

Rebecca Cairns-Wicks, MBE, DPhil (Oxon)

Chief Minister, St Helena

Rebecca is a conservation scientist and farmer dedicated to supporting a sustainable future for St Helena. With over thirty years' experience in wildlife ecology, environmental management and ecological restoration, she has worked across government, non-government and private sectors for the conservation of the island's natural, built and cultural heritage; strengthening evidence-bases for policy and stewardship of the island's unique environment. She is committed to cross-sector collaboration and developmental approaches, and supporting education, innovation and early career development.

As founding Coordinator of the St Helena Research Institute, she led the establishment of the island's first research governance and partnership framework, integrating academic collaboration, data management and local capacity building. Under her leadership, the Institute launched the island's biodiversity data platform, iRecord St Helena, and convened St Helena's first global online research conference, connecting international expertise to local sustainability challenges.

Beyond her professional career, Rebecca and her family manage Mount Pleasant Farm, where they practise sustainable livestock farming, small scale fruit and vegetable production and the restoration of endemic-rich habitats. She was awarded an MBE for services to conservation in the 2007 New Year's Honours.