ST HELENA NATIONAL TRUST



ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 2025 TO MARCH 2026

President's Message



This has been my first year as President of the St Helena National Trust, and perhaps the greatest privilege of the position has been to see, from rather closer quarters, just how much this organisation manages to achieve.

The pages that follow tell that story far better than I could. During the year, the Trust continued the restoration of the Millennium Forest and the internationally important Cloud Forest; monitored and protected Wirebirds, seabirds and their habitats; pursued the difficult work of predator control; and contributed new knowledge to the understanding of St Helena's extraordinary marine environment. One of our tagged whale sharks travelled from St Helena to the waters of the Caribbean before returning eastwards across the Atlantic, a rather magnificent reminder that the work carried out on this small island can have significance far beyond our shores.

Our responsibility extends equally to the human record of St Helena. More than 29,000 images of historic records have now been secured through the Endangered Archives Programme. The Trans-Atlantic Slave Memorial Project has continued to develop, while the agreement secured for the restoration of No.1 Building in Rupert's Valley brings considerably closer the creation of a permanent Museum and Interpretation Centre dedicated to the Liberated African Establishment and to this profoundly important part of the island's history. High Knoll Fort, the Garden of Reflection and Culture Month similarly demonstrate that conservation is not simply about keeping things from disappearing: it is about understanding them, sharing them and, whenever possible, returning them to the life of the community.

Perhaps one achievement gives me particular satisfaction: every primary school pupil on St Helena has been reached through the Trust's conservation education programme. If heritage is really to be "for all, forever", as our vision says, there can surely be no better place to begin than there.

All this has been achieved in a year in which external grant income was lower, and yet the Trust still returned to the island eight times the value of the grant received from St Helena Government. Unrestricted income increased by 5%. These figures matter, not simply as financial results, but because they demonstrate the Trust's ability to turn relatively modest local support into conservation, employment, knowledge, skills and investment for St Helena.

But an annual report inevitably records projects, figures and outcomes. It is less able to record the human energy that makes them possible.

This first year has therefore also confirmed something I already suspected: how fortunate we are to have Helena Bennett as our Director. I sometimes have the impression that Helena does everything, although I am sure she would immediately remind me of the excellent team around her, and she would be right. But leadership matters, and hers is evident throughout this report: in the range of partnerships established, the funding secured, the projects brought forward and, perhaps most importantly, in the sense that the Trust knows where it is going.

In my own professional life as Director of the French National Domains on St Helena, I know only too well how important the relationship between a President and a Director can be. A Director needs a President who is there when needed, who supports difficult decisions and helps open doors, but who also knows when to stand aside. There is little point appointing capable people and then preventing them from being capable by supervising every step they take.

Helena knows where she is going. My role, as I see it, is to support her and the team, to question when necessary, certainly, but above all to give them the confidence and room to get there. It has made my first year as President not only remarkably easy, but a genuine pleasure.

And Helena would be the first to say that none of this is the work of one person. My thanks therefore go to Amanda, Michielle, our Senior Management Team, every member of staff, our project teams, volunteers, apprentices and work-experience students, my fellow members of Council, and the many partners, funders and individuals on and beyond St Helena who continue to place their confidence in the Trust.

Reading this report, I am struck not simply by how much has been done, but by how much is now beginning. The restoration of No.1 Building, the future of High Knoll Fort, the next chapter for the Millennium Forest, our work for the Wirebird and seabirds, the development of education and research, and a new strategy beyond 2026 all point forward.

For an organisation whose purpose is to preserve the past, the St Helena National Trust seems to me remarkably occupied with the future.

And that is exactly as it should be.

Michel Dancoisne-Martineau
President
St Helena National Trust

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1. Our Impact 2025-26



Protected and restored St Helena's unique habitats and endemic wildlife



For every £1 contributed by SHG, we returned it to the island 8-fold



Demonstrated whale shark connectivity across the Atlantic Ocean



Supported recovery and monitoring of key species including Wirebirds and seabirds



Engaged every primary school pupil through conservation education



Safeguarded over 29,000 historic records for future generations



Celebrated and promoted St Helenian culture and heritage



Secured investment and partnerships to sustain conservation and heritage work into the future

2. About Us

Legally Mandated:

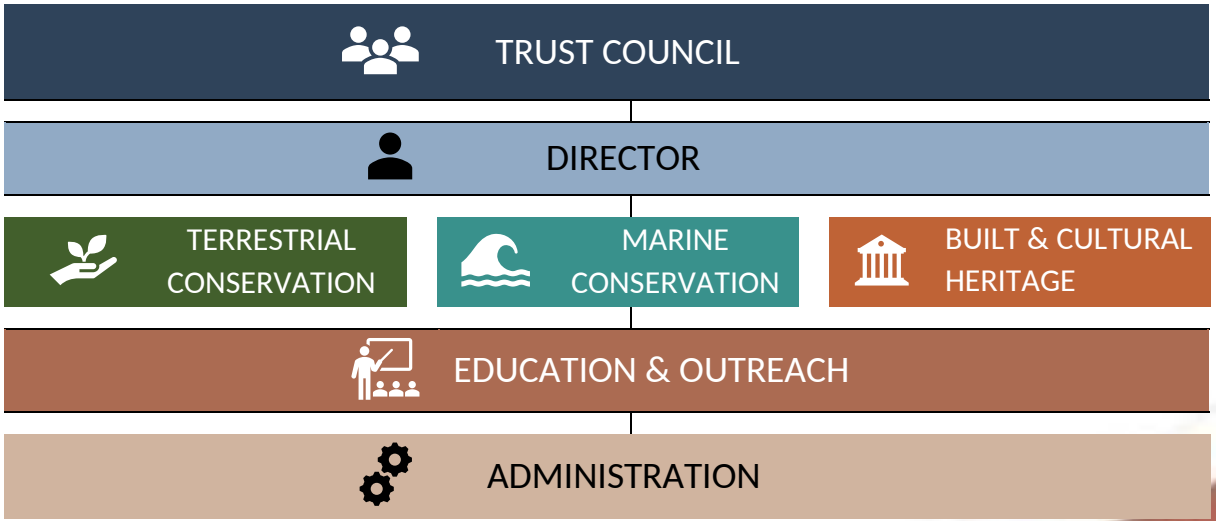
The Trust is a statutory body, with its governance structure and objectives laid out in the St Helena National Trust Ordinance, 2001. We are established:

- To promote the permanent preservation of lands and buildings for the benefit of St Helena and her people. We focus on sites that have public, architectural, artistic or historic interest, and we try to preserve the natural aspect of sites with their animals, plants and marine life.
- To maintain and manage lands and buildings under the stewardship of the Trust as places of public recreation, resort or instruction.
- To promote the preservation of furniture, pictures, documents, and chattels of any description having national or historic or artistic interest.
- To tender advice to the St Helena Government on any matter contained in this mandate.
- To promote the access to and the enjoyment of lands, buildings, places and chattels by the public.

The Trust was registered as a charity (C00010) under the St Helena Charities Ordinance 2005.

Structure:

The Trust Council and Director overseeing the strategic direction of the Trust, the Director and Senior Management responsible for the operation management and the Project Managers and staff responsible for the projects and day to day activities.



3. Our 5 Year Strategy

The Trust established a 5-year strategy in 2021. The 2021-2026 Strategy prioritises our legal mandate into an achievable work programme.

Strategic Aim 1:	**Conserve**	To deliver conservation of St Helena's built, cultural and natural heritage
Strategic Aim 2:	**Advocate**	To influence decisions within society to benefit St Helena's heritage
Strategy Aim 3:	**Educate**	To share knowledge of, promote a sense of pride in, and inspire local and international communities with our programme

See Section 4 for our performance against our Strategy.

Revising our Strategy:

2025 – 26 was the last full year the Trust operated under the 2021-26 Strategy.

Our future Aspirations:

- We aim to be the leading conservation body on **St Helena birds** and develop a bird management plan
- We will restore the No.1 Building and open as an **Interpretation Centre** for the Liberated African Establishment and St Helena's enslavement legacy
- We will continue to develop **educational packs** for schools, and widen the audience of our education and outreach work
- We will develop a **Millennium Forest management plan** to include activities for sustainable financing of the forest and safeguarding against tree diseases
- We will update the **Wirebird Species Action Plan** for St Helena
- We will develop a **Predator control management plan** project proposal, in collaboration with St Helena Government
- We will develop a **Fundraising Strategy** to diversify our funding opportunities and increase our unrestricted sources of income

4. Our Performance 2025-26



CONSERVATION

i) Millennium Forest

Management of St Helena's first large scale conservation effort of dryland habitat previously known as the Great Wood with the support of the community.

Duration	Ongoing, since 2002
Project Team	Martina Peters, Christopher Clingham, David Francis, David Peters, *Marc George*
Funding Organisations	John Ellerman Foundation, The Trust
Project Partners	RSPB, SHG (EDIP), John Ellerman Foundation, 22 North Foundation

Project Objectives

To continue long-term ecological restoration of the Millennium Forest, under the landownership of the Trust, whilst generating self-sustaining funding, such as a garden centre to increase income to the project.

The Millennium Forest is our primary location for education and outreach which encourages community participation and provide opportunities for wellbeing and connection with nature.

Project Achievements for 2025-26

The completion of the John Ellerman Foundation grant in February 2026 marked the end of a significant period of support for the Trust. In August 2025, the Trust was fortunate to secure a new three-year grant from the 22 North Foundation to focus on enhancing the Millennium Forest. During the year, SHG also opened its Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP) to select NGOs, from which the Trust was successful in obtaining additional funding for the Millennium Forest.

The Millennium Forest experienced another busy and productive year. A Millennium Forest Officer was recruited, increasing the team to four staff members. CCTV was installed around the Garden Centre to improve security, while a new deck was constructed within the forest to provide a larger and more accessible space for wellbeing activities. In addition, four bird hides were erected, offering shelter and improved viewing opportunities for birdwatchers.

The Garden Centre continued opening on the third Saturday of each month, while a new mobile stall began operating in Jamestown on the third Thursday of every month. Although the Millennium Forest account has not yet reach break-even point, income generated through plant sales, endemic planting projects, and tours increased significantly during the year.

Seeds Sown
25,599

Plants Potted
17,470

Endemic Plants Produced
7,612

Plants Propagated
986

Invasive Species Control



CONSERVATION

ii) Cloud Forest

Restoring St Helena's internationally important cloud forest for wildlife, water security and people

Duration	2025-26
Project Team	Natasha Stevens, Liza Fowler, Daryl Joshua, Shaun Osborne, Sheena Benjamin, Michielle Yon, Martina Peters, *Jacob Cupit*
Funding Organisations	Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Darwin Plus Initiative
Project Partners	RSPB, SHG, Connect St Helena, Arctium, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Bottom Woods Met Station, Royal Botanical Gardens Kew, British Geological Society

Project Objectives

To build the foundation for scaling up cloud forest restoration on St Helena through the implementation of the Peak National Park Management Plan to provide long-term demonstrable benefits to biodiversity, water security and the community. Monitor population and genetic material for priority indicator invertebrate species and improve understanding of the value of the cloud forest for the community.

Project Achievements for 2025-26

RSPB, together with its project partners, applied to the Darwin Plus Initiative for Phase Two of the Cloud Forest project, focusing on building a sustainable, long-term approach to managing the island's unique cloud forest. Unfortunately, the Darwin Plus Initiative was delayed. To ensure continuity of conservation work, the FCDO approved an additional year of funding, safeguarding the progress made to date.

In the previous year, the Trust procured an Automated Monitoring of Insects (AMI) system from UKCEH. With the support of UKCEH, John Blackburn successfully set up and deployed the system at the Millennium Forest. The AMI system enables identification of moths and other insects via imagery, and the Trust is in the early stages of implementing the system's full automatic identification capabilities.

Endemic invertebrates

Despite the prolonged wet winter, four of the ten key sites were surveyed, including non-native, native and restored areas. Analysis indicated that restored sites demonstrated higher species richness and diversity, confirming the benefits of restoration efforts in the Cloud Forest.

The Trust launched the St Helena Endemic Invertebrate Recovery – Cloud Forest Series, producing pull-out sheets for inclusion in the Peaks Management Plan. Completed recovery sheets include:

- Spiky Yellow Woodlouse *Pseudolaureola atlantica*
- St Helena Silver Grass Miner *Elachista trifasciata*
- Golden Sail Spider *Argyrodes mellissii*

A Species Action Plan for the False Gumwood Leafhopper *Sanctahelenia insularis* was also finalised, detailing conservation actions required for its continued protection.

Top three endemic invertebrate orders detected during surveys:

- True Bugs *Hemiptera*
- Beetles *Coleoptera*
- Spiders *Araneae*

With 3 priority species re-occurring 2022-2026 surveys:

- Coarse stained-glass leafhopper *Argaterma alticola*
- Fine stained-glass leafhopper *Argaterma multisignata*
- Blushing Snail *Sanctahelenia sanctaehelenae*.

Invasive invertebrates

Data collection was limited due to the wet weather. Surveys identified a high concentration of the Common Wasp *Vespula vulgaris* on High Peak, providing guidance for targeted future control efforts. Monitoring of the Damp-wood termites *Heterotermes spp*. indicates these termites are widely distributed across the Peaks, unaffected by elevation or microclimate. Infestation in the Whitewood *Petrobium arboretum* underscores the risk posed to endemic flora.

CONSERVATION



CONSERVATION

iii) Grasslands

Improving St Helena's grassland to benefit people and wildlife.

Reference	DPLUS190
Duration	3 years, to April 2026
Project Team	Martina Peters, Gavin Ellick, Matthew Owen, Aiden Plato, *Denis Leo*, *Nico Benjamin*, *Jacob Cupit*
Funding Organisations	Darwin Plus Initiative
Project Partners	SHG, RSPB, Chamber of Commerce/Farmers Representation

Project Objectives

To improve and develop effective pasture management techniques for longer-term sustainability that will provide suitable habitat for the St Helena Plover *Charadrius sanctaehelenae* (wirebird) and benefit the communities' livelihoods, and the local market, through the increase in number of grazing animals and quality of meat produced.

Project Achievements for 2025-26

During the final year, the project experienced high staff turnover, including the departure of a staff member with 15 years experience. A one-month extension was granted to allow the remaining team to complete data analysis and technical reporting.

Three key sites were surveyed during the duration of this project: Deadwood, Bottomwoods, and Man & Horse. At each site, two paired plots were established: a trial plot managed with invasive removal and pasture improvement and an adjacent control plot left unmanaged for direct comparison. The vegetation in the plots were classified as invasive or beneficial, measured and surveyed for species richness. Management reduced invasive species but confirmed that ecological recovery is a long-term process. Beneficial vegetation requires time to re-establish from the soil seedbank, which require ongoing follow-up management, and invertebrate communities need extended periods to recover. Monitoring showed variable, site-specific outcomes: invasive species declined, but desirable pasture vegetation and invertebrate richness did not consistently increase. Short-term declines reflect disturbance, while some diversity gains suggest recovery is beginning. Longer-term surveys will be essential to capture full re-establishment.

Wirebird monitoring across the five census sites where management was applied, recorded an overall population growth of ~5% between 2023-2026 Four sites showed increases (12-58%), while one declined (-52%). Nesting activity was observed across trial and control plots, though fledging success could not be confirmed. These results indicate that despite limited short-term ecological changes, Wirebirds continue to have sufficient food and nesting opportunities.

Questionnaires were carried out at the start of the project, and again this year (closing of the project), to understand pasture management and livestock productivity of the farmers, and if there were any improvements. Key findings:

- 60% of the surveyed suggested that there was no financial impact as a result
- 95% continue using supplementary feed, due to low pasture quality
- 90% of the pasturelands are government owned
- 75% of the famers reported invasive species overgrowth limited the land use.

Overall, the farmers received the project positively, and would like more support including items such as policy updates and equipment.

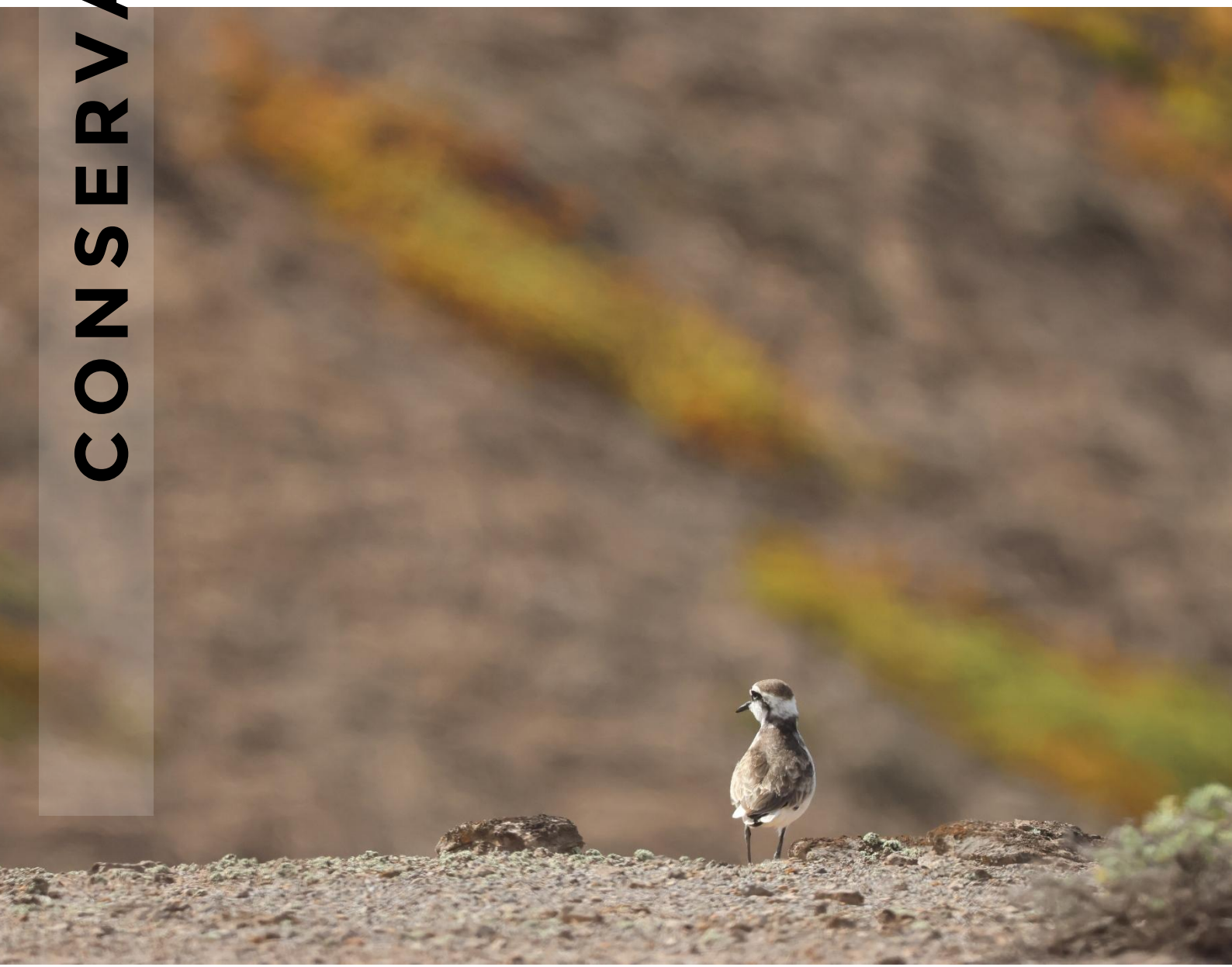
The project cumulated with a project documentary, providing highlights of the issues, the project's outcomes and future priorities. This was shown to the public and also a private screening for the farmers.

The annual census count remained stable. 70 nests were found for the year, with 70 chicks hatched. However, only 22 fledged whilst 40 were predated. The Trust's biggest concern remains the deaths of Wirebirds via vehicular collisions. Over 18-month period, 60 Wirebirds (~10% of population) were found dead, most along the airport road.

CONSERVATION

Annual Wirebird Census 2026, compared to previous 2 years

Wirebird:	Jan 2026	Jan 2025	Jan 2024
Adults	575	569	639
Juveniles	6	32	23
Chicks	34	20	13
Nests	35	56	46
Total:	*624*	*677*	*721*



CONSERVATION

iv) Predator Control

Island wide predator control to prevent loss of bird biodiversity

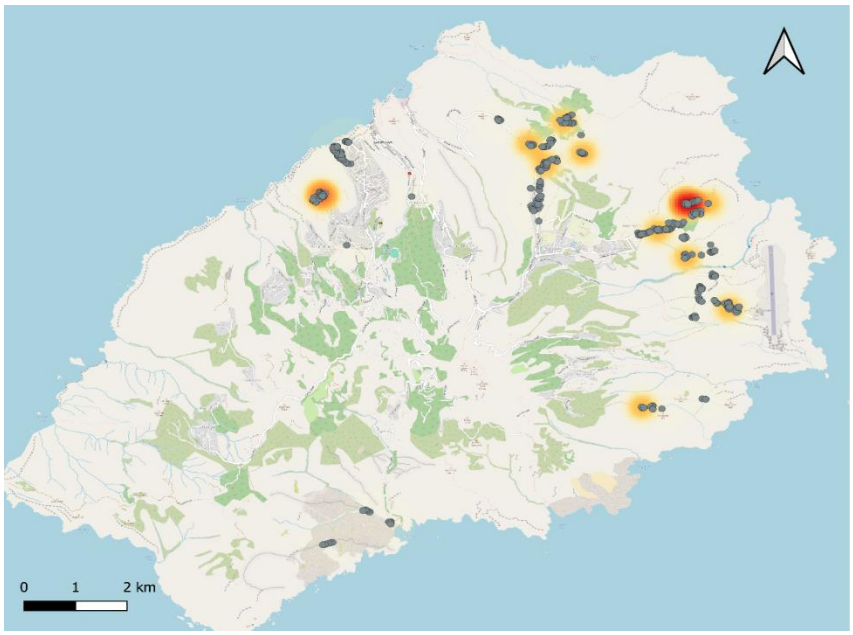
Duration	April 2024 to March 2025
Project Team	Mario Green, Jolan Henry, Neil Thorp, *Eric Crowie*, *Kenickie Andrews*
Funding Organisations	The Trust
Project Partners	SHG, RSPB

Project Objectives

Continue monitoring and trapping feral cats to reduce seabird and Wirebird predation. The data collected will feed into the National Conservation Areas management plans being developed by SHG, as well as the development of a new predator control strategy for the island

Project Achievements for 2025-26

The Trust completed more than 120 survey days, deployed more than 700 cat traps, and captured 14 feral cats. All captured individuals were confirmed to be non-domestic, despite trapping in areas adjacent to residential zones where pet cats are known to roam. Catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) varied significantly across the island, with the highest rates recorded at Near One Web Ground Station (Horse Point), Netley Gut, Flagstaff, Bradleys, and Great Stone Top, while other Nature Conservation Areas recorded zero captures despite repeated effort. These patterns reflect the combined effects of low detectability, spatial clustering, human-influenced predator dynamics.



Spatial distribution of trapping effort and captures across St Helena,

Camera-trap monitoring undertaken at Lots Wife (Sandy Bay) and Ladder Hill confirmed the presence of feral cats in both areas and recorded a predation event in which a cat removed a chick from beneath a sleeping adult. This evidence demonstrates that low cat-trap capture rates do not equate to low ecological impact. Cats continue to exert pressure on native species across multiple habitats, including seabird colonies, restoration sites, agricultural margins, and waste-adjacent ecosystems.

CONSERVATION

v) Seabird Monitoring

Duration	April 2025 to March 206
Project Team	Jolan Henry, Emma Holborn, Mario Green, *Eric Crowie*, *Kenickie Andrews*
Funding Organisations	Darwin Plus Main/Local, RSPB
Project Partners	RSPB, SHG, Annalea Beard

Project Objectives

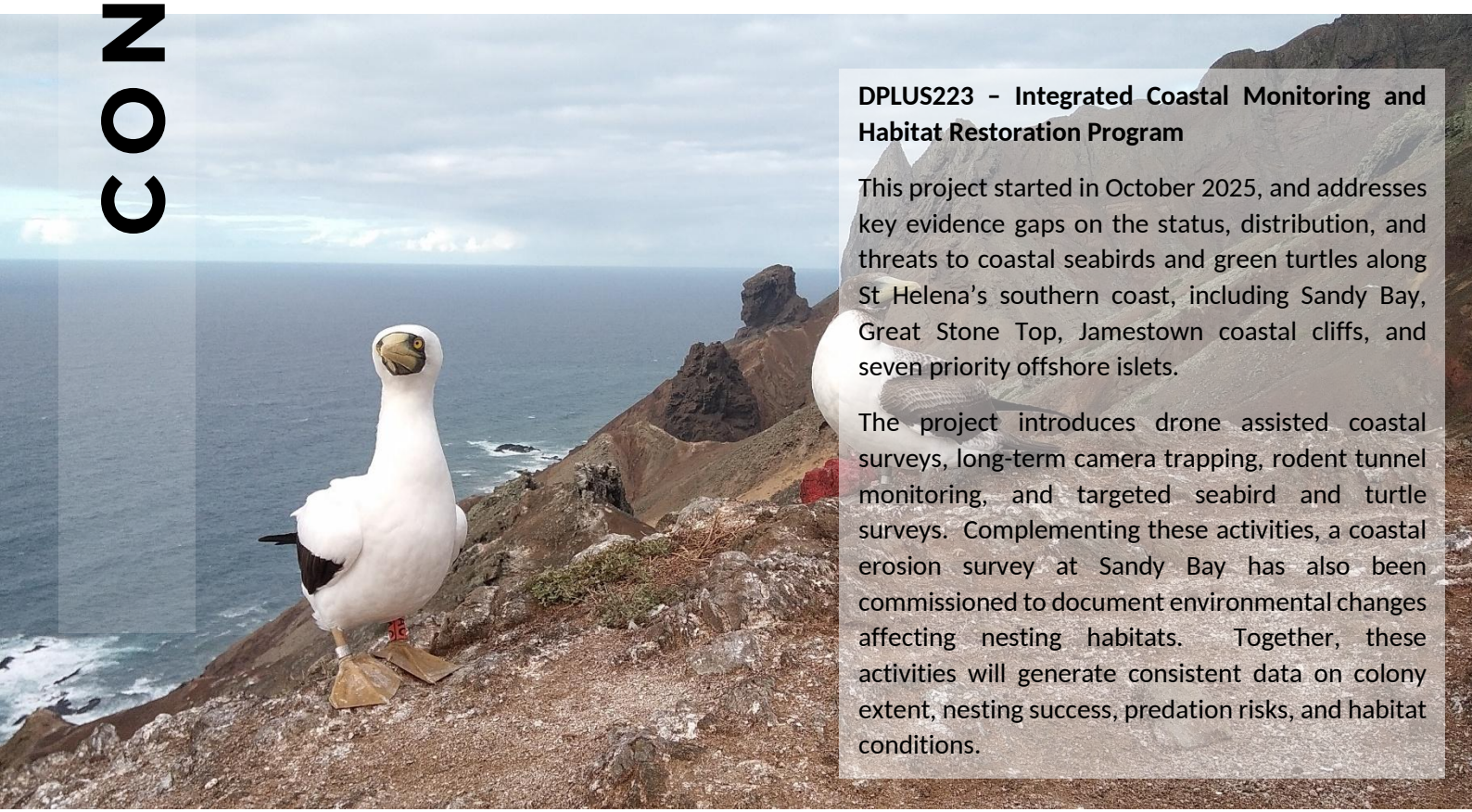
To obtain biodiversity data on priority seabird species such as Masked Booby, Madeiran Storm Petrel, and Red-billed Tropicbirds. This supports the development of the National Conservation Areas Management Plans, whilst researching the gaps. The project also focused on building the Trust's capacity in seabird research.

Project Achievements 2025-26

A total of 41 Masked Booby nests were monitored at Lots Wife between August 2025 and January 2026. Early season monitoring (August – October) recorded a high proportion of nest failures, which is typical for pre-laying or early laying attempts. From November onwards, nest stability improved with regular observations of attending adults, paired eggs and developing chicks. December to January, several nests had progressed to chick rearing, with approximately 12 chicks ringed with both metal and darvic rings.

A notable development this season was the increased presence of Red-footed Boobies and Lots Wife, with serval individuals observed attempting to nest. This adds to emerging evidence of exploratory or early colonisation behaviour by this species on St Helena's southern coastline.

Red-billed Tropicbirds continues to use the cliff and ledge habitat at Ladder Hill, no nest datasets were collected for this site, but camera-traps were deployed, that confirmed predation and several nest failures.



DPLUS223 – Integrated Coastal Monitoring and Habitat Restoration Program

This project started in October 2025, and addresses key evidence gaps on the status, distribution, and threats to coastal seabirds and green turtles along St Helena's southern coast, including Sandy Bay, Great Stone Top, Jamestown coastal cliffs, and seven priority offshore islets.

The project introduces drone assisted coastal surveys, long-term camera trapping, rodent tunnel monitoring, and targeted seabird and turtle surveys. Complementing these activities, a coastal erosion survey at Sandy Bay has also been commissioned to document environmental changes affecting nesting habitats. Together, these activities will generate consistent data on colony extent, nesting success, predation risks, and habitat conditions.

CONSERVATION

vi) Whale Sharks

Continuous monitoring of whale sharks

Duration	April 2022 to March 2026
Project Team	Jolan Henry, Matthew Owen, Neil Thorp, *Kenickie Andrews*
Funding Organisations and Individuals	Blue Marine Foundation (BMF) (John Ellerman Foundation), Irene Reynold-Schier
Project Partners	SHG, BMF, Project William

Project Objectives

To continue the research of the 'Cooperative biology and conservation research on Bone (whale) sharks in St Helena's waters' study, with additional novel Baited Remote Underwater Video Systems (BRUVS) research linked to the SHG-Blue Belt BRUVS program. This project also focused on building the capacity in bone shark research and has a three-year research licence.

Project Achievements for 2025-26

The Marine Section completed 49 survey days, totalling approximately 227 hours at sea. They were supported by international collaborators, including a visiting researcher from São Tomé and Príncipe, who observed St Helena's approach to whale shark protection and monitoring.

A total of 109 whale shark encounters were recorded for the season, with 73 unique individuals. The aggregation was strongly male-biased, with 49 males, 18 females and 6 sharks of unknown sex. Several sharks were resighted multiple times throughout the season, with identification work currently ongoing to confirm the return of individuals from previous season.

Behavioural and health observations also was recorded, with varied responses. While there were highly inquisitive whale sharks circling the research vessel, there were also skittish individuals that remained at depth. Numerous whale sharks displayed distinctive scarring, fin damage or healed injuries, which supported re-identification.

Tagging continued during this season to expand the long-term dataset underpinning St Helena's contribution to regional whale shark conservation. This year, the visiting researchers deployed 5 pop-up satellite archival tags (PSATs) manufactured by



Image showing the tracking (red line) of a whale shark SHW212 a Female. That was first tagged on 10th February. Initially, travelling to the outer regions of the St Helena MPA, and then in a direct migration to the waters off Panama and Colombia.

wildlife computers, and 5 tissue biopsy samples. A significant milestone of the study was the surfacing of one of the Wildlife Computers PSATs between Ascension Island and the African coast, providing compelling evidence of long-distance connectivity across the Atlantic. During the 365-day deployment period, the tagged whale shark traveled from St Helena to the Caribbean before returning eastward. The tag's final recorded position, when it surfaced and transmitted its data, was located between Ascension Island and the African coast, highlighting the remarkable scale of movement undertaken by this individual.



CONSERVATION

vii) St Helena Environment Register

Duration	March 2021 to March 2026
Project Team	Shelley Magellan-Wade
Funding Organisations	Historic England
Project Partners	Historic England, SHG, St Helena Museum

Project Objectives

To migrate and update the HER from its current format to a dynamic web-based data management platform into a GIS database, that is open source, free and accessible by all.

To advocate the Arches for HERs platform as a tool for planning, development, tourism and conservation.

Project Achievements for 2025-2026

The Trust and Historic England are yet to complete the final stages of making the data available for uploading to the nominated hosting services provider. Once done, next steps will include testing and training for key persons before going 'live' with the new development of Arches for HERs.

A domain name has been secured and a website front-end has been developed which will then embed links to the abovementioned dataset to allow public access for research and information purposes. Work however is ongoing in formulating charging/data protection/privacy policies, and terms and conditions of use for the website.



viii) High Knoll Fort

Duration	Started February 2023 - Ongoing
Project Team	Shelley Magellan-Wade, Mario Green, Eric Crowie Supported by the Trust staff
Funding Organisations	SHG, the Trust
Project Partners	SHG, the Community

Project Objectives

To conserve High Knoll Fort and develop it into a heritage site that preserves island history while providing a space for diverse community-based recreational activities.

Project Achievements for 2025 - 2026

To support ongoing restoration and site improvement efforts, a business case was supported by the Building Works Section of the Safety, Security and Home Affairs Portfolio. However, due to the limited implementation timeframe and delays in finalising site and location plans, no physical works were undertaken.

In January, Mr Clive Dawson, Conservation Engineer, along with his colleagues Peregrine Bryant and Brent Fortenberry, visited the island to assess a number of historic structures, including High Knoll Fort. Recommendations were made to support the High Knoll Fort, including stabling the remaining of the batter, investigate the internal levels and repair the roof to the Bastian. The Trust now seeks costing and funding opportunities.



ix) Endangered Archives Programme

Duration	August 2024 - Ongoing
Project Team	Shelley Magellan-Wade, Alayah Pidgley, Jean-Claude Yon
Funding Organisations	British Library supported by Arcadia
Project Partners	British Library, SHG, St Helena Museum

Project Objectives

To digitize records created after 1834 that document the island's transition to direct Crown rule.

Project Achievements for 2025-2026

The project completed its digitisation activities in March 2026, achieving a revised target of 200 volumes and producing 201 volumes and 29,361 digital images.

Quality assurance processes will continue, with final data refinement and the transmission of completed datasets to the Endangered Archives Programme (EAP) at the British Library scheduled for completion by August 2026. Volunteer and former Director of the Trust, Dr Chris Hillman is currently transcribing the Wills from the records digitised.

CONSERVATION



x) Trans-Atlantic Slave Memorial Project

Duration	Started 2008
Project Team	Liberated African Advisory Committee (LAAC)
Funding Organisations	SHG, the Trust, Headley Trust
Project Partners	SHG, St Helena Heritage Society and Museum, Pearson Archaeology LTD, UK-St Helena Heritage Trust

Project Objectives
To remember, recognise and honour the victims of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and their legacy.

Project Achievements for 2025 – 2026
In August 2025, the Trust commemorated the third anniversary of the reburial of the exhumed Liberated Africans. The Liberated African Advisory Committee (LAAC), in partnership with St Helena Tourism and the Museum of St Helena, led the anniversary programme, which included a Portrait Gallery exhibition. This exhibition showcased artwork by Saint and Saint-descended artists and researchers, offering interpretive representations of three individuals buried at Rupert's Valley.

In January 2026, the Trust hosted professors and students from the University of Pennsylvania and the University of the Western Cape, along with members of the St Thomas Kumina Collective Group from Jamaica. The visit formed part of the academic course "Middle Passages and Returns" and explored St Helena's role in both the East India Company trade and the abolition efforts of the Transatlantic slave trade. The field study focused on the Liberated African Establishment in Rupert's Valley, tracing the journeys of Africans who were subsequently resettled in Jamaica.

In March 2026, a grant agreement was signed with the Commonwealth Heritage Forum, securing funding for the restoration and adaptive reuse of Building No. 1 as a dedicated Museum and Interpretation Centre. Following this, an application for development permission, along with all supporting documentation, was submitted to the Planning Authority. This process was accompanied by two public consultation meetings with members of the community.



CONSERVATION

xi) Garden of Reflection

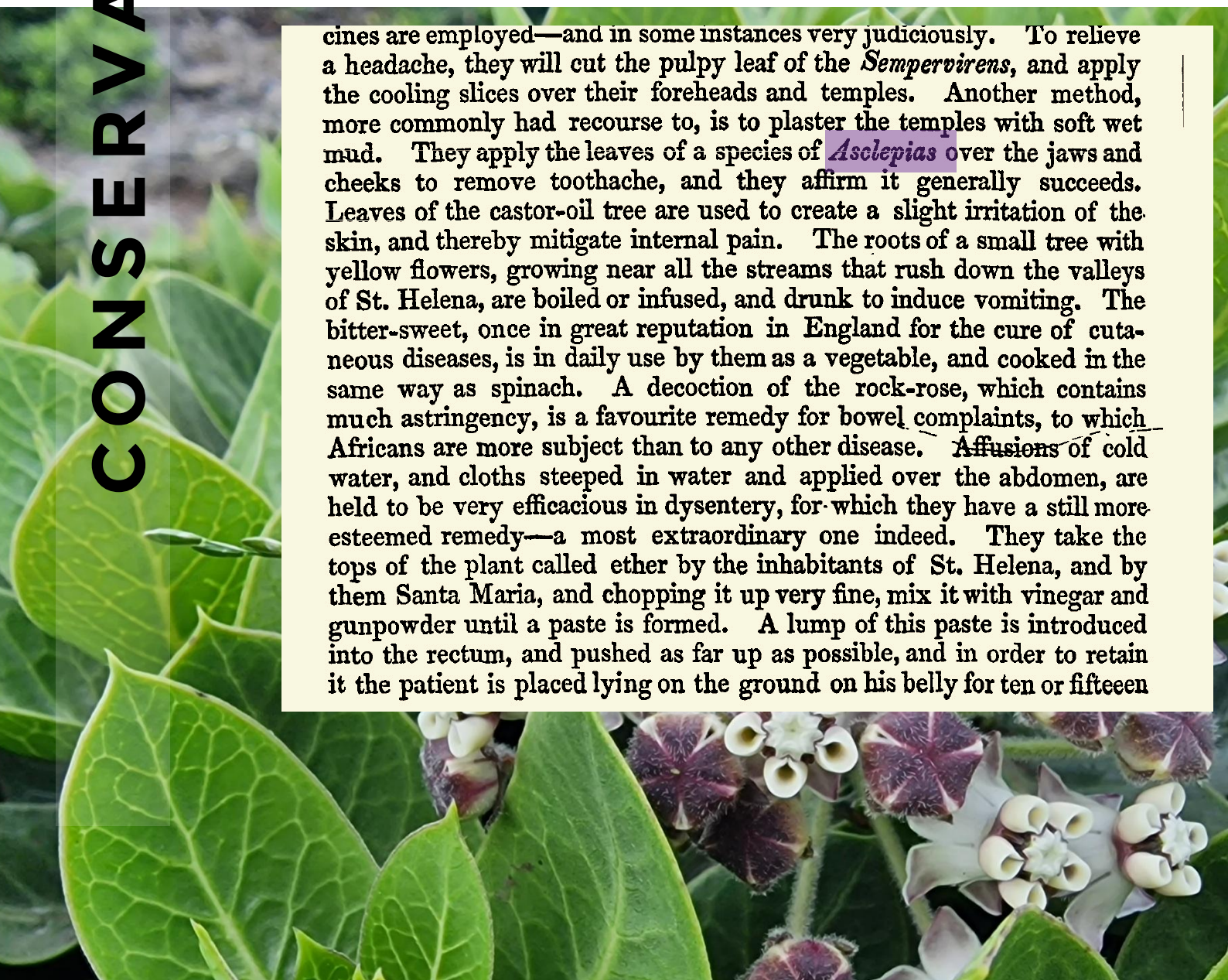
Duration	Started January 2026 – September 2026
Project Team	Shelley Magellan Wade, Sheena Benjamin, Alayah Pidgley
Funding Organisations	International National Trust Organisation (INTO) (RISE Seed Grant)
Project Partners	St Helena Heritage Society and Museum, INTO, LAAC

Project Objectives

Create a meaningful and educational design for the Garden of Reflection, at the No.1 Building, Rupert's Valley. As a green heritage space, the garden is intended to honour the history of Rupert's Valley and the tragedies that unfolded there, even as the surrounding area evolves with the development of the port. The garden will also share "Plant Stores" allowing the Trust to educate the community and visitors about the cultural value of the plants within the garden.

Project Achievements 2025-26

The project spent the first few months researching plant exhibition layouts, and plant species of St Helena. Emphasis was made on researching the types of food and medicines used by the liberated Africans living in Rupert's Valley, using historical records.


cines are employed—and in some instances very judiciously. To relieve a headache, they will cut the pulpy leaf of the *Sempervirens*, and apply the cooling slices over their foreheads and temples. Another method, more commonly had recourse to, is to plaster the temples with soft wet mud. They apply the leaves of a species of *Asclepias* over the jaws and cheeks to remove toothache, and they affirm it generally succeeds. Leaves of the castor-oil tree are used to create a slight irritation of the skin, and thereby mitigate internal pain. The roots of a small tree with yellow flowers, growing near all the streams that rush down the valleys of St. Helena, are boiled or infused, and drunk to induce vomiting. The bitter-sweet, once in great reputation in England for the cure of cutaneous diseases, is in daily use by them as a vegetable, and cooked in the same way as spinach. A decoction of the rock-rose, which contains much astringency, is a favourite remedy for bowel complaints, to which Africans are more subject than to any other disease. Affusions of cold water, and cloths steeped in water and applied over the abdomen, are held to be very efficacious in dysentery, for which they have a still more esteemed remedy—a most extraordinary one indeed. They take the tops of the plant called ether by the inhabitants of St. Helena, and by them Santa Maria, and chopping it up very fine, mix it with vinegar and gunpowder until a paste is formed. A lump of this paste is introduced into the rectum, and pushed as far up as possible, and in order to retain it the patient is placed lying on the ground on his belly for ten or fifteeen

CONSERVATION

xii) Culture Month

Duration	Started May 2024
Project Team	Shelley Magellan Wade, Sheena Benjamin Support from the wider Trust
Funding Organisations	The Trust, SHG
Project Partners	St Helena Heritage Society and Museum, New Horizons, SHG (Tourism)

Project Objectives
To document St Helena's culture and keep alive its traditions.

Project Achievements for 2025 – 2026
For the second consecutive year, the Trust hosted Culture Month, under the theme "Innovative Saints," – *We just made do*. Reflecting the resilience, creativity, and resourcefulness of the local community. A programme of activities was delivered throughout the month to engage a wide cross-section of the community. These included guided heritage walks, a series of radio broadcasts that extended the reach of the programme and encouraged public discussion around the theme.

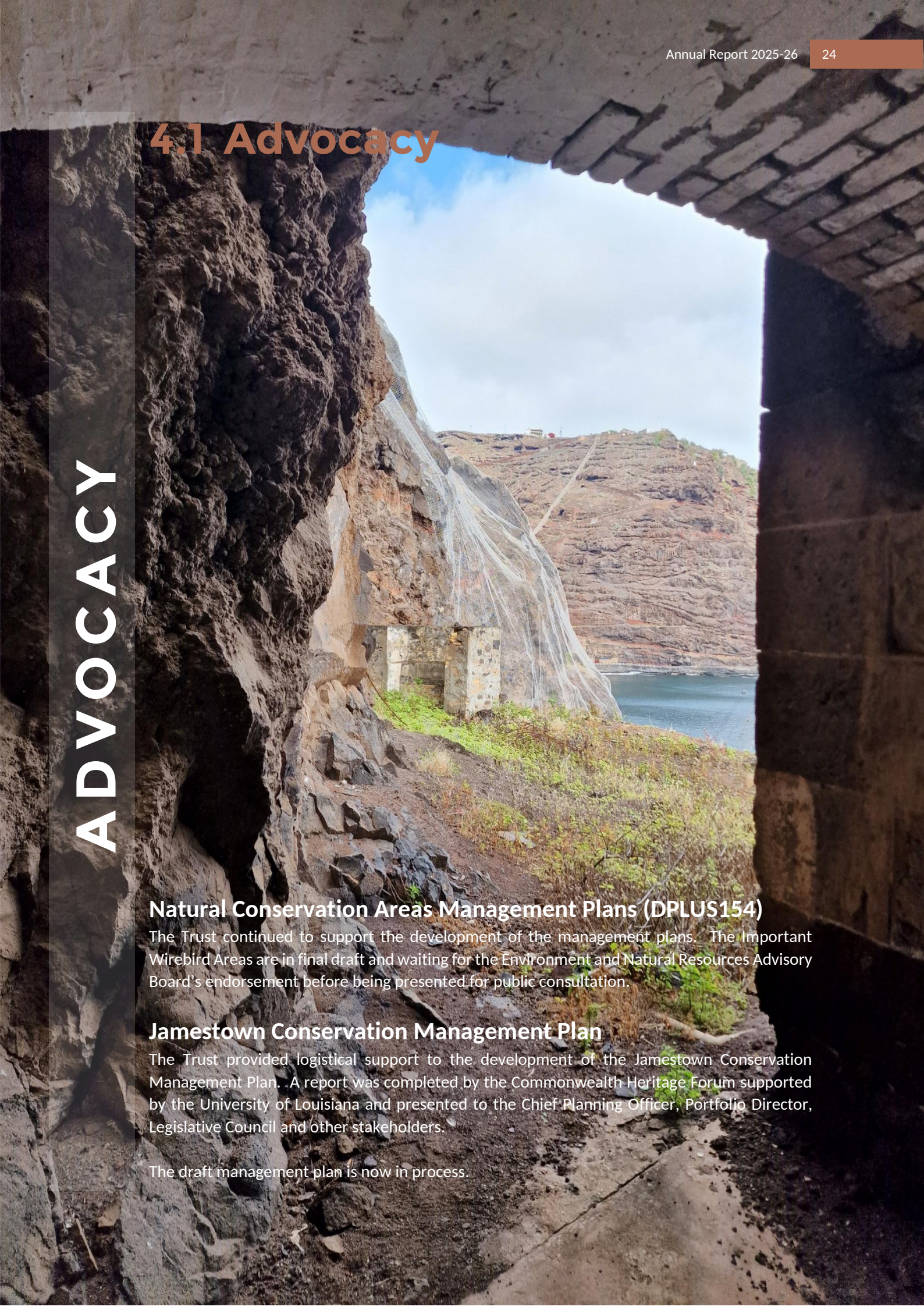
Educational engagement formed a key component of the initiative, with school assemblies designed to introduce students to the concept of innovation within a local historical and cultural context. In addition, craft workshops offered hands-on opportunities for participants to explore traditional skills, reinforcing the theme through practical experience.

The programme concluded in a family activity day held at the Millennium Forest, which brought together community members of all ages in an inclusive and interactive environment. The event featured a range of activities aimed at promoting heritage awareness, environmental appreciation, and community participation.



ADVOCACY

4.1 Advocacy



Natural Conservation Areas Management Plans (DPLUS154)

The Trust continued to support the development of the management plans. The Important Wirebird Areas are in final draft and waiting for the Environment and Natural Resources Advisory Board's endorsement before being presented for public consultation.

Jamestown Conservation Management Plan

The Trust provided logistical support to the development of the Jamestown Conservation Management Plan. A report was completed by the Commonwealth Heritage Forum supported by the University of Louisiana and presented to the Chief Planning Officer, Portfolio Director, Legislative Council and other stakeholders.

The draft management plan is now in process.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

4.2 Education and Outreach

i) Education

For the year, the Trust delivered 40+ education sessions across Primary and Secondary Schools, maintaining 100% engagement with primary school pupils. Field visits to key sites like Millennium Forest, High Peak and Heart-Shaped Waterfall reinforced classroom learning, focusing on Cloud Forest, Wirebirds and grassland ecosystems, tree planting, bug hunting and birdwatching.

Groundworks were laid for cultural heritage focused education working in collaboration with the SHG Maritime Section.

The Trust supported SEND learners, alternative education groups, apprentices, and work experience placements, particularly at the Millennium Forest.

Teachers are increasingly adopting the resource packs and lesson plans provided by the Trust, demonstrating local ownership and stewardship in the sustainable learning of St Helena's natural and cultural heritage. Partnerships have been strengthened with the Education, Skills and Employment Portfolio, including CASH, schools and youth organisations, ensuring that conservation education is embedded within the formal education system. This collaborative approach supports long-term capacity building and helps secure the ongoing integration of heritage and environmental learning across the island.

Outreach

The Trust delivered careers talks highlighting conservation opportunities, and also introduced visiting anthropologists, and university students to the Secondary School students.

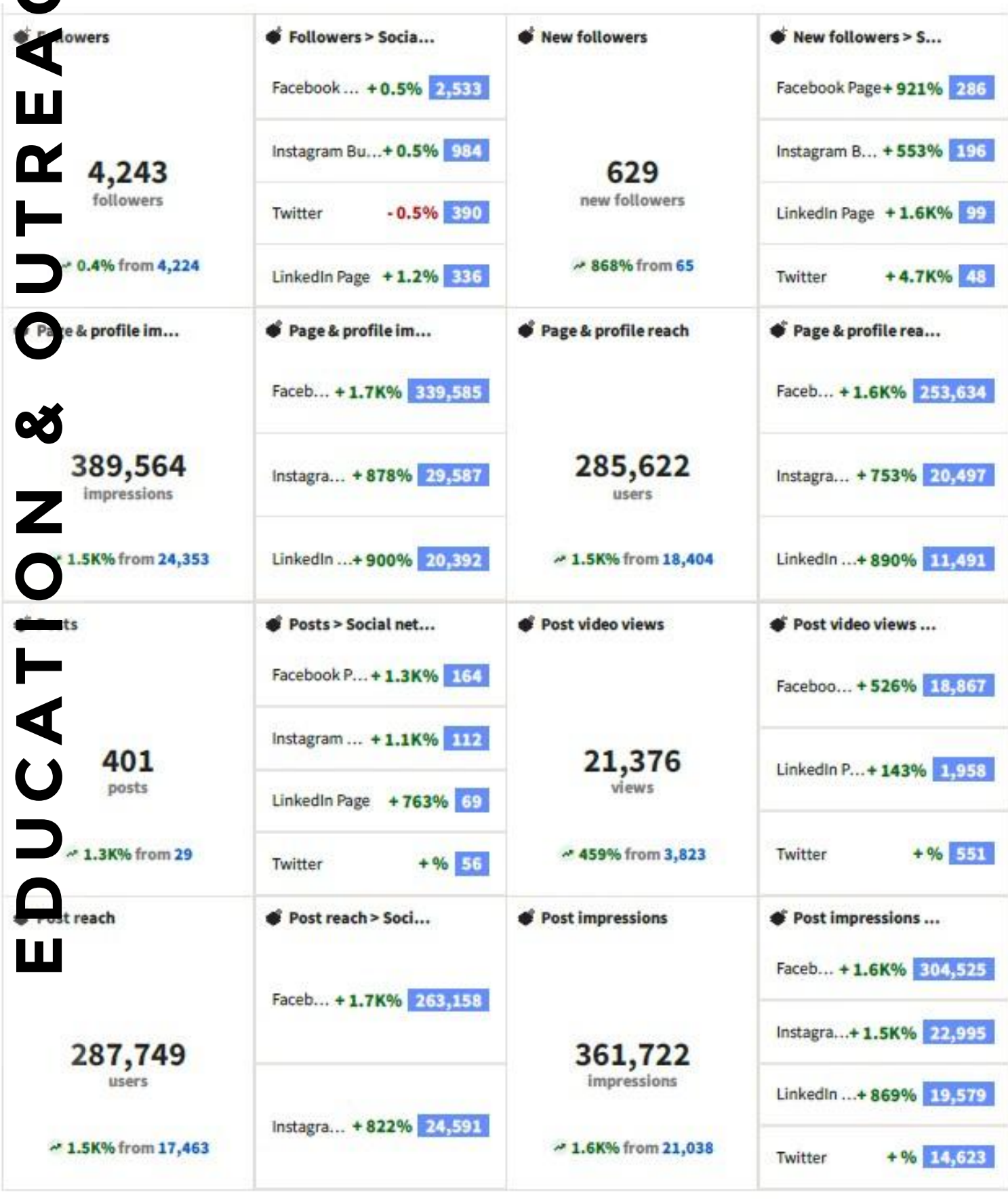
The Trust supported 1 apprenticeship placement, 1 work experience student and carried out local and international volunteer engagement.

The Trust continue to deliver Dive Scholarships, with a total of 5 diver scholars completing their PADI Openwater diver course.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

II) Media

The Trust continued to deliver a radio series during Culture Month. Discussing work carried out in the Trust, and cultural stories. Invited guests from the community and the Trust contributed to these radio shows.



5. Our Risks

Risk management is essential to the day-to-day operations of the Trust, particularly at the activity level where staff are out in the field. Below however, is a snap shot of the most severe risks for the Trust during 2025-26.

Category	Risk	Raw Risk Rating			Mitigation Plans	Lead	Lingering Risk Rating		Rating
		Likelihood	Impact	Rating			Likelihood	Impact	
Project	The Trust does not complete its project activities due to areas being quarantined as it has pathogens present in sites identified for survey and invasive control	5	5	25	- Alternative sites are selected to complete the activities - Arrangement for surveys at different dates - Alternative activities are carried out - Regular communications with Project Partners	HOTC	2	3	6
Project	Experienced staff are lost due to the Trust not being able to complete project activities due to inability to access sites where pathogens are present	5	5	25	- Create a contingency plan - Monitor situation closely and have regular updates with project partners on contingency planning - Create a list of potential projects for the Trust based on the Trust's strategy	HOTC/SMT	2	3	6
Project	Project activities are not delivered on time due to lack of transport available for staff to attend fieldwork and site visits due to the Trust using an aging vehicle fleet	4	4	16	- Staff are to ensure they use vehicles with due diligence due to age of vehicle (as per vehicle use policy) - Vehicle fleet to be checked regularly (using a schedule) - SMT to carry out a review of vehicle fleet to project activities and make a action plan to replace aging vehicles - New project bids to include purchase of new vehicle in accordance to the vehicle fleet action plan	ALL/SMT	2	2	4
Programme	High turnover of capable staff due to the Trust's inability to financially maintain contracts	3	5	15	- Feasibility studies carried out during projects to determine longevity of activity - Fundraising/income generation plan developed - Contingency planning is carried out for completion of contracts	SMT/DIR	2	3	6
Programme	The Trust's inability to take on projects due to lack of local capacity	4	5	20	- Develop a training and development plan for the Trust to upskill local staff - Work with the Education Directorate on career development - Work with Trust partners on upskilling and career development for locals	OM/DIR/ SMT	4	3	12
Programme	The Trust spends unneccessary money due to lack of team work and willingness to share resources	4	4	16	- Regular team meetings, team building training and development - Cross training and development betweend different sections - Instill a sense of pride in delivering the Trust's objectives - Performance management and disciplinary policies enacted	ALL	2	3	6

6. Our Finances 2025-26

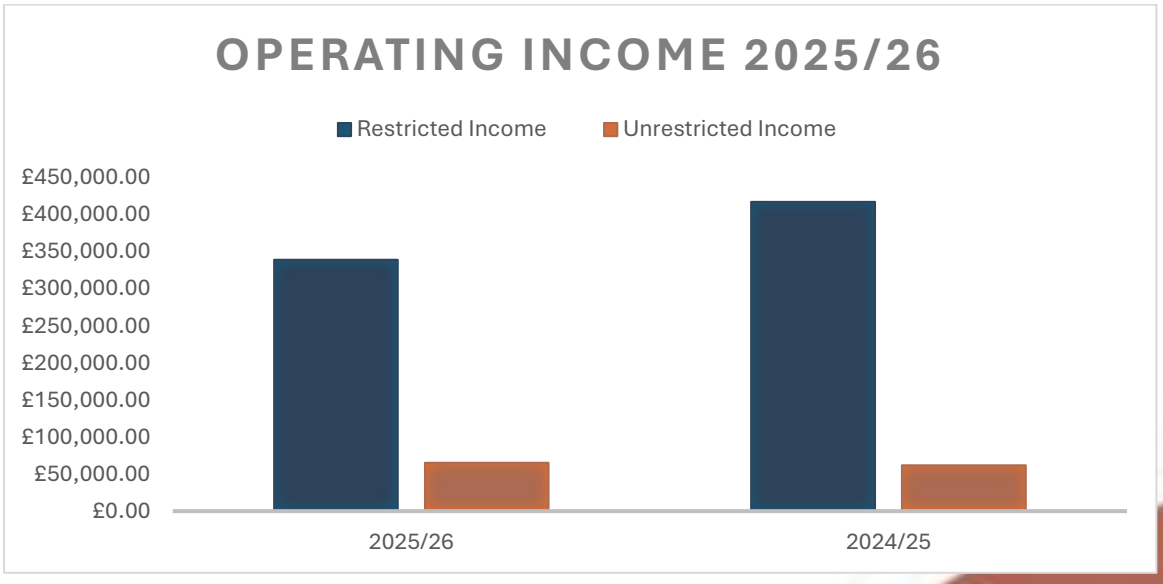
The Trust is pleased to present our independently examined Financial Statements for the year April 2025 to March 2026. With our operating income being under the £500,000 limit, the accounts only required a limited assurance engagement, as specified by the Interpretation Ordinance, 1968, (revised 2017) Part II no 3(1). Our independent examination was carried out by Sayer Vincent LLP, who can confirm they have no concerns or came across any matters in connection to the examination.

Please see here for full annual financial statements, annual report and independent examiners report.

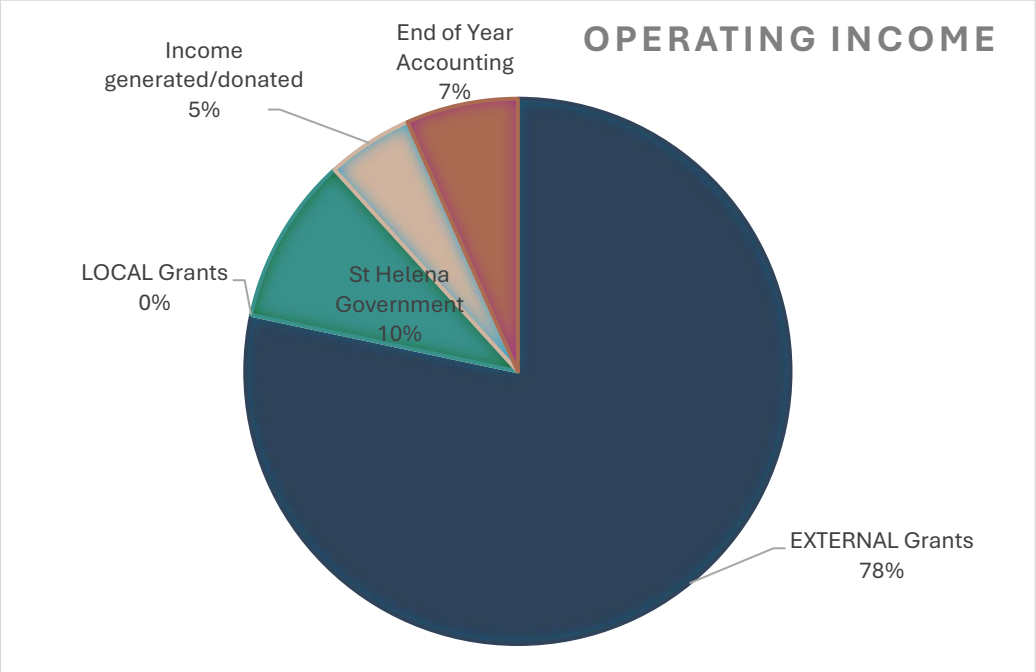
The Trust's financial position for 2025/26 is as follows:

	2025/26	2024/25
	£	£
Non-Current Assets	151,205	168,399
Current Assets	215,308	294,772
Current Liabilities	51,378	64,924
Net Current Assets	163,930	229,848
Non-Current Liabilities	58,225	70,980
Net Assets	**256,910**	**327,267**
Funds	122,365	167,827
Retained Surplus	134,545	159,440
Reserves	**256,910**	**327,267**

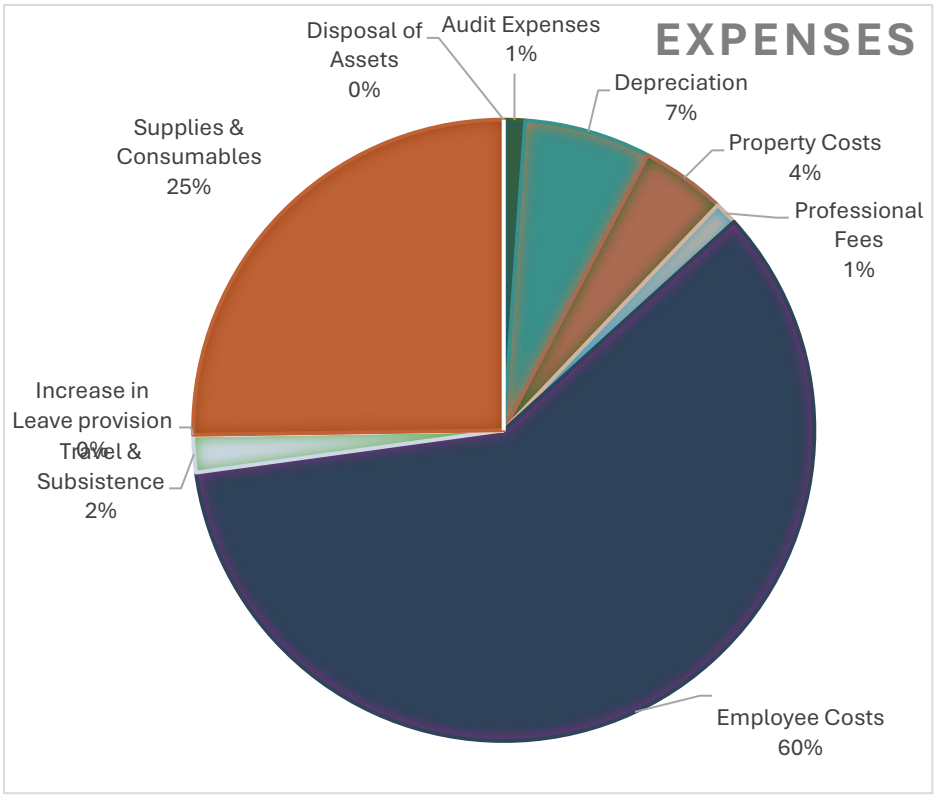
This financial year, the Trust used a portion of its reserves to replace the roof on Broadway House. While the building is still owned by St Helena Government, the Trust holds a repairing lease, with maintenance and upkeep undertaken by the Trust.



Restricted income remains the highest source of income received by the Trust for 2025/26. (Restricted income being funds received by donors to carry out specific activities and achieve agreed outcomes. Restricted income cannot be diverted to suit any other purpose of the Trust).



While our external grants were smaller this financial year, we are pleased that we were able to increase our unrestricted income by 5% compared to the previous year.
The knock-on effect of the smaller external grant meant we only multiplied SHG's grant 8-fold.
Contracts that were signed in 2025/26, will not receive the money until the new financial year.



Employee costs remain the highest expenditure for the Trust. Staffing is essential to complete the conservation projects. This is followed by supplies and consumables, which is made up of project materials such as chemicals, vials, PPE, fuel provision etc.

7. Our Partners and Funders

The Trust's mission is to champion St Helena's heritage through collaboration and partnerships. Below are the Trust's partners and funders who made our work possible during the year.

22 North Foundation

Edinburgh Trust No 2 Account

There are also key people that continues to support and mentor the Trust:

- Assistant Professor Andreana Cunningham
- Dr Roger Keys
- Dr Andrew Pearson
- Professor Daniel Yon
- Annalea Beard
- Dr Chris Hillman
- Associate Dean Brent Fortenberry
- Professor Deborah Thomas
- Professor Kelly Gillespie
- Associate Professor Rachel Watkins
- Gareth Rhys
- Associate Professor Hannes Schroeder

8. Our Organisation's Details

In accordance with Section 18 of the St Helena National Trust Ordinance, 2001 the Members of the National Trust Council submits the Annual Report.

Registered Charity Name:	St Helena National Trust
Registered Charity Number:	C00010
Registered Company Name:	SHNT (Guarantee) Ltd
Registered Company Number:	100
Registered Office:	Broadway House Main Street Jamestown St Helena Island South Atlantic Ocean STHL 1ZZ
Independent Examiner:	**Sayer Vincent LLP** Invicta House 108-114 Golden Lane London United Kingdom EC1Y 0L
Bankers:	**Bank of St Helena** Market Street Jamestown St Helena Island South Atlantic Ocean STHL 1ZZ

Trust Council Members: (as at 31 March 2026)	President	Michel Dancoisne-Martineau
	Vice-President	Neil Fantom
	Treasurer	Christy Joshua
	Secretary	Vince Thompson
	Legislative Council	Honourable Ronald Coleman
	St Helena Heritage Society	Adam Sizeland
	Arts and Craft Representative	Giselle Richards
	At Large Members	Lourens Malan
		Tracey Williams
		Nicola Essex
		Cerys Joshua

Senior Management Team: (as at 31 March 2026)	Director	Helena Bennett
	Office Manager	Amanda Constantine
	Finance Manager	Michielle Yon
	Head of Conservation (Terrestrial)	Martina Peters
	Head of Marine Conservation	Neil Thorp
	Education and Outreach Manager	Sheena Benjamin
Staff: (as at 31 March 2026)	Marine Project Manager (Coastal)	Emma Holborn
	Marine Officer (Coastal)	Jolan Henry
	Millennium Forest Senior Nursery Officer	David Francis
	Millennium Forest Nursery Officer	David Peters
	Millennium Forest Senior Officer	Christopher Clingham
	Grasslands Project Senior Officer	Gavin Ellick
	Field and Monitoring Project Officer	Matthew Owen
	Field and Livelihoods Project Officer	Aidan Plato
	Predator Control Officer	Mario Green
	Invasive Invertebrate Project Manager	Natasha Stevens
	Invasive Invertebrate Field Assistant	Shaun Osborne
	Invertebrate Field Officer	Daryl Joshua
	Invertebrate Specialist	Liza Fowler
	Built & Cultural Heritage Project Manager	Shelley Magellan-Wade
	Endangered Archives Project Officer	Alayah Pidgley
	Endangered Archives Project Officer	Jean-Claude Yon

We are grateful to all our staff, apprentices, volunteers and work experience students who have helped throughout the year.





Vision:	*St Helena's Heritage for all, forever*

Mission:	*To champion St Helena's heritage through collaboration, engagement, proactive management and partnerships*

Thank you for support to the St Helena National Trust.

The Trust relies on your generosity to maintain public spaces and more importantly deliver education and outreach to the local and international community on St Helena's built, cultural and natural heritage.

You can continue supporting us with this mission by becoming a member of the Trust and/or giving a donation.



ST HELENA

NATIONAL TRUST

Broadway House | Mainstreet | Jamestown | St Helena Island

www.trust.org.sh | ☎+290 22190