South Atlantic

Located in the South Atlantic Ocean, the 4 island groups of Ascension Island, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha and the Falkland Islands differ immensely in climate, fauna and flora but all show a high number of endemic species due to their remoteness.

The smallest of the territories in equatorial waters, Ascension Island, is unusual for having a high-abundance but low-diversity, sub-tropical biodiversity. St Helena has a diverse landscape with seven ecological zones which are determined by elevation and rainfall, ranging from semi-desert to a small ‘cloud forest’ at the highest peaks. The Tristan da Cunha archipelago encompasses four main islands, only one of which is inhabited. It has a cold but wet climate with a mixture of grassland, woodland and heathland communities and is a globally important site for breeding seabirds. The Tristan da Cunha archipelago contains four main islands, only one of which is inhabited. It has a cold but wet climate with a mixture of grassland, woodland and heathland communities and is a globally important site for breeding seabirds. The Tristan da Cunha archipelago contains four main islands, only one of which is inhabited. It has a cold but wet climate with a mixture of grassland, woodland and heathland communities and is a globally important site for breeding seabirds.

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The territories are sparsely populated, with all 10,000 islanders closely connected to their natural environment. Despite many attractive, locally-led conservation initiatives the biodiversity and ecosystems in the region face many threats common to islands, such as invasive alien species, along with habitat degradation and the impacts of climate change.

Did you know?

- Tristan da Cunha is the world’s remotest inhabited archipelago, 2000 km from St Helena and 3730 km south of Ascension Island. It is the most disperse British Overseas Territory.
- Gough and Inaccessible Island of the Tristan da Cunha archipelago are home to one of the world’s largest seabird colonies and listed as UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Ascension Island is working towards creating a marine reserve of over 234,000 km², almost as big as the UK mainland.
- The 2 main islands of the Falklands are surrounded by over 700 smaller islands and islands, with over 220 bird species as well as a very rich aquatic biodiversity.
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