



Environmental mainstreaming in the British Virgin Islands

Final project report



Prepared by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)

May 2012

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1. BACKGROUND

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) was contracted by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Support Company to perform a study to examine the suitability of existing legal frameworks, state of environmental knowledge and institutional and societal capacity in the British Virgin Islands for implementation of environmental mainstreaming¹.

This is a component of a larger project being managed by the JNCC on behalf of the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the main objective of which is: *'To work with each OT Government to understand the economic value of its natural environment, the threats posed and options available for managing these threats, and to enable environmental issues to be integrated into strategic decisions.'*

The overall objective of the study was to determine the ways and means whereby existing institutions and decision making processes in the British Virgin Islands can be used to integrate environmental issues into decision making.

The main output desired from the study was a listing of short, medium and long term actions necessary to promote and integrate environmental issues into the decision making processes in the British Virgin Islands.

2. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The activities under this project comprised of:

- **Review and scoping study** that established the type and nature of information available and through scoping allowed a provisional assessment of gaps in knowledge, legal capacity and the capacity of government and wider society to act on knowledge and implement legislation to protect and manage the environment;
- **Stakeholder consultation** which validated some of the information collected in the Review and scoping study and identified gaps and barriers to the implementation of environmental mainstreaming and short, medium and long term actions for the implementation of environmental mainstreaming.

For this study, decisions were considered to be conceptually at three different levels. **Strategic decision making** provides overall direction. This is given by the Executive of the Government. This includes the Governor, Premier and the House of Assembly of the BVI. **Management control decision making** is focused on implementing the overarching policy or strategy and with the effective and efficient use of resources. These types of decisions are made by the

¹ 'Environmental mainstreaming' is the informed inclusion of relevant environmental concerns into the decisions of institutions that drive national and sectoral development policy, rules, plans, investment and action (International Institute for Environment and Development, 2009).

Permanent Secretaries and the Heads of Departments and Statutory Bodies. **Operational control decision making** is concerned with how to carry out specific tasks and include day-to-day or on-site management decisions. These include decisions made by Heads of Departments and site managers.

2.1 Review and scoping study

The institutional arrangements for environmental management in the BVI include a collection of mechanisms, at different decision making levels, that have the potential for environmental mainstreaming. A framework for environmental mainstreaming to provide strategic guidance is currently lacking. Details of the assessment are in section 2.1.1.

The capacity for environmental mainstreaming in the government departments is limited to a few agencies while other departments acknowledged the need to build their capacity to contribute effectively to environmental mainstreaming. On the other hand, the civil society organisations assessed have a range of skills and training that can contribute to environmental mainstreaming, however civil society's capacity for environmental mainstreaming is severely limited by the availability of personnel to dedicate to activities given that most organizations have small memberships or have no membership base. Although a willingness may exist to share information, the capacity of BVI society as a whole to implement environmental mainstreaming is limited by the inability to share information among the different structures (such as departments, committees) involved in environmental management. The full assessment is available in section 2.2.2.

The state of knowledge on biodiversity, management issues, management approaches and livelihood aspects seems to be fairly good among islanders. Residents of the BVI have been involved in a number of research initiatives, such as the Island Resources Foundation's drafting of environmental profiles; participatory planning initiatives, such as the fairly recent formulation of the Climate Change Policy; drafting of the Environmental Management and Conservation of Biodiversity Bill, 2006; and the dated National Integrated Development Plan 1999-2003. Additionally, the popularity of the Beef Island development and Cane Garden Bay issues have contributed to a general sound understanding of environmental issues and management approaches.

2.1.1 Assessment of legal and legislative framework

Of the twenty documents reviewed (listing of instruments is available in Appendix 2 of Progress Report), many have structures that can provide opportunities for environmental management issues to be included in decision making. For example, the Fisheries Act 1997 provides for a Fisheries Advisory Committee to provide advice for fisheries management. This committee, theoretically, could include technicians who could provide guidance infused with environmental considerations. In addition, this approach would have to be supported by terms of reference (TOR) for the committee dictating how this type of approach is to be implemented. This however, leads the analysis to another issue. The TOR for this committee should be guided by a framework document which provides a broad view and an agreed goal for environmental

mainstreaming. In the BVI, however there is no documented strategic framework for environmental mainstreaming. The National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP), NIDS and Biodiversity Bill address environmental mainstreaming to some degree, providing elements of a strategy.

The existing committees/bodies under the various legislative instruments do not seem to have any formal connection to enable the sharing of information and coordination of environmental management activities among them. The Draft Environmental Management and Conservation of Biodiversity Bill 2006 seems to address this concern, as it provides for the establishment of an integrated environmental management system in which the Environmental Management Trust facilitates co-ordination among governmental entities.

2.1.2 Assessment of the capacity of government and wider society to act on knowledge and implement legislation to protect and manage the environment

The concept of capacity defined as the "ability of a person or organisation to participate effectively in the process in which he/she/it is engaged" and encompasses the elements of world view/philosophy, culture, structure, adaptive culture and strategies, linkages, skills, knowledge and abilities and material resources was used to assess the capacity of government and wider society to act on knowledge and implement legislation to protect and manage the environment (More detailed description is available in Appendix 1 of the Progress Report).

Government departments

Of the seven government departments assessed (listing available in Appendix 2 of Progress Report), most respondents indicated that the Planning Department should lead on environmental mainstreaming. The Department has an established structure, an operational Interagency Physical Planning Committee, which includes senior officers from key agencies and meets frequently to review development proposals. The Department indicated that environmental impact assessments are conducted for development activities listed on Schedule 3 Section 26 of the Physical Planning Act 2006 and admitted that there was room for improvement in the environmental impact assessment process. Issues included improving mobilization of the community and tailoring the format to provide more useful feedback from the public for decision making.

Although the Pre-Planning Authority could be viewed as an appropriate structure for mainstreaming management control decisions, there are some shortcomings to consider:

- Under the law, planning decisions are supposed to be guided by a National Physical Development Plan. However, the current approved plan is obsolete and does not address issues of environmental mainstreaming.
- The Committee does not include a representative from the Solid Waste Department and the storage and collection of household refuse is not adequately accommodated in approved developments.

Many respondents indicated that enforcement under the planning law is lacking. The Planning Department reports that they are simply overwhelmed in this area and do not have enough personnel for monitoring and surveillance on planning permits.

Other structures worth noting include the established process for the preparation of Cabinet papers. This process normally includes a legal and financial assessment which may include reviews by government departments. It is proposed that environmental issues can be included at this strategic level of decision making through the introduction of an environmental assessment into this screening process.

Although the structures previously discussed can be instrumental in environmental mainstreaming, these structures, along with others identified in the legal and legislative framework for environmental mainstreaming have no established formal mechanism for sharing of information. The Draft Environmental Management and Conservation of Biodiversity Bill 2006 proposes to fill this gap, but at present, information sharing is left to relationships among individuals serving on these committees or working in the particular departments.

In terms of a world view/philosophy, respondents felt that existing structures and processes used to formulate plans and strategies demonstrate an existence of values, attitudes and beliefs that value peoples' contribution. (Note: key concepts used to define capacity are outlined in the introductory para to this section and the appendix). However, there is a need to improve skills in the facilitation of participatory processes in management of the environment through the use of tools such as stakeholder identification and analysis and the development and use of a participation strategy to ensure that the appropriate stakeholders are engaged in decision making at the relevant level.

All participants in this study indicated that a culture exists within their organizations for environmental mainstreaming. However, many indicated that there was a need to have more formal training on practical steps for environmental mainstreaming. Some of the participants suggested that there should be a formal needs assessment of the skills and training needed in the government for environmental mainstreaming and this should be used to inform a selection of training options. Skills for environmental mainstreaming are concentrated in agencies directly involved in the day-to-day management of natural resources (Conservation and Fisheries, National Park Trust) and in the Planning Department, while departments with indirect responsibility for management of natural resources (Environmental Health, Public Works and Tourist Board) and waste management (Solid Waste Department and Water and Sewerage) do not have them

The presence of a shared geographical information system (GIS) was highlighted as a key tool that would facilitate information sharing among key institutions engaged in the development planning process; however, most departments indicated that there was a need for additional technicians, technology, equipment, materials and finance to support effective implementation of environmental mainstreaming.

The ability for continuous adaptive management in these government organizations is restricted by established administrative procedures. The lengthy process for the formulation and approval of the National Climate Change Policy and the Draft Environmental Management and Conservation of Biodiversity Bill seems to demonstrate how inflexible the system can be to adapt to change in natural resource use.

It is noted that the ability for adaptive management approval is heavily influenced by the political will which is in turn enabled by the presence of a culture for environmental mainstreaming among elected officials.

Wider society

The civil society groupings in the environmental management in the BVI were initiated to address specific issues. Ten organizations were assessed (Appendix 1). In terms of structures, all organisations have structures established for basic management of their organizations. Organization management arrangements are not, however, made up in such a way as to enable the organizations to dedicate personnel to activities involving environmental mainstreaming.

Most of the organizations have small memberships or do not have a membership base and simply do not have personnel available to dedicate to environmental mainstreaming activities such as regular attendance at meetings or participation in the Planning Department's review of environmental impact assessments.

All organizations demonstrate the existence of a culture for environmental mainstreaming through the activities in which they are currently engaged. For example, some members of the Chamber of Commerce and Hotel Association have entered into a voluntary agreement to phase out the use of plastic bags and others (Bitter End Yacht Club and Road Town Wholesale Trading, for example) have made significant investments in greening their activities in the absence of fiscal incentives.

Most of the organisations indicated an understanding of the value of the participatory process in the implementation of environmental mainstreaming by active membership in the Project Oversight Group of this project and/or attendance and active participation in the stakeholder consultation.

The existence and operation of the organizations at this present time is an indication that the organizations have a demonstrated ability for continuous adaptive management in response to the changing environment. Two of the organizations were formed in the 1970s and three in the 1990s, and, as previously stated, some have amended their operations to voluntarily include green practices in response to patterns of natural resource use worldwide and market demands.

Five of the organizations are affiliated with regional or international networks from which they can access opportunities to build their capacity in environmental management issues. However, there is no local formal mechanism to exchange best practices and lessons learned among civil society organizations. Some organizations mentioned the existence of a grouping that informally facilitates sharing among a few organisations via a social network.

Generally, the state of knowledge about biodiversity, management issues, management approaches and livelihood aspects seem to be fairly good given the activities the organisations are involved in and the ease with which participants in the study were able to provide sound, considered recommendations for actions to implement environmental mainstreaming.

Organizations interviewed indicated an ability to source material resources for operation through a variety of mechanisms. The BVI Environmental Council lead a campaign that solicited thousands of dollars to pay for legal action all the way to the Court of Appeal. Green VI has been successful in writing project proposals to get grant funding to support the development of an environmental education strategy for the BVI, while Jost Van Dyke Preservation Society (JVD) accepts donations for their work in the preservation of the environment. JVD has 501c3 status in the United States and has a charitable non-profit structure that enables U.S. taxpayers (JVD's tourist base) to make U.S. tax-deductible contributions to support work on JVD. However, in spite of these successes, it should be noted that organizations in the United Kingdom Overseas Territories face a significant challenge in accessing funds. These organizations are not eligible for a number of international funding, for example United Nations Global Environmental Fund, by virtue of being a part of the United Kingdom and are also not eligible for many UK funding sources, such as the Lottery Funds.

2.1.3 Lessons learned from the review and scoping study

The following lessons are proposed from the exercise:

- Conducting the desk study prior to the focus group discussions and interviews provided useful context for discussions and analysis.
- Project Oversight Group members assisting in selection of persons and arranging meetings contributed to maximising time available for interviews.
- The structured individual interviews and focus group discussions were time consuming but useful in extracting specific critical information on environmental mainstreaming.
- Attempts at conducting interviews remotely via the telephone or by e-mail were not successful and hence more time should have been allocated to conducting interviews in the BVI.

2.2 Stakeholder consultation

The stakeholder consultation was conducted over a two day period and brought together over forty individuals from government departments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), public sector and business representatives. Facilitated discussions guided by issue papers, which gave the context for issues, were used to identify gaps, barriers and recommended actions for the implementation of environmental mainstreaming.

The gap identified at the strategic decision making level was the absence of policy to provide overall strategic guidance for the implementation of environmental mainstreaming in the BVI. Management control decision making is inhibited by a lack of information transfer among key government departments involved in management of natural resources. Finally, operational control decision making is inhibited by the high human migration rate, the lack of overall strategic direction which should provide actions to encourage environmental mainstreaming

such as fiscal incentives to industry partners and the inability to share best practices and lessons learned among stakeholders in the BVI. Detailed description of identified gaps is available in section 2.2.1.

There was one short term action identified at the strategic level, for expansion of the current scoping procedure for proposals to cabinet to include an assessment of environmental impact. Medium term actions address the lack of overall strategic guidance on environmental mainstreaming and identify six key policy documents to be developed and implemented. There were no long term actions identified, however, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the policies and associated plans can be viewed as long term actions in this context.

The task of improving communication and information exchange among key agencies involved in development planning and building approval was identified as the only action for management control decision making. This could be achieved in the short term without any action required at the strategic decision making level.

Most operational control decision making actions are geared towards building the capacity of those persons with responsibility for implementation of policies and plans to effectively execute their assignments. These actions can take place in the short term and could include a variety of approaches inclusive of training courses, mentorship programs and participation in action-learning projects.

A detailed listing of actions at the various conceptual levels of decision making is given in section 2.2.2

2.2.1 Key gaps and barriers identified to the implementation of environmental mainstreaming in decision making

The following identifies key gaps and barriers under the various conceptual levels of decision making.

Strategic decision making

- There is no overarching policy to guide environmental mainstreaming in the BVI.
- There is need for a comprehensive environmental education strategy with specific objectives, target audiences, messages and timelines to guide environmental education initiatives in the BVI.
- There is no approved, updated National Physical Development Plan to guide planning development approval.

Management control decision making

- There needs to be more effective transfer of information and expertise among government departments with responsibility for the management of natural resources.
- There is a need for a formal mechanism to transfer information and expertise among the committees with responsibility for evaluation and approval of development planning, namely the Technical Review Committee (sea beds), the Airport Authority (localised area in the flight path) and the Planning Authority (on land).

Operational control decision making

- BVI's high human migration rate needs to be taken into account when sensitising the local population on environmental mainstreaming as the resident population is in constant flux.
- There are currently no fiscal incentives to encourage industry partners to go green.
- Best practices and lessons learned in greening operations in the tourism industry in the BVI need to be more effectively disseminated among industry stakeholders.

2.2.2 Key actions identified for the implementation of environmental mainstreaming

The following identifies key short, medium and long term actions for the implementation of environmental mainstreaming under the various conceptual levels of decision making.

Strategic decision making

Short term action

- Include environmental implications in the current template for Cabinet papers.

Medium term actions

- Develop a sustainable development strategy for the BVI which:
 - is inclusive of:
 - a clear designation of roles and responsibilities;
 - an implementation plan which identifies concrete targets and simple steps that can be taken by government and civil society;
 - a monitoring and evaluation component to track progress and contribute to accountability;
 - incentives for the business community; and
 - capacity building initiatives selected via a needs assessment exercise.
 - is supported by education/training on sustainable development
 - is developed by a participatory approach;
 - builds upon key documents that have been developed, specifically the National Integrated Development Strategy (NIDS);
 - communicates to the political directorate in a manner which is user friendly;
 - is supported by legislation, for example, amendment to legalize the use of renewable sources of energy;
 - is supported by economic evaluation/ cost benefit analysis of key actions and linked to the annual budget;
 - addresses specifically the issues of waste management and energy conservation; and
 - improves the capacity for enforcement of laws concerning the management of the environment.

- Develop a communication strategy for environmental mainstreaming in the BVI to:
 - target the media, elected officials, developers, contractors, engineers, architects, children, Public Works Department, Tourism Industry, Boards of Directors of statutory bodies, financiers and insurers;
 - facilitate and/or create more effective dialogue and participatory planning among government, business, NGOs and the broader community;
 - use social media and current technology;

- encourage consumer driven demands for green products.
- Infuse greening into the Tourism Master Plan which is currently being updated by :
 - encouraging responsible behaviour by visitors / developing the concept of responsible tourism;
 - encouraging and incentivising green behaviour of stakeholders to protect and sustain the environment;
 - expanding the concept of “nature” in the tagline to include promoting BVI as a green destination;
 - establishing local certification standards that include green measures;
 - providing green criteria for development projects in the Tourism sector from design through development planning to operation;
 - promoting the sustainable use of natural resources and contributing to the preservation of traditional cultural practices in the BVI by encouraging local souvenir production;
 - encouraging stakeholders in the industry to use local agricultural produce through the establishment of networks among stakeholders in both the tourism and agricultural sectors; and
 - encouraging local participation in the industry.
- Develop and introduce a national solid waste management policy and plan with an emphasis on reducing, reusing and recycling.
- Develop a national waste water management policy and plan to include sewage disposal on land and sea.
- Develop and approve a National Physical Development Plan that takes into consideration greening issues.
- Update planning and building regulations to incorporate and encourage green standards in construction.
- Develop certification and standards for architects and contractors.

Management control decision making

Short term action

- Improve communication and information exchange among key agencies involved in development planning and building approval, specifically among the Planning Department, Building Authority, Airports Authority, Ministry of Natural Resources and Disaster Management.
- Explore and adapt, where possible, the OECS Environmental Education Strategy.

Operational control decision making

Short term actions

- Build the capacity of technicians to communicate.
- Build the capacity of stakeholders in the tourism industry in participatory planning and implementation of processes.
- Build the capacity for the implementation of best practices on greening in the industry by:
 - providing information from the BVI that substantiates the claim that greening

- operations save money and or generate revenue;
- establishing a forum for stakeholders to exchange lessons learned and experiences on greening; and
- encouraging the use of social media to exchange lessons learned and experiences on greening.
- Build the capacity of the Planning Department in the use of tools such as stakeholder identification and analysis to inform selection of review committees for effective assessment of planning proposals.
- Build awareness of the planning and building approval process among residents of the BVI.
- Build the capacity of developers and contractors to address practical green issues, for example sediment control.
- Build the capacity of financiers and insurance companies to support greening issues through their application and approval processes.

2.2.3 Lessons learned from the wider stakeholder consultation process

The following lessons are proposed from the exercise:

- The facilitated focus group discussion with the Project Oversight Group prior to the workshop was key in distilling the issues to be discussed at the wider stakeholder consultation.
- Findings from the review and scoping study of this project were useful in providing the context for discussions at the wider stakeholder consultation.
- The formal opening, inclusive of the technical presentations, and the issue papers provided a useful context for discussions.
- Facilitated discussions infused with various techniques enabled the distillation of relevant and specific gaps, barriers and actions for the implementation of environmental mainstreaming.
- The attendance of members of the Project Oversight Group at the consultation provided useful resource personnel to clarify issues at the discussions.
- The post-mortem meeting of the Project Oversight Group, chaired by the Governor contributed to clarifying actions.
- Stimulating further discussion among workshop participants and participants in the interviews and focus group discussions via Facebook was not successful, however a media report on the workshop stimulated discussion on environmental mainstreaming in the BVI.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Outputs

The following are outputs of this project.

- Progress report
- Workshop report
- Project website (<http://www.canari.org/envmainstreambvi.asp>)
- Facebook album (to be added)
- Blog of the Governor of the BVI
<http://blogs.fco.gov.uk/boydmcclarey/2012/02/28/protecting-the-golden-geese-sustainable-development-for-the-bvi/>

- Two news reports and a Facebook posting on the Stakeholder consultation
 - <http://www.bviplatinum.com/news.php?page=Article&articleID=1329999731>
 - <http://www.virginislandsnews.com/news/businesses-seen-as-a-key-element-for-greening-economy>
 - <http://www.facebook.com/notes/british-virgin-islands/remarks-by-the-deputy-premier-and-minister-for-natural-resources-and-labour-dr-t/10151333409095220>

3.2 Outcomes

An anticipated outcome of the project was that the project would contribute to an improved understanding of the economic value of the natural environment but there were several other outcomes. These include:

- improved awareness of the public on how the government works;
- improved knowledge on the planning and building approval process;
- improved understanding of the importance of communication in achieving environmental mainstreaming;
- stakeholders from government departments gained an appreciation of capacity gaps that could now be prioritised for action to enable implementation of environmental mainstreaming;
- sharing of best practices and lessons learned on environmental mainstreaming in the BVI;
- opportunity for stakeholders to share plans for environmental mainstreaming and identify synergies to achieving environmental mainstreaming; and
- publicity generated on environmental mainstreaming which can serve as a catalyst for the initiative.

4. PRIORITY ACTIONS

There are three priority immediate actions that can be taken to implement environmental mainstreaming in the BVI. These are:

- amending the template for Cabinet papers to include an environmental assessment as this does not require any modification of laws;
- building the capacity of all stakeholders to communicate on environmental mainstreaming issues; and
- approving the Draft Environmental Management and Conservation of Biodiversity Bill 2006 and the Draft National Climate Change Policy which respond to many gaps and barriers identified.

Medium term priority actions include:

- developing, via a participatory approach, a framework to provide strategic guidance on environmental mainstreaming in the BVI.
- updating and approving the various policy documents, such as the National Physical Development Plan and the Tourism Master Plan, that can contribute to implementing environmental mainstreaming; and

- formulating and implementing policies and plans, such as a National Solid Waste Management Plan and a National Waste Water Management Plan, to address gaps in the current legal and legislative framework for environmental mainstreaming;

5. KEY LESSONS LEARNED DURING THE PROCESS

The following key lessons were collated from the process:

- Conducting the desk study prior to the focus group discussions and interviews provided useful context for discussions and analysis.
- Project Oversight Group members assisting in selection of persons and arranging meetings contributed to maximising time available for interviews.
- Attempts at conducting interviews remotely via the telephone or by e-mail were not successful and hence more time should have been allocated to conducting interviews in the BVI.
- The facilitated focus group discussion with the Project Oversight Group prior to the workshop was key in distilling the issues to be discussed at the wider stakeholder consultation.
- Findings from the Review and Scoping study of this project were useful in providing the context for discussions at the wider stakeholder consultation.
- The formal opening, inclusive of the technical presentations, and the issue papers provided a useful context for discussions.

6. CONCLUSION

The study provided an analysis of the state of environmental knowledge, the legal capacity and the capacity of government and wider society to act on knowledge and implement legislation to protect and manage the environment to guide the identification of priority actions to implement environmental mainstreaming in the BVI. All priority actions can be achieved in the short and medium term. The medium term actions respond to a need to provide guidance at the strategic level of decision making.

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Appendix 1 Analysis of civil society capacity to act on knowledge and implement legislation to protect and manage the environment

Name of Organization	Purpose	Capacity assessment
Green VI	To work toward a greener, cleaner and Healthier BVI - demonstrate the principles of sustainable living through practical projects (see website greenvi.org)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formed in 2009. • Has a formal structure. • Legally registered in the BVI. • No membership base. Has a staff of 6. Staff trained in the art of glass blowing. • Executive Director has Masters in Industrial Administration, focus on waste management. • Not affiliated with any global or regional networks. • Executive Director is dynamic and displays advanced ability at networking with other local groupings/ organizations and promoting the interest of Green VI. • Currently engaged in recycling, clean energy campaign, plastic bag reduction campaign and formulating environmental education strategy for the BVI.
Association of Reef Keepers	Dedicated to promoting the conservation and preservation of the marine environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founded in the late 1990s. • Has a formal structure. • Membership has expertise for reef monitoring. • Coordinates annual "Reef check" for the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network. • First to run the "Reef check" programme in the Caribbean
BVI Heritage Conservation Group	See at http://www.bvihcq.com/mission_statement.shtml .	Provides information on development projects on its website (www.bvihcq.com)
Virgin Islands Environmental Council	To influence Government to withdraw support for a mega-resort development at Beef Island on the eastern end of Tortola.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formed in 1997. • Has 15 members. • Sub grouping of BVI Heritage Conservation Group. • Has a formal structure. • Pursued legal action against the Government: the Beef Island development case which marked the first

		<p>environmental and public-interest challenge to a government decision in the BVI.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated significant ability to mobilise funds to support cause. • Demonstrated significant ability to mobilise regional and international support for the cause. • Membership has specialist knowledge from a large base of individual professional members comprised of: charter yacht captains, environmental engineers, architects, marine biologists, environmental scientists, lawyers and cultural historians both from the BVI and abroad (http://www.islandlowdown.com/)
Worldhouse Caribbean	To combat and take responsibility for and further educate the greater population as to the importance of preserving the BVI's environment and natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established by two BVI islanders. • Not membership based. • One of the islanders has formal training in law and the other in business management. • Currently engaged in the plastic bag reduction campaign. • Islanders in this organisation have ability to negotiate agreements and stimulate support for environmental issues affecting the BVI.
Island Resources Foundation	To assist small islands in meeting the challenges of social, economic and institutional growth while protecting and enhancing their environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established as a non profit, environment-focused NGO in the U.S. Virgin Islands in 1972. • Implements projects throughout the Caribbean. • Has an office in BVI since 1999. • Currently drafting environmental profiles for the BVI.
Jost Van Dykes Preservation Society	Established for "the preservation of the history, cultural, land and marine environment, and heritage of Jost Van Dykes as an example of the environmental, social and cultural evolution of small	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched in the early 1990s. • Legally registered as not for profit in July 2004. • Has a formal structure. • Maintains an office and Director on JVD, one part-time caretaker for Sandy Cay, one part-time field/education assistant, and utilizes part time labour based on current

	islands in the Caribbean.” (see http://jvdps.org/about-us.)	<p>project needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • . • Currently engaged in educational and research programmes • Partnered with Island Resources Foundation to draft environmental profile for Jost Van Dyke • Involved in regional networks: including the Caribbean Waterbird Census (CWC) and a CANARI spear-headed DEFRA-funded project that has created a network among Caribbean UKOT National Trusts and conservation organizations
Bitter End Yacht Club	Family owned and operated water sport resort (http://beyc.com)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established in the 1970s. • Established utilising green practices for example rain water harvesting. • Awarded BVI Chamber of Commerce Green Award in 2011.
BVI Chamber of Commerce and Hotel Association	To actively promote a positive business and social environment for the benefit of the Territory while sustaining the unique advantages of the BVI. (see http://www.bviccha.org/.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership of 250 companies. • Currently holds membership in the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association and the Caribbean Association of Industry & Commerce.
Road Town Wholesale Trading		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employs over 400 people. • Operates 9 outlets. • Supports the alternative energy use lobby. • Partner in the plastic bag phase out initiative. • No formal environmental management policy but employs initiatives to green operations, for example installation of energy efficient equipment, low flush toilets and card board box recycling.