IUCN Conservation Outlook Assessment 2014 **(archived)**
Finalised on 16 June 2014

Please note: this is an archived Conservation Outlook Assessment for Gough and Inaccessible Islands. To access the most up-to-date Conservation Outlook Assessment for this site, please visit https://www.worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org.

Gough and Inaccessible Islands

SITE INFORMATION

Country:
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK)
Inscribed in: 1995
Criteria:
(vii) (x)

Site description:
The site, located in the south Atlantic, is one of the least-disrupted island and marine ecosystems in the cool temperate zone. The spectacular cliffs of Gough and Inaccessible Islands, towering above the ocean, are free of introduced mammals and home to one of the world's largest colonies of sea birds. Gough Island is home to two endemic species of land birds, the gallinule and the Gough rowettie, as well as to 12 endemic species of plants, while Inaccessible Island boasts two birds, eight plants and at least 10 invertebrates endemic to the island. © UNESCO

SUMMARY

2014 Conservation Outlook

Significant concern

While none of the key values of the site has been irreversibly lost yet since its inscription on the World Heritage List, the key factor determining the conservation outlook of the site is the relationship between the extraordinary threats to the biological values of the site (particularly but not exclusively seabirds), and the significant but apparently still insufficient initiative and resources mobilized to counter this threat. Because of this mismatch, the relatively steep decline in several key bird populations and the uncertainty regarding other important biodiversity values of the site, the conservation outlook of the site is of significant concern.

Current state and trend of VALUES

High Concern
Trend: Deteriorating

To the extent that the current state of the biodiversity values of the properties is known in sufficient detail, it is of high concern, and deteriorating. It is likely that the state of those terrestrial biodiversity values that are currently marked as data deficient is similar to that of the better understood values. As a consequence, the exceptional natural beauty is also at high concern, and deteriorating. Northern Rockhopper Penguin (EN) populations on Gough Island and on Inaccessible Island have been stable. Sooty albatross populations on Gough have declined by 60% since 1972, while Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross populations also declined and Southern Giant Petrel Macronectus giganteus populations have been increasing. Tristan Albatross has been declining by ca. 1% per year for the last 30-50 years. Population trends for Atlantic Petrel, and several other bird populations on the island are also declining.The population of Gough Bunting (CR) is declining and has been estimated to go extinct within the next 40 years unless mice are eradicated, the population of Inaccessible Bunting (VU) and Rail (VU) are stable and the population of Gough Moorhen (VU) is

increasing. No further detailed information about the current conservation status of marine biota around the site is available from known sources.

Overall THREATS

Very High Threat

The World Heritage values of Gough and Inaccessible Islands are currently acutely threatened by invasive species, particularly predatory domestic mice on Gough Island. In addition, there are threats from other invasive species, shipping accidents and from poorly managed long-line fishing throughout the Southern Ocean. Together these threats combine to produce an overall very high threat to the values of the site, which rely on the preservation of its native biota and ecosystems.
Egg and chick predation by domestic mice threatens the populations of several terrestrial and seabirds of Gough Island, including Tristan Albatross, Atlantic Petrel and Gough Bunting. Together with long-line fishing, this may lead to the extinction of at least the Tristan Albatross, one of the emblematic species of the site, within 30 years. The MS Oliva shipping accident at Nightingale Island, approximately 20 km from Inaccessible Island and 395 km from Gough Island, on 16 March 2011, resulted in significant damage to wildlife at Nightingale Island and probably some damage to the values of Inaccessible Island, e.g. by oiling of penguins, and demonstrates the potential impacts of future accidents at the site.

Overall PROTECTION and MANAGEMENT

Some Concern

Although the legal framework, boundaries, monitoring and research of the site are all effective, some concerns remain about the overall effectiveness of the management system and the enforcement of the legal framework, which in turn may reflect limitations of funding and resourcing of management efforts at the site.
The main threats to the site originating from the outside are the introduction of invasive alien species, decimation of seabirds by long-line fishing, shipping accidents and climate change. Of these, only invasive species can be addressed through site based management, and appear to be addressed effectively through access restrictions. There is a need to better resource marine enforcement and invasive species eradication, and to better coordinate the management of the two islands of the site. Funding of eradication efforts (GBP 250,000 in 2011)

appears to be insufficient in comparison to estimated needs (ca. £4-£5 million, according to the new draft operational plan). Because of the urgency and cost of invasive species eradication measures, this is of some concern.

FULL ASSESSMENT

Description of values

Values

World Heritage values

► Seabird populations

Criterion:(x)

Gough Island has been described as perhaps the most important seabird colony in the world (Bourne, 1981). 52 seabird species have been recorded, including 32 breeding species numbering ca. 1 million breeding pairs. These include one globally critically endangered species (Tristan Albatross Diomedea dabbenena) and four endangered species (Northern Rockhopper Penguin Eudyptes moseleyi, Sooty Albatross Phoebetria fusca, Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross Thalassarche chlororhynchos and Atlantic Petrel Pterodroma incerta) (BirdLife International, 2012a). Inaccessible Island has 29 species of seabirds, 16 of which are breeding, including 1.5 – 2 million of Great Shearwater Puffinus gravis pairs. The island’s avifauna includes the critically endangered Tristan Albatross, the endangered Northern Rockhopper Penguin, Sooty Albatross, and Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross, as well as the globally vulnerable Spectacled Petrel Procellaria conspicillata (BirdLife International, 2012b). Both Islands are Important Bird Areas, partly because of their seabird colonies, and Gough Island is also an Alliance for Zero Extinction site (AZE, 2012).

► Autochthonous terrestrial fauna

Criterion:(x)

Both islands have important endemic and globally threatened terrestrial avifauna and invertebrate fauna, while autochthonous terrestrial mammals,

reptiles, or amphibians are absent (UNEP-WCMC, 2011). Gough Island has the endemic Gough Moorhen Gallinula nesiotis (VU) and endemic Gough Bunting Rowettia goughensis (CR), whereas Inaccessible Island has the endemic Inaccessible Rail Atlantisia rogersi (VU) and the endemic Inaccessible Bunting Neospiza acunhae (VU). Both Islands are Important Bird Areas, partly because of their land bird populations, and belong to the Tristan Islands Endemic Bird Area (BirdLife International, 2012c). Gough Island is also an Alliance for Zero Extinction site (AZE, 2012). Both Islands also have a species-poor but endemism-rich invertebrate fauna, with about 100 species recorded from Gough and 22 of them endemic to the island or the Tristan archipelago. Inaccessible island has at least 10 endemic invertebrate species (UNEP-WCMC, 2011).

► Autochthonous flora

Criterion:(x)

The autochthonous flora of the islands is species poor but rich in endemics. There are 26 species of flowering plants (21 endemic to the Tristan group) and 27 species of ferns (15 endemic to the Tristan group) on Gough Island, with an additional rich but poorly studied flora of mosses, and lichens. Vegetation shows a marked altitudinal zoning. Inaccessible Island has 213 plant species in total, 10 being restricted to the island and 60 to the archipelago. Vegetation on both islands shows a marked altitudinal zonation (UNEP-WCMC, 2011). Although the islands probably qualify as Important Plant Areas, they appear not to have assessed for IPA status yet (PlantLife, 2012).

► Marine plants, mammals, fish and invertebrates

Criterion:(x)

There is a rich coastal marine fauna on and around the islands, including 200,000 Sub-Antarctic Fur Seal Arctocephalus tropicalis and ca. 100 Southern Elephant Seal on Gough Island, as well as several cetacean species including southern Right Whale Eubalaena australis, Dusky Dolphin Lagenorhynchus obscurus and Humpback Whales Megaptera novaeangliae in coastal waters around both islands. There is also a typical South Atlantic marine flora, ichthyofauna (ca. 20 species around Gough and 40 species around Inaccessible islands) and invertebrate fauna (ca. 80 species around Gough

and 250 species around Inaccessible islands), including the economically important Tristan Rock Lobster Jasus tristani (UNEP-WCMC, 2011).

▶ **Island ecosystems of exceptional natural beauty**
Criterion:(vii)

Gough and Inaccessible islands are among the least disrupted cool temperate island ecosystems in the world, and comprise landscapes and natural phenomena (particularly seabird colonies) of superlative dimensions and exceptional natural beauty (IUCN, 1995, WHC, 2004, UNEP-WCMC, 2011).

Assessment information

Threats

Current Threats
Very High Threat

The values of the site under World Heritage criterion x, and as a consequence also under World Heritage criterion vii, are currently acutely threatened by invasive species, particularly predatory domestic mice on Gough Island. In addition, there are threats from other invasive species, shipping accidents and from poorly managed long-line fishing throughout the Southern Ocean.

▶ **Invasive Non-Native/ Alien Species**
Very High Threat
Inside site

Egg and chick predation by predatory domestic mice Mus musculus, the only invasive rodent on the island, threatens the populations of several terrestrial and seabirds of Gough Island, including Tristan Albatross, Atlantic Petrel and Gough Bunting (Cuthbert & Hilton, 2004, Wanless et al, 2012). Together with long-line fishing, this may lead to the extinction of at least the Tristan Albatross, one of the emblematic species of the site, within 30 years (Wanless et al. 2009). There is still a need for research to establish whether

the eradication of mice on Gough is technically feasible.

Procumbent pearlwort (Sagina procumbens) was accidentally introduced to Gough Island in the late 20th Century, and spread rapidly, particularly in areas impacted by bird colonies. Continued eradication efforts and monitoring for this and other invasives, including New Zealand flax (Phormium tenax), are needed to control this continuing threat (UNEP-WCMC, 2011). Other invasive plant species include Verbena bonariensis, Solanum tuberosum, Juncus effusus Agrostis gigantean, Brassica rapa, and Cynodon dactylon.

The number of introduced invertebrate species (most of them having been introduced since 1950), now exceeds that of native species, at least on Gough Island (Jones et al., 2002). However, the exact extent and impact of these invasions needs to be studied further and this particular point is data deficient.

► Fishing / Harvesting Aquatic Resources

High Threat
Inside site

Mortality from accidental by-catch by long-line fishing is a major global threat for most albatross and many petrel species (Anderson et al., 2011), including for at least six of the species contributing to the values of the site (UNEP-WCMC, 2011, Wanless et al., 2009). This remains a high threat as long as available best practice mitigation devices and techniques are not enforced effectively (Anderson et al., 2011).

► Fishing / Harvesting Aquatic Resources

Low Threat
Inside site

Unlicensed fishing and illegal use of driftnets around the reserve has been reported (Pearce, 1999), but the threat originating from these practices is now not as serious as that of long-line fishing throughout the Southern Ocean (UNEP-WCMC, 2011).

► Water Pollution

High Threat

Outside site

The MS Oliva shipping accident at Nightingale Island, approximately 20 km from Inaccessible Island and 395 km from Gough Island, on 16 March 2011, resulted in significant damage to wildlife at Nightingale Island and probably some damage to the values of Inaccessible Island (UKOT Conservation Forum, 2011a), e.g. by oiling of penguins, and demonstrates the potential impacts of future accidents at the site.

Potential Threats

Data Deficient

Several of the most serious threats that could affect the site are already a reality, and the additional threats, particularly climate change in combination with possible new invasive introductions, are potentially serious but require further study.

► Habitat Shifting/ Alteration

Data Deficient
Inside site

Evidence of temperature increases on Gough Island since 1963, has been presented, and impacts on the distribution of species, habitats and ecosystems have been predicted (Jones et al., 2003). However, the exact extent and impact of climate change on the site needs further study.

► Invasive Non-Native/ Alien Species

Low Threat
Inside site

Visitation is minimal (40 visitors to Gough Island in 2004) and access is through one or two entry points in each of the islands only, and only by permit (UNEP-WCMC, 2011). However, a significant threat of new invasive species (plants, invertebrates, rodents) introductions remains, because of the high invasive potential of many of these species.

Protection and management

Assessing Protection and Management

► Boundaries

Mostly Effective

The boundaries of the site include the 12 nm zone around the islands (WHC, 2004) and are generally considered adequate, but marine enforcement capacity is missing (WHC, 2006) and some of the key bird species contributing to the values of the site forage far beyond its boundaries (UNEP-WCMC, 2011).

► Staff training and development

Mostly Effective

The two staff at the site appear to be sufficiently trained (SANAP, 2012), but invasive species control and fisheries inspection expertise/capacity may be insufficient (WHC, 2006). Two new Conservation Officers are going to be recruited next year to initiate a new comprehensive monitoring, tracking, protection and research initiative on Gough and Inaccessible Islands. Funding is also available from Her Majesty's Government to assist with training and research work over the next three years. This training will include bio-security and enhance the Conservation Departments abilities to manage Gough and Inaccessible (IUCN Conservation, 2014).

► Relationships with local people

Highly Effective

There are no local people on either island. One licensee is allowed to fish Tristan Rock Lobster in the seas around the site (UNEP-WCMC, 2011). No issues with other people from Tristan da Cunha.

► Legal framework and enforcement

Some Concern

Both Gough and Inaccessible Islands are designated as IUCN Category I Strict Nature Reserves, as confirmed in the Conservation of Native Organisms and Natural Habitats (Tristan da Cunha) 2006 (The Tristan da Cunha Website,

2012). The legal protection is considered adequate but enforcement capacity was insufficient in 2006, and may still be insufficient (particularly marine enforcement capacity) (WHC, 2006).

► Integration into regional and national planning systems

Some Concern

The UK Overseas Territories White Paper 2012 mentions the World Heritage Status of the site, but does not demonstrate specific commitments to mainstream conservation of its values into overall government planning systems (UKOT Conservation Forum, 2011b, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 2012 ; McKie, 2012, Pierce, 1999).

► Management system

Mostly Effective

Both of the islands belonging to the site need minimal management, apart from invasive species eradication and access/fishery resource use control. The Tristan da Cunha Fisheries Limits Ordinance 1982, as amended 1991 and 1992, limit fishing in the vicinity of the site. Both islands have separate management plans, but the status and potential need for updating of the 1993 plan for Gough Island is unclear. The Inaccessible Island Management Plan (without a defined lifespan) was published in 2001, and sets out 7 management objectives with the corresponding policies, zoning and restrictions (Ryan and Glass, 2001). The Gough Island Wildlife Reserve Advisory Committee has been set up by the Tristan Natural Resources Department and an annual monitoring visit to the site, which is about 400 km distant from Tristan da Cunha, takes place (UNEP-WCMC, 2011). The meteorological station on Gough Island, which is run by the South African National Antarctic Programme, conducts some conservation management and monitoring on the island (SANAP, 2012). The RSPB is active in the field of invasive species eradication, as well as wildlife monitoring and research (RSPB, 2012). The management regime appears viable overall. An update to the Gough and Inaccessible management plan has been completed (RSPB and Tristan Conservation Department, 2010). However, there clearly is a need to better resource marine enforcement and invasive species eradication, and to better coordinate the management of the two islands of

the site.

► Management effectiveness

Some Concern

No systematic management effectiveness assessment has been published for the site. Because of the considerable challenges of invasive species control/eradication and the enforcement of a management regime at such a distance from Tristan da Cunha (WHC, 2006), and without an appropriate sea-going fisheries patrol vessel, there is some concern regarding the management capacity of the site.

► Implementation of Committee decisions and recommendations

Mostly Effective

Decision 33 COM 7B.32 requested the State Party to continue invasive species eradication and monitoring activities at the site and to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2012, an updated report on the eradication programmes at the site (WHC, 2009). This report was submitted in January 2012, and detailed the progress in eradication and monitoring activities to date. However, eradication efforts in response to Decision 33 COM 7B.32 appear to be insufficiently resourced (McKie, 2012).

► Sustainable finance

Some Concern

No systematic annual budget information for the management of the site could be identified. The South African Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism funds two conservation experts at Gough Island, and the UK Government has supported specific projects focused on the islands. However, funding of eradication efforts (GBP 250,000 in 2011) appears to be insufficient in comparison to estimated needs (ca. £4-£5 million, according to the new draft operational plan). Because of the urgency and cost of invasive species eradication measures and the lack of clarity about the sustainable financing of the management of the site, this area is assessed as of some concern.

► Sustainable use

Mostly Effective

Use of resources in the waters belonging to the site is limited to fishing of Tristan Rock Lobster, which seems to be managed appropriately. There may however be some unsustainable illegal fisheries, due to insufficient enforcement capacity (UNEP-WCMC; 2011).

► Education and interpretation programs

Some Concern

Some basic information about Gough Island is available through the Tristan da Cunha website (Tristan da Cunha Government, 2012), and some information is disseminated periodically by the UKOT Conservation Forum (e.g. UKOT Conservation Forum 2011a, b). The information and education section of the Inaccessible Island management plan deals mainly with informing visitors about the appropriate behavior while visiting the island, and with ensuring that they follow these instructions (Ryan and Glass, 2001). Education and interpretation programmes appear limited in general.

► Tourism and interpretation

Mostly Effective

Tourist numbers to both component islands of the site are very low, with 40 visitors to Gough Island in 2003. Visits are by permission only, and limited to small areas of the islands. It has been suggested that some interpretative signs be erected at the few landing sites of the site. There are no jetty or visitor facilities (UNEP-WCMC, 2011).

► Monitoring

Mostly Effective

The Tristan Conservation Department conducts annual monitoring visits to both component islands of the site (including bird monitoring – Tristan da Cunha Government, 2012), and additional bird monitoring on Gough is being implemented by the South African National Antarctic Programme (SANAP, 2012).

► Research

Mostly Effective

Gough Island has supported a wide range of scientific works, particularly in the fields of zoology, botany and ecology (Haenel, 2008). Noteworthy activities in the 20th century have included the Gough Island Scientific Survey 1955/56, and the research by the South African meteorological station and the Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology at the University of Cape Town. Inaccessible Island has also been visited by several scientific expeditions (UNEP-WCMC, 2011). A Web of Knowledge search by island name yields 228 peer-reviewed articles in international scientific journals (WoK, 2012). A more detailed scientific bibliography for 1869-1982 has been compiled by Watkins and Cooper (1983). There is not systematic research strategy for the site (WHC, 2006). Further research is required and is being undertaken by the RSPB, funded by UK Government, to assess the feasibility of mouse eradication on Gough Island, which has still not yet been definitely established.

Overall assessment of protection and management

Some Concern

Although the legal framework, boundaries, monitoring and research of the site are all effective, some concerns remain about the overall effectiveness of the management system and the enforcement of the legal framework, which in turn may reflect limitations of funding and resourcing of management efforts at the site.
The main threats to the site originating from the outside are the introduction of invasive alien species, decimation of seabirds by long-line fishing, shipping accidents and climate change. Of these, only invasive species can be addressed through site based management, and appear to be addressed effectively through access restrictions. There is a need to better resource marine enforcement and invasive species eradication, and to better coordinate the management of the two islands of the site. Funding of eradication efforts (GBP 250,000 in 2011) appears to be insufficient in comparison to estimated needs (ca. £4-£5 million, according to the new draft operational plan). Because of the urgency and cost of invasive species eradication measures, this is of some concern.

▶ Assessment of the effectiveness of protection and management in

addressing threats outside the site

Some Concern

The main threats to the site originating from the outside are the introduction of invasive alien species, decimation of seabirds by long-line fishing, shipping accidents and climate change. Of these, only invasive species can be addressed through site based management, and appear to be addressed effectively through access restrictions. The remaining external threats are of some concern.

► Best practice examples

The British-South African Partnership in the monitoring and management of Gough Island is a best practice example of close international cooperation to maintain the integrity of natural World Heritage, which may be applicable in other remote sites, particularly those belonging to European overseas territories.

State and trend of values

Assessing the current state and trend of values

World Heritage values

► Seabird populations

High Concern
Trend:Deteriorating

Northern Rockhopper Penguin (EN) populations on Gough Island (Cuthbert and Sommer, 2004) and on Inaccessible Island have been stable (Robson et al., 2011). Sooty albatross populations on Gough have declined by 60% since 1972, while Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross populations also declined and Southern Giant Petrel Macronectus giganteus populations have been increasing (Cuthbert and Sommer, 2004). Tristan Albatross has been declining by ca. 1% per year for the last 30-50 years (Wanless et al., 2009). Population trends for Atlantic Petrel, and several other bird populations on the island are also declining (IUCN, 2012, Wanless et al., 2012).

► Autochthonous terrestrial fauna

High Concern
Trend:Deteriorating

The population of Gough Bunting (CR) is declining and has been estimated to go extinct within the next 40 years unless mice are eradicated, the population of Inaccessible Bunting (VU) and Rail (VU) are stable and the population of Gough Moorhen (VU) is increasing (IUCN, 2012). The populations of native invertebrates are likely to be strongly affected by invasive species (Jones et al., 2003), but detailed information is missing.

► Autochthonous flora

Data Deficient
Trend:Data Deficient

No detailed information about the current conservation status of the native flora at the site is available from known sources (WoK, 2012, Tristan da Cunha Government, 2012).

► Marine plants, mammals, fish and invertebrates

Data Deficient
Trend:Deteriorating

The population of the Subantarctic Fur Seal is increasing globally (IUCN, 2012), and this may also be true for the site. No further detailed information about the current conservation status of marine biota around the site is available from known sources (WoK, 2012, Tristan da Cunha Government, 2012).

► Island ecosystems of exceptional natural beauty

High Concern
Trend:Deteriorating

The overall natural beauty of the site is intact and stable, but the values in relation to its superlative importance as a seabird breeding location are declining with the conservation status of key seabird populations as analyzed above. Therefore, the current status of the values of the site under World Heritage criterion vii is of high concern, and deteriorating.

Summary of the Values

▶ **Assessment of the current state and trend of World Heritage values**

High Concern

Trend: Deteriorating

To the extent that the current state of the biodiversity values of the properties is known in sufficient detail, it is of high concern, and deteriorating. It is likely that the state of those terrestrial biodiversity values that are currently marked as data deficient is similar to that of the better understood values. As a consequence, the exceptional natural beauty is also at high concern, and deteriorating. Northern Rockhopper Penguin (EN) populations on Gough Island and on Inaccessible Island have been stable. Sooty albatross populations on Gough have declined by 60% since 1972, while Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross populations also declined and Southern Giant Petrel Macronectus giganteus populations have been increasing. Tristan Albatross has been declining by ca. 1% per year for the last 30-50 years. Population trends for Atlantic Petrel, and several other bird populations on the island are also declining.The population of Gough Bunting (CR) is declining and has been estimated to go extinct within the next 40 years unless mice are eradicated, the population of Inaccessible Bunting (VU) and Rail (VU) are stable and the population of Gough Moorhen (VU) is increasing. No further detailed information about the current conservation status of marine biota around the site is available from known sources.

Additional information

Key conservation issues

▶ **Resourcing of invasive alien species eradication efforts**

National

The costs of a domestic mouse eradication programme at Gough Island have been tentatively estimated at £4-£5million, while other sources estimate the overall costs of mouse eradication at Gough at GBP 5 million (McKie, 2012).

However, only GBP 250,000 was mobilized for this purpose in 2011. There may be a need to reassess the urgency of the invasive species threat at the site, even considering the high expenses that are typically associated with this type of operation. At the same time, it should be noted that there is still a need for research to establish whether the eradication of mice on Gough is technically feasible.

▶ **Strong susceptibility of key biodiversity values to threats outside the site**
Global

Apart from the invasive species threat, other key threats to the site's values include long-line fishing and shipping accidents. These are not manageable at the site or even national level, and therefore require international efforts and targeted initiatives from the international conservation community to build support. As a first step in this direction, the Tristan Government is investigating a possible PSSA through UNCLOS.

▶ **Challenge of marine enforcement around Gough Island**
National

There have been reports of non-licensed fishing in the marine part of the site, particularly around Gough Island, which is about 400 km distant from Tristan da Cunha and its Environmental Department. The South African meteorological station on Gough has no marine enforcement mandate or capacity. Therefore, there is a need for improved marine enforcement capacity and equipment at Tristan da Cunha (e.g. sea-going fisheries patrol vessel) (WHC, 2007).

Benefits

Understanding Benefits

▶ **Is the protected area valued for its nature conservation?**

The considerable nature conservation values are reflected by the component islands' designation as Nature Reserves and the inscription as a World Heritage site.

► Fishing areas and conservation of fish stocks

The licensed Tristan Rock Lobster and crayfish fisheries of the area, including in the waters around at least Inaccessible Island, are the major source of income for the Tristan da Cunha economy (UNEP-WCMC, 2011).

► Does management of the site provide jobs (e.g. for managers or rangers)?

The site offers a relatively moderate 2-4 jobs in a remote area with little population (UNEP-WCMC, 2011), including those of the South African National Antarctic Programme.

► Collection of genetic material

The current use of genetic material from the site is unclear, but there may be considerable potential for using genetic materials from the many endemic plants and invertebrates on the island.

► Importance for research

The site has already contributed significantly to the overall scientific understanding of temperate island ecosystems (UNEP-WCMC, 2011). Additionally, it may turn into a pilot example for invasive rodent eradication and a biological climate change impact monitoring centre, if the required programmes are developed.

Summary of benefits

Due to its remoteness, lack of population and need for meticulous conservation management and invasive alien species control, the site offers mainly conservation and scientific benefits. However, the waters around Inaccessible Island are an important fishing area for Tristan Rock Lobster, and the many endemic species of the site may hold additional benefits related to genetic material.

Projects

Compilation of active conservation projects

№	Organization/ individuals	Project duration	Brief description of Active Projects
1	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds		Sagina procumbens and Mus musculus eradication activities on Gough Island, as well as wider bird research
2	South African National Antarctic Programme		Meteorological research/monitoring and some bird monitoring at Gough Island
3	Tristan da Cunha Conservation Department		Monitoring of biodiversity at site

Compilation of potential site needs

№	Site need title	Brief description of potential site needs	Support needed for following years
1	.	Full scale domestic mouse and pearlwort eradication programme at Gough Island, based on Parks (2008).	
2	.	Fisheries and marine surveillance and monitoring programme around Gough and Inaccessible Islands	

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