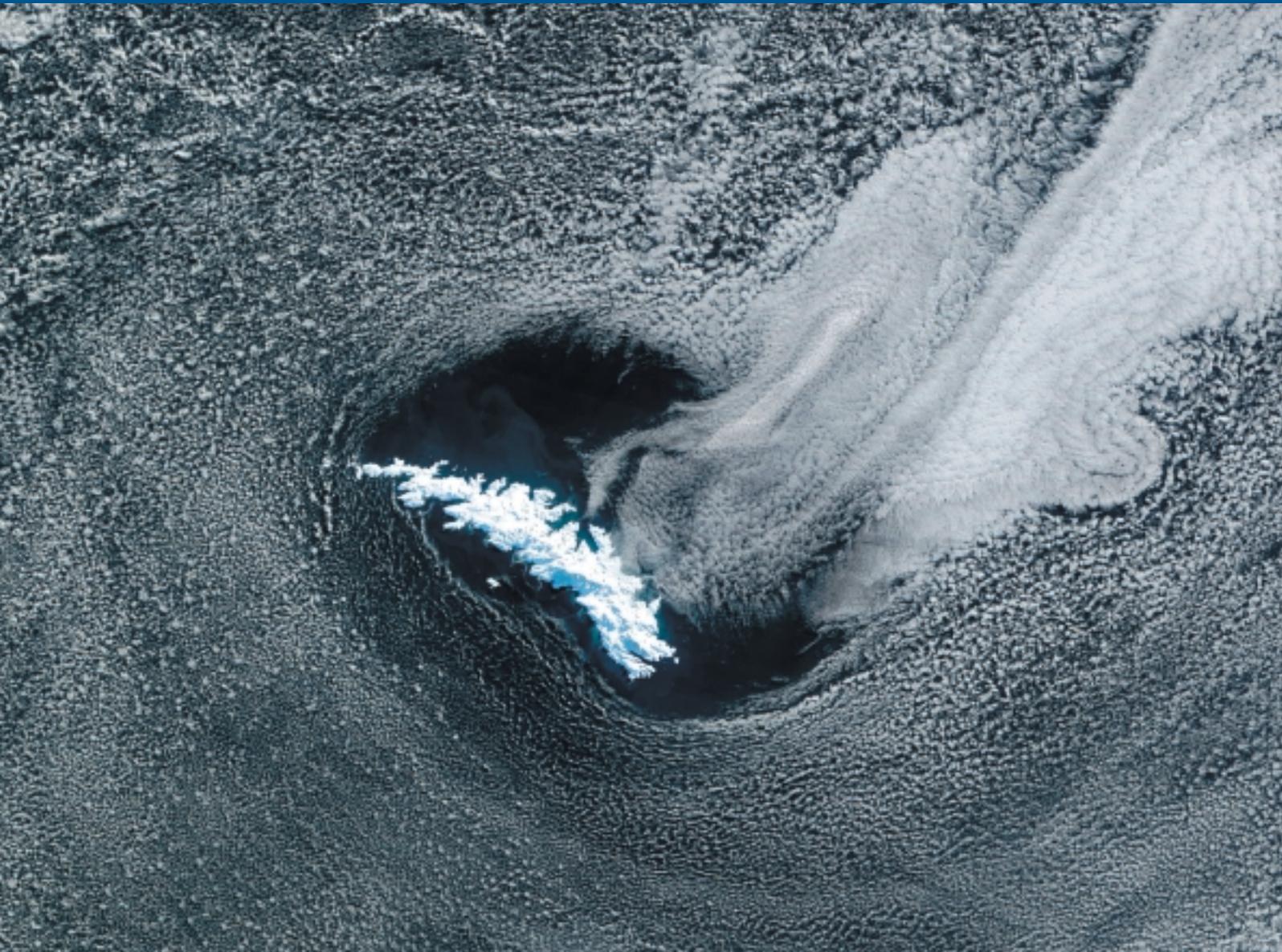


South Georgia: Plan for Progress



Managing the Environment
2006 – 2010

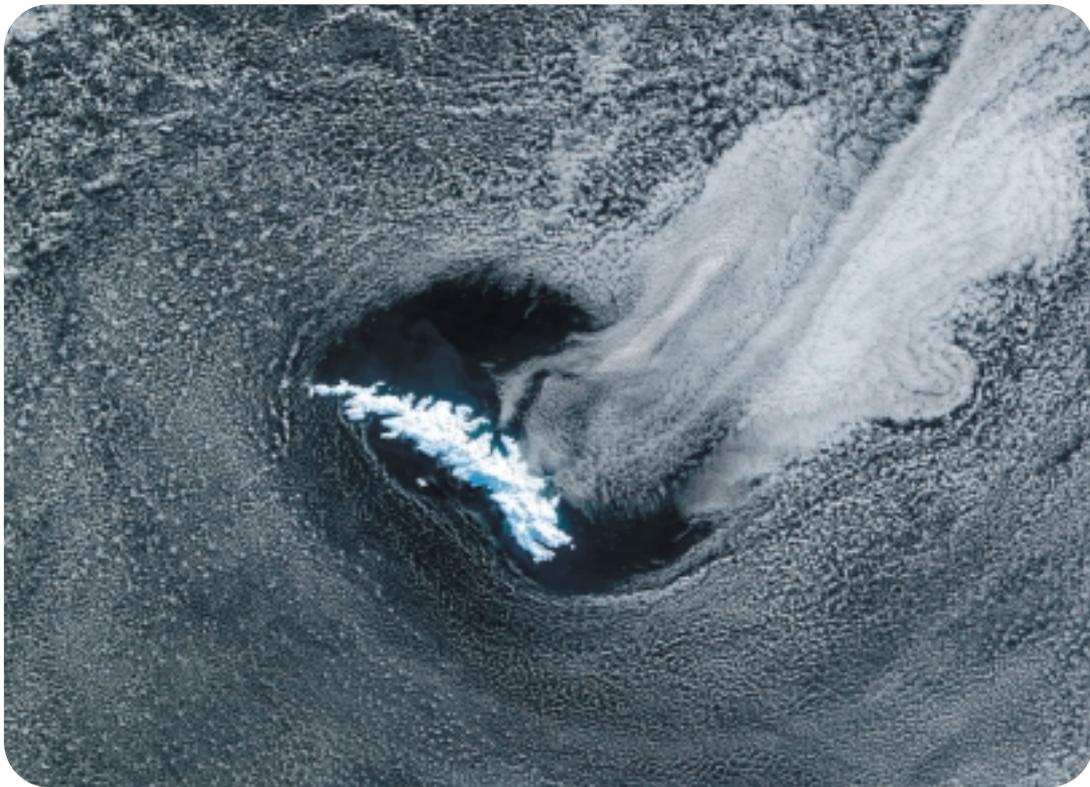
South Georgia: Plan for Progress

Managing the Environment
2006 – 2010

The news was announced just before this publication went to press of the sudden death of Brigadier David Nicholls, Royal Marines (retd). David was a tremendous enthusiast for South Georgia. As Director of Project Atlantis (which manages the South Georgia website - www.sgisland.org - amongst its other South Georgia related activities), founding Chairman of the Trustees of the South Georgia Heritage Trust, and leader of two highly successful British Schools Exploring Society expeditions to the island, he devoted much of his very considerable energy to the service of South Georgia. David was a good and loyal friend to many, and is much missed. He left us far too soon.

Howard J S Pearce CVO, Commissioner for South Georgia
and the South Sandwich Islands. July 2006

South Georgia: Plan for Progress



Managing the Environment *2006 – 2010*

Compiled by Dr Liz Pasteur and Prof David D.W.Walton

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Preface

The first Environmental Management Plan for South Georgia was published in 2000. It was the result of an excellent initiative by Richard Ralph, my predecessor but one as Commissioner, and was seen through to conclusion by my immediate predecessor, Donald Lamont. It included a commitment to review and revise the Plan after five years. The result of this first revision is the current document.

This new publication is not intended to supercede the 2000 Plan, but rather to complement and update it. Much of the information contained in the original Plan and the approach to the environmental management of South Georgia which it describes remains current, and it will continue to be an invaluable reference document. But inevitably with the passage of time some of its content has become outdated, and experience has led us to revise and update some of the policies which it contains.

In preparing this new document we decided to adopt a different approach in terms of style and structure from the original Plan. With the growing number of visitors to South Georgia, we wanted the revised Plan to be couched less in the language of scientific discourse and to be made more accessible to the interested lay person. We have also aimed to provide more of the "flavour" of the South Georgia Government's work. We wanted to avoid the inclusion of information which will, of its very nature, be subject to change, as well as to make maximum use of the facilities and flexibility provided by the South Georgia Government website (www.sgisland.org). The reader will therefore find in the chapters which follow many signposts to the website as the source of more detailed and up to date information and guidance.

At the same time this document is intended as a substantial statement of the South Georgia Government's key environmental policies, the background to them, and the reasons for their adoption. At the end of each chapter, therefore,

we have included a succinct summary of the key policies covering the subject-matter of the chapter which the Government will be adopting over the next five years. Following that five year period we shall be taking another critical look at what we do and how we do it, with a view to producing a further version of the Plan. Precisely what form that will take will of course be a matter for my successor at the time.

The production of this revised version of the Plan has been a collaborative project, but most of the hard work has been undertaken on behalf of the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands by Professor David Walton and Dr Liz Pasteur of the British Antarctic Survey. They are both deeply committed to South Georgia, and I am grateful to them for their skill, dedication and hard work, and also for their sheer good humour and patience in response to some of my more unreasonable demands. This document is a monument to their qualities of which they should be proud.

I hope that you will enjoy reading the Plan and will find it stimulating and informative. Please do let us have your views or comments (although, given the tiny size of the South Georgia Government, we cannot promise to engage in extended correspondence). It is a privilege to be responsible for the governance and management of this unique Island and the many challenges which it presents. The responsibility is a heavy one, but one which I and my colleagues in the South Georgia Government relish and enjoy.



Howard J S Pearce CVO
Commissioner for South Georgia
and the South Sandwich Islands
March 2006