

## Funded participation at international or regional events for UKOTs

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### Report on funded participation at international/regional events<sup>i</sup>

David Higgins from Saint Helena Government Terrestrial Conservation Section was being funded by JNCC to attend the Monitoring Protected Areas Workshop, Ascension Island on 3<sup>rd</sup> June to 8<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

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#### Participant Information

- Name of participant:  
David Higgins
  - Contact details (job title, address, email, phone number)  
Terrestrial Conservation Advisor and Trainer  
Environmental Management Division  
Environment and Natural Resources Directorate, St Helena Government  
Essex House, Jamestown, St Helena STHL 1ZZ  
Email : david-higgins@enrd.gov.sh  
Tel: +290 2270 Ext: 207
  - Name of event  
Monitoring Protected Areas Workshop.
  - Location of event  
Ascension Island
  - Web link to event  
E-mail: protectedareas@conservation.org.fk
  - Participation funded by  
JNCC
  - Nature of participation: (e.g. participant, speaker, facilitator)  
Participant and speaker
  - Nature of representation (e.g. department, OT government, region)  
Saint Helena Government (Terrestrial Conservation Team)
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### Event feedback

- Brief overview of event

This workshop was organised by Claire Cockwell of Falklands Conservation and run in conjunction with Colin Clubbe (Kew Gardens) with Jonathan Hall and Claire Stringer (RSPB). The week covered protected areas in general, monitoring and monitoring practice, management planning, biosecurity and invasive species management, as well as the wider global and local contexts. The knowledge brought to the event was wide and varied. The inclusion of landowners, NGOs and the South Atlantic conservation community created the perfect conditions for learning and experience sharing. The workshop objectives were to:

- Bring together representatives from South Atlantic Overseas Territories to explore the status of Protected Areas across the Region, and to share knowledge and experiences of biodiversity monitoring, particularly in Protected Areas
- Explore possibilities for a centralised 'data warehouse' for information on Protected Areas and monitoring
- Explore how we take these ideas forward and maintain active collaboration into the future.

The structure was split into indoor presentations and discussions, practical 'hands-on' exercises, walks to locations of high conservation interest, and information sharing between territories. Each territory and organisation presented details on work being carried out and the atmosphere was such that open discussion was quick to start. The workshop was well managed by Claire Cockwell, Colin Clubbe and Claire Stringer with assistance from the Ascension Island conservation team.

- Main points that would be useful for the region

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The information sharing and the beginnings of a centralised sharing community was heartening. Through this best practice, new ideas and a group of people to bounce ideas off can be developed. It was especially valuable to tap into the expertise of the NGO community and I'd recommend that they are invited to attend, or help run, future gatherings of this nature.

Developing research and funding bids that cross-territories should be simpler.

The workshop was enlightening in that it offered advice on sound approaches to developing protected areas.

- Main points that would be useful for territory

The process of community engagement was discussed and this will have direct implications for how we develop the National Conservation Areas on St Helena.

We met a number of the people we liaise with which created a good working environment

The information on biosecurity and invasive species management was especially valuable given the situation and development on St Helena.

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### Post event information

- **Action to follow up** (*any actions that require follow up by participant/territory/region*)

The workshop participants continue to communicate and Claire Cockwell is busy developing a learning and sharing hub for the relevant OTs.

- **Conclusions/recommendations:** (*any overall conclusions/recommendations by participant for participant/territory/region*)

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We recently had a St Helena Science conference organised by Tara Pelembe which was a great success. An annual or biannual regional gathering that covers workshop based learning, field trips and a short conference would be highly valuable. This could be organised to rotate between territories and to target areas of high interest/concern.

- **Any other points.**

The inclusion of NGOs (Kew, RSPB, Saint Helena National Trust, Falklands Conservation) was an invaluable addition to the group. The experience and knowledge they passed on added to a collective learning and sharing experience.

Without the JNCC funding I wouldn't have been able to attend this excellent workshop, thank you for the assistance.

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### Publicity

- **Media coverage:** If your participation has been covered in the media anywhere, please provide links/scans of articles where available.

<http://www.ascension-island.gov.ac/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Conservation-Quarterly-421.pdf>

- **Photographs/DVDs:** Due to the internet connection here it would be difficult to attached images but the following links will direct to photos taken on St Helena and during the period of the workshop. I'd be happy to forward any at higher resolution on request:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152735241875247.1073741834.693060246&type=1&l=2e43122cd4>

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10153026879025247.1073741851.693060246&type=1&l=11db56d8ae>

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<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152885122140247.1073741846.693060246&type=1&l=33fd52b7fa>

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152849317020247.1073741842.693060246&type=1&l=a30427ea3e>

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152715459955247.1073741831.693060246&type=1&l=518365c855>

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### **Presentations/posters/papers**

- Please send copies of any presentations/papers/posters presented at the event.
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### **Dissemination of information**

- It is envisaged that the information provided can be put online and shared with other OTs. If there is any section of this report that should not be put in the public domain, please highlight here.
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### **Additional detailed information**

Appendices

Territory background reports; any other information where the detail might be interesting to OTs in the region; useful contacts.

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<sup>i i</sup> If you have any suggestions for changes to this form, to make the information more relevant/useful please add these here.

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