

# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2014)

<b>Project Ref No</b>	19-029
<b>Project Title</b>	Laying the foundations for invertebrate conservation on St Helena
<b>Country(ies)</b>	UK and St Helena
<b>UK Organisation</b>	Buglife – the Invertebrate Conservation Trust
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	St Helena National Trust, St Helena Government, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH)
<b>Project Leader</b>	Alice Farr
<b>Report date</b>	October 2014
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	3
<b>Project website</b>	<a href="http://www.nationaltrust.org.sh/shnt-conservation-programmes/natural-heritage/bugs-on-the-brink-our-invertebrates/">http://www.nationaltrust.org.sh/shnt-conservation-programmes/natural-heritage/bugs-on-the-brink-our-invertebrates/</a>

**1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).**

## **Output 1**

A priority for this year is to assess endemic invertebrates for conservation status using the IUCN criteria. An initial list of assessed species has been submitted to the IUCN and is awaiting publication.

There is now an Invertebrate focussed conservation staff member (Government based Invertebrate Officer) working within Environmental Management Directorate of St Helena Government. This has ensured that invertebrate conservation is embedded in the core conservation work of the St Helena Government (SHG) and that SHG is able to drive forward Red Listing work.

## **Output 2**

Training of Government based Invertebrate Officer is underway to ensure that they have the necessary skills to carry out the role. The UK Invertebrate Consultant and Invertebrate Coordinator are carrying out the training.

The setting up of the Invertebrate reference collection is in process. The collections cabinet has been ordered and is in transit. The Government based Invertebrate Officer is working with the Invertebrate Coordinator to prepare specimens and guidance on how to set up and manage the collection.

A second key priority for this year is to complete a guide of the island's endemic invertebrates. This is now 80% complete and expected to be available in early 2015.

## **Output 3**

A study into St Helena's pollinators was initiated during the most recent CEH visit to the island. On island pollinator studies are to be continued by the Government based Invertebrate Officer. A scientific paper on the genetics of *Commidendrum* is in preparation at the moment to start disseminating study outputs.

## **Output 4**

The Education Officer is developing the Loan box which will be used by St Helena Schools for

environmental education work. Once this is ready it will be rolled out to schools and teachers trained in its use. The Education Officer is working in partnership with the Millennium Forest Project to ensure that work is not duplicated and resources are more sustainable.

There has been on island publicity about the IUCN Red Listing and UK/worldwide PR is planned once first set of Red List species are formally published by the IUCN later this year.

**2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

Whilst considerable progress has been made in achieving output 3 it has proved more difficult than anticipated to deliver. For example the pollinator research had to be revised due to unforeseen circumstances (explained in the last annual review) which led to delays.

**Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

We are currently establishing how this can be best delivered in the remaining time of the project and will provide more information in due course.

**Discussed with LTS:** no

**Formal change request submitted:** no

**Received confirmation of change acceptance** no

**3. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?**

Yes  No

**If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible. It would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication of how much you expect this request might be for.**

**Estimated carryforward request:** £0

**4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?**

A significant proportion of emails from Darwin are still being sent to Buglife's general email address rather than the Project Lead. Please can all project communications be sent to [XXXX](#)

**If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.**

**Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with LTS International directly.**

Please send your **completed form by email** to Eilidh Young at [Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk). The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report**