

## NOTES FOR SCRUTINY PANEL ON OVERSEAS AID COMMISSION

Thanks for invitation to be heard.

Each of four Chairman/Presidents has put their 'stamp' on the work of JOA  
I have worked with Ann Bailhache as President and with the Commission  
Chairman as a colleague. Prior to that my work has taken me to India  
[2.5 years] and with a return visit more recently; visits to Beirut, South  
Africa, New Zealand and working with Plan International Country  
Directors. A feel for the work of the Commission.

Highlights of 1996-99 were three-fold:

- (i) the whole process of review of applications, interviews, feedback and allocation;
- (ii) setting up the independent Review of Policy and process in 1997-98 and modifying policy and application subsequently; e.g.: 3-year rolling grants.
- (iii) Selection of Work teams process and reporting back.

Have reviewed some but not all of the submissions - make interesting reading. Tapping into people's experience and contribution most rewarding. I too was a recipient of and felt the benefit of the Red Cross Parcels from Canada and New Zealand.

As many of them are more eloquent and persuasive than I could be on the issues underlying your Terms of Reference, I will confine myself to two aspects:

### Thrust of our donations/Grants:

Policy of avoiding risk of contribution or falling foul of corruption; impressed at CPA conference in Fiji in 2005 - pleas from recipient countries to continue our policy and to do whatever we can to UN/Commonwealth efforts to eliminate corruption; note the call from F W de Klerk on this issue.;  
Work towards reducing the gap between wealthy countries and poor nations.

What else can we do in addition to enhance the value of our contribution commensurate with our wealth?

We have read of the RJA&HS AI contribution to Rwanda;  
Cyd Bail's reference to private generosity and consequences of climate change;  
John Henwood's encouragement to have a 25 year time horizon;  
Mark Stanley Price's persuasive argument to diversify our p[rogramme in line with Durrell's approach to environmental sustainability;  
Tony Allchurch's Fair Trade approach and impatience to secure increased States Grants;  
Denis Troy's long experience with work groups so simply but eloquently expressed;  
Claire Morvan's experience told to me last night - a case study you might want to explore further.

So I arrive at my suggestion for a brand new initiative - a Jersey Carbon Offset Fund or Trust. [handout] dedicated to Overseas Aid as its target. [perhaps in lieu of an environmental tax to go to the general coffers?]

I am looking at a fifty year time line starting now! We could even link arms with the other Bailiwick and establish a joint enterprise.

I believe we need to persuade islanders that in order to achieve the UN target, at a "prudent rate" at least, over a "realistic timetable" of course, BUT surely this is a time to be brave, courageous even, and go for a challenging target within the foreseeable future.

I talked, in my contribution with those of others, of needing to increase the size of our steps - let us lengthen our stride wearing three league boots!

We need to counter some of the arguments made against a substantial and continuing increase in the level of our giving ["charity begins at home"] by comparing what taxpayers contribute by way of total subsidies and grants domestically - soon to be much more equitably distributed to those in relative financial poverty by way of the integrated income support scheme - and that which is translated via Overseas Aid. I think that would be educational. There is at least one order of magnitude difference.

I believe also we must try and estimate - determine is too exact - the order of magnitude or total value of what the Island gives in terms of money and in kind:

We know about the States's contribution on behalf of residents and business; we can estimate the worth of the work groups; we could gather more information if volunteered on the total of private generosity - that should be considered as part of the contribution towards the UN target - others may not agree to that formula. Jean Le Maistre has offered thoughts on this too on added value in terms of the role of the organisations that administer the money on our behalf.

### Conclusion

We have established a unique approach inherited from the foresight, tireless efforts and creative persuasiveness of past Presidents and Committees and selfless contribution of Executive Officers.

An approach based on a philosophy that is respected by agencies and recipient jurisdictions and valued by its beneficiaries - people in dire need. A philosophy that has stood the test of time.

AND it is good that you are taking a fresh look, by way of tapping into the knowledge and two-way learning by experience of those deeply involved, both islanders and those proven Agencies and trusted individuals abroad who act as mid-wives for our giving.

Jean Le Maistre among others has asked questions and some of us have suggested possible additional approaches to add to our contribution to eradicate poverty and suffering. Those questions need to be answered.

I look forward to the findings and the recommendations your Panel delivers.

Thank you for listening.

I hope I can respond usefully to your questions.

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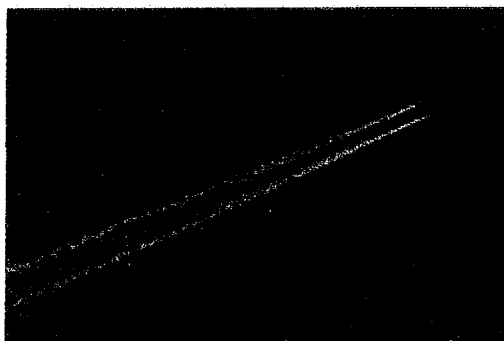


## Climate change: Carbon offsetting

### What is carbon offsetting?

Our everyday actions consume energy and produce carbon dioxide emissions, for example driving a car, heating a home or flying. Offsetting is a way of compensating for the emissions produced with an equivalent carbon dioxide saving.

**Carbon offsetting involves calculating your emissions and then purchasing 'credits' from emission reduction projects. These projects have prevented or removed an equivalent amount of carbon dioxide elsewhere.**



Due to the fact that greenhouse gases have a long life-span and tend to mix evenly in the atmosphere it doesn't matter where gases are emitted in the world: the effect on climate change is the same. To make up for unavoidable emissions increases, e.g. heating your home, equivalent emissions reductions can be made elsewhere, meaning that the overall effect is zero.

### Will carbon offsetting solve climate change?

We acknowledge that carbon offsetting is not a cure for climate change but it can help raise awareness and reduce the impact of our actions. The most appropriate action to take is to reduce emissions.

Offsetting is a useful element of what we can all do to address climate change for several reasons:

- Providing the means to work out the emissions from our own activities helps raise awareness of our impact on climate change. Combined with reducing our emissions, offsetting can be used to address this impact.
- When done in a robust and responsible way, offsetting leads to a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions in the area local to the offsetting project, often in developing countries.
- Offsetting projects, such as those approved by the United Nations, provide a mechanism for investment in clean technology in the areas which lack it the most. Such investment can lead to the spread of low-carbon development across entire regions, further reducing climate change impact.

### How can I have confidence in offsetting my carbon emissions, whether personally or for my business?

We have published a consultation paper on establishing a voluntary Code of Best Practice for the provision of carbon offsetting to UK customers. The purpose of establishing a Code is to ensure consumer confidence in an emerging market and continued growth of that market through that confidence. The consultation will finish on 13 April 2007 and the intention is to have the Code operating by Autumn 2007.