



Giving back: the Mouse-Free Marion Project releases a poster to thank its many supporters

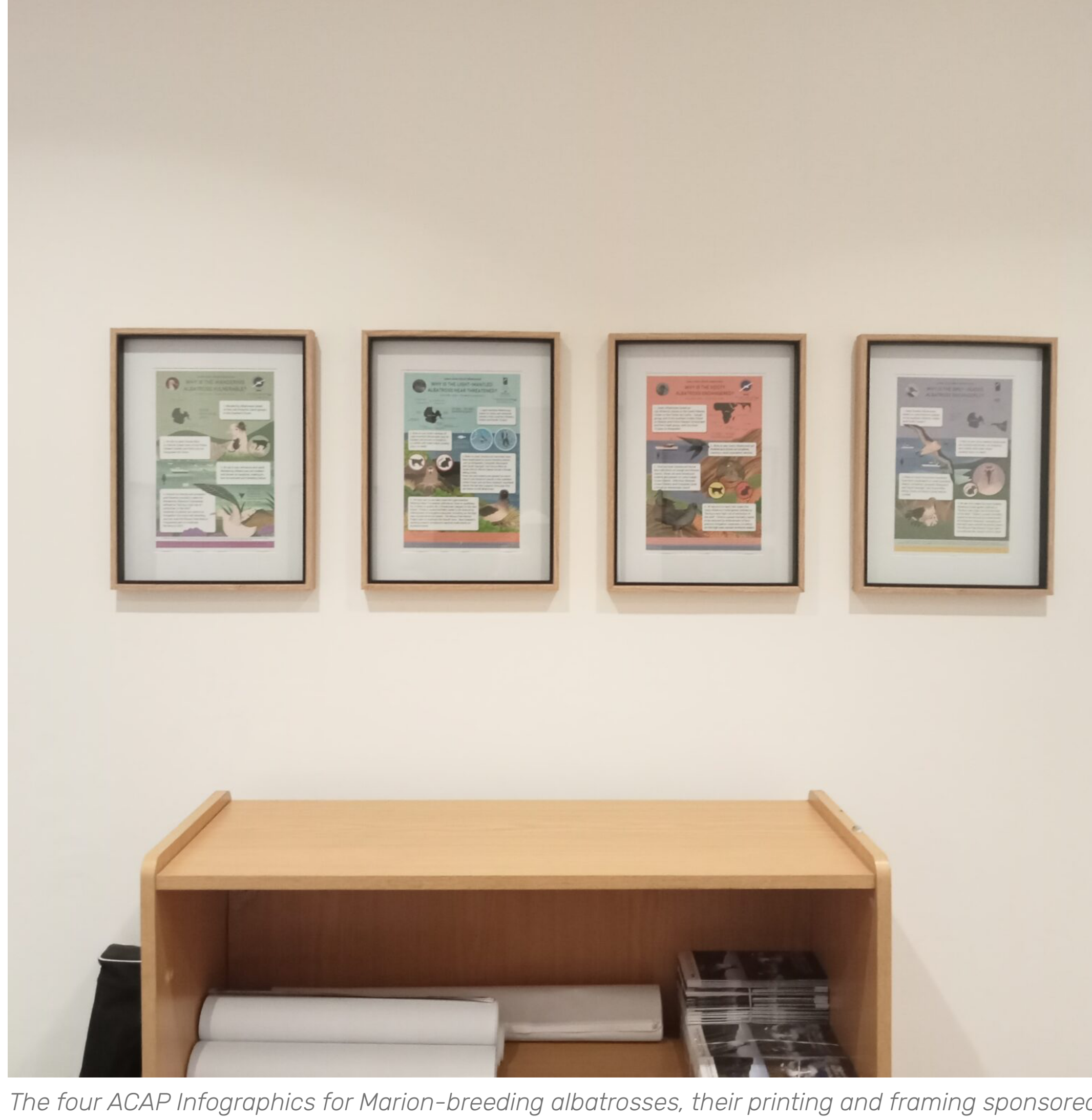
Above picture: *The four albatrosses that breed on Marion Island are all at risk of predation by mice; artwork and poster design by Namasri "Namo" Niumim*

Eradicating Marion Island's alien House Mice will be an expensive operation, probably one of the most, island rodent eradications ever conducted or planned. This is a reflection of the characteristics of the island (size, remote location and other factors) and the nature of the operation required. Ensuring that the budget comprehensively covers all essential requirements is of paramount importance, as it greatly enhances the likelihood of attaining a successful outcome.

Fund-raising the hundreds of millions of Rands required is by necessity a long and arduous task, one the Mouse-Free Marion (MFM) Project has been working on assiduously for over five years, with still some way to go before the eradication, currently planned for 2026, can take place. Over this time the financial support we have received has been hugely encouraging. Over 1900 individuals and organizations from South Africa and from around the world have contributed to the **Sponsor a Hectare** appeal, raising nearly seven million Rands to date, with sponsorships coming in regularly. Along with this crowd-funding initiative, major donations have been received from many trusts, funding bodies and the like and from individuals, some preferring to remain anonymous.

With the recent year ending in a season broadly considered one for giving, the MFM Project Team has given some thought as to how it can thank its supporters. All hectare sponsors receive a Certificate of Sponsorship, but we thought that perhaps, in addition, you would like to have an attractive artwork that you can freely download and consider framing to decorate a wall in your home or office.

The MFM Project's new "Albatrosses on Marion Island" poster has been produced *pro bono* for the project by Thai illustrator **Namasri 'Namo' Niumim** from Bangkok. Namo, who works in gouache, graduated from the School of Architecture and Design, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Communication Design. The poster depicts the four Marion Island albatrosses, Grey-headed, Light-mantled, Sooty and Wandering, that are all susceptible to predation by mice. The paintings of each albatross have been taken from an infographic series Namo is producing for all **31 species** of albatrosses and petrels listed by the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP). It is pleasing to note that ACAP gave its **endorsement** to the MFM Project at the last meeting of its **Advisory Committee** and has now given its approval for its infographic artwork to be used to create the new poster.



The four ACAP Infographics for Marion-breeding albatrosses, their printing and framing sponsored by supporters, decorate the MFM Project's office in BirdLife South Africa's recently opened Cape Town headquarters

Three of the four ACAP Species Infographics depicting Marion Island albatrosses have been sponsored by BirdLife South Africa on behalf of the MFM Project. All of them are freely available for **downloading** from ACAP's website. The new poster joins a series of 34 MFM Project photographic posters designed *pro bono* by long-time MFM supporter, Michelle Risi, available for **downloading** from the MFM website and also from an **album** on the MFM Project Facebook page.

With renewed thanks to you all for supporting a project to which the whole MFM Project Team is passionately committed. Enjoy your poster, and the festive season!

John Cooper, News Correspondent, Mouse-Free Marion Project, 16 January 2024



A Wandering Albatross chick on Marion Island; photograph by John Dickens and poster design by Michelle Risi

The Mouse-Free Marion Project is a registered non-profit company (No. 2020/922433/08) in South Africa, established to eradicate the invasive albatross-killing mice on Marion Island in the Southern Ocean. The project was initiated by **BirdLife South Africa** and the South African **Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment**. Upon successful completion, the project will restore the critical breeding habitat of over two million seabirds, many globally threatened, and improve the island's resilience to a warming climate. For more information or to support the project please visit mousefreemarion.org.

By John Cooper | January 16th, 2024 | Uncategorized | 0 Comments

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