

19-031 Mapping St Helena's Marine Biodiversity to Create a Marine Management Plan

This project was put in place to see that St Helena's marine environment is better managed and therefore more capable of supporting sustainable tourism and enhanced livelihood potential for St Helena.

During the time period of April 2012 and November 2014 the marine team made this possible by producing a number of databases and maps. Presentations, speeches, workshops and leaflets were also produced to raise awareness to the public and schools about the use of the marine environment.



The first output from project 19-031 was the establishment of a marine database that contains all existing known material on the marine resources of St Helena. These were then checked taxonomically. An electronic folder containing marine benthic data including marine fauna, flora and habitats were also created from the data collected from the 60 field surveys designed by the team. A series of GIS maps were also generated to map out the distribution and extent of both St Helena's shallow marine resources and commercial usage of these resources. Finally a marine management plan were published which consisted of species and habitats of high conservation importance, proposed monitoring and management plans, potential marine protected areas and sites that would benefit from artificial reefs.

Our Project Partners

Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)

(<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/>)

JNCC is the public body that advises the UK Government and devolved administrations on UK- wide and international nature conservation. Their work helps maintain and enrich biological diversity and conserve geological features. It also helps sustain natural systems, which provide the core "services" we all depend on like food, fresh water and clean air. In this way they contribute to economic growth and social well-being and are integral to sustainable development

