

Bugs on the Brink Project

Project Objectives and Scope



The project has helped to secure the long term conservation of the islands amazing invertebrates.

It has included amongst other things, the creation of a dataset with information on St Helena's invertebrates and training of 32 people on invertebrate conservation management. Resources created include a reference collection, webpages and invertebrate keys.

There has been a step change in the local knowledge and in the tools available, allowing a start to be made on the restoration of the native habitats.

The threat of extinction for species has been assessed (red listings 16 completed and 93 in development).

The project has initiated the establishment of an IUCN invertebrate specialist group with knowledge of this region, The group will cover the UKOTs of Ascension, St Helena and Tristan da Cunha.

An essential part of the project has been the outreach and education program in the schools, working with over 1000 children living on St Helena. This work has involved teaching about invertebrates, including endemic, native and non-native species, and how they play an important role in the environment. Bug hunts have proved particularly popular, and this has given children the experience of using basic invertebrate collecting techniques and equipment such as sweep nets and pooters.

Raising awareness about invertebrates has also been targeted at the general public. Activity days have been held, with information about invertebrates being delivered in a fun way; by making bug crafts, having bug hunts, slideshows and displays. Over 800 children and adults have learnt about invertebrates during various lessons and events run by the Project.

One of the most important parts of the outreach program has been to develop an educational invertebrate resource "loan box" of documents and equipment for teachers to carry on delivering this education to students once the project has ended.

Special points of interest:

- long term conservation of the islands amazing invertebrates
- Long-term conservation planning has taken place
- outreach and education program in the schools
- development of an educational invertebrate resource "loan box" of documents and equipment



Deliverables

There are six different booklets, each targeting different age groups. These include:

- the science booklet, which is the main document and contains all the information for both teachers and students, and covers subjects such as how to conduct a mini-beast hunt,

invertebrate movement and their senses and habitats,

- a worksheets booklet which has lifecycles and sample keys in it,
- the equipment booklet that describes how to use the tools provided.
- An activities booklet includes projects such as building a wormery, enabling students to see

earthworms at work, decomposing dead and decaying matter, returning it to soil and improving its quality.

- The craft booklet is aimed more at the younger generation, particularly nursery and reception, where they can get creative by making bees from



Next Steps

The National Trust will soon be visiting the schools to go through the loan box with the teachers, explaining the contents and answering any questions they may have.

Long-term conservation planning has taken place and a strategy for

invertebrate conservation is to be launched in early 2016 together with an identification guide for the island.

All of these booklets are now available to download from the St Helena National Trust (SHNT) website

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