



2018 Diverse Island Environments

CONFERENCE PARTNERS



DETAILED PROGRAMME

Conference Day 1: People and economics – Monday 29th January

Venue: Anne's Place, Castle Gardens, Jamestown

Time	Title of Presentation	Speaker	Affiliation
09:00 – 09:30	Coffee and Networking		
09:30 – 10:00	Opening and welcome speeches		
	Session Chair		
10:00 – 11:10	St Helena as a 'laboratory of modernity': Mary Ann George and the making of racial selves and racialized Others in 19th St Helena	Keynote: Professor Daniel Yon	York University
11:10 – 11:20	Break		
11:20 – 12:00	Tourists marching in, Saints flying out? The social and economic impact of air access	Dr Daniel van Middelkoop and Dr Maarten Hogenstijn	Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences
12:00 – 13:00	The model Island	Keynote: Professor Stephen Royle	Queens University Belfast
13:00 – 13:30	Lunch		
	Session Chair		
13:30 – 14:30	Transnational Villagers: Perspectives of home	Keynote: Dr Cilla McDaniel	University of East Anglia
14:30- 14:45	Break		
14:45 – 15:30	Responses to Economic Shocks on Small, Remote Islands: Implications for the St Helena Economic Shock of 2016	Kirsty Joshua	Enterprise St Helena
15:30 – 16:15	Balance between preservation and progress	Jeremy Harris	St. Helena National Trust
16:15 – 17:00	Panel Discussion	Councillor + others	

DETAILED PROGRAMME

Conference Day 2: Marine and Fisheries – Tuesday 30th January

Venue: Anne's Place, Castle Gardens, Jamestown

Time	Title of Presentation	Speaker	Affiliation
09:00 – 09:30	Coffee and Networking		
09:30 – 09:35	Session Chair		
09:35 – 10:30	St Helena Fisheries	Keynote: Elizabeth Clingham	St Helena Fisheries Corporation
10:30 – 11:20	St Helena one-by-one fishery	Adam Baske and Julie Thomas	International Pole and Line Foundation
11:20- 11:30	Break		
11:35 – 12:30	Whale Shark Research	Key note: Dr Alistair Dove	Georgia Aquarium
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch		
	Session Chair		
13:30 – 14:20	Science in support of sustainable fisheries	Professor Martin Collins OBE	CEFAS
14:20- 14:45	Break		
14:45 – 15:30	Marine Research on St Helena	Annalea Beard	St Helena Environment and Natural Resources Directorate
15:30 – 16:00	Showcasing Environmental Research on Ascension Island (Video)	Natasha Timm	Ascension Island Government
16:00 – 17:00	Panel Discussion	Councillor + others	

DETAILED PROGRAMME

Conference Day 3: Renewables and Terrestrial environment – Wednesday 31st January

Venue: Anne's Place, Castle Gardens, Jamestown

Time	Title of Presentation	Speaker	Affiliation
09:00 – 09:30	Coffee and Networking		
09:30 – 09:35	Session Chair		
09:30 – 10:30	Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas (BEST)	Dani Biagorri	SAERI
10:30 – 11:20	Renewables on St Helena	Barry Hubbard	Connect St Helena
11:20- 11:35	Break		
11:35 – 12:30	Lost and Found on St Helena: Environmental monitoring and mitigation of the airport project	Annina Hayes, Bryony Walmsley, Kirsten Pritchard	Basil Read St Helena Environment and Natural Resources Directorate (LEMP)
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch		
	Session Chair		
13:30 – 14:20	Emerging Saint Science and Scientists	Steve Coates Science Teacher and PAS students	Prince Andrew School
14:20- 14:45	Break		
14:45 – 15:30	The carbon sequestration potential of <i>Commidendrum robustum Roxb.</i> (DC.) within the Millennium Forest restoration site, St Helena Island.	Shayla Ellick	St Helena Environment and Natural Resources Directorate (LEMP)
15:30 – 16:30	Panel Session	Councillor + others	

DETAILED PROGRAMME

Conference Day 4: Terrestrial Flora and Fauna – Monday 5th February

Venue: Anne's Place, Castle Gardens, Jamestown

Time	Title of Presentation	Speaker	Affiliation
09:00 – 09:30	Coffee and Networking		
09:30 – 09:35	Session Chair		
09:35 – 10:30	Species extinction on islands: canaries in the coalmine	Keynote: Professor Quentin Cronk	University of British Columbia and RBG Kew
10:30 – 11:20	Invasive pests and diseases – biosecurity breaches from a veterinary perspective. Keeping the outside world out yet letting it in.	Joe Hollins	Department of Agriculture Tristan da Cunha & ANRD St Helena.
11:20- 11:35	Break		
11:35 – 12:30	A Holistic Assessment of the Supply, Storage and Consumption of Energy as we Transition to a Renewable Future	Jason Yon and Samuel Wilkinson	University of Bristol
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch		
13:30 – 13:35	Session Chair		
13:35 – 14:20	'Invertebrates back from the brink? Using the Invertebrate Conservation Evaluation (ICE) Framework on St Helena	Dr Alan Gray	Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
14:20- 14:35	Break		
14:35 – 15:30	SAERI Research in the South Atlantic	Tara Pelembe	SAERI
15:30 – 16:30	Panel Discussion	Councillor + others	

DETAILED PROGRAMME

Conference Day 5: Marine Environment and environmental economics – Tuesday 6th February

Venue: Anne's Place, Castle Gardens, Jamestown

Time	Title of Presentation	Speaker	Affiliation
09:00 – 09:30	Coffee and Networking		
	Session Chair		
09:30 – 10:30	Fishes of St Helena with particular attention to central Atlantic endemics	Keynote: Professor Alasdair Edwards	University of Newcastle
10:30 – 11:20	Marine Plastics	Nick Mallos	Ocean Conservancy
11:20 – 11:35	Break		
11:35 – 12:00	Marine Plastics	Nick Mallos	Ocean Conservancy
12:00 – 12:30	A flourishing future for St Helena: but what will St Helena get out of a Blue Belt?	Charles Clover	Blue Marine Foundation
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch		
13:30 – 14:20	What is the value of valuing the Environment?	Nicole Shamier	St Helena Government
14:20- 14:35	Break		
14:35 – 15:30		Shirley Wahler	St Helena Government
15:30 – 16:30	Panel Discussion		

ABOUT ST HELENA

St Helena is located in the South Atlantic almost half way between Africa and South America, 1,948 miles (3,135km) to the northwest of Cape Town. A 47-square mile island discovered in 1502, it is one of the remotest settled islands in the world. A sub-tropical paradise, it is also one of the most spectacular as far as contrast goes. With its uniquely rich diversity of heritage-based attractions, both built and natural, St Helena for its size offers many things to see and lots for the visitor to do. Previously only accessible by the iconic RMS St Helena, the island began its first ever scheduled commercial air access in October 2017.

Diving and Marine Life

Clear, warm waters, wrecks and fascinating marine life make the island an enticing snorkelling and scuba diving destination. Dive site habitats vary from rocky reefs with caves and areas of boulders to cobbles and sand, all teeming with an abundance of marine life and all within easy reach of the wharf in Jamestown. The wrecks dotted around the coast present popular dive and snorkelling sites.

Sea temperatures vary from 66 to 75°F (19 to 25°C) and visibility can range from 16 to 130 feet (5 to 40m) with peak visibility being from December to May. Dives vary between 40 and 130 feet (5 to 30m+) and offer a range of opportunities. There are a number of local laws for divers to abide by, including no wreck penetration and rules for swimming and interacting with whale sharks.

Some of the popular dive sites are Buttermilk Point, Cat Island, Cat Island Main, Cavalley Point, Egg Island, Ladies Chair, Long Ledge, Robinsons and Thompson's Valley Island.

Most of the dive sites are located on the leeward side of the Island where divers can experience a bit of surge from the ocean swells, but there are no strong currents. These dives are suitable for both beginners and advanced divers.

Marine life is outstanding, with 750 marine species being record so far, and nearly 50 of these are endemic, 10 of which are fish. The island's waters are populated by resident dolphins including the Pantropical Spotted, Bottlenose and Rough-toothed dolphins.

January and February are the hottest months on the island, which correlates with fish spawning patterns and the appearance of whale sharks. Reaching lengths of up to 40 feet (12 m) or more, they scoop up plankton, along with any small fish that happen to be around, with their colossal gaping mouths while swimming close to the water's surface. Scientists have begun pinpointing St Helena as a possible mating area as the island is the only recorded area with adults of both gender.

Flora and Fauna

The island has an incredible range of wildlife; its isolation over the 12 to 14 million years since its emergence from the sea has resulted in a unique range of plants and animals found nowhere else in the world.

94% of the British endemic species lie within its Overseas Territories and of the 1,547 species, St Helena holds the most at over 500, and rising. This means that the 47 sq. miles (122km²) of St Helena hold roughly 30% of all endemic species to be found in the UK and the British Overseas Territories.

The vegetation below 1,150 feet (350m) is sparse. Above that level, with higher rainfall and the proximity to water sources, the island is green. This higher part of St Helena consists mainly of pasture, forests with exotic trees and abandoned plantations of New Zealand flax. The highest point on St Helena is Diana's Peak at 2,700 feet (823m), and it is along parts of the high central ridge, encompassing the island's highest summits, that the endemic cloud forest vegetation can be found.

Jonathan the Tortoise is possibly the oldest living animal on the planet. Jonathan was brought to the island from the Seychelles in 1882, along with three other tortoises, at about 50 years of age. He was named in the 1930s by Governor Sir Spencer Davis. The famous reptile can be seen happily plodding the grounds of Plantation House, the home of the governor of St Helena. Jonathan belongs to the St Helena Government.

History and Heritage

St Helena is an island of volcanic origin in the South Atlantic Ocean and is a British Overseas Territory. The Territory consists of St Helena and the dependencies of Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha. The island's history spans more than 500 years since its discovery by the Portuguese navigator João da Nova, on his voyage home from India on 21st May 1502. He named it "Saint Helena", this date was the birthday of Helena, mother of the Emperor Constantine the Great.

Britain's second oldest colony, one of the most isolated islands in the world, was for several centuries of vital strategic importance to ships sailing to Europe to and from the Far East, to take on essential stores and leave sick crew members to recover in its healthy climate.

In the nineteenth century it played a huge and largely un-recognised role as a vital refuge for up to 24 000 'liberated' African slaves. The associated African Burial Grounds (up to 9 000 buried) are located in Ruperts Valley. Since 1815, the British have also used the island as a place of exile, most notably for Napoleon Bonaparte, Dinizulu kaCetshwayo and over 6,000 Boer Prisoners of War.

Napoleon was exiled to St Helena by the British government after his defeat at Waterloo in June 1815. He and his French entourage sailed from Plymouth, England, on 7 August on board the HMS Northumberland and after two months at sea the Emperor landed at Jamestown, the capital of St Helena, shortly after dusk on 17 October 1815.

Napoleon spent his first two months on the island at The Briars and the last five-and-a-half years, before his death, at the age of fifty-two, in Longwood. During his time on St Helena the Emperor would visit every corner of the island.

At his own suggestion Napoleon would be buried in the picturesque Sane Valley, now the Valley of the Tomb, close to Longwood. In October 1840, at the request of the French government, his body would be exhumed and returned with full honours to France to be placed at Les Invalides. In total St Helena had been home and tomb to Napoleon for almost exactly 25 years.

Birding

On land and by sea, the sights and sounds of the birdlife of St Helena are certain to delight. The endemic Wirebird (St Helena Plover) is a source of national pride and a tour to observe its behaviour in the wild is not to be missed.

Take time to explore the island to observe the rare and reclusive native moorhen, or the variety of naturalised songbirds and be prepared to be 'visited' by inquisitive Fairy (white) terns.

Observe the colonies of Noddies, Boobies, Petrels and Terns on the island's offshore stacks by boat or take a coastal walk to observe the remarkable conservation success story unfolding on the coastal cliffs where populations of Masked boobies and Red-billed tropic birds are re-establishing themselves in ever increasing numbers on the mainland.

The people of St Helena

One of St Helena's greatest attractions is its unique culture. The friendliness of the people; the feeling that one has stepped back in time to an era where greeting passers-by and chatting on the side of the road is a way of life; a great sense of community and pride in traditions and customs – these are but a few of the reasons why visitors to St Helena become enchanted with this rocky outcrop in the middle of the South Atlantic Ocean. Saint-ness is experienced with all of the senses, be it the taste of delicious local fishcakes, the wafting aroma of a cup of premium St Helena coffee, the sounds of a local band drifting up from the wharf, the vibrant colours of a local parade or the straining of mind and muscle as you race up Jacob's Ladder.