



**One of six mangrove species found in the British Virgin Islands**

*Valuing the Environment in Small Islands* makes use of practical examples to illustrate its theme that putting a monetary value on environmental and social impacts improves decision-making. For example, it draws on the experience of fisheries in Thailand during the 1980s and 1990s to show that the removal of mangrove forest can be costly to fishing communities because the forests provide fish breeding grounds and nursery habitats. The welfare losses resulting from deforestation were estimated at between US \$400 and US \$13,600 per square kilometre of forest cleared, depending on the responsiveness of demand to changes in the price of fish.



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## > Nature conservation in the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies

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Providing advice on nature conservation issues in the UK's Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies is an important and growing area of JNCC's work

Nature conservation in the UK's Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies is a strategic priority for JNCC. During the year significant progress has been made in developing our programme of work in this area.

A review of costed nature conservation priorities in the Overseas Territories was undertaken during the year at the request of the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Biodiversity (IDMGB). In consultation with Overseas Territories' governments the review has established that the main drivers of

biodiversity loss in the Territories are invasive alien species and the transformation of habitat, often in connection with tourism.

The review identified the main priorities for action as additional monitoring and survey, control of invasive species and the provision of new resources for nature conservation. A separate exercise in which JNCC consulted the Territories on their priorities for biodiversity research was also undertaken during the year, and resulted in a list that largely mirrors the outcome of the IDMGB review.



### Anton Wolfaardt

ACAP co-ordinator, UK south Atlantic Overseas Territories

Anton Wolfaardt has recently been appointed by JNCC as the ACAP (Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels) co-ordinator for the UK south Atlantic Overseas Territories. ACAP is a relatively recent multilateral daughter agreement of the Bonn Convention and represents a critical international mechanism seeking to conserve albatrosses and petrels by co-ordinating international activity to mitigate known threats.

The Overseas Territories of Falkland Islands, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, Tristan da Cunha and the British Antarctic Territory are all included in the UK's ratification of ACAP, and are globally important for albatross and petrel conservation. Of the 26 priority species covered by ACAP, 12 occur as breeding species in the UK south Atlantic Overseas Territories, three of which are endemic as breeders to one of the Territories – the Tristan da Cunha group of islands. In addition, significant proportions of the global populations of many of these species breed in the Territories.

ACAP requires that Parties take action to enhance the conservation of albatrosses and petrels, both through reduction in adverse fisheries interactions and through action on other threats. Anton is based in the Falkland Islands and is co-ordinating the work and reporting requirements of ACAP both between the relevant Overseas Territories and also between the Territories and metropolitan UK.



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It prompted widespread interest in environmental economics as the basis of good decision-making and subsequently we provided advice for collaborative projects to support its use in Bermuda and Montserrat.

JNCC has also developed a project entitled Environmental Economics with the UK Overseas Territories in the Caribbean (EEWOC) – [www.jncc.gov.uk/page-4136](http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-4136). Funded by the Overseas Territories Environment Programme, the project has progressed well during the reporting year. One aspect of the work has been the production of an environmental valuation 'toolkit' *Valuing the Environment in Small Islands*. The toolkit is available on-line and as a 130-page book from our publication distributors [www.nhbs.com](http://www.nhbs.com).

An aspect of JNCC's responsibilities in relation to the Overseas Territories is to provide scientific advice for international conventions and agreements that the Overseas Territories have requested the UK to ratify on their behalf. One is the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) and during the year we recruited Anton Wolfaardt, who is based in the Falkland Islands and works to co-ordinate ACAP-related work in the south Atlantic. The UK is a breeding range state for ACAP through its responsibilities to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the Tristan da Cunha group, which together support breeding populations of 12 ACAP species.

Another priority during the year was to improve contacts and the sharing of knowledge between the 16 Overseas Territories and the three Crown Dependencies. Regional groups have been set up and regular teleconferences have been arranged to share experiences and ideas. In March 2008 the Isle of Man Government hosted a workshop for officials from the Crown Dependencies which was supported by JNCC staff.



#### **Blue iguana** *Cyclura lewisi*

Action to counter the impact of invasive species in the Overseas Territories was the subject of a workshop hosted by JNCC in Peterborough in June 2007. Attended by UK and Overseas Territories stakeholders, the workshop looked at the impacts of invasive species and possible solutions.

One case study considered public awareness and the Cayman Islands' 'good iguana, bad iguana' problem. One priority for the Caymans' blue iguana conservation programme is to educate islanders about the plight of Grand Cayman's largest native land animal.

The blue iguana has suffered from pressure from introduced predators such as rats, cats and dogs and from habitat loss. There is also now a widespread common or green iguana *Iguana iguana* that is an alien species native to central and south America.



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