

Project Update: November 2016

The results of the pilot study have been presented at the II International Conference on Island Evolution, Ecology and Conservation (<http://www.islandbiology2016.uac.pt/>) and used on Ana Coelho's MSc thesis, which she successfully defended on 14th November 2016, earning a 19/20 grade.

The main fieldwork seasons took place in April, June and September 2016, during which we collected 1374 birds of 15 species, all endemic except for one introduced *Estrilda astrild*. The faecal samples obtained are still being processed.

We have characterised the adult and regenerating vegetation, surveyed fruit availability, collected over 250 samples for the seed reference collection, and trained four field assistants in bird ringing and seed identification.

This work was covered by CNN's Inside Africa (<http://edition.cnn.com/videos/world/2016/11/07/inside-africa-sao-tome-and-principe-biosphere-c.cnn>).

The last fieldwork season will take place in January 2017, after which we will deliver the outreach components of the project



Left: The endemic São Tomé green pigeon has the potential to disperse larger seeds at greater distances. Right: A local team has been trained in bird ringing and plant identification.