

Ministry of Health, the Environment, Energy and Climate Change

PRESS RELEASE

No: 196/2016

Date: 25th April 2016

Gibraltar featured in 'Britain's treasure islands' documentary series

Gibraltar's wildlife and natural environment has been included in the latest documentary series aired by the BBC showcasing the biodiversity, culture and history of the United Kingdom's Overseas Territories.

Stewart McPherson, a well-known naturalist, has been busy for the past 4 years filming the unique plant and animal species as well as the fascinating cultures and rich history found in each of the Territories. He is the only person known to have ever visited all of the current Overseas Territories. Scattered across all seven seas—the sun literally never sets on them—the Territories cover an area seven times the size of the United Kingdom. They are home to 350,000 British subjects and harbour 20 times the UK's biodiversity, including many of the greatest wildlife spectacles on Earth. The UK's Overseas Territories are spread across a range of latitudes that extend from the equator to the South Pole and are home to every major habitat type, including rainforests, coral reefs, volcanic deserts, polar tundra and icy wastes.

Gibraltar is featured in Episode 3 of the series which will be shown on BBC4 on Tuesday 26th April at 9pm and repeated on Wednesday 27th April at 8pm (Gibraltar time). The episode was filmed and produced in collaboration with a number of Gibraltar stakeholders, including the Department of the Environment and Climate Change, the Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society and the Gibraltar Museum.

In addition to the documentary series, a dedicated website has been created (www.britainstreasureislands.com) that includes information and hundreds of photos relating to each Territory, as well as 42 short 'mini-documentary' films that can be viewed online. Information and teaser reels for the documentary series as well as an accompanying natural history book written by Stewart McPherson can also be found on the Britain's Treasure Islands website.