



Wirebird mother settling on eggs.  
Photo: Gavin Ellick, St Helena National Trust

- Establishment of protocols to monitor the status of the Wirebird and vegetation in restored habitat.
- b) Identification and documentation of the territories of the Wirebird that are affected both directly and indirectly by the proposals for the airport and supporting infrastructure.
- c) Development of a national species action plan for the Wirebird at a workshop on St Helena involving all key stakeholders, which outlines the activities required including amendments to legislation and policy to conserve the Wirebird in the wild.
- d) Strengthened technical capacity at the SHNT to monitor the status of the Wirebird.
- e) Increased awareness about the Wirebird both locally and internationally through the preparation of a leaflet and regular press releases.

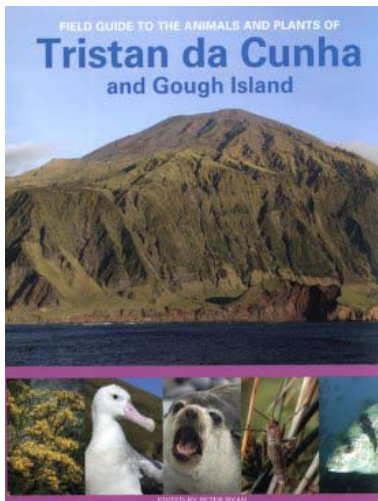
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## Field Guide to the Animals and Plants of Tristan da Cunha and Gough Island,

Edited by Peter Ryan (TDC301)

In 2007, The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds published *A field guide to the animals and plants of Tristan da Cunha and Gough Island*, in collaboration with the Tristan Island Government and University of Cape Town. The book has been an ambition of the editor, Peter Ryan - an honorary conservation officer for Tristan,

since he spent a summer on Inaccessible in 1989.



The colourful guide aims to be a compact reference to the animals and plants found on the territory. It is illustrated throughout, with more than 400 colour photographs. In addition to the wealth of information on the wildlife found in the islands, it includes a chapter on visiting Tristan - so will be a valuable resource for tourists. It is an outstanding contribution to efforts to conserve Tristan's unique and threatened biodiversity.

The book is an enormous

achievement, as specialists who have visited and undertaken research on the islands contributed chapters voluntarily. It would not have been possible without the support provided by the Tristan Agriculture and Natural Resources Department, the Darwin Team and Tristan community. We are also grateful to the UK Government's Overseas Territories Environment Programme for providing some of the funding.

All proceeds from the sale of the guide will go to support conservation activities on Tristan. We hope the guide will encourage readers to learn more about the island and to share the enjoyable experience of watching birds and wildlife in a remote and pristine setting.

The book contains 168 pages and is available direct from NatureBureau, Tel: +44 (0) 1635 550380, post@naturebureau.co.uk at a cost of £12 plus postage, or from Miles Apart @ £13.50 including post and packing ex UK. Copies are also on sale at the Supermarket and Museum on Tristan

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## OTEP Fellows - Capacity building for the environment (XOT403)

The University of Exeter is again hosting three OTEP (Overseas Territories Environment Programme) Fellows on its Master of Science programme in Biodiversity and Conservation: Grant Munro (Falkland Islands), Calvin "Andre" Samuel (Anguilla) and Paul Watler (Cayman Islands). The aim of this OTEP-funded project is to increase capacity within the Overseas Territories to achieve the goals of the Environment Charters and implementation of MEAs.

Based at the University's Cornwall Campus, near Falmouth, the Fellows have completed course work. As they return to their territories to conduct their research projects, and later return to their jobs, we believe that the departments and organisations in which they work will have greater capacity to achieve their conservation goals. In preparing this article I asked the OTEP Fellows to provide a little background about themselves and how they have enjoyed the course so far:

Grant Munro writes:

"Conservation in the Overseas Territories is often under-resourced. Within small government departments or NGOs, human resources are limited and many skills are demanded of an individual to achieve the action and successes that are required.

"Prior to arriving in Cornwall I worked with Falklands Conservation. However, coming to conservation from a background within the fishing industry, I lacked knowledge of much of the science that underpins our conservation efforts and which is essential for effective prioritisation of action.

"As a mature student, the decision to return to study was not easy. However, the course has provided the opportunity to further my scientific understanding whilst always placing this firmly in the context of practical conservation. Furthermore, it has provided an opportunity for the exchange of ideas and to compare and contrast case studies, best practise and experience from around the world to our own particular situations within the UKOTs. The value of this atmosphere of open exchange cannot be over-estimated as, even in these days of e-mail and internet, it is easy to become isolated from new developments and advances. It can both validate what we are doing well and point to where a different approach may increase benefit. Hopefully we have also added some ideas to the mix!

"The course is one of only a few initiatives that have specifically targeted skills development and I have found it to be equally relevant to those who might not be at the start of their career but who, like me, are seeking professional development and an updating of knowledge.

"To accommodate the reversal

