



Conservation News

From:

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Tristan Scores OTEP Hat Trick

Conservation & environment issues have always been important on Tristan, and the island sees a growing role in terms of eco-tourism, co-operative research projects and education. The Darwin Initiative 'Biodiversity Action Plan' project is setting a framework for this. All three bids, based on priorities identified in the biodiversity action plan, and submitted by Tristan last December for support from the Overseas Territories Environment Programme, were successful. The Programme, jointly funded by the UK's Foreign & Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development, has provided valuable assistance to previous conservation projects implemented on Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands. The current awards will provide some £220,000 of support funds during the period 2005/07 to establish a Conservation Centre on Tristan, to finance a feasibility study on the potential of eradicating rats and mice on Gough & Tristan, and to continue efforts designed to prevent an invasive species of plant, *Sagina*, from establishing a habitat on Gough.

For the first time, a full time Conservation Officer is currently being recruited on Tristan to take over from the Darwin Project Manager who leaves at the end of the year on completion of a contract with RSPB/Darwin Initiative. The Officer will be responsible for taking the biodiversity action plan and associated projects forward.



James Glass his son Norman & Alison Rothwell by the Tristan Peak Crater Pond the 2062 metre Queen Mary's Peak behind.