

QUICK FACTS ABOUT JOST VAN DYKE

(and its surrounding Cays)

Institutional Framework

Summarised from the draft Environmental Profile for Jost van Dyke

1. The British have maintained Sovereignty in the BVI since 1672.
2. As a British colony, the BVI was administered as part of the Leeward Islands Federation from 1872 to 1956.
3. Constitutional reform in 1967 eventually established the BVI as a British Dependent Territory (now named Overseas Territory) with a locally elected legislature and chief minister.
4. As a Crown Colony, the BVI Head of State is the British Monarch.
5. The British Monarch is represented locally by a Crown-appointed Governor who is responsible for external affairs, internal security, defense and the public service.
6. The BVI enjoys a high level of self-government based on a Westminster Parliamentary model of government.
7. The Constitutional Order of 2007 further defines the political relationship between the United Kingdom (UK) and the BVI.
8. The Sister Islands Programme was established in 2003 to promote and facilitate the delivery of Government services to the sister islands, inclusive of Jost van Dyke. The Sister Islands Programme Coordinator, works with and supervises District Officers on the Sister Islands.
9. The District Officer in Jost van Dyke has a variety of duties including oversight of postal services, supervision of designated Government employees in JVD, collection of land taxes.
10. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour carries primary responsibility for the Territory's environmental resources.
11. Within the Ministry, there are three agencies that execute specific responsibility for the management and protection of the environment— Department of Conservation and Fisheries, National Parks Trust, Department of Agriculture.
12. There are several laws and regulations related to protection of the environment. Some of these are 1) The Fisheries Act (1997) and Regulations (2003) 2) Physical Planning Act, 2004 3) National Parks Act (2006) and Regulations (2008).