



 **December 2013**

CREATING AWARENESS

Marine Awareness Week was held on St Helena from 22nd February – 1st March 2013.

Environment Week was held on St Helena from 3rd – 8th June 2013.

EMD held its first **Stakeholder Engagement Forum** on 18th April, at Jamestown Community Centre.

A Recycling Forum was held on Wednesday, 27th November 2013.

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

St Helena was represented at the **Monitoring Protected Areas workshop** that was held on Ascension in June.

'**St Helena Science**' was held on Wednesday, 14th August at the newly opened Business and Information Centre at The Canister, in Jamestown.

St Helena was represented by Marine Conservation Officer, Elizabeth Clingham; who presented at the **International Whale Shark conference**, in October.

St Helena was represented by Darwin Project Manager, Judith Brown at the Marine Protected Areas workshop for the UK Overseas Territories.

PUBLICATIONS

St. Helena's first ever State of the Environment Report was published in June 2013.

PROJECTS

In July members of EMD, SHNT & Basil Read planted up to 400 plants as part of the **re-development of the Horse Point Landfill Site**.

The 1st November, saw the start of another project as SHG signed a contract with Basil Read for the redevelopment of the Horse Point Landfill Site.

CONSERVATION MILESTONE ACHIEVED

A conservation milestone was passed on the 21st November 2013. The Terrestrial Conservation Section recorded its 1,000th collection since the inception of St Helena's endemic seed bank.

LAUNCH OF THE PEAKS NATIONAL PARK

The Peaks National Park was successfully launched on World Tourism Day, 27th September.

FUNDING

A grant was secured from JNCC for a research project to develop propagation techniques for rare, threatened endemic Ferns on St Helena in July 2013.



St Helena Islands' Environment enthusiasts' were extremely pleased when it was announced earlier this month that **five of St Helena's bids were successfully funded** by the Overseas Territories Environment and Climate Fund (Darwin Plus). A total amount of £297,217 was awarded to the island for the following:

- Conservation of the Spiky Yellow Woodlouse and Black Cabbage Tree Woodland (£37,090)
- Darwin Fellowship – MRes Carbon Sequestration in Community Forests (£21,617)
- Securing St Helena's Rare Cloud Forest Trees and Associated Invertebrates (£98,380)
- St Helena Baseline Assessment: A foundation for effective Environmental Management (£96,700)
- Taxonomic and Conservation Status of Oceanodroma Storm Petrels in the South Atlantic (£43,430)

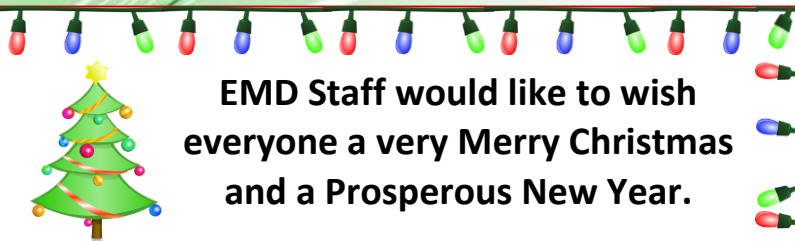


ST HELENA BIRD RINGING SCHEME



The St Helena Ringing Scheme has had a very busy year. The marine team with help from local volunteers has managed to process, that is ring and measure over 2476 birds. This includes 288 brown noddies, 1574 Madeiranstorm petrels, 360 masked boobies and 245 red-billed tropicbirds. There have also been a few surprises along the way such as white faced storm petrels, a Bulwer's petrel and a black noddy. Let's hope next year is just as productive!

EMD NOTICE BOARD



EMD Staff would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

NATIVE AND ENDEMIC PLANT COLLECTION, PROPAGATION AND DISTRIBUTION POLICY

The Environmental Management Division (EMD) currently has the 'Native and endemic plant collection, propagation and distribution policy' out for public consultation.

The policy has been devised after comprehensive consultation with key stakeholders. It aims to provide **clear guidance and an enabling framework** for those wishing to collect endemic or native seed, and propagate and distribute endemic and native species for restoration or commercial purposes. The policy also provides the **licensing system** for these activities as required under Section 20, Subsections 1 & 2 of the (draft) Environmental Protection Ordinance.

As part of this consultation, two public meetings are scheduled:

- **6th January 2014 at the Longwood Community Centre from 7.30pm - 8.30pm**
- **8th January 2014 at the Kingshurst Community Centre from 7.30pm - 8.30pm**

These meetings are an opportunity for interested persons to come and learn more, ask questions and provide feedback about this policy.

The policy and supporting documents can also be viewed at the EMD offices at Essex House and are available online on the SHG website (<http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/publications/>). Comments can be submitted to Shayla Ellick (See contact information below)

The public consultation phase ends on 17 January 2014. Any feedback submitted by then will be used to revise the policy, which will then be presented to the Environment & Natural Resources Committee for their final endorsement.

For more information or for copies of the policy please contact Shayla Ellick, Species Conservation & Environmental Research Officer at EMD on telephone number 22270 or email shayla-ellik@enrd.gov.sh.

CLOSED SEASON FOR SPEAR FISHING

The Closed Season for Spear Fishing is

1ST OF JANUARY 2013 TO 31ST OF MARCH 2013

**SPEAR FISHING IS NOT ALLOWED AT ANY TIME
OR PLACE IN ST HELENA'S WATERS DURING THIS PERIOD.**

The Spear Guns (Control) Ordinance CAP 91 states that during the closed season, no person shall have a spear gun in his possession on or within twenty metres of any tidal water or upon any beach or foreshore or whilst swimming or whilst in any vessel.

The aim of the closed season is not to stop people from enjoying the sea, it is to respect our oceans and it's resources; During this period most fish are at the spawning stage and it is therefore necessary to put measures in place to allow marine life a chance to breed and to grow into sustainable resources.

FLYTIPPING IN THE RUN IN JAMESTOWN

A REMINDER to the public that it is an offence to dump any kind of waste (including organic waste) in the Jamestown Run. Discarding of waste in the Jamestown run is **ILLEGAL** and **offenders risk prosecution which could result in a fine of up to £10,000 if convicted.**

SIGHTINGS SCHEME

Remember

to report your sightings of ringed seabirds, whales, dolphins, turtles, unusual birds.

The marine section can be contacted at Essex House, Jamestown on telephone 22270 or a message can be left on the environmental hotline number 22790 or post on our facebook page:

www.facebook.com/sthelenaconservation

For each sighting please note: date and time, species and number (photo), location. Please leave your name and contact details should we have additional questions, unless you wish to remain anonymous.