



UKOTCF Southern Oceans Working Group e-Newsletter

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Study on Invasives in South Atlantic UKOTs begins

Welcome to the sixth SOWG e-Newsletter. If you have any contributions or suggestions send them to cwensink@ukotcf.org.

Biological control of invasive species on the South Atlantic UKOTs

A new feasibility study, funded by DEFRA, for the biological control of invasive alien species (both arthropod and plant species) introduced into the South Atlantic UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) has begun. The title of the project, which is being conducted by CABI and administered through JNCC is 'Understanding and addressing the impact of invasive non-native species in the UK Overseas Territories in the South Atlantic'. The project builds on the results of the South Atlantic Invasive Species (SAIS) project and will link directly into the strategies and recommendations derived from that project.



(Left: Spear Thistle Photo by Brian Summers)

A major component of this study will be a desk-based review assessing the impact of non-native plants and invertebrates in the South Atlantic UKOTs. Two detailed case studies will evaluate the potential of implementing a biological control programme against priority species for the Falklands and South Georgia more closely.

This project is currently in the initial phase though research is already underway on the extensive literature review. For more information contact Norbert Maczey at: n.maczey@cabi.org

Henderson eradication project

Update on Eradication of Rodents on Henderson

In August, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) in partnership with the Pitcairn Islands Government began its rat eradication programme. As part of this partnership, with several international organisations, a single operational vessel will complete three Island restoration projects in succession around the Pacific.

The MV *Aquila*, will complete a 27,000km voyage to Palmyra Atoll (USA), the Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA, Kiribati) and then Henderson Island, restoring crucial seabird habitats at each stop by removing rats.

For further information about the project, please contact Jonathan Hall, Henderson Island Project Coordinator, at: jonathan.hall@rspb.org.uk

Botanic Publication includes chapter on Pitcairn

New Publication includes chapter on Pitcairn Island flora

The Biology of island floras published by Cambridge University Press, gives an updated account of how modern research methods and new concepts have challenged theories and understanding of island flora. The book includes a chapter by Steve Waldren and Naomi Kingston which explores the phytogeography and relationships of the Pitcairn Islands flora.

For more information see:

www.cambridge.org/gb/knowledge/isbn/item6432922/?site_locale=en_GB

Meeting future of BIOT MPA

Scientific meeting: The Chagos Archipelago: The World's Largest Marine Protected Area

A meeting supported by Pew Environment Group, organised by Professor Charles Sheppard FLS will be held at the Linnean Society of London on Thursday 24th November 2011. The meeting will cover the current science of the Chagos archipelago, as well as examining its importance as a marine reserve and the way ahead for management.

If you would like to attend, please contact Elizabeth Whitehead for a registration form

ewhitebread@pewtrusts.org.



Vacancy: St Helena National Trust Director

St Helena National Trust seeks Director



St Helena National Trust, Director
£20,000 per annum + plus travel allowance/3 year Fixed Term Contract/Relocation allowance

The post of Director of the St Helena National Trust is an immensely exciting, varied and challenging role. The National Trust is at the heart of efforts to conserve what makes St Helena special. As Director you will be responsible for everything from managing the award-winning Millennium Forest and new Wirebird conservation programme, to promoting the island's bid to be a World Heritage Site and growing our new heritage construction business.

The successful candidate must be able to provide strong leadership, motivate and manage this growing organisation. You will be responsible for implementing the Trust's new 5-year Strategy, with an emphasis on securing its sustainability and income. You will need to have a good understanding of how to conserve the natural, built and cultural heritage of St Helena. You will be an excellent communicator as the role requires interaction with the public, schools, local organisations, government departments and international groups. Flexibility and the ability to prioritise work are essential for the successful management of this wide-ranging and challenging post.

To apply: To apply or request a job description/application form, email phyllis.natrust@cwimail.sh, OR call 00 290 2190

Closing date: Submit your CV, application and covering letter explaining why you are the right person to develop the Trust's role as a leading conservation organisation by **Monday 3rd October 2011**

Training with the penguins

Working Group co-Chair trains with penguins



He won't be swimming in Antarctic waters and time soon but Rob Thomas, Royal Zoological Society of Scotland's conservation and research manager and SOWG

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co-Chair recently trained for the London triathlon with the help of his penguin friends at Edinburgh Zoo. In preparation for the 1,500 metre swim as part of the Olympic sized triathlon he joined the penguins in their pool for regular swims.

Rob said the penguins had been "curious" about their guest.

He also trained for the running and cycling part of the race on Corstorphine Hill where the zoo is based.

"Corstorphine Hill has proven to be the perfect location for training for all three disciplines" Rob said.

"As well as running and cycling around the area, taking a dip in the zoo's penguin pool which is the largest outdoor penguin pool in Europe, was just the perfect solution.

"As well as excellent training for me in outdoor water, my swims have also provided fantastic enrichment for our extremely curious and friendly penguins."

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Forum News 38 will be published soon. If you have any ideas for future issues please contact Catherine Wensink cwensink@ukotcf.org

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