
DPR10S2\1019

Growing hope – a blueprint for saving Ascension’s endemic plants

Ascension’s five critically endangered endemic plants face the dual threats of climate change and non-native species. Populations are in decline with some at serious risk of extinction. This project will undertake a thorough review of the successes and failures of past work. It will address knowledge gaps about the preferred growing conditions of plants and trial the best means to create suitable conditions and control non-native competitors. This will provide the evidence base for a new Endemic Plant Restoration Plan.

CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Diane
Surname	Baum
Website	[REDACTED]
Tel (Work)	[REDACTED]
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Address	[REDACTED]
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Section 1 - Contact Details

CONTACT DETAILS

Name Diane
Surname Baum
Website [REDACTED]
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
Email (Work) [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Other
Name	Ascension Island Government Conservation and Fisheries Directorate
Phone (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Website	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q3. Project title

Growing hope – a blueprint for saving Ascension’s endemic plants

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DPR10S1\1123

DPR10S1\1044

Q4. UKOT(s)

Which UK Overseas Territory(ies) will your project be working in?

St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha*

* if you have indicated a territory group with an asterisk, please give detail on which territories you are working on here:

Ascension

Q4b. In addition to the UKOTs you have indicated, will your project directly benefit any other Territories or country(ies)?

No

Q5. Project dates

Start date:

01 July 2022

End date:

30 June 2024

Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):

2 years

Q6. Budget summary

Year:	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total request
Darwin funding request (Apr - Mar)	£38,650.00	£30,400.00	£8,800.00	£77,850.00

Q6a. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

AIG staff time - [REDACTED]

AIG accommodation for project officer - [REDACTED]

Q6b. Proposed matched funding as % of total project cost (total cost is the Darwin request plus other funding required to run the project).

Q6c. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you fund the project if you don't manage to secure this?

All match funding listed above is confirmed.

Section 3 - Project Summary and Conventions

Q7. Summary of Project

Please provide a brief summary of your project, its aims, and the key activities you plan to undertake. Please note that if you are successful, this wording may be used by Defra in communications.

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

Ascension's five critically endangered endemic plants face the dual threats of climate change and non-native species. Populations are in decline with some at serious risk of extinction. This project will undertake a thorough review of the successes and failures of past work. It will address knowledge gaps about the preferred growing conditions of plants and trial the best means to create suitable conditions and control non-native competitors. This will provide the evidence base for a new Endemic Plant Restoration Plan.

Q8. Environmental Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Please detail how your project will contribute to the aims of the agreement(s) your project is targeting. What key OT Government priorities and themes will it address and how? You should refer to Articles or Programmes of Work here.

You should also consider local, territory specific agreements and action plans here.

Letters of support from UKOT Government partners/stakeholders should also make clear reference to the agreements/action plans your project is contributing towards.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has been extended to Ascension. This places an obligation on Ascension to conserve biodiversity and avoid species extinction, which are the primary aims of this project. It will also contribute to the delivery of key targets in the CBD's most recent Global Strategy for Plant Conservation:

Objective II: Plant diversity is urgently and effectively conserved

- Target 7: At least 75 per cent of known threatened plant species conserved in situ.
- Target 8: At least 75 per cent of threatened plant species in ex situ collections, preferably in the country of origin, and at least 20 per cent available for recovery and restoration programmes.
- Target 10: Effective management plans in place to prevent new biological invasions and to manage important areas for plant diversity that are invaded.

This project would align with the UK Government's 25 Year Environment Plan goal of: 'taking action to recover threatened, iconic or economically important species of animals, plants and fungi, and where possible to prevent human induced extinction or loss of known threatened species in England and the Overseas Territories.'

Protecting Ascension's endemic higher plants is a priority in Ascension's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. The evidence-based, sustainable conservation approaches that will be produced by this project are in keeping with the principles embedded in the updated NBSAP, which is in preparation.

Section 4 - Project Partners

Q9. Project Partners

Please list all the partners involved (including the Lead Partner) and explain their roles and responsibilities in the project. Describe the extent of their involvement at all stages, including project development.

This section should illustrate the capacity of partners to be involved in the project. Please provide Letters of Support for the lead partner and each partner or explain why this has not been included.

N.B: There is a file upload button at the bottom of this page for the upload of a cover letter and all letters of support.

Lead Partner name: Ascension Island Government Conservation and Fisheries Directorate

Website address: www.ascension.gov.ac

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): The Ascension Island Government Conservation and Fisheries Directorate (AIGCFD) is the only organisation undertaking biodiversity protection on the island and is responsible for ensuring Ascension's obligations under multinational environmental Agreements are met. It is the management authority for Ascension's protected areas and enforces legislation on species and habitat protection. AIGCFD will take overall responsibility for project management. It will facilitate the creation and operation of the Steering Group to oversee the project activities. The newly-recruited project officer will work with the existing AIGCFD Plant Team and Steering Group to design and implement the monitoring programme and restoration trials and prepare the new Restoration Plan. AIGCFD will organise a public consultation on the restoration plan.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

Have you provided a cover letter to address your Stage 1 feedback? Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

No

Please provide a cover letter responding to feedback received at Stage 1 if applicable and a combined PDF of all Letters of Support.

 [Darwin Plus 10 - Growing Hope-Letter responding to Stage 1 feedback](#)
 09/01/2022
 16:37:15
 pdf 598.78 KB

 [20211230-AIG Letter of support - Darwin R10 Growing Hope](#)
 07/01/2022
 13:48:08
 pdf 433.35 KB

Section 5 - Project Staff

Q10. Project Staff

Please identify the key 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 key project staff can be found in the guidance.

Please provide 1 page CVs for these staff, or a 1 page job description or Terms of Reference for roles yet to be filled. These should match the names and roles in the budget spreadsheet. If your team is larger than 12 people please review if they are key project staff, or whether you can merge roles (e.g. 'admin and finance support') below, but provide a full table based on this template in the PDF of CVs you provide.

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	Organisation	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Diane Baum	Project Leader	AIGCFD	5	Checked
Jolene Sim	Project Co-lead	AIGCFD	20	Checked
Lydia Horsman	Plant Team Assistant	AIGCFD	10	Checked
Diego Williams	Plant Team Assistant	AIGCFD	10	Checked

Do you require more fields?

Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	Organisation	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
To be recruited	Growing Hope Project Officer	AIGCFD	100	Checked
No Response	No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked

Please provide 1 page CVs (or job description if yet to be recruited) for the Project staff listed above as a combined PDF.

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

 DPLUS R10 Growing hope Stage 2 cvs combined
 08/01/2022
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 pdf 832.66 KB

Have you attached all Project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 6 - Background & Methodology

Q11. Problems the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of environment and climate issues in the UKOTs.

For example, what are the specific threats to the environment that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems? How will your proposed project help?

Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem (references can be listed in your additional attached PDF document which can be uploaded at the bottom of the page).

Ascension's Green Mountain National Park is home to five Critically Endangered endemic vascular plants. Local habitats have been so modified that there is barely any functioning ecosystem remaining. All five have continued to decline over the past decade and in the most serious case abundance has declined by 50% since 2012, making extinction in the wild a very real and imminent possibility. At present there is only a single Anogramma ascensionis plant known to be growing in the wild.

These declines come despite committed conservation efforts on the part of AIGCFD and past restoration projects that have failed to overcome the dual existential threats of non-native species and climate change. Much has been learnt through this work about how to propagate and cultivate the plants ex situ, but we have effectively put the species onto life support. Efforts to stabilise and expand wild populations through in situ measures or the planting out of cultivated plants have been largely unsuccessful.

There are still large gaps in our knowledge about the conditions required by the endemic species and the best means to control the non-native plants; these compromise our ability to address the causes of declines directly or to improve the success rates of our restoration planting. AIGCFD does not contain the expertise to conduct this research nor to draft a new restoration plan incorporating it and the actions required to reach a sustainable end goal.

We understand it is difficult to provide funding for another plan when past ones have not achieved their ultimate aim. However, the current plan has not worked, any change in approach has to start with a new plan and if we do nothing species extinction is inevitable. The next step has to be a new restoration plan building on past learning and filling knowledge gaps.

Q12. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and contribute towards your Impact. 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.
- How you will undertake the work (materials and methods).
- How you will manage the work (role and responsibilities, project management tools etc.)

(This may be a repeat from Stage 1 but you may update or refine as necessary)

Historical initiatives

Restoration plans have previously been developed for these species under OTEP ASC 503 and 801. These have been implemented by AIGCFD and cultivated endemics have been transplanted back into the wild since 2008. However, these efforts have failed to arrest population declines. Internal evaluation of these projects has highlighted the need for greater understanding of in situ habitat requirements and sustainable methods of non-native plant control.

AIGCFD's biannual endemic plant survey has recorded the status of wild populations since 2012 providing information on temporal and spatial variability in performance. However, more detailed analysis, coupled with local environmental measurements, are required to predict the key determinants.

The on-going DPLUS113 has greatly advanced our understanding of climate change on Green Mountain. We have developed better appreciation of how vegetation responds to water balance dynamics, and have pioneered successful techniques for restoring cinder banks – vital to endemic dwarf plant communities.

Due to extreme urgency, *Anogramma ascensionis* has already received more attention. A paper on the species' biology has been produced (Baker et al., 2014) and local trials of control methods for a major competitor (maidenhair fern) have been undertaken. The current proposal aims to build capacity for other species to a similar level.

Methodology rationale

This project will build on the data and experience gathered through past projects and collect new evidence to address the knowledge gaps that are preventing successful restoration. The focus will be on improving in situ survival rates and increasing the success of cultivated plants transplanted to the wild. All learning will be brought together in an evidence-based restoration plan.

A project Steering Group will be established including plant conservation experts from Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. This will provide independent and constructive criticism of project activities and outputs. The group will meet remotely at least every six months to review project progress and will have a specific role in scrutinising plans for the restoration trials and draft versions of the Restoration Plan.

All project management and reporting will be undertaken by AIGCFD.

Materials, methods and roles

AIGCFD will recruit a plant expert with experience of Ascension's flora to lead the project in collaboration with permanent AIGCFD staff. The plant expert will:

- Establish the project Steering Group and agree its terms of reference.
- Analyse existing census data and results of past restoration efforts to recognise factors driving poor performance or areas to focus further investigation.
- In collaboration with Steering Group, identify critical knowledge gaps in the basic biology and habitat requirements of the five species that are hampering conservation efforts.
- With the assistance of AIGCFD Plant Team, deploy monitoring equipment to address critical knowledge gaps. Identify species' ecological requirements by obtaining humidity, light and temperature profiles of existing endemic sites. Assess suitability of potential restoration areas by comparing profiles of those sites.
- Trial planting small numbers of cultivated endemic plants in up to five selected sites per target species, each site under differing habitat conditions. Monitor survival, reproduction and natural recruitment.
- Trial interventions to modify habitats (e.g. artificial irrigation) and create suitable conditions for endemic plants with the assistance of AIGCFD Plant Team.
- Trial control methods on eight target invasive species: *Buddleja madagascariensis*, *Clidemia hirta*, *Juniperus bermudiana*, *Piper aduncum*, *Psidium guajava*, *Sageretia minutiflora*, *Sinobambusa tootsik*, *Vitex trifolia* with the assistance of the AIGCFD Plant Team.
- With support from the Steering Group, bring together the results from the census, monitoring and trials into a draft Endemic Plant Restoration Plan. This will be a detailed plan with a timeline of specific actions linked to SMART targets and named leads.
- Circulate draft plan to Steering Group and incorporate comments into updated draft.
- Organise public consultation on the updated draft plan engaging Ascension and international stakeholders through public meetings, press articles and social media posts.
- Produce final Endemic Plant Restoration Plan incorporating consultation responses.

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

 [Baker et al 2014 Rescue ecology and conservation Anogramma ascensionis](#)
 09/01/2022
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 pdf 1.34 MB

Section 7 - Stakeholders and Beneficiaries

Q13. Project Stakeholders

Who are the stakeholders for this project and how have they been consulted (include local or host government support/engagement where relevant)? Briefly describe what support they will provide and how the project will engage with them.

The main stakeholders for this project are the AIGCFD Plant Team who will receive support and inspiration from the plant expert and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (RBGK). The Plant Team has been involved in the development of the project plan to ensure the outputs produced address their needs and can be incorporated into their routine work. This will secure sustainable benefits beyond the lifetime of the project.

The Ascension Island community are important stakeholders in this project as it improves the protection of the island's unique natural heritage. This proposal has been discussed with the elected Council and Administrator on Ascension to ensure there is strong support amongst policy makers. Social media, school visits and articles in the local press will be used to engage the community.

Q14. Institutional Capacity

Describe the Lead Partner's capacity (and that of partner organisations where relevant) to deliver the project.

AIGCFD employs 21 members of staff based on Ascension including a three person Plant Team dedicated to conserving Ascension's endemic and native higher plants. They have unparalleled knowledge of the distribution of local plant populations and have developed expertise in the cultivation of Ascension's endemic species. This project will provide the Plant Team with the additional capacity and expertise in experimental design and strategic planning needed to improve the success of restoration efforts.

RBGK are world-leaders in plant conservation. They have had a long association with AIGCFD and have supported plant conservation on Ascension over many decades. Experts from RBGK have contributed to plant restoration planning on Ascension and St Helena, giving them direct experience of the issues facing endemic plants in the South Atlantic OTs.

Q15. Project beneficiaries

Who will your project benefit? You should consider the direct benefits as a result of your project as well as the broader indirect benefits which may come about as a result of your project achieving its Outputs and Outcome. The measurement of any benefits should be included in your project logframe.

The main beneficiaries of this project will be AIGCFD and the protected species and habitats it safeguards. The AIGCFD Plant Team will gain the tools needed to improve significantly plant conservation efforts on Ascension, as well as the confidence and certainty that comes from working to a well-considered, strategic plan. The outputs produced through this project will help to secure the long-term future of Ascension's endemic plants and there will be a lower risk of extinction.

The Ascension Island Community will benefit from the safeguarding of the island's biodiversity, ensuring current and future generations are able to see and appreciate its unique flora. There are also thousands of people around the world who follow Ascension's conservation work via social media. They will benefit from seeing a positive example of active and evidence-based conservation management.

Section 8 - Gender and Change Expected

Q16. Gender (optional)

How is your project working to reduce inequality between persons of different gender? At the very least, you should be able to provide reassurance that your proposed work is not increasing inequality. Have you analysed the context in which you are working to see how gender and other aspects of social inclusion might interact with the work you are proposing?

The project leads are all women providing a positive example of female leadership. Appointment of the project officer will be in line with the Ascension Island Government code of management, which does not condone inequality or discrimination of any kind in the workplace.

Q17. Change expected

Detail the expected changes this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who will benefit a) in 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 the environment and, where relevant, for people in the OTs, and how they are linked.

Short-term: AIGCFD will have a considered, evidence-based endemic plant restoration plan to implement and, where necessary, form the basis of future funding applications. The plan will inspire confidence in delivery teams and funders because it will be based on monitoring and experimental trials that have demonstrated success. It will provide a renewed sense of purpose, clear strategic direction and a detailed workplan to guide plant restoration efforts.

Long-term: Five of Ascension's critically endangered endemic plants will have the best possible chance of survival in the face of climate change and non-native species. We will not have to report the extinction of species on our watch.

Q18. Pathway to change

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 the environment and, where relevant, for people in the OTs, and how they are linked.

We are very aware of the need to learn lessons from past work and ensure this project adds significant new knowledge to overcome previous obstacles. The starting point for this project will be a thorough and honest assessment of strengths and failures in current efforts.

There is much greater information available now than when previous plans were prepared. Data from nine years of plant census and the mid-term outcomes of restoration efforts help to locate problem areas. However, critical knowledge gaps remain and this project will identify and fill these to create a firm evidence base for conservation action.

The project will also encompass trials of restoration methods. This is essential to understand what works and hone methods before they are scaled up.

By providing a dedicated full-time plant expert based on Ascension this project will create the additional capacity needed to take a strategic perspective and undertake the complex data analysis and trial design elements. They will work alongside the existing AIGCFD to ensure the plan produced has the support and local ownership required for successful implementation.

Q19. 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". Where individuals receive advanced training, for example, what will happen should that individual leave?

This project has been developed by AIGCFD and will be led by them. It is designed to fill the knowledge gaps AIGCFD recognise are limiting the success of their current plant restoration work. The main output will be an improved restoration plan that will replace the existing one being delivered by the AIGCFD Plant Team and be tailored to the resources available on island. AIG has shown a long and sustained commitment to funding plant conservation on Ascension and this is expected to continue. The result of this project will be that the core funding provided by AIG to support plant conservation efforts will be used much more effectively and achieve much greater success in future years.

Exposure of the AIGCFD Plant Team to restoration trials and the use of monitoring data to feed back into conservation planning will give them experience of adaptive management approaches. This will create a long-term legacy of continual review and refinement that will ensure further improvements to plant conservation are made beyond the end of this project.

Q20. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting Darwin'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?

This project will meet the relevant ethical requirements set out in the Darwin Plus guidance.

The project will be conducted in accordance with Ascension law. The project activities will be added as an extension to the existing research permit held by the AIGCFD and approved by the Administrator. This includes a data sharing requirement with AIG, though in this instance that is redundant given AIGCFD is part of the island government.

AIG has an established health and safety policy that gives absolute primacy to the safety of staff and members of the public. This will be applied to all project activities and people working on the project.

AIG and RBGK operate to the highest standards of academic integrity. The results and evidence collected through this

project will be robust, accurately reported and freely shared.

Section 9 - Budget, Risk Management & Funding

Q21. Budget

Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet, which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet. Note that there are different budget templates for grant requests under £100,000 and over £100,000.

- [Budget form for projects under £100,000](#)
- [Budget form for projects over £100,000](#)

Please refer to the [Finance Guidance](#) for more information.

Please ensure you include any co-financing figures in the Budget spreadsheet to clarify the full budget required to deliver this project.

NB: Please state all costs by financial year (1 April to 31 March) and in GBP. Darwin Plus cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.

 [Darwin R10 - Growing Hope -Budget](#)
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 xlsx 41.99 KB

Q22. 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, bribery or corruption, but may also include the risk of fluctuating foreign exchange, delays in procurement or recruitment and internal financial processes such as storage of financial data.

Ascension Island Government financial statements are audited annually which involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to Ascension Island Government's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, the auditors read all the financial and non-financial information in the Introduction to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by them in the course of performing the audit.

All externally funded projects are also managed under Ascension Island Government's financial regulations including the contract regulations for procuring, or tendering for works or goods, and the accounting officer is responsible for ensuring these regulations are followed.

Q23. Funding

Q23a. Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source)?

New initiative

Please provide details:

This is a new initiative, but it will build on previous plan conservation projects on Ascension. Past OTEP-funded projects (ASC 503 and 801) have supported the development of plant restoration plans, and an evaluation of the success of these will form the starting point for this project.

The current Darwin Plus-funded climate change resilience project (DPLUS113) has examined the impact of climate change on some of Ascension's endemic plants and trialed some adaptation measures. This work provides an excellent template for how experimental trials can inform management. The current project would take the results from DPLUS113 and expand the approach to look at endemic plant management more widely.

Q23b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work?

No

Section 10 - Finance

Q24. Financial Controls

Please demonstrate your capacity to manage the level of funds you are requesting. Who is responsible for managing the funds? What experience do they have? What arrangements are in place for auditing expenditure?

Grant payments will be administered through Ascension Island Government's bank account, with project expenditures tracked by the AIG Finance Department. AIG has a fully dedicated financial accounting and management team. The Government currently manages capital and reserves of [REDACTED]. The Finance and Conservation Departments have jointly managed many biodiversity conservation projects, large and small, over the last 10 years, including those funded by RSPB, OTEP, Blue Marine Foundation and Darwin Plus. AIG's main accounts are subject to an annual, independent financial audit and a specific audit would be undertaken for this project.

Q25. Balance of budget spend

Defra are keen to see as much Darwin Plus funding as possible directly benefiting OT communities and economies. While it is appreciated that this is not always possible every effort should be made for funds to remain in territory.

Explain the thinking behind your budget in terms of where Darwin Plus funds will be spent. What benefits will the Territory/ies see from your budget? What level of the award do you expect will be spent locally? Please explain the decisions behind any Darwin Plus funding that will not be spent locally and how those costs are important for the project.

A large proportion of the budget (67%) will be spent on Ascension in employing a dedicated project officer to provide the short-term additional capacity required to conduct trials and create a new Restoration Plan. These activities are central to the success of the project and AIGCFD will need support on Ascension to deliver them.

The purchase of capital accounts for 15% of the total budget. This includes the cost of equipment and materials needed to conduct the monitoring and trials that will be vital to improving plant restoration efforts. This equipment will be purchased for use on Ascension and remain on the island at the end of the project (as described in Q26).

Q26. Capital Items

If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin Plus 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.

The capital items included in the project budget are required to conduct trials of irrigation, shading and grazing exclusion and create improved propagation and cultivation facilities for the endemic plants. These activities are vital to the success of the project. Though the percentage of the total budget is above [REDACTED] this is largely a result of the low overall cost of the project because it draws on the existing capacity within AIGCFD. The actual amount of proposed capital spend is only [REDACTED]

At the end of the project the equipment will remain on island and continue to be used by AIGCFD in plant restoration work.

Q27. 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.

AIGCFD has used its previous experience of managing projects on the island to ensure that costs are realistic. Staff costs are in line with AIG salaries and having a full-time dedicated project officer based in Ascension offers the most efficient use of budget. Travel costs are unavoidably high given the difficult access to Ascension, but could reduce if the island's runway is repaired during the project.

This project will draw on existing capacity and knowledge within AIGCFD Plant Team, and a large proportion of AIGCFD staff time will be provided in kind.

RBGK have a long association with Ascension's endemic plant restoration work and have agreed to give their time to assist the project as an in-kind contribution. This will mean access to the many years of experience they have amassed on Ascension and in other Overseas Territories at no cost to the project.

Q28. Outputs of the project and Open Access

All outputs from Darwin Plus projects should be made available on-line and free to users whenever possible. Please outline how you will achieve this and detail any specific costs you are seeking from Darwin Plus to fund this.

AIGCFD already operates an open access data management policy and will ensure that all outputs are made accessible online through the AIGCFD website and publicised through AIGCFD social media. AIGCFD is also part of a SAERI-hosted information network where data from the South Atlantic OTs can be easily discovered and accessed online by external users (<http://www.south-atlantic-research.org/ims-gis>). All data from this project will be documented within this online metadata system. Project partners will provide additional support to widen accessibility and will publish information on their websites when appropriate.

Section 11 - Safeguarding

Q29. Safeguarding

Projects funded through Darwin Plus 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. Please confirm the lead organisation has the following policies in place and that these are available on request:

Please upload the lead partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF on the certification page.

We have a safeguarding policy, which includes a statement of our commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse	Checked
We have attached a copy of our safeguarding policy to this application	Checked
We keep a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with	Checked
We have clear investigation and disciplinary procedures to use when allegations and complaints are made, and have clear processes in place for when a disclosure is made	Checked

We share our safeguarding policy with downstream partners	Checked
We have a whistle-blowing policy which protects whistle-blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised	Checked
We have a Code of Conduct in place for staff and volunteers that sets out clear expectations of behaviors - inside and outside of the work place - and make clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards	Checked

Please outline how you will implement your policies in practice and ensure that downstream partners apply the same standards as the lead organisation.

All members of AIGCFD and partner organisation staff working on the project will be required to read AIG's Safeguarding Policy and state they are aware of procedures for raising issues or making a complaint. All AIGCFD staff members complete Safeguarding training. A clause will be included in all partner agreements requiring them to have their own safeguarding policy, Code of Conduct and register.

Section 12 - Logical Framework

Q30. Logical Framework

Darwin Plus projects will be required to monitor (and report against) their progress towards their expected Outputs and Outcome. This section sets out the expected Outputs and Outcome of your project, how you expect to measure progress against these and how we can verify this.

- [Stage 2 Logframe Template](#)

Please complete your full logframe in the separate Word template and upload as a PDF using the file upload below – **please do not edit the template structure other than adding additional Outputs if needed as a logframe submitted in a different format may make your application ineligible**. Copy your Impact, Outcome and Output statements and your activities below - these should be the same as in your uploaded logframe.

Please upload your logframe as a PDF document.

 [R10 DPlus St2 Logical Framework Growing Hope](#)
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 pdf 128.75 KB

Impact:

Ascension can assure itself and others that every possible measure has been taken to avoid the extinction of its endemic plant species.

Outcome:

Conservation of Ascension's five critically-endangered plants is based on a strategic, evidence-based plan that provides the blueprint and impetus for future action needed to save these species from extinction.

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Analysis of census data and evaluation of past restoration efforts.

Output 2:

Results of monitoring to establish the ecological requirements of the five endemic plant species and the suitability of potential habitats on Green Mountain.

Output 3:

Results of trial endemic plant reintroductions and methods to increase moisture levels and control non-native invasive plants.

Output 4:

Detailed evidence-based restoration plan for five endemic plant species that has the support of stakeholders.

Output 5:

No Response

Do you require more Output fields?

It is advised to have less than 6 Outputs since this level of detail can be provided at the Activity level.

No

Activities

Each activity is numbered according to the Output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1.

- 1.1 Analyse endemic plant census data collected by AIGCFD between 2012 and 2022.
- 1.2 Evaluate the success of endemic plant restoration efforts undertaken by AIGCFD since 2008.
- 2.1 Establish temperature, humidity and light monitoring devices at 24 locations.
- 2.2 Download and collate 14 months of temperature, humidity and light data from the 24 locations.
- 2.3 Analyse temperature, humidity and light data to infer preferred growing conditions of endemic plants.
- 2.4 Identify suitable restoration sites based on the data analysis in activity 2.3
- 3.1 Conduct restoration trials by planting a minimum of ten individuals of each target species at five sites varying in environmental conditions.
- 3.2 Monitor survival, growth and recruitment of plants in the restoration trials
- 3.3 Trial and evaluate different methods to alter temperature, light and humidity experienced by plants
- 3.4 Recommend best methods to achieve preferred growth conditions identified in 2.3
- 3.5 Trial and evaluate different methods to control eight priority non-native species including mechanical removal and herbicide application.
- 3.6 Recommend best methods to control each of the eight priority non-native species.
- 4.1 Produce draft Endemic Plant Restoration Plan incorporating results of the project analyses.
- 4.2 Share and discuss draft Restoration Plan with Steering Group and incorporate their suggested changes.
- 4.3 Undertake public consultation on the draft Restoration Plan through public meetings and press articles on Ascension and distribution via social media.
- 4.4 Publish final Restoration Plan incorporating changes made following public consultation.

Section 13 - Implementation Timetable

Q31. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities

Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the Word template as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project, and upload as a PDF.

[Implementation Timetable Template](#)

Please add/remove columns to reflect the length of your project. For each activity (add/remove rows as appropriate) indicate the number of months it will last, and fill/shade only the quarters in which an activity will be carried out.

Section 14 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q32. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

Describe, referring to the Indicators, how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, making reference to who is responsible for the project's M&E.

Darwin Initiative projects are expected to be adaptive and you should detail how the monitoring and evaluation will feed into the delivery of the project including its management. M&E is expected to be built into the project and not an 'add' on. It is as important to measure for negative impacts as it is for positive impact. Additionally, please indicate an approximate budget and level of effort (person days) to be spent on M&E (see [Finance Guidance](#)).

The creation of an M&E framework will be a high priority at the beginning of the project. The framework will be tied to the indicators and verification methods set out in the logframe and the timetable included in this application. The AIGCFD project lead will be responsible for drawing up this framework and overall management of the M&E process with input from project partners on specific work packages.

M&E of project progress will be carried out quarterly through a meeting with all project partners to assess progress in delivering the activities shown in the project timetable and achieving outputs according to the logframe indicators. Where important milestones are missed, all relevant project partners will agree actions to regain the original timetable and prevent other outputs being delayed as a consequence.

An adaptive approach will be taken whereby actions that are failing to produce the required outputs and outcomes will be reviewed and revised during virtual meetings of the project partners.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)	██████████
Number of days planned for M&E	█
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)	2

Section 15 - Lead Partner Track Record

Q33. Lead Partner track record

Has your organisation been awarded a Darwin Initiative award before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)?

Yes

If yes, please provide details of the most recent awards (up to 6 examples).

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
DPLUS135	Diane Baum	From pseudoscorpions to crickets: securing Ascensions Island's unique invertebrates

DPLUS134	Diane Baum	Repelling the invader: turning the tide on Ascension's Mexican thorn
DPLUS113	Diane Baum	Climate Resilience and Conservation of Ascension Biodiversity
DPLUS096	Diane Baum	Building Ascension's Biosecurity Capacity
DPLUS063	Dr Sam Weber	The Ascension Island Ocean Sanctuary
DPLUS047	Mike Howarth	Reduce, reuse, recycle – developing a waste management strategy for

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts?

If yes, please upload these on the certification page. Note that this is not required from Government Agencies.

No

If no, please provide details.

AIGCFD is a Government agency.

Section 16 - Certification

Certification

On behalf of the

trustees

of

Ascension Island Government

I apply for a grant of

██████████

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 CVs for project key project personnel, letters of support, budget and project implementation timetable (uploaded at appropriate points in application).
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report are also enclosed.

Checked

Name

Diane Elizabeth Baum

Position in the organisation

Director of Conservation and Fisheries

Signature (please upload e-signature)

 [Dee signature](#)
 07/01/2022
 16:07:56
 jpg 7.12 KB

Date

10 January 2022

Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF.

 [AI Child Protection procedures 2015 final \(June 2015\)](#)
 08/01/2022
 16:58:44
 pdf 220 KB

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

 [Financial Statements 310320-compressed](#)
 08/01/2022
 16:58:26
 pdf 4.6 MB

 [Financial Statements 310320-compressed](#)
 07/01/2022
 16:07:27
 pdf 4.6 MB

Section 17 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance documents, including the "Guidance Notes for Applicants" and "Finance Guidance".	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for this proposed project.	Checked
I have provided a budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April - 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that the budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have attached my completed logframe and timeline as a PDF using the templates provided.	Checked
I have included a 1 page CV or job description for all the Project staff identified at Question 11, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a letter of support from the Lead Partner and main partner organisation(s) identified at Question 10, or an explanation of why not.	Checked

I have included a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant.	Checked
I have included a signed copy of the last 2 years annual report and accounts for the Lead Partner, or provided an explanation if not.	Checked
I have checked the Darwin Plus website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Plus website.	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant (Flexi-Grant Account Holder) and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current application rounds under the Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus and our sister grant scheme, the IWT Challenge Fund. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share our quarterly project newsletter. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.

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, but not personal data, may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead partner, 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).