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PRESS RELEASE

São Paulo, Brazil: June 12, 2017. National Geographic's largest environmental preservation initiative is on its way to the remote Ascension Island, with help from GAC Brazil in Recife.

The team behind the Pristine Seas project is on expedition to the island, in partnership with the Ascension Island Conservation Department, the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

They are on board the National Geographic's vessel, the RSS James Clark Ross, which arrived at Recife from Montevideo in Uruguay. Once at the port, GAC's team took care of a crew change and arranged for the scientists joining the ship for exhibition to embark. They also handled the delivery and loading of important research equipment, including a full range of remote-sensing equipment.

Operations at the port were coordinated by Elberland Silva, GAC's Ship Operator at Recife, who says: "It is exciting to play even a small part in the important work of the National Geographic Society and the British Antarctic Survey. This was a great opportunity to start a long-term relationship with them both."

Tim Page, Master for the RSS James Clark Ross says GAC's team at Recife took good care of his vessel and worked hard to arrange the release charter equipment held by customs.

BBC Television and Natgeo presenter Paul Rose was among those who joined the ship at Recife. He adds: "Many thanks to GAC for the excellent handling. It feels great to be aboard!"

The RSS James Clark Ross has now begun its 1,200 nautical mile passage to the island where the team will prepare for deep ocean work and make new discoveries of the seafloor at Ascension.