

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2012)

Project Ref No	19-029
Project Title	Laying the Foundations for Invertebrate Conservation on St Helena.
Country(ies)	St Helena and UK
UK Organisation	Buglife – The Invertebrate Conservation Trust
Collaborator(s)	St Helena National Trust, St Helena Government, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (Edinburgh).
Project Leader	<i>Dr Richard M Smith</i>
Report date	<i>25 October 2012</i>
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	<i>HYR 1</i>
Project website	<i>pending</i>

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).

Richard Smith and Adam Wolfe, the new Director of the St Helena National Trust (hereafter referred to as the 'Trust'), met for the first time at the Darwin workshop for new projects in March 2012.

A Memorandum of Understanding for the running of project has been agreed and signed by all of the project partners.

Contracts for the delivery of the project have been agreed and signed between Buglife and two project partners: the Trust and Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (that with the Environmental Management Directorate - EMD, St Helena Government, will await appointment of the Invertebrate Officer post in the Nature Conservation Division, later in the project).

The two posts that will deliver the project locally on St Helena – Invertebrate Coordinator and Education Officer – are currently being recruited by the Trust. Applicants for the Coordinator post have been interviewed and a final short list is currently being assessed against references. The Education Officer post received one eligible local applicant, who is likely to be offered the post.

The invertebrate conservation consultant has reaffirmed his commitment to the project, since the original project application; he has provided considerable voluntary support during the establishment phase of the project.

Elements of the project that were due to start, but have not yet done so, are: collating the evidence base, beginning training, education and outreach, developing the website for invertebrate resources and organising collaboration with the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology.

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.

As significant staff and institutional changes have taken place on St Helena since the project application was made, the local implementation of the project has been delayed.

