
CV19RR\1016

Native Plants for Biodiversity

A short-term boost is needed for native plant production, habitat maintenance and invasive species management for biodiversity conservation at the Millennium Forest.

Aim: to balance out the effects of Covid-19 on biodiversity at Millennium Forest habitat restoration site.

Key activities:

1. Set up project team
2. Initiate native plant propagation
3. Initiate compost production
4. Clear invasive plant species from habitat sites
5. Plant established plants back into wild

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title	Mr
Name	Mike
Surname	Jervois
Organisation	St Helena National Trust
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Tel (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Charity/ trusts
Name	St Helena National Trust
Phone (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

Section 2 - Project Title & Previous Applications

Q3. Project Title:

Native Plants for Biodiversity

Q4. Existing project

Q4a. Does your organisation have an existing (or recently finished) project under either Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus or Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund?

Yes

If yes, please list the project reference and title of relevant projects (e.g. 25-001, DPLUS090, IWT099).

Reference of current/recent project:

DPLUS104, DPLUS107

Title of current/recent project:

Conserving St Helena's endemic invertebrates through invasive vertebrate control
Community supported multispecies invasive vertebrate control on St Helena

Q4b. Is this proposal directly relevant to one of the projects listed above? Yes**If yes, please list the relevant project reference and title.**

DPLUS104 Conserving St Helena's endemic invertebrates through invasive vertebrate control

Section 3 - Countries, Dates & Budget Summary**Q5. Which Fund's objectives will your project most directly address? (please only select one)** Darwin Plus**Q6. Country(ies)****Which eligible country(ies) will your project be working in?****Country 1**

St Helena

Country 2*No Response***Country 3***No Response***Country 4***No Response***Do you require more fields?** No**Q7. Project dates****Start Date:**

01 January 2021

End date:

31 March 2021

Q8. Budget summary**Darwin/IWT Funding Request****Total request 2020/21:**

16,360.00

Please note all spending must fall between 1st January 2021 - 31st March 2021

Q8a. If any matched funding arrangements are proposed, please detail them here.

0

Section 4 - Project Outcome and Summary

Q9. Outcome

What is the expected Outcome of this project?

Habitat restoration at the Millennium Forest is given a short-term boost through an intensive propagation programme to establish native plants in-situ in the nursery

Q10. Summary of project

Please provide a brief summary of your project, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking. Please note that if you are successful, this wording may be used by Defra in communications e.g. as a short description of the project on GOV.UK.

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Section 5 - Project Partners

Q11. Project partners

Please list all the partners involved (including the Lead Organisation) and provide a summary of their roles. Please upload letters, emails or other confirmation of support from any new partners.

Lead Organisation name: St Helena National Trust

Other partners involved: None

Summary of roles and responsibilities in project:

Mike Jervois - Project Leader - Responsible for oversight of the project

Martina Peters - Project Manager - Responsible for daily management of the project outcomes, activities and staff





Christopher Clingham - Millennium Forest Supervisor - to lead field activities and supervise field staff.

Three assistants - vital roles for growing plants, producing compost, clearing invasive species, and planting established plants at sites

If you have not provided evidence of support from the Lead Organisation or partners above, please explain why:

letter provided

Please provide a combined PDF of letters of support from the lead organisation and partner(s) as relevant.

-  [SHNT Letter of Support](#)
-  26/10/2020
-  13:39:34
-  pdf 481.2 KB

Section 6 - Project Staff

Q12. Project staff

Please identify the core staff on this project, their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project. Further information on who should be classified as core staff can be found in the guidance. Please provide a 1 page CV for the proposed Project Leader and any co-Project Leader if relevant.

Name (First name, surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV attached?
Mike Jervois	Project Leader	10	Checked
Martina Peters	Project Manager	20	Unchecked
Christopher Clingham	Millennium Forest Nursery Manager	100	
Unknown Person	Project Assistant	100	

Do you require more fields?

Yes


Name (First name, surname)	Role	% time on project
Unknown Person	Project Assistant	100
Unknown Person	Project Assistant	100
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0

Please provide 1 page CVs for the proposed Project Leader and any co-Project Leader listed above as a combined PDF.

Ensure the file is named clearly, consistent with the named individual and role above.

 [CV Summary one page Oct 2020](#)

 26/10/2020

 14:51:51

 pdf 664.21 KB

Section 7 - Problem, Method and Change Expected

Q13. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of Covid-19 and its impact on biodiversity or IWT and sustainable livelihoods. For example, what are the drivers of loss of biodiversity that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems? Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem (references can be listed in an additional attached PDF document).

Funding streams for the Millennium Forest - a flagship habitat restoration project - have been reduced due to delays with grant schemes, redirection of funds towards Covid-19 responses, and a reduction of tourism-related income due to St Helena's severe travel restrictions. The lack of funding means the National Trust has not been able to employ key workers to carry out conservation tasks. It has led to reduced ability to propagate native plants at the Millennium Forest nursery, reduced ability to manage invasive plant species, reduced ability to produce compost for growing plants, and reduced ability to plant into the wild the

already established plants growing in the nursery. In short, Covid-19 has had an overall negative effect on biodiversity at the Millennium Forest.

The Millennium Forest is a long-term habitat restoration project and community hub for engaging with the natural environment which requires ongoing funding to operate. The Millennium Forest is the National Trust's key habitat site which operates on a bare-bones budget. Pre-Covid the Forest received funding from project grants, donations, sponsorship and visitor fees.

Q14. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome. Provide information on:

- How you have analysed historical and existing initiatives and are building on or taking work already done into account in project design. Please cite evidence where appropriate.
- The rationale for carrying out this work and a justification of your proposed methodology.
- If relevant, how this project links to an ongoing Darwin/IWT project.
- How you will undertake the work (materials and methods).
- How you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools etc.).

Projects should also consider how best they can address inequality, especially gender inequality, as per the existing guidance for each fund.

Please make sure you read the Guidance Notes, particularly Section 3, before answering this question.

Activity 1: Establish project team.

Set up project team within two weeks of project start date, led by the Trust's Director, with support from the Head of Conservation and Millennium Forest Supervisor. Recruit three staff on short, fixed term contracts. Recruitment of staff is vital for achieving the outcome of this project.

Activity 2: Propagation of 2,000 native plants will be initiated through seeds sown, seedlings transferred into grow bags.

Using existing materials and tools, propagation of 2,000 native plants (1,000 gumwood, 300 teaplat, 300 boxwood, 400 salad plant) will be initiated in the nursery. Seeds have already been collected and will be sown in seed trays. Once seedlings have sprouted they will be transferred to growing bags and remain in the nursery until they are large enough to be planted in the wild. Although these plants will not be planted in the wild during the life of this project, they will ensure plants are ready for planting in the near future.

Activity 3: Compost production will be continued which will provide compost beyond the life of the project.

Propagation in nurseries requires on compost to add vital nutrients to the soil which helps the plants grow. Compost is created at Millennium Forest in large composting areas using invasive plants which have been cleared from habitat sites across the island.

Activity 4: Invasive plant species will be cleared from habitat sites in preparation for native plantings

Millennium Forest requires regular maintenance to keep out invasive plant species which compete with native species for space, soil nutrients and water. Before native plants can be planted into the wild, sites will be cleared of invasive species to give the natives the best chance of survival. Tungi, aloe and wild mango are the main invasive plants that will be removed.

Activity 5: 500 native plants that are already established in the nursery will be planted back into the wild

Native plants that are in the nursery and ready to be planted will be put back into the wild in locations which have been cleared of invasive plants. This will allow grow bags to be reused for the next batch of seedlings and provide additional space in the nursery.

Q15. Change expected

Detail the expected changes this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who will benefit a) in the short-term (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended). Please describe the changes for biodiversity/environment and for people in developing countries, and how they are linked. If you are proposing building on a current or past project, be clear how additional benefits will be delivered through this project.

When talking about people, please remember to give details of who will benefit and the number of beneficiaries expected. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used. If possible, indicate the number of women who will be impacted.

Plant production is the key limiting factor in enabling us to increase the area of habitat under active restoration. This work will enable a short-term boost in conservation effort which will put our propagation schedule back on track after it was slowed due to the compounding negative effects of Covid-19 on biodiversity.

By focusing on all four vital elements of habitat restoration: plant propagation, invasive plant clearance, compost production, and putting native plants back into the wild, we are ensuring that the cycle of restoration is maintained and does not slip behind schedule again.

Short term benefits include temporary employment of three extra people not normally employed at the Trust and maintaining a plant production schedule at Millennium Forest. Biodiversity will be improved through the removal of invasive plant species and planting of 500 native plants.

Longer term benefits include improvements to biodiversity and soil health through the propagation of 2,000 native plants and production of compost. Operations at Millennium Forest nursery will become better overall by improving our collective skill levels and developing more efficient production systems whilst minimising production costs, and having staff dedicated to nursery operations, albeit for a limited time period. This project will contribute to the investment needed to achieve and sustain this locally.

If necessary, please provide supporting documentation e.g. maps, diagrams, references etc., as a PDF using the File Upload below:

No Response

Section 8 - Aims, Objectives and Exit Strategy

Q16. Aims and objectives

Clearly outline the aim and objectives of the project and how the achievement will be measured. Use SMART objectives if possible.

Aim: to give a short-term boost in conservation effort which will put our propagation schedule back on track after it was stalled due to the compounding effects of Covid-19 on biodiversity.

Objectives:

1. To set up a project team of six people (Director, Head of Conservation, Millennium Forest Supervisor, and three new recruits). Three people will be recruited locally on short-term contracts within 2 weeks of project start.
2. To initiate propagation of 2,000 native plants (1,000 gumwood, 300 teapland, 400 salad plant, 300 boxwood) in the first month of the project to maintain nursery growing schedule,
3. To continue production of compost and replace compost used during nursery plant propagation. 50 cubic metres of invasive plant vegetation will be collected over the life of the project (equivalent to 1 trailer load per week for three months).
4. To plant 500 established native plants from the nursery back into the wild during the life of the project.
5. To ensure native plants from the nursery are planted in places free of invasive plant species by clearing 500 square metres of invasive species over the life of the project.

Q17. Exit strategy

State how the project will reach a stable and sustainable end point, and explain how the outcomes will be sustained, either through a continuation of activities, funding and support from other sources or because the activities will be mainstreamed in to "business as usual".

The boost of effort achieved through the project will enable the Millennium Forest plant propagation schedule to get back on track. Activities will be continued through funding and support from a grant from the Mohammed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund which has been awarded and is hoped to start later in 2021. A much longer term plan to create a commercial venture at Millennium Forest to sell horticultural plants alongside native plants is being considered which will provide sustainable conservation funding in a Covid world.

Section 9 - Budget

Q18. Budget

Provide a detailed breakdown of costs to be funded by the Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus/IWT Challenge Fund in GBP.

See Finance for Darwin/IWT for which costs sit under which budget line.

Budget Line	Cost in £ (GBP)
Staff costs	████
Consultancy costs	0
Overhead costs	████
Travel and subsistence	████
Operating costs	████
Capital equipment*	0
Other costs	████
Total (Must be less than or equal to £60,000)	16,360.00
*If you are proposing to purchase any capital items over £1,000 please detail these here and provide justification below	<i>No Response</i>

Q19. Financial Risk Management

This question considers the financial risks to the project. Explain how you have considered the risks and threats that may be relevant to the successful financial delivery of this project. This includes risks such as fraud or bribery, but may also include the risk of fluctuating foreign exchange and internal financial processes such as storage of financial data.

The St Helena National Trust has strict financial control guidelines and is required by law to have an annual audit. The Trust has robust financial management procedures which is overseen by the Head of Finance as well as the Treasurer from the Trust Council.

Q20. Capital items

If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin/IWT funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end. If you are requesting more than 10% capital costs, please provide your justification here.

No capital items will be purchased.

Q21. Value for Money

Please describe why you consider your application to be good value for money including justification of why the measures you will adopt will secure value for money.

The project represents the most advantageous combination of cost, quality and sustainability. Costs have been reduced because we will not require purchase of capital items because we are capitalising on existing

facilities and materials as much as possible. Quality will be high because we have highly trained staff managing the project and we will use propagation methods which have been developed and honed over the past 20 years. The project is sustainable because it provides long term environmental sustainability through restoring endemic habitat.

Section 10 - Ethics and Safeguarding

Q22. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting Darwin/IWT's key principles for ethics as outlined in the guidance note. Additionally, are there any human rights and/or international humanitarian law risks in relation to your project? If there are, have you carried out an assessment of the impact of those risks, and of measures that may be taken in order to mitigate them?

Requirements for ethics have been considered in project design. Permission for a research permit from the St Helena Research Institute is not required. The Trust operates within a legal framework with appropriate policies and procedures which alleviate the risks of violating human rights, employment laws, environmental laws, and health, safety and welfare laws.

Q23. Safeguarding

Projects funded through the Darwin Initiative/IWT Challenge Fund must fully protect vulnerable people all of the time, wherever they work. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have appropriate safeguarding policies in place. The award Terms and Conditions set out clear requirements on safeguarding. Please confirm you have read and understand these and that you comply with them all.

Checked

Section 11 - Key Milestones

Q24. Provide an overview of your proposed project, outlining key milestones.

N.B. This should cover the period of your requested project only and the start/end dates should match with those provided in Question 7.

Date	Key Milestone
01 January 2021	START
22 January 2021	Project team set up

29 January 2021	Propagation native plants initiated - seeds sown
31 March 2021	2,000 native plant seedlings (1,000 gumwood, 300 teapant, 300 boxwood, 400 salad plant) transferred to growing bags
31 March 2021	Equivalent of 50 cubic metres of invasive vegetation added to compost
28 February 2021	Invasive plant species cleared from habitat restoration area in preparation for planting of natives
31 March 2021	500 native plants that are already established in nursery planted back into wild
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
31 March 2021	FINISH

Section 12 - Certification

Q25. FCDO notifications

Please check the box if you think that there are sensitivities that the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise the project's success in the Darwin/IWT competition in the host country.

Checked

Please indicate whether you have contacted your Foreign Ministry or the local embassy or High Commission (or equivalent) directly to discuss security issues (see Guidance Notes) and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

No

Q26. Certification

On behalf of the

trustees

of

St Helena National Trust

I apply for a grant of

£16,360.00

I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the project schedule should this application be successful.

(This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the applicant institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)

- I have enclosed a CV for the Project Leader/co-PL and letters or confirmation of support (uploaded at appropriate points in application)

Checked

Name Mike Jervois

Position in the organisation Director

Signature (please upload e-signature)

 [Mike Signature](#)

 26/10/2020

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Date 26 October 2020

Section 13 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

Check

I have read the Guidance, including the “Guidance Notes for Applicants” and “Finance for Darwin and IWT Challenge Fund”.	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for the relevant fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for my project.	Checked
I have provided my budget in GBP.	Checked
The application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	Checked
I have included a 1 page CV for the Project Leader (and co-Project Leader if relevant).	Checked
I have included a letter or electronic confirmation of support from the lead organisation and main partner organisation(s) identified at Question 11, or an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have checked the website on GOV.UK immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on GOV.UK.	Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in this application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the latest copy of the Privacy Notice for Darwin, Darwin Plus and the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund available [here](#). This Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead organisation, location, and total grant value) on the GOV.UK and other websites.

Information relating to the project or its results may also be released on request, including under the 2004 Environmental Information Regulations and the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However, Defra will not permit any unwarranted breach of confidentiality nor will we act in contravention of our obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679).