

1. NATIONAL PLANNING AND PUBLIC FINANCE

I. Aim

- (a) To pursue well-informed and well-planned strategic, economic and financial policies that promote sustainable development and a decent standard of living for the people of TCI.

II. Objectives

- (a) To have an up-to-date and internally consistent medium-term economic strategy.
- (b) To have a budgeting and accounting system that provides good financial control and management information; and places greater emphasis on performance.
- (c) To have appropriate risk management procedures.
- (d) To have a budgeting process with good macro-economic forecasts and realistic revenue and expenditure proposals.
- (e) To have a robust debt-management system.
- (f) To have a robust revenue base and prioritised expenditure to ensure affordable and prudent budgets.
- (g) To have the statistical capacity to provide reliable and timely information to inform development planning and economic management.

III. Action Plan

- (a) Develop a medium-term strategy paper for 2001-2006.
- (b) Implement COTGAR accounting and budgetary reform.
- (c) Address risk management as one context of the medium-term economic strategy.
- (d) Agree and implement with HMG borrowing policies and procedures, based on HMG suggested guidelines, that are prudent and timely.
- (e) Reform budget formulation to ensure internal consistency, and expenditure, revenue and debt financing consistency with overall macroeconomic conditions.

- (f) Co-ordinate capital expenditure plans over the medium term to maximize development opportunities, ensuring consistency with resource availability.
- (g) Continue the upgrading of the management and monitoring system for projects; both for Government projects, and foreign investment proposals.
- (h) Review and implement policy for the sale and lease of Crown land, including prudent utilization of the non-recurrent revenue received from these sales while facilitating access to land by Belongers (especially the poor) for housing and businesses.
- (i) Clarify and implement clear guidelines and procedures for the operation of the Reserve Fund, to avoid using capital revenue for recurrent expenditure, to link reserves to prudent debt management, and ensure that reserve levels are accumulated during high income periods to help maintain core expenditure during slow downs.
- (j) Identify new sources of revenue and ways of improving the efficiency of revenue collection within improved revenue and expenditure control.
- (k) HMG to keep UKOTS informed of the implications of any international trade developments that effect UKOTS trade and levels of import duty and thus Government revenue.
- (l) HMG to assist with identification of possible additional options for external grant funding, and for new sources of concessional development loan funding.
- (m) Continue to improve project management and accuracy of financial data on aid funded activities in close consultation with funding agencies; in particular the various forms of inkind aid provided by UK.
- (n) Revise subsidies, concessions and development incentives, to make them more cost-effective, economically efficient and consistent with current levels and disbursement of economic activity, and implement transparent guidelines for their application (link with 4.III.k)
- (o) Consider, approve and implement, recommendations of the National Standard of Living Assessment, seeking external assistance as appropriate.
- (p) Develop capacity of Statistics Unit to compile, tabulate and disburse data required for national and sectorial planning and policy analysis, as well as monitoring and management of development.
- (q) Ensure adequate resources are provided both from local and external sources for Statistics Unit and other concerned departments to undertake the 2001 Census.
- (r) Strengthen the internal audit process, including the appointment of appropriate staff.
- (s) Continue to improve the coordination of strategic policy formulation and implementation of development within TCIG; including closer monitoring of activities included in the Strategic Policy Document.
- (t) To further strengthen the process by which HMG keeps UKOTS informed of changes in international conventions and agreements, which will impact on the plans and policies of the UKOTS.
- (u) Establish the ASCYCUDA Unit with necessary dedicated staff, equipment and procedures, within Customs Department, in coordination with Statistics Unit and other users.
- (v) Establish a national customs tariff classification system consistent with international harmonized tariff classification systems.
- (w) Ensure that social objectives are incorporated into the planning process.

2. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

I. Aim

- (a) To develop a high-quality and properly resourced and affordable TCI public service which is efficient, effective and responsive to the needs of the TC Islanders.

II. Objectives

- (a) To have modernised public service management practices and procedures.
- (b) To have a developed and adequately rewarded pool of human resources required for a modern public service.
- (c) To have refined processes of policy formulation and implementation.
- (d) To have a process which measures, reports upon and searches for continuous improvement in the delivery of public services.

III. Action Plan

- (a) Adoption of a more participative, community-based form of policy formulation and development.
- (b) Review of alternative models of decentralisation of power, administrative control, resource allocation, and service delivery, including the possibility of local government.
- (c) Development and implementation of a Performance Management Programme incorporating performance indicators, service standards and performance appraisal by April 2001.
- (d) Creation of a modern, professional Human Resource Management function incorporating effective personnel, training and succession planning.
- (e) Implementation of an appropriate and affordable pay policy for the public sector, including regular Public Sector Pay Reviews, and consider introduction of Public Sector Pay policy to encompass Statutory Bodies
- (f) Develop greater accountability for the effective use of resources incorporating value for money audit studies and consider the introduction of appropriate legislation
- (g) Streamlining of procedures for communication with the general public, incorporating the “one-stop shop” approach, strengthen capacity of the Government Information Service (distribute policies from Custom and Immigration and similar departments to the public).
- (h) TCIG to update training needs-list and HMG to facilitate opportunities for appropriate training attachments to UK government departments and to assist with the identification of regional training opportunities.
- (i) Hold appropriate training for Managers in the Public Sector, including effective Decision-Making and delegation of authority.
- (j) Improve the integration of public service Training Programs and the links to the Scholarship Board, and encourage effective succession training.
- (k) Consider and implement options for improved island based administration/governance, including possible re-introduction of District Boards.

- (1) Review constraints and identify solutions to Government's ability to respond adequately to Public Accounts Committee and Audit Committee.

3. DISASTER MANAGEMENT

I. Aim

- (a) To minimize the damage wrought by natural and man-made disasters both at the time of the disaster and during the recovery phase.

II. Objectives

- (a) To have an Office of Disaster Management and Emergencies able to provide leadership and coordination in disaster management in the Turks and Caicos Islands.
- (b) To have disaster plans and procedures that are prepared, tested and kept up-to-date for hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, oil spills, fires and airport disasters, etc.
- (c) To have a Shelter Management programme.
- (d) To have a Community Disaster Planning programme in all the islands.
- (e) To have plans that are adequately resourced.
- (f) To have an effective system for assessing damage and needs following a severe hazard impact.
- (g) Where viable, have in place appropriate measures for mitigation and preparation.

III. Action Plan

- (a) The co-ordinator's office to identify, recommend and agree appropriate roles for Government Departments and other organizations, taking advantage of the UK Regional Advisor.
- (b) Prepare and test new plans, review existing plans and develop a National Disaster Management comprehensive plan.
- (c) Revise all existing shelter plans and, where necessary, modify and rehearse.
- (d) Organize community-based disaster preparedness groups, devise community focussed action plans and test these plans by means of simulation exercises.
- (e) Pass disaster legislation based on the University of West Indies/Caribbean Disaster Response Agency (UWI/CDERA) model.
- (f) Devise a system for disaster relief, which will effectively access the damage and assistance needed, and ensure a smooth and effective access to national, regional and international disaster relief.
- (g) Maintain a public information campaign, in collaboration with radio stations, for general public awareness and education throughout the year.
- (h) Identify training needs and conduct on-going Training Programmes.
- (i) Renovate the identified government building in Provo to house the Command Centre.

- (j) Identify/construct structurally sound emergency shelter for Grand Turk and to improve the physical conditions of existing shelters in the islands to acceptable standards including bathroom facilities.
- (k) Improve the conditions of canals and drainage systems in the country so they can handle flood conditions.
- (l) Host the 2001 Meeting of the Board of Directors of CDERA.
- (m) Review the need for a domestic fire service, clearly identifying the islands to be covered, the institutional arrangements and the cost of introducing and operating.

1. INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

I. Aim

- (a) To ensure that the necessary standard and distribution of infrastructure required for the sustainable development of TCI, is both in place and adequately maintained.

II. Objectives

- (a) Have an up to date National Physical Plan relevant to the developmental needs of TCI.
- (b) Have an adequately resourced PWD with clearly defined roles
- (c) Have in place cost effective mechanisms for the provision of the required infrastructure, using an appropriate mix of Government and private sector initiatives.

III. Action Plan

- (a) Take forward the development of an integrated transport policy (covering land, sea and air) for consideration by TCIG.
- (b) To review the role and resource needs of the Public Works Department and implement necessary capacity building reforms.
- (c) As a priority ensure that appropriate resources are made available to ensure the most effective use of technical assistance inputs to PWD.
- (d) Consider and make recommendations to TCIG on the role of the private sector in the provision of infrastructure.
- (e) Update the National Physical Development Plan (NPDP) ensuring full inter-departmental participation and community consultation.
- (f) Ensure that the Department of Physical Planning has sufficient staff in place to both participate in the NPDP and perform its other functions, including making effective use of the planning and development regulations already in place.
- (g) HMG to fund an independent review of the design problems associated with the Grand Turk Sea Defences to identify viable solutions, ensuring local experts is consulted; TCIG to remove the metal railing and start upgrading the groynes along the remaining coastline.
- (h) Develop Policies and regulatory procedures for Utilities in TCI, with assistance of HMG, and by sharing experience among UKOTS.
- (i) Ensure that all parcels of land have a minimum access to allow emergency vehicles and garbage trucks to reach them conveniently.
- (j) Minimize conflicting points in road layouts.
- (k) Ensure road layouts that facilitate effective use of available land and ensure efficient movement of transport around the islands.
- (l) Provide water channel drains along roads, particularly in areas prone to flooding.

- (m) Plan adequate road width to allow future widening of main roads, and accommodation of services and other infrastructure in the road reserves.
- (n) Give priority to pedestrian and cyclist movement by providing separate lanes for their use.

5. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND DIVERSIFICATION

I. Aim

- (a) To achieve greater functional and geographical diversification of economic activity, so as to reduce TCI's economic vulnerability and to spread the benefits of economic growth more widely among its inhabitants.

II. Objectives

- (a) To have active and effective involvement by TC Islanders in all levels and areas of business activities on all the inhabited islands.
- (b) To have a dynamic private sector in which new industries and business activities flourish.
- (c) To be competitive in a range of niche financial sector activities.
- (d) To have dynamic and successful small businesses.
- (e) To have a geographically diversified tourism industry that maximizes the positive linkages with the rest of the economy.

III. Action Plan

- (a) Establish a Task Force to undertake studies for the implementation of viable diversification opportunities, including Internet services, and e-commerce opportunities; and facilitate implementation of recommendations.
- (b) Institutionalise inter-Departmental/Ministry/Agency planning meetings for concerted action.
- (c) Maintain Public/Private Sector Consultation through a variety of existing organizations and fora.
- (d) Fully establish and sit in operation the Small Business Enterprise Development Unit within TCInvest and expand training and advisory programmes throughout the country.
- (e) Implement Executive Council decision on Credit Unions and enact legislation to promote savings and businesses, e.g. Chattel Mortgage Legislation, Co-operative and Building Society Legislation
- (f) Review options for the establishment of a TCI Development Bank.
- (g) Consider institutional changes and funding for the implementation of the Tourism Strategic Plan.
- (h) Regarding the impact of tourism in the TCI:
 - consider restricting the expansion of all-inclusive hotels in the Islands;
 - put in place programmes to ensure local population trained to advance to managerial positions in tourism industry.
- (i) Consider introduction of tourism and language training as part of the formal school curriculum.
- (j) TCInvest to complete with HMG support on a priority basis a review of investment procedures and policies (link with 1.III.m). Executive Council to review and implement agreed recommendations.
- (k) Review TCInvest to be completed by mid-2001 and recommendations for implementation to be considered.

- (l) Evaluate opportunities to increase TCI presence in select international market places, including establishing a presence in London or Brussels, and developing closer trading and economic links with countries in the region.
- (m) Establish a Government Web site.
- (n) Ensure TCIG ownership of the “.tc” domain name.
- (o) HMG to report on the scope for the extension of Bilateral Investment Protection Treaties to TCI and the other Overseas Territories.

6. OFFSHORE FINANCIAL SECTOR

I. Aim

- (a) To ensure the financial services sector is viable and regulated to accepted international standards.

II. Objectives

- (a) To have a legislative and institutional framework to bring TCI into line with the highest internationally accepted standards.

III. Action Plan

- (a) Ensure compliance with the requirements of the White Paper on Overseas Territories, and in particular to ensure TCI meets internationally accepted standards and best practices on financial regulation.
- (b) Develop a detailed implementation plan and timetable to address all KPMG recommendations by end of 2001.
- (c) Implement the three priority recommendations from the KPMG review of financial regulations by 30 September 2001:
 - introduce and implement legislation for the establishment of an independent regulatory authority;
 - any necessary enhancement to TCI laws and systems to combat money laundering;
 - introduce legal powers (compulsory powers) that would allow regulatory authorities to obtain key information, and share this with overseas regulators in order to assist their investigations.
- (d) Ensure that the independent regulatory authority, while remaining operationally independent, is accountable to LegCo for the use of its resources including licence revenue and expenditure through a management board and the annual budget exercise.
- (e) TCIG to provide adequate support for the marketing of TCI as a financial centre maintain close liaison and cooperation with the local industry.
- (f) UK to continue to support the negotiations between the UKOTS and OECD (and others) over 'harmful tax competition' and where necessary seek transitional assistance to help UKOTS to restructure their economies as a result of these external initiatives.
- (g) If the forthcoming FATF examination concludes that the TCI is compliant with the FATF 40 principles, the TCI to request HM Treasury's support for TCI to be included in the UK's list of jurisdictions with equivalent anti-money laundering legislation (and lists operated by other FATF member states).
- (h) HMG to continue to provide consultancies, secondment of staff and long term technical assistance to TCIG to continue the development of the financial services sector.

7. NATURALISATION, IMMIGRATION, WORKFORCE AND POPULATION POLICY

I. Aim

- (a) To ensure that TCI has the population and workforce required for the sustainable development of the country in a harmonious manner beneficial to all inhabitants.

II. Objectives

- (l) To have in place population, naturalization, immigration and work force policies, that are consistent with and facilitate the long term developmental objectives of TCI and adherence to international human rights objectives.
- (m) To have in places the necessary information and procedures that allows meaningful monitoring of population and workforce developments within TCI.

III. Action Plan

- (n) Participate in ongoing consultation between HMG and UKOTS regarding the legislation and administration necessary to implement the offer of British citizenship to BDT citizens.
- (o) TCI authorities to improve capacity to identify the size and categories of the illegal immigrant population.
- (p) TCI authorities to take steps to prosecute residents engaged in or facilitating illegal immigration activities.
- (q) TCI authorities to strengthen implementation of immigration policies and procedures, HMG to assist from an international security stand point and with the provision of seconded immigration staff to assist with training and institutional development.
- (r) Follow up implementation of recommendations of the Manchip Report on the Immigration Department.
- (s) Evaluate current initiatives and develop action plans for managing and minimizing the illegal flow of migrants; in particular from Haiti, both in dialogue with the Haitian authorities and as part of a tripartite action with USA and Bahamas; and identify how UK can assist.
- (t) Evaluate current initiatives and develop action plans for managing the flow of legal migrants to better ensure that the numbers and skill-mix reflect the developmental needs of TCI including strengthening the computerization of the databases both for immigration and labour statistics to provide improved information on migration, workforce etc.
- (u) Monitor and enforce the training commitments in development agreements, and link them more closely to the approval of further work visas including; ensuring that enforcement is phased in to avoid unnecessary disruptions.
- (v) Develop a population policy, as an integral part of the medium term strategic visioning exercise, that is consistent with the strategic development objectives of TCI and will help guide the formation of relevant and consistent labour, immigration and other policies.

8. SOCIAL SERVICE DELIVERY

I. Aim

- (a) To have a healthy and educated population with the ability to contribute effectively to the sustainable social, cultural, economic and political development of TCI.
- (b) To have the capacity to effectively address the particular needs of vulnerable groups within the community.

II. Objective

- (a) To have a level of access, equity and quality in the provision of health, education and other social services taking due consideration of the impact of demographic changes and consumer expectations and demand.

III. Action Plan

- (a) Establish an inter-sectoral Task Force comprising of representatives from all relevant sectors to identify and assess the conditions within the social sectors, which are having adverse effects on health status.
- (b) Develop and implement a short-term action plan to meet the needs of vulnerable groups including the elderly, mentally and physically challenged, women and protection of children in general.
- (c) Develop medium and long-term plans for health service delivery consistent with the proposed population policy.
- (d) Implement the National Nutrition Plan in accordance with Executive Council approval.
- (e) Consider and implement approved recommendations of the Health Sector Development Strategy consultancy, seeking external assistance as appropriate.
- (f) To provide further support for the development of the health information management system.
- (g) To re-examine the current level of user fees for social services and make a determination whether these fees are appropriate; keeping in mind the needs of vulnerable groups.
- (h) Review options for greater private sector, NGO and community participation in the provision of social services.
- (i) Maintain an active programme of AIDS/HIV public awareness and encourage responsible behaviour to minimize the impact of the disease; and FCO to provide assistance with this programme.

- (j) Explore the feasibility of a national health insurance scheme to improve the financing of health services.
- (k) Strictly implement the policy approved by Executive Council for medical treatment abroad to ensure that medical treatment costs are contained within available budgets and does not threaten government's financial health.
- (l) TCIG to provide FCO with details of the catastrophic referral cases to UK, and FCO to see if additional numbers can be sent.
- (m) Develop, consider and implement a Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan for TCI, with technical assistance from external funding sources.
- (n) Implement the recommendation of Executive Council on Housing Accommodation for the Homeless and Mentally Challenged Welfare Recipients.
- (o) In consultation with the relevant organizations, develop a comprehensive Social Welfare Policy and Plan that would provide guidelines for the effective delivery of Social Welfare Services, to the same standard as the Convention of the Rights of the Child; and HMG to provide technical assistance with this effort.
- (p) To review, amend, formulate, enact and consolidate a Social Welfare Ordinance incorporating all the current legislation relevant to the delivery of Social Welfare Services.
- (q) Revise the organizational structure of the Social Welfare Department to cater for greater specialization for the effective delivery of Social Welfare.
- (r) Review and consider options for the establishment of a Residential home for Fostered and Abused children.
- (s) Develop a comprehensive plan of action for the develop of youth to ensure they are able to participate as active and constructive members of society.
- (t) Ensure the effective implementation of the 5-year Education Development Plan
- (u) Expand and improve physical facilities to cater for anticipated class sizes and for a wider range of subjects, including extra-curricular activities.
- (v) Implement a revised and expanded curriculum in the schools, enhance the professional knowledge and skills of teachers through a staff development programme and design a programme of training for specialist teachers.
- (w) Devise and initiate a programme of management training for head teachers, and facilitate further training to graduate level.
- (x) Initiate a programme of training for all teachers in counseling including teaching strategies to support children with special education and learning needs.
- (y) TCCC to design and implement computer science programmes related to the practical requirements of business, commerce and government.

- (z) TCCC to undertake a needs analysis of the wider economic, social, cultural and commercial needs of the TCI community and formulate programmes for delivery to equip citizens with the required skills.
- (aa) TCCC to engage in research into the culture and heritage of the Turks and Caicos Islands and organise informational material for use in schools and for information for visitors.
- (bb) Undertake to make the programmes at the Community College more accessible to a wider section of the community by having more flexible entry requirements.
- (cc) Engage in reciprocal partnerships between the community and the Community College to enlist support for its activities and programmes, and to meet the articulated needs of individuals, groups and organisations within the community.
- (dd) Strengthen educational linkage between businesses and other organizations and schools and conduct wider public discussions on educational policy and practice as well as about the programmes offered at the Community College.
- (ee) Design and provide in service education and training programmes for teachers and the business and professional communities.
- (ff) Prepare a register of all local employers, develop a career guidance service, and strengthen and expand work experience programmes for college students.

9. HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

I. Aim

- (a) To promote and protect human rights to the highest attainable standards.

II. Objectives

- (a) Exercise in TCI human rights policies in line with internationally accepted standards applying to TCI.
- (b) Meet reporting obligations under UN human rights treaties in a timely and efficient manner.
- (c) Meet obligations on human rights under the Constitution.

III. Action Plan

- (a) Maintain the right of individual petition to the European Court of Human Rights.
- (b) Remove reference in Section 68(1) of the Constitution to capital punishment.
- (c) Put in place structures to ensure timely reporting to Committees on International UN Treaties.
- (d) Action as appropriate by HMG and TCIG to implement White Paper provisions, bearing in mind TCI government motion No 2 of 1999.
- (e) Review resource requirements within relevant departments to meet treaty reporting obligations.

10. POLICING MATTERS

I. Aim

- (a) To ensure an environment in which the citizenry can peacefully go about their legal activities without fear of threat to person and property from either illegal activities or unwarranted intrusion from the law enforcement agencies.

II. Objectives

- (a) To have an efficient and effective police force.

III. Action Plan

- (a) Continue implementation of Police Development Project.
- (b) Adopt agreed recommendations of 1999 report of Overseas Territories Police Adviser; including the recruitment and retention of suitably qualified local officers.
- (c) Monitor crime situation in Providenciales to ensure appropriate mix and level of resources.
- (d) Improve criminal intelligence and investigation capacity largely by ensuring that the TCI's input to and use of the Overseas Territories Regional Criminal Intelligence System (OTRCIS), White Collar Crime Investigation Team, the Caribbean Customs Law Enforcement Council (CCLEC) and local intelligence systems are fully staffed and resourced locally.

NEED TO CHECK (d) AGAINST UK TEAMS VERSION?????/

- (e) Consider ways for police to influence the introduction of crime prevention features being designed into new buildings, hotels, etc.
- (f) Review provision of forensic services.
- (g) Identify infrastructure needs and resources of police TCI-wide and review options for its provision.
- (h) Review system of Management/maintenance Budgeting and replacement of Police Vehicles.
- (i) Keep Police Management informed of new development projects impacting on law and order.
- (j) Implementation of Corporate Business Plan.
- (k) Consider and implement, where appropriate, recommendations contained in the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Community Policing.

11. DRUGS

I. Aim

- (a) To minimize the abuse of drugs within the community, and the transshipment of drugs through TCI.

II. Objectives

- (a) To have an effective drug interdiction capability.
- (b) To be an active contributor and participant in regional drugs programmes.
- (c) To have a comprehensive and effective drug education, demand reduction and rehabilitation programme.
- (d) To combat drug trafficking in a manner that acts as a real deterrent.

III. Action Plan

- (b) Participate fully in international and regional efforts to cooperate against drug trafficking in the Caribbean (eg Barbados Plan of Action, EU Caribbean Drugs Initiative, Project Management Office (PMO) for Maritime Cooperation and Training).
- (c) Notify UNDCP Caribbean Coordination Mechanism of all drugs-related projects on a regular basis.
- (d) Establish and resource a joint national agency headquarters for the coordination of maritime counter-drugs interdiction operations, TCIG to send a request to DICD/FCO to help with up to £20,000 set-up funding, and develop necessary project proposal to be worked up with advice from PMO.
- (e) Participate fully in regional counter-drugs interdiction exercises.
- (f) Liaise with international and regional organizations (eg UNDCP) to minimize drug abuse within the community.
- (g) Expand and strengthen rehabilitation programmes.
- (h) Develop a drug education and eradication programme that involves the entire community.
- (i) Develop a more integrated approach between all concerned authorities to control drug trafficking, in particular from Haiti.
- (j) HMG to assist with the expansion of the sniffer-dog programme.

12. PRISONS

I. Aim

- (a) To ensure that a prison sentence is a sufficient deterrent to illegal activity while encouraging the rehabilitation of prisoners to facilitate their successful reintegration into society after serving their term.

II. Objectives

- (h) To maintain internationally acceptable standards and practices of custodial care.
- (i) To operate a programme to help inmates gain the necessary skills to help them to re-enter the community with the ability to gain productive employment.

III. Action Plan

- (b) Ensure that adequate provision is made in the TCIG budget for:
 - maintenance of the prison estate,
 - local, regional and UK staff training,
 - prison equipment and its use and maintenance
 - two staff to be reassessed annually in UK as control and constraint instructors
 - mutual support staff exchanges and annual superintendent's conference
- (c) Ensure that the Superintendent of Prisons reports monthly to the Governor and the Minister using the format prepared by the Overseas Territories Prisons Adviser.
- (d) Identify and implement agreed action points arising from OT Prison Advisors Report, especially the continuation of rehabilitation efforts.
- (e) Continue to develop the skills training programmes at the Prison to ensure that inmates leave with skills and aptitudes that will facilitate their productive reintegration into society and so lessen the likelihood of repeat offending.

13. LEGAL ISSUES

I. Aim

- (e) To ensure the rule of law and maintain a high standard of administration of Justice and effective international co-operation.

II. Objectives

- (m) Maintain in TCI laws and a system of justice, which meet the needs of the expanding economy and increasingly complex social conditions.

III. Action Plan

- (a) Ensure that the benefits of the Law Revision Project are sustained, agree a policy for sale/distribution of printed volumes and consider future distribution by electronic means.
- (b) Continue modernisation of outdated laws and procedures.
- (c) Maintain database of Laws of TCI and produce revised editions as and when necessary.
- (c) HMG to develop with TCIG a framework to finance international co-operation in exceptional cases.
- (d) With HMG assistance, strengthen capacity of AG's Chambers to deal with the increasing commercial legal work load on a timely basis.
- (e) Ensure Government officials are familiar with all the laws and regulations which guide their operations and that they have the capacity to implement and enforce these regulations.

14. ENVIRONMENT

I. Aim

- (b) To ensure that the fragile environment is managed in a sustainable way and continues to contribute and support the livelihoods of the people of TCI.

II. Objectives

- (d) To have within Government the appropriate, applicable and affordable environmental policies and processes which support the sustainable management of the environment.
- (e) To have adequate protection and management of coastal and terrestrial habitats, and inshore and offshore fisheries to ensure sustainable utilization of the resources.
- (f) To have the capacity to adhere to the obligations of applicable regional and international environmental treaties and agreements.

III. Action Points

- (a) Co-ordination of a team to address issues outlined in the UK White Paper Document with respect to Environmental Protection, and the facilitation of an Environmental Charter for the OTs.
- (b) Outline and agree administrative/financial mechanisms by which the newly formed National Park Service is to be govern
- (c) Institutional Arrangements, roles, responsibility and reporting of DECR, CRMP, & the National Trust needs to be clearly outlined in an effort to utilize scarce resources and avoid further duplications.
- (d) Strengthen the institutional capacity and legislative framework for the management of the terrestrial, coastal and marine environments by the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources, the National Parks Service and TC National Trust.
- (e) Strengthen the monitoring and control of sand mining in the TCI, focusing on the most critically used areas first, i.e. Providenciales, Grand Turk, and South Caicos.
- (f) Consult with DFID towards the drafting and implementation of a Marine Resources Management Plan, with particular emphasis on developing and maintaining viable and sustainable industries which depend on the marine resources of TCI.
- (g) Adoption of the Environmental Policy by the TCI
- (h) Provide the environmental input into the formulation of the National Physical Development Plan.
- (i) Incorporate into national legislation relevant multilateral Agreements extended to the TCI (utilize FCO and CITES Secretariat for assistance to implement) eg CITES, MARPOL, CBD.
- (j) Review of Guidelines for EIA procedures that will incorporate a Strategic Environmental Assessment approach to development.
- (k) Consideration of provisions for public participation in the EIA process.

- (l) Provide environmental input to the development of a Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan for TCI.

15. AVIATION ISSUES

I. Aim

- (a) To ensure that the TCI meets internationally required standards of safety and security and maintains a safe, properly regulated and resourced aviation sector.

II. Objectives

- (a) Meet ICAO Aviation Security standards.
- (b) Meet ICAO Aviation Safety requirements

III. Action Plan

- (a) Bring the TCI National Aviation Security Programme up to date.
- (b) Install hold baggage screening, and make adequate provision for necessary staffing.
- (c) Improve baggage reconciliation.
- (d) Apply security measures to cargo on international flights from the TCI.
- (e) In collaboration with the review of Civil Aviation in UKOTS, undertake a comprehensive review of all aspects of the Civil Aviation sector within TCI, including options for an Airport Authority, and develop relevant strategic plans.
- (f) Implement Aviation Safety Action Plan.
- (g) Ensure timely appointment of key operational staff to ensure the country is upgraded to full Category 1 status.
- (h) Investigate options for charging navigational fees from international flights over TCI to assist with the maintenance of navigational aids.
- (i) Revise the 1993 Aviation Master plan as part of the National Transport Study.

16. MARITIME ISSUES

I. Aim

- (a) To comply with internationally recognised shipping, fishing and maritime safety practices.

II. Objectives

- (p) Have a self reliant and self sustaining Category II Shipping Register.
- (q) To have all maritime boundaries properly defined

III. Action Plan

- (b) Implement the recommendations of the Hamilton Report on shipping standards, including consideration of resourcing requirements for the Department's presence on Providenciales.
- (c) Negotiate, finalise and implement maritime boundary delimitation agreements with Bahamas, Haiti and Dominican Republic, with the assistance of HMG.
- (d) Accede to the relevant shipping and maritime conventions, in consultation with Civil Aviation Department and DECR, and ensure local maritime legislation is in place to implement them.

17. TELECOMMUNICATIONS ISSUES

I. Aim

- (a) To ensure a telecommunications system which provides TCI with a modern, up-to-date and cost effective service to all inhabitants.

II. Objectives

- (a) To have a modern telecoms service which ensures high speed and quality voice, data and internet access at a competitive price to all inhabited islands.
- (b) To have the capacity to monitor developments in telecommunications industry and ensure that Government has the capacity to provide the necessary regulation without restricting the ability of the private sector to provide a high quality service.

III. Action Plan

- (a) Continue to review the Telecommunications Policy Document.
- (b) Conduct a comprehensive market analysis to determine the level of liberalization that TCI can sustain.
- (c) Introduce competitive telecommunications legislation, ensuring a phased opening up of the telecoms industry to provide consumers with a cost effective service while not threatening the long term viability of the industry.

18. PLANS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

I. Aim

- (a) To ensure that TCI maintains a constitutional framework relevant to the needs of HMG and of the country and reflecting the aspirations of the majority of Belongers.

II. Objectives

- (a) To maintain the constitutional framework of TCI to reflect modern expectations and standards of governance as laid out in the White Paper, based on a recognition of mutual responsibilities and obligations.

III. Action Plan

- (b) Conduct a full, open and public constitutional review, ensuring that the aspirations of Belongers are fully reflected.
- (c) Maintain an effective, accountable and open government and an impartial and efficient public service.