



Greening the Economy of the Turks and Caicos

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We would particularly like to thank the people who volunteered their time to learn facilitation skills and methods and then work with us to deliver a packed two day workshop.

They formed a great team

Thank you.



The volunteer facilitation team relaxing after 3 days of very hard work

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Contents

Executive Summary	1
1 Introduction	3
1.1 Purpose of the project	3
1.2 The TCI Green Economy Project	3
1.3 Research aims and Approach	4
1.4 About this report	7
2 The future of the TCI	8
2.1 The future that TCI people want...	8
2.2 Island by island visions for 2030...	9
3 The context for Greening the Economy	13
3.1 Greening the economy	13
3.2 Benefits a healthy environment provides	15
3.3 Systems connections and links	15
3.4 Trends and changes	16
3.5 The state of the natural environment.	17
4 Establishing TCI as a Green Economy - priorities for action planning	24
4.1 TCI strategic and island specific, sustainable development and spatial planning	24
4.2 Funds, capacity, knowledge and skills to manage the natural environment better (for NGO and Government)	28
4.3 Enhancing environmental understanding and education at all levels	32
4.4 Sustainable behaviour	34
4.5 NGO and government working together	36
4.6 Waste management and recycling	37
4.7 Sustainable energy	39
5 Other priorities for Greening the Economy	42
5.1 Strengthening the development approval process	42
5.2 TCI Environmental Audit and Action Plan	43
5.3 Greening Tourism and influencing the current Tourism Strategy	45
5.4 Robust environmental and planning laws, implementation, and equitable and fair enforcement.	47
6 Maintaining momentum	49
6.1 Stakeholder participation and community involvement to influence key decisions	49
6.2 New Green Economy working group	50

6.3	New environmental professional and independent NGO	51
6.4	Embedding and establishing a green economy/sustainability ethos in government and across sectors	53
6.5	Mobilising and inspiring people who care about the environment	53
	Annex 1 Group Members	56
	Annex 2 Directory of offers	57
	Annex 3 Next Steps - Action Plans	60
	A. Action on Priorities for establishing TCI as a Green Economy	60
	B. Action to maintain momentum	69

Executive Summary

The Turks and Caicos Island (TCI) Green Economy Project has been funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) managed by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and delivered by Dialogue Matters. The Green Economy project is about helping TCI organisations work together to develop ways of integrating the environment into strategic decisions to ensure that the people who live here, alongside business, and nature, thrive over the long term. The project aims to help the TCI to:

- Understand the economic value of, and dependences on, their natural environment
- Understand the threats and risks
- Identify solutions to enable the environment to be mainstreamed and properly integrated into strategic decisions



The United Nations Environment Programme describes a Green Economy as follows:

'A green economy results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities'.

Dialogue Matters' approach has been to facilitate a constructive dialogue by identifying what is already working and going in the right direction and what further action is needed. The Project had four phases:

- 1 A desk top literature review
- 2 Initial stakeholder and community engagement via interviews, informal discussions, drop in workshops and an online questionnaire
- 3 A two day workshop with senior decision makers, community leaders and environmental specialists
- 4 Final reporting

In Phase 2 people expressed that there is an urgent need for a widely agreed vision for the future of the TCI to guide action and change. To help towards this we asked people to imagine that it was 2030 and they were travelling around delighted with what they saw and to share their visions which included:

In 2030...

"Beautiful by nature" is no longer just a brand but a clear statement of our core values.

We recognise the importance of the natural environment for humans and nature and understand its vulnerability. That knowledge is embedded into society, the decisions we make and action we take. We depend on our local environment for many benefits including food and clean water, cultural and economic opportunities, and mental and physical wellbeing. These benefits are enjoyed by all."

Informed by phases 1 and 2, participants in the main workshop (phase 3) explored a range of topics and prioritised the following for detailed discussion and action planning:

- TCI strategic, and island specific, sustainable development and spatial planning
- Funds, capacity, knowledge and skills to manage the natural environment better (for NGO and Government)
- Enhancing environmental understanding and education at all levels
- Encouraging sustainable behaviour
- Non-Government Organisations (NGO) and government working together
- Waste management and recycling
- Sustainable energy

To try to ensure that the process would lead to real action, a Green Economy Working Group has been initiated and first met in January 2015. A website has been set up to provide participants and others with the outputs from the dialogue and engagement processes. This can be viewed at: <http://tcigreeneconomy.weebly.com>

Other priorities for maintaining momentum include:

- Stakeholder participation and community involvement to influence key decisions
- A new environmental, professional, and independent NGO
- Finding ways to embed and establish a green economy/sustainability ethos in government and across sectors

The majority of this report is based on the outcomes from the three phases of the project. However, where appropriate we have made additional suggestions. In particular, we found considerable interest and concern about the environment amongst citizens and suggest that a key role of the new NGO will be to mobilise and coordinate this into constructive action. Also for the NGO to be seen to be working on behalf of everyone, we suggest that the governance group is a 50:50 mix of Belongers and resident immigrants.

This initial project on greening the TCI economy can only do so much. We hope it serves as a catalyst for people to feel more positive, realise that good work is happening, see that many other people are concerned, and recognise that by working together they can make a difference and reap the benefits a green economy would bring to the TCI.

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the project



The Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) are both a living and working landscape and a place of unique beauty and rich wildlife. Over recent decades, tourism development has brought prosperity for many and a rapidly increasing population. However, the environment that draws tourists and new business to the TCI is at risk. The Green Economy project is about helping TCI organisations work together to develop ways of integrating the environment into strategic decisions to ensure that people who live here, alongside business, and nature, thrive over the long term.

The United Nations Environment Programme describes a Green Economy as follows:

'A green economy results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities'.¹

For a particular community it is a shared endeavour between citizens, stakeholders, and public bodies to improve wealth and employment whilst protecting and investing in nature. The investment in the environment includes:

- Reducing carbon emissions and pollution
- Enhancing energy and resource efficiency
- Preventing the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem benefits

As the health of the environment improves, there is enhancement for people, places, and long term economic wellbeing. Green Economies result from joint working, joined up strategy, public and private investment, and policy and regulation reforms.

1.2 The TCI Green Economy Project

Background

This project came about when the TCI Ministry for Environment and Home Affairs heard about the 'Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies Environmental Mainstreaming Programme'. The programme, now called the Green Economy Initiative, is funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and managed by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). The programme aims to help UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) to:

¹ www.unep.org/greeneconomy/AboutGEI/WhatIsGEI/tabid/29784/Default.aspx

- Understand the economic value of, and dependences on, their natural environment
- Understand the threats and risks
- Identify solutions to enable the environment to be mainstreamed and properly integrated into strategic decisions



Green Economy projects have been piloted in Anguilla, the Falklands and British Virgin Islands and in Spring 2014 the TCI Ministry for Environment secured Cabinet Approval for a TCI Green Economy Project. Once the Ministry had initiated the project, the Department for Environment and Maritime Affairs (DEMA) provided practical support in the form of rooms for meetings, background information, and staff who trained as small group facilitators and helped the professional team facilitate the main workshop.

A Project Oversight Group (POG) was formed, comprising eight senior people from tourism, business, government, recreation, and environment. They helped to scope the context for the project,

identify participants, and provide initial thoughts on priorities (for the POG membership, please see Annex 1 Annex 1). JNCC contracted Dialogue Matters to deliver the project and Kathleen Wood provided logistics and administration in the TCI.

Aims

The TCI Green Economy Project aimed to help stakeholders identify the short, medium and long-term actions necessary to establish a common understanding and to mainstream the environment into the planning processes and strategic decisions of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The POG identified the initial list of stakeholders to be invited to the main workshop. This included interests, sectors and different types of organisations (Government, Non-Government Organisations (NGO), Business) and TCI Communities. The workshop was facilitated to help participants share understanding about:

- How people depend on the natural environment for social, economic and wellbeing
- The role and value of the natural environment to the TCI and for its own sake
- The risks to the health of the natural environment and the benefits people derive from it
- The best ways to enable the environment to be mainstreamed and integrated into strategic decisions

1.3 Research aims and Approach

From our perspective as Dialogue Matters researchers and facilitators, a key aim was to make a real difference to the TCI. Crucially we want this project to result in a legacy of fresh momentum and a 'can do' attitude towards achieving a green

economy that fosters social and economic wellbeing, whilst valuing and enhancing the health of the natural environment.

Our approach

We specialise in environmental dialogue and participation, and design and facilitate

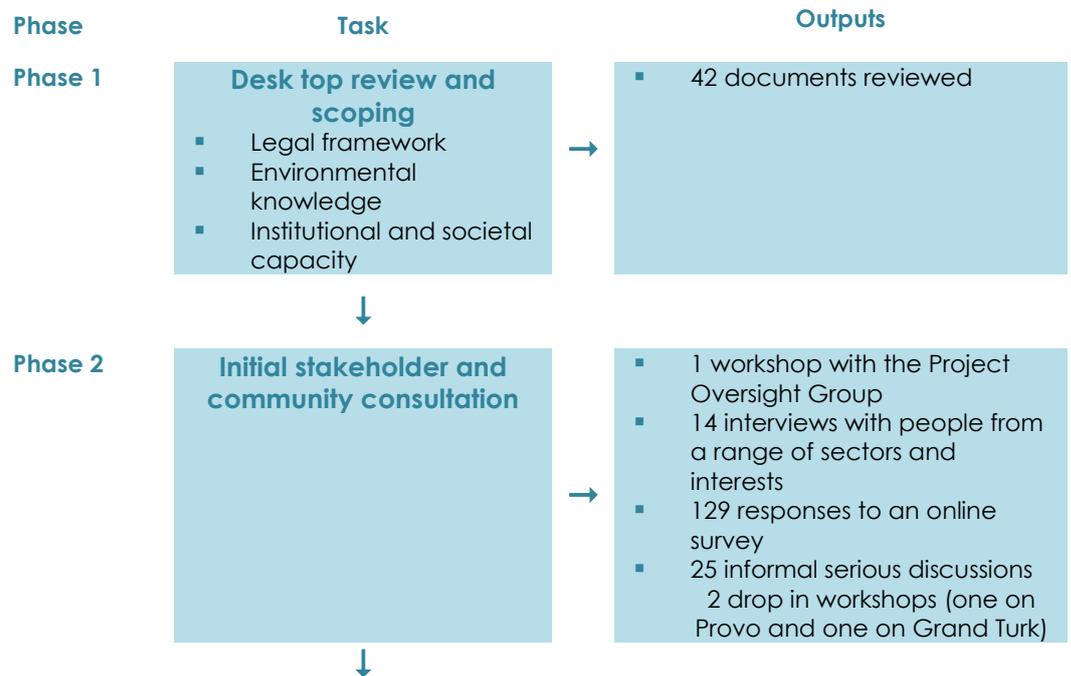


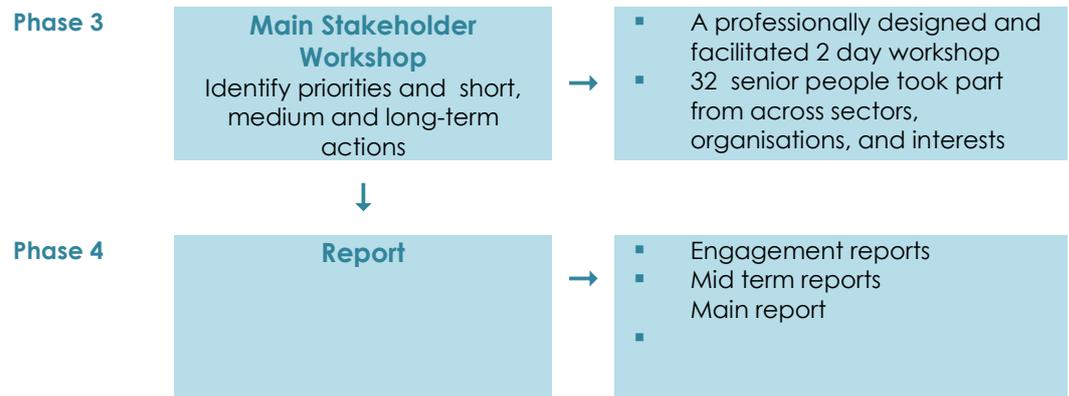
structured discussions and negotiations. Rather than focus on blocks, barriers and difficulties, which can be overwhelming and demotivate people, we take a constructive approach by asking questions about what is already working and what further action would strengthen and build on that. This constructive approach makes a significant difference to momentum for change. It results in recognition of current progress and good work, builds confidence, and helps organisations and individuals play to their strengths. It also encourages a focus on the future not the past and on what is in the gift of those present to act on.

Our recent experience on the TCI suggests that this constructive approach may be even more beneficial here than elsewhere. That is because whilst we found that people recognised the need for this project and the value of the TCI environment, many also communicated that they were demoralised and overwhelmed by the task. As can be seen from this report our approach helped people to explore strengths and plan action.

The project process

This project is an initial step in the TCI transition to a Green Economy and comprised four main phases as set out below:





In Phase 2 people contributed from across ages, sectors, and types of organisations and included the following:

	Belongers	Resident immigrant	Visitor	Other	Total
Questionnaire	35	64	15	13	129
Drop in meetings (estimate)	10	5			15
Semi-structured interviews	7	7			14
Informal serious conversations	16	9			25

The data collected in Phases 1 and 2 was used to inform the topics for consideration at the main workshop (Phase 3). Not all were then shortlisted for action planning.

Topics for looking after the environment and its resources:

- Coastal and marine ecosystem health (creek, mangrove, sea grass and reef)
- Sustainable Fisheries
- Land and wetlands habitat management and conservation
- Water management (fresh, brackish and marine)
- Waste management
- Sustainable energy

Embedding the environment in strategic decisions:

- Funds, capacity, knowledge and skills to manage the environment better (for NGO and Government)
- TCI strategic and island specific sustainable development and spatial planning
- Strengthening the development approval process
- Environmental plan and audit
- Greening Tourism and influencing the current Tourism Strategy
- Enhancing environmental understanding and education at all levels

- Robust environmental and planning laws, implementation, enforcement in an equitable and fair way

Maintaining momentum:

- Stakeholder participation and community involvement to influence key decisions
- Embedding and establishing a green economy/sustainability ethos in government and across sectors
- Staying engaged and drawing in others to maintain momentum
- New environmental professional and independent NGO
- New Green Economy Working Group

In preparation for the main workshop, the Project Oversight Group expressed concern that some prioritised topics would be core government responsibilities and would not be in the gift of people at the workshop to lead on. It was therefore agreed that:

- If a priority was a core government responsibility, the action planning would be about how to encourage government to make progress on it
- If a priority was within the gift of those present, people could work out actions for implementation

Outputs and methods of the Phase 2 and Phase 3 engagement can be viewed at:

<http://tcigreeneeconomy.weebly.com>.

- For details on the Phase 2 methods please see the draft Interim Report,
- For the main workshop (Phase 3) outputs see the November 2014 Key Stakeholder Workshop Report Stakeholder Workshop Record'

1.4 About this report

This report is not a typical research report but rather sets out the context, findings and resulting discussion that informed the prioritisation and action planning. It is based on what people said in the Phase 2 and Phase 3 engagement, and the results of the

Phase 1 document review.

The report also includes a list of offers made by participants (such as for time, networks, promotion, support, funds, data, and equipment). The new Green Economy Working Group and the new Environmental NGO will be able to draw on these offers as work progresses (See Annex 2 for the Directory of Offers).

Text in italics are direct quotes from participants in workshops, from the interviews or a result of the online survey.



2 The future of the TCI

From the Phase 2 engagement it was clear that there was a strong appetite for the TCI to be an exemplar of sustainability with green and eco-tourism, decarbonising of energy production, tackling waste and pollution, reducing energy and water consumption, and looking after nature. People told us that this could result in a boost



of innovation and new local economic activity that could benefit TCI Belongers and other local people.

During the Phase 2 engagement and at the POG workshop, people expressed the need for there to be a clear and strong vision and sense of direction to help people work together and provide the context for other strategies, policies and plans. To help move that aspiration forward, we asked people at the main workshop about their vision for the future of the TCI as a whole and for each island individually. The results are below.

2.1 The future that TCI people want...

The following 'vision' combines things people said in the Phase 2 engagement with the outputs of the first question at the main stakeholder workshop which was: *"Imagine it is 2030 and you are travelling around the Turks and Caicos delighted with what you see. What do you see?"*

The Turks and Caicos Islands 2030 Vision:

"Beautiful by nature" is no longer just a brand but a clear statement of our core values. We recognise the importance of the natural environment for humans and nature and understand its vulnerability. That knowledge is embedded into society, the decisions we make and action we take.

We depend on our local environment for many benefits including food and clean water, cultural and economic opportunities, and mental and physical wellbeing. These benefits are enjoyed by all.

Our stunning natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage is treasured, protected and enhanced. We have beautiful clean beaches, wetlands teeming with wildlife and a clean and healthy marine environment. Our protected areas on land and sea are in great condition and support a rich diversity of local plants and animals.

We have vibrant sustainable economic development and communities guided by a Strategic Sustainable Development Plan, strong environmental policies and a clear planning framework. Each island has a unique identity

with any new development or change fitting in with its character and surroundings.

Our values and action ensure permanent and thriving tourism and low-density eco-tourism is bringing in new visitors. All new tourism development is environmentally sustainable and makes a significant contribution to the local economy, local communities, local people and local business.

We have transitioned to sustainable energy, water and waste management and transport is low carbon and efficient. Locally produced food is enjoyed by the whole community and there is a flourishing, well managed and sustainable fishing industry benefiting local fishermen and their communities.

A new TCI University enables further education in a range of disciplines specifically geared towards TCI sustainable development and tourism needs.

In summary, Turks and Caicos Islands is known for the vibrant and harmonious relationship between people and nature.

2.2 Island by island visions for 2030...

Provo

Provo is 'Beautiful by nature, cared for by us'. The island is well planned and managed with flourishing low-density, high-end sustainable tourism. We have a clean and well cared for environment with reduced waste, pollution well managed and renewable energy used both in businesses and in homes. New development is low rise and carefully planned and we have good drainage and roads. Local people and communities are thriving and prosperous with better education, more small business and other employment opportunities. The Provo fishing and fish farming cooperative brings economic benefit to local people and communities. Native people have extensive cultural and leisure facilities and good access to the beaches. The natural and historic heritage of the island is treasured, preserved and enjoyed by all.

West Caicos

West Caicos is a beautiful island with large areas of land, wetland and the sea protected for future generations of Turks and Caicos islanders. The

community is sustainable with local people enjoying good access to the beach. New tourism development blends in and includes eco-lodges, nature reserves and places for families to camp and get away for weekends. Historic and cultural features are preserved and the fisheries sustainably managed.

North Caicos

North Caicos is a lush green island and provides 'the agricultural heartbeat of TCI'. The majority of the island remains green and natural. There is flourishing agriculture (including organic farms) that provide food for the islands and reduce the need for fruit and vegetable imports. An Agriculture Centre carries out research into new techniques and supports the farmers. There is also sustainable fish farming to take the pressure off the natural areas. Education provides new opportunities in agriculture and fishing.

The heritage of the island is showcased and cared for. Museums and national gardens preserve and celebrate traditional skills (sisal production and corn grinding) and the diversity of plants and wildlife is celebrated in show gardens.

The infrastructure such as schools, roads, the airport and clinic provide better quality of life for local people. Tourism is low key, with eco-tourism, boutique hotels and guest houses.

Middle Caicos

On Middle Caicos the cultural heritage has been lovingly and carefully preserved. Traditional crafts are kept alive by local people who work together in community based initiatives. Eco-tourism thrives with low density accommodation, and eco-lodges, all powered by natural energy sources. Eco-trails thread through the beautifully maintained landscape and the caves are well looked after. The local people can sustain themselves here on their island with no need to migrate for work. Food is produced locally through agriculture and mariculture.

East Caicos

East Caicos is a place for nature which attracts eco-tourism from all over the world. Tourists stay in low impact eco lodges and see nature in a natural

setting. Energy comes from renewable energy. Agriculture includes pig farms for the local Turks and Caicos market. Tourism infrastructure includes links to other islands.

South Caicos

South Caicos has a flourishing, sustainable, well protected and managed fishing industry. The fish processing plant is owned by Belongers and provides for the domestic market. The combined fishing and marine research and tourism centre protects and monitors the marine and terrestrial environment.

The Salt Ponds are a key part of the islands tourism, attracting people to historical features such as the salt pans and boiling holes and there is clear signage to explain and describe what is seen. The parks around the salt ponds also have nature trails with fabulous bird-watching opportunities. There is also a thriving water sport tourist industry on the island.

Infrastructure is good with the airport finished and upgraded and well planned and well maintained waste and water management. Schools and clinics enhance human wellbeing.

Grand Turk

Grand Turk is a fitting capital of the TCI with a complete regeneration, restoration and rejuvenation. The built areas are well maintained and well landscaped and historic features restored, interpreted and treasured.

Grand Turk is clean and garbage free and the large feral domestic animal population is contained and managed humanely. The salt ponds and mangroves are unpolluted and support fish and bird life. Cruise ship and tourism tours are conducted in an environmental way which shows and educates people about the unique natural beauty and heritage.

The economy has diversified and provides long term employment and business opportunities for local people. Transport and energy is sustainable and low carbon, based on alternative energy and electric vehicles, walking and cycling. Clean energy technology has been incorporated into all commercial, public and residential property. Tourism is thriving with medium scale development offering more tourism accommodation.

Salt Cay

Salt Cay is an island which is promoted and known for its heritage and historic and cultural tourism. All the historic buildings and features have been refurbished and the White House has been restored as a historic centre. Other heritage buildings are used for arts, crafts and cafes and visitors can enjoy local foods like Salt Cay Candies. The salt pans and history are preserved and there are historic walks which bring the heritage of the island to life for visitors. Tourism is low key and of a 'Martha's Vineyard' type providing employment for local people. Whale watching draws in other tourists and is well regulated.

Smaller Cays

The Smaller Cays are nature reserves that provide a sanctuary for wildlife both on land and in the sea. The eco-tourism has a minimal impact on the stunning natural environment, with use of trails, board walks and waste disposal to ensure the islands stay pristine .

Where there are buildings, there is a reliance on natural energy sources and energy efficiency.

Island linkage

The suggestion of a new linkage or causeway between the Caicos islands was also made. It was clear that some people genuinely do want this and see it as a route to social inclusion and economic activity. However, other comments show it is a controversial idea. We have therefore noted it here and left it out of the vision statements themselves. Clearly it is an idea that requires much in-depth consideration for its long term social, economic and environmental positive and negative impacts.

High rise buildings

There were some comments at the main workshop about high rise industrial buildings on Provo and West Caicos, North Caicos becoming a spill over from Provo with high rise buildings, and a modern little city on the smaller cays. This may be what some people want or what they fear they will see when they imagine the future. However, because it was clear that there would not be a consensus for these ideas, and we were unable to clarify whether or not these were hopes or fears, the comments have been noted here but left out of the vision statements.

3 The context for Greening the Economy

3.1 Greening the economy

3.1.1 Benefits of a green economy for the TCI



In all the different engagement activities, stakeholders recognised the benefits a green economy would bring. This includes the aspiration that it would make the TCI a flagship for the whole region, bringing long-term sustainable and profitable tourism whilst also protecting and preserving the natural ecosystems for future generations to enjoy. One person said that doing this would mean the TCI was *'a unique place in the world for people to visit that will last forever'*.

People think a green economy will result in a healthy clean environment, which sustains human life now and means that the benefits people enjoy from the environment last for

future generations. One comment was that *"the alternative is simply unacceptable"*.

Greening the economy should also mean sustainable energy with a smaller carbon footprint and reduction in energy costs, sustainable employment and business opportunities, and steady food supplies including fish from sustainable fisheries.

In the main workshop, one person expressed concern that it could mean an increased cost of living. Our own perspective is that this depends on the timeframes you consider. Unsustainable economies result in greater wealth and lower living costs (for some) in the short term, because they are overexploiting resources, but over the longer term, as natural systems are depleted or degraded, they end up with much higher human, financial and environmental costs over all. They also bring with them increased social injustice with poorer people experiencing greater environmental risk and degradation with consequent health impacts and societal issues.

3.1.2 Consequences if the TCI does not green the economy

People saw many negative and serious consequences ahead if the TCI does not transition to a green economy.

Perhaps most crucially these include the loss of the 'Beautiful by Nature' brand. Everyone is well aware that tourism is the foundation of the island economy and that tourists are drawn by the beautiful beaches, clean sea and healthy reef ecosystem. If all this continues to degrade and eventually collapses, the TCI will *'lose the only*

thing that draws our visitors' and the islands' economy will collapse too with further social, economic and environmental damage.

In the main workshop, some people thought the loss of a quality, clean and beautiful environment would result in the TCI becoming a 'low end' cheap and dirty destination like many other degraded destinations. However, in the Phase 2 engagement, people thought that there would probably be no significant tourism at all because the



cost of plane tickets and the accommodation, restaurant and tourism service tax already make it an expensive destination. Tourists who can only afford lower cost, low-end destinations will not be able to afford the travel costs of getting to the TCI.

Other consequences of not greening the economy are that the coral reef will continue to be damaged and die, the beaches will continue to erode, there will be more litter and pollution, and habitats and wildlife will be lost. Increased energy consumption, coupled with vulnerability to increased energy costs, will lead to a lack of energy security.

In the longer term, people think this would lead to financial ruin for citizens and the country, with serious impacts on human and societal health and wellbeing. In the Phase 2 engagement, particular concerns were raised about the link between degraded environments and increased serious disease risk and mortality in humans. One person commented that if the TCI does not transition to a green economy *“there will be no legacy to leave to future generations”*.

3.1.3 Benefits of working together on greening the economy

When asked about the benefits of working together to green the economy, participants spoke of it helping to firm up a clear vision and sense of direction. Crucially they think that as more people come to understand the meaning of greening the TCI economy, they will recognise:

- The benefits for each sector of an environment that can support their own and others economic activities in a sustainable way over the long term
- The benefits of reducing costs over the long term
- That a green economy provides for financial stability and social wellbeing
- That a healthy environment also benefits future generations
- That current challenges are solvable

All this should result in greater buy-in and joint responsibility for the protection of the environment and provide opportunities for sharing innovation, ideas, and skills: *“many hands make light work”*. This sense of stewardship will ensure that programmes and

policies enable a strong sustainable future with economic stability and social wellbeing.

People said that greening the economy must engage all levels and sectors in TCI society and that a renewed intention to work together is crucial. This should include communities being involved, having influence and enjoying the benefits. Effective change will result from partnerships, and partnerships result from participation.

3.2 Benefits a healthy environment provides

In the main workshop, when people were asked what the natural environment provides that residents and visitors benefit from, they were prompted with 3 headings: a) resources, b) social and human well-being, c) healthy environment.

The resources that participants noted included clean air, drinking water, and healthy



food including sustainable fisheries and salt. People also listed opportunities for renewable energy, building materials and bush medicines.

Social and well-being benefits included the aesthetic value of the beautiful land and seascape, the spiritual and psychological enrichment and wellbeing provided by the natural environment, and the fun and enjoyment that leads to a good quality of life. People noted the need for a healthy environment for physical health, social wellbeing, and to make a living.

The benefits of a healthy environment for nature are rich biodiversity, a protected coastline and healthy ecosystems which sustain diverse animal and plant life. These in turn result in a unique and stunningly beautiful place that attracts nature-based tourism and opportunities to study and learn about different habitats.

3.3 Systems connections and links

In the Phase 2 engagement, some participants in the interviews described how the environment functions as a complex set of systems and all human activities affect these systems directly or indirectly. This means that natural systems and social and economic systems are intrinsically linked in ways that are not fully understood. When human activities are unsustainable and strain (or break) functioning connections, they can result in unexpected knock on effects and negative consequences.

To explore these links in the main workshop, we invited stakeholders to create pictures and diagrams to highlight connections that may not have been so clearly seen before. The pictures created in this part of the main workshop are in the workshop report and included the following:

- Links between clearance of natural coastal vegetation and beaches eroding, the greater need for coastal protection and less space for tourism

- Direct damage by boats grounding on the reef
- The ethical contradiction between tourists and locals enjoying encounters with the wild dolphin Jojo and the idea of captive dolphins as a tourism attraction
- Toxic and nutrient rich pollution from unlined rubbish dumps, toilets, and boat bilge entering the salinas and sea resulting in damage to the reef, making tourists sick and causing them to leave for other destinations
- Tourists leaving because the reefs have fewer fish due to the loss of mangrove and sea grass nursery grounds because of new tourism development

3.4 Trends and changes

Participants identified many trends and changes that need to be taken into account when thinking about the future of the TCI. These include:

- A significant increase in people, both tourists and residents
- High rise buildings on Provo
- Not enough transparency or public debate on planning or other strategic decisions
- Insufficient or inadequate environmental impact assessment (EIA) of large development projects such as dredging of cruise ports
- A decline in the health of the reef and a lack of understanding about the impact people have on it
- A decline in fisheries, in particular a reduction in conch and commercial fish
- Increasing development that doesn't benefit local people or the environment because costs are felt locally but the profits go to companies abroad
- Increasing fuel prices and energy insecurity
- Issues with waste management and pollution resulting in accumulating litter

Participants were asked if the TCI will be able to sustain the current levels and types of use over the long term and a number of people said 'No' and 'Absolutely not'. The resources people think need managing include:

- Water quality and waste management,
- The loss of sand and natural coastal vegetation
- Loss of land habitats
- The maintenance and enhancement of protected areas
- Fisheries management
- Alternate energy sources
- Waste management

People think the processes and procedures that need improving include:

- Improved development standards and protocols
- Better infrastructure for waste management, waste water management, roads and flooding
- Improved access to information
- Better enforcement of laws and standards,

- More education on personal responsibilities
- Incentives and grants for small business for environmentally friendly practice.
- Responsible water sports

These are discussed in more detail in the following sections. Trends that weren't mentioned but are clearly of crucial importance in small, low-lying island communities are climate change and sea level rise.

3.5 The state of the natural environment.

3.5.1 Coastal and marine ecosystem health

Coastal and marine ecosystem health includes the creeks, mangroves, sea grass beds, and reef.

The coastal and marine environment is the most valued part of the natural environment and the part people are most concerned about. Some people value the sea for its own sake and some because it is a source of food, the basis of tourism and a place for water sports, diving and quiet enjoyment.

In the Phase 2 engagement, a number of the people we interviewed recognised the



reef, sea grass bed, mangrove swamp, beaches and creeks as parts of a single functioning ecosystem, and that disruption to one habitat will have a knock on effect throughout the whole system. Examples of these links are that the creek and mangroves are the crucial nursery ground for reef species. The reef species (parrotfish) create the sand that results in the beautiful white beaches and the filter feeders keep the water clean and turquoise. The living reef buffers storm waves and protects the TCI from coastal erosion. However, whilst the marine ecologists, and some fishers and divers understand the intricacy of this system, they think it is not widely understood by others.

In the main workshop the things that people think are working well include the high level of awareness about the importance of the marine environment, the area that is designated as National Park and an awareness of its value to tourism. Within the constraints of its resources, some staff within DEMA are thought to be doing a good job around monitoring, management and education and staff in DEMA have a good relationship with The Turks and Caicos Reef Fund (TCRF).

Currently people think the reef is in good but declining condition with the risks to marine health including:

- Nutrient rich and toxic run off and leachate from unlined landfill tips and cesspits contaminating ground and surface water in the creeks, salinas, and sea - resulting in algal blooms and potential ecosystem collapse

- Water polluted with fertilizers and pesticides from inappropriate horticultural planting around hotels, running off into the sea and having a direct impact on marine life
- Loss and deliberate removal of beach and dune vegetation destabilising beaches and leading to beach erosion and increased sediment (turbidity) in the water impacting all crucial marine habitats and particularly inshore reefs
- Loss of natural creeks, mangrove swamps, sea grass beds and reef due to tourism developments and particularly those that involve dredging, with direct loss of biodiversity, loss of nursery areas, and links to collapse of the conch and lobster fishery
- Direct damage to the reef by groundings or the reef being cut through for leisure boat or cruise ship passage
- 'Chumming' (feeding) fish and rays to draw them to tourists altering natural behaviour and affecting food chains
- Re-zoning of the national parks to accommodate new tourism developments (the north creek on Grand Turk and risk to East Caicos was raised quite a bit in this context)
- Sediment plumes (caused by turbulence from the cruise ships) affecting the sea grass, reef and fisheries
- Alien invasive species such as the lion fish doing serious damage to natural reef diversity and fish numbers



People want to see an expansion of the area under protection but think it is crucial that protected areas are properly managed and regulations enforced. In fact, the need for fair enforcement came up repeatedly in the interviews, workshops and the questionnaire.

Discussions in the main workshop extended beyond the marine environment to focus on the need for DEMA to be properly resourced, to expand environmental education, promote responsible business and undertake other measures that have been included in relevant sections elsewhere in this report.

In relation to new development, people think that full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) should be mandatory for new developments that directly or indirectly affect the marine environment. They also think there must be proper engagement and consultation at all stages so that those who know and understand the marine environment, and citizens who care about it, can influence the outcome. In addition, National Park boundaries should remain fixed and not be altered for convenience.

A couple of people suggested that the best way to conserve the marine environment, enhance the tourism brand, and create confidence that it is meaningful, would be to get UNESCO Marine Biosphere Status for all TCI waters. This would not preclude fishing because biosphere reserves have three levels of zoning; core areas which are highly protected and would be 'no take zones'; buffer areas that protect the core

and can be used for light and short term impact activities, and transition zones (or work/live zone) where the main human activities take place and become sustainable. As well as raising awareness, Biosphere Reserves also draw in funds from different sources and can be an additional draw for tourism.

Another suggestion was the need for greater citizen engagement through citizen science, monitoring, and wardening programmes.

3.5.2 Sustainable Fisheries



The main fisheries in TCI are for conch and lobsters. The concept of a sustainable fishery extends beyond the state of the stock to include that the fishery supports the local economy, community, and culture. A number of people have grave concerns that the fisheries are not sustainable and think that if there is not a significant change there will be very serious consequences for fishing communities and marine health.

Management measures that are in place include:

- A quota system for conch
- Lobster closed season
- Landing sites on South Caicos where stock is weighed and counted
- Fishing cooperatives which are seeking to develop policy and get international recognition for being a sustainable fishery
- A field studies centre that is doing research

However, people want to see more done with suggested actions falling in to the following categories:

Governance

- Strengthen and support the Fisheries Advisory Council (FAC)
- Government support for cooperatives which have the potential to manage stocks sustainably, empower fishers, draw in the next generation and provide a viable living income
- Independent agency for fish stock management and policing

Encouraging sustainability

- Enhanced education for fishers about fish ecology
- Incentivising and sharing sustainable fishing practice
- Creation of landing sites on islands other than South Caicos
- Breaking the power of the fish processing plants, which leave fishers with lower than subsistence incomes and feeling forced to fish in unsustainable and even illegal ways
- Closed seasons and no take areas combined with support for fishers so that whilst stocks are low and areas closed, they have alternative means of supporting their families
- Training for alternative livelihoods for those who want it
- Stock enhancement e.g. abalone, conch and lobster hatcheries

	<p>for release, artificial habitats in appropriate locations and ranching</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aquaculture to reduce the pressure on wild stocks ▪ Making the most of fishers knowledge about historic hotspots and spawning aggregations so they aren't fished and stocks can replenish
Regulation and enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Anti-corruption measures to ensure that fisheries are properly, equitably, and fairly managed and breaches are penalised. ▪ An anonymous reporting system so anyone can report breaches by either government or local fishers ▪ DEMA having more skilled, trusted and respected fisheries staff ▪ More high powered vessels to police the water including use of planes and drones ▪ Arrests of poachers and locals who break the law ▪ More security for local fishers from international fishers ▪ More support from the UK to police the waters
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continuous monitoring and research on stocks and sustainable yield ▪ More investment in the research carried out by the field studies centre ▪ More scholarships for marine studies
New Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EIA for all new development, especially those that involve dredging, to include a thorough assessment of the impact on fisheries

To achieve all this DEMA will need more resources and this was prioritised for specific discussion and action planning in section 4.2.

3.5.3 Land and wetlands habitat management and conservation

In all the different engagement activities, the focus for habitat management and conservation was coastal, marine and wetland habitats. There was little mention of land habitats and ecosystems even though some are pristine and support rare threatened and endangered species including endemic species (ie species that only occur in the TCI). Likewise people spoke eloquently about the beauty of the beaches, sea and sunsets, but not of the landscape as an aesthetic asset to be valued and enhanced. From this, we think there is an urgent need to increase awareness of the importance and current vulnerability of terrestrial habitats and species.

The literature review identified threats to land habitats including clear cutting land for development, charcoal burning, fragmentation, exotic nuisance species and climate change.



TCI wetlands are better understood and valued with many designated as Ramsar Sites (sites of international importance for their wetland habitats and species) including the largest Ramsar site in the UK overseas territories. Some are also designated as nature reserves. Risks include pollution from horticultural planting, unlined waste tips and cesspools.

DEMA has recently carried out habitat mapping for all the islands, which will make it easier to identify habitats, buffer zones and functional connections to provide for wildlife conservation on land. However to move forward on

terrestrial conservation people said the Endangered Species Bill and Wildlife and Biodiversity Protection Bill needs to come into force and DEMA needs sufficient resources and additional capacity (discussed in section 4.2).

The group who discussed this topic at the main workshop think that good work includes the National Trust's focus on wetland habitat conservation, DEMA's habitat mapping, and a partnership between the TCI and Kew Gardens to create a seed bank for TCI plants and trees. Some people thought that EIA in the planning process would flag up areas that need protecting, however if the land is not already designated for nature conservation (or landscape values) it is unlikely that this will happen. This is compounded by the current planning situation, which includes that EIA are not mandatory, not always good quality, and there are no EIA specialists in the planning department (for more about the planning process see 5.1).

There was disagreement over the Crown Land Policy, some expressing that it was positive and others that it did not protect habitats, needed updating and did not empower Belongers.

When discussing what more needs to happen the group focused on the urgent need for a common vision and sustainable development plan with improved collaboration between departments. They think that the lack of common vision leaves special interest groups determining the future of the country (for further detailed discussion on the proposal for a strategic plan see section 4.1 and for a common vision see 2.1).

Suggestions for wetlands include that the salinas and ponds are brought into conservation management with stagnant salinas converted to healthy ecosystems. This can be achieved by native planting and increased fish to enhance bird watching tourism opportunities, reduce mosquito populations, and manage the smell. People suggested that a new Trust should be set up to look after them, provide education, and enhance understanding.

On land, the group suggested further assessment of biological diversity is necessary including a map of the location of non-native species so conservationists can tackle them with the help of local groups.

In general people feel that partnership among stakeholder groups, synergy between organisations, stronger public awareness and community involvement, are vital for the positive future of these habitats.

3.5.4 Water management (fresh, brackish and marine)

The TCI is water stressed with insufficient rainfall and ground water to meet demand and a reliance on energy intensive and costly desalination plants on Grand Turk and Provo. There are some water conservation and rainwater harvesting measures in place but more is needed, given the increasing demand and climate change.

During the project, people expressed concern about water quality and risks to human health and habitats. Of particular concern is pollution from toxic wastes including used motor oil, batteries, petrochemicals, heavy metals and other hazardous materials.

Sources include seepage through the rock from unlined waste dumps and cesspits,



dumping in sink holes, pesticides and herbicides from horticultural planting, unlined graves, and runoff from hard surfaces such as roads and the airport, boat bilge and holding tanks.

The highly porous limestone bedrock makes pollution of sub surface waters and aquifers a high risk. One person expressed concern that the detailed hydrology (water quantity and quality) of the islands needs to be understood better in order to assess the extent of pollution and the long-term effects on the marine ecosystem.

Other concerns are about the fresh water lens itself (the fresh water that floats on top of seawater in the bedrock). It is unknown whether that is depleting with salinization of the aquifer, or recharging from rainwater. Monitoring of water quantity and quality did take place in the past but cutbacks brought that to a halt.

In the Phase 2 engagement, people raised health concerns about stagnant and standing water and mosquito borne disease. This was a particular concern on Grand Turk because during the project the island suffered outbreaks of Dengue Fever and Chickunguna, both potentially serious mosquito borne diseases.

From all the engagement, two priority actions emerged:

- 1 A hydrological study on each island to assess:
 - The structure of catchments
 - The quantity and quality of fresh water in the ground water and fresh water lens
 - Water quality
 - Sources of pollution

- Where polluted water goes
- 2 Environmental water quality standards set for water bodies and the sea with an effective monitoring programme and fines and enforcement for pollution or other breaches. This includes higher water quality standards set for discharges near or in National Parks.

Other actions include:

- Increasing water conservation measures with rain water harvesting mandatory on all commercial buildings and new houses
- Using native planting and establish guidelines for landscaping
- Water testing for drinking water including domestic wells, tanks, cisterns, and piped supplies
- The need for a hydrocarbon spillage accident management plan
- Disaster preparedness

DEMA will need additional resources and capacity to carry out this work (see 4.2).

We have suggested here two additional ideas that may already be happening but we did not hear them discussed. They would help tackle some of the challenges people identified. The first is the use of specially designed landscaped planting to treat grey water (eg from hotels) to a high enough standard that it can be safely discharged or even recycled. Done well this can also provide attractive landscaping, reduce reliance on mains water, and avoid the need for nutrient applications for landscaping. The second is tackling pollution with specially designed and planted bioremediation ponds. This could work for toxic runoff from the waste dumps and for sewage treatment facilities. Bioremediation ponds not only tackle pollution but can also be designed using native and possibly endemic species to achieve a high class of treatment, reduce long-term maintenance, and create biodiverse wetland habitats.

4 Establishing TCI as a Green Economy - priorities for action planning

The following priorities emerged in Phase 2 for discussion on the first day of the main workshop. Participants then prioritised the following topics for action planning on the second day:

- TCI strategic, and island specific, sustainable development and spatial planning
- Funds, capacity, knowledge and skills to manage the natural environment better (for NGO and Government)
- Enhancing environmental understanding and education at all levels
- Sustainable behaviour
- NGO and government working together
- Waste management and recycling
- Sustainable energy

Further detail is provided in the following seven sub-sections and the short to medium term action plan can be seen in Annex 3.

Four further priorities emerged in Phase 2 and participants discussed them on the first day of the main workshop. However, due to the time limitations, they could not be prioritised for detailed action planning within the workshop. The four topics are discussed in Section 5 and are:

- Strengthening the development approval process
- TCI Environmental Audit and Action Plan
- Greening Tourism and influencing the current Tourism Strategy
- Robust environmental and planning laws, implementation, and equitable and fair enforcement.

4.1 TCI strategic and island specific, sustainable development and spatial planning

Background

Across all of the engagement activities, people said there is an urgent need for a TCI Strategic Sustainable Development Plan that steers change. This includes social, environmental, and physical development. The plan would also deliver a sustainable and green economy to benefit local people and improve wellbeing and social equity, and look after nature. The plan needs to be forward looking and long-term.

The strategic plan will need to sit over, steer and be supported by other plans and policies with suggestions including:

- Spatial zoning and 10 year Development Plans appropriate to each Island

- Infrastructure Development Plan/s (including waste, fresh water provision, waste water, transport, aviation, energy, telecoms, and green infrastructure)
- Environment Plan
- Heritage Plan
- Community and Cultural Development Plan
- Economic and Business Development
- Relevant environmental and planning laws
- Fisheries Improvement Plan
- Tourism Plan
- Climate and Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan



In the past, the TCI did have a development plan but this went out of date in 2000. The Government started preparing another plan around 2007 but it was not completed. This has left the direction of change unplanned and undebated. Specific proposals are considered on an ad hoc basis without a clear set of criteria determining whether they should be given permission to proceed.

During the engagement, people raised concerns that the current system works the wrong way around with development permissions given and then laws amended to

enable them to happen (for example changing the boundary of a National Park to accommodate a new development). This leaves developers setting the agenda for the TCI when it should be part of a democratic system, set by a widely supported and sustainable TCI strategy. Setting out the constraints and opportunities will also be a benefit to developers because it will help them decide where, and whether or not, to invest in proposals. Generally, people are concerned that the current policy appears to be unconstrained development which is not sustainable, nor in the long-term interests of TCI citizens, the economy, the environment or, crucially, tourism.

In relation to planning proposals, people felt there was an urgent need for high standard and mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for all commercial developments. Permission should be contingent on mitigation, compensation, and no net damage to the natural environment. Other suggestions were:

- The need to update the building code and include green building design standards including rainwater harvesting, energy efficiency (such as less energy for air conditioning) and appropriate use of native planting in landscaping (to reduce water and nutrient use on unsuitable plants)
- Updating and/or enactment of relevant environmental legislation.
- The need to plan in green infrastructure (i.e. Planting for biodiversity, flood control and climate mitigation) along with other types of infrastructure.
- Spatial planning must include areas of terrestrial habitat set aside for nature with functional links between habitats

Advantages of this proposal

The engagement outcomes suggest that the advantages of having strategic and island spatial plans are that the plans will:

Set the direction:

- Set a clear long term vision and direction
- Be binding and so 'resistant to short-term political pressure and whim' and can proceed when a politician leaves office
- Provides a 'road map' for change
- Fosters island appropriate development, thereby encouraging a sense of place and identity for each island

Enhance democracy and cohesion :

- Create a greater sense of social cohesion and common purpose
- Raise awareness of the need for change to a sustainable future
- Citizens feel more empowered and able to influence the direction of change and any major new development that affects their lives and interests
- Decisions will be clearer, more transparent, easier to challenge and less vulnerable to corruption

Encourage greater business certainty and investment:

- Developers would be clear about investment opportunities, types and styles of appropriate development, and expected standards
- Clearly defines priorities for further business development and investment
- Ensures sustainable and steady growth for the country

Look after valued assets:

- The plan would ensure the protection of cultural and natural assets

Steer and makes efficiencies in public spending:

- Clearly defines priorities for further investment
- Can allocate resource for change
- Creates opportunities for new partnerships, synergies and complementarities with multi-agency collaboration and collaborations with NGO and business
- Prevents duplication and clashing policies

Making it happen

Participants in the main workshop thought that getting started will require the following:

- 1 *Securing political will and support from the Premier and Cabinet*
- 2 Establishing a timeline
- 3 Securing funding
- 4 Building capacity to develop the plan through training and use of consultancies

- 5 Raising public awareness that a plan is being created (with the suggestion that public debate and discussion about the need for a plan may first be necessary to focus politicians attention)

Once resources are in place, key steps suggested for creating the plan are as follows:

- 1 Carry out participation processes to engage citizens, sectors, and special interest groups to develop the plan and ensure it delivers the sustainable future people want.
- 2 Develop with citizens a clear TCI vision and island specific visions to guide and inform the detailed work. The vision created through this work could provide a start but it needs to be developed further with wider citizen engagement.
- 3 Collate information including an audit of current land, habitat maps, data on waste, water and energy consumption and capacity, and needs such as for affordable housing.
- 4 Draft the plan
- 5 Consult all who took part in the engagement (and beyond)
- 6 Final sign off by Cabinet

For actions agreed in the workshop, please see (Annex 3).

Our suggestions

We note from the medium term actions (Annex 3) that it is proposed that the plan is written in tandem with the engagement that shapes and informs it. We suggest that best practice would be to engage citizens and stakeholders in a well-designed participation process at the outset and prior to draft text to ensure that:

- 1 The vision and sense of direction is developed further with citizens and stakeholders (including workshops on each island) to ensure that it truly reflects what citizens want.
- 2 That any wider engagement activities are fed to a core decision making group comprising a cross section of government, community, NGO and business (approximately 50 people) who are neutrally facilitated to develop their thinking and build consensus
- 3 That this core group guides and steers the development of the plan to make sure it is grounded, well informed, is resilient to party politics, and builds a shared vision, consensus and momentum for delivery
- 4 That any consultants contracted to help with the plan play an objective and transparent role, responding to the stakeholders and expressing what the stakeholders think in the resulting document and maps.

This last point is about the relationship between consultants and stakeholders. Typically, consultants engage stakeholders to capture information for their own deliberations, meaning stakeholders end up serving the knowledge needs of the consultants. In best practice participation, roles are reversed with the consultants responding to the needs of the main stakeholder group and putting into writing what they identify and decide upon.

4.2 Funds, capacity, knowledge and skills to manage the natural environment better (for NGO and Government)

The online questionnaire showed that the majority of responders think that TCI environmental organisations have made 'some' (but not yet 'reasonable') progress on: understanding how the TCI environment works; having skills to manage the environment well; carrying out research and monitoring; and having good data. However over 80% think they lack resources and the ability to influence and advise other sectors.

The Department of the Environment and Marine Affairs (DEMA)

The views in the questionnaire and other engagement show there is a widely held view that the Department of the Environment and Marine Affairs (DEMA) is under resourced and not fully able to carry out its roles and functions. This view concurs with the facts. Since 2008, DEMA's budget and staffing has reduced by at least 60% because of general government cut-backs (during direct rule by the UK Interim Government) and through the loss of the Conservation Fund (a loss of approximately \$9 million dedicated to critical conservation projects).



DEMA needs funds not only for staff and running costs, but also for research equipment, vehicles/craft, fuel, office/building

repair and furnishing. Increased staff, and the enhancement of staff skills, are needed to carry out research, monitoring, and education and to provide advice and enforcement for plans, laws, policies, EIA and planning proposals.

Participants at the main workshop thought that the good work that DEMA does includes:

- Public awareness and education: including the Junior Park Wardens programme, which is educating young people on Provo; the Community Conservation Partner Programme; and the new citizen science projects such as the TCI coral reef monitoring project (run in conjunction with Reef Check International) and the turtle monitoring project (with the Marine Conservation Society) on Grand Turk
- Research and monitoring including commissioning or working with visiting researchers
- Commenting on plans, policies and proposals – although the questionnaire results suggest DEMA needs to strengthen its influence here

In Phase 2 of the engagement, people from across sectors and organisation types flagged concerns about the stress levels, morale and functioning of the DEMA team. Suggestions to address this include:

- More training, professional development and mentoring
- Team building so they are a cohesive team pulling together and supporting each other
- Sufficient staff to do their job so individuals can work to their respective skills and knowledge areas
- Clear and strong guidance on ethical conduct, with any breaches swiftly and firmly addressed. If there is ongoing evidence of deliberate corruption, the person should be sacked so that the wider community can have confidence in the organisation and the way it functions.
- Less bureaucracy, but clear streamlined guidance and procedures that empower competent staff to do their job
- A new director who is a professional environmentalist, competent, a 'critical friend', adviser and challenger to government. They also have to be a good team leader and someone who has the skills and mandate to run a sound and ethical organisation so that resources can be drawn in from external funds (eg Darwin Plus).



With regard to environmental legalisation, the overwhelming opinion is that whilst that could do with updating, the biggest issue is that what does exist is not effectively implemented or enforced. People think the reasons for this include lack of political support and corruption and lack of capacity, resources, and expertise in DEMA. For further discussion about this, see 5.4.

Other Organisations

Other organisations seen to be doing good work on, or related to, the natural environment include:

- The National Trust which now focuses mainly on historic and cultural heritage but also work on wetland conservation and education
- The Turks and Caicos Reef Fund (TCRF) run by volunteers to carry out reef monitoring and repair
- The Turks and Caicos Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (TCSPCA) which work to humanely control free roaming domestic or farm animal populations
- Dive companies working on reef conservation and promoting information about how to minimise any negative impact from water sports

Funding

From all the engagement phases, a top priority for funding is to reinstate the Conservation Fund and ensure it is properly managed. The fund was originally set up in 2001 and was receiving between 1 and 2 million dollars a year. Concerns about corruption meant that for a few years the money was not spent so when it was dissolved about 9 million dollars had accrued and was then lost to conservation work.

Additional sources of funds to go into the Conservation Fund (rather than General Fund) include:

- National Park Fees – ie mandatory entrance park fees for tourists wishing to dive or snorkel
- Selling of souvenirs and education materials
- Revenue linked with waste and recycling e.g. A tax on plastic bags
- The 12% tax on water sports (this is currently going to the general fund)
- A new tax on hotels for use of Crown Land beaches for slipways, sun loungers and other uses (which can exclude locals, but bring no additional revenue or benefit)

People think that once the Conservation Fund is set up and established, it needs to be '*untouchable*' i.e. protected from being closed again or used for other purposes. Participants suggested that lessons could be learned from the British Virgin Islands who already have such a fund, match funded by the Caribbean Challenge Initiative.

Other funding opportunities could be:

- Matching fund opportunities with business as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)
- Collecting a list of funding opportunities with officials detailing possible funding streams they hear about from the UK, EU or elsewhere

Some people expressed the view that allocation of funds to any organisation should be contingent on the organisation having ethical and sound practice in its finances, Human Resource (HR) practices, environmental policy, and behaviour of staff. To build confidence any breaches of sound practice, particularly evidence of corruption, should result in a freeze on the funding to that project or organisation until the matter is addressed.

Advantages of this proposal

Enhanced funding and resources would mean DEMA could improve the morale, function and team working of DEMA and do the following:

Collate environmental evidence and management:

- Create an up to date environmental audit and database to inform management of the natural environment and new EIA and planning proposals (see 5.2)
- Enforce environmental and fisheries management regulations
- Monitor change and carry out conservation management

Increase liaison and education:

- Make better links and networks with business, NGO, and across government
- Use innovative cutting edge and engaging ways of formal and informal education at all levels (schools to senior officials and politicians)
- Provide environmental information to enhance openness, transparency and informed citizen debate and democracy

Influence strategic decisions:

- Act with confidence based on a sound evidence base to influence major decisions
- Help the green economy group and new NGO embed the environment into strategic decisions (see sections 6.2 and 6.3)
- Champion ratification of the convention on biodiversity – currently stalled in the attorney generals chambers and the updating of other relevant environmental laws

Other advantages of a fund would be to:

- Ensure that 'Beautiful by Nature' is meaningful and implemented
- Enable government to promote to tourists that the TCI takes the environment seriously
- Provide a source of funding for NGO, community groups and schools to access for nature conservation and other environmental initiatives independent of government
- Reduce environmental risk such as stabilising beaches with native planting to reduce storm erosion, or mitigating flood runoff
- It could stimulate innovation and micro enterprises

Making it happen

At the start of the main workshop the Premier said his government had already committed to 'significantly increasing funds for DEMA' in the next financial year. This demonstrates an awareness of the need for more funds and a commitment to it at the highest level. However, it has since been reported to us that DEMA received lower funds in 2014/15 than the previous year and since the increase for 2015/16 is modest, it does not represent a significant real increase compared to the resources DEMA used to have.

It was suggested that the Premier could also seek additional funds through the Caribbean Challenge Initiative (a coalition of governments, companies and partners working together to accelerate action on the marine and coastal environment and committed to conserving 20% of the marine and coastal environment by 2020).

At the workshop people suggested that the Ministry of Environment and Home Affairs prepares a cabinet paper explaining the need for increased funds and the considerable level of citizen and stakeholder support for that (including that demonstrated by engagement in this project).

If the Conservation Fund is re-established, participants suggested a new independent committee will be needed to provide accountability, transparency, reporting, and oversight. The committee will also need to provide clear guidance and criteria on what the fund is for, how to access it, how to report, and priority outcomes. The committee could then report to the community on what the money had been spent on and the outcomes that resulted.

For the full detail of the actions agreed in the workshop, please see Annex 3.

4.3 Enhancing environmental understanding and education at all levels

Background

There is already good work being done to raise environmental awareness and understanding at all levels. This includes work by the following organisations:

NGO:

- The National Trust works with schools, community groups and through museums. Its focus is on TCI heritage and public awareness of wetland ecosystems.
- TCRF is a voluntary organisation which raises awareness of reef health and conservation.
- TCSPCA carries out work around humanely managing stray dogs (known as potcakes), donkeys, and horses.
- The National Museum promotes understanding of heritage and the natural environment.

Government:

- DEMA have environmental programmes like Junior Park Wardens, Visitor Centres and School field trips and visits.

Community:

- There are citizen groups, the TCI Rotary Club, and Environment Clubs that carry out beach clean ups, tree restoration and other activities.

Education establishments:

- The School curriculum includes understanding of the marine environment.
- The field studies centre carries out research and outdoor education activities.

Business:

- Provo Water Company and Fortis energy company have annual programs providing information and advice.

Recreation and Tourism

- Water sports companies and hotels have developed tours and activities 'geared to sensitising visitors to the uniqueness of the TCI environment'.

From the interviews and main workshop, people think that there needs to be a much greater understanding of the TCI human and environment inter-dependencies including that there are limits in the use of natural resources before a tipping point is reached and the supporting ecosystem collapses.

Some people said that to maximise the benefit of education opportunities, environmental education must be based on the latest research in education and learning psychology and innovations in teaching practice about what works. People expressed concern that what is happening now is old fashioned, based on '*tell methods*', and may well be making people '*turn off*' from the environment.

Suggestions from the engagement processes include:

- Not using a stand and tell approach, but sharing learning, and story telling
- Incorporating emerging trends such as social learning, environmental fairs, exhibitions, art, music and lyrics.
- Use of technology with engaging 'apps' for tourists
- More investigative field trips to provide experience based learning
- Cross curriculum outdoor learning - not just geography and science
- Provision for different languages
- Informal learning to help fishers, artisans and crafts people understand and share sustainable methods

Target audiences include:

- Politicians and decision makers
- Tourists and water sport recreation providers and users
- School and college education
- Families
- Business

Advantages of this proposal

- It can get everyone involved and will enhance people's sense of personal responsibility because 'if you know better you do better'
- It supports the 'beautiful by nature' ethos and marketing
- Tourists like the idea of environmentally friendly tourism
- Education can also be collaborative combining specialist expertise and common knowledge
- It will not only benefit TCI, but visitors and tourists will take messages away with them and benefit other places and communities

Making it happen



At the main workshop, people suggested that to achieve engaging and effective all-age education would require capacity building and training amongst environmental educators. The public and private sector could support this and assist by sponsoring supporting interpretation materials, tours, and signage including at boat landing sites.

Human resources that could be harnessed to encourage greater environmental awareness, understanding and action, are local community groups, Churches and the Rotary Club.

During this project less usual ways of enhancing environmental understanding included suggestions from Taxi drivers. As one said *'if you want to get the message out, come and talk to the taxi drivers - we can take it in all directions - we are from the community and tell our families and friends - and we have*

tourists and visiting business people trapped in the car with us so we can tell them all about it too!'. A course for taxi drivers to make them more environmentally aware was also suggested during the main workshop.

Other suggested approaches to environmental education include:

- School competitions to incentivise change, with prizes such as best environmental project, best green school, best green action.
- Sit and talk with people to build confidence and relationships i.e. 'don't talk at people talk with them' and engage with them at their level and interest by listening to what they already know and care about and working from there
- Use of social media
- Have cross cultural and multi lingual campaigns
- Courses for dive operators and other businesses
- Talks, seminars and meetings in communities

The main action required to move this forward is to identify a lead organisation. However, a new environmental NGO was suggested (see 6.3) and coordinating and enhancing environmental education has been suggested as a core responsibility for them.

For the full detail of actions agreed in the workshop, please see Annex 3.

4.4 Sustainable behaviour

Background



This topic links strongly with the need for enhanced education and understanding at all levels and across sectors, but recognises that education alone is not enough. If the TCI is to become a green economy people think there needs to be a cultural shift in how citizens and tourists behave when they use the environment for '*recreation and revenue*'.

In the Phase 2 engagement, a point that came up repeatedly was the need to enhance the understanding of politicians, leaders and senior decision makers about the environment, including interdependences with socio and economic wellbeing, risks and opportunities, and the need to have a '*whole system*' understanding.

Advantages of this proposal

Participants at the main workshop thought that if the TCI gets this right the TCI would be seen as a regional or even world leader in '*sustainable eco-consciousness*'. It will also:

- Result in better governance and sustainable decisions
- Leave a positive legacy for future generations

- Foster innovation and resourcefulness
- Develop a culture of appreciating the environment
- Support the green beautiful by nature brand and tourism
- Lower the cost of living by reducing the 'economic costs associated with a loss of ecosystem services'
- Contribute to mental, spiritual and physical health
- Foster a sense of pride
- Deter potentially destructive investors

Making it happen



The key to encouraging sustainable behaviour is that everyone feels a sense of pride and ownership supported by enhanced understanding of what sustainability is and of the links and interdependencies between human wellbeing and a healthy natural environment. This will lead to greater collaboration and both government and NGO can work more effectively together to delivery change (see section 4.5).

A practical measure would be an environmental audit of what the TCI had, has, and wants including acceptable and sustainable rates of change (see section 5.2).

The group discussed a variety of measures to foster a changed view, which included the main measures for changing behaviours:

- Greater awareness and understanding
- Use of communication and media for public awareness campaigns about *'environmental etiquette'*
- *'a series of 'do's and don'ts' leaflets for different sectors and activities'*
- Engaging people in citizen science, monitoring and wardening
- Incentives for pro-environmental actions including awards and competitions across a range of categories
- Financial incentives for low impact activities
- Policies e.g. The Bermuda one car policy and recycling
- Enforcement and controls for illegal activities and where other means have failed

Particular behaviours that need to be changed include

- Illegal activities such as poachers, illegal immigrants converting bush to charcoal, and squatter's illegal developments
- Fisheries management with a need for greater training on and incentives for sustainable practices, spatial and temporal management (closed areas, no take zones and/or times), closed commercial fishing for some species, and penalties and enforcement for illegal and/or unsustainable practices
- Areas that are already designated for nature must be reinforced through public engagement and then properly protected
- Waste and littering

Achieving this would need greater public engagement, participation and debate. Discussion is already now occurring to a greater extent through social media, but senior government and elected officials are yet to embrace that. Other suggestions for changes at the top include:

- A country policy that incorporates all facets of life as to why environment is so important
- Government reporting against environmental and sustainability performance goals
- Capacity building, seminars and training for all public officials so they can focus on and gain a deep understanding of sustainable and environmental principles and environmental limits and thresholds
- Revision of the house of assembly process
- The need to get on top of corruption

For the full detail of actions agreed in the workshop please see Annex 3.

4.5 NGO and government working together

Background

There is a strong recognition that embedding the environment and achieving a green economy will require NGO's and Government to work together more effectively and play to their respective strengths. This will be necessary to inform current and forthcoming strategies and plans and for the implementation of some of the initiatives in this report.

Advantages of this proposal

The benefits of NGO and Government working more effectively together are better decision making, the creation of synergies, mutual support, more resources in shared financial and human resources, increased buy-in from government and stakeholders, and the sharing of responsibilities.



Making it happen

The keys to encouraging effective collaboration include greater transparency in both government and NGOs, consistency in key personnel at meetings, and the need for action plans with clear deliverables and timelines so that people know progress is being made. There is also a need to build trust between NGOs and government through greater dialogue about the topics of mutual interest.

People said they particularly want to avoid 'talking shops' or ineffective meetings. We suggest that is solved when meetings have a clear purpose, there is skilful meeting leadership, everyone feels able to contribute, decisions are reached, and action planned. When that happens, people feel motivated to attend because they feel

they are making a difference and it is a worthwhile use of their time. Good meetings also reduce issues with changing personnel.

To work effectively with government, this group said NGO objectives need to be clear and well communicated. This will also help avoid overlapping projects and initiatives.

A new Environmental NGO was initiated at the main workshop and people suggested that it should start out by creating a positive and cooperative culture towards other organisations and government and (along with the new Green Economy Working Group) lead the way in creating greater trust and momentum.

For the full detail of actions agreed in the workshop, please see **Annex 3**

4.6 Waste management and recycling

Background

Waste was the most important issue for many responders to the engagement (second only to marine health). The topic of waste includes waste materials from hotels, commercial and domestic sources, litter and dumping, waste water and sewage, poorly managed and polluting landfill sites, and waste minimisation (reuse and recycling). However, within the engagement the focus was on domestic garbage and litter.



Management of waste has not kept up with the massive increase in waste production in the last 20 years caused by a rapidly rising resident population and significantly increased tourism. The picture is further complicated by what is happening on each island with, for example, a recycling company on Provo but not elsewhere, and a particular problem with waste litter and dumping apparent on Grand Turk to the point that this is raised as a matter of concern by tourists from the cruise ships.

A number of initiatives are thought to be working well including that waste collection has improved and the recycling concept is being actively promoted and accepted. There are also active voluntary clean up campaigns both of land and marine areas, and hotels and resorts are cleaning roadside and beach access around their property. On Provo, the government has contracted TCI Waste, a private company, to manage waste. Their management includes reuse and recycling in addition to sanitary landfill.

People reported that a particular challenge is that waste collection has to be paid for or taken to the dump by individuals. Families lacking cars or money to pay for collection, and who risk fines if they have litter around their homes, resort to hiding litter in corners and vacant properties. On Grand Turk, where there is greater exposure to wind and many stray animals, the litter soon gets scattered around and causes tourists to think that it is a dirty place (this is also a result of inadequate rubbish bins). There are

rumours on Grand Turk that the cruise ship company is questioning whether or not it can continue to bring people to the island if it is not tidied up and brought into better repair.

Some people believe that anything they separate for recycling is not actually recycled or used so they wonder why they bother. Presuming the recycling is genuine, there needs to be better explanation about what happens to recycled waste.

As mentioned in earlier sections a particular concern raised by dive companies and fishers is the risk of toxic and enriched leachate running off from unlined dumps and unlined cesspools into the salinas, creeks, and sea. Several individuals also raised concerns about risks from contaminated water and sewage to human health.

Suggested solutions for waste management include encouraging pride in the country, education, enforcement, and fines. However in the informal discussions people told us that it is not that they don't care or don't want to handle waste properly but that they can't afford to get their waste collected or take it to a licensed dumpsite. For example, one person on Provo told us that she does at least have a car, but she has to do a 30 mile round trip to get her waste to the dump and, depending on traffic, that can take over an hour. She reported that she *'can't afford either the diesel or the time to do that very often'*.

Suggestions for change

Overall people think there needs to be an integrated waste minimisation and management strategy that includes:

Reuse, recycling and waste minimisation

- Recycling and reuse (learning from re-use innovations elsewhere and the possibility of new business opportunities and revenue generation)
- Higher deposit value and refund on recycled materials like glass bottles
- Composting of domestic and hotel food and garden waste (on lined sites)
- Conversion of reusable oils
- Ban some products from import to reduce the stress on recycling
- Ban the use of plastic bags and Styrofoam

Affordable garbage collection for all

- Ways to make collecting garbage from kerb side or local collection points no or very low cost for less affluent local people
- Higher costs for some to subsidise others who can't afford it
- Once it is easier and more affordable to dispose of garbage, there needs to be enforcement of fines - particularly for more affluent and commercial enterprise

Education and awareness raising

- Education about the effects of waste on tourism, wildlife, the reef and fisheries at all levels
- Use media community groups and churches to convey the message

- A national pride week and country-wide clean up with incentives for best kept yard, area, and community, on each island

Waste management

- A programme of ensuring that all the dumps are properly lined, monitored and managed to prevent seepage of toxic or nutrient rich leachate
- Waste minimisation strategy

Advantages of this proposal

Advantages include that well managed and reduced waste will

- Minimise land take
- Protect the islands and sea from pollution
- Be a key part of a green economy and so help with understanding that concept
- Inspire new ideas, initiatives, innovations and enterprises
- Have human health benefits
- Have tourism benefits: beautiful by nature

Making it happen

- Support and buy in from the government is essential to the success and efficiency of recycling
- Develop a clear picture of what is already happening on all islands with regards waste and recycling
- Explore if TCI waste can extend its operations to other islands
- Find out what can be recycled and look to create new value through reuse
- Promote and embed the 'reduce, reuse and recycle' principle.

Given the scope and complexity of waste management, the group decided to focus on one priority for action planning and selected recycling.

For the full detail of actions agreed in the workshop, please see Annex 3.

4.7 Sustainable energy



Background

There is a strong desire for the TCI to transition to renewable energy to decarbonise and reduce climate change impacts, create greater energy security, and lower costs. This came up as a major priority through all the engagement activities (particularly the online survey and main workshop), which shows there is good understanding and support for the need for change.

People explained that they recognise the need to do

something to reduce climate impact because the effects of climate change on the TCI will be significant and serious with an increase in extreme weather events, coral bleaching, likely decrease in rainfall, storm surges, and coastal erosion.

The scope for renewables in the TCI is good with high solar energy reserves (at least 4.5 daily hours of peak sun year round) and sufficient wind resources to utilize wind power. However, the TCI relies on imported diesel fuel for 100% of its energy needs so when there are higher fuel prices the cost of electricity 'skyrockets'. People are frustrated that it is not currently possible to transition to renewable energy because of the Fortis energy monopoly, however there are measures that people can take for themselves which can reduce energy use.

Some progress is now being made on:

- A draft energy policy which includes renewables and energy efficiency
- Regulatory reform (energy ordinance and other legislation) which will make it possible to access renewable energy off grid
- A lower duty on imports for energy efficient technology
- All street lights are being switched to led and solar led
- The customs ordinance will include other energy efficient labels
- The TCI is one of the locations for the carbon war room's 10-island challenge

Suggestions for change

Suggestions for change from the phases of engagement include:

Education and awareness raising:

- That even within the current monopoly people can make significant changes in energy consumption in their business and homes (tinted windows, change bulbs to LED, change behaviour such as don't leave things on standby)
- That these measures are cost effective and can increase profitability of businesses that adopt them

Energy reduction measures:

- Promoting energy efficiency construction (links to the Building Code)
- Retrofitting measures to reduce energy consumption
- Accreditation for installation engineers
- Incentives to encourage swapping to energy efficient technologies

Research:

- Feasibility studies on renewable energy technologies and sources including geothermal, solar and wind
- Look at waste to energy
- Look at ways to recover waste heat energy (40%)
- Look at community energy with off grid renewables and shared battery cells (though one person thought this could be more expensive)

Legalisation and policy:

- Government to implement the Energy Bill, and the draft Energy Policy
- Government to renegotiate the energy monopoly so there is combined production with Fortis and renewables
- Modify the Building Code to steer energy efficient architecture and technology

Advantages of this proposal

- Lower electricity bills
- Helps the TCI reduce its carbon footprint
- Supports the green economy and green tourism

Making it happen

- There is a need to initiate discussions and negotiations with Fortis to explore options about the current agreement supported by legislative assistance and expertise
- Develop flag ship projects with hotels, particular islands or private islands to demonstrate what is possible and inspire others
- Research the optimum energy mix and source of renewables for each island and the TCI as a whole

For the full detail of actions agreed in the workshop, please Annex 3 .

5 Other priorities for Greening the Economy

The following four priorities also emerged in Phase 2 and participants discussed them in the main workshop, however, because there was limited time for action planning the remaining priorities were deferred for specific action planning post-project. In summary, the four remaining priorities that were identified for greening the economy were:

- Strengthening the development approval process
- TCI Environmental Audit and Action Plan
- Greening Tourism and influencing the current Tourism Strategy
- Robust environmental and planning laws, implementation, and equitable and fair enforcement.

Further detail is provided in the following four sub-sections.

5.1 Strengthening the development approval process

People have mixed views about the planning process and struggled to identify things that were working well without adding a caveat or further explanation. They think it is



good that EIA are carried out but note that these are not always of professional standard nor mandatory. There are Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) but these are signed prior to full EIA or a detailed proposal, which means at the point the main decisions are made, benefits can be highlighted and negative impacts down played or not understood. There is multi-department feedback on proposals but these are *'not always taken into account'*, *'they ask them but then no*

one listens to their recommendations before a decision is made' and *'the voice of the people pushing the project is heard more than regulatory people such as environment, planning, and environmental health'*.

In the Phase 2 engagement people expressed the view that there is currently a *'rush to growth'* with too little consideration given to long term environmental and human health, the need for supporting infrastructure and sustainability, or the real economic benefit to Belongers. Some people think that the government welcomes new developments for the employment they promise but then outside people are brought in for the skilled and better-paid jobs. There is also a concern that most of the profits go abroad to large corporations whilst the costs and impacts, such as loss of beach access and effects on fisheries, impact local people.

In the Phase 2 engagement, the majority of people we spoke with raised concerns about two particular developments and the limited and poor practice public engagement before government decisions were made.

- 1 One is the new marina, condo and dolphinarium development on Grand Turk. People were particularly upset and angry about the idea of captive dolphins thinking it is contrary to the tourism brand 'Beautiful by Nature' and the celebration of JoJo as a national treasure (the wild dolphin that sometimes chooses to swim with people). Some people also raised concerns about damage to the National Park and the reef and creek environment which is thought to be the main nursery for the Grand Turk conch fishery and reef.
- 2 The other is the 12 story hotel development in Grace Bay on Provo with concerns that this sets a precedent and radically changes the character of the island (doubling the present height of existing development).

A concern that was raised a number of times include: *'We have places deemed National Park that are then rezoned because of someone's influence on a new development project. This shouldn't happen.'*

Ways people suggested to improve on all this include:

- An overall strategic development plan setting the opportunities and constraints (for discussion of this see 4.1)
- Clear guidelines in the shape of a development handbook
- Development of a stronger approval process that follows *'international best practice'*
- Mandatory, good practice and genuine citizen and stakeholder engagement so people can provide input and have a say on plans that impact them or their interests
- Building staff capacity in the Planning Department to include a specialist in Environmental Impact Assessment
- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to pay a development fee for due diligence and independent project review
- Reinstatement of TC Invest

Standards that people would like to see included in the guidance are:

- High standard for EIA with mandatory good practice public consultation
- A policy of mitigation, compensation and *'no net loss'* (of environmental and human wellbeing)
- Funds for data collection, monitoring and post completion compliance

5.2 TCI Environmental Audit and Action Plan

The drawing up of an environmental audit and plan is wanted to set out *'what we had, have, want and what change is happening'*. It could:

- Set out the aspirations, goals and targets for habitats, species and each sector

- Include marine, land and wetland habitats, species of importance and status of alien species
- Identify environmental limits and carrying capacity
- Describe current trends and changes and the trajectory and estimated timeframes if habitat loss and degradation continue
- Provide opportunity mapping for future habitat restoration or enhancement
- Set out the steps to achieve goals
- List government and other organisations acting on the environment and what they do
- Set out a timed action plan for delivery (including actions suggested in section 3.5)



Such a plan would help foster a pro-environmental ethos, provide a clear picture of the speed and scale of change, and set a reference point for the future. It would also assist with drawing in funds for delivery, set out priorities for funding and provide transparency and accountability for delivery.

There are already some existing plans that an Environmental Plan would need to reference or build on including a Fisheries Plan, Protected Area Plans, a Climate Change Plan and the Environmental Charter. If it is

prepared in time it should strongly inform the proposed TCI Strategic Sustainable Development Strategy.

The audit and plan could also include:

- Recommendations and examples of how citizens and business can help steward the environment (including a self-audit and information about the financial benefits of greening e.g. Of recycling or using low energy light bulbs)
- Examples of green business and good practice
- Opportunities for citizen/community science

It could link to:

- A communication plan for building greater understanding and education about the environment at all levels
- Incentives and reward schemes for environmental projects

Suggestions for moving this forward include:

- Finding funds
- Looking at good examples from elsewhere
- Finding environmental champions

5.3 Greening Tourism and influencing the current Tourism Strategy

Background



People suggested that ideally the order of events would have been that this Green Economy project fed into a well-supported TCI strategic vision and sustainable development plan, and island specific physical plans, and that in turn would set the context and frame for a tourism strategy. However, at the POG workshop, participants confirmed that a new TCI Tourism Strategy had just started and would be written within the timeframes of this project. It will set out a TCI wide tourism strategy and island specific tourism offers.

The POG urged us to influence the sustainability of the Tourism Strategy and so we provided the consultants with an early summary of findings from the Phase 2 engagement, the detailed Phase 2 outputs once completed, and brought forward the main workshop report by 2 weeks so that we could pass it to them prior to completion of their project.

Tourism discussion

At the main workshop, participants were informed of the Tourism Strategy but felt it was still worthwhile discussing tourism in the context of a green economy.

When asked what they thought was already working well they mentioned that the strategy was being produced. However, they thought there was an urgent need to influence it to ensure it fits with a Green Economy ethos for tourism to be sustainable and minimise negative impact on the environment.

The group sought clarity about the different terms. The terms green tourism, sustainable tourism and eco-tourism are often used interchangeably. However definitions we have used in this report are:

Ecotourism:

- Socially responsible and low impact tourism to visit natural places, protect nature, benefit local communities, and foster respect for different cultures. Eco-lodges are low impact developments made of locally sourced materials which blend into their surroundings.

Green(ing) tourism:

- This is about reducing the impact of tourism activities through measures such as recycling, energy efficiency, carbon offsetting and mitigating climate impact.

Sustainable tourism:

- This means ensuring that the tourism can be socially, environmentally and economically sustained at the location over the long term (three-pillar approach or also known as the triple-bottom line).

In the questionnaire, people were asked 'how well do you think protection of the environment is embedded in the thinking of different sectors?'. The results of the questionnaire show that of the 14 sectors listed, people think tourism and recreation are doing best but only 12% of responders think the environment is completely embedded, so there is room for further improvement.

People think the Hotel and Tourism Association is doing good work, and that there are opportunities for tourists to enjoy heritage and nature.

In relation to recreation, they think it is good that there are low impact recreation activities on offer such as kayaking. They also noted that sport fishing has some regulations and a catch and release policy, the marinas now have better waste and oil spill management plans, and there are some dive companies that lead on good practice. Further improvements to recreation activities include revised and enforced sport fishing regulations, and guidelines for all dive operations. For example, not feeding wild species to attract them for tourist activities and thereby affecting the food chain and natural wildlife behaviour.

Suggestions for how to encourage the tourism sector to go further include more accreditation with every provider being ranked for how well they operate against agreed environmental and social well-being criteria. Awards for best practice and innovation will also incentivise change.

Practical measures suggested for reducing impact further include:

- Self-auditing and reporting
- Tackling waste eg waste to energy, composting food waste, recycling and less use of plastics
- Use of renewable energy
- Native species in landscaping
- Water conservation and use of grey water
- Greener menus with local sourced produce - working with local suppliers to increase within organic farming in the TCI
- Environmentally friendly building design and materials that fit in the surroundings
- Conserve local soil and vegetation in the building process
- Welcome Belongers and islanders to enjoy the beaches
- Career development and training for Belongers rather than bringing outsiders in

People think there needs to be much greater awareness and education to encourage tourists to behave in a more environmentally friendly way and that a good way of doing this would be a TCI tourist '*passport*' which includes environmental and social etiquette and '*10 things they can do*'. Examples might be:

- Return bottles for recycling
- Use paper not plastic
- Use eco-friendly sun-lotion when diving or snorkelling (normal lotion damages the reef)

- Buy local handicrafts to support local people
- Donate to a local environmental NGO
- Follow responsible recreation practice e.g. follow sport fishing regulations and don't damage the reef or feed fish
- Take your rubbish home

To encourage tourists that the TCI truly is genuinely 'Beautiful by Nature' and is committed to greener tourism in order to stay that way, information can be put in local magazines and in leaflets at the airport and at hotels.

To achieve all this, people suggested that once established, the new NGO could '*manage the local eco-drive*', encourage collaboration and partnerships on new initiatives, lead on the new tourism 'passport' idea, and list all the providers of sustainably and well run visitor heritage sites, nature tours and education. This listing would further incentivise change because providers would want to be on it.

5.4 Robust environmental and planning laws, implementation, and equitable and fair enforcement.

When asked what is already being done the response was that the TCI at least has environmental regulations and ordinances. However, people agreed on the need for these to be reviewed, updated, and consolidated. A strong consensus exists on the need for regulators to implement and enforce laws in a consistent, equitable, and fair way. People repeatedly and forcibly expressed this view in the drop-in workshops and semi-structured interviews.

Related to this, people welcome the Anti-Corruption Law and Integrity Commission, but still have strong concerns about favouritism, '*turning a blind eye*' and overt corruption at all levels. In particular people told us this results in inappropriate development, weak, inaccurate and inadequate EIA, environmental degradation, breaches in fisheries rules, and National Park regulations.

Measures to improve the situation include:

- Greater clarity about who is responsible and accountable for which bits of legislation
- A comprehensive review of all planning and environmental legislation to update them and improve integration
- Equitable and fair appeals process with sensible timeframes
- Anonymous reporting of breaches and corruption to trigger investigation
- Greater cooperation and effective communication between government departments
- More capacity, skills and training for enforcement staff



Gaps in the environmental legalisation include that *'the National Parks ordinance only refers to National Parks, Sanctuaries, Nature Reserves and Historic Sites and don't recognise areas of outstanding natural beauty, wetlands, SSSIs or ecological value'*. A review of protected areas is underway. However, whilst this provides an opportunity to modify boundaries or drop sites that are no longer worthy of protection, people are worried it could be used as an opportunity to lose valued sites. Instead they want it to provide

increased protection, ensure that if a site is no longer worthy of protection a substitute area is designated, that it should protect representative areas for the full range of TCI habitat types on land, wetland and sea, and it should include areas of natural beauty.

6 Maintaining momentum

6.1 Stakeholder participation and community involvement to influence key decisions

Throughout the engagement, a repeated theme has been the desire to see enhanced democracy, transparency, and political accountability. The main way of achieving this is through effective and genuine public and stakeholder participation in significant decisions. Such participation will increase awareness, create a sense of



ownership, and help develop community resilience *'through shared goals and consensus building'*. It will also result in broader and better-informed decisions to identify the *'human element of sustainability as well as the socio economic'* and environmental factors.

An important topic for engaging citizens is to develop a strong consensus about the way the TCI develops with a clear vision, identity, and sense of direction. The visions at the start of this report could contribute to that goal if citizens are asked what they like about them and how they could be improved.

At the main workshop the discussion group thought that with national issues, strategic planning and large new development projects, participation is essential and should be legally binding not discretionary.

Our own view is that a lot of participation is poor practice and tokenistic. Effective participation results from understanding good practice, backed by clear standards, and mechanisms for people to challenge whether or not the standards have been met. Dialogue Matters has expertise on this topic and we suggest that good practice includes:

- That people can have a genuine influence
- People are engaged at an early stage whilst options are open
- Participation takes place in well-designed, fairly and skilfully facilitated participation processes
- The process includes opportunities and sufficient information to enable deliberation and discussion of options and alternatives
- That participation includes those affected (from relevant sectors, interests and communities including currently marginalised groups)
- That stakeholders are told how their input was used

A resource that could assist with understanding good practice is the UN Declaration on Community Engagement signed in Brisbane in 2005.

(<http://iap2usa.org/International>)

At the main workshop people said that greater engagement would capture community input and could result in greater responsibility and mobilise community volunteers.

The group also suggested that a system is needed to enable concerned citizens to report problems and offences to the police.

They think that for this proposal to flourish there would need to be strong interest groups, meetings and workshops, public consultation, and a key community contact person for each island and community.

For the full detail of actions agreed in the workshop, please see Annex 3.

6.2 New Green Economy working group

To capitalise on this project, there needs to be new Green Economy working group that can review progress, function as a hub and connection point, and maintain momentum. At the main workshop, a plenary session was held to discuss this and people suggested the working groups initial responsibilities are as follows:

Build on the TCI Green Economy Project:

- See that the objectives of the project are realised
- Review progress and implementation of agreed actions
- To mainstream environmental practices amongst all sectors

Inform environmental initiatives:

- To inform environmental planning processes
- To plug into the Branson energy initiatives

Raise awareness:

- Raise public awareness about the green economy
- Help educate people at all levels and across sectors

Liaison:

- Liaise with NGOs
- Carry out wider engagement and communication

The Green Economy Working Group would function in the following ways:

- Have a professional stance
- Be collaborative
- Be decisive
- Function impartially
- Practice what we preach

In the initial stages, the most important requirement is members to have enthusiasm and commitment to making the group work and deliver on its responsibilities. It will be important for the group to develop and engage people from across government departments, business sectors, and islands. During the workshop, someone suggested



that the new Green Economy Working Group should build on the work of the Environmental Charter Working Group (which was linked to the Conservation Fund so no long functions).

A key first action will be to present the findings of this project to the Cabinet, the House of Assembly and the public.

At the workshop 11 people signed up to be members of the Green Economy Working Group (see **Annex 1**). However, the discussion took place later on the second afternoon when some people who may want to join, had already had to leave.

6.3 New environmental professional and independent NGO

A number of people in the Phase 2 engagement suggested there was a need for a new environmental NGO: one that could act professionally, efficiently and effectively. Ideas for the NGO include that it would be run by paid professional staff and would be ethical, well-funded, and make a difference. Part of its ethical approach would be to have a strong anti-corruption policy so it can build up a sound track record and draw down funds from external funding sources (eg Darwin Plus). Crucially it would be able to function independently of government, and government influence, whilst seeking to actively influence and champion the environment.

The group who discussed this think that challenges for setting up a new NGO include finding funding, finding committed professionals, and overcoming apathy. It will also be important for the group to find its own niche to complement and support the work done by other organisations.

Other organisations it needs to work with include: NGOs (such as TCPA, NT, TCRF), topic groups (e.g. the Carbon Group), volunteer groups (e.g. TCRF), school volunteer groups (e.g. Reef Action Team (RATs)), government (such as DEMA, the Governor, Ministry of Health and Environment, Ministry of Tourism), tourism and recreation providers (e.g. Hotel and Tourism Association, water sports companies, and the cruise centre) and business (e.g. recycling companies).

Its core tasks could include:

Championing, advocacy and advice:

- Championing the environment
- Act as an advocate for the environment with government
- Input environmental knowledge to key documents, plans, strategies and proposals
- Influence policy

Education and awareness:

- Celebrate and communicate success stories
- Find out what environmental education activities are already being carried out by government, NGO, diver companies and hotels
- Co-ordinate education programmes for all levels and ages from senior decision makers to school children including what already exists and filling gaps
- Increase public awareness
- Carry out media campaigns
- Hold seminars and conferences

Engagement:

- Develop a youth arm
- Develop voluntary environment local groups on each island
- Work with citizen groups (such as the Rotary Club, Churches and others) to support local level environmental improvements

Coordination:

- Be a central point for co-ordination and communication point between existing and any new initiatives to enhance complementarity and synergies and avoid clashes
- Be a central point for environmental data and information

Carry out projects and research:

- Identify priorities for conservation action
- Investigate and report environmental breaches and misdemeanours
- Commission environmental research and restoration projects

Fund raising:

- Identify sources of funds from within the TCI and externally
- Raise funds

Other suggestions:

- Be the secretariat for the Green Economy Working Group
- Be the secretariat for restored National Park advisory groups
- Manage National Parks
- Provide training and capacity building

An important part of how the NGO functions is that it has wide support. On the TCI that means that both Belongers and resident immigrants feel they can support it. We suggest that as the NGO develops it sets up a governance group with 50:50 from each group and engages people from all the islands. To harness the interest in establishing the NGO we suggest it considers alternating governance meetings between Provo and Grand Turk.

At the main workshop, 12 people put their names down for being involved, however not everyone was present at this stage of the workshop so there is likely to be more interest.

6.4 Embedding and establishing a green economy/sustainability ethos in government and across sectors

At the main workshop, the group who wanted to discuss this topic proposed that the focus should be on establishing a 'blue' economy to reflect the importance of the marine environment, and that the name of the initiative should be changed. They felt that the term 'green economy' implies land and that decision makers need to realise the interdependencies with the marine environment, which is the cornerstone of the economy and should be factored into every decision. They said the TCI marine environment is vulnerable to a number of global risks including climate change, sea level rise, ocean acidification and ocean warming, to local and TCI risks such as pollution, overfishing and loss of key habitats (see section 3.5.1).



The proposal to change the name from 'Green Economy' to 'Blue Economy' was fed back to the wider group of participants, but a number of people thought the project should stick with the phrase 'Green Economy'. Their reasoning was that the phrase Green Economy has a UN definition and is part of a global agenda. As such, it will be easier to communicate to others from their sector and within government. It is also likely that senior officials will hear it discussed in international fora and so realise its

importance.

Whatever the name, there is the need to take a whole ecosystem approach and promote the concept of greening and all that means for people, the economy and both terrestrial and marine environments.

The group agreed that they wanted the results of this Green Economy Project to be presented to the Cabinet, the House of Assembly and the general public and that is something the new Green Economy Working Group will need to act on.

6.5 Mobilising and inspiring people who care about the environment

This section reflects the facilitators' own observations, based on the research, but not discussed in the workshops.

From our research, we think a vital key to achieving a Green Economy and sustainable TCI is a shift in the way people who care about the environment, talk about it: from *'a cup half empty to a cup half full'* perspective.

As facilitators, observing discussions around the challenges, we understand why some people are despondent and tend to focus on the difficulties, thinking few others care. Our concern is the effect this is having on achieving the environmental goals that people want.

Research shows that focusing on negatives and problems causes people to be demotivated, look to the past, think looking after the environment is too difficult, feel disempowered, think it is all the government's responsibility, think there is nothing much they can do, and blame others. If those who know about the environment think it is difficult, then those who know less are not going to try. Focusing on strengths, current good work, and taking a positive and constructive view, shows looking after the environment is possible, builds momentum, empowers people, looks to the future, draws in more people and resources, and results in positive change.

Contrary to the view that not many other people care, we think that there is strong evidence that Belongers and residents do understand and care about the environment and want to work together to achieve more.



For example, in the Phase 2 engagement, all the interview slots were booked within 24 hours and we had a waiting list. This is unprecedented in our experience and even more unexpected because people had to come to us for the interview, rather than us going to them. Even more extraordinary was the response of 25 citizens we spoke with. They spanned an age range from 18 – 86 and included taxi drivers, airport staff, accommodation providers, staff in cafes, shops and restaurants, residents, medical staff and dive staff. On hearing why we were in the TCI, these people were keen to tell us about their

concerns and hopes and did so with knowledge and interest. They also made suggestions for solutions and told us there was more they would like to do themselves but needed help with (e.g. interesting their children, handling waste, using renewable energy, and enjoying nature and beaches). If we met people again, they added more thoughts and passed on information from others. Some went out of their way to find us and talk further. When we travel to places, we often ask one or two hotel or taxi staff about the topic we are working on. In 15 years, and many locations, we have never before come across such engaged, informed and interested citizens.

In the Phase 3 main workshop, stakeholders identified many good things that are already happening and more that can be done. They committed to take actions and there is a three-page list of offers of help (**Annex 2**). The workshop also initiated the first meeting of a the Green Economy Working Group which 11 people want to

attend, and a meeting to discuss a new Environmental NGO which 9 people want to attend.

Since the main workshop, further evidence of interest has already emerged. In mid December 2014 we created a simple website and posted on it the outputs from Phase 1, 2 and 3. Within a fortnight, it had 163 page views.



We believe that if the Green Economy Working Group, and the new NGO, create a culture of speaking constructively, it will motivate others and more will be achieved. The Green Economy Working Group can draw in other senior decision makers and community leaders. The new NGO can mobilise people by building up a membership of Belongers and residents. It can then provide a vehicle for people to act, harness the appetite to work in new partnerships, support community action, and catalyse significant and positive change.

Annex 1 Group Members

Project Oversight Group

	Name	Organisation
1.	Philip Shearer	Big Blue Unlimited
2.	Ralph Higgs	Tourist Board
3.	Rebecca Astwood	Investment Unit
4.	Shonia Thomas-Been	Ministry of Finance
5.	Stan Hartling	Hartling Group
6.	Tatum Clerveaux	Lands Commission
7.	Wesley Clerveaux	Ministry of Tourism and Culture
8.	Kathleen McNary-Wood	Green Economy Project logistics and administration

Green Economy Working Group

Names signed up at the main workshop but not all participants were present at that point and so more may join.

	Name	Organisation
1.	Benneth Williams	Turks & Caicos Weekly News
2.	Bradley Handfield	Community Leader
3.	Candianne Williams	TCI Museum
4.	Chuck Hesse	Pride
5.	Clyde Robinson	Paradise Solutions TCI
6.	Don Stark	Turks & Caicos Reef Fund
7.	Goldray Ewing	PDM
8.	Ian Harrison	Doc Direct & Island Fresh Produce
9.	Philip Shearer	Big Blue Unlimited
10.	Rikardia Pardo	DDME
11.	Kathleen McNary-Wood	SWA Ltd

New Environmental NGO

Names signed up at the main workshop but not all participants were present at that point and so more may join.

	Name	Organisation
1.	Candianne Williams	TCI Museum
2.	Philip Shearer	Big Blue Unlimited
3.	Don Stark	Turks & Caicos Reef Fund
4.	Chuck Hesse	Pride
5.	Kathleen McNary-Wood	SWA Ltd
6.	Luc Clerveaux	As individual (works for DEMA)
7.	Roddy McLeod	As individual (works for DEMA)
8.	Jackie Walker	As individual (works for Amanyara)
9.	Tina Randall	As individual (Works for Riding stables)

Annex 2 Directory of offers

At the main workshop people were asked:

What assets and resources* might you/your organisation be able to harness for shared initiatives and shared outcomes?

(* Assets and resources include: time, effort, energy, information, know-how, innovations, skills, funds, staff, volunteers, initiatives, places, networks.)

This is their response.

Offer	Organisation/persons reference number
All listed assets and resources	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All listed assets and resources - All listed – for planning (except fundraising) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amin McCartney, Ministry of Environment (definite) - Mike Clerveaux, Planning (don't hesitate to ask)
Volunteers and time	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteers - Volunteer personal time and expertise - Offer of time wherever needed - People: volunteers, staff time - People for any environmental initiatives (time), particularly for the marine environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Big Blue (definite) - TCRF (in principle) - PDM (definite) - Michelle Gardiner, Rebecca Astwood, Shayone Handfield-Gardiner, Don Stark (all definite) - Mark Parrish, Edgar Howell, Paula Deane, Vicky Dunster, Gavin Thomas, Goldray Ewing, Ric Graham, and Clyde Robinson - Rebecca Astwood (definite) - Candianne Williams (don't hesitate to ask) - Ric Graham (definite) - TCN Museum (don't hesitate to ask) - Vicky Dunster (definite) - Blue Water Divers (definite) - Amin McCartney (definite) - Shayone Handfield-Gardiner (don't hesitate to ask) - Fishing Co-op (definite)
Networks	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TCN Museum (don't hesitate to ask) - Vicky Dunster (definite) - Blue Water Divers (definite) - Amin McCartney (definite) - Shayone Handfield-Gardiner (don't hesitate to ask) - Candianne Williams (don't hesitate to ask)
Skills and knowledge	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Time/knowledge, etc/promotion - Sharing of skills/knowledge - Sharing skills from a tourism aspect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chuck Hess - TCI Co-op Fishing/Oscar Talbot (definite) - Oswald Skipplings (definite)
Environmental etiquette info	

- Share documentation, environmental etiquette, promotions
- Big Blue (definite)

Education

- Kids' camps
- School field trips and school presentations
- Education, Management of access, and Support
- Education, commitment to standardise environmental education, improving curriculum
- Education support
- Education
- Big Blue (definite)
- Big Blue (definite)
- TCN museum (definite)
- Edgar Howell (definite)
- TCRF (definite)
- Don Stark, Sparkle D Prentice, Mark Parrish, Edgar Howell, Chuck Hess, Oswald Skippings, Vicky Dunster, and Goldray Ewing

Promotion of environmental information and values

- Education and Promotion
- Internal promotions
- Mailing list for promotional purposes
- Partnering with other agencies for public education
- Promotion
- Promotion of environmental values
- Promotion; and Support,
- Promotions through website and Facebook
- Public awareness and networking for Green Energy
- Public awareness and promotions
- Blue Water Divers (definite)
- Ric Graham (definite)
- Rebecca Astwood (definite)
- Edgar Howell (definite)
- Don Stark, Sparkle D Prentice, and Oswald Skippings
- Edgar Howell (definite)
- Fishing Co-op/Oswald Skippings (definite)
- TCN Museum (don't hesitate to ask)
- TCRF (definite)
- PDM (definite)
- PDM (definite)

Partnerships and active involvement

- Support, partnership, active involvement
- partnership, active involvement
- people, partnership,
- Partnerships that involve capacity building in environment/skill development, environment/science
- Partnerships in developing capacity building initiatives in the area of environmental management, science etc
- Partnerships and active involvement
- Active involvement
- Partnership Programmes
- Active involvement
- Candianne Williams (don't hesitate to ask)
- TCN Museum (don't hesitate to ask)
- Sharlene Cartwright and Goldray Ewing (both definite)
- Employment Services Department (definite)
- Mark Parrish Employment Services Department (definite)
- Ric Graham (definite)
- Don Stark, Sparkle D Prentice, Mark Parrish, Edgar Howell, Chuck Hess, Oswald Skippings, and Vicky Dunster (all definite), Gavin Thomas and Goldray Ewing
- Big Blue (definite)
- Edgar Howell (definite)

Parliamentary Support

- Parliamentary support
- PDM (definite)

Fundraising

- Production costs for promotions
- Big Blue (in principle)

- Fundraising assistance
- TCRF (definite)
- Ric Graham (in principle)
- Funding, fund raising (already doing that)
- Don Stark (definite)

Data information and knowhow

- Help with licensing, data, information, technical assistance
- Rebecca Astwood (definite) & Ministry of Finance (in principle – needs approval)
- Data, information and knowhow. Data sharing, skills
- Shayone Handfield-Gardiner (definite), AG's Chambers (don't hesitate to ask)
- Data, information and knowhow
- Mike Clerveaux (don't hesitate to ask)
- Data and information sharing from SPPH, Premier's office, Airports Authority
- Rebecca Astwood, Sparkle D Prentice, Mark Parrish, Oswald Skippings, Chuck Hess, Paula Deane, Vicky Dunster, Gavin Thomas, and Goldray Ewing (all definite)
- Data and information sharing
- Sharlene Cartwright and Goldray Ewing (both definite)
- Crown Land map access/assistance
- Rebecca Astwood (definite) & Crown Land Unit (in principle – needs approval)
- Access to Crown Land data and management
- Crown Land Unit (in principle)

Access

- Management of access,
- Sharlene Cartwright and Goldray Ewing (both definite)

Citizen science

- Community service (citizen science)
- Big Blue (definite)

Boats equipment

- Boats, Equipment,
- Big Blue (definite)

Beach Cleans

- Beach cleans and in partnership
- Big Blue (definite)

Updating legislation, harmonising, and greening

- Assist with updating of legislation, harmonising and greening
- Rebecca Astwood (definite)

Annex 3 Next Steps - Action Plans

During the main workshop, participants were asked to think about and commit to short term actions. The full detail of the topic action plans are detailed in the following tables and we have kept this section separate to the main report so that it can be readily updated. We have provided a column to help the Green Economy Working Group review progress.

Symbols:

Q1 is quarter 1 of 2015 ie January to end of March, Q2, is April to June, Q3 is July to Sept, Q4 is October to Dec.

→ means work in progress

● means work to be completed within the quarter

A. Action on Priorities for establishing TCI as a Green Economy

What	When	Who	2015				Progress comments
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
1. TCI strategic and island specific sustainable development and spatial planning							
Short Term – by March 2015							
Reporting of the outcomes from the Green Economy Project and this session	Draft for comment mid Jan Final Mid Feb	Dialogue Matters	●				
Raise the issue in Parliament	2 weeks after the report is received	Goldray Ewing	●				
Cross-Ministry assessment of what has been done and what is being done (plans)	December 2014	Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Environment and Home Affairs*, Clyde Robinson, Mike Clerveaux*, Amin McCartney	→	●			
Clarity of titles and purposes of plans and their legal status	ASAP	Director of Planning and Mike Clerveaux and Clyde Robinson	●				
Collection and collation of data for proposal (demographics, trends, spatial,	Ongoing (updated and revised	Mike Clerveaux	→	→	→	→	

What	When	Who	2015				Progress comments
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
hazards)	periodically)						
Bringing together existing ecological survey and literature review of all documents to inform the plan	One month	DEMA	•				
Create new hazard maps	Ongoing	Hazard Mitigation Officer Rikardia Pardo	→	→	→	→	
Medium Term 2015 onwards							
Proposing a comprehensive, sustainable plan (over-arching)	March 2015-August 2015 (6 month process)	Mike Clerveaux, Director of Planning, Physical Planning Board, Strategic Planning Policy Unit and DEMA		→	→		
Consultation for proposed plan	March 2015-August 2015 (6 month process)	Clyde Robinson and heads of all government departments		→	→		
Take proposal to Physical Planning Board to be approved	One month from August 2015	Director of Planning			•		
Public consultation and awareness of the plans	Ongoing	Community Preparedness Manager in liaison with other ministries			→	→	
Providing historical information	Ongoing	Clyde Robinson and other former staff	→	→	→	→	
2. Funds, capacity, knowledge and skills to manage the natural environment better (for NGO and Government)							
Short Term							
Public press release	Immediately	Kathleen Wood	•				
Public feedback: media direct to Facebook/online, finding support, involve public	After press release	National Trust, Blue Water Divers, NGO	→	→			
Organise action group to see who cares – meet to decide how to put pressure on government		Chamber of Commerce, Hotel and Tourism Association, concerned action groups for each island	•				
Get Premier to sign letter to initiate	1 month	Rebecca Astwood	•				

What	When	Who	2015				Progress comments
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Caribbean Challenge Initiative process							
Medium Term							
Permanent Secretary of Department of Environment to make presentation for PS Board meeting to sensitise for support (Attorney General, Ministry of Finance, Governor's office)	Next quarter – start January (Financial Year Jan-March)	PS of Environment	•				
Engage opposition to put pressure on government	Within 2 months	National Trust, NGO and action group	•				
Secretariat of Caribbean Challenge Initiative will walk through process, e.g. legislation	6-8 months	Ministry of Environment, DEMA, National Trust	→	→	•		
Long Term							
Continue public pressure for follow-through – need to involve Attorney General's Chambers and Ministry of Finance	Ongoing	All interest groups	→	→	→	→	
3. Enhancing environmental understanding and education at all levels (Note: this group struggled to commit to action but coordinating and enhancing environmental education has been suggested as a key task of the new environmental NGO)							
Short Term							
Define a leader to coordinate do's and don'ts	1 week	DEMA	•				
Medium Term							
Determine what we are going to educate			→	→			
Do's and don'ts brochure for tourists			→	→			
Funding			→	→			
Get information out			→	→			
4. Sustainable Behaviour Action Plan							
Short Term							
Seek government support/MOU for action points (Is this really necessary?)	ASAP (within 2 months)	Non-existent water sports association, DEMA, Tourist	•				

What	When	Who	2015				Progress comments
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
		Board, Hotel and Tourism Association (TCHTA)					
Database of stakeholders (expertise, contact details, identify who wants to be involved)	Current, existing, just needs to be compiled	People in the room use them to solicit the support you need	•				
Meeting/online survey	Current and near-future, next few days	Henry Wilson, Rebecca Astwood, Michelle Gardiner, Mark Parrish	•				
Set goals and priorities			→	→			
Form a new NGO			→	→			
Medium Term							
Identify things that can be done without costs. Assess costs of the project and secure funding				→	→		
Asset registry, environmental inventory, accounting of resources				→	→		
Database of existing information		Kathleen Wood		→	→		
Long Term							
Legislation review		Rebecca Astwood	→	→	→	→	
Construct an environmental timeline: past-present-future			→	→	→	→	
Public awareness and education campaign			→	→	→	→	
5. NGO and Government working more effectively together							
Short Term							
New maritime NGO open dialogue with DEMA and police	Now!	Mark Parrish, DEMA, Police	•				
Include information about this session in report on attendance	Short-term	Amin McCartney, Mike Clerveaux, Gavin Thomas, Rikardia Pardo	•				
Medium Term							

What	When	Who	2015				Progress comments
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
National Trust highlight projects and open dialogue with Department of Planning	Less than 6 months	National Trust Council	→	●			
Planning help identify future developers that can assist National Trust	Medium-term	Planning		→			
Long Term							
Open a dialogue about departments and NGOs working	Ongoing	All departments and all NGOs	→	→	→	→	
Training and skill-building for government to work with NGO	Ongoing	Government HR	→	→	→	→	
6. Waste management and recycling							
Short Term							
Contact the Premier/Wesley		Philip Shearer	●				
Small working group to build the energy up for recycling: contact all waste management organisations; need to engage TCI Waste; get more local people on board and support from a larger group		Candianne Williams, Benneth Williams (lead), Philip Shearer, Ric Graham	●				
Medium Term							
Speak to PS Environment: feasibility study on staff, machinery, location, etc to actually support recycling; make proposal to Cabinet (private member's proposal); develop legislation and policies to add recycling issues – ban on plastic		Shayonne Gardiner	●				
Creating a program on WIV about products that can be banned (phased-out): identify products that can be reduced or banned	Will put the seed by weekend and have discussions next week (17-21 November 2014)	Phillip Shearer	●				
Create a cartoon that will display the process of recycling	Starting next week (17-21 November 2014)	Benneth Williams	●				
7. Sustainable Energy							

What	When	Who	2015				Progress comments
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Short Term							
Governor's support and voice/face	Start immediately	Goldray Ewing	•				
Medium Term							
Town Hall meetings for public awareness	Following draft Policy approval	Rebecca Astwood will coordinate with Sparkle D Prentice		→	→	→	
Develop a value proposition	Following draft Policy approval			→	→	→	
Talk shows on radios	Following draft Policy approval	Goldray Ewing		→	→	→	
Long Term							
Support Seamus Day			→	→	→	→	
Support Energy Commission			→	→	→	→	
Support and coordinate year-round education			→	→	→	→	
Produce something for public to support current action			→	→	→	→	

B. Action to maintain momentum

What	When	Who	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Progress comments
1. Stakeholder Participation							
Short Term							
Establish community citizens' group for each island and community	January 2015	Amin McCartney and MEHA	•				
Notification for public consultation: formal/informal	February 2015	Rebecca Astwood	•				
Medium Term							

What	When	Who	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Progress comments
Key community citizens should have regular communication with Green Economy Working Group	Ongoing	Community Activist Representative	→	→	→	→	
Prioritize socio-economic initiatives	March 2015	Amin McCartney and MEHA	•				
2. New Green Economy Working Group (for date of first meeting and initial membership see below)							
Short Term							
Organise first meeting	January 2015	Kathleen McNary-Wood	•				Done
At first meeting organise dates for rest of the year			•				
Review this action plan for progress and report to wider stakeholders on quarterly basis			•	•	•	•	
3. New Environmental NGO (for date of first meeting and initial membership see below)							
Short Term							
Organise first meeting	January 2015	Kathleen McNary-Wood	•				Done
At first meeting organise dates for rest of the year			•				
Develop governance and funding mechanisms			•	•	•	•	
Medium term							
Appoint staff			→	→	•		
4. Embedding and establishing a green/blue economy /sustainability ethos in government and across sectors (Note: this is a key task of the new environmental NGO and the Green Economy Working Group so commitments and timing not listed here)							
Short Term							
Information, education and awareness: television documentary, media (information out there), radio		Blue Economy Group (Mark Parrish, Chuck Hess, Rick Graham and Philip Shearer)	→	→	→	→	
Understanding tourist perceptions of marine environment		The above group agrees to be a sub-group of the whole to lead and follow up on these identified	•				

What	When	Who	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Progress comments
		action areas					
New NGO (need resources)							
Enhance understanding of marine ecosystem vocabulary			→	→	→	→	
Medium Term							
Government: Department of Agriculture (fertilisers, disposal of gas, waste) need legislation/procedure to deal with these factors							
Understanding of effects/impacts of land practices (fertilisers, run-off) – need education and awareness			→	→	→	→	
Long Term							
Sustainability of conch and all fisheries: stricter quotas; export is the problem; local use only/tourist experience		Proposed new NGO					
Procedures and policies to enhance marine environment							