The MPA will be managed by the Ascension Island Government, but the island community will be central to decision making through their involvement in oversight committees. Independent scientists will also advise on management of the MPA and each year we will publish the results of our monitoring so that everyone can see how well the MPA is performing against its objectives.

The MPA will seek protect the unique biological diversity and the cultural importance of the ocean around Ascension by achieving the following strategic objectives:

1) To conserve Ascension Island’s marine biodiversity, habitats and ecological functions for long-term ecosystem health
2) To promote the sustainable development of social and economic activities in the MPA that are compatible with protection of the marine environment
3) To promote scientific research and share knowledge about Ascension Island’s marine biodiversity in order to encourage support for marine conservation locally and internationally
4) To achieve effective governance and management of the MPA that is transparent and underpinned by sustainable financial and human resources

The MPA offers great opportunities for the island. We will realise these by:

- Protecting and enhancing the precious marine resource valued so highly by the community
- Creating a positive reputation for Ascension on the world stage through our public engagement campaign
- Attracting tourists and researchers to bring income to the island

The MPA is home to amazing species and habitats:
- Over half a million breeding seabirds including a unique species of frigatebird
- The second largest green turtle nesting population in the Atlantic
- An abundance of top predators such as tuna, marlin and sharks
- 11 species of inshore fish found nowhere else in the world

But the other species are important too and we will protect all of the near-pristine marine ecosystems around Ascension. They provide an example to the rest of the world of what our oceans could and should look like.

We are taking action to address the greatest threats to the MPA:

- Climate change: All we can do is make our ocean as resilient as possible to this global threat
- Illegal fishing: We use satellite surveillance to deter, identify and prevent illegal fishing
- Non-native species: We enforce controls on visiting vessels and detect any new invaders quickly

Illustrations by Lucie Machin; Photos Paul Colley and Jude Brown