

We believe by signing the Convention we will contribute to securing the future of the important animals and plants and their habitats for which we are the custodians. In this way we will secure our own future as well as the future of our natural environment.

**The questions we are asking you are:**

- a. Do you agree with the Isle of Man becoming party to the Convention?
- b. **If so** what actions could you, and any organisations you are involved in or employed by, contribute to the implementation of the convention?
- c. Do you have views on how the associated work should be resourced?
- d. Do you have particular views on the priorities?
- e. **If you don't agree** to the Isle of Man becoming party what are your reasons?
- f. What would need to change to affect your view?

We are inviting responses to this consultation by **March 31<sup>st</sup> 2010**. If you would like to receive a hard copy of any of the documents or tape or large print versions of this document, or have any queries regarding this consultation, please contact Liz Charter, by:

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## **Consultation on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – a brief summary**

DAFF is inviting your opinions on whether the Isle of Man should sign up (via the UK) to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Department is committed to ensuring that the provisions of the Convention are extended to the Isle of Man at the earliest possible occasion and is recommending that the Island asks for the UK signatory to be extended to us. We are therefore consulting with the wider community on the implications for signing up to this international treaty.

***This is a two page summary and there is a comprehensive document available.***

The two most important objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the Isle of Man are:

- Conservation of biodiversity (looking after the variety of life in all its forms)
- Sustainable use of biological resources (meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs)

The Convention was drawn up in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 because plants and animals are becoming extinct at an unprecedented rate - between 100 and 1000 times more rapidly than is natural, as a result of human activities. This loss is undermining the biological processes upon which we depend. The agreement covers all ecosystems, species, and genetic resources. The Convention recognizes that ecosystems, species and genes must be used for the benefit of humans. However, this should be done in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity.

Being party to the Convention helps signatories to take effective action in conserving biodiversity and maintaining the earth's natural resources for future generations. It recognises that conservation must be led by national governments but must be supported by populations and considered in all aspects of life.

The CBD is a very widely adopted Convention, for example every country in the Europe with the exception of Andorra and the Vatican City are signatory. The CBD has helped support and given focus for many small island states to embrace biodiversity conservation. Many extremely poor nations successfully implement the CBD and see sustainable use of resources and maintenance of biodiversity as fundamental to the survival of their people.

Becoming party to the Convention on Biological Diversity would mean giving greater weight to the environment and its biodiversity in decision making and improving understanding the impacts of our activities. It would mean being more aware of the scale of these impacts and aiming to reduce, compensate for and mitigate them. This is a shared responsibility and will need to involve communities as well as government, organisations and individuals. There are also education, awareness raising and research implications.

In the Isle of Man we have many internationally as well as nationally important habitats and species. There are valuable and important in the British Isles and Europe, and they require active protection.

On the Island wildlife is mainly associated with our leisure activities however behind many of our economic activities is a dependence on biodiversity and their natural processes; pollination of crops, pest control on grassland, nitrogen fixation in soil, scallop reproduction, water purification and carbon fixation. The living world is interconnected and loss of links in the food chain can have unpredictable effects.

Your views matter. The CBD is not an 'all or nothing' convention, however DAFF firmly believes that it is important to sign up now, in recognition of what we are already doing and for the international community thereby to recognise our intention to meet international conservation standards.