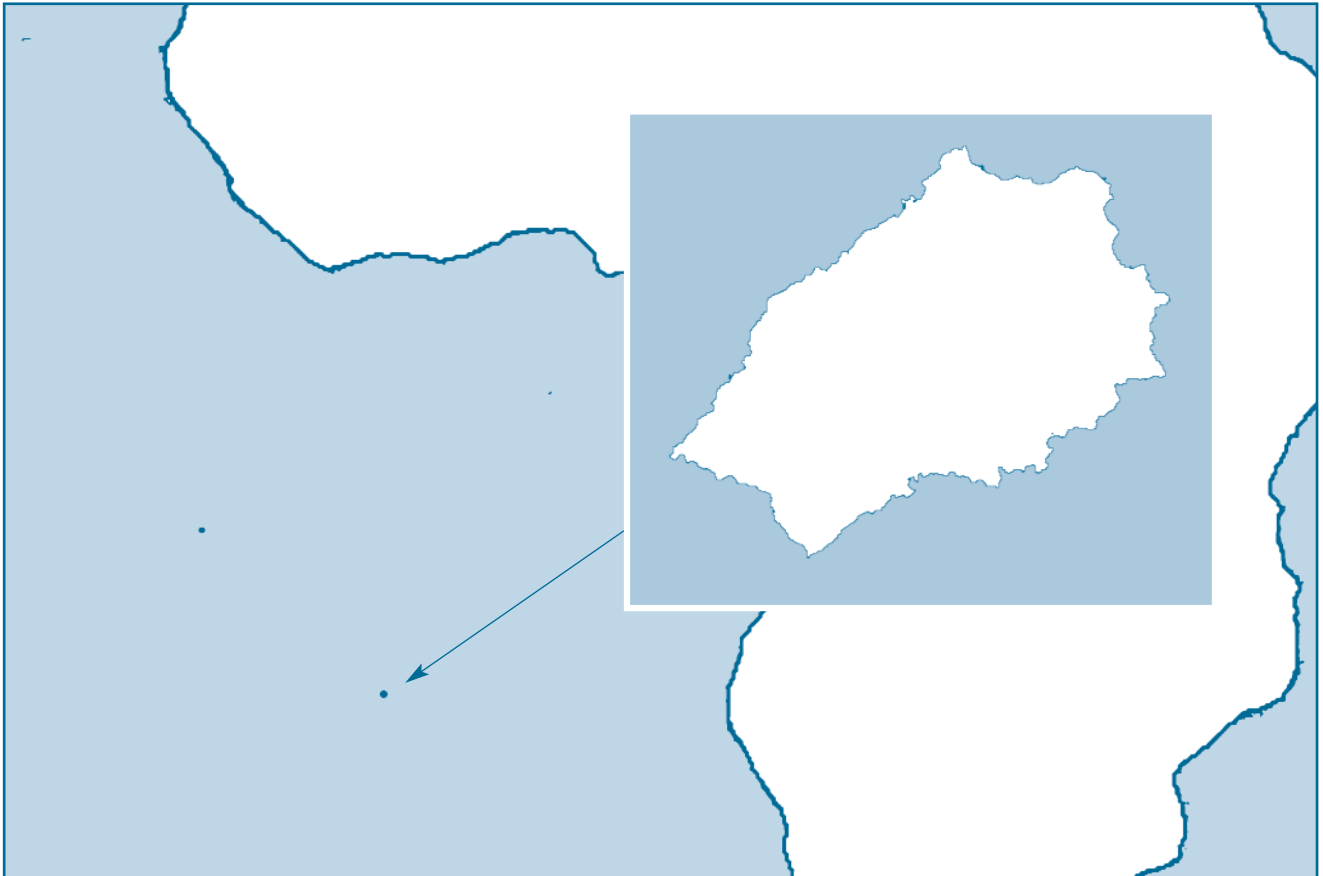


July 2002

ST HELENA



A Country Policy Plan (CPP) was agreed between the UK Government and the Government of St Helena in January 2000, providing £29 million in development assistance over three years. The CPP sets out the respective responsibilities of the two governments and their shared long-term goal of sustainable improvements in the social and economic well-being of 'Saints', the island's increased self-sufficiency, and reduced dependence on UK Government funding. However, the CPP also recognises the constraints on St Helena's

development, for example its considerable isolation, natural resource limitations, small population and small domestic market.

The UK aid programme for St Helena is administered by the Department for International Development (DFID). Essentially, the St Helena programme follows the aims of successive UK Government White Papers – to support economic growth and self-sufficiency through sensible economic and financial management; and to help

Some one in five of the world's population live in extreme poverty. Governments worldwide have agreed to work together to halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015, and to other targets including universal primary education and improved healthcare. The British Government is strongly committed to these targets.

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ensure that basic needs are met. The programme is wide-ranging, providing budgetary aid (about £4 million annually to meet the recurrent budget deficit) and development assistance for education, health, governance, infrastructure and access.

PROJECTS

Projects under the programme currently include supplying medical experts and know-how to the island, supplying educational expertise in introducing the national curriculum and support for islanders seeking higher education qualifications, supporting the island's nurses in career development and training, community care for the elderly and those with special needs, improved sewerage and power generation.

DFID and the St Helena Government are also currently considering the possibility of building an airport on St Helena to improve access – an option that has the support of the majority of islanders. At present, all access, both freight and passenger, is by sea by means of the Royal Mail Ship (RMS) St Helena, the service of which is supported by an annual DFID subsidy.

BACKGROUND

The UK Government is committed to meeting the reasonable needs of the British Overseas Territories. DFID is responsible for development aspects of this obligation, for which some £40 million is committed annually. The Territories that still need our assistance are (in alphabetical order) Anguilla, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha and Turks and Caicos Islands.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.DFID.GOV.UK

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