

Yellow-nosed albatross

What research is being carried out?

Very little data exists on the wildlife of Tristan and Nightingale. The project aims to establish base line information for these two islands. This will allow us to monitor species and work out long-term trends in the future to see how well they are doing. We will identify any necessary research for future projects too.



The Tristan da Cunha Darwin Project

The main aim of this project is to involve the local community in helping to conserve the wildlife of Tristan da Cunha. The project runs until April 2006. A database of information on the wildlife of all the Tristan islands will be produced and updated regularly. This will be used to write the biodiversity action plan for Tristan. We will also produce educational materials and a wildlife fieldguide.

For more information about the project contact:

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Produced by the RSPB, the BirdLife International Partner in the UK, registered charity no 207076.
Photos: Paul Tyler. Front cover image: yellow-nosed albatross 94-1375-03-04

Helping the wildlife of

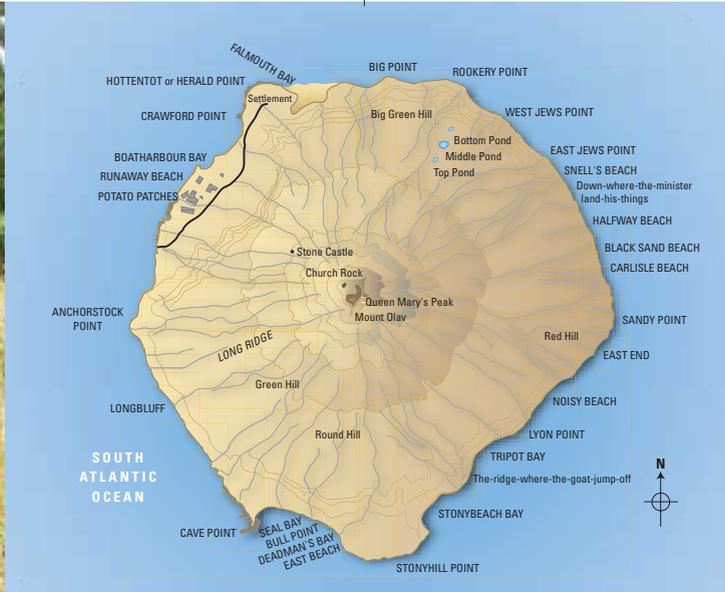


Tristan da Cunha





Sooty albatross



Fur seal

What is the Tristan da Cunha biodiversity project?

The project aims to conserve the globally important wildlife of Tristan da Cunha by involving the local community in the production of a Biodiversity Action Plan. The plan will identify the key conservation issues and will explore ways of addressing these conservation issues on Tristan.

The Tristan islands

Tristan da Cunha comprises four main islands – Tristan, Inaccessible, Nightingale and Gough. All four islands are volcanoes on the mid-Atlantic ridge, rising steeply out of the sea. Tristan (above) is the largest and highest island (rising up to 2,040 metres), and is the only one that is inhabited.

How important is the wildlife?

Much of the wildlife of Tristan is found nowhere else, so any losses will almost certainly mean a loss to global biodiversity. There are nine bird species that are only found here and 35 endemic plants. The Tristan albatross, a unique species of wandering albatross, is one of the rarest birds on the planet.

What are the threats to the wildlife?

One of the main threats to the native wildlife is from introduced species. The Tristan moorhen is now extinct, thanks to introduced rats, and many seabird chicks on Gough are lost to introduced house mice. This project will look at ways of controlling introduced species and preventing further alien introductions.

Seabirds are at risk from being caught in fishing lines, as the birds range far from the islands for food. Overfishing in some areas also reduces food availability. The project will look at ways to reduce the negative impact that some fishing activities have on seabirds.

How will this help the economy?

All livelihoods on Tristan are based on natural resources. Islanders keep livestock, grow potatoes and harvest fish and lobsters. Any impact on the marine resources of Tristan will affect incomes, so it is in the interest of the islanders to protect the marine environment. Wildlife tourism is a small but growing industry on Tristan and it is important we take measures to conserve the wildlife.



Rockhopper penguin



Catching crayfish