



UKOTCF Southern Oceans Working Group e-Newsletter

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Eradication of Rodents and Habitat Restoration on South Georgia

Welcome to the third SOWG e-Newsletter, which is designed to keep you informed of activities related to UKOTs in the Southern Oceans. If you have any contributions or suggestions to make for subsequent issues please send them to Catherine Wensink cwensink@ukotcf.org.

Eradication of Rodents and Habitat Restoration on South Georgia

Many documents were developed in the run up to the eradication work. They are available online from the South Georgia Heritage Trust and the Government of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands including: a strategy, an environmental impact assessment and an operational plan. The restoration is due to take place in two phases.



“The first (trial) phase, scheduled to take place in February-March 2011, will be followed by monitoring to ensure the complete eradication of rats, assess the effects of bait on non-target species and assist in the optimisation of logistics and operational procedures for the remainder of the project in the challenging conditions of South Georgia.”

Read the latest news at: <http://www.sght.org/latestnews.htm>

The restoration team now have a facebook page with news and updates: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/South-Georgia-Heritage-Trust/107047869335869>

The latest information is that two specially adapted helicopters have arrived from

Endangered yellow fautu stamps issued

the UK and the team has started the first drop of bait on Greene Peninsula and Thatcher Peninsula. They will continue with spreading over the tussock areas and then Mercer and Saddle Island, weather permitting of course!

Endangered yellow fautu stamps issued

To raise awareness of the ongoing efforts to prevent the endangered yellow fautu *Abutilon pitcairnense* from extinction, a set of stamps has been issued by The Pitcairn Islands Philatelic Bureau.



The Pitcairn Natural Resources Department and Noleen Smyth from the National Botanic Gardens, Dublin have been working to ensure the survival of this rare flower combining invasive species control, restoration of native vegetation and the proposed reintroduction to various parts of the Island and restoration of the shrub's associated habitat. Plants have been returned to Pitcairn to re-establish a population in the wild and a site at Big Rock near Pulau.

Information on how to purchase the stamps is available from:
stamps@pitcairn.gov.pn.

More information on the project is available at:
<http://www.botanicgardens.ie/news/20100118.htm>

Darwin Challenge Fund pilot project on Pitcairn

Darwin Challenge Fund pilot project visits to Pitcairn

The visit took place from 2nd to 11th December 2010 and is the first of two proposed visits conducted under the Darwin Initiative for Overseas Territories Challenge Fund project entitled '*Developing a community-led marine management action plan for the Pitcairn Islands*'. The project is a one year pilot study of the marine ecosystems of the Pitcairn Islands comprising both desk-based research and fieldwork (diving surveys) components, together with a series of stakeholder collaborations on Pitcairn to establish a community-led marine management action plan. The principle activities and deliverables of this project are to: engage and collaborate with local and International stakeholders to consolidate earlier marine survey data, fisheries and environmental reports and local community knowledge to produce a consolidated baseline report publication; establish an essential equipment pool on Pitcairn Island for diving, fishing monitoring and activities (boat, fishing and SCUBA equipment); undertake preliminary marine surveys at selected sites to evaluate basic ecological status of the corals, fish and invertebrates of Pitcairn Island; in collaboration with the Pitcairn Island Council, develop a Darwin Initiative main project application to establish a future conservation and management plan for the fisheries and

marine and coastal biodiversity of the Pitcairn Islands for submission in 2011.

A fuller report will appear in Forum News 38 in June/July.

First Forum for South Atlantic Territories Cooperation

At the Overseas Territories Consultative Council in November 2010, St Helena, Ascension Island, Tristan da Cunha and the Falklands agreed to establish a South Atlantic Territories Cooperation Forum. This Forum sets a platform for the Territories to discuss areas of common interest which will facilitate information exchange and sharing of best practice.

The first Forum took place on Thursday 17th February, via a teleconference, and was hosted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. This first Forum focused on how the Islands will take forward discussions on areas common to all of them. These selected areas include Tourism, Conservation, Public Sector Workforce Development and Alternative Energy Sources. It was agreed that each territory will lead on an area which will include agreeing a set of objectives across the territories and coordinating an action plan. When speaking of the progress made during this first teleconference, Councillor Tara Thomas, Deputy Chair of the Home and International Committee said:

“Cooperation between the territories has been talked about for a number of years and we’re really pleased this useful link has now come to fruition. Everyone was really positive about our progress and we can only look forward to the outcome of the next forum.”

European Union Overseas Countries and Territories Forum

The annual European Union Overseas Countries and Territories Forum took place in early March in New Caledonia. Representatives of the 24 Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) including 7 Heads of Government of OCTs as well as representatives from the four Member States to which the OCTs are linked (Denmark, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom) were amongst the participants at the Forum. The participation of many of the UKOTs representatives was funded by the European Union. One of the main topics of discussion at the forum was the future of relations between the Overseas Countries and Territories and the European Union. Other topics on the agenda included working sessions on Public Health and Environmental Issues.



For more information see www.octassociation.org

Chagos Conservation Trust US website

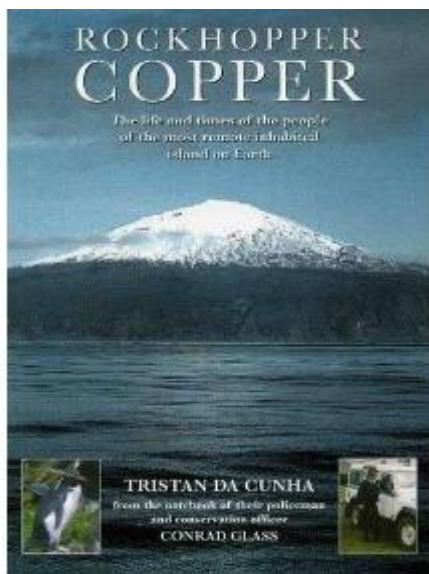


CCT-US has created a web site which is now live at <http://cctus.org>.

The goal of this website is to start a US membership push and broaden the message by “promoting conservation, science, education and historical research in relation to the Chagos Archipelago, across the Atlantic.”

Second edition of “Rockhopper Copper” published

Connie Glass OBE, a former Chief Islander and Conservation Officer of Tristan da Cunha and now the Inspector of Police, has a jurisdiction over a population of 267 human inhabitants and countless other feathered friends! Rockhopper Cooper is the only book to have been written by an islander and gives an account of the history of Tristan da Cunha and what daily life is like on the island. This second print is now available through the book trade.



Book details:

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Polperro Heritage Press; 2nd Revised edition edition (10 Jan 2011)

Language English

ISBN-10: 0955364876

ISBN-13: 978-0955364877

Congratulations to Connie and Chris Bates (editor) on this project. We look forward to hearing about the publicity and attention generated by the book for conservation on Tristan.

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