



Increasing regional capacity to reduce the impacts of invasive species on the South Atlantic United Kingdom Overseas Territories



The South Atlantic Invasive Species Project

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In partnership with:





Why a project was needed

- **IAS are now the single greatest threat to biodiversity in the South Atlantic Territories, for example:**
 - Rats and mice are having huge impacts on seabirds on Tristan, Gough, the Falklands and South Georgia
 - Invasive plants are choking out endemics on Ascension and St Helena
 - Feral cats are preying on endemic wildlife including the critically endangered wirebird on St Helena
- **IAS are also affecting livelihoods, lifestyles, human health, and amenity values on the South Atlantic Territories**



Background

- **Funded by DG-Development of the European Commission (total budget £1,350,000 over three years = €2 million) through EDF-9**
- **Took around three years to finalise the application and receive funding**
- **St Helena is lead government with all other governments and two NGOs partners**
- **RSPB is carrying out implementation on behalf of St Helena government**
- **Commenced December 2006**



Objectives

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

- To conserve native biological diversity and therefore enhance the economic prosperity and quality of life for people living on the South Atlantic Overseas Territories

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

- To develop regional capacity to reduce the threat that invasive species pose to the native biological diversity of the South Atlantic Overseas Territories



People and Structures

- **Project manager and 2 project officers (Falklands/SGSSI and St Helena/Ascension); working directly with Tristan**
- **Project Steering Group for each Territory**
- **Regional Advisory Group (overall technical advice)**
- **E-interest groups ? Need a way to encourage broader involvement**



First steps

- **Initial assessment of the status of invasive species on each Territory – background reports**
 - **JNCC database used as foundation for work**
- **Forming Project Steering Groups (to provide local input to project)**
- **Action planning through workshops with Project Steering Group members (to set priorities for action)**



Where are we now?

- **Ascension & Tristan: Background reports complete, action planning workshops held (Ascension: March, Tristan: May), PSG formed, action plan being costed/finalised**
- **Falklands: Background report complete, action planning workshop to be held July 6/7**
- **SGSSI: Background report complete, mini-workshop to be held mid-July**
- **St Helena: Background report complete, action planning workshop to be held 5/6 July**
- **GISD – species records, case studies and interims being entered**



Next steps

- **Building local capacity: training, local employment where possible**
- **Improving infrastructure and systems, e.g. facilities for quarantine**
- **Undertaking specific projects to assist with control/eradication of key species (around £70,000 allocated for each of the five Territories); additional funds for technical consultancies etc**
- **Increasing awareness through schools, publications, public meetings, websites, meetings**
- **Fundraising for ongoing/longer-term work**



In the longer term

- **Regional Conference in March 2009 – probably on Ascension**
- **Development of a regional IAS strategy**
- **Establishment of early warning system for the region**
- **Development of training materials**
- **Development of standards and guidelines for key species**
- **Development of information material for tourists**
- **Links will be made and maintained with other invasive species networks eg Pacific Invasives Learning Network, Cooperative Islands Initiative of ISSG etc.**



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Thank you

For more information on the project, please contact
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