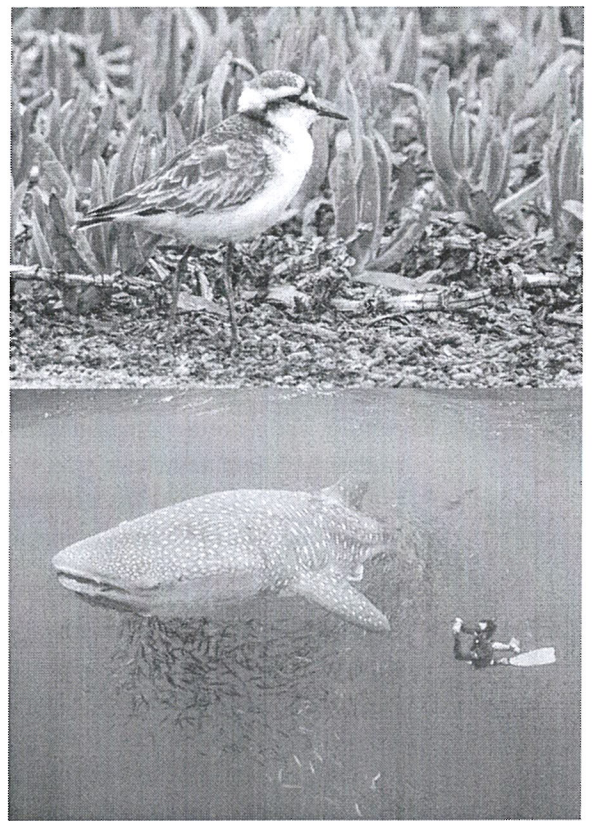
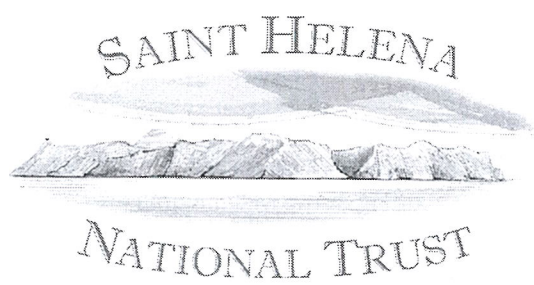




St Helena
Government

ST HELENA GOVERNMENT

SAINT HELENA NATIONAL TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT –
APRIL 2020 TO MARCH 2021



ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 2020 TO MARCH 2021



PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

St Helena is truly unique. There is simply no place on earth like it; it has a history, a culture, and a natural environment that cannot be found anywhere else. It is the job of the St Helena National Trust to make sure that this wonderful uniqueness is conserved.

This Annual Report shows how the staff, volunteers, and partners of National Trust work together to pursue this aim. It tells you what we've been doing in the last year, what we plan to work on in the future, where our funding comes from, and how we manage that money and organise ourselves.

Despite the unprecedented disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, in 2020/21 our income was higher than in 2019/20, at just over £470,000. This supported 33 staff members, working on eleven main projects, ranging from the protection St Helena's rare wirebird to improving the knowledge of St Helena's historic buildings. The Trust's partnerships are extensive, and continue to grow; for every £1 of public money we receive from the St Helena Government, we are able to add £11 of funding from other partners.

2020/21 marked the twentieth anniversary of the planting of the Millennium Forest, one of St Helena's most successful conservation programmes, and one of the founding projects of the National Trust. The Forest continues to thrive and grow under the Trust's stewardship; as part of the anniversary, every child was given the opportunity to plant an endemic tree.

This year the National Trust will launch a new strategy, to help us plan and prioritise our work so that we can achieve our vision of St Helena's heritage for all, for ever. I look forward to your continued support and partnership to help us achieve this vision together.

-- Neil Fantom, October 2021

Previous page, from top: wirebird, bone shark fieldwork, invertebrate surveys, education and outreach, planting endemics at Millennium Forest

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Who We Are..... | 3 |
| Our Future Goals..... | 4 |
| Our Finances | 5 |
| Our Impact | 6 |
| Our Year In Review | 7 |
| Our Projects | 8 |
| Acknowledgements | 26 |
| Reference Details..... | 28 |

WHO WE ARE

OUR VISION: *"St Helena's heritage for all, forever"*

OUR MISSION: *"Championing the conservation of St Helena's built, cultural, and natural heritage, through evidence-based proactive management, engagement, and partnerships"*

OUR OBJECTIVES

As a statutory body, our objectives and governance structure are prescribed in the St Helena National Trust Ordinance of 2001 and its attendant regulations. Our objectives are:

- To promote the permanent preservation of lands and buildings for the benefit of St Helena and her people. We focus on sites that have public, architectural, artistic, or historical interest. We try to preserve the natural aspects of sites and their animal, plant and marine life.
- To maintain and manage lands and buildings under the stewardship of the Trust as places of public recreation, resort or instruction.
- To promote the preservation of furniture, pictures, documents, and chattels of any description having national or historic or artistic interest.
- To tender advice to the St Helena Government on any matter contained in these objectives.
- To promote the access to and the enjoyment of lands, buildings, places and chattels by the public.

GOVERNANCE

Trust Council has charge and management of the business of the Trust and may exercise its powers through any committee. The Director is accountable for the day-to-day management of the Trust with exceptions set out in a schedule of matters reserved for Trust Council.

Trust Council members are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Ordinance. All Trust Council members sign up to a suite of governing principles and are required to make formal declarations of interest. Trust Council draws upon the expertise of the following society members: Heritage Society Ltd., St Helena Nature Conservation Group, Arts and Crafts Association, Dive Club, Fishermen's Association, St Helena Government.

OUR FUTURE GOALS

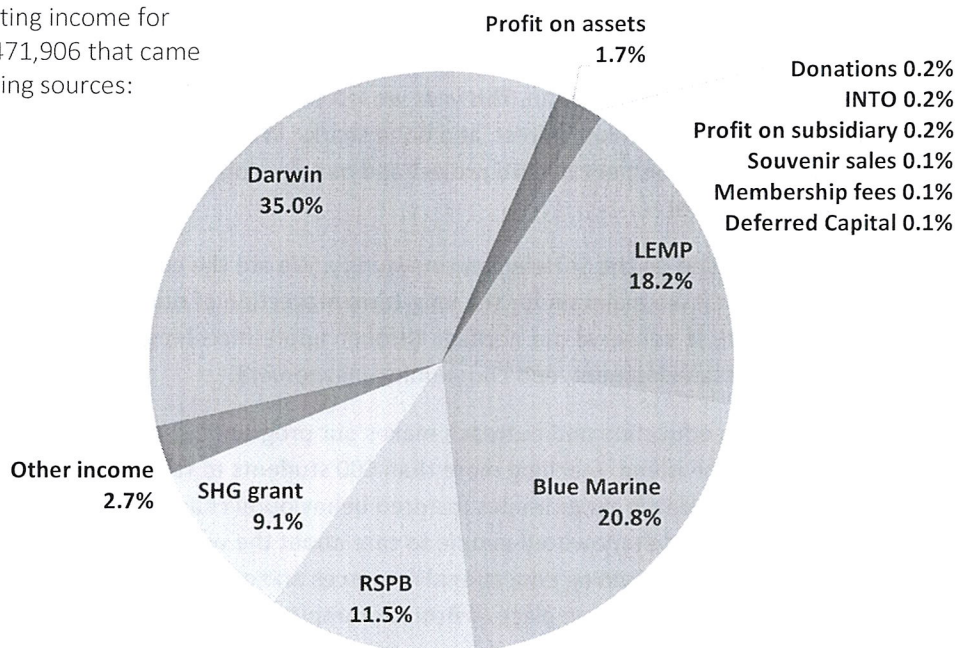
- We will launch our new 5-year strategy in the coming year.
- We will diversify funding opportunities by focusing on unrestricted sustainable sources of income, reducing our reliance on short-term grants.
- We will revise the Millennium Forest management plan to include a commercial garden centre that will provide sustainable finance for our conservation work.
- We will celebrate the Trust's 20th birthday in 2022 with events every month that engage our members and inspire people in our work programmes.
- We will update all of our internal policies and procedures.
- We will continue our project proposal to the Endangered Archives Programme in collaboration with the Museum and St Helena government.
- We will continue our plans for a marine centre on Jamestown wharf.
- We will continue to develop the cloud forest project with RSPB, SHG and partners.
- We will take a leadership role in marine conservation by identifying new marine conservation targets and developing corresponding research areas, including elasmobranchs and baited remote underwater video stations (BRUVS).
- We will develop educational packs for schools, improve our work experience and apprenticeship programmes, and widen the audience of our education and outreach work.



We started creating a new strategy for the Trust with staff workshops in December and February which will be launched in the coming year

OUR FINANCES

Our total operating income for 2020-21 was £471,906 that came from the following sources:



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2020-21

- We continued to be a financial multiplier for St Helena. For every £1 of public money the Trust received in our annual grant in the 2020-21 financial year, we secured £11 of funding from other grants, partnerships and fundraising efforts.
- We recorded a 10% increase in our operating income this year compared to last year.
- During the year we focussed on improving our financial management. Our statements are now fully compliant with FRS102 accruals-based accounting. Our adoption of FRS102 allowed us to manage better our finances as our organisation grows.
- This year we completed all recommendations from previous audits, we improved our methods of financial forecasting, and we met all recommendations from the Public Accounts Committee.
- As part of our desire to develop new sources of unrestricted income, we offered consulting services for environmental work. These services included ecological baseline assessments at Horse Point and pre-construction surveys at Deadwood. The profits directly support our conservation programmes.

Detailed information is available in our audited financial report 2020-21.

OUR IMPACT

St Helena National Trust continued to have a significant positive impact on St Helena and her heritage. It is important to highlight that we are a leader in conservation and we are achieving our mission to champion our built, cultural, and natural heritage:

- We are leader in conservation. This year we led on conservation of the wirebird, invertebrates, Millennium Forest, and bone sharks. We are a leader in cultural heritage with our Historic Environment Record project and our development of an Endangered Archives Programme grant.
- We are focussed on the St Helenian community. We are the custodian of six heritage properties that we maintain for the long-term protection of our heritage. We increased the local capacity to conserve our heritage through apprenticeships, work experience, staff training and development, and community engagement.
- Our focus on education and outreach makes our programmes unique. We engaged with all four schools on island, reaching more than 600 students to raise awareness of conservation. Our marine outreach programmes fostered behavioural changes within the community and have inspired and empowered people to care about the waters that surrounds St Helena. Our approach of providing educational resources and outdoor sessions have seen teachers adopting local examples in place of British examples given in text books.
- Our research is world class. We have published research in peer-reviewed scientific journals, in a new invertebrate field guide for St Helena, and we have shared our research with colleagues at local and international conferences. This year five Trust staff gave presentations at the local one-day 'Discovery to Discovery' science symposium covering terrestrial and marine work. We upheld an active role on St Helena's Research Council.
- We advocated for changes to policy and legislation that were in line with international best practice. We advised on a suite of fisheries laws and policies, a long-term water resources strategy, and applications for proposed developments.
- Collaboration is the secret to our success and this year we forged new partnerships with Historic England for our Historic Environment Record project and the Environmental Funders Network for terrestrial conservation.



The passion and commitment of our staff team, pictured here at one of our monthly wellbeing days, in conjunction with the Trust Council, are the drivers of our success

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS EVERY MONTH

April 2020 Green turtles recorded nesting at Rupert's for the first time

May 2020 Awarded two Darwin Plus projects to control invasive species

June 2020 Community art competition held for World Oceans Day

July 2020 Collaborated with Solomon's to encourage people to 'grow local' using a variety of creative techniques/ideas



August 2020 Hosted a family activity day at Millennium Forest

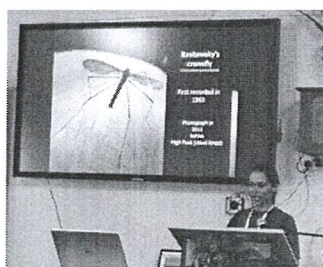
September 2020 Forest to forest sponsored walk from Cason's to Millennium Forest via Diana's Peak



October 2020 Miss St Helena 'Reduce Reuse Recycle' dress raised awareness about marine plastics and debris

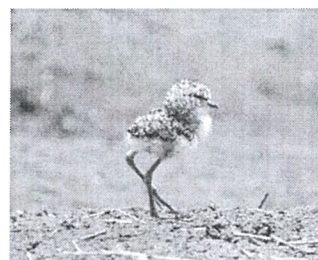


November 2020 Five staff presented at St Helena Research Institute's Discovery-to-Discovery Conference

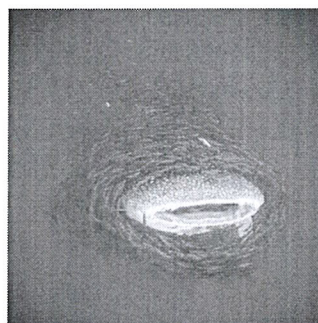


December 2020 Every school-aged child was given a chance to plant an endemic tree at Millennium Forest as part of the 20-year celebrations

January 2021 Wirebird census undertaken and results showed wirebird populations were stabilising



February 2021 Incredible baitball 'bone shark vortex' documented during bone (whale) shark fieldwork



March 2021 Governor Rushbrook hosts event at Plantation House to celebrate the legacy of the LEMP



OUR PROJECTS

HEAD OF CONSERVATION CAPACITY SUPPORT

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Duration</i> | 3 years, July 2018 to June 2021 |
| <i>Project managers</i> | Amy Dutton, Martina Peters |
| <i>Funding organisations</i> | John Ellerman Foundation, RSPB |
| <i>Project partners</i> | RSPB |

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

To establish the Head of Conservation post for managerial oversight of terrestrial conservation programmes, ensuring it is funded from contributions from projects. To develop local conservation staff professionally in terms of skills and experience to enable their progression to senior roles. To mentor and train the next generation of conservationists.

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2020-21

By March 2021 we had identified full funding for the Head of Conservation’s salary when the project ends in June 2021. Half of the salary will be covered by our Darwin projects and the other half will come from the RSPB-led Cloud Forest project.

We were successful gaining a supplementary short-term grant from the RSPB to allow a two-month hand-over from Amy Dutton when Martina Peters succeeded the post locally.

The Head of Conservation oversaw the Millennium Forest Project, managed three small grants for the forest, and led a year-long calendar of outreach events for the forest’s 20th birthday celebrations.

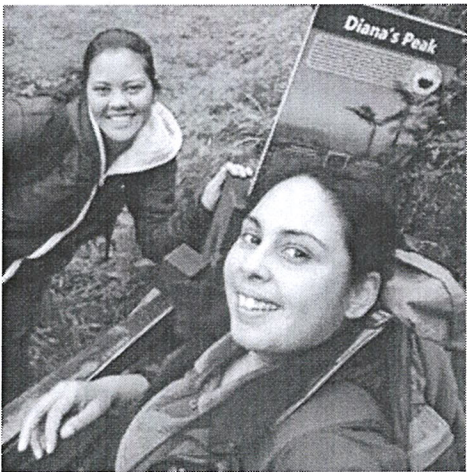
The role was instrumental in developing two successful Darwin Plus projects. She established the projects’ governance and management structures, financial and

performance reporting, and recruited teams by retaining existing skilled staff.

As a member of the Cloud Forest Project Development Group she helped to advance the project, participating in communications and promotion.

Martina commenced a course in environmental assessment to expand her knowledge and enable the Trust to take on environmental assessments as a way of generating revenue. She put her skills to the test when we carried out environmental assessments for proposed wind turbines and satellite park developments.

The Head of Conservation participated in two international conferences and a one-day local science symposium, promoting the work of the Trust.



Head of Conservation, Martina (right) with apprentice Kati-Rose planning the forest to forest fundraiser walk as part of Millennium Forest’s 20th birthday

MILLENNIUM FOREST

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| <i>Duration</i> | Ongoing, since 2002 |
| <i>Project team</i> | Amy Dutton, Martina Peters, Chris Clingham, Terrianne Benjamin, Nico Benjamin, Kristoph Benjamin, Julian Knipe |
| <i>Funding organisations</i> | SHNT, Darwin Initiative, Mohammed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, International National Trusts Organisation, RSPB, Enterprise St Helena, SHG |
| <i>Project partners</i> | RSPB, SHG |

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

To continue the long-term ecological restoration of the Millennium Forest. To make Millennium Forest our primary location for education and outreach. To encourage community participation and provide opportunities for wellbeing and connection with nature.

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2020-21

We continued restoring the habitat at Millennium Forest with endemic plants grown in our nursery. By planting gumwood, ebony and tea plant we improved our living gene banks.

We received three small grants, gained additional support from our two Darwin

projects, and raised funds by selling plants and hosting community events.

Our plans to establish a garden centre continued with strong sales of horticultural varieties and vegetable seedlings. We continued discussions with SHG for a licence to sell endemic species and to lease us the Millennium Forest land.

We were awarded a 3-month Darwin Covid-19 Rapid Response grant for £15,000 which allowed us to hire three additional local staff and clear 900 square metres of invasive vegetation. Much of the cleared vegetation was used in compost for our nursery or as a groundcover for our walking trails. Over 1,200 endemic seeds were sown in our nursery.



L-R: Terrianne, Kristoph, Chris, Nico and Julian in the field at Millennium Forest

We received £9,500 from the Mohammed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund to grow critically endangered boxwoods and procure materials for propagation. The funding also supported 50% of the salary for the Millennium Forest Site Supervisor.

We received a £1,000 Tap-INTO grant from the International National Trusts Organisation to repair an old shade house and improve security at Millennium Forest.

Our Darwin Plus projects supported Millennium Forest by assisting with control of rabbits, feral cats, rats, ants and wasps.

Outreach included weekly activities for learning-support children at Prince Andrew School. We hosted a full year of events in 2020 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Millennium Forest. Events included the chance for all school-age children to plant a tree. Millennium Forest continued to be our main site for outdoor learning, education, visitors and community engagement.

Andre, our long-term volunteer, regularly joined our team and we hosted people serving community service orders in conjunction with the Probation department.

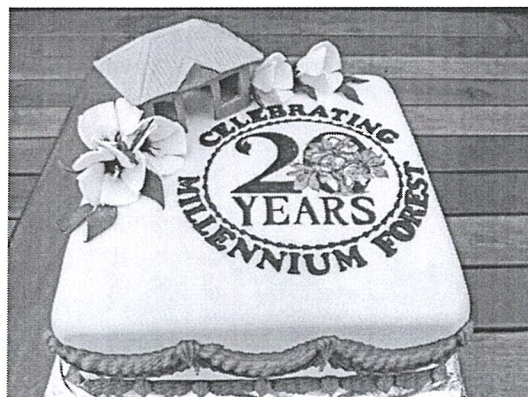


We celebrated Earth Hour at Millennium Forest with our 'dining in the dark and stargazing' fundraising event

20 Years of Millennium Forest

The year 2020 was the 20th birthday of Millennium Forest and we celebrated with a community event every month throughout the year.

Highlights included an activity day in August where all school-aged children were given a chance to plant an endemic tree. In September, we held the forest to forest sponsored walk from Cason's Forest on the central ridge, up to the cloud forest at Diana's Peak, and ending at Millennium Forest. In November, the forest was alive with stalls and educational activities, including official speeches and a birthday cake.



Top, Governor Rushbrook and his team planted endemic trees to celebrate 20 years of Millennium Forest, and below, a birthday is not complete without cake

INVERTEBRATES

CONSERVING ST HELENA’S ENDEMIC INVERTEBRATES THROUGH INVASIVE INVERTEBRATE CONTROL

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| <i>Duration</i> | 3 years, June 2020 to March 2023 |
| <i>Project team</i> | Martina Peters, Natasha Stevens, Liza Fowler, Christy Jo Scipio-O’Dean, Daryl Joshua |
| <i>Funding organisations</i> | Darwin Initiative, RSPB |
| <i>Project partners</i> | SHG, RSPB, Buglife, IUCN SSC Mid-Atlantic Islands Invertebrate Specialist Group, Species Recovery Trust, Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International |

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

To recover and enhance sustainability of St Helena’s globally important endemic terrestrial invertebrates, associated ecosystem function and social benefits, through reduced invasive invertebrate impacts due to island-wide and stakeholder-inclusive control efforts.

towards conservation action through invasive invertebrate control.

We were awarded the Darwin grant and have gathered a steering group of local and international experts to govern it. A local staff team was recruited to carry out the day-to-day work.

We investigated methods for controlling invertebrates from many places, including insecticide baits from New Zealand, and researched possibilities for bio-control. We commenced control trial methods for common wasps and ants.

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2020-21

We continued to lead in the field of invertebrate conservation, improving knowledge on the island’s endemic, native and invasive species. The project represents a shift away from invertebrate survey work, and



L-R: Liza, Natasha, Christy Jo and Daryl leading our work in invertebrate conservation and science

We investigated metabarcoding for endemic invertebrates and stomach assessments for *Vespula vulgaris*, *Pheidole megacephala* and *Miomantis caffra*.

Liza Fowler co-authored the new field guide to terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates of St Helena that will be available in 2021.

It had been a period of new discoveries. A new invasive ant species was found at Millennium Forest. A new species fungus beetle was found at Horse Point. Specimens were sent overseas for identification.

We increased community awareness about invertebrates through our outreach and education activities. Highlights included invertebrate conservation workshops, training for conservation staff, pop-up stalls,

information sessions, school lessons, and fun days for kids at Millennium Forest. We supported work experience students and apprentices, and collaborated with SHG on cross-training.

We were fortunate to receive a bridging grant from the RSPB that allowed Natasha and Liza to continue invertebrate conservation work and training until the project started.

We thank Timm Karisch, Helen Roy, Jill Key, James Millett, Howard Mendel, Roger Key, SG Compton, Ben Hoffmann, Michael Samways, Richard Toft, Ben Price, Adam Hart, Norbert Maczey, Maxwell Barclay, Roberto Battiston, Des Conlong, Joanne Hatton and Vicky Wilkins for their support during the year.



Demonstrating strength in collaboration, the project team led a local workshop about invertebrate conservation with colleagues from St Helena Government and international experts

VERTEBRATES

COMMUNITY SUPPORTED MULTISPECIES INVASIVE VERTEBRATE CONTROL ON ST HELENA

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| <i>Duration</i> | 3 years, June 2020 to March 2023 |
| <i>Project team</i> | Martina Peters, James Fantom, Denny Leo, Kyle Joshua, Ashley Furniss |
| <i>Funding organisations</i> | Darwin Initiative |
| <i>Project partners</i> | SHG, RSPB, Invasive Bird Management |

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

To control St Helena's key invasive vertebrates with community engagement, good native plant regeneration and colony expansion as well as increased abundance of wirebirds, native invertebrates and increased agricultural productivity.

international experts to govern the project and a local staff team was recruited to carry out the day to day work.

Rabbit population and density estimates were completed using pellet count methods. We estimated the baseline population of rabbits to be in the range of 45,000-51,000.

The Trust's annual wirebird census was undertaken as a sub-project of this project (a full write up is on the following pages).

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2020-21

We were awarded the Darwin Plus grant and established a steering group of local and



L-R: Ashley, Denny, James and Kyle leading our work in invasive vertebrate control



Controlling feral cats is vital for the long-term survival of our endemic wirebird; this kitten was caught in our traps but was able to be rehomed with a family in Sandy Bay

To reduce the threat of predation to wirebirds we began trapping feral cats in areas favoured by wirebirds. We also set up our motion-sensor camera traps in native habitat areas as part of a feral cat monitoring programme.

To establish baseline density estimates for invasive rat species we deployed 'tracking tunnels' at three key conservation sites and two agricultural sites.

We investigated the feasibility of controlling feral myna birds in conjunction with our consultancy partner Invasive Bird Management. We visited each known myna roost site from a previous Trust survey in 2009 to determine whether the roosts were still active and to conduct a census. We estimated the myna population to be 3,908 birds.

To establish a baseline for habitat health we conducted vegetation surveys at our three key conservation sites.

We have recruited 30 local residents to take part in our volunteer trapping program. Our recruits are enthusiastic about the project and the environmental benefits it will provide. The next step is to familiarise them with the traps, train them in trap use, and humane handling and dispatching of invasive species.

Outreach and education activities included workshops, recruitment of volunteer trappers, training for conservation staff, pop-up stalls and community information sessions. Every school-aged child has had the chance to see a wirebird in the wild and we visited every island school to talk about invasive species.

To spread the word about the project we made three local radio appearances and published three articles in local newspapers. The project manager presented initial findings at the St Helena Research Institute's local one-day 'Discovery to Discovery' conference.

WIREBIRDS

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| <i>Duration</i> | Ongoing since 2006 |
| <i>Project team</i> | Denny Leo, James Fantom, Kyle Joshua, Ashley Furniss, Martina Peters |
| <i>Funding organisations</i> | Darwin Initiative, RSPB |
| <i>Project partners</i> | SHG, RSPB, Invasive Bird Management, St Helena Tourism |

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

To protect and conserve the endemic wirebird (also known as the St Helena plover). To conduct an annual census of the wirebird. To manage predators that threaten the wirebird and manage invasive vegetation that encroaches on wirebird habitat.

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2020-21

We continued to lead on conservation of the wirebird, including undertaking habitat management, monitoring, and targeted feral cat trapping.



Denny, far right, showing the younger generation a wirebird nest as part of our education and outreach programme

The annual wirebird census count was conducted in January 2021. We recorded 510 adults, 31 juveniles, 31 chicks and 23 nests. The wirebird population had reduced slightly compared to last year, a trend that has

continued since the population peaked in 2018. We believe that the lower numbers are linked to the effects of land management practices and the discontinuation of predator control after the airport development. However, the population curve appears to be levelling off, so despite slightly fewer wirebirds recorded this year, the species is recovering well when compared to 2008 where we recorded only 322 adults.

This year, the census was conducted under the Darwin Plus invasive vertebrate control project. The vertebrate project allowed us to undertake targeted feral cat trapping and rat monitoring in wirebird habitat areas. In addition, our contract work with PASH and SHG allowed us to mitigate the potential negative impacts of developments on the wirebird and expand our cat-trapping programme.

We continued to use our topper mower to manage invasive plants that encroach on wirebird breeding sites at Deadwood Plain under an SHG contract. We continued our partnership with SHG for wirebird habitat management on Man and Horse and Bottom Woods.

Our wirebird education and outreach work included tours of wirebird nesting sites for schools and a virtual wirebird tour that was filmed by St Helena Tourism. Every school-aged child has had the chance to see a wirebird in the wild.

MARINE PROGRAMME

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| <i>Duration</i> | Ongoing since 2018 |
| <i>Project team</i> | Beth Taylor, Kenickie Andrews, Sheena Isaac, James Wylor-Owen |
| <i>Funding organisations</i> | Blue Marine Foundation, ESH |
| <i>Project partners</i> | SHG, St Helena Commercial Fishermen's Association, IPNLF, SNCG, Dive Club, Critter, Customised Animal Tracking Solutions, Georgia Aquarium and Georgia Tech, Dive Saint Helena, CK Leisure's, Blue Belt, Pinky Productions, Fathom Pictures |

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

To support and champion the development and delivery of the island's IUCN category VI Marine Protected Area to ensure that it makes genuine conservation gains. This is delivered through five core working areas: ecological monitoring, supporting sustainable fisheries, developing ocean literacy, reducing marine debris and plastics pollution, and building local capacity.

within the island's marine protected area and to identify management priorities (see following pages for bone shark research project).

We developed island-wide ocean literacy by fostering a greater understanding of the value of the ocean through our school education programmes and public engagement activities to challenge, inspire and empower the local community.

We supported sustainable fisheries by promoting evidenced-based Total Allowable Catches and quotas to ensure security of traditional fishing methods for generations to come.

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2020-21

We led the ecological monitoring of St Helena's migratory population of endangered whale sharks, locally known as bone sharks, to understand better the ecological diversity



L-R: Beth, James and Kenickie leading our work in marine conservation and science

We reduced marine debris and plastics pollution by creating awareness campaigns that drove behavioural change in the community, including leading beach cleans and collecting underwater litter.

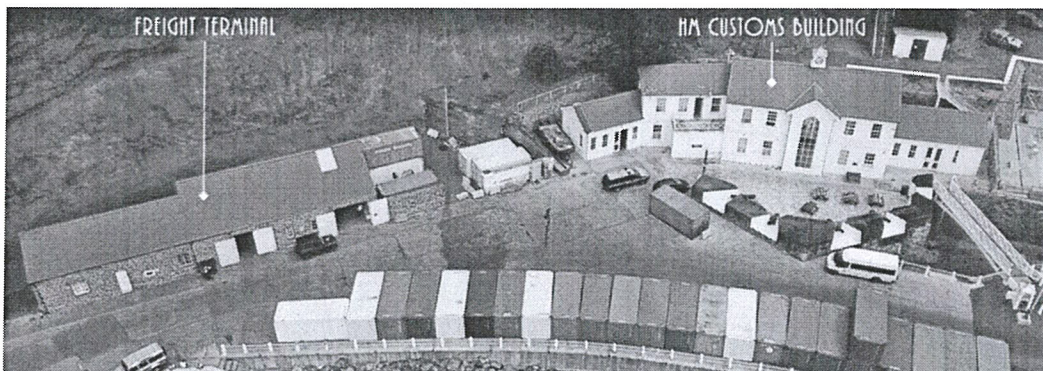
We increased local capacity for marine conservation by providing training opportunities for Trust staff and we have hosted work experience students with a hope to ensuring project sustainability. We completed our dive scholarship scheme with six young locals gaining their Open Water Diving certificates.

We hosted a beach clean at James Bay to mark the end of SHG's Marine Awareness Week. More than 70 volunteers came to help clean the bay and wharf area. A quarter of a tonne of marine litter and debris was removed in two hours; items included cans, cigarette butts and local shipping container locks.

We continued to develop a purpose-built, high quality, interactive hub for marine conservation, outreach and education at Jamestown wharf. We secured an intention from SHG to lease to us the upper floor of the old freight building once funding is secured.

With a dedicated Education and Outreach Officer we expanded conservation education through the schools by discussing local marine issues and creating the first marine-themed education folder, based on local ecological knowledge and tailored to the local school curriculum.

We continued to provide SHG, St Helena Commercial Fishermen's Association, Blue Belt and other key stakeholders with constructive advice during discussions on developments within the marine protected area.



The marine centre in the upper floor of the old freight terminal on Jamestown's wharf will be a purpose-built, high quality, interactive hub for marine

BONE SHARK RESEARCH

CONTINUATION OF ASPECTS OF THE CO-OPERATIVE BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION RESEARCH ON BONE SHARKS IN ST HELENA’S WATERS

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| <i>Duration</i> | Ongoing, led by SHNT since 2020 |
| <i>Project team</i> | Beth Taylor, Kenickie Andrews, James Wylor-Owen |
| <i>Funding organisations</i> | Blue Marine Foundation, ESH |
| <i>Project partners</i> | SHG, Critter, Customised Animal Tracking Solutions, Georgia Aquarium and Georgia Tech, Dive Saint Helena, CK Leisure’s, Portsmouth University |

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

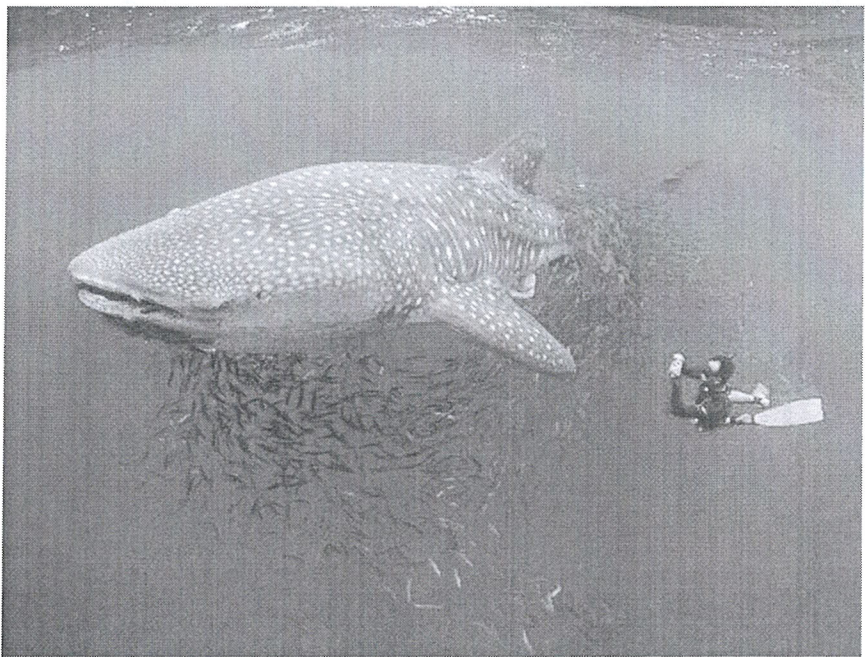
To determine the demographics of St Helena’s endangered bone sharks (the local name for whale sharks), and infer site fidelity and seasonality. To remotely secure behavioural observations of bone sharks without human presence, using Customised Animal Tracking Solutions (CATS Cam) animal-borne cameras. To determine factors potentially affecting biological imperatives, namely microplastics ingestion rates by these filter-feeding animals. To investigate habitat features or conditions of certain aggregation sites, that may influence site fidelity of bone sharks by

deploying submersible remote operated vehicles.

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2020-21

This year we led the bone shark research project for the first time. Previous years we supported SHG and Georgia Aquarium.

In-water observations and identification work this year have increased St Helena’s overall population from 292 to 312 individuals. The Trust successfully identified 26 different bone sharks – of which 18 (69%) have never been identified previously in any global database.



Beth captured this spectacular image of Kenickie photographing a bone shark whilst it was in a ‘baitfish vortex’ in February. It won the category of ‘marine research in action’ in the Exeter Marine international photography competition

In contrast to historic datasets, inferring Barn Cap as the most reliable site for bone shark encounters, we found that Speery Cap harboured the largest number of sightings ($n = 11$). The most sightings ($n = 17$) and confirmed IDs ($n = 15$) were both recorded in March, outside of the historic 'peak months' of January and February.

Previous studies have asserted that St Helena's bone shark population displays a unique 50:50 adult (male:female) sex ratio; however, this was not supported by data from this season, with a male dominant dataset (74%) including five juveniles.

Throughout the bone shark season we collected microplastics using a hand-towed net near feeding bone sharks. Microfibres were the dominant form of microplastics found within water samples but no visual evidence of microplastics was found in the one opportunistic faecal sample. Analysis of large debris was used to inform discussions on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing in St Helena's waters.

We continued developing St Helena's first ever bone shark identification app for android and Apple devices with Enterprise St Helena and CRITTER. It will allow researchers and the community to upload photos of bone sharks to an online database. We hope this citizen science approach will improve data capture and may be a trail blazer for future projects.

During fieldwork we observed unusual cooperative behaviour between two Chilean devil rays (*Mobula tarapacana*), the first ever photo evidence of a leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), and a baitfish bone shark vortex.

We digitised SHG's 'Bone Shark Code of Conduct' to promote local rules and guidelines associated with swimming with the sharks, to an international audience. Beth and Kenickie were co-authors on a scientific article in the peer-reviewed journal *Frontiers in Marine Science*.

Bone Shark Festival 2021

We held St Helena's third annual bone shark festival in February at the Mule Yard. Thanks to a grant from Enterprise St Helena we procured promotional materials including a life-size inflatable bone shark, promotional flags, a bone shark costume, and a giant inflatable arch to welcome the community to the event. Over 600 people attended and entrance fees went to support marine conservation.

We showcased the technology we used in the field, allowed members of the community to experience the underwater world on virtual reality headsets, held competitions, and promoted upcoming projects such as our new bone shark app.

Local stalls sold marine-themed merchandise, such as t-shirts, jewellery, stationary, and food stalls sold sushi and sashimi, ice cream and ocean-themed chocolates and candy.

St Helena Tourism streamed the event on Facebook 'Live' to tens of thousands of viewers around the world.



L-R: Beth, Kenickie, Sheena and James led this year's bone shark festival, our largest single outreach event, with over 600 people in attendance

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

A CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT ACROSS TRUST WORK PROGRAMMES

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| <i>Duration</i> | Ongoing, since 2018 |
| <i>Project team</i> | Sheena Isaac, Beth Taylor, Kenickie Andrews |
| <i>Funding organisations</i> | Blue Marine Foundation |
| <i>Project partners</i> | SHG, Darwin Initiative, John Ellerman Foundation, RSPB |

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

To embed the position of Education and Outreach Officer in the Trust. To build capacity and skills for education and outreach across all Trust work programmes, with a strong focus on marine conservation. To increase awareness about conservation, to encourage positive interactions with nature, and to inspire people to become involved with our work programmes.

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2020-21

Our Education and Outreach Officer focussed on developing the first marine-themed education file for schools. It was based on local ecological knowledge and was tailored to the local school curriculum. We engaged with all four schools on island to raise awareness of conservation. During the bone shark season we hosted school assemblies that showcased our field equipment such as the drone and the CATS Cam to 600+ students. Students and staff also met 'Benny' the bone shark.

The bone shark festival in February was our largest single outreach event with over 600 people in attendance. We showcased the technology we use in the field, allowed members of the community to experience the underwater world on virtual reality headsets, held competitions, and promoted upcoming projects such as our new bone shark app.



Marine conservation was the focus of our education and outreach work this year, including the first marine-themed education file for schools and our annual bone shark festival

We promoted the themes 'reduce, reuse, recycle' by making a dress for the Miss St Helena 2020 competition. The dress was made from bottle caps, plastic bags and beach debris and sparked important conversations on our need to reduce waste and recycle.

The Education and Outreach Officer post was funded by the Blue Marine Foundation so her focus was marine topics; however, she also supported all projects in the Trust to develop their education and outreach capacity.

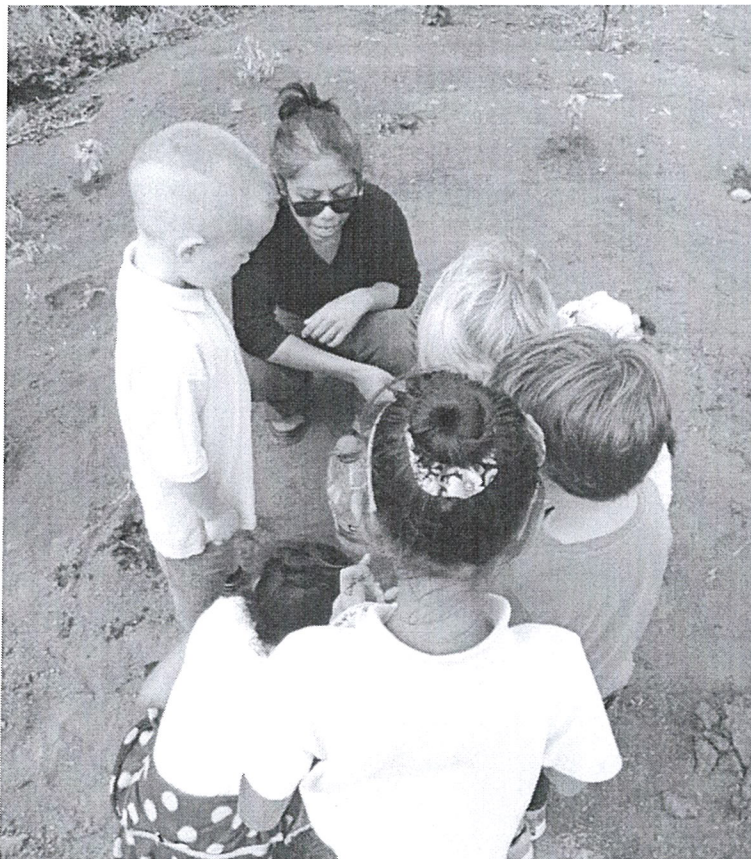
We facilitated educational visits to Millennium Forest from 581 children in primary and secondary schools. Each child had 2 or 3 sessions, representing 1,738 total visits that were made up of wirebird tours, invertebrate classes, and plant lessons. We hosted a full year of outreach events in 2020 to celebrate

the 20-year anniversary of Millennium Forest. The events included the chance for all school-age children to plant an endemic tree. Millennium Forest continued to be our main terrestrial site for outdoor learning, education, visitors and community engagement.

The Education and Outreach Officer assisted our Darwin projects by supporting invertebrate conservation workshops, providing training for conservation staff, organising pop-up stalls and information

sessions, and running activity days for kids. To raise awareness about our projects we made regular local radio appearances and published numerous articles in local newspapers. Five staff presented their project research at the St Helena Research Institute's local one-day 'Discovery to Discovery' conference.

We supported three work experience students, three apprentices, and learning-support children from Prince Andrew School. We regularly hosted volunteers on all of our projects.



Education and Outreach Officer, Sheena, facilitated visits to the Millennium Forest for 581 children. Our inclusive, tailored, community outreach programmes are part of what makes us unique, ensuring community buy-in to conservation measures, and enabling sustainability of our work

LANDSCAPE AND ECOLOGICAL MITIGATION PROGRAMME

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| <i>Duration</i> | Led by Trust from August 2018 to March 2021 |
| <i>Project team</i> | Shayla Ellick, David Francis, Antonio Green, Cheryl O'Dean, Hensel Thomas, John (Jack) Brady |
| <i>Funding organisations</i> | UK Government, SHG |
| <i>Project partners</i> | SHG, SHAPE, St Helena Airport Ltd. |

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

To provide compensatory habitats and landscape treatment to reduce and offset the permanent direct loss of habitat and the direct, and indirect, impacts on the landscape resource of the island as a result of the airport construction and supporting infrastructure.

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2020-21

The focus in this final year of the funded programme was on completion of outstanding works in various zones, including compensatory works; completion of any replacement planting required; invasive vegetation management and maintenance of existing zones; and collection of irrigation

infrastructure from zones no longer actively being irrigated.

We completed rehabilitation works on two sub-plots across two main Landscape and Ecological Mitigation Programme (LEMP) zones. This involved approximately 250m of fencing, and almost 800 plants planted over an area of approximately 680m². Works were also completed at Flagstaff scrubwoods, and pest control was carried out within the Central Basin. Practical works were focused on intensive maintenance of established LEMP zones. Biological surveys were undertaken and a cautious survival rate of 77% was calculated across all LEMP plantings. We worked with St Helena Airport and SHAPE to plant scrubwoods at the airport entrance.



L-R: David, Jack, Shayla, Antonio, Cheryl and Hensil led our final year of work on the Landscape and Ecological Mitigation Programme

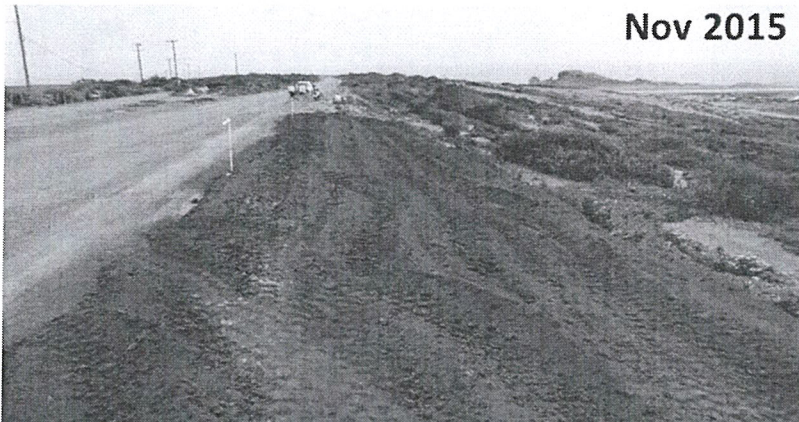
The project went through the final staff restructure where the team was reduced to six people. Capacity building in staff is a key legacy of the LEMP project. The team engaged in eight training events covering manual handling, behaviour management and safeguarding, communication in the workplace, fire safety, first aid, GIS and data management, and also attendance at the Virtual Island Summit Conference session in which St Helena was represented.

We investigated options with project partners for funding of long-term maintenance of LEMP zones from April 2021. The Trust has

committed to the long-term care of the sites immediately adjacent to Millennium Forest.

Together with the Darwin vertebrate project, we controlled rabbits, rats and geckos in LEMP zones and the Central Basin, and quarterly rabbit drop-trap monitoring at Blue Point. We also funded removal of invasive vegetation at Cook's Bridge and biological monitoring (vegetation surveys) of LEMP zones.

A reception was hosted by Governor Rushbrook at Plantation House to celebrate the legacy of the project in March.



Nov 2015



Feb 2021

Creating brand new endemic habitat is one of the legacies of the LEMP. From bare earth to habitat in less than six years, this stand of roadside endemic gumwoods shows signs of natural regeneration with endemic seedlings popping up by themselves, and endemic invertebrates living amongst the new trees

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| <i>Duration</i> | March 2021 to November 2021 |
| <i>Project manager</i> | Mike Jervois |
| <i>Funding organisations</i> | Historic England |
| <i>Project partners</i> | SHG, St Helena Museum, Heritage Society, Ben Jeffs |

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

To demonstrate innovative historic environment record (HER) solutions for under-resourced UK Overseas Territories: St Helena's HER will be online, free, accessible to all, up to date and integrated into regular use as a tool for conservation, planning and development.

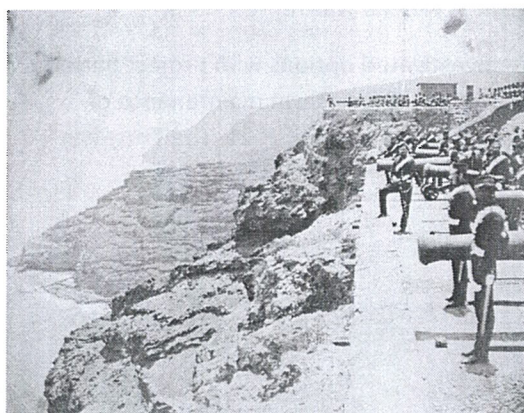
To train a local person to manage the database, perform a gap analysis, and improve the HER by collecting new information. To advocate its use as a conservation tool and engage the local community in built heritage.

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2020-21

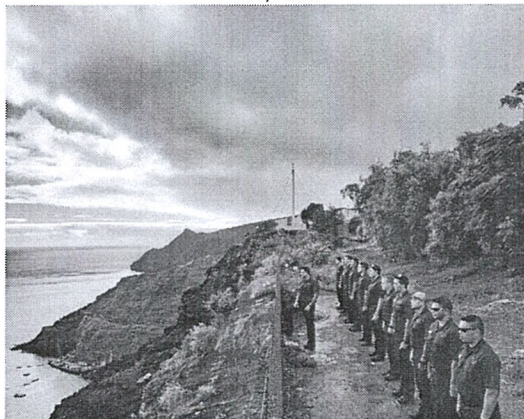
We secured funding through Historic England to commence a project to review and improve St Helena's historic environment record. The project started on 15 March. A steering group was established to govern the project and recruitment began for a project manager.

It represents a new partnership between the Trust and Historic England. It is the first time Historic England has worked on St Helena so if we can prove this project can be done cheaply and easily, with good results, it could be replicable on other under-resourced UKOTs.

Ladder Hill Fort



Lilley - 1860



SHNT - 2021

Social media posts have been a powerful tool for engaging the community in our HER project. We created a series of then and now images such as these at Ladder Hill Fort: an active military presence in 1860 is now the headquarters of the modern-day fire service in 2021

STONE COTTAGE RESTORATION

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| <i>Duration</i> | Ongoing, since 2016 |
| <i>Project team</i> | Darren Williams, Richard John, Christopher Thomas, Rudie McDaniel |
| <i>Funding organisations</i> | RSPB, SHNT |
| <i>Project partners</i> | RSPB |

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

To restore Stone Cottage to a high standard with clear reference to traditional St Helenian housing. To provide an opportunity for training in all aspects of house restoration, especially traditional masonry methods. To provide an asset to the Trust that could generate unrestricted funding from accommodation rental or use as an office.

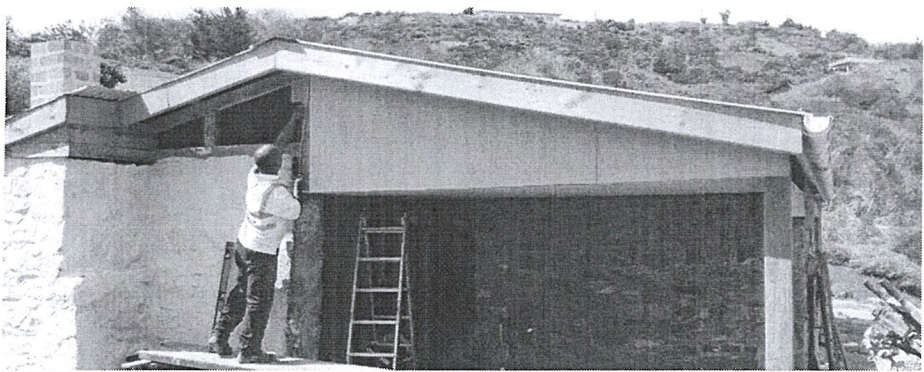
ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2020-21

Restoration work included completion of stone pointing, cornicing, installation of electrical trunking, renovation to the fireplace

chimney, interior and exterior painting, landscaping, and invasive species clearance.

The Trust’s built heritage team led the project until they were disbanded at the end of May 2020. Contractors were employed to install new windows and wooden doors. The cottage is now lockable, weather-proof and animal-proof.

Tables, chairs and shelving units were rescued from landfill and repaired for use in the cottage. The LEMP staff team improved drainage along the driveway by digging trenches.



The Built Heritage team led the restoration of Stone Cottage. With spectacular views of High Knoll Fort and the peaks, the property represents our ambition to generate sustainable unrestricted funding from accommodation rental

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



BLUE MARINE
FOUNDATION



John Ellerman
Foundation



Enterprise
St Helena

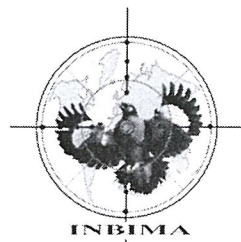


Historic
England



UK CEH





REFERENCE DETAILS

In accordance with Section 18 of the St Helena National Trust Ordinance of 2001 the Members of the National Trust Council submit the Annual Report.

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Registered charity name: | St Helena National Trust |
| Registered charity number: | C00010 |
| Registered company name: | SHNT (Guarantee) Ltd |
| Registered company number: | 100 |
| Registered office: | Broadway House Main Street Jamestown St Helena Island South Atlantic Ocean STHL 1ZZ |
| Independent examiner: | Audit St Helena First Floor, New Porteous House Jamestown St Helena Island South Atlantic Ocean STHL 1ZZ |
| Bankers: | Bank of St Helena Market Street Jamestown St Helena Island South Atlantic Ocean STHL 1ZZ |
| Trust Council members: | Neil Fantom, President Nick Thorpe, Vice-President Robyn Franconi, Treasurer Kelly Whitton, Secretary Cllr Cyril Leo, Governor in Council Lourens Malan, St Helena Nature Conservation Group Olive Brown, Arts & Crafts Association Adam Sizeland, St Helena Heritage Society Helena Bennett Vince Thompson Michel Dancoisne-Martineau |
| Senior Management Team: | Mike Jervois, Director Beth Taylor, Head of Marine Conservation/Acting Director Amanda Constantine, Office Manager Angela Francis, Head of Finance Amy-Jayne Dutton, Head of Conservation Martina Peters, Head of Conservation Shayla Ellick, LEMP Team Leader |

Staff Team:

James Fantom, Vertebrate Control Project Manager
Denis Leo, Vertebrates Control Project Officer
Kyle Joshua, Vertebrate Control Field Officer
Ashley Furniss, Vertebrate Control Field Assistant
Natasha Stevens, Invertebrate Control Project Manager
Liza Fowler, Invertebrate Control Project Officer
Christy Jo Scipio-O'Dean, Invertebrate Control Field Assistant
Daryl Joshua, Invertebrate Field Assistant
Sheena Isaac, Education & Outreach Officer
Kenickie Andrews, Marine Research Coordinator
James Wylor-Owen, Marine Project Officer
Christopher Clingham, Millennium Forest Supervisor
Julian Knipe, Millennium Forest Conservation Assistant
Nico Benjamin, Millennium Forest Conservation Assistant
Kristoph Benjamin, Millennium Forest Conservation Assistant
Kati-Rose Thomas, Apprentice
Terrienne Benjamin, Apprentice
Darren Williams, Built Heritage Team Leader
Richard John, Skilled Heritage Worker
Christopher Thomas, Heritage Worker
Rudie McDaniel, Heritage Worker
David Francis, LEMP Field Supervisor
Antonio Green, LEMP Conservation Worker
Cheryl O'Dean, LEMP Conservation Worker
Hensel Thomas, LEMP Conservation Worker
John (Jack) Brady, LEMP Conservation Worker/Bowser Driver

We are grateful to all our staff, contractors and volunteers that have helped throughout the year that have given a little or a lot of time to the Trust. You are amazing!



Promoting reusable shopping bags in place of single use plastics for Earth Day

