



*Empowering the People of Tristan da Cunha  
to Implement the CBD*

## **Second Annual Report**



*submitted by*



*The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds  
The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL, UK*

*in partnership with*



*Tristan Island Government*



*The University of Cape Town*



**April 2004 – March 2005**

***ENQUIRIES RELATING TO THIS REPORT***

***Technical enquiries should be directed in the first instance to:***

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***Country Programme Manager***

***International Division***

***RSPB***

***The Lodge Sandy Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, UK***

## *Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species*

### *Annual Report*

#### **1. Darwin Project Information**

Project Ref. Number	162/12/010
Project Title	<i>Empowering the People of Tristan da Cunha to Implement the CBD</i>
Country(ies)	<i>Tristan da Cunha, South Atlantic</i>
UK Contractor	<i>Royal Society for the Protection of Birds</i>
Partner Organisation(s)	<i>Tristan Island Government, University of Cape Town, BirdLife South Africa</i>
Darwin Grant Value	<i>£154,117</i>
Start/End dates	<i>1 May 2003 to 31 March 2006</i>
Reporting period (1 Apr 200x to 31 Mar 200y) and report number (1,2,3..)	<i>1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005 Annual Report 2</i>
Project website	<i>N/A – due to communication constraints on Tristan</i>
Author(s), date	<i>Alison Rothwell, Sarah Sanders, Adrian Oates, Paul Tyler, Sue Scott, Christine Hanel</i>

#### **2. Project Background**

The Tristan da Cunha Islands consist of four volcanic islands, which lie in the centre of the South Atlantic about 2,800km from South Africa and 3,200km from the nearest point of South America. It is only accessible infrequently by boat, and is probably the world's most remote inhabited island. See Annex 3.

The biodiversity of Tristan is unique and of global importance. Because of its isolation, many of the species are endemic – of the 21 breeding bird species 11 are endemic, and there are 20 plant species endemic to Tristan da Cunha.

Conservation attention has concentrated on the uninhabited islands of Gough and Inaccessible. It has focused on one aspect of the Convention on Biological Diversity, i.e. the conservation of biodiversity rather than the sustainable use of components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits. The important global biodiversity of the other islands, Tristan and Nightingale, has been comparatively neglected.

At present, the main threats to the wildlife of Tristan are from introduced species and seabird mortality as a result of fisheries bycatch. The endemic spectacled petrel is categorised as critically endangered, the three breeding species of albatross are endangered and a further nine bird species are classified as vulnerable.

The Tristan population is small (280 residents at present) and so there is limited capacity to carry out conservation work in the islands. Most conservation work to date has been carried out by personnel from South Africa and the UK, mainly through universities.

The main problem this project aims to address is that the wildlife of Tristan is of global importance and is significantly threatened, and there is little manpower and expertise in

Tristan to carry out the work necessary to conserve the biodiversity of the islands. At the same time, there is an urgent need to diversify the economic base of Tristan.

The rich wealth of biodiversity presents opportunities to Tristan. There is potential to increase tourism, particularly wildlife tourism. The project aims to assist Tristan in maximising the benefits to be gained from conserving its natural assets and thus contribute to strengthening Tristan's economy.

### **3. Project Purpose and Outputs**

The purpose of the project is to increase local people's control, ownership and involvement in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity in Tristan da Cunha. The outputs of the project are:

1. The knowledge of biodiversity is sufficient for good management.
2. Conservation priorities identified on grounds of livelihoods as well as science.
3. Capacity to manage and monitor biodiversity is enhanced.
4. A programme of work to actively conserve and manage key species and habitats is started.
5. Project aims and results disseminated primarily locally but also internationally.

See logframe attached as Annex 1. The project outputs have not been amended since the start of the project.

### **4. Progress**

#### *History*

This is the second year of the project. At the end of the first year, the project had:

- Recruited, trained and briefed staff in the UK and Tristan
- Procured project equipment from UK and South Africa
- Held a planning workshop in Cape Town
- Collated and reviewed scientific literature
- Undertaken one season of fieldwork (seabirds and seals)
- Produced habitat maps for Tristan and Nightingale
- Prepared a socio-economic report on Tristan
- Started a database on Tristan

#### *Progress to Date*

Most of the project milestones for the second year have been achieved, some beyond the expectations of the project. The focus has been on:

- Building support in the UK to take forward the Biodiversity Action Plan after completion of the project;
- Consolidating fieldwork begun in the first year;
- Extending fieldwork to include other taxonomic groups (marine and invertebrate);
- Training the Tristanians, in particular strengthening their fieldwork skills;
- Preparing a first draft of the biodiversity action plan.

## **0. Project Management Structure in Place**

The project management committee has largely remained the same, although Aldo Berruti, resigned from BirdLife South Africa and has been replaced by Gerhard Verdoorn. A new Administrator arrived on Tristan, Michael Hentley. He has been fully briefed and is very supportive of the project. Diana Mortimer, a socio-economist based at JNCC, joined the committee to provide advice on the socio-economic aspects of the project and biodiversity action plan. Peter Ryan from Cape Town University visited Tristan twice for the flax project and to conduct a census of the spectacled petrel. Due to logistical constraints it has unfortunately not been possible for the project management committee to meet altogether. However, they have been updated regularly through the email on project progress.

There have been three external fieldworkers on Tristan this season. Paul Tyler has continued work on habitat mapping, bird surveys and assisted with the marine surveys. Christine Haenel has started an invertebrate survey of all the main habitats on Tristan and Nightingale. Sue Scott, a marine biologist working on a voluntary basis, has carried out a marine survey.

Two of the three Tristan Conservation Officers were in the UK for the duration of the field season, so meetings were held between the Head of the Natural Resources (and Conservation Officer), the UK project manager and the Administrator to discuss the progress of the project.

Almost all the project staff have continued as in the first year of the project. One of the fieldwork team left Tristan, and was replaced by two others who began the fieldwork training this season, which means ten Tristanians have been involved in the project during the second year

### **1. The knowledge of biodiversity is sufficient for good management**

During the course of this summer's fieldwork, the project has been developing a monitoring manual for Tristan (see Annex 8), and this has led to a refinement of the fieldwork plan for the project. No major changes were made, but the timing for some of the survey work has been defined, and this led to a more detailed work plan for the survey and monitoring aspects of the project.

Much of the fieldwork in the first season of the project was spent mapping the habitats, and this information is now being used to monitor habitat change, mainly as a result of introduced species. Locations and areas where they are widespread of alien plants have been mapped and fixed point photographs taken to establish baseline data on the distribution of these plants. This will then be used as a monitoring tool for the spread of invasive plants, and to direct the proposed work for controlling these plants.

In particular, the distribution of New Zealand flax, dock and various agricultural grasses and weeds from both the UK and South Africa were mapped. These have either been introduced deliberately for fodder or other use, or have been accidentally introduced with imported hay. Initial analysis has shown that most of these species are spreading, and the agricultural grasses in particular are beginning to alter the native habitats in some areas and are interfering with bird breeding success.

The monitoring of seabirds that was started in the first field season was continued. A complete count of incubating rockhopper penguins was carried out on Tristan, and the boundaries of the colonies on Nightingale were mapped using GPS. This information is being analysed along with historic information from all four islands in the group in order to establish the population dynamics.

The penguin population on Tristan has continued to increase since exploitation for eggs ceased in 1982. There has been no long term monitoring of the colonies on Nightingale, and so at present it is impossible to say what the trend in the population is, but the baseline data has now been established and annual monitoring is planned for the future.

Monitoring of yellow-nosed albatrosses has continued, with a further two study plots established on Tristan, in addition to the four study plots set up last season on Nightingale and Tristan. Again, this data is being analysed in conjunction with data from the other two islands to give a picture of changes in population over the whole island group. The results show a

substantial decrease in the albatross population on Nightingale from the numbers that were present in the 1950s, although there was so significant decline between the counts done in 2003 and 2004.

Surveys of burrow-nesting petrels and shearwaters were carried out on Tristan and Nightingale. For many of the species there are no recognised monitoring methods, so emphasis was put on trying to establish the distribution of these species and how they can be monitored in future. There is very little reliable data on the numbers and distribution of these species. The most thorough survey was carried out in the 1970's, and, with help from one of the fieldworkers that was involved with this project, the data from the 2004/5 fieldseason was compared to this previous report. The overall picture is that the number of species of burrowing seabirds has declined on Tristan, and the numbers of breeding birds of those species still present has dramatically declined.

In the first year of the project, there were criticisms that the project was too bird focused. To address this the fieldwork was extended to cover invertebrates and the marine environment.

A marine survey of Tristan and Nightingale was carried out. A seaweed collection was established in triplicate – to be held in Tristan, the UK and the University of Cape Town. Other taxa were photographed and samples taken where possible. Each dive was recorded using Marine Conservation Society Seasearch forms. A total of 120 species of algae, 8 sponges, 3 echinoderms and 9 fish were recorded. Apart from the fish, most of the animal species have yet to be identified (see Annex 4).

Samples of invertebrates from different habitat types on Tristan and Nightingale were taken and preserved to establish baseline information on the status of invertebrates and to set up a collection on Tristan to aid insect identification. Although the final report is still under preparation, please see Annex 4 for further information.

## **2. Conservation priorities identified on grounds of livelihoods as well as science**

As a result of the work on the socio-economic report during the first year on Tristan, the conservation priorities based on livelihoods have, to the greater extent, already been identified. Fisheries management especially crayfishing and the control of long-lining in the Tristan EEZ is the primary issue, while invasive species and enhancing communication with the rest of the world are key concerns.

During the course of this field season it has been possible to have small, informal meetings with interested groups to try and ensure that none of the proposals in the biodiversity action plan (BAP) will conflict with the economic activities on Tristan.

The priorities that were identified on Tristan in 2003/04, along with the results from the UK workshop (see Annex 6), were used as the basis for the production of the draft BAP (see Annex 5). Although we planned to have circulated and signed off the BAP by March 2005, it has taken longer than expected due to reasons outlined below. We hope to have this done by the end of the year.

One challenge has been the lack of progress on the Tristan da Cunha Government Strategy. This was proposed before the start of this Darwin Initiative project, and when the initial discussions were held in Tristan it was agreed that the BAP would be developed in conjunction with the overall Tristan strategy, so that policies would be cross-referenced and there would be no contradictions between the two plans. However, the change in administrators has meant work on the Tristan strategy has ceased, though should start again before the end of this year. This has left Tristan in the, almost certainly, unique position of having the BAP as the only national forward planning document. Given that this document will deal with fisheries and agriculture, the main two livelihoods on Tristan, it is difficult to see how these will develop without a strategic plan for the island.

It has also meant that the BAP is the first strategic planning process to be conducted on the island. The concept of long-term planning is not a familiar one on Tristan and there is some resistance to the idea. As strategic planning is not seen as a priority, the annual planning for

fieldwork and monitoring has proved very difficult as it has had to fit in with other livelihood activities such as fishing, which is often only decided on a daily basis.

### **3. Capacity to manage and monitor biodiversity is enhanced**

Of the nine fieldworkers recruited last year, eight were still in post this year, and a further two were recruited. Training was given to all on the use of GPS, seabird ringing and monitoring, habitat mapping, invertebrate collection and plant identification (See Annex 8 & 10).

Training was continued with key individuals on the use of the satellite email system and the GIS software. (See Annex 8). The project has set up the Tristan Natural Resources Department with their own email system, which is used regularly to communicate on this and other projects. The database continues to be developed.

An interactive education resource, using images taken during the project, is under development for the school and Tristan community (See Annex 11).

A tremendous achievement is that fieldwork has been undertaken by the Tristan team without the assistance of UK project personnel. The results of this have yet to be analysed, but the fact that the Tristan team were prepared to use their training to carry out fieldwork is in itself an indicator of success.

Although the emphasis of this project was on fieldwork on Nightingale and Tristan, the opportunity was taken for the fieldwork team to visit Gough to carry out a census of Tristan albatross. For all but one of the team this was the first time they had been to Gough, and the trip enabled them to be involved for the first time in the conservation of this remote island.

A separate project on the conservation management of Nightingale Island, funded by the Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP), started in June 04, and is managed by the Head of the Natural Resources Department. This was an ideal opportunity to give help and training in the management of conservation projects.

Another excellent indicator of success is the increased commitment of the Tristan Island Government to conservation. The exit strategy has been discussed and the Tristan Island Government has agreed to support the appointment of a Tristan Conservation Officer, one of the main factors of the exit strategy. The recruitment process has started and they should be in place by September to work with the project manager for 4 months before her contract ends.

### **4. A programme of work to actively conserve and manage key species and habitats is started**

The project has succeeded beyond expectations in securing funding to support activities identified in the biodiversity action plan.

OTEP have granted funding for a further two projects. The first is to extend the Natural Resources Department and provide a conservation office and a laboratory to house both the proposed conservation officer and visiting scientists. The second is to undertake a feasibility study for rodent eradication on Tristan and Gough.

Tristan is included in an application to the EU (9<sup>th</sup> EDF) for funding to support a regional invasive species project in the South Atlantic.

Assistance was given to other projects that were carried out on Tristan during this year - the removal of flax from Inaccessible and a census of the Spectacled Petrel.

### **5. Project aims and results disseminated primarily locally but also internationally**

Information on the project has been disseminated in Tristan by means of informal meetings and a newsletter that will be sent to each household. Lectures about the project were given on visiting cruise ships and discussions were held with visitors who had a particular interest in wildlife.

A leaflet about the project has been published (See Annex 7).

A workshop was held in the UK in July 2004, attended by UK and Falkland stakeholders. The issues on Tristan were discussed, a framework for the Tristan BAP was drafted, and ways in which UK agencies can inform and assist the Tristan Government to forward the plan were identified (See Annex 6).

The project was presented at a workshop organised by the Darwin Initiative in October 2004 ([www.darwin.gov.uk/events/](http://www.darwin.gov.uk/events/)).

Updates on the project have been given to the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (UKOTCF) South Atlantic Working Group and at the UKOTCF/UK Government biannual meeting.

Articles relating to the project have been published in the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum and Tristan Association newsletters (Annex 9).

A timetable for the next reporting period is presented as Annex 2.

## **5. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)**

The proposal for training the population of Tristan to enable them to participate fully in the planning process is still causing the project some difficulty. The original proposal was overly ambitious, but it was hoped that it would be feasible to give forward planning training to the Tristan government workforce. At the start of the project it was discovered that the Tristan government were in the process of drawing up a five year strategic plan, and so it was thought that the timing of this project was fortunate in that the forward planning training could be given as the strategy for the island was developed. However, as mentioned above, the strategy has come to a temporary halt, so it is now apparent that the biodiversity strategy will be produced ahead of any overall strategy, which could lead to some problems where conservation policies may contradict economic policies.

It has not proved easy to persuade the heads of government departments on Tristan to see the need for forward planning training. The project manager has discussed the issue with council members and again there was not much enthusiasm for taking this forward. When it has been discussed the general feeling was that it would be easier for the council to work on a draft, so this has been produced, mainly based on the socio-economic report and the proposals identified in the UK workshop. On return to Tristan, this will be used to involve the government workforce and the council to finalise the biodiversity action plan.

## **6. Partnerships**

The partnership between the RSPB and the Tristan Government continues to work well. The new Administrator for Tristan has been involved in managing the project on the island, and has also had a meeting at RSPB UK headquarters to discuss the project and other projects that are planned for the next year.

The Darwin Initiative project has been able to assist with three other conservation projects on the island – the conservation management of Nightingale Island, the removal of flax from Inaccessible Island and the survey of the spectacled petrel. The project manager was also able to assist with proposals for two projects for the next financial year – the building of a conservation office and the feasibility study for the eradication of rodents, both of which were successful in being granted funding.

Representatives from various UK agencies attended the UK workshop and expressed an interest in supporting Tristan to take forward the biodiversity action plan.

The University of Cape Town are still very involved – they have taken forward the flax and spectacled petrel census. Peter Ryan will lead on the Tristan fieldguide to be prepared during the project. They have just been awarded funding for a project to remove Sagina from Gough. The botany department of the University of Cape Town and the Ichthyology Department of Rhodes University have provided considerable support for the marine survey work.

The Director of BirdLife South Africa has changed during the second year of the project. Although not active participants in the project, they have been kept up to date with progress through the project management committee.

## **7. Impact and Sustainability**

The project is very high profile within the country – almost one fifth of the Tristan Island Government workforce is employed on a part-time basis with the project. The popularity of the project is such that two further fieldworkers joined the team this summer, and there is strong evidence that there is increasing interest in biodiversity in the island. It is recognised that being such a small nation it is likely that conservation projects will always need some input from external individuals and organisations. As part of the exit strategy, the Tristan Government has agreed to support a Conservation Officer to ensure the BAP is taken forward. RSPB has agreed to a long-term involvement with the Natural Resources Department on Tristan, in order to assist with the implementation of the BAP.

## **8. Post-Project Follow up Activities (max 300 words)**

An important outcome of this project has been that work has started on the building of a new conservation office, and the initiation of the recruitment process for a Tristan Conservation Officer. It is likely that this person will only be in office for a few months before the end of this project, and it is hoped that funding could be found to continue with the training for the Conservation Officer (CO). The CO will almost certainly be appointed from the fieldwork team who have worked with this project, and will have the benefit of the training carried out with the project. However, they will also be expected to lead on the implementation of the BAP, and would certainly benefit from further training to be able to carry out these duties, and the opportunity to liaise closely with individuals in the UK and South Africa. As the CO will be key to the implementation of the BAP, we hope Darwin will invite us to apply for post project funding next year to support the training of the CO.

## **9. Outputs, Outcomes and Dissemination**

*Outputs not or only partially achieved:*

5 & 8 Transport to and from Tristan is becoming increasingly difficult, and as a result of this the project manager had to leave Tristan earlier than expected and was not able to oversee the last two months of fieldwork.

7 Only two survey manuals have been drafted to date. Due to the timing of boats, the third, an invertebrate monitoring manual will only be ready in June 2005.

9 Although we planned to have circulated and signed off the BAP by March 2005, it has taken longer than expected due to reasons outlined in the project progress section. We hope to have this done by the end of the year.

14A Instead of the planned workshop in South Africa, meetings were held with stakeholders on an individual basis. The logistics of bringing all the stakeholders together in one place proved very difficult, and it was felt (based on past experience) that more would be achieved discussing particular parts of the project with the individuals involved.

16A & 16C Communication constraints have meant the annual newsletter for stakeholders in South Africa, other Overseas Territories and the UK has not yet been produced, but will be finalised and distributed in June 2005.

The Tristan government has not yet ratified the Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP). Legislation is in the process of amendment to enable the ratification, and the proposed National Plan of Action for albatrosses and petrels will be drawn up then.

*Dissemination Activities:*

Information on the project has been disseminated in Tristan by means of informal meetings and a newsletter that will be sent to each household.

Lectures about the project were given on visiting cruise ships and discussions were held with visitors who had a particular interest in wildlife.

A leaflet about the project, designed primarily for visitors, has been published (Annex 11).

A workshop was held in the UK in July 2004, attended by UK and Falkland stakeholders. (See Annex 6).

The project was presented at a workshop organised by the Darwin Initiative in October 2004 ([www.darwin.gov.uk/events/](http://www.darwin.gov.uk/events/)).

Updates on the project have been given to the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (UKOTCF) South Atlantic Working Group and at the UKOTCF/UK Government biannual meeting.

Articles relating to the project have been published in the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum and Tristan Association newsletters (Annex 9).

All images and materials produced during the project will remain on Tristan and at the RSPB, in the UK to allow further dissemination at the end of the project.

**Table 1. Project Outputs (According to Standard Output Measures)**

<b>Code No.</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Description</b>
5	10	10 fieldworkers on Tristan have received two seasons of fieldwork training including use of GPS, health and safety, seabird and seal survey and monitoring, habitat mapping and invertebrate collection.
7	3	2 x Monitoring manual, and education resource have been developed.
8	68	Project manager spent 23 weeks and two fieldworkers spent 32 weeks and 13 weeks respectively on Tristan.
9	1	First draft of BAP is prepared.
12A	1	Habitat and species data has been incorporated into a GIS, held on a dedicated desktop computer purchased by the project and handed over to the Tristan Natural Resources Department
13A	2	A reference collection of seaweeds and terrestrial invertebrates has been established
13B	1	An existing reference collection of plants has been added to.
14A	1	A workshop was organised in the UK attended by 26 stakeholders
14B	2	Darwin workshop (Oct 2004) and UKOTCF/Government meeting (July 2005)
15A	2	The latest news about the project has been put on the Tristan Times website, and an article has been published in the Tristan Association Newsletter which is distributed on Tristan.

15B	1	Information about the project given to the Cape Argos, Cape Town
15C	1	Article about the project in the UKOTCF Newsletter.
16A	2	Newsletters for distribution in Tristan and the UK are in production
16B	100	Newsletter to be distributed to every household
16C	100	Newsletter to be distributed to all UK stakeholders (Tristan Association members/UKOTCF members)
20	£2000	Desktop computer holding database, satellite phone
22	13	5 yellow-nosed albatross monitoring plots, 7 rockhopper penguin plots and one sub-antarctic fur seal plot
23	£11,543.87	RSPB (mostly in staff time)

**Table 2: Publications**

Type * (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (title, author, year)	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. contact address, website)	Cost £
Unpublished Report	Marine Biodiversity of Tristan Sue Scott, Paul Tyler 2005	RSPB	Sarah Sanders, RSPB The Lodge, Sandy, SG19 3JH	
Unpublished report	Photographic guide to terrestrial plants of Tristan da Cunha	RSPB	Sarah Sanders, RSPB Contact details as above	
Unpublished report	Monitoring manual for Tristan da Cunha	RSPB	Sarah Sanders, RSPB Contact details as above	
Unpublished report	GPS training manual – 1.Hardware 2.Software	RSPB	Sarah Sanders, RSPB Contact details as above	

## 10. Project Expenditure

**Table 3: Project expenditure during the reporting period (Defra Financial Year 01 April to 31 March)**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Balance</b>
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Despite minor variances between budget lines, the project was very successful in ensuring project expenditure was controlled at predicted levels. Overspends on some budget lines, particularly salaries, were counterbalanced by underspends on other lines, notably ‘rent, rates...’ and ‘Other costs’ where none of the predicted expenditure was incurred. This was because the items budgeted under this line were not required, or sufficient proof of expenditure that also demonstrates the cost’s relationship to the project has proved too difficult to secure.

An overspend above the 10% limit was observed on the Office Costs budget line. This was due to the payment of a satellite telephone line rental charge, to ensure uninterrupted communication whilst on the Island. The payment was deemed essential due to the safety benefits these phones bring. This prepaid line rental (500 minutes) will be available well into the next project year, thus an expected underspend for this category next financial year is expected.

## 11. Monitoring, Evaluation and Lessons

Considering the remote location and logistical/communication constraints, the project continues to make significant progress.

The project regularly reported to the project management committee in the UK and South Africa, the project leader in the UK and to the project advisory committee in Tristan. Feedback from these groups to the project was acted on accordingly.

Fieldwork was carried out by the Tristan team alone for the first time, and this was seen as a good indicator that it will be possible for activities in the biodiversity action plan to be carried out independently by Tristan. The Tristan Natural Resources Department has been set up

with an independent email system and this is already being used for liaison with the project partners in the UK and South Africa and other conservation organisations.

In the case of some of the outputs of the project (for example, the monitoring manual) an assumption is made that these will be used in future to continue conservation work on Tristan. It will be difficult to demonstrate that these outputs have contributed to the project purpose within the timescale of the project.

The most important lesson that has been learned from this year's work is that it will not be possible for the Tristan Island Government alone to carry out all the proposals set out in the Biodiversity Action Plan. There are some aspects (for example the annual bird and seal monitoring) that the Tristan team will be capable of carrying out alone. However, external assistance will be required for many of the proposed projects.

Another lesson brought into focus has been the fragility of the Tristan nation itself. The volcanic eruption in August led to the start of emergency procedures that could possibly have led to the evacuation of the island. In this case it was confirmed that the eruption did not pose a threat to the settlement, but it is possible that a future volcanic eruption will cause the evacuation of the entire population. Future plans will need to take this into account, and ensure, for instance, that data is held in other locations as well as on Tristan.

## **12.OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum)**

1. At a meeting of the Tristan Islands Council in March 05 it was agreed that a Tristan Conservation Officer post will be established to take forward the proposals in the BAP and carry out the annual biodiversity monitoring. At the start of this project there was little interest in establishing this post, but it has been possible to demonstrate the importance of this post to the Tristan government in the course of this project.
2. The project has been able to assist the Tristan government to draw up further project proposals, and two further conservation projects on Tristan have been awarded funding from the Overseas Territories Environment Programme.
3. The Tristanian fieldwork team were able to carry out seabird and seal monitoring work on Nightingale independently of the project manager and external fieldworkers. The team had the experience of carrying out the monitoring work in the fieldseason 2003/2004, and were then able to put this into practice in this season.
4. A trip to Gough was organised by the fieldwork team to carry out a census of Tristan albatross. This was the first time that a team from Tristan had been involved in this sort of work, and for all but one it was their first ever visit to Gough, so it has been seen as a landmark event on Tristan.
5. The UK stakeholder workshop was well attended, and considerable support was shown for taking conservation forward on Tristan.
6. The first comprehensive marine survey of Tristan was carried out, with the discovery of several unidentified species. A definitive collection of intertidal and subtidal algae was made and was identified and classified, and three complete sets made for Tristan, University of Cape Town and the British Museum.

■ **I agree for ECTF and the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section**