

# Our Island, Our Environment, Our Responsibility

Monthly Newsletter From The  
Environmental Management Directorate

## August 2012

Welcome to the first monthly newsletter of the St. Helena Government Environmental Management Directorate. Having been up and running for 5 months, we are keen to keep all our stakeholders up to date with what we are doing. These newsletters will be published in the local newspapers every month, and will also be available online at [www.sainthelena.gov.sh](http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh)

We thank you all for your support and look forward to working with you on the exciting initiatives that are happening on St. Helena as we work with everyone to make the island 'go green'

**Tara Pelembe**  
Director

### Marine Conservation

The Marine Section (Elizabeth, Annalea and Leeann) have moved from ANRD and are now part of the Nature Conservation Division of the new Directorate. Under new management since April the Marine Section has been focusing on analysing all data that we have been collecting over the past years. This "pause and review" stage as we call it is vital for the continuation of marine monitoring.

Analysis initially has been targeted towards the following datasets: seabirds, cetaceans (Whales & Dolphins) and underwater fish surveys. To date interesting results have been identified, we have also recognised where data gaps exist. This process is now creating a stepping stone for the enhancement of our previous work and the introduction of new. In light of the above, we are now in the early stage of researching and piloting new monitoring programmes. Some examples include adding a local knowledge element to our data, and monitoring sediment pollution.

It is hoped that in the not too distant future documents will be available for the public.

As a final mention the Humpback whales are still around and the Bottlenose dolphins have been regularly seen chasing flyingfish into the front steps at night. Thank you to all those people who regularly send in their Marine Sightings this is very important. Just remember the date, time, location of your sighting, what type of animal or seabird and how many and send this information to us. We can be contacted at Essex House on Telephone No: 2270 Ext. 213 or Emailed at the following address: [mco@environmentalmanagement.gov.sh](mailto:mco@environmentalmanagement.gov.sh)

### Unusual bird sightings

We are aware that there might be number of visiting birds passing through St Helena at the time. The Environmental Management Directorate (EMD) also keeps records of any unusual bird sightings i.e. birds not normally seen on St Helena. So if you do spot any unusual birds, just remember the date, time, location of your sighting, what type of bird and how many, and if possible get a photograph and send this information to us at Essex House on Telephone No: 2270 or email on [isabel@environmentalmanagement.gov.sh](mailto:isabel@environmentalmanagement.gov.sh)





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## Environmental Risk Management

It is one thing to say that St Helena needs to develop a 'green' economy and quite another to achieve economic development that is sustainable for the environment. We often think of the environment as the natural environment and while areas such as Diana's Peak are extremely important the environment is also where we live.



Quite rightly measures have been put in place to conserve the natural environment but in addition to this other aspects of the environment require protection. This is the remit of the Environmental Risk Management Division. We are involved in areas such as managing solid waste, pollution control and safeguarding water sources to ensure that we are using environmental resources sustainably.

The word sustainable is heard frequently these days, quite simply it means:

"Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs"

One way of ensuring that our activities are sustainable is by assessing the risk of damage to the environment from these activities. This is what we will be doing by developing regulations and legislation to protect the environment. With this framework in place we will then be able to monitor the effects on the environment and implement measures for protection.

Environmental risk management does not only cover the risks that we pose to the environment. It also includes the risk that the environment poses to the people living on St Helena. The effects of climate change, extreme weather and other natural hazards all have the potential to cause harm. These risks also need to be assessed and measures put in place to protect our community.

We have a lot of work ahead of us but it is vital that as our island undergoes dramatic change so we do not destroy our environment in the process.

## Some things that have happened in EMD over the last 5 months

- \* EMD launched April 2012
- \* National Environmental Management Plan issued for public consultation
- \* Solid Waste Management Strategy available for public consultation
- \* Recycling Forum created

### **SOLID WASTE – Have your say**

The Solid Waste Management Strategy is out for consultation. Copies available at Essex House or from the SHG Website.

[http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/data/files/150808\\_solid\\_waste\\_strategy\\_final\\_draft\\_public\\_consultation.pdf](http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/data/files/150808_solid_waste_strategy_final_draft_public_consultation.pdf)

This is your chance to have your say about how we manage the waste on St Helena. There are lots of exciting ideas but we need your help. There will be a display and presentation at Essex House on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> of September from 10.00am to 1.00pm. Come along, give us your thoughts, complete the questionnaire and you could win a prize. See you there.

**EMD Risk Management Division**