



Monthly Newsletter from The Environmental Management Division July 2014

FISHERIES AND MARINE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP ON ASCENSION

Judith Brown, Leeann Henry and Annalea Beard from the Marine Section of EMD joined international scientists and fisheries managers at a workshop funded and hosted by JNCC, on Ascension Island in June of this year.

The conference spanned over seven days of meetings, covering a wide range of topics including fisheries licensing, science, policy, enforcement, observer programmes, seabirds, biodiversity and marine protected areas. Experts from the fisheries, conservation and management teams from all of the South Atlantic Overseas Territories were present including St Helena, South Georgia, Falkland's, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha. There were also UK delegates from JNCC, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and RSPB.

All EMD staff presented data on St Helena and had interesting feedback from the attendees. Discussions also included how the islands can work together and share resources and knowledge. There were also two field trips included: One to Boatswain Bird Island by boat to see the endemic frigate bird and the other was a day out fishing for tuna with the local fishermen.

Whilst on Ascension, EMD's Marine Team also carried out some mist netting of Storm Petrels to compare with the Storm Petrels found here on Egg Island. Work included ringing the birds, taking small blood samples for genetics and taking standard measurements including wing length, beak length and weight etc.

**Dr Judith Brown,
Darwin Marine Biodiversity
Mapping Project Manager
and Marine Section Manager**



Conference delegates outside the Red Lion on Ascension

ST HELENA SIGHTINGS REMINDER

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

The Marine Section can be contacted at Essex House, Jamestown on 22270. Alternatively a message can be left on the environmental hotline number 22790 or on our facebook page: www.facebook.com/sthelenaconservation

For each sighting please note: the date and time, name and number of species and their location. A photo would also be very useful.

Please leave your name and contact details (unless you wish to remain anonymous), so we can contact you should we have additional questions.

This information is continually being used to further our scientific knowledge of seasonal visitors and occurrences of different species. It allows better informed conservation measures to be put in place for the various species.

WORK UNDERTAKEN BY EMD THIS MONTH

- ✓ Pigeon Monitoring at Horse Point Landfill Site
- ✓ Solid Waste Management Project
- ✓ Environmental Assessments
- ✓ Darwin Projects Mres.
- ✓ NCA management plans
- ✓ Support to Airport Project

MAKE YOUR BATTERIES LAST LONGER...

Batteries are everywhere: In your car, your watch and your electronic gadgets. They come in all sorts of shapes, sizes and types; from large lead acid batteries to cadmium and lithium batteries in almost anything you can think of. These are all very useful, but also very expensive.

So what are the best ways of making them last as long as possible?

- If the only thing you do is this: buy rechargeable batteries. It will save a small fortune. Nickel metal hydride (NiMH) are better than alkaline rechargeable as you recharge them thousands of times before they need to be thrown away.
- Don't fully deplete a battery before recharging as they will last longer. Remember to turn the charger off when you aren't charging batteries with it!
- Remove batteries from rarely used devices and store in a cool, dry place.
- If you keep your batteries in the fridge they will hold their charge a lot longer, particularly NiMH batteries; just remember to warm them up before using them.

Getting rid of batteries is also very important as they are toxic to us and our environment:

The best way to get rid of small batteries (when they really don't work any more) is in your household rubbish. Larger ones, such as vehicle batteries, need to be taken to Horse Point Landfill site for disposal.

Ceri Sansom,
Climate Change and Pollution Officer

INK CARTRIDGE RECYCLING

Please be advised that the Environmental Risk Management Section of EMD are still collecting used ink cartridges for recycling.

The collection point is now at EMD, in Scotland and not at Essex House (as previously).

These cartridges will still be recycled in the normal manner and we thank you for considering the environment by recycling over landfill.

CARBON SEQUESTRATION IN COMMUNITY FORESTS

My project is through the University of York and aims to find out how much carbon is stored in five of St Helena's endemic trees: Gumwood, She Cabbage, Black Cabbage, Scrub Wood and Ebony. This data will be useful in setting up a scheme where people can pay to have trees planted to offset the carbon emissions produced by their travel to or from the island.

Over the past few months I've been reading academic papers and manuals to help understand the business of estimating carbon sequestration rates in trees. The results will only be estimations because the only way to verify the results would be to destructively sample several of the trees, which is impossible because of the rarity of our endemics.

Above ground and below ground biomass, litter, deadwood and soil carbon will be measured. The next few weeks will be spent setting up the study plots, testing methods in a pilot study and planning the fieldwork schedule. The actual fieldwork will be carried out in late July once the final pieces of equipment arrive, and will continue throughout August, with a second round of fieldwork taking place in the summer months to allow us to see seasonal variability.

For more information please contact: Shayla Ellick, Species Conservation & Environmental Research Officer, on telephone number 24724 or email shayla-ellick@enrd.gov.sh

Shayla Ellick
Species Conservation & Environmental Research Officer



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