, the recommendations of this volume are generic by nature, and within each issue will only address what is common to all regions. Similarly regional recommendations do not address specificities of each territory. The recommendation sections function as a stand-alone text, recapping the main findings and the key environmental challenges and vulnerabilities. Recommendations are set out in the form of an action plan, including an indicative and realistic timeframe, as well as indicative human and financial resources needed, and possible sources. They contain detailed suggestions for improved environment/natural resource management, needs for legislative or institutional reforms, including provisions for SEAs and EIAs, for improved environmental monitoring system, and for regional or global coordination/participation. The recommendations were discussed with the OCTs and the Member States to which they are linked.

1.7 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EU, MS AND OCT'S

1.7.1 NEW OAD

The Council Decision 2013/755/EU of 25 November 2013 (Overseas Association Decision) establishes the new association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Union post-2013. It has a substantial (and new) part dealing with the environment.

The association is the framework for policy dialogue and cooperation on issues of mutual interest between the EU and the OCTs. *The partners recognise each other's rights to determine their sustainable development policies and priorities, to establish their own levels of domestic environmental and labour protection, and to adopt or modify accordingly the relevant laws and policies* (Art. 2.5). The agreed issues of mutual interest (Art. 5) include green growth; the sustainable management of natural resources, including the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services; the adaptation to and mitigation of impacts of climate change; the promotion of disaster risk reduction; the promotion of research, innovation and scientific cooperation activities; and the promotion of OCTs self-

reliance and of the development of OCTs' capacities to formulate, implement and monitor strategies and policies.

The Union and the OCTs agree to endeavour to make the association known among their citizens (Art. 6), in particular by *promoting the development of the links and cooperation between the authorities, academic community, civil society and businesses of OCTs on the one hand and their interlocutors within the Union on the other.*

The association also aims at supporting the OCTs in their efforts to take part in relevant international, regional and/or sub-regional cooperation initiatives as well as in integration processes, according to the OCTs authorities' prerogatives (Art. 7). To this end the association will promote the cooperation between the OCTs and the outermost regions, as well as with their neighbouring African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) and non-ACP States. The OAD states (Art. 7.2) that *In order to achieve that objective, the Union shall improve coordination and synergies between cooperation programmes supported by different EU financial instruments. The Union shall also endeavour to associate OCTs in its instances of dialogue with their neighbouring countries, whether they are ACP or non-ACP States, and with the outermost regions, where appropriate.*

The areas for cooperation for sustainable development in the framework of the association are: Sustainable management and conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services (Art. 16); sustainable forest management (Art. 17); integrated coastal zone management (Art. 18); maritime affairs (Art. 19); sustainable management of fish stocks (Art. 20); sustainable water management (Art. 21); waste management (Art. 22); energy (Art. 23); climate change (Art. 24) and disaster risk reduction (Art. 25). The Association also includes cooperation on tourism (Art. 41), namely on defining, adopting and developing sustainable tourism.

1.7.2 RELATIONSHIP WITH MEMBER STATES

1.7.2.1 FRANCE

France has a Ministry²⁵ and a Minister for Overseas. Most of the French OCTs are 'collectivités d'Outre-mer' (COM or overseas collectivities) but there are differences between them concerning how the local government and the French presence on the OCTs has been agreed and is organised. In TAAF there is no locally (elected) government and a French civil servant, based in Reunion, advised by an advisory council and the Polar Environment Committee, is the highest authority. In St Pierre and Miquelon the (locally elected) Territorial Council chooses a President who is then the head of government. The French government nominates a 'Préfet' (prefect) who heads the French decentralised public services on the territory: police/ civil protection, health, education, employment, environment, agriculture, forestry, and defence. The two communes have their own mayors and the same competences as communes in France.

Other OCTs, like French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna have greater internal and political autonomy and are responsible for own policies and laws dealing amongst others with nature and environment protection, economic development, transport and energy. France is represented by a High Commissioner and France is responsible for foreign affairs (including the multilateral environmental agreements), justice, universities and monetary matters. Many French public institutes and services have representations or delegations in the OCTs.

New Caledonia has more autonomy than other OCTs and more levels of governance. It also has a French High Commissioner, a territorial government (with a congress as deliberating assembly), three provinces with their own assemblies responsible for the environment and, at communal level, it resembles France's Communes (dealing with waste policies, waste water, and civil protection).

Mayotte changed from being an OCT (COM) to DOM (Overseas French Department) on March 31, 2011.

²⁵ Ministère des Outre-mer

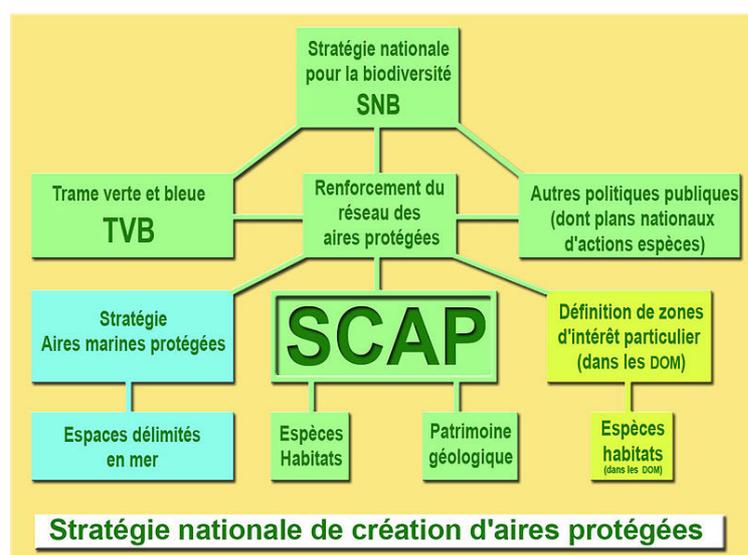
Its status vis-à-vis the European Union changed from OCT to Outermost Region as of January 1, 2014. Saint-Barthélemy became an OCT on January 2012.

Many ministries are active in favour of the French outermost regions (ORs) and the OCTs: the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy²⁶, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Ministry of Education and Research, and many governmental institutes, agencies and public entities are involved in nature and environmental projects in the French OCTs.²⁷

French environmental policies and link to OCTs

France, when mandated, has adopted many policy plans and undertaken actions concerning the environment in the French OCTs.

In 2003, after consultation with many stakeholders, France adopted a National Strategy for Sustainable Development²⁸, including OCTs. In 2008 an evaluation and revision took place and a plan for 2010-2013 was adopted in 2010. A new sustainable development strategy for the period 2014-2020 is being prepared. One of the nine key actions in the 2010-2013 plan was 'reinforcing the international governance in favour of sustainable development'²⁹.



More specifically of interest for the environment in OCTs, France adopted a National Strategy for Biodiversity 2010-2020³⁰, including a plan for the establishment of protected areas (See figure below). The Strategy lays down that all French territories should integrate biodiversity in other policies and activities, which will have a positive impact, in particular in the outer regions (incl. OCTs)³¹.

In 2011 concrete actions for the 2011-2013 implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy were specified and 8 themes are mentioned, one being the 'Fight against non-native invasive species in OCTs and outer regions of France'³². For the same period 115 projects have been selected for financing totalling € 17 million, one quarter of which in the outermost regions and OCTs with a clear statement that research and innovation are in particular instrumental³³.

France has the second largest marine area of the world (11 million km²). The National Plan for Marine Protected Areas (2013) aims at raising the proportion of EEZ with protected status from 4% to 20% by 2020. The declaration of the Coral Sea protected area, by New Caledonia in April 2014, establishing the

26 Ministère de l'Écologie, du Développement durable et de l'Énergie, in particular the Direction générale de l'Aménagement, du Logement et de la Nature.

27 To name a few: IRD (Development related research), IFREMER (research marine exploration), IFRECOR (coral reefs), Agence des aires marines protégées (marine protected areas), Observatoire du littoral (coastal zones management), CIRAD (agricultural and forestry research for developing countries), Portail de l'Eau (Eau France, water data base) Portail de la Nature (NatureFrance, nature database), ONB l'Observatoire National de la Biodiversité (biodiversity data base), Museum (Natural History), ADEME and EDF (Energy), IEOM (Institut d'Emission d'Outre-Mer, finances), ANR (Agence Nationale de Recherche), etc..

28 SNDD- Stratégie Nationale du Développement Durable

29 Traduction: renforcer la gouvernance internationale du développement durable

30 SNB - Stratégie Nationale pour la Biodiversité

31 See La France et Biodiversité:

http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/05b_DGALN_France_et_biodiversite_4p_def_web.pdf

32 Traduction : Lutte contre les espèces exotiques envahissantes terrestres et marines dans les départements et collectivités d'outre-mer

33 <http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/-Zoom-sur-les-appels-a-projets-.html>

world's largest protected area, a multi-use zone spanning 1.3 million km² has significantly contributed to that goal by boosting the proportion of France's national jurisdiction marine waters under protection to 16 %³⁴.

Other projects that are being financed by France for the OCTs:

- The 2011-2015 action plan of IFRECOR (French Initiative for coral reefs) (Initiative française pour les récifs coralliens);
- Adoption of a plan for marine mammals in the Caribbean region;
- And many research projects like POLYPERL, for making pearl cultivation more sustainable, environmentally, socially and economic.

The table below shows the aid France gives to its OCTs, per capita, for 2011.³⁵

OCT	PF	BLM	SPM	W&F	NC
Amount (€)	4 364	177	12 441	8 109	4 171

France's broader initiatives regarding OCTs

The French Presidency of the EU in 2008 gave an important impetus in favour of protecting nature and the environment in the OCTs and ORs. Together with a number of organisations³⁶, the French Presidency brought together 400 participants from 21 OCTs and 7 Outermost Regions for a conference on "The European Union and its Overseas Entities: Strategies to counter Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss" which took place on La Reunion island. The 11 roundtables allowed the adoption of the so-called "Message de l'île de la Réunion"³⁷ containing 21 proposals and recommendations for adaptation to climate change, development of sustainable energy solutions, biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management. The message calls for more regional co-operation and for concrete protection measures such as:

- Establishing (nature) areas for the protection of species and habitats in OR and in OCTs, based on Natura 2000, but on a voluntary basis and adapted to local situation. Also outside these areas, species level conservation should be seen as important;
- Recognising that marine and coastal areas of the OCTs (and ORs) should be included in long-term regional and international strategies, such as the Global Islands Partnership (GLISPA);
- A focus on energy in relation to climate change and development policies;
- A need for new funds, geared at protection of biodiversity.

The French Minister of Outre-mer stressed recently that European regional funds and the EDF should be harmonised in order to facilitate the regional cooperation between OCTs, ACP countries and EU outermost regions³⁸.

1.7.2.2 THE NETHERLANDS

Before October 10, 2010 there were two OCTs linked to the Netherlands: Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles. On October 10, 2010, two of the former territories of the Dutch Antilles became autonomous countries in the Kingdom of the Netherlands (Curaçao and Sint Maarten), like Aruba. The other three territories (Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius) have become 'special' municipalities of the Netherlands. They are now called Caribbean Netherlands or BES (Bonaire, Eustatius, Saba).³⁹

34 <http://news.mongabay.com/2014/0502-new-caledonia-marine-protected-area.html#BgJsgbfLiMcrP0W0.99>

35 <http://www.senat.fr/rap/r10-308/r10-3081.html>

36 International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the (French) National Observatory on the Effects of Global Warming (ONERC), Regional Council of Reunion Island, the (French) Ministry of Internal Affairs and Overseas and Territorial Collectives

37 The message from La Réunion: http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/080711_reunion_msg_en_1.pdf

38 http://www.outre-mer.gouv.fr/?18e-conference-des-presidents-des-regions-ultraperipheriques-d-europe.html&decoupe_recherche=dom

39 More correctly, they are a Public Entity = Openbaar Lichaam.

The three 'special' municipalities

A number of laws have been laid down for the three Caribbean municipalities, dealing with nature protection, environment, physical planning, marine management and fisheries.⁴⁰ The inhabitants of the three special municipalities now have the same (environmental) rights as other citizens living in the Netherlands but better facilities usually also mean higher user costs. This is not always possible given the much lower income per capita on the islands compared to municipalities in (non-Caribbean) Netherlands.

The new nature and environmental legislation (BES Laws) will therefore be introduced in stages, with careful consideration being given to the situation on each island. It would be impossible to simply introduce the entire body of new legislation in one go. The 'old' Antillean legislation has remained in force after October 10, 2010, and is gradually being replaced by island municipal law.

A Nature Policy Plan 2013-2017⁴¹ has already been agreed with the three municipalities, which states for instance that each municipality has to make its own nature policy and management plan, report on it and update it every 5 years. Special nature areas or species that are of international concern, and are so designated by the Minister through the Nature Conservation Law BES, add to the responsibilities of the three islands.

But it is the responsibility of the Minister (for Nature Affairs) in The Hague to ensure that the islands adequately manage their nature and that assistance is provided when they are unable to do so.

A report⁴² of the first three years of collaboration between the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment (I&M) and the three Caribbean municipalities shows that significant progress has been achieved (but more is still needed) in order to catch up with Dutch environmental standards: separate waste collection making possible recycling of non-hazardous waste, building a wastewater treatment plant so that polluted waters do not contaminate and kill valuable coral reefs, new sewers to collect wastewater, prevention of disasters at oil terminals, vegetation to protect soils from drying out and preventing flooding of lower areas and pollution of coastal waters, finding solutions for construction material (instead of using crushed corals), etc.

For the environment this means that several Dutch ministries⁴³ in The Hague and inter-departmental working groups are cooperating with local authorities, e.g. with support to the management of the nature parks and to nature organisations, and with more general tasks such as renovating and building schools, hospitals and old age homes, repairing roads and renovating harbours and airports.

The three autonomous countries

The other three OCTs (Aruba, Curacao and Sint Maarten) which are autonomous countries in the Kingdom, are much freer to pursue their own policies. Aruba was already used to this situation, but for Curacao and Sint Maarten new policies, legislation and mobilizing own finances is a challenge. As commonly happens, some 'old' policies and Antillean laws are still in force, and are being gradually replaced.

The Netherlands' role in the new constitutional order means, more concretely:

- Supporting Curaçao and Sint Maarten in their decision to become autonomous countries within the Kingdom. As an example in order for Sint Maarten to establish an entirely new government organisation, it requires experienced personnel to work in the police force, the prison system and the immigration service. The Netherlands is assisting Sint Maarten to recruit personnel from outside the island.⁴⁴

40 These BES laws can be found on: <http://www.dcnanature.org/resources/policy-law-enforcement/>

41 http://www.dcnanature.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/EZ_BO_NaturePolicyPlan%20Car.NL_ENG_2.pdf

42 Caribisch Nederland INBEELD, 2013.

http://www.rijksdienstcn.com/rijksdienstcn.com/up1/ZyahqpxIW_Fotoboek_Caribisch_Nederland_OPTIMIZED.pdf

43 Namely Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation, Ministry of Finance among others.

44 The aid will be continued until 1 November 2013, in accordance with the cooperation agreement concluded between the Netherlands and Sint Maarten on 4 April 2011).

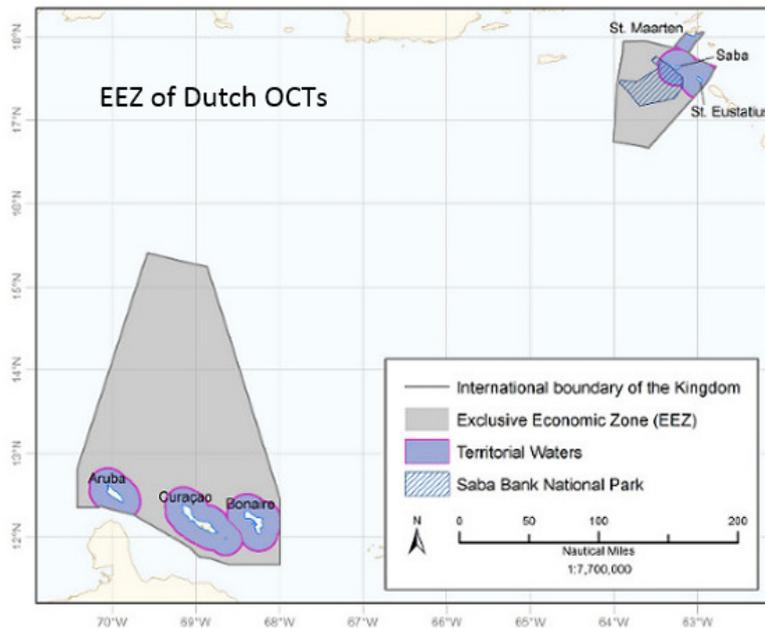
- The Netherlands supervises, on a provisional basis, the budgetary policy and public finances of Curaçao and Sint Maarten and help ensure good governance.

The role of the Netherlands

The ministries directly dealing with the 6 OCTs are the Ministry of Interior Affairs and Kingdom Relations⁴⁵ and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Other ministries are also involved, as mentioned earlier on. For the three new municipalities a special Caribbean Netherlands service⁴⁶ has been created on Bonaire, with a staff of three, including a nature expert.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands has the obligation to promote wellbeing in its former colonies (as laid down by the United Nations) and is responsible for the protection of human rights, legal certainty, and good governance in all its constituent countries. The Netherlands therefore supports the judiciary system

in the Caribbean region, continues to cooperate with local administrators to fight crime and drugs trafficking between Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, and Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba. The Kingdom is also helping to maintain the regional coast guard.



The jurisdiction of the local government of the six islands covers their territorial waters. The Dutch government is directly responsible for the management of the remaining EEZ. This area of 83,000 km² is split up in two parts.

Finances

Concerning financial aid, the Netherlands is assuming a large share of the government debt of the Caribbean Netherlands, totalling € 1.7 billion. The Dutch financial aid to Aruba stopped in 2010, as agreed in 1986 when Aruba gained an autonomous status. The 10-year transition support through the FDA (Fondo Desaroyo Aruba) totalled € 100 million⁴⁷.

Two other funds are or were financing programmes and projects:

The Netherlands Antilles Development Foundation (SONA) supported development projects in education, law enforcement, social and economic progress and government. For the programmes 2008-2012 an amount of 448.5 million € was disbursed.

The Antillean Co-Financing Organisation (AFMO) supports NGOs in the Caribbean region of the Kingdom, to provide young people with better prospects for the future. After 1 January 2011, only projects in Curacao and Sint Maarten are eligible as the other territories of the former Netherlands Antilles are now municipalities of the Netherlands. In 2011 an amount of 6.5 million € was available, 64% for Curacao and 36% for Sint Maarten.

DCNA (Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance, a foundation) also receives financial support from the

45 Binnenlandse zaken en koninkrijk relaties- BZK

46 <http://www.rijksdienstcn.com/rijksdienst-caribisch-nederland>

47 In the Aruba Development Fund or FDA (Fondo Desaroyo Aruba).

Netherlands. The foundation does research, it informs, trains and helps manage the Nature Parks in the six OCTs. It is involved in setting up a Trust Fund, so that the interests deriving from the Fund's capital can finance the management of the parks. It is estimated that maintenance of the ten terrestrial and marine parks of the Dutch OCTs cost € 2.5 million per year. This would need a capital of around € 24 million in the Fund by 2016. The Dutch government decided in 2006 to grant € 1 million per year until 2016. Some other charities and donors have been participating too.

The fact that in all the six Dutch OCTs the nature parks are managed by (mandated) NGOs or foundations, can be interpreted in two ways. 1- There is little involvement of governmental services and staff and trust is placed on civil society stakeholders. 2- On the other hand finances for nature in the long term are maybe less secure.

The future

There are finances available for the three new municipalities, even though all municipalities in the Netherlands are feeling the effect of sobering policies. Curacao and Sint Maarten, the new autonomous countries, are still receiving transition support, but this will soon end. In 2015 a review will be made of the new constitutional arrangements between the 4 countries of the Kingdom (the Netherlands, Aruba, Curacao and Sint Maarten).

1.7.2.3 UK

Key players on UK initiatives on OCTs are the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) responsible for the co-ordination of overall UK Government policy on Overseas Territories issues; the Department for International Development (DFID) that provides budgetary aid to Montserrat, St Helena and Pitcairn to help meet their essential needs. DFID also provides development aid and humanitarian assistance as required, and technical and financial support on cross-cutting issues like human rights, environment and HIV, to those OCTs that receive Overseas Development Aid assistance. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) is responsible for nature conservation and biodiversity across UK Government, including many of the multilateral environmental agreements to which the UK is a Party. Other active players include the Department of Energy and Climate Change responsible for issues on climate change and energy and shares with the OCT information on the development of UK negotiating positions under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change; the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, an advisory and technical assistance body on international nature conservation (JNCC), and other thematic entities such as Kew Botanic Gardens. The British Antarctic Survey administers the bases in BAT, besides conducting research.

UK-based NGOs are also very active on improving environment in OCTs. Some examples are the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, BirdLife International, The Pew Charitable Trusts, UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, the Marine Conservation Society, the Zoological Society of London, BugLife, Blue Marine, Falklands Conservation, the South Georgia Heritage Trust and the Chagos Conservation Trust. The large majority of these organizations deal with biodiversity. They work with OCTs organisations and with the governments. The triennial review⁴⁸ of JNCC concluded that the organisation is very much valued for its record of delivering Government environmental priorities, respected by partners and customers alike and provides good value to Defra and the devolved administrations. One of the conclusions of the report was that JNCC will build on its current partnership working with stakeholders and in particular improve engagement with civil society, including with the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies⁴⁹. To progress the OT and CD component of this, JNCC held a meeting on 8 January 2014 with non-governmental organisations in London to agree on some common actions.

In 2010 UK adopted the Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy. The strategy objective is 'to enable

⁴⁸ <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6602>

⁴⁹ The UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies include OCTs as well as Gibraltar and sovereign military bases in Cyprus.

the UK and Overseas Territory Governments to meet their international obligations for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Overseas Territories'. The strategy arises from the reported need that all relevant departments play distinct but complementary roles on biodiversity conservation and from the requirement for enhanced financial support. The strategy establishes the Overseas Territories Biodiversity Group, core membership of which includes DEFRA, DFID, FCO and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) in the OCTs. Other departments and statutory bodies with an interest in biodiversity conservation in the Overseas Territories are invited to participate as appropriate. The strategic priorities set out in the strategy include: (i) to Increase knowledge on the status of and pressures on biodiversity to inform the preparation of policies and management plans; (ii) preventing the establishment of invasive alien species, and eradicating or controlling species that have already become established; (iii) developing cross-sectoral approaches to climate change adaptation that are consistent with the principles of sustainable development; (iv) developing tools to value ecosystem services to inform sustainable development policies and practices; and (v) developing ecosystem-based initiatives for the conservation and sustainable use of the marine environment. The strategy also pointed to the merger of the OTEP with the funding available for Overseas Territories under the Darwin Initiative (see table below).

In 2012 the UK Government launched a White Paper on "The Overseas Territories: Security, Success and Sustainability. In this white paper, the UK recognises as immediate environmental threats on UK OCTs, *inter alia*, land use change, waste management, invasive species, and threats to habitats from unsustainable development. The key long-term threat faced by the Territories is climate change, as this will mean sea level rise; changes in weather patterns, including higher intensity of extreme weather events; coral bleaching; ocean acidification; and sea temperature changes. The White Paper spells out what the UK intends to do at the European and international level and sets out the principles the UK wants to see in the shared agenda for sustainable environmental management:

- the natural environment, and the goods and services it provides, whether through individual species, habitats or whole ecosystems, is appropriately valued;
- economic activity, including tourism and fisheries, is managed in a way that is consistent with the long-term sustainable use of the natural environment, avoiding over-exploitation and ensuring a renewable contribution to economic growth;
- unique, highly vulnerable or sensitive natural environments are identified, protected and conserved by appropriate means including through the use of management plans, underpinned by scientific research.

For the uninhabited Overseas Territories: British Antarctic Territory, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and British Indian Ocean Territory:

- Manage terrestrial and marine natural resources sustainably and address challenges of climate change, including by putting environmental considerations at the heart of all decision-making.
- Oversee exemplary environmental management of the uninhabited Territories.
- Ensure compliance with the requirements of relevant multilateral environmental agreements.
- Strengthen co-operation with the Non-Governmental and scientific community.

Highlights of UK support to OCT

Name of the initiative	Period	Funding	Achievements	Focus Areas
Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP)	Until 2012	Joint FCO-DFID initiative	Disbursed £8m through more than 140 projects	Climate change, renewable energy, recycling, conservation and species protection across the Territories
Darwin Initiative ⁵⁰	ongoing ⁵¹	DEFRA, the Challenge Fund created to help the Territories work up more successful bids ⁵² , the Flagship Species Fund	Disbursed £5.2m on projects in the UKOT, out of a total of £97m spent worldwide	Assisting countries that are rich in biodiversity but poor in financial resources to meet their obligations under the three main biodiversity conventions: the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species and the Convention on Migratory Species
Darwin Plus: Overseas Territories Environment and Climate Fund	On-going since October 2012	FCO, DEFRA, and DFID	Disburses around £2 million per year for projects in UKOTs. March 2013 - 14 projects £1.7m; November 2013 - 15 projects £1.9 million	Merges Darwin funds for UK OCTs with OTEP. Broad scope ⁵³ on environment and climate-related to improve long-term natural resource management
Millennium Seed Bank Partnership	On-going	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew		To ensure the future safety of rare, endemic plant species from the Territories.
Direct grants	On-going	FCO, Defra and JNCC		Support a number of projects including non-native species eradication, fisheries patrols and heritage conservation on non-habited UKOT ⁵⁴
Direct support	On-going	DIFD – UKOTs receiving financial support		Providing model legislation to UKOTs on illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing. Funding for fisheries patrol around Ascension, St Helena and Tristan da Cunha

Technical assistance from government officials is also a used collaboration. An example is the provision of funding for an officer based in the Falkland Islands responsible for implementing the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, a daughter agreement to the Convention on Migratory Species. Another example was support to St Helena with an expert (from JNCC) to help the institutional reform of its government environmental function, including the creation of a new Directorate of Environmental Management.

It is acknowledged that the cost to address biodiversity priorities, let alone other environmental subjects, is much higher than the funds available in the Darwin Plus scheme. In 2007, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds conducted an exercise to cost biodiversity priorities in the Overseas Territories, and estimated that funding of £ 16 million p.a. was required. Following consultation with Overseas Territory governments in 2008, JNCC advised that the total cost of meeting high priority biodiversity conservation projects was in excess of £ 48 million over a 5-year period.

⁵⁰ See <http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/world/> for a complete list of projects.

⁵¹ In 2012 the Darwin initiative separated out funding for projects in the UK's Overseas Territories from those of projects in developing countries, and combined them with the previous OTEP funding and made it available under a separate scheme – Darwin Plus – that remains part of the Darwin Initiative

⁵² Challenge Fund was created to help the UKOT work up more successful bids

⁵³ Biodiversity projects are still the more commonly supported, due to the fact that most proposals submitted are on biodiversity issues. Might be due to lack of generalised knowledge that Darwin + finances other areas, or to the capacity to deal with other environmental components is weaker.

⁵⁴ British Indian Ocean Territory, British Antarctic Territory and South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands

During 2013, the Environmental Audit Committee of the UK Parliament did an assessment of the sustainability in the UK Overseas Territories. This inquiry examined whether the strategy set out in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office White Paper, *The Overseas Territories: Security, Success and Sustainability*, embodies the principles of sustainable development; appropriately trades-off environmental protection, social development and economic growth; and fulfils the UK Government's responsibility to protect biodiversity in the United Kingdom Overseas Territories. The report was published on 16 January 2014 and concluded that the UK Government *is failing adequately to protect the globally significant biodiversity of the UK Overseas Territories, despite its international treaty commitments to protect those unique species and habitats*. The assessment recognises that while sustainable development in the UKOTs is contingent on their Governments implementing effective development controls (such as statutory environmental impact assessments for major developments and strategic infrastructure plans), investing to prevent biodiversity loss in the UKOTs is a direct and cost-effective contribution to meeting the UK's international commitments under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. The assessment recommends DEFRA to work with UKOTs Governments on developing planning regimes which value and protect natural capital, and promote sustainable tourism, to agree with UKOTs Governments, and NGOs on a comprehensive research programme to catalogue the full extent of biodiversity in the UKOTs, and to enhance monitoring in order to be able to accurately report on the full extent of biodiversity in the UKOTs and measure progress towards the UN 2020 target to halt biodiversity loss. The UK government replied on 18 March 2014 stating that powers are devolved to elected Territory Governments to the maximum extent possible, and that those governments are constitutionally responsible for the protection and conservation of their natural environments. *It would be inappropriate for the Government to take greater ownership of environmental issues and such an approach would be in stark contrast to the objective set out in the 2012 White Paper of working in partnership with the Territories to help them meet their environmental obligations*. The UK Government restates its commitment to assisting the Territories in implementing legislation that adequately protects the natural environment, and recognises the importance of providing funding and technical advice and expertise to the Territories on environmental issues through mechanisms such as Darwin Plus, the Environmental Mainstreaming initiative and through the provision of technical workshops. UK government also expresses its commitment to work with the EU to ensure that Territories can access programmes such as LIFE and BEST and welcomes the focus in the new EU Overseas Association Decision on sustainable development. For the uninhabited Territories the UK government's objective is to ensure the highest possible environmental standards are achieved, and that where available or appropriate, independent standards of accreditation are used to achieve such standards.

At the second meeting of the Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council⁵⁵ in London on November 2013, the UK government, Council agreed a communiqué⁵⁶ which identified priorities and set out a clear action plan for joint work. The communiqué states that the governments are making significant progress on the ambitious environmental agenda they have set in the previous year and set the following priorities:

- increasing the use of renewable energy sources, including enabling production and removing barriers to use;
- establishing workshops in order to assist Territory Governments in capacity building, technical assistance and renewable energy financing;
- promoting the development of, and investment in, sustainable fishing industries, particularly in Territories where potential resources are underutilised or illegally exploited;
- publishing road maps by end of May 2014 setting out plans to implement our environmental commitments and demonstrating our contribution to the UKOT Biodiversity Strategy;
- ensuring the continuation of relevant funding programmes for Overseas Territories environment, conservation, biodiversity and climate-related projects.

⁵⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/overseas-territories-joint-ministerial-council>

⁵⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overseas-territories-joint-ministerial-council-communiqué--2>

2.1 CONTRASTING TERRITORIES, DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Despite their relatively small size⁵⁷ and political importance the 25 OCTs exhibit enormous contrast and variety, and have a number of characteristics which make them of crucial importance in and to the world as a whole.

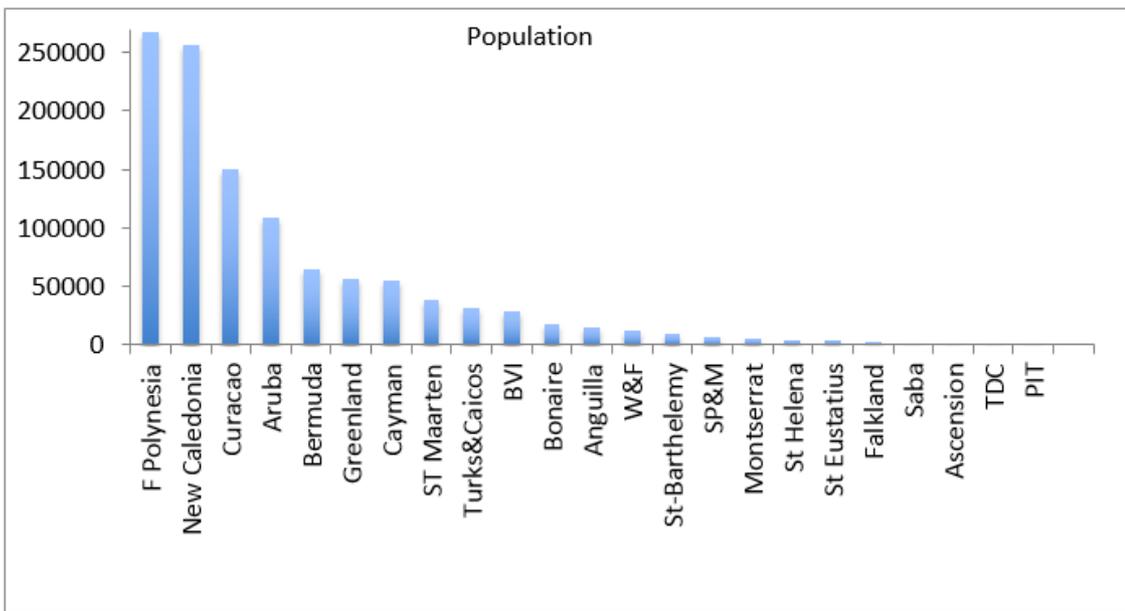
- They span the globe from latitude 83°N (north of Greenland) to 90°S (South Pole) (British Antarctic Territories, Adelie Land), from longitude 176°E (French Polynesia) to 166°W (New Caledonia).

Basically there are 3 main types of territory in physical terms:

- (1) tropical islands, mostly small, which may be very low-lying (atolls, calcareous island) or more mountainous, often of volcanic origin: the Caribbean and Pacific territories, BIOT, Ascension Island, St Helena, the Scattered islands (TAAF);
 - (2) rugged temperate islands: Falkland Islands, St Pierre and Miquelon, Tristan da Cunha
 - (3) polar and sub-polar territories: Greenland, SGSSI, BAT, French and Antarctic Territories
- The South Atlantic region spans all three of these types, whereas the Caribbean and Pacific regions are more physically homogeneous.
 - The territories range in size from Greenland (the world's largest island), 2.2 million km², down to Saba, only 13 km². The three polar territories of Greenland, British Antarctic Territory and Adelie Land account for 98% of the total land area.
 - There are greatest differences in the physical remoteness of the islands. While some (Aruba, St Pierre and Miquelon) can actually see the mainland of South America and Canada respectively, others such as Tristan da Cunha and Pitcairn are thousands of kilometres from the nearest continent, a remoteness which is compounded by the lack of an airport or even a regular shipping service.
 - Although the most populous of the territories (French Polynesia) counts just over 270,000 inhabitants, there is a very great range of population, with Pitcairn being home to less than 50 people (see graph below)⁵⁸. The six most populated territories account for 80% of the total population (around 1,140,000).

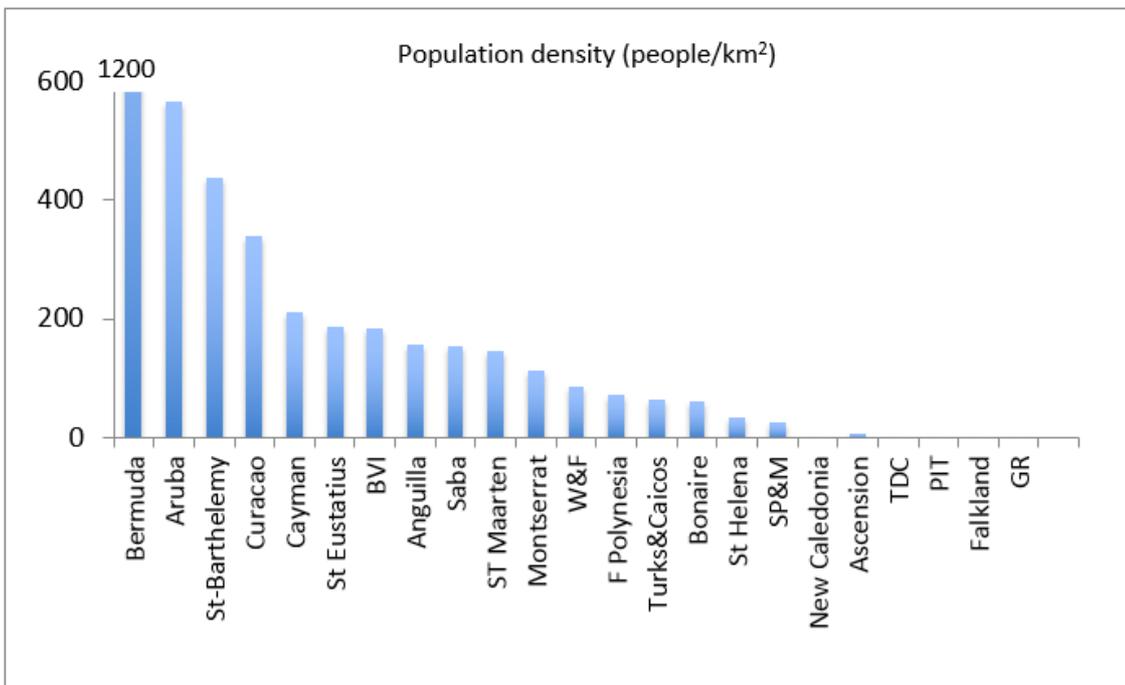
⁵⁷ The OCTs account for 0.02% of the world's population and 2.7% of its area (most of which is in the polar regions).

⁵⁸ Elaborated for this study based on the several sources mentioned in the territorial profiles.



Population density, on the other hand, can be a better indicator of potential environmental pressure. This parameter is charted in the graph below. The most densely populated territory is Bermuda (1200 persons/km²), which is 40,000 times more densely populated than Greenland (0.03 persons/km²; 0.14 per km² of ice-free area). Generally the tropical OCTs are more densely populated than those in more temperate (or polar) latitudes.

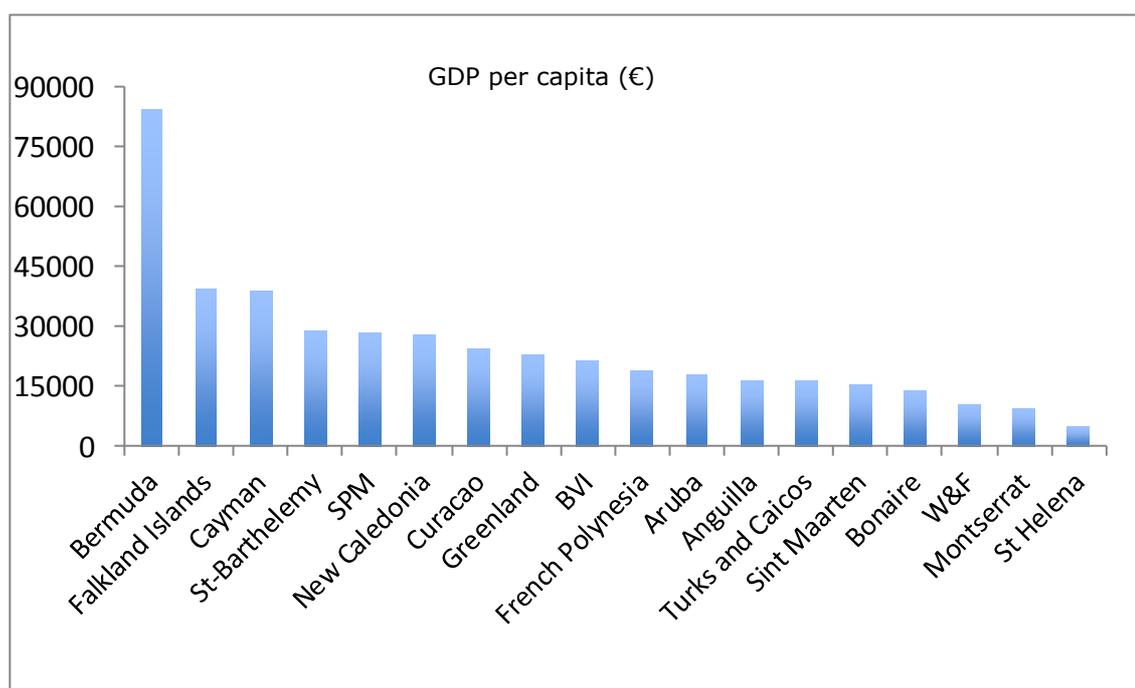
Despite their limited size the OCTs contain an estimated 16% of the world's freshwater. This is the water locked up in the ice-sheets of Greenland and the Antarctic OCTs.



2.2 ECONOMIES

Also in terms of economics there are great disparities between the islands as illustrated in the chart below which compares per capita GDP for the relevant territories⁵⁹. Some of them do not have economies at all in the normal sense of the word. This applies to the territories with no permanent populations, such as the British Antarctic Territory, the British Indian Ocean Territory, the French Southern and Antarctic Territories and South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands. But also to Pitcairn, which is essentially a barter economy. Wallis and Futuna is also barter economy in large measure.

Relatively low-income countries are Montserrat whose society, demography and economy have been badly disrupted by the activity of the Soufrière Hills volcano, and Saint Helena (and Ascension and TdC) mainly due to isolation. The most affluent territories are Bermuda (new OCT), Falkland Islands, and Cayman. Saint-Barthélemy has also relatively high GDP per capita.



The main current economic drivers are depicted in the following table:

Main economic drivers to OCTs									
OCT	Finance	Fish	Tourism	Mining	OCT	Finance	Fish	Tourism	Mining
Ascension		●			Montserrat		○ (tourists and anglers)	○	○ Aggregate
Anguilla	●	○*	●		New Caledonia*		○	○	● Nickel ⁶⁰
Aruba	○	○ (tourists and angler)	●	Refinery closed down	Pitcairn ⁶¹		○*		
Bermuda	●		○		Saba				
Bonaire	○	○ (tourists and angler)	●	● Oil storage facility	SGSSI		●	○	

⁵⁹ These figures are intended to be indicative only. The figures are taken from different sources, and are not on a consistent reference year.

⁶⁰ <http://www.ekn.se/Global/Landriskanalyser/Asien/Engelska/NyaKaledonienJan2014ExternEngelska.pdf>

⁶¹ Pitcairn has almost an exclusive dependence on budget support from UK, and more recently also from the EU.

BAT			○		St Barthélemy	●		●	
BIOT					St Eustatius				
BVI	●	○*	● Most tourism depended		Sint Maarten			●	● Oil terminal
Cayman	●	○ (tourists and anglers)	●		St Helena (Island)		○*		
Curaçao	●		●	● Oil refinery	SPM	○	○	○	○
Falkland Islands		●	○	The territory is preparing for oil exploitation.	TAAF	○	●	○	○
Fr. Polynesia		●	● (25%GDP)		TdC		●*		
Greenland	See below	● 1st	● 2nd	○	TCI	○	○*	●	
					W&F		●*	○	

Offshore financial services are a major contributor to the economies of many of the Caribbean OCTs (Anguilla, Aruba, Curaçao, BVI, Cayman, and TCI). In the case of Greenland, there is block grant from Denmark of 3,555 DKK million annually which corresponds to about two-thirds of Greenland's public expenditure.

Tourism: It is an important activity for almost all OCTs. In some territories it is already the most important sector of the economy, but it also imposes pressures on the environment. This applies particularly to the Caribbean OCTs where there has been a massive shift in economies from agriculture and fishing to tourism. It is the major economic activity in all these territories, as it is in French Polynesia. However there are many other territories which enjoy some tourism at present, and which see tourism as a possible growth sector for the future and a source of economic diversification in the future. This is very often seen to be some sort of niche tourism, such as polar tourism (Antarctic and sub-Antarctic territories, Greenland), hunting and fishing (St Pierre and Miquelon, Greenland), bird-watching and nature tourism (Falkland Islands, St Helena), or research and tourism (Pitcairn), etc.

Fisheries: The Falkland Islands, SGSSI, Tristan da Cunha and Greenland have very rich fishing waters, and fish or the sale of fishing licences are the backbone of their economies. For Ascension fisheries licenses are crucial for government income, but the industry is rather young and emerging. Fisheries were very important for St Pierre and Miquelon before the collapse of the cod fishery. Aquaculture is also important in French Polynesia and New Caledonia

Mining industries (hydrocarbons and mineral extraction): exploration activity in Greenland, St Pierre and Miquelon and the Falkland Islands; oil refining in Aruba and Curaçao. Mining is important in New Caledonia, which has 25% of the world's nickel reserves. Its mining and processing have been important sources of income and employment, and represent 90% of the value of exports. Greenland is also rich in minerals, and mineral exploration (and some extraction) is continuing at a number of locations in the country.

OCTs host a wide range of landscapes and habitats. Dry and humid forests, mangroves, wetlands, savannahs, shrub and grassland, coral reefs, sea grass and polar environments are all to be found in OCTs. The OCTs geographical dispersion, insularity and remoteness promotes a rich biodiversity and a strong level of endemism⁶². Four of the world's Biodiversity Hotspots⁶³ are covered or partially covered by OCTs: the hotspots named Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands, New Caledonia, Polynesia-Micronesia and Caribbean Islands. The OCTs also include part of the Arctic and the Antarctic. Besides, the EEZ of the OCTs is over 20 million km² (doubling the EEZ of USA which is the largest national EEZ in the world)⁶⁴.

It should be stated that the status of knowledge regarding diversity, abundance, and endemism in the OCTs is limited. New species are continuously being found and many species have not been assessed against IUCN red list criteria.

It is nevertheless possible to provide some examples of the global importance of OCTs biodiversity. A third of the world's breeding albatrosses are found in the OCTs. There over 100 Important Bird Areas (IBAs), Gough Island (Tristan da Cunha) being arguably the most important. There are also globally significant populations of seabirds in SGSSI, including the world's largest population of grey headed albatross. The OCTs have about 8% of all coral reefs in the world⁶⁵, one of the most diverse (220 species) and pristine ones (BIOT), the one at highest latitude (Bermuda), and New Caledonia is home of the second longest coral barrier reef in the world. South Sandwich Islands sea floor has hydrothermal vents, hosting an enormous variety of species, many unstudied.

It is often stated⁶⁶ that the OCTs have more endemic flora and fauna species than whole of continental Europe. There are more than 2,500 endemic plants in New Caledonia, Falkland Islands have 250 endemic insects, Sint Helena has over 400 invertebrate endemic species. The marine endemism is also high in the OCTs. Research is ongoing and new species are often found. Tables for the number of endemic species are given in both country and regional reports and this table illustrates the overall biodiversity in terms of endemism.

Number of endemic species				
Region	Birds	Reptiles and amphibians	Insects	Plants
Caribbean	23	≥83	403	80
Indian Ocean	154	2	71	24
North Atlantic	2	1	41	43
South Atlantic	2	17	250	39
Pacific	256	157	>5500	9502

Many of the species in OCTs are in some degree threatened. Notable examples are albatrosses and petrels in the South Atlantic territories and TAAF and coral reefs in the Caribbean. According to the IUCN red list about 523 species found in French OCTs are globally threatened⁶⁷, while in the UK OCTs 90 species are globally threatened⁶⁸. It is to be noticed that many species have not yet been assessed in terms of their vulnerability.

62 Endemism refers to the phenomenon that a species occurs in only one country (or island or group of islands). The species is then said to be endemic to that country.

63 http://www.conservation.org/where/priority_areas/hotspots/Pages/hotspots_main.aspx

64 Actually the countries to which OCTs are connected (France, UK, Denmark and Netherlands) have extensive EEZ due to the OCTs.

65 BEST Facilitating Project co-ordinated by IUCN- EU Overseas Roundtable Meeting - September, 27, 2013 (work in progress)

66 See for example Petit, J. and Prudent, G. (eds). *Climate Change and Biodiversity in the European Union Overseas Entities*. Gland, Switzerland and Brussels, Belgium: IUCN. Reprint, Gland, Switzerland and Brussels, Belgium: IUCN, 2010. 192 pp

67 Petit, J. and Prudent, G. (eds). *Climate Change and Biodiversity in the European Union Overseas Entities*. Gland, Switzerland and Brussels, Belgium: IUCN. Reprint, Gland, Switzerland and Brussels, Belgium: IUCN, 2010. 192 pp.

68 2013 State of Nature, http://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/stateofnature_tcm9-345839.pdf

In some of the territories the local vegetation has been extensively modified by humans, who introduced for agricultural purposes their own species such as coconut plantations to BIOT, grasslands and livestock to the French Southern and Antarctic Territories, and species for recreational purposes (Ascension). Besides, in many OCTs rabbits, cows, goats and deer were introduced and changed the abundance of flora species. As a result, the flora biodiversity on those islands has been reduced, because introduced species supplanted the native vegetation or because existing habitats were destroyed.

Other introduced animals such as rats, mice and fox have been harmful, to birdlife amongst others. On Tristan da Cunha for instance, the (unintended) introduction of mice in the 1880s destroyed much of the island's indigenous birdlife. With climate change and the melting of glaciers some areas are starting to be opened enabling the further spread and impact of invasive alien species. There is currently a programme on SGSSI to remove invasive rats and mice before glacier melt allows them access to a greater part of the island of South Georgia.

Also in the marine environment there are threats due to invasive alien species. The recent lion fish invasion of Pacific, Caribbean waters extending to Bermuda, is commonly attributed to discharge of ship ballast water of transcontinental fleet.

4 STATUS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Environmental components are part of a complex system and are interrelated, environmental phenomena derive or cause chain reactions. Sustainable development and green growth are complex and interrelated processes that draw on the complexity of environment system. It is hence not possible to enumerate a set of independent issues and challenges (see section 1.5 on methodology).

As an example, climate change is a chain reaction, and has many consequences at different latitudes. Warming particularly at high latitudes will lead to melting of ice in the earth's cryosphere, i.e. its glaciers, ice-sheets and sea-ice. The melting of *grounded* ice and the thermal expansion of the oceans will cause a rise in sea-level. The IPCC estimates that by the end of this century the sea-level will be between 52 and 98 cm higher than in 2005, of which 30 to 55% will be due to thermal expansion and 15 to 35% to the melting of glaciers.⁶⁹ The melting of freshwater ice will result in changes in the salinity of the polar oceans, which may in turn affect the earth's thermohaline circulation; The IPCC concludes that it is very likely that the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) will weaken over the 21st century between 11% and 35%⁷⁰. This can have many effects on regional micro-climate. Since mean intensity of cyclonic storms as they travel over the ocean is directly proportional to the surface water temperature, warmer oceans mean more intense cyclones, hurricanes and tropical storms. Higher sea-level and more intense cyclonic storms mean erosion of coastal areas, more frequent flooding, possible permanent inundation of low-lying areas, loss of property, infrastructure, buildings, forced displacement / evacuation, social disruption.

Changing temperatures and precipitation patterns provoke changes in habitats, the types of organisms, flora and fauna which are adapted to life in a particular location. There will be changes in vegetation patterns and migration by animals. Changes in marine currents will affect the flows of nutrients through the world's seas. This together with changes in temperature will mean that there will be changes in the abundance and species composition of fish in the world's fisheries, and in seabirds, marine mammals and

69 IPCC, 2013: Summary for Policymakers. In: Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Stocker, T.F., D. Qin, G.-K. Plattner, M. Tignor, S.K. Allen, J. Boschung, A. Nauels, Y. Xia, V. Bex and P.M. Midgley (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA.

70 Idem

other predators. An increase in the temperature of the water will also 'bleach' coral reefs. More Co2 in the atmosphere will make waters more acidic and kill reefs. This will have economic impacts (not necessarily negative) in the OCTs that depend on fisheries

There is a very close interdependence of economy and environment in the OCTs. One of the reasons, particularly in the Caribbean and Pacific, is because a pristine environment, healthy reefs, abundant and varied fish stocks, unspoiled landscapes, attractive, uneroded beaches and a unique flora and fauna are the motors of tourism. If the environment is allowed to degrade this is likely to harm the reputation and tourist-attractiveness and therefore the economies of the islands. And yet growing tourism is one of the main agents in this degradation. Other OCTs in which tourism is flourishing as in the Falkland Islands or (expected) in Saint Helena, or in which the purchase power of the population increases (Greenland⁷¹) face the same dilemma.

Amongst the pressures placed on the environment by an expanding and increasingly affluent population and the growth in the tourist industry are:

- construction of buildings and infrastructure often involves clearance of mangroves and forests, reclamation of wetlands, changes in the river beds, removal of beach sand (resulting in possible erosion), increased run off of silt and soil into the near-shore sea-water (damaging both coral and seagrass);
- the environment also comes under direct pressures from tourists: scuba divers and snorkelers damage and trample coral reefs and sea grass, ships anchor on or close to reefs causing further damage. Oil spills from tourist vessels and tourist development on previously uninhabited islands is disturbing wildlife, e.g. on West Caicos.
- an increased sewage load, much of which is pumped either untreated or partially treated into the sea, leading to algae formation, de-oxygenation of the seawater and distress and destruction of coral reefs and sea-grass;
- increasing solid waste loads, requiring new waste treatment facilities and probably, increased discharge of contaminated leachates into the sea, or in some cases ending up in rivers, mangroves or wetlands;
- damage to the characteristic habitats of these islands - coral reefs, seagrass, mangrove stands - is directly affecting the fish which depend on them as well as other forms of wildlife, and impairs other services they render, including physical protection from rough seas and violent waves. According to various sources,⁷² coral reefs in the Caribbean OCTs are the most degraded of the world, almost all 100% at risk. The Pacific reefs are degrading but in much better health.

Also to be considered are natural hazards. The Caribbean and the Pacific OCTs have been hardest hit by tropical storms and hurricanes which have destroyed property and claimed victims. The intensity and frequency of these storms is very likely to increase during this century. A hurricane can produce a storm surge of several metres, enough to inundate very significant portions of some of the territories in the Caribbean, Pacific and Indian Oceans.

In Montserrat the Soufrière volcano became active after 350 years and approximately two thirds of the island is now an exclusion zone and has been evacuated, with a major effect on the tourist and fishing industries. The eruptions (between 1995 and May 2006) have caused extensive damage to people, property and the (former) capital (Plymouth) but also to areas of special conservation value, including the island's first proposed Ramsar site, coral reefs, some species of flora and fauna. It led to 19 deaths and the relocation of most of the population. There are also volcanoes on Sint Eustatius, on Tristan da Cunha (There was a Volcanic eruption on TDC in 1961 and the whole population were evacuated for two years) and in the South Sandwich Islands.

Earthquakes and tsunamis also occur in the OCTs. On Diego Garcia (BIOT in the Indian Ocean) a magnitude 7 earthquake and a tsunami in 1983 caused extensive damage to corals. The last earthquake felt was a 4.7 Richter scale in 2013. Tsunamis can be quite dramatic and destructive on low lying lands, as the December 2004 Indonesian tsunami sadly showed.

71 See mecometer.com/whats/greenland/gdp-ppp

72 ICRI (international Coral Reef Initiative), Reefbase, GCRMN (Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network) the Reefs at risk report (Bryant).

Natural hazards risk overview by region				
Region of OCTs	Cyclone/ Hurricane	Volcanic	Seismic	Tsunami
Caribbean				
Indian Ocean				
North Atlantic				
South Atlantic				
Pacific				
Severe risk	Notes: It is generally difficult to generalise by region. For example amongst Caribbean region OCTs volcanic risks are limited to Montserrat, which is relatively immune to tsunamis because of its steep-sided topography. SSI is one of the more seismically active places on the planet with earthquakes of magnitude > 6 regularly occurring. Similarly cyclone risks vary in the Pacific region.			
Moderate risk				
Low risk				

Some OCTS have building regulations with standards intended to be hurricane-proof (e.g. French Polynesia). In the Caribbean there are several regional initiatives on disaster risk prevention and mitigation.

4.2 EVOLUTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Overall, the OCTs have continued to make progress on environmental management. The table below illustrates with some examples the OCTs' major trends and successes by region.

Actions	Region	Comment
Sustainable Development	North Atlantic	Bermuda has established a Sustainable Development Plan and has established a Sustainable Development Department (SDD) within the Cabinet Office within the Bermuda Government to promote and facilitate public and private sector implementation of the SDP, to monitor, record, analyse and report on commitments in the SDP; to evaluate current and planned policy initiatives; to recommend appropriate changes to policy initiatives; and provide administrative support to the SD Roundtable. There is also a dedicated website and the SDP is evolving.
Biodiversity knowledge and conservation	North Atlantic	In addition to other existing local monitoring efforts, the Greenland government is piloting a natural resource monitoring system called Piniakkanik sumiiffinni nalunaarsuineq (Opening Doors to Native Knowledge), whereby local people and local authority staff are directly involved in data collection, interpretation and resource management. The promotion of locally relevant knowledge and local management actions will contribute to effective local conservation actions.
	Indian Ocean	Namely in TAAF development of permanent research activities spanning all TAAF islands. Monitoring of the most characteristic species and habitats (evolution of the population and their status). Management based on the results of research and monitoring. Preparation of an observatory of biodiversity and climate change.
Action against invasive species	Indian Ocean	TAAF and BIOT control the entrance of invasive species into the islands.
	Pacific	New legislation adopted in the three French OCTs and management actions taken. There is a need to continue to expand these efforts.
	South Atlantic	Falkland Islands and SGSSI have achieved very good results in eradicating fox and reindeer respectively. SGSSI currently has ongoing programs to remove invasive plant and rodent species. SGSSI has strict bio-security controls in place to prevent the introduction of new invasive species.

Actions	Region	Comment
Increase protected areas (terrestrial and marine)	Caribbean	British Virgin Islands and Turks and Caicos have well established protected areas networks. The OCTs linked to the Netherlands all have protected areas/ parks and the foundation DCNA coordinate and supports them all.
	Pacific	The Corail sea marine park covers nearly 1.3 million km ² , i.e. 95% of waters managed by NC.
	South Atlantic	SGSSI has the largest Marine Protected Area for sustainable fisheries in the world. Ascension is developing a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) that will include number of Species and Habitat Action Plans. Work of department, external organisations and visiting researchers will be linked to one or more NBSAP objectives. NBSAP will be continually updated as targets are met and new research becomes available and will be hosted in a website.
	Indian Ocean	Both OCTs have large marine protected areas. BIOT has the largest non-take marine protected area in the world. The national natural area of the TAAF is the largest in France.
IUU fisheries	South Atlantic	Several fisheries obtained Marine Stewardship Council certifications: SGSSI toothfish longline fishery; TdC lobster fishery; Saint Helena pole & line and rod & line tuna fisheries, undertaken by small artisanal fisheries boats; and Falkland Islands Long Line fisheries. Falkland Islands have developed bird-scaring devices and other mitigation reducing accidental mortality of seabirds by 90% SGSSI has the largest protected area for sustainable fisheries in the world. CCAMLR has very developed restriction on fisheries south pf 60°S
Climate change	North Atlantic	Saint Pierre and Miquelon has set up since 2009 a complete measuring and monitoring system of various natural phenomena (erosion, waves, rising sea levels) to better manage the effects of climate change. The system is framed by scientific partnerships with France and Canada, and the system continues to improve. SPM is both contributing to the global climate monitoring and is being supported by research and means for its own planning.
	Indian Ocean	TAAF has deployed research stations in each of the islands of TAAF: the pristine ecosystems can serve as referential for the analysis of climate change impacts in the region.
Natural catastrophes	Caribbean	The whole Caribbean region is mobilized for this subject and receiving support. More coordination is required, particularly on the articulation of initiatives between OCTs, Outermost Regions and independent states.
	Pacific	Plan ORSEC 2012 in NC, also recently applied in WF (cyclone Evan, Dec 2012). The Secretariat of Pacific Community can be pivotal on the application of the process to other islands.
	Indian Ocean	TAAF: MARPOL plan (updated in 2014); emergency fire plans for each island (implemented in 2013).
Reduce energy dependency	Caribbean	Anguilla and Aruba are making large efforts on promoting renewable energy as well as green growth. Sint Maarten is initiating a process of waste to energy.
	Indian Ocean	TAAF is stimulating energy saving and looking into introducing renewables. Diego Garcia in BIOT has carried out some analysis of solar and wind energy potential.
	Pacific	FP, NC and Pitcairn stimulate the construction of small renewable energy power plants. NC: climate and energy scheme and attenuation measures (labelling, public transports...)
	South Atlantic	SGSSI energy comes from small hydropower plant. Falkland Islands has a high level of wind energy. Saint Helena is also investing on wind energy

Actions	Region	Comment
Solid waste management	Indian Ocean	In TAAF, obligation to take out all the produced waste in Adelle Land. Waste segregation in the Southern islands and the Scattered islands. Diego Garcia has just completed a new landfill facility with leachate collection and disposal system, an incinerator facility and a recycling facility, a \$15 million project.
	Caribbean	Sint Maarten is building a waste to energy power plant, it would seem possible that all nearby OCTs and ACPs would be able to ship their waste to this facility. In some of the islands the Hotel Operator Associations have a role on waste management, namely on its recycling and elimination without hazards
Improve wastewater and solid waste collection and (re)use	Pacific	Efforts made by NC (waste) and FP (waste water) allowed significant improvement of the situation. Pitcairn is also improving the water and sanitation situation. There is a need to modernize the systems and, where possible, establish regional cooperation for off-island treatment of certain types of waste.
	South Atlantic	Saint Helena is implementing waste management strategy (2012) and changing habits. Falkland Islands have reduced to 12% of the original value the wastewater discharge into port at Stanley.
	Caribbean	Turks and Caicos has established and maintains eco-marinas designed to protect the water resources and the coral living waters – this programme makes local communities and tourism operators work together and build mutual trust. Bonaire has a new water treatment plant.

4.3 PRIORITIES INDICATED BY OCTs ON ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENTS

Despite some progresses, there are other areas needing priority attention. The OCTs have reported their territorial priorities regarding governance and management of the environment. These are addressed in the territorial and regional profiles. The table below attempts to quantify the overall relative importance of several environmental components/pressures.

Region	Invasive Species	Environmental impacts due to development, tourism, agri, aquaculture	Climate Change	Waste	Water	IUU fishing	Maritime affairs	Energy	Disaster reduction
Caribbean (of 12)	5	10 (coastal zone)	All 12	9	5	2		2	All 12
N Atlantic (of 3)		2	3	3	3				
S Atlantic (of 4)	3	2	3	3		4 ⁷³	1		
Indian (of 2)	2	2	2	1		2		1	
Pacific (of 4)	2	3	3	1	2				All

73 Uncontrolled fisheries in high seas outside the EEZ is jeopardizing efforts done in the EEZ.

5.1 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The regional profiles depict the situation regarding institutional organization and capacity of the OCTs to manage the environment. There has been major progress since 2007, and all the OCTs have now dedicated environmental departments.

There is a wide variation of sectors among OCT on the combination of environment with other sectors within ministries such as physical planning and environment, environment and fisheries, environment and marine affairs, environment and agriculture, or environment and mining. But in general environmental management is dealt at a level higher than service, at the same level as agriculture or fisheries, which means more decision making power.

There is however in most of the OCTs a variety of institutions governing environment. Often, nature conservation (biodiversity) is one unit, water is dealt with by a water authority or public company, solid waste is dealt by an environmental health department or a local commune, and physical planning is implemented by the planning department close to department of finance or economy or planning. For several OCTs, the correspondent persons on this work were from conservation and had to consult with colleagues from other departments.

It is noticeable that environment has increased in political importance, however staff limitations and budgets continue to exist. It is reported by some OCTs that for some major investments in the territory considered of importance, the existing environmental requirements (EIA), public consultation are waived.

The table below shows the territories that didn't have environmental department in 2007, and the current situation.

	Situation 2007	Situation 2014
Caribbean		
Anguilla	There is a Director of Environment within the Chief Minister's Office.	Department of environment with 6 technical staff Environmental Health Department deals with solid waste Water Authority water supply. Anguilla Renewable Energy Office established in 2008.
Aruba	The Minister of Public Health, Environment, Administrative and Foreign Affairs formulates environmental policy, proposes new laws and is responsible for their implementation. He is supported by a staff of 10 fulltime employees. The Environmental Inspectorate implements and enforces environmental regulations, (alongside the police, who are the general enforcement authority).The Inspectorate has three divisions: Environmental Surveillance, 4 fulltime employees, Environmental Monitoring, one engineer, Hazardous Materials, one engineer, one assistant.	A Directorate of Nature and Environment (DNE) was created in 2012 and since January 2014 it resorts under the Ministry of Economic affairs, Communication, Energy and Environment. There is also: a statistical office, a meteorological service and city inspectors, The establishment of DNE solved the lack a central entity in charge of policy-making, coordination and execution of management tasks regarding the environment. Note: Park Arikok foundation manages the national Park. DCNA (Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance) works for the 10 nature parks in the 6 OCTs.

	Situation 2007	Situation 2014
Curacao	Was part of the NL Antilles that had one department in the Ministry of Public Health and Social Development, responsible for Environment and Nature: in the 5 territories of the Antilles, and a staff of 5, responsible for "the management of the environment and the management and conservation of nature, as they derive from international treaties ». Day-to-day nature conservation management and other environmental issues like water quality were matters for each island.	Within the Ministry of Public Health, Environment and Nature, there is an Environment & Nature Department with 7 policy staff members and 22 inspectors and 8 monitors of air and water quality. Note: CARMABI Foundation manages nine protected areas and organizes activities and projects in these parks DCNA (Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance) works for the 10 nature parks in the 6 OCTs.
Sint Maarten	Was part of the NL Antilles that had one department in the Ministry of Public Health and Social Development, responsible for Environment and Nature: in the 5 territories of the Antilles, and a staff of 5, responsible for "the management of the environment and the management and conservation of nature, as they derive from international treaties ». Day-to-day nature conservation management and other environmental issues like water quality were matters for each island.	The Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment and Infrastructures (VROMI) has 5 executive services and a policy department: New Projects, Infrastructure Management, Domain Affairs, Permits, and Inspection. Also a Policy Department, for policy advising, incl. nature and the environment and nature, spatial planning and infrastructures in the broadest sense (related to waste, drainage, utilities). Note: The Nature Foundation Sint Maarten manages the Marine Park. DCNA (Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance) works for the 10 nature parks in the 6 OCTs.
Bonaire, Saba, Sint Eustatius	Was part of the NL Antilles that had one department in the Ministry of Public Health and Social Development, responsible for Environment and Nature: in the 5 territories of the Antilles, and a staff of 5, responsible for "the management of the environment and the management and conservation of nature, as they derive from international treaties ». Day-to-day nature conservation management and other environmental issues like water quality were matters for each island.	Bonaire has a Directorate Space and Development, and STINAPA foundation manages the Marine Park. Saba has a planning bureau and a public works department and Saba Conservation Foundation manages the Saba Bank Marine Park. St Eustatius has a Directorate Economy and Infrastructure and one for Inspection and Control and STENAPA manages the Marine and Terrestrial parks (and has a staff of 8). Bonaire, Saba and Saint Eustatius receive expert support from the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs (incl. nature) and Infrastructure (incl. environment). DCNA (Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance) works for the 10 nature parks in the 6 OCTs.
Saint-Barthélemy	New OCT	A Territorial Agency for the Environment was created in May 2013, with an Administrative Council (12 members), a Scientific Council (3) and an office (3).

	Situation 2007	Situation 2014
Pacific		
French Polynesia	There is a ministry for tourism, ecology, culture and air transports (MTE) responsible for environmental management. Specific departments/ services have specified environmental tasks and staff. Budgets available and a fund for the Environment, fed by earmarked taxes. Ministry of SD, Ministry of Seas and the Econ, Social and Cultural Council and Research programmes integrate environment in other policy areas.	Separate Ministry for the Environment. 25 officers in the Direction for the Environment (DIREN) with 5 departments: general and legal affairs, biodiversity management, habitat and natural resources protection, classified installations and environmental awareness. Dedicated budgets.
New Caledonia	Environment is the responsibility of the provinces. Budgets available. The government is responsible for sustainable development.	No changes have taken place since 2007 regarding the distribution of competences. At the territorial level : DAFE: Directorate for Agriculture, Forestry and Environment CEE: Consultative Committee for the Environment CEN: Conservatory for Natural Spaces At the provincial level : Loyautes: Environment Service South : Direction for the Environment (DENV) North: Direction for economic and environmental development (DDEE)
Pitcairn	2 part-time officers deal with the environment. No specific budget.	10 part-time officers deal with the environment. No specific budget.
Wallis & Futuna	There are specific services that deal with the environment. There are staff and small but specified budgets.	Environmental Service, 10 officers. Rural and Fisheries affairs: 1 officer.
North Atlantic		
St Pierre and Miquelon	Decentralised French governmental services for forestry, fisheries, etc. Specific (small) budgets. 2 officers for monitoring hunting.	Decentralised (French governmental) services deal with aspects of the environment and a Directorate (DTAM) deals with the environment. Also a territorial service (MNE).
Bermuda	Bermuda did not adhere to the Association in 2007.	The Sustainable Development Department (SDD) is located in the Cabinet Office within the Bermuda Government. The Department of Conservation Services is the coordination centre for the Bermuda NBSAP. The Department of Parks manages, Bermuda National Parks Network. Environmental Protection is responsible for fisheries, vet services, species imports, and air and water monitoring. Environmental Health is responsible for vector control and environmental hygiene (waste, wastewater). The Department of Planning is responsible for the formulation of the Development Plans and for development control and enforcement of building codes.

	Situation 2007	Situation 2014
S. Atlantic		
Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha	The environmental protection function on St H Island is rather fragmented between different departments.	Environmental Management Directorate (EMD) comprised of four sections (staff 28): Environmental Advocacy, Marine Conservation Section, Terrestrial Conservation Section, and Environmental Risk Management. Environmental health, agriculture and fisheries, planning and disaster management committee are also part of environmental governance. Ascension Conservation department currently counting with 12 staff members working on various biodiversity projects. Environmental health deals with waste. Facilities management deals with sewerage. Fire and sea rescue deals with civil protection. Tristan Conservation Department (TCD) staffed with 4 persons is responsible for administering the Island's environmental policies. The Fisheries, Agriculture and Natural Resources Department and the Public Works department deal with the remaining environmental components and with electricity
SGSSI	Advice on environmental matters is provided by the British Antarctic Survey (BAS)	Government Officers on South Georgia deal with day to day environmental and fisheries management with operational overview and policy development undertaken by Government staff based in the Falkland Islands. Support on environmental governance is provided by the British Antarctic Survey, by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science ⁷⁴ (CEFAS) and by other consultants. Fisheries conservation measures are set by CCAMLR south of 60° S and GSGSSI also applies these to their EEZ. Surveillance and patrolling are carried out by the Fishery Officers (provided under contract from the Fisheries Department in the Falkland Islands).
Indian Ocean		
TAAF	Staff of 5 for environmental issues based at La Réunion. A Committee for the Polar Environment Budget available. IUCN advises.	Staff of 50 based at TAAF's head office in La Réunion. The 'Préfet' is highest civil servant for the 5 districts. Consultative Council (of researchers) A Committee for the Polar Environment. IUCN advises.

⁷⁴ The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) is an executive agency of the United Kingdom government Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). It carries out a wide range of research, advisory, consultancy, monitoring and training activities for a large number of customers around the world.

5.2 POLICIES, STRATEGIES, PLANS

The table below shows a summary of the environmental coverage of the policies, strategies and plans in the OCTs.

OCT	Sustainable Development	Environment	Biodiversity	Climate Change	Spatial planning	Marine/ Fisheries	Disaster Risk Reduction	Other relevant
Caribbean	3 ✓ (TCI; Aruba, Montserrat)	4 ✓ (Anguilla; Cayman; Turks and Caicos; St Barthélemy); 3 +/- (Aruba, Montserrat, Sint Maarten)	3 ✓ (Anguilla; Cayman; St Barthélemy); 4 +/- (Turks&Caicos, BVI, Aruba, Sint Maarten)	3 ✓ (Cayman; Turks and Caicos, BVI); 2 +/- (Anguilla; Montserrat)	1 ✓ (Sint Maarten); 5 +/- (BVI, Cayman; Montserrat; Turks & Caicos; St Barthélemy)	1 ✓ (St Barthélemy)	4 ✓ (Anguilla; BVI Cayman; Turks and Caicos 4 +/-; St Barthélemy; Aruba; Curacao; Sint Maarten)	3 ✓ (Anguilla; Cayman; Turks & Caicos)
N Atlantic	2 ✓ (BM; SPM)	1 ✓ (SPM)	1 ✓ (BM); 2 +/- (SPM, GL)	1 ✓ (SPM); 1 +/- GL		1 +/- (BM)		1 ✓ (BM)
S Atlantic	3 ✓ (Falkland; SGSSI; St Helena); 2 +/- (Ascension; TdC)	3 ✓ (BAT; SGSSI; St Helena); 1 +/- (Falkland Islands)	3 ✓ (BAT; Falkland; SGSSI); 3 +/- (St Helena; Ascension; TdC)	1 +/- (St Helena)	2 ✓ (Falkland; St Helena)	1 ✓ (SGSSI); 1 +/- (St Helena)		3 ✓ (BAT; Falkland; St Helena)
Indian		2 ✓	2 ✓					
Pacific	4 ✓	4 ✓	3 ✓ (FP; NC; W&F); 1 +/- (PIT)	2 ✓ (NC; W&F); 1 +/- (FP)	2 ✓ (FP; NC)	3 ✓ (FP; NC; W&F)	2 ✓ (FP; NC); 1 +/- (PIT)	3 ✓ (FP; NC; PIT)

Other relevant in the above table can be Oil Spill plans, sustainable Agriculture, sustainable Energy or a specific non-biodiversity component of environment (e.g. waste strategy).

The table above is based on data found on internet and on replies received from the OCTs. It might be possible that some documents do exist, but are simply not available or were not reported by the respondent. It can also happen that a draft exists but it has never been approved. The sign +/- indicates in preparation.

It is clearly seen from the above table that there is a lack of structural documents (policies, strategies and plans) in the referred environmental components. This is particularly true for the Caribbean (12 territories). In terms of themes, limited long-term vision for spatial planning exists. Strategies and plans of biodiversity are abundant.

5.3 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The participation of an OCT in an MEA involves cooperation between the territory and the state it is associated with. This is because, while the OCT is responsible for its environmental management, only sovereign states can sign MEAs. OCTs can take on the responsibilities of an MEA if the associated sovereign state has signed the MEA and asks, at the request of the OCT, that the MEA is extended to the territory of the OCT. French OCTs usually extend all MEA that France has ratified.

Participation of OCTs in MEAs		
MEA	Number of OCTs participating	Remarks
UNCCD	1 ✓	Montserrat
UNFCCC and Kyoto	2 ✓	BM; Falkland Islands Aruba is considering the Climate Change Convention and Kyoto Protocol.
UNCBD	10 ✓ 1 +/-	✓British Virgin islands ; Cayman Islands ; Curacao ; Bonaire ; TAAF ; SPM ; St Helena Ascension and Tristan da Cunha ; FP; NC; W&F ; +/- GL Cayman Islands: The National Conservation Law has been enacted enabling implementation of CBD.
Ramsar	17 ✓ 1 +/-	✓Anguilla ; Cayman Islands ; Montserrat ; Turks and Caicos ; Curacao ; Sint Maarten ; Bonaire ; BIOT ; TAAF ; BM ; SPM ; FP ; NC ; W&F ; PIT ; Falkland Islands; St Helena Ascension and Tristan da Cunha ; +/- GL Many OCTS have or proposed Ramsar sites. ⁷⁵
CMS	16 ✓	British Virgin islands ; Cayman Islands ; Montserrat ; Turks and Caicos ; Curacao ; Sint Maarten ; Bonaire ; Saba ; BIOT ; BM ; PIT ; BAT ; Falkland Islands; SGSSI ; St Helena Ascension and Tristan da Cunha ; TAAF BM : CMS Sharks MOU signed by the UK and extended to Bermuda
CITES	18 ✓	British Virgin islands ; Cayman Islands ; Montserrat ; Turks and Caicos ; Aruba ; Curacao ; Sint Maarten ; Bonaire ; Saba ; St Eustatius ; TAAF ; BIOT ; BM ; GL ; PIT ; Falkland Islands ; St Helena Ascension and Tristan da Cunha ; NC
Nagoya Protocol	1 ✓	Turks and Caicos
World Heritage	10 ✓	Anguilla; British Virgin islands ; Montserrat ; Turks and Caicos Islands ; BM ; GL ; PIT ; Falkland Islands; St Helena Ascension and Tristan da Cunha. The Caribbean Action Plan in World Heritage (2004-2014) was signed by Virgin Islands. Sites in NC are registered WH sites. Henderson island (PIT) and Gough and Inaccessible islands (SHATdC) have been declared a World Heritage site. BIOT voluntarily applies all the strictness applicable to <i>World Heritage Sites</i> .
Aarhus Convention	1 ✓	SGSSI
Vienna Convention (Ozone Layer)	3 ✓	Montserrat ; GL ; SGSSI
Montreal Protocol	3 ✓	Montserrat ; BM ; SGSSI
LTRAP	1 ✓	GL
Basel	4 ✓	Curacao ; Sint Maarten ; GL ; BAT
Rotterdam	1 ✓	Sint Maarten
ESPOO	1 ✓	GL
London Convention (Dumping at Sea)	11 ✓	British Virgin islands ; Montserrat ; BIOT ; GL ; St Helena Ascension and Tristan da Cunha ; Cayman Islands ; Montserrat ; Turks and Caicos ; PIT ; Falkland Islands ; TAAF

75 http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/sitelist_order.pdf

Participation of OCTs in MEAs		
MEA	Number of OCTs participating	Remarks
International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage (CLC)	3 ✓	Falkland Islands, SGSSI ; TAAF SGSSI also extended Protocol to amend the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage
UNCLOS	3 ✓	British Virgin islands ; SGSSI; TAAF
MARPOL	6 ✓	Turks and Caicos ; Curacao ; BM ; GL ; Falkland Islands; TAAF; NC
Oslo Convention	2 ✓	GL ; SPM
Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks	2 ✓	British Virgin islands; TAAF
International Convention on the Regulation of Whaling	6 ✓ 1 +/-	✓Anguilla ; Montserrat ; SPM ; Falkland Islands ; SGSSI ; TAAF +/- GL
Antarctic Treaty		The UK and France are signatories to the Antarctic Treaty and to the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals, 1972 (CCAS) ; Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, 1980 (CCAMLR) ; Protocol on Environmental Protection, 1991 ; The Convention on the Regulation of Antarctic Mineral Resource Activities (CRAMRA). Applied by TAAF. Fisheries conservation measures are set by CCAMLR south of 60° for GSGSSI and are also applies to the SGSSI EEZ. Surveillance and patrolling are carried out by the Fishery Officers (provided under contract from the Fisheries Department in the Falkland Islands).
UNCE	1 ✓	SPM
Arctic	1 ✓	Greenland is a party of the following : Nordic Environmental Protection Convention ; Copenhagen Agreement ; Joint Commission on Narwhal and Beluga ; OPRC
Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation	1 ✓	GL
OSPAR-Convention	1 ✓	GL
ICCAT Convention	2 ✓	Curacao ; BM
Apia convention (1976), came into force in 1990	4 ✓	FP; NC; PIT; W&F Conservation of nature in the South Pacific Promotes protected areas to preserve examples of natural environments
Noumea convention (1996)	4 ✓	FP; NC; PIT; W&F Protection of natural resources and the environment Protocols on dumping at sea and control of pollution emergencies
Regional convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean	4 ✓	FP; NC; PIT; W&F Signed in 2000 and applies to the whole pacific region.
South-East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) Convention	1 ✓	St Helena Ascension and Tristan da Cunha

Participation of OCTs in MEAs		
MEA	Number of OCTs participating	Remarks
Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels - Bonn (ACAP)	4 ✓	BAT; SHATdC (ACAP applies only to Tristan da Cunha); SGSSI ; TAAF
MoU on Indian Ocean Turtles	2 ✓	BIOT ; TAAF BIOT: The Indian Ocean Turtle MoU ⁷⁶ was signed in 2002.
Cartagena convention	8 ✓	Curacao, Sint Maarten, Bonaire, Saba, Sint Eustatius, BVI, Cayman Is, Turks and Caicos The Convention is supplemented by the Oil Spills Protocol, the SPAW Protocol and the LBS Protocol
Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol)	6 ✓	Aruba, Sint Maarten, Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius, BVI
Oil Spill Protocol	3 ✓	Sint Maarten, Saba, BVI
Pollution from Land-Based sources LBS Protocol	1 ✓ 1 +/-	✓BVI +/- Bonaire Bonaire implemented but not yet ratified
Inter-American Convention (IAC) for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles	3 ✓	Sint Maarten, Bonaire, Saba

Although the OCTs are participating to quite some extent in MEAs there is still quite a bit to be done to ensure that they are fully, and in some cases even partly, complying with their obligations under these agreements. Full compliance would greatly enhance the level of protection given to habitats and species in the territories concerned.

Regarding territorial legislation, the table below provides a summary of the environmental legislation in the OCTs.

⁷⁶ Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is a non-binding intergovernmental agreement that aims to protect, conserve, and recover marine turtles and their habitats in the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia region.

Theme	Caribbean (of 12)	N. Atlantic (of 3)	S. Atlantic⁷⁷ (of 4 plus Ascension and TdC which have separate legislation)	Indian (of 2)	Pacific (of 4)
Conservation of species	12 ✓	2 ✓ (BM; GL)	4 ✓ (Falkland Islands; SGSSI; Ascension; Tristan da Cunha)	2 ✓	1 ✓ (NC)
Sites and habitats	6 ✓ (Aruba; Curacao; Sint Maarten; Bonaire; Saba; St Eustatius)	2 ✓ (BM; GL)	5 ✓ (Falkland Islands; SGSSI; St Helena; Ascension; Tristan da Cunha)	2 ✓	1 ✓ (NC)
Terrestrial & Marine development control,	4 ✓ (Anguilla; Montserrat; Turks and Caicos; Sint Maarten) 2 +/- (BVI ; Aruba)	1 ✓ (BM)	2 ✓ (Falkland Islands; St Helena)	2 ✓	3 ✓ (FP, W&F, NC); 1 (PIT)
SEA and EIA	6 ✓ (Aruba; Curacao; Sint Maarten; Bonaire, Saba, St Eustatius; St Barthélemy, Montserrat) 1 +/- (Cayman)	2 ✓ (BM ;GL)	1 ✓ (St Helena)	1 ✓ (TAAF)	3 ✓ (FP, NC, W&F); 1 +/- (PIT)
Integrated pollution prevention and control	1 ✓ (Turks and Caicos)	1 +/- (GL)	1 ✓ (Falkland Islands)		1 ✓ (NC)
Air		1 ✓ (BM) ;1 +/- (GL)			1 ✓ (NC)
Ozone		1 ✓ (BM)	1 ✓ (Falkland Islands)	2 ✓	
Water and wastewater	6 ✓ (Anguilla; BVI; Cayman; Montserrat; Turks and Caicos; St Barthélemy) ; 1 +/- (Aruba)	2 +/- (GL, BM)	1 ✓ (St Helena)	2 ✓	3 ✓ (NC, W&F, FP) 1 +/- (PIT)
Waste (oils, clinical, construction and demolition) Landfills	2 ✓ (Sint Maarten; St Barthélemy); 2 +/- (BVI; Cayman)	1 +/- (BM)		2 ✓	3 ✓ (NC, PF, W&F) 1 +/- (PIT)
Noise	1 ✓ (Aruba) ; 1 +/- (Cayman)	1 +/- (BM)			1 ✓ (NC)
Hazardous substances (chemicals)	5 ✓ (Cayman; Montserrat; Aruba; Curacao; Sint Maarten)	2 +/- (GL, BM)			1 ✓ (FP)
Chemical accidents (SEVESO)	1 ✓ (Sint Maarten)				
Environmental Liability	1 ✓ (St Barthélemy)				1 ✓ (NC)
Remediation	1 ✓ (Montserrat)	1 ✓ (BM)			
Forest use, hunting		3 ✓		1 ✓ (TAAF)	1 ✓ (NC)
IUU fisheries	7 ✓ (Anguilla; BVI; Montserrat; Turks and Caicos Islands; Aruba; Curacao; Sint Maarten)	1 ✓ (BM)	5 ✓ (Falkland Islands; SGSSI; St Helena; Ascension; Tristan da Cunha)	1 ✓ (TAAF)	

For more detail on strength of the environmental law in the OCTs, please consult the territorial and regional profiles.

⁷⁷ BAT is covered by Antarctic Treaty Legislation

Legal coverage of the In 2007 EIA was only mandatory in six of the 20 territories. Currently the figure increased to 13. However, reportedly requirements are not always strictly enforced⁷⁸. This does not mean that EIA is not carried out in the other territories: it often is, but it is not mandatory, but at the discretion of the authorities. Or an EIA may be carried out because this is a requirement of a donor-funded project.

Marine and Terrestrial development controls are lacking in the Caribbean, except for a few OCTs. This explains the large pressure on the coastal zone.

The above table indicates that most OCTs of the South Atlantic, Indian Ocean and Pacific regions do not enact regulations on specific environmental components such as air, noise, chemicals, and waste. This does not necessarily mean that the component is not covered by law, and a general rule might exist. There is however lack of regulations, and lack of standards is often referred as a difficulty. The Conservation of species appears to be addressed by the legislation.

5.4 CIVIL SOCIETY: ROLE OF CONSULTATION, NGOs, AARHUS

Overall, the level of public awareness regarding environmental issues is not high. Only a few OCTs have in place a public participation process similar to the level of the EU. Particularly in the Caribbean even if an OCT has enacted physical planning and EIA requirements, the top decision makers can waive the process and grant permission for the infrastructure.

Many of the UK OCTs have a National Trust. They are statutory bodies with a conservation mission, sometimes they are registered foundations. Although non-governmental, they receive some government funding. Particularly in those OCTs that do not have a well-established network of protected areas, National Trusts play a crucial role of owning land for protection and managing it. The number of local environmental NGOs is limited, or the existing ones need capacity building to engage in cooperation⁷⁹. The National Trusts also engage on production of awareness-raising material, etc. UK-based NGOs are also very active on improving environment in OCTs. Some examples are the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, BirdLife International, The Pew Charitable Trusts, UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, the Marine Conservation Society, the Zoological Society of London, BugLife, Blue Marine, Falklands Conservation, the South Georgia Heritage Trust and the Chagos Conservation Trust. The large majority of these organizations deal with Biodiversity. They work with OCTs organizations and with the governments. The UK JNCC is making an effort to engage more with UK based NGOs to agree on some common actions and establish synergies.

In the six NL OCTs, the not-for-profit organisation DCNA (Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance)⁸⁰ helps manage the 10 nature parks. It receives funds from the Dutch government, the National Lottery and other charities. It is involved in setting up a Trust Fund. On Curacao the NGO SMOC (Stichting Schoon Milieu Curacao) has launched a legal procedure against the government as the local oil refinery does not always respect air quality norms.

In many OCTs linked to France, there are actions by French institutes, like the Conservatoire du Littoral who owns and manages parks in SPM. Many are active in the framework of IFRECOR (Initiative Française pour les Récifs Coralliens) and other research networks. There is a significant number (on the order of several dozens) of NGOs acting on environment in New Caledonia and French Polynesia. A mapping of civil society actors including the environmental sector performed with the support of the 10th EDF revealed a large number of on-going very relevant activities regarding sustainable development.

78 For example in Wallis and Futuna EIA studies were carried out after projects had already started (airport in Futuna, harbour works at Halalo (Wallis)).

79 See for example https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69483/pb13686-overseas-territory-environment.pdf

80 www.dcnanature.org

On coral reefs there is already a link between OCTs in different regions. ICRI (international coral Reef Initiative) and the French IFRECOR work together. Many coral reefs experts in the OCTs work together in Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network which makes Coral Reef reports every two years.

Several international NGOs – apart from the above referred ones on the UK OCTs – engage in work in the OCTs. Some examples are IUCN, Conservation International, World Wildlife Fund, and others.

6 COOPERATION

For most of the OCTs, it is the Member State to which the OCT is linked that is responsible for the OCT's foreign affairs policy, creates sovereignty obstacles and limitations on available funding and technical assistance. Even if an OCT chooses to extend a certain MEA, it cannot access directly the funding mechanisms or the technical assistance foreseen. Funds earmarked for developing countries cannot be accessed by OCTs either.

Integration of OCTs within their regions is overall limited, either because of isolation, or because of the obstacles mentioned above. Nevertheless, regional cooperation is an important feature of the OCTs policy agenda. In the Caribbean region, all OCTs have (associate) membership to CARICOM. In the Pacific, some OCTs are members (effective, associated or participating) of the Pacific Community, the Pacific Island Forum (PIF), the South Pacific Programme for the Environment (SPREP) and SPC. However, OCTs are not eligible for actions targeting developing countries.

In the Arctic, the Kingdom of Denmark, consisting of Denmark, Greenland and Faroe Islands are members of the Arctic Council. The Council deals with sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic. Greenland enjoys large autonomy and is independent member of a number of regional organisations, including: Nordic Council, Nordic Atlantic Cooperation, and West Nordic Foundation. It is also involved in UN related human rights initiatives specifically bodies with a focus on Indigenous Peoples Rights.

The UK is a signatory to the Antarctic Treaty and associated agreements. TAAF and BIOT are special cases as they are uninhabited. France is a member of Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) which is the main regional organization for cooperation.

Isolated OCTs (the Falkland Islands, Saint-Helena, Ascension Island, Tristan da Cunha, Saint-Pierre et Miquelon and Bermuda) do not have specific linkages with regional organizations as they do not have OCTs or other countries nearby with which they can cooperate closely. However, there is growing collaboration between the Falkland Islands, Saint-Helena, Ascension Island, Tristan da Cunha and SGSSI.

The Association of Overseas Countries and Territories of the European Union (OCTA) was formally constituted in 2002 to provide a forum for its members to exchange ideas, to develop effective working relationships as a group with the EU and to defend their collective interests vis-à-vis the European institutions. Membership of OCTA is open to all OCTs that adhere to the Overseas Association Decision (OAD). The annual OCTA Ministerial Conference constitutes OCTA's highest level of decision making. It consists of individual representatives of each Member government and is responsible for setting out the policy lines, approving the budget and making decisions. An Executive Committee (ExCo) ensures the daily activities. The EU is financing technical assistance to OCTA. Among others OCTA is increasing the information among OCTs of available funding and their capacity to apply for funding.

Section 4 presents the main achievements and needs in terms of nature, environment and sustainable development components. Section 5 presents the main achievements and needs regarding environmental governance. Section 6 presents the ongoing coordination between the OCTs. An overall remark is that since 2007 much progress was done in environmental awareness, knowledge and management of the environment in many OCTs. Some environmental components experienced improvement (e.g. reduction of mammal invasive species), while others less so (e.g. waste and wastewater or physical planning).

The regional and territorial profiles have recommendations for the corresponding levels, and wherever there are opportunities for regional integration and cooperation, these are explicitly referred. In this section possible global initiatives are addressed. Rather than being exhaustive regarding what can or should be done, the present section presents the priorities established by weighing the priority need with the possibilities of implementation given the existing capacity.

It should be taken into account that one of the objectives of the new Overseas Association Decision is to create conditions to strengthen cooperation between the OCTs and the outermost regions, as well as with their neighbouring African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) and non-ACP States. This is to be achieved through *improving coordination and synergies between cooperation programmes supported by different EU financial instruments*, and by *associating OCTs in its (EU) instances of dialogue with their neighbouring countries, whether they are ACP or non-ACP States, and with the outermost regions, where appropriate*. This is reflected in the recommendations at different levels.

Another aspect highlighted in the recommendations is the need of involving private sector. Green and Blue economy are emerging as promising sustainable and profitable ways of doing business. Ecosystems services are being recognised as having economic value, as assets, both for the well-being of populations and for tourism. There are many examples around the world of services related to water, wastewater and solid waste being profitable and generate jobs. Often private sector investments are required to cover the financial gap that is required for the materialization of infrastructure, or establishment of a service. Moreover, private sector can have access to financial instruments from funds and development banks that governments do not have. Finally it is crucial to involve private sector since the beginning of the reforms, as their views are important if they are to develop businesses around the opportunities provided by the governments. Many recommendations within this environmental profiles suggest the establishment of business dialogues at the start of the processes, and continued involvement of private sector.

It is meaningful to stress the importance of involving civil society as well. Many organizations play a vital role of being close to population and implementing certain actions or raising specific concerns (bottom up), having independent and often complementary views to those of the governments, and being able to mobilize resources for implementation of projects and programmes. Civil society development status and influential power changes among OCTs. Strengthening of capacities and of dialogue with these actors should be considered in all OCTs.

Goal	Action	Baseline situation	Priority and time frame	Implementing entity(ies)	€ and HR Needs	Risks and Assumptions	Possible sources	€
Promote Green Growth ¹ and Blue Growth ²	Change the development path, by reducing inefficiencies and seizing the possibilities	The two concepts are relatively new and they are inter-related. Green growth is broader, and in the case of OCTs seizing and sustainably using the wealth of the oceans is a priority. In particular in the South Atlantic and in the Indian Ocean OCTs are unique in their presence which can be used in advantage for ocean management.	7 years	OCTs and ACP governments and civil society organisations, OCTA's working group on environment, MS for Outermost Regions, Regional Cooperation Bodies			European Commission: DG Dev, DG Env, DG Research & Innovation, DG Mare; European External Action Services; World Bank; Regional Development Banks; Private sector	
	<p>Activities</p> <p>The EU can be a catalyst of Green Growth and of development of Blue Economy³. The initiative can be coordinated by OCTA – as a forum involving all OCTs. Some of these initiatives can result in solutions of interest to neighbouring ACP countries and Outermost Regions and involve them. Establish a first set of issues to be addressed: governance (improve physical planning, EIA and SEA, standards for wastewater and waste, enforcement, integration of environment, green growth and integrated resource management⁴ into policies and strategies); renewable energies and energy efficiency; waste management dealing with economic instruments (cost recovery, incentives to recycling, taxes on imported items that became waste) and valuation of waste; agro-ecology, increase food independency level where possible, and international valuation of certified niche products; sustainable tourism and on blue economy promote the elaboration of marine strategies, sustainable fisheries, mineral exploration, transport and logistics. Organise networking between the different regional (not only OCTs) and territorial stakeholders dealing with a particular issue. Promote debate and information sharing; establish dedicated websites for sharing of possible national solutions, and sharing of know-how and experience between regions. Organize trainings – some can be all in a room, but also promote remote training/distance learning using modern technology. Promote technical visits between OCTs and also technical assistance between OCTs, twinning, etc.; for example Falkland Islands and SGSSI fisheries managers can provide technical assistance to other OCTs needing help to improve fisheries governance. Develop manual and practical procedures, in particular to support the less staffed OCTs. Promote regional articulation when adequate to provide scale to possible investments benefiting several OCTs (e.g. regional waste management or</p>							

1 According to OECD Green growth means promoting economic growth while reducing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, minimising waste and inefficient use of natural resources, and maintaining biodiversity (<http://www.oecd.org/environment/green.htm>)

2 According to EU's DG Mare Blue Growth is the long term strategy to support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors as a whole. It recognises that seas and oceans are drivers for the European economy with great potential for innovation and growth. It is the Integrated Maritime Policy's contribution to achieving the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth (http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/blue_growth/)

3 The EU has a comparative advantage on the planning aspects with the experience on the implementation of the Marine Strategy Directive Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC

4 Example : Integrated Coastal Zone management, Integrated Water management

	<p>electricity inter-island connection in the Caribbean – bankable projects which would not be so if considered island per island), as Well as neighbouring ACP countries and ORs.</p> <p>Training on fund mobilization (internal and external), training and assistance on proposal writing.</p> <p>Study the business environment and study ways of engaging private sector.</p> <p>Define indicators, or guidelines, for sustainable tourism. Promote sustainable tourism certification schemes – perhaps different for Caribbean and Pacific, Falkland Islands and Saint Helena, than in non-populated OCTs. There are different examples worldwide, some with established best practice.</p> <p>Promote further engagement of EU and MS on international fora to represent the interests of OCTs, and where OCTs have a comparative advantage with strong case with evidences to show.</p> <p>Debate on large marine protected areas and their surveillance; develop controls on marine litter and on types of fuels used by vessels; controls on charge and discharge of ballast waters, high seas mining controls; increased controls on high-seas fisheries; support the establishment of Sargasso sea Sargasso Sea Commission ; engage on the establishment of a South-West Atlantic fisheries organisation.</p> <p>Support OCTs to establish agreements with other countries/territories that can receive waste streams impossible to manage in the territory.</p>
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Goal	Action	Baseline situation	Priority and time frame	Implementing entity(ies)	€ and HR Needs	Risks and Assumptions	Possible sources €
	Develop and implement coastal zone management plans and harmonize legislation	Different initiatives and programmes are being implemented in the regions of which OCTs are part. Some initiatives involve OCTs. But there could be gains on a broader perspective approach namely on areas where the OCTs as a group have a comparative advantage.	5 years	OCTs and ACP governments and civil society organizations, OCTA's working group on environment, MS for Outermost Regions Regional Cooperation Bodies			Instruments managed by European Commission: DG DevCo/EuropeAid, DG Env, DG Research, DG Mare; EU External Action Services; World Bank; Regional Development Banks; Private sector
Adaptation and mitigation to climate change	<p>Activities</p> <p>In terms of research, the OCTs have territories spread from the Antarctic to the equator providing an excellent opportunity for integrated research on climate change and their impacts in the South Atlantic. Likewise, cooperation between the TAAF and BIOT would result in a similar possibility for the Indian ocean. Besides, as OCTs have corals in different oceans research on the impact of pollution and warmer seawater in the future is also of advantage.</p> <p>Many OCTs are not part of UNFCCC or its Kyoto Protocol. At a time in which objectives for emission reduction are challenging, it could be of interest for the EU and for the OCTs that the latter commit to meeting the relevant emission reduction targets. Investments could be done on technical assistance for inventory construction and adaptation/mitigation planning, integrating climate change into development of the OCTs and removal of barriers for the engagement of the private sector. Regional cooperation could also be established, as many single projects in small territories do not have scale for bank loans.</p> <p>Besides, the Preparatory Action 'BEST'⁵ proved to be a useful tool by making seed funding available for OCTs to implement some enabling projects. Such example of funding can be extended to climate change. The OCTs will need to do actual diverse small actions for instance pass climate proof building regulations, or implement pilot projects to test some possible solutions.</p> <p>Still on a global perspective, information sharing is important. A number of studies and initiatives have looked at ways in which small tropical islands can adapt to future climate change. Gathering and sharing of this type of information can then lead to agreements on mainstreaming adaptation in the OCTs, and establishment of new initiatives.</p>						

Goal	Action	Baseline situation	Priority and time frame	Implementing entity(ies)	€ and HR Needs	Risks and Assumptions	Possible € sources
	Control invasive alien species (IAS)	The EU has been supporting several regional initiatives on IAS for instance in the South Atlantic and in the Pacific. MS with associated OCTs have been providing support The BEST preparatory action will now involve into regional hubs enabling regional integrated action. Although there are experiences on controlling land based larger fauna, the knowledge and capacity regarding fauna and the marine environment is reduced.	Long term	OCTs and ACP governments and civil society organizations, OCTA's working group on environment, MS for Outermost Regions Regional Cooperation Bodies			European Commission's DG DevCo/EuropeAid, DG Env, DG Research, DG Mare; EU External Action Services; World Bank; Regional Development Banks; Private sector
Invasive species	Activities						
	<p>Generate more data on the marine ecosystems and flora species worth to protect – promote the involvement of the regional research institutions existing in some OCTs, ACP countries and ORs (working together with the territorial bodies) and promote their interaction with EU research centres, advocating for a special fund on Horizon 2020 on the issue to be established.</p> <p>Build on experience from OCTs and other countries affected – promote experiences sharing through a website and a blog in which government officers, researchers, etc. can communicate.</p> <p>Assess regional and territorial IAS management plans already existing, in order to establish a global strategic plan, mainly focusing on complementarities and priorities. Not changing whatever is on-going at a regional level, but complementing with a broader perspective.</p> <p>Capacity building on methods for eradication or control of IAS – promote cooperation between OCTs of different regions, in which experienced official scan provide coaching to colleagues facing a similar problem elsewhere.</p> <p>Capacity building on bio-safety, particularly at customs. Harmonize legislation regarding bio-safety in all OCTs, and as much as possible engage as well ACP countries and ORs in the initiative. There are some good practices in some OCTs or neighbouring countries and regions.</p> <p>Harmonize legislation with the international environmental obligations (MEAs) extended to the territories, and advocate for increased MEA extension. Many OCTs have not yet extended the CBD</p> <p>Promote the adoption of control of ballast water from ships regulations at global fora and support enacting regulations in the territories.</p> <p>Engage on European and worldwide awareness raising campaigns for fund mobilization and tourist attraction as ways to ensure long time financing.</p>						

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CEDRE- French documentation centre for accidental water pollution	http://www.cedre.fr/index-en.php	Centre de documentation, de recherche et d'expérimentations sur les pollutions accidentelles des eaux
CIA	https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/	Info per OCT
CITES or Washington Convention on trade in endangered species (1973)	www.cites.org	
Coalition of legal toothfish operators	http://www.colto.org	Fisheries, particularly Southern Hemisphere
CRED- Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters	http://www.cred.be/	Database on disasters
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French Centre for Biodiversity Convention	http://biodiv.mnhn.fr/	Centre d'Echange français pour la Convention sur la diversité biologique.
French Fund for the global environment	http://www.ffem.fr/site/ffem/	Fonds Français pour l'environnement mondial
French Ministry Ecology and SD	www.ecologie.gouv.fr	Ministère de l' Ecologie et Développement durable
French National Inventory of Species	www.inpn.mnhn.fr general site on biodiversity overseas : http://inpn.mnhn.fr/informations/outre-mer/presentation	Inventaire National du patrimoine naturel (INPN)
French Overseas Ministry	http://www.outre-mer.gouv.fr/outremer/front?id=outremer/decouvrir_outre_mer	Ministère de l'Outre-Mer on Overseas countries and territories and 2007 budget

Organisation	Website address	Remarks
French government	http://www.gouvernement.fr/institutions	
GIWA- Global assessment of international waters	http://www.unep.org/dewa/giwa/	A UNEP/ GEF / Kalmar university project
Global Ocean Ecosystem Dynamics	http://www.globec.org/	Global Ocean Ecosystem Dynamics
Global coral reef monitoring network GCRMN	http://www.gcrmn.org/	
GCRMN	http://gcrmn.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Tropical_Americas_Coral_Reef_Resilience_Final_Workshop_ReportC.pdf	Tropical reefs resilience workshop 2012
ICRI	http://www.icriforum.org	ICRI international coral reef initiative
IEOM- Institut d'Emission d'Outre-Mer	http://www.ieom.fr/ieom/	French economic institute with reports on all OCTs
IFREMER Institut francais de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer	http://www.ifremer.fr/francais/index.php	
Info on cities threatened by hurricanes	http://www.hurricanecity.com	Info on hurricanes by country
Innovation Centre, University of Exeter	http://www.innovation.ex.ac.uk/imm/Disaster_management.htm	Climate change and the poor
IPIECA	http://www.ipieca.org/	On oil spills
IRD- French research institute for development	www.ird.fr	Institut de recherche pour le développement
Islands business	http://www.islandsbusiness.com/2013/1/pacific-update/preparedness-is-key-in-natural-disasters-world-ban/	On natural disasters
Island Resources Foundation	http://www.irf.org/	Foundation is dedicated to solving the environmental problems of development in small tropical islands
Island vulnerability	http://www.islandvulnerability.org	Good data on all territories except Greenland
IUCN	http://www.iucn.org/	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IUCN	http://www.uicn.fr/IMG/pdf/3_UICN_2008_Especies_envahissantes_OM_-_Synthese_par_collectivite_et_annexes.pdf	Report on Invasive species
London Convention on prevention of marine pollution by dumping of waste and other matter	http://www.imo.org/About/Conventions/ListOfConventions/Pages/Convention-on-the-Prevention-of-Marine-Pollution-by-Dumping-of-Wastes-and-Other-Matter.aspx	
NACRI	http://www.nacri.org/	Netherlands Antilles Coral Reef Initiative
NOAA	http://www8.nos.noaa.gov/biogeopublic/reef_photos.aspx http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/kits/corals/coral09_humanthreats.html	Centre for coastal monitoring and assessment of coral reefs
NOAA- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	http://www.noaa.gov	General site
OCTA	www.octassociation.org	Organisation of OCTs
POLMAR	www.polmar.com	French institute and rules for action in case of pollution of seas
Poverty and environment network	http://www.povertyenvironment.net	

Organisation	Website address	Remarks
Reefbase	On reefs in all countries: http://www.reefbase.org/global_database/default.aspx?section=s1	Search facility reefs database
Reefbase	http://www.reefbase.org/main.aspx	About MAPS in Coral Triangle region
Reefbase	http://www.reefbase.org/resource_center/publication/main.aspx?refid=27173&referrer=GCRMN	State of coral reefs: full report 2008
Relief Web	www.reliefweb.int	On disasters
RFO	http://www.la1ere.fr/	Radio site for French OCTs (Reseau France Outre – mer) with info on OCTs
Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR)	http://www.jhu.edu/%7Escor/	
Smithsonian Institute volcano site	http://www.volcano.si.edu	
UK DFID (Department for International Development)	https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development	With country Profiles
UK FCO (Foreign and Commonwealth Office)	https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-office	On overseas territories
UN Millenium Developmentt Goals	http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Data.aspx	Situation per country and territory
UN-ECE	http://www.unece.org/	
UNEP	http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/natlinfo.htm http://www.unep.net/	Country profiles (not on OCTS)
UNEP	http://www.unep.ch/	Register international environmental conventions secretariats based in Geneva
UNEP on sustainable consumption and production	http://www.unep.org/scp/	
UNEP	http://www.grida.no/	Data base: UNEP/GRID-Arendal library
UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre	www.unep-wcmc.org	for instance on coral reefs, mangroves and sea grasses, etc.
World resources institute	http://www.wri.org/	General site