

Economic Development on St Helena

Nature's Benefits: Natural Capital in the South Atlantic

Nicole Shamier – Chief Government Economist
St Helena Government

14 March 2019



Small Island Development

General challenges for small island nations:

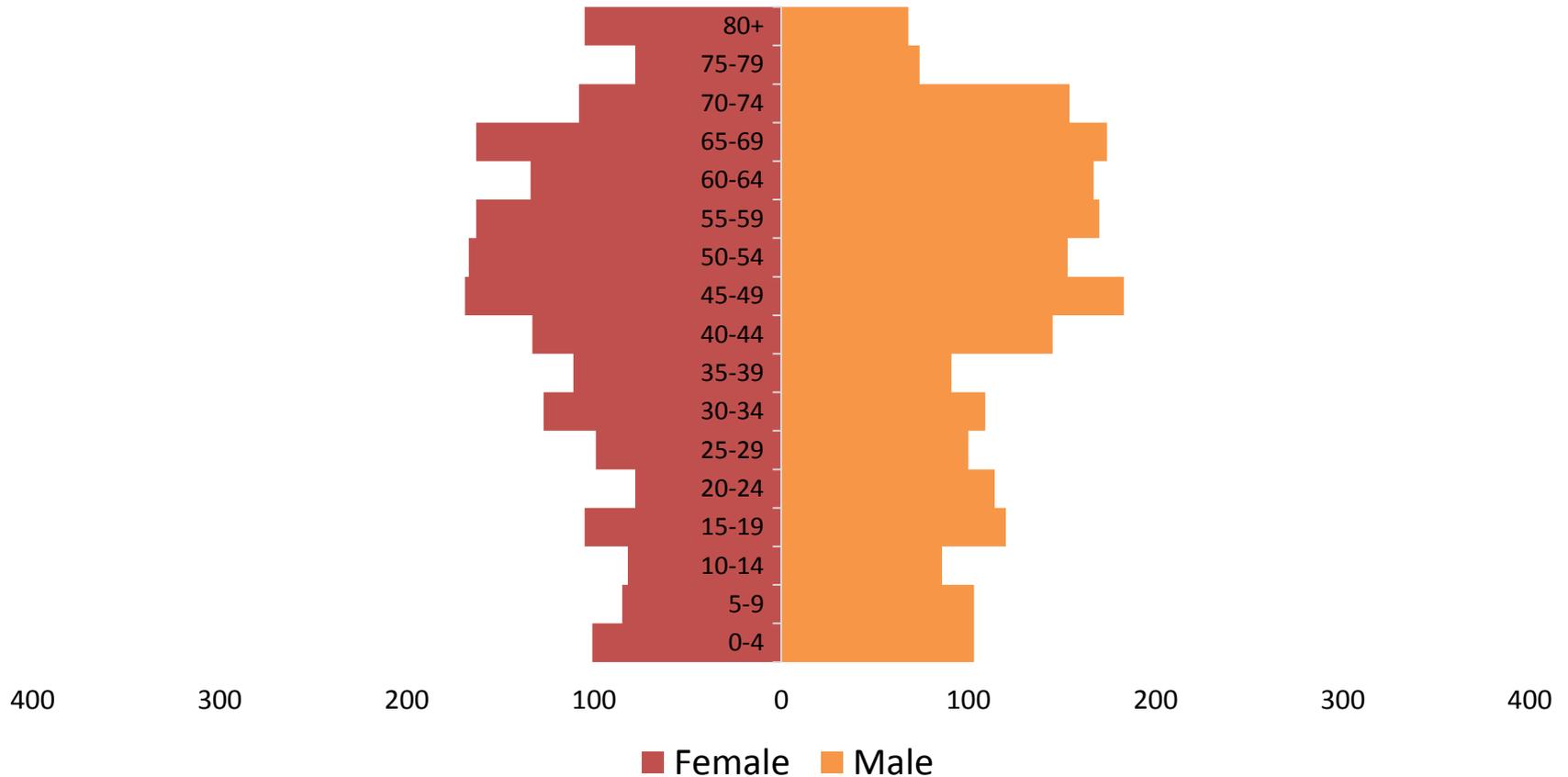
- Population, out migration and skills;
- Costs of Remoteness – Shipping; Labour;
- Small markets;
- Island Politics;
- Single points of failure;
- Data unavailability.

Specific challenges for St Helena

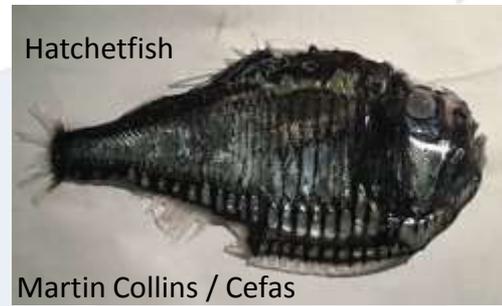
- Not self sufficient;
- Imports > Exports;
- Low average wages;
- Funding relationship with UK.

Out migration of working age people

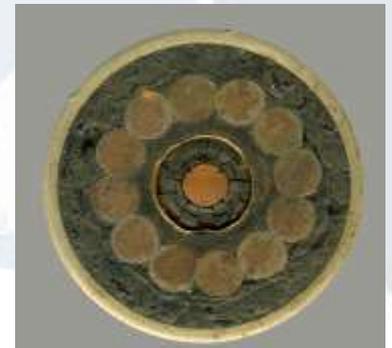
2016



Living Lab



- Discoveries are still possible;
- Whole island projects or experiments can be undertaken;
- 100% sample size or thereabouts is possible;
- Policies can be tried and tested here;
- Transformational change is possible.



What about economic change?

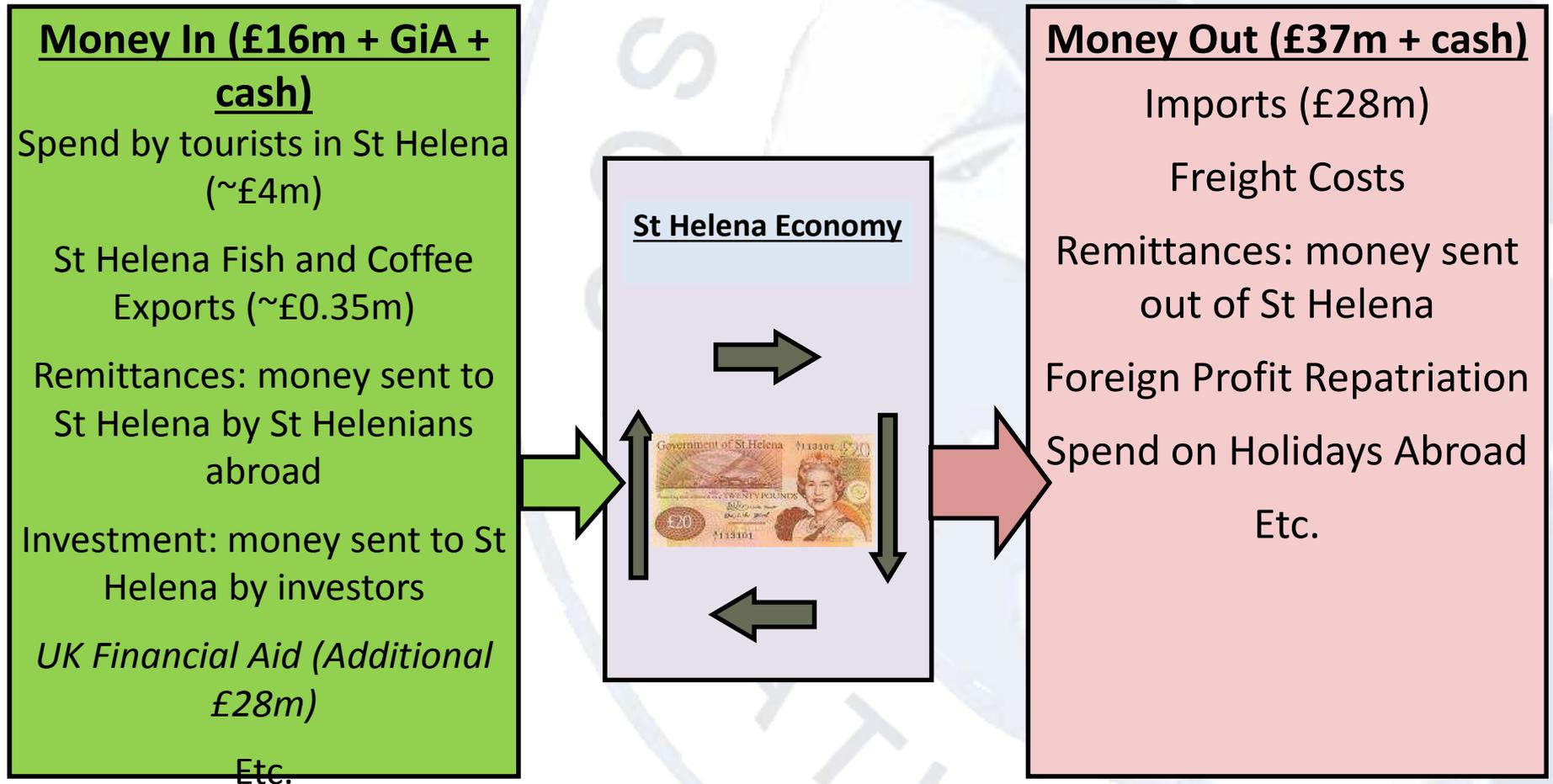
- The economy is a talking point
- Things succeed in the long term where:
 - Projects are driven by the majority of islanders.
 - Full support of the council, officials, business people and DFID.
 - The project really is cost beneficial.
- Things fail in the long term where:
 - Programmes assume people will make rational changes (without factoring in that habits last a life time)
 - Not enough effort goes into long term behavioural change and mind set development, and Programmes rely on one or two people
 - Recommendations aren't backed with resources

St Helena's Sustainable Economic Development Plan

- Written through consultation
- One to one discussion with business people
Suggestions by the public
- Ideas narrowed down by feasibility and political support
- Detailed internal implementation plan
- 6 monthly progress reports



Balance of Payments (estimates, 17/18)



St Helena's comparative advantages

- ❖ Natural resources and Geography
- ❖ British Overseas Territory
- ❖ Currency
- ❖ Relatively inexpensive labour and property costs
- ❖ Low crime

Sectors

Exports

Existing Export Sectors

Tourism

Fisheries

Coffee

New or Expanding Export Sectors

Satellite Ground Stations

Work From Home Jobs

Academia, Research and Conferences

Liquor, Wines and Beers

Ship Registry and Sailing Qualifications

Traditional Products

Honey and Honey Bees

Film Location

Import Substitution

Existing Import Substitution Sectors

Agriculture

Timber

Bricks, Blocks, Minerals and Rocks

New Import Substitution Sectors

Bottled Water

Progress 2018-19 – Enabling Years

- Lower customs duty, and lower income tax for key SEDP sectors
- Renewable Energy project will help to reduce imports of fuel.
- Immigration and Land reviews in progress. Labour Strategy starting 2019.
- St Helena Connected group delivered programme list for IT upskilling.
- Ground Satellite Station companies already engaged
- Research Institute set up 2018.
- Site for marine lab and visitor centre identified.
- Private sector opened Yacht club and is providing services for yachties; sailing school being developed.

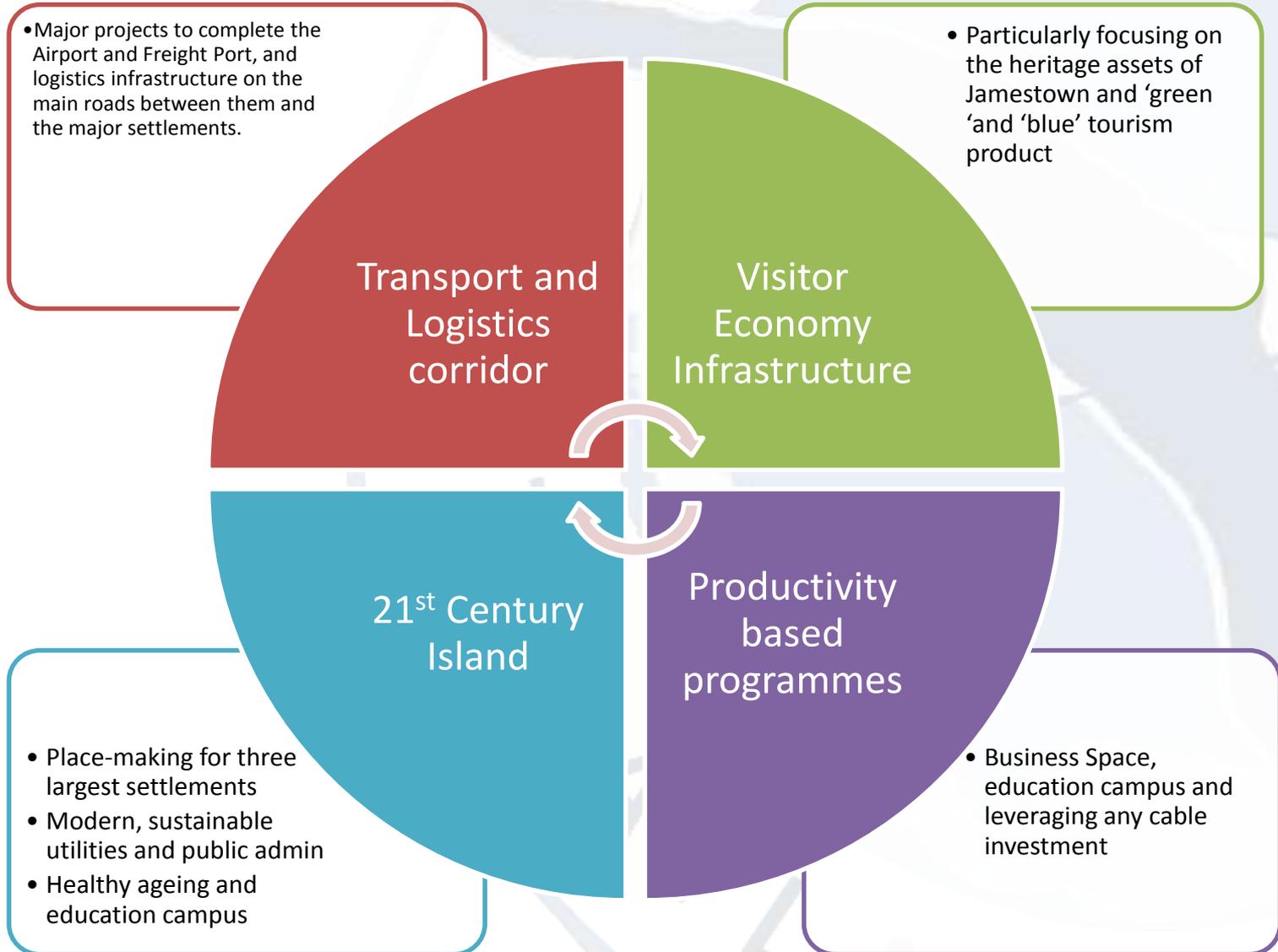
Progress 2018-19 – Enabling Years

- Destination featured in TV, newspapers, radio shows.
- Tourism marketing strategy finalised May 2018.
- Online marketing training provided.
- “No ifs no butts” litter awareness campaign 2018.
- Heritage Information Signs put up; more interpretation boards to come.
- Museum Toilets refurbishment Apr 2018.
- WIFI solutions available to accommodations for short term users.
- Dark skies status development.
- Significant expansion of souvenirs available, and G-Unique now selling locally made products abroad through their website.
- Locally produced goods sold in airport duty free.

Progress 2018-19 – Enabling Years

- 3 consignments of 1000 day old chicks received to support egg production.
- Agriculture studies available in school and more choice in courses provided by SHCC.
- List of beneficial plants and trees for bees available and more work to encourage planting soon.
- Bee DNA testing
- St Helena Fisheries Corporation export fresh fish by air.

Capital Programme



Thank You

- CSSF for paying for this conference – for the hosts and caterers
- Visitors spend around £150 a day, 7 days..
- For publishing work about St Helena
- For uploading photographs / social media
- For telling people about this unique island

Thank you to our funders



Funded by
UK Government

