

DPR11S2\1024

Improving St Helena's grasslands to benefit people and wildlife

St Helena's grasslands are highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, particularly the rapid spread of invasive species. Impact of droughts have led to habitat loss, with invasive vegetation rendering the land undesirable for livestock and native wildlife. Improving pasture management on St Helena will enhance local livelihoods and grassland biodiversity, providing a win-win for the island's people and wildlife. This will increase the range of vulnerable St Helena Plovers, provide invertebrate habitat and enhance livestock capacity and quality.

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name	Martina
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GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	St Helena National Trust
Phone (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
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Section 2 - Title & Summary

Q3. Project Title:

Improving St Helena's grasslands to benefit people and wildlife

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DPR11S1\1123

DPR11S1/1053

Q4. Summary of project

Please provide a brief summary of your project: the problem it is trying to address, its aims, and the key activities you plan to undertake.

Successful Darwin Plus Main projects in Round 11 must demonstrate substantial measurable outcomes in at least one of the themes of Darwin Plus either by the end of the project's implementation or via evidenced mechanisms for post-project delivery.

Preference will be given to discrete projects implementing existing identified environmental solutions on the ground.

The broad themes of Darwin Plus Main are:

- **Biodiversity:** improving and conserving biodiversity, and slowing or reversing biodiversity loss and degradation;
- **Climate change:** responding to, mitigating and adapting to climate change and its effects on the natural environment

and local communities;

- **Environmental quality:** improving the condition and protection of the natural environment;
- **Capability and capacity building:** enhancing the capacity within OTs to support the environment in the short- and long-term.

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

St Helena’s grasslands are highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, particularly the rapid spread of invasive species. Impact of droughts have led to habitat loss, with invasive vegetation rendering the land undesirable for livestock and native wildlife. Improving pasture management on St Helena will enhance local livelihoods and grassland biodiversity, providing a win-win for the island’s people and wildlife. This will increase the range of vulnerable St Helena Plovers, provide invertebrate habitat and enhance livestock capacity and quality.

Section 3 - UKOT(s), Dates & Budget Summary

Q5. 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:**

Saint Helena

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

No

Q6. Project dates

Start date:

03 April 2023

End date:

31 March 2026

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

3 years

Q7. Budget summary

Year:	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total request
Amount:	£151,650.00	£97,310.00	£87,105.00	£ 336,065.00

Q8. Proportion of Darwin Plus budget expected to be expended in UKOTs (%) ■

Q9a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

Match funding to the project will be provided by the St Helena Government (SHG) and RSPB for staff to participate in steering group meetings, workshop attendance, liaising with syndicates and farmers and to carry out a review of the current pasture licensing systems. (██████████)

In-kind support will be provided by SHG for transport and by the Trust for the use of existing tools and equipment and a vehicle, also strategic supporting time by the Director [REDACTED] and administration and finance team, totalling [REDACTED]

RSPB will provide in-kind support through staff time (x3) to the value of [REDACTED]/year, this includes land management expertise [REDACTED] science support [REDACTED] and project management support [REDACTED]. Including provision of bird ringing equipment and materials to value of [REDACTED], totaling [REDACTED] over project duration.

Q9b. Total confirmed & unconfirmed matched funding (£) [REDACTED]

Q9c. 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?

No Response

Section 4 - Problem statement

Q10. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in the UKOTs, relating to at least one of the themes of Darwin Plus.

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).

St Helena's grasslands are predominately used for pasture, which is both culturally and economically important for local food production. These grasslands provide the optimal habitat for the globally threatened and locally iconic St Helena plover, locally known as the 'wirebird'; the islands last remaining endemic land bird. Knowledge and understanding of invertebrate presence in these areas are limited.

St Helena is a highly drought-prone island, with three major water shortages occurring over the last decade. These droughts have caused a reduction in grazing livestock leading to the decrease in meat production, but at increased cost on the island, as well as aiding the rapid spread of invasive vegetation in particular Bull grass (*Juncus capillaceus*). The reduction in livestock and usual land management practices has led to an increased rate of habitat succession away from dry grassland into scrub.

This shift in habitat, notably with increased number of invasive plants, has diminished the land for farmers and has pushed the St Helena plover to the edge of its range and nesting is now occurring in sub-optimal habitat outside of nationally protected conservation areas. The population currently appears to be stable, however the impact on productivity is unknown and it is only a matter of time before the lack of suitable habitat has a knock-on effect on the wirebird population. In addition, there has recently been increased pressure for development for both residents and tourism, meaning a further potential loss of this already declining habitat.

The project aims to mitigate the problem by actively reclaiming 8ha (1.6% NCA priority site area) of pastureland from invasive species that include Bull grass, Lantana (*lantana camara*) and Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and build upon the lessons learnt from DPLUS107, DPLUS059 and 2007 Airport Access Wirebird Mitigation Project since which land use practices have changed. The project also aims to encourage the growth of suitable vegetation mainly grasses, thereby increasing area and quality of pastureland available for grazing livestock and providing a suitable habitat for the wirebird. Invertebrate presence and effects will be surveyed to provide improved understanding of their existence and impacts in grassland habitats.

In addition, an increase in both proposed and approved developments in pastureland and National Conservation Area

(NCAs) exert extra pressure upon this iconic species and livestock capacity for which the project will support the development of improved guidelines and mitigation measures for future development applications.

Section 5 - Environmental Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q11. Environmental Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Please detail how your project will contribute to the aims of the national and/or international agreement(s) your project is targeting. What key OT Government priorities and themes will it address and how? 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.

Note: No additional significance will be ascribed for projects that report contributions to more than one agreement.

International agreement this project will support are the UK's responsibilities under the CBD (Article 8(h) on alien species; Article 12 on research and training; and Article 13 on public education and awareness. This project will also deliver against Sustainable Development Goals 15 (Life on Land) and 17 (Partnerships).

Territory priorities:

St Helena's Environmental Protection Ordinance, 2016 lists the St Helena Plover as a protected species and their habitat is protected through designation as Important Wirebird Areas (IWA's) a category of National Conservation area. Although designated under the Land Development Control Plan (LDCP), the NCAs do not have Management Plans. This project will support and contribute to the , National conservation area (NCA) management plans for important wirebird areas (IWA's) and providing increased legal protection to this unique species and its habitats, by feeding into the DPLUS154 'Sustainable Management Planning for St Helena's National Conservation Areas'. The key project areas such as: Deadwood and Bottom woods pastures are facing increased development pressure; which at Bottom woods especially, is spurred along by both low Wirebird population falling below IWA designation threshold and has become unsuitable for grazing livestock. Based on these factors' approval of developments in both areas is likely to increase. Other sub-sites like Broad bottom have been approved for development, through which both these projects will set best practise guidance to mitigate impacts. All works will also contribute to updating the islands Wirebird Species Action Plan.

This project contributes to SHG's recently released Vision and Strategy (April 2022 – March 2025) goals: 'Altogether Greener' and 'Altogether Wealthier'. St Helena is heavily reliant on imports; therefore it is hoped in the long-term that actions undertaken in this project will lead to increased local meat production; decreasing imports and proceeding towards an improved local economy that is increasingly driven by actions adopted by the local community. The methods to be utilised in this project are aimed to be more sustainable by requiring less grassland maintenance over a longer period of time, for example clearance timeline goes from 2 years to 10 years.

In addition, the project also contributes to the South Atlantic Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (2010), Objective A Building awareness and support and Objective E Control, management and restoration. The support and adoption of learning outcomes by the local community is key to the legacy of this project. We aspire to have the island community involved throughout the project's lifespan by effectively utilising communication methods and personal interaction. Invasive species identified in this application have been spreading rapidly across the island changing habitats and affecting native species. Improved knowledge and understanding of how to control and manage them provides the island with a better standing for future island management activities and practices.

Section 6 - Method, Project Stakeholders, Gender, Change Expected, Pathway to Change & Exit Strategy

Q12. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and contribute towards your

Impact. Provide information on:

- How have you reflected on and incorporated evidence and lessons learnt from past and present activities and projects in the design of this project?
- The need for this work and a justification of your proposed approach.
- How you will undertake the work (materials and methods).
- How you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools, etc.).

A sabbatical visit by RSPB Senior Species Recovery Officer Andy Schofield, provided much insight and aided with refining this project. Good wirebird habitat was compared to areas of bad including the three priority sites and sub-sites, from which three invasive plant control techniques were identified. Previously disturbed areas were found to be of higher quality habitat as lacking presence of highly threatening invasive species for the wirebird. In pastures (i.e., roadside) disturbed areas approximately 8 years old were re-colonised by kikuyu grass which supports the projects aim to encourage useful pasture grasses and decrease maintenance.

Various controls for addressing invasive vegetation will be employed a recommended method of ripping of the soil using a rotavator and rolling will help provide a longer-term solution for habitat management with additional benefit of improving invertebrate assemblages. Use of a topper mower and herbicides to control regrowth will also be employed. Previous projects (DPLUS059) have found that physical removal of Bull grass is labour intensive without mechanical aid. Useful pasture grasses will be encouraged back into the controlled plots as trailed previously by ENRP's ANRD Division, but success was impacted by the presence of rabbits.

Exploration of the effect that rabbits have on the projects trial plots will be monitored, with no control in one of the sites (Man and Horse) and controlled at another (Deadwood). The controlled site is closer to arable land in which rabbits present a major problem. This allows for a comparison to be made between the two areas and methods used. Lessons learnt from the current funded DPLUS107 project has found that trapping alone is not an effective method to address the large population present. Therefore a mixture of trapping by project staff and shooting by a community group will be carried out. Application of these methods depends on the phase of the control, legal and social consents and costs. Effective grazing methods will be explored and plans adapted for continued sustainability.

Objective 1: Effective pasture management implemented Trial plots will be identified within 3 priority sites. Sites are chosen for their value as key Wirebird areas, pastureland and has a high development potential will include: Man and Horse, Deadwood Plain and Bottom woods a further 3 smaller sub-sites will be identified and agreed with partners and stakeholders. Controls at each site will be determined by the predominant target invasive vegetation present and where ground ripped and rolled useful grasses will be encouraged back through natural regeneration; seeding of area will be considered if this is proving unsuccessful. Rabbit control will take place at Deadwood and compared to areas of no control to assess impacts rabbits have on the trial methods.

Objective 2: Delivering benefits from pasture management Long-term indicators will be harder to assess with such short project timescale. A repeatable needs and livelihood assessment will be conducted to identify the benefits to the agricultural community and scope two livelihoods initiatives, focussing on climate resilience; one will be trialled. These works will lead to the production of a livelihood enhancement plan and pasture management plan through a consultation process with local stakeholders. That is adopted by local government and occupants (i.e. syndicates) to effectively utilise pastures for economic and environmental benefits.

Objective 3: Conservation & livelihood diversification impacts monitored and measured
It is important to monitor the effect of controls within key sites to ensure impacts are recorded. The project will conduct annual vegetation, rabbit surveys and annual Wirebird census counts with nest monitoring all year round with an increased focus during breeding season. To track movement of wirebirds between IWA's and uptake of control areas, at least 30 birds will be ringed. Invertebrate surveys will be conducted at the start and end of the project to determine whether the invertebrate community has changed and provides additional data on sites where our knowledge and understanding is lacking.

Objective 4: On island capacity to implement and sustain results
The Trust will employ project staff to deliver this project. The overall management and delivery of the project will be carried out by a dedicated Project Manager with the support from the Trust's, Head of Conservation. All staff employed, on-island partner and stakeholders will be trained in the identified control techniques. SHG and the Trust will work towards creating a MOU to having a more collaborative approach to Wirebird habitat restoration and enhancing pasture licenses. Methods will be incorporated into the NCAs management plan which will provide a long-term management structure for pasture

and IWA's.

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.

Stakeholders involved and consulted on this project range from local government (SHG), the local agricultural community and RSPB.

SHG's current DPLUS154 project will be collaborated with by feeding into the management plans being developed for the islands National Conservation Areas with particular focus on this project priority and sub-sites to apply broadly across other Important Bird Areas. Pasture management plans developed will be referenced in the NCA management plans. The developing project (under this round) that is focusing on control of targeted invasive species that are different from those proposed under this application and which are primarily focused within the National Forestry Estate (NFE), bordering the central ridge and fire prevention within the Estate. Both projects will promote best practice on the most effective control methods leading to increased land management practice in different terrains. Lessons learnt on both are transferrable and outcomes will feed into SHG's National framework for invasive plant management on St Helena.

Syndicates have been engaged through ANRD and have agreed to assist on project delivery for particular aspects if needed including providing feedback on controls undertaken. A meeting was held with the Chamber of Commerce who gave feedback and support to the project. Sourcing of contractor's are likely to be members from the syndicates who have interest in control works.

RSPB have supported the Trust primarily on Wirebird conservation. They have assisted in developing this application and will provide support as outlined in Q9a.

Stakeholders will be engaged regularly through meetings, presentation and workshops etc.

Q14. Gender equality

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain how your understanding of gender equality within the context your project, and how is it reflected in your plans. Please summarise how your project will contribute to reducing gender inequality. Applicants should, at a minimum, ensure proposals will not increase inequality and are encouraged to design interventions that proactively contribute to increased gender equality.

The conservation and agricultural sectors on island are largely dominated by men, this is especially apparent within syndicates. There are women in various roles within SHG and the Trust whose staff comprises 46% women, ranging from technical delivery of land and invasive species management to Director-level project steering support.

We aim for 50:50 gender-balanced sampling in our community questionnaires and attendance at public events. We will ensure schedules are flexible to accommodate times, locations, meeting structures, and facilitation-styles and group composition appropriate for gender-representative participation. We will test project methodologies with female staff within partner organisations to ensure appropriateness and adjust according to feedback.

The Trust has various policies which covers gender: Equal opportunities, Code of conduct and safeguarding policies. RSPB and SHG also have equal opportunities and safeguarding policies. Ensuring that any recruitment, training and promotional opportunities will not be discriminated based on gender or any other diversity factor will be taken into account in job descriptions for project roles.

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) and the potential to

scale the approach. Please describe the changes for the environment and, where relevant, for people in the OTs, and how they are linked.

When talking about how people will benefit, please remember to give details of who will benefit, differences in benefits by gender or other layers of diversity within stakeholders, and the number of beneficiaries expected. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used.

The short-term changes to be expected are the increased public and stakeholder engagement in and awareness of the benefits of habitat management to benefit agricultural practices and native wildlife. This will involve the inclusion and training of 20 persons in pasture management techniques and regular consultations with the Chamber of Commerce. In addition, involvement in implementing controls through organised groups in particular for the control of European rabbit in pasturelands will result in the short-term benefit of a noticeable reduction in the abundance of rabbits within chosen sites during the project lifespan.

There will also be increased available area of Wirebird suitable habitat for re-habitation where the longer-term effects will then be seen through 'actual' habitation or use through future census monitoring.

Long-term expected changes will be that this project will have provided proven viable solutions for restoration and legal protection of protected grasslands that will be supported and adopted by both local government and occupants, notably the farming community. Including providing the learned skills sets and competencies to deliver works building island capacity and contribute to the islands individual and community economic benefits.

The increased availability of land through invasive species controls will expectantly lead to an increased livestock capacity providing improved sustainability of island livelihoods and food sources in symbiosis with maintaining habitat suitability for the St Helena Plover. In addition, the protection of native habitats protects vulnerable species from decline.

Q16. Pathway to change

Please outline your project's expected pathway to change. This should be an overview of the overall project logic and outline why and how you expect your Outputs to contribute towards your overall Outcome and, longer term, your expected Impact.

The primary driver of biodiversity and agriculture yield loss on St Helena is through the multiple impacts of invasive alien species; specifically, the rapid growth and competition of invasive plants, browsing impact of invasive mammals and plant predation by invasive invertebrates. Secondary drivers are climate change and habitat loss due to development.

To address the primary driver, we propose a package of land management trials via mechanical methods and livestock rotations and invasive species management to improve the habitat for biodiversity and livelihoods of agricultural community through effective pasture management and livestock use.

The expected immediate results of these activities are resetting habitat succession to the optimal conditions for St Helena Plovers and pasture grasses, improved understanding of grassland biodiversity and management, and increased capacity through farming community collaboration and national policies. Addressing the primary driver using a community-based approach will indirectly address the secondary drivers.

In summary, our Theory of Change statement is: IF effective pasture management is implemented and St Helena's grasslands are well managed, IF farming communities are effectively engaged and involved, and IF local in-Territory capacity and knowledge is enhanced, THEN St Helena's grassland biodiversity can thrive in a win-win scenario for wildlife and people's livelihoods.

Q17. Exit Strategy

How will the project reach a sustainable point and continue to deliver benefits post-funding? Will the activities require funding and support from other sources, or will they be mainstreamed in to "business as usual"? How will the required knowledge and skills remain available to sustain the benefits? If relevant, how will your approach be scaled?

The project aims for the control trials to gain local support through active engagement with the project improving understanding and utilising local expertise and observations. If these controls are proven successful, it is expected for

them to be adopted as common land management practises by the general public. Viewing them as profitable and lower maintenance in the long-term, which is hoped to be supported by the results of the needs and livelihood assessment to be carried out under this project. –

Update of St Helena Governments lease and licence conditions identified and influenced by this project. Advocacy towards incentive schemes to be implemented beyond the project. Leases will include requirements for improved pasture management within National Conservation Areas. These effective pasture management methods will be included in the National Conservation Areas (NCA's) management plans which will ensure long term management structure for pasture and Important Wirebird Areas (IWA's). This is also ensured by the review and updates of SHG's agricultural policies (Estates management policy and Agricultural strategy)

Monitoring of pasture condition and suitability for the St Helena Plover (Wirebird) will be continued through Wirebird monitoring and annual census counts which the Trust has been committed to undertaking as part of its core work programme for over 20 years.

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

No Response

Section 7 - Risk Management

Q18. Risk Management

Please outline the 6 key risks to achievement of your Project Outcome and how these risks will be managed and mitigated, referring to the [Risk Guidance](#). This should include at least one Fiduciary, one Safeguarding, and one Delivery Chain Risk.

Projects should also draft their initial risk register using the [Risk Register Template](#) provided, and be prepared to submit this when requested if they are recommended for funding. Do not attach this to your application.

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Inherent Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Fiduciary (Financial) Funds are not used for intended purpose or accounted for.	High	Unlikely	High	Trust protects itself through implementing financial control guidelines which require senior level sign off on all transfers from Trusts account with at least 2 signatures. Finance oversight is provided by Treasurer on Trust governing council and Finance manager engaged in all financial activity.	Low
Safeguarding doing harm' incl. sexual exploitation abuse and harassment, staff safety and welfare, or unintended harm.	High	Unlikely	Low	The Trust has a safeguarding policy that is covered with employees on induction and all policies available in each office. All employees are required to produce a vetting certificate. The Trust takes these incidents seriously.	Low

Delivery Chain Controls trialed are unsuccessful	High	Possible	Medium	Control methods will be actively monitored to address any arising issues and expert technical advice provided by visiting specialist from partner organisation twice over duration of the project. Methodologies produced will take into account specialist advice and learning from previous project efforts.	Medium
Risk 4 Procurement - St Helena is a remote island in the South Atlantic served by one cargo ship. Good procured from overseas take approximately 3 months to arrive and air freight is unpredictable.	High	Unlikely	High	Items to be procured will be explored if on-island purchase can be made as first measure. International goods to be identified on approval of project and order placed at start of quarter 1. Oversight and assistance provided by Project leader and co-leader, including effective project management will ensure timely ordering.	Medium
Risk 5 Lack of engagement and involvement from syndicates and local government	Medium	Unlikely	Low	There has been positive engagement with farming syndicates and SHG during development of this project. The Trust and SHG's ANRD department have partnered on projects previously and this project will continue to strengthen our good-working relationship. Progress on the project will be communicated and shared regularly with the general public.	Low
Risk 6 Unpredictable weather patterns could result in another drought event which will affect controls trialed, by slowing growth of suitable vegetation and allowing targeted drought prone species to establish and reducing feed and water for livestock resulting in reduced numbers and poor condition.	Medium	Possible	High	The Trust has rain capture and water storage tanks at the Millennium Forest which can be used for controls requiring herbicide application and if needed water provision for livestock. This is not enough water to aid growth of grasses in ripped areas.	High

Section 8 - Implementation Timetable

Q19. 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.

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.

 [DPR11S1 1053 BCF-Implementation-Timetable-Templ](#)
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Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Q20. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan

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

Darwin Plus projects will need 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. For more information, see [Finance Guidance](#).

The coordination of project monitoring and evaluation of the project will be led by St Helena National Trust and will comprise internal evaluations as follows:

- Establishing responsibility for indicators:

At project start up, the project partners will go through the indicators in the log frame and establish who will be responsible for ensuring that the data for each indicator is collected and collated including (but not limited to), meeting minutes, datasets, reports, recommendations, stakeholder meeting reports. The responsibility for the indicator will rest with the individual leading that work but who may then delegate elements. The data will be brought together by the project manager in close collaboration with responsible individuals. The details of these decisions will result in a project monitoring plan.

- Regular project management meetings, quarterly project skypes/conference calls:

These will involve key operational personnel and the monitoring plan (above) will be assessed as progress against the log frame indicators is reported. Specific actions to address indicators that have not been achieved and the monitoring plan revised accordingly.

- Annual meetings:

The second and third annual project meetings will include an internal evaluation of the project covering technical and financial aspects as official mid-term reviews. Senior staff from participating organisations in St Helena will be invited. Not only will these individuals be able to see progress, they will be able to assess the quality and efficacy of work undertaken to date and set it in the bigger picture of conservation priorities within St Helena and also help develop solutions to any challenges the project team might be facing.

Key monitoring areas and responsibilities:

1. Data collection across wildlife and livelihood impacts – The Trust will record all biodiversity monitoring data, this will be collated and stored centrally. RSPB will support with data analysis to monitor impact. ANRD will collect data on breeding and slaughter rates (Inc. carcass weight) and cost changes.

2. Capacity Building – Achieved through appointing new staff, expertise from partners, training and learning by doing. Information will be collected and shared by each partner on their own staff records and training plans and outcomes.

3. Communication – The Trust will lead on project communications; awareness raising work and manage relations with the community including Chamber of Commerce. This will include designing questionnaires and implementing and analysing the feedback to report to the management team.

Costs of Monitoring and evaluation:

40 days of project co-leader and project manager time = [REDACTED]

Project team: [REDACTED] of overall time per year = [REDACTED]

Meeting costs: [REDACTED]

Number of days for M&E:

Quarterly project team meetings: 12 days

Annual face to face partnership meetings: 4 days

Annual reporting: 24 days

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs) [REDACTED]

Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%) [REDACTED]

Number of days planned for M&E 40

Section 10 - Logical Framework

Q21. Logical Framework (logframe)

Darwin Plus projects will be required to monitor and report against their progress towards their 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

The **logframe template** (N.B. there is a different template for Stage 1 and Stage 2) needs to be downloaded from Flexi-Grant, completed and uploaded as a PDF within your Flexi-Grant application – **please do not edit the logframe template structure (other than adding additional Outputs if needed) as this may make your application ineligible**. On the application form, you will be asked to copy the Impact, Outcome and Output statements and activities - these should be the same as in your uploaded logframe.

Please upload your logframe as a PDF document.

[DPR11S1 1053 BCF-Logical-Framework-Stage2_FINAL](#)

17/10/2022

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pdf 141.85 KB

Impact:

The unique biodiversity of St Helena's grasslands can thrive through effective and sustained pasture management achieved via enhanced local livelihoods, providing a win-win for the island's people and wildlife.

Outcome:

Effective pasture management implemented to improve St Helena's grassland habitats by sustainably enhancing local livelihoods through increased livestock capacity and quality, which also benefits grassland biodiversity.

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Effective pasture management is implemented across priority grassland areas

Output 2:

Livelihoods of agriculturist communities (through existing farming syndicates) are enhanced through climate resilient initiatives

Output 3:

The conservation impacts of the pasture management are monitored and evaluated

Output 4:

Enhanced in-Territory capacity to implement and monitor effective management of St Helena's grassland protected areas

Output 5:

No Response

Do you require more Output fields?

It is advised to have fewer 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, 1.3 are contributing to Output 1.

- 1.1 Recruit Senior Project Officer by Q1 Year 1.
- 1.2 In consultation with project partners and stakeholders, pasture management techniques are identified and agreed by Q2 Year 1.
- 1.3 A trial pasture management plan and map for all priority trial sites is produced by end Year 1.
- 1.4 Intensive management techniques (both mechanical and through livestock) initiated by end Yr.1 across 3 high priority trial sites (Man and Horse, Deadwood Plain and Bottom Woods).
- 1.5 Less intensive management techniques (both mechanical and through livestock) initiated by end of Yr. 2 across 3 medium priority trial sites (Middle Point Woody Ridge and Thompson's wood).
- 1.6 Supplementary seed trial sites with useful pasture grass species if required (depending on the level of natural regeneration) by end Q2 Year 3.

- 2.1 Recruit Field and Livelihoods Officer by Q1 Year 1.
- 2.2 Produce a repeatable questionnaire to better understand the drivers of recent land use change and the needs of the farming syndicates and landowners to inform initiatives and diversification schemes by Q3 Year 1.
- 2.3 Collect baseline assessment from questionnaire surveys with farming syndicates and landowners by end of Year 1.
- 2.4 Repeat questionnaire assessment at end of project to monitor impact against Year 1 baseline.
- 2.5 Produce a finalised Pasture Management plan (based on 1.1) in Year 3
- 2.6 Based on 2.3, complete a scoping assessment for two climate resilient livelihood initiatives in year 2.
- 2.7 Implement a trial of one additional livelihood initiative in Year 3.
- 2.8 Produce a best practice protocol for pasture management in National Conservation Areas by end Year 2.
- 2.9 Integrate best practice pasture management and development mitigation into any drafted National Conservation Areas management plans under DPLUS154 for grassland areas by end of project.
- 2.10 Integrate best practice pasture management into lease agreements by the end of the project.
- 2.11 Produce a livelihood enhancement plan (linking provision of livelihood benefits to support for improved pasture management) in consultation with farming syndicates, landowners and St Helena Government by end of project

- 3.1 Recruit Field and Monitoring Officer by Q2 Year 1.
- 3.2 Complete annual vegetation surveys of all trial management areas.
- 3.3 Establish bi-annual data collection of rabbit culling effort led by farming syndicate at Deadwood from year 1.

- 3.4 Complete Invertebrate monitoring undertaken pre and post pasture management (start and end of the project), inside and outside of trial sites.
- 3.5 Complete annual St Helena Plover census counts and nest monitoring.
- 3.6 Training delivered to project staff on ringing St Helena Plover and monitoring techniques by end Year 1
- 3.7 Annual monitoring of St Helena Plover movement based on ring re-sightings.
- 3.8 Complete annual data analysis to monitor population and survival trends.
- 3.9 Produce a map of St Helena Plover re-sightings data by end of project.

- 4.1 Recruit Project Manager by Q1 Year 1.
- 4.2 Complete review and update of St Helena Government leases to farming syndicates to integrate improved land management practices within National Conservation Areas by the end of the project
- 4.3 Review and draft updated St Helena agricultural policies (Agricultural strategy and Estates Management policy) to integrate improved land management practices by end of project
- 4.4 Hold species action planning workshop in Year 2 to update Wirebird Species Action Plan
- 4.5 Produce updated species action plan document by end of project.
- 4.6 Provide cross-organisational training opportunities between project partners and wider stakeholders (farming syndicates and landowners) throughout the project.
- 4.7 Produce regular public communication materials through the newspaper, radio and social media to promote the project to the wider community.
- 4.8 Take regular film footage of project activities throughout the project and produce an end of project film by Q3 Year 3.
- 4.9 Host a community event with a project film screening in Q4 Year 3.
- 4.10 Deliver regular wirebird tours to community members and visitors, including information on the active pasture management and the win-win relationship for people and wildlife.

Section 11 - Budget and Funding

Q22. Budget

Please complete the template below which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.

[Budget form for projects over £100k](#)

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.

Please upload the Lead Partner's financial accounts at the certification page at the end of the application form.

Please upload your completed Darwin Plus Budget Form Excel spreadsheet using the field below.

 [DPR11S1 1053 BCF-Budget-over-£100k-MASTER-Apr2](#)

[2_FINAL](#)

 17/10/2022

 17:07:17

 xlsx 95.11 KB

Q23. Funding

Q23a. Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work?

- Development of existing work

Please provide details:

The Trust have been responsible for the conservation of the St Helena plover since its inception in 2002. There have been various projects which have addressed the threats to this unique species and this project builds upon these.

The current funded Darwin Plus project DPLUS104 looks at multispecies invasive vertebrate control which negatively impacts native habitat and species in particular the St Helena Plover and agricultural production. SHG's Environment, Natural Resource and Planning (ENRP's) ANRD Division, RSPB and Invasive Bird management (INBIMA) are all partners on this project.

A previous predator control project (2011) looking specifically at feral cats and rats in Wirebird sites was funded by Overseas Territories and Environment Programme (OTEP) with RSPB partnering. The project resulted in a huge success in cat trapping numbers within key sites.

In 2007 there was an Airport access mitigation project funded by SHG which aimed to create suitable Wirebird habitat to mitigate the area that used for the construction of the island's airport, which housed a high population of this endemic bird species. This project provided a basis for this current application, which is adapted to better understand current changes in land use and to implement more up-to-date land management practices.

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

- Yes

Please give details explaining similarities and differences, and explaining how your work will be additional and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and learn lessons from such work for mutual benefits:

Discussions with the ENRP's Forestry Officer has highlighted that their proposed project addresses invasive plant management on Island, focusing on three species impacting upland forestry areas with the aim of increasing seed banks for endemic plant species and improving access for fire prevention as opposed to species that affect low lying pastureland. Agreed mutual cooperation between ENRP and the Trust will ensure that the innovative methods trailed and results generated are shared, adapted and applied to forestry management activities specifically related to fire resilience.

While different in terms of species and areas to be addressed there are similarities in all three projects in that they are working together to ensure that best practice guidelines for invasive plant species that aids improved land management practices, and addresses habitat loss on St Helena are known and are fully transferable across sectors, giving benefits to the wider national effort for effective invasive plant control.

Q24. 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.

This project aims to create sustainable on-the-ground change for St Helena. We estimate that 81.6% of the project funds will be spent directly on St Helena covering local staffing, equipment, in-Territory travel, contracted works and office costs etc.

Capital items such as the rotavator, electric fencing, GPS and weed wiper are not items that are able to be sourced locally. Vehicles can be procured on island however not at a standard that would be cost efficient (i.e. maintenance costs) to the organisation.

Staff training is key for project delivery and building local capacity, however not all training needs can be addressed on island. International specialists for technical and scientific advice will provide on-the-job training and online training courses will be identified for skills and knowledge needed for project delivery.

Q25. 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.

Capital items procured will be distributed or shared between local project partners and stakeholders. Some items will remain the property of Trust and shared with partners however specific capital items (i.e. electric fencing) will be loaned or given to stakeholders (i.e. syndicates) if appropriate. This ensures that items are utilised beyond the project lifespan, maximising the effort by trained local people post project.

Vehicle and electronic equipment (computer, GPS) will remain with the Trust to replace and update these that are reaching the end of its lifespan or in regards to the vehicle, becoming a financial drain on the organisation in maintenance costs. St Helena is remote therefore procurement of vehicle parts and other large equipment is hard to find, expensive to procure i.e. freight and delivery time is approx. 3 months.

Q26. 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.

This application will provide good value of money through the effective change it will bring about- if controls are successful - by ensuring longer term sustainability for maintenance of pastures for wildlife and livelihoods.

Communications with local agricultural population i.e., syndicates and private landowners, have provided a good indication of the need for and adoption of successful control methods. Knock-on will be a more efficient coverage of land cleared on land clearance contracts than what is currently achieved, which at current rate and need is not a justifiable or sustainable practice.

Invasive species have caused an economic disadvantage for local production that can in long-term with increased, improved pastures available, result in higher stocking rates and better-quality livestock to support the local community thus reducing imports.

The targeted invasive species has spread rapidly over the last decade especially among the South Atlantic islands who are especially vulnerable through having evolved in isolation. Coupled with SHG's application for control of targeted upland invasive species the success of both projects will allow for effective control and management across the islands varied terrain.

The Trust has experience working with and understanding the requirements for the St Helena Plover and is building upon lessons learnt. An increase in suitable habitat with predator control will lead to an increased population, providing a stronger foothold for this iconic species.

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q27. 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.

Open access to data and the products of research is a general policy of the Trust. All data, reports, leaflets, training materials, photographs, films and other outputs from the project will be free access, and available in digital form where

possible and appropriate on the Darwin, Trust and ANRD websites. All data gathered and analysed during the project will be made available in digitised format.

All project reports will be made available on the Darwin website along with data collected during this project. Data collected on threatened species will be stored and made available for management applications within the ANRD database framework.

All data will be stored on Trust servers with backup on the central computer services network. Datasets that underpin publications and reports will be deposited in appropriate digital repositories where datasets are publicly searchable and discoverable.

Q28. 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 Partner has the following policies in place and that these can be 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 (file upload on certification page)	Checked
We keep a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with	Unchecked
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 all 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 for staff and volunteers that sets out clear expectations of behaviours - inside and outside 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 safeguarding policies in practice and ensure that all partners apply the same standards as the Lead Partner.

All Trust policies are currently being updated and are likely to be implemented before the next financial year.

All Trust staff have been/will go through the induction process where an overview of all Trust policies will be given and copies available in each office and on shared servers. All staff employed are required to provide a vetting certificate and any incidence reports will be placed into their personal file. Training will be identified and provided for staff

Safeguarding policy will be shared with partners and made available for stakeholders and volunteers by being available on our website.

Q29. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the key ethical principles, as outlined in the guidance. 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? Any risk assessment and mitigation of human rights and/or international humanitarian law risks should be included in the Question 18 on Risk Management.

The project has consulted with local stakeholders and partner (SHG) during its development stages where their active engagement with the project is key for successful delivery. Letters of support provided supports this. During these discussions held traditional land clearance techniques were highlighted and are being built upon.

SHG staff from ANRD and senior management project staff within the Trust who are written into this project are all local persons holding these positions and will provide varying aspects of support i.e., strategic planning, management, expertise etc. Recruitment for vacant positions will be advertised locally.

The Trust has a set of policies which covers health and safety, safeguarding etc. addressing the rights, privacy and safety of all persons involved with the project.

Section 13 - Project Staff

Q30. Project staff

Please identify the core staff (identified in the budget), their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project.

Please provide 1-page CVs or job description, further information on who is considered core staff can be found in the [Finance Guidance](#).

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Helena Bennett	Project Leader	5	Checked
Martina Peters	Project co-leader	25	Checked
Sheena Benjamin	Education and Outreach Officer	15	Checked
<i>No Response</i>	Project Manager	100	Checked

Do you require more fields?

Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
<i>No Response</i>	Senior Project Officer	100	Checked
<i>No Response</i>	Field and Monitoring Officer	100	Checked

No Response	Field and Livelihoods Officer	100	Checked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
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.

 [Helena Bennett St Helena National Trust CV - December 2021](#)
 17/10/2022
 17:22:39
 pdf 147.35 KB

 [DPR11S1 1053 Collated CV's and Job descriptions](#)
 17/10/2022
 17:21:54
 pdf 235.84 KB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 14 - Project Partners

Q31. Project partners

Please list all the Project Partners (including the Lead Partner – i.e. the partner who will administer the grant and coordinate the delivery of the project), clearly setting out their roles and responsibilities in the project including the extent of their engagement so far and planned.

This section should demonstrate the capability and capacity of the Project Partners to successfully deliver the project. Please provide Letters of Support for all project partners or explain why this has not been included.

The partners listed here should correspond to the Delivery Chain Risk Map (within the Risk Register template) which you will be asked to submit if your project is recommended for funding.

Lead partner name: Saint Helena National Trust

Is the Lead Partner based in a UKOT where the project is working? Yes

Website address: www.trust.org.sh

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

The Trust has experience in leading and managing Darwin Plus projects and has achieved A and A+ ratings on past projects.

The Trust led the development of this application, through dialogue with partners, sharing of drafts and integration of organisational, national and international priorities. We have utilised previous Darwin and other project experience to anticipate likely challenges and design a realistic and successful project.

Within the Trust, there is currently 2 Darwin projects in progress and previously overlapping projects, which has ensured the recognised and highly valued importance of capacity and careful management to deliver outputs. Therefore, both the Director and the Head of Conservation will provide oversight to ensure adequate capacity is available. The Trust also has strong relationships with government, civil society, and international and local partners.

There will be a dedicated Project Manager and field staff to deliver the outputs. The Project Manager will manage the budget, ensuring adequate regular communication with the Trust's finance and administration staff. They will also be the key point of contact with the steering group, leading monitoring and evaluate outputs/outcomes, and disseminate the results including Darwin reporting.

Allocated budget (proportion or value):

██████████

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)

Yes

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?

Yes

1. Partner Name:

St Helena Government, ENRP's ANRD division

Website address:

www.sainthelena.gov.sh

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

St Helena Government has a number of Divisions which will engage with this project, under ENRP.

SHG has been fully engaged during the development of this project, including commenting on, and contributing to, the Logical Framework and methodology.

The Agriculture Section undertakes land management and communication/interaction with St Helena's farming community. There is recognition of the negative impact of invasive species on the farming community and a need for sustainable, efficient and cost-effective solutions to their management.

The Environmental Management Division (EMD) manages land including the Peaks National Park which retains the greatest area of predominantly native habitat (cloud forest) but experiences numerous problems with invasive species.

ENRP staff will advise and support control actions taking place on government land, input on site selection and monitoring, information sharing, and facilitate contracts appropriate.

ENRP staff will be part of the Steering group, assisting with livelihoods scheme, involved in control techniques and guiding project outputs. Staff within this directorate will engage with outreach events and training opportunities and will adopt methods in practice and policy to provide long-term utilisation of these controls, providing a long-lasting legacy to the project.

Allocated budget (proportion or value):

██████

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)

Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

2. Partner Name:

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Website address:

www.rspb.org.uk

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

The UK Overseas Territories (OTs) are a major strategic priority for the RSPB, and we have a track record of successful project delivery in the OTs under both Darwin and BEST. The RSPB has been working with the OTs for over 25 years. The underlying principle of our work is to establish enduring relationships with local partners in order to help support the development of sustainable and locally-lead conservation programmes. The St Helena National Trust is a longstanding RSPB partner.

RSPB has strong capacity to engage and deliver the project. RSPB brings its experience in land and livestock management through the UK reserve operations which is directly relevant for this project. RSPB also brings its experience in bird monitoring and project management. Andy Schofield has over 20 years of habitat management experience and will provide technical advice to the project team. Steffen Opper is a leading scientist in monitoring the recovery of globally threatened species and will support with data collection and analysis. Sarah Havery has over eight years of relevant experience working with partners on St Helena and will provide project management support as required by the project team.

Allocated budget (proportion or value):

██████████

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)

Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

3. Partner Name:

No Response

Website address:

No Response

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

No Response

Allocated budget (proportion or value):

£0.00

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)

Yes
 No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes
 No

4. Partner Name:

No Response

Website address: *No Response*

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): *No Response*

Allocated budget (proportion or value): £0.00

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure) Yes
 No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes
 No

5. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): *No Response*

Allocated budget (proportion or value): £0.00

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure) Yes
 No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes
 No

6. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): *No Response*

Allocated budget (proportion or value): £0.00

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure) Yes No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes No

If you require more space to enter details regarding Partners involved in the project, please use the text field below.

No Response

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

 [Letter of support - Man & Horse](#)
 17/10/2022
 17:49:18
 pdf 570.98 KB

 [Letter of support for Darwin project- Deadwood](#)
 17/10/2022
 17:49:00
 pdf 120.8 KB

 [DPLUS Main LOS SHNT Oct 2022](#)
 17/10/2022
 17:48:45
 pdf 158.68 KB

 [RSPB support letter SHNT proposal signed](#)
 17/10/2022
 17:48:08
 pdf 189.09 KB

 [SHNT DPR11S1 1053 Stage 2 application cover letter FINAL](#)
 17/10/2022
 17:47:47
 pdf 222.78 KB

 [SHNT DPR11S1 1053 Stage 2 application addressing feedback FINAL](#)
 17/10/2022
 17:28:54
 pdf 210.62 KB

Section 15 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q32. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Has your organisation been awarded Darwin Plus, Darwin Initiative or Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund funding 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
DPLUS107	Helena Bennett	Community supported multispecies invasive vertebrate control on St Helena
DPLUS104	Helena Bennett	Conserving St Helena's endemic invertebrates through invasive invertebrate control
CV19RR05	Mike Jervois	Native plants for biodiversity
DPLUS025	Jeremy Harris	Conservation of the Spiky Yellow Woodlouse and Black Cabbage tree

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.

Yes

Section 16 - Certification

Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

St Helena National Trust

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, a cover letter, letters of support, a budget, logframe, Safeguarding Policy and project implementation timetable.
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report are also enclosed.

Checked

Name

Martina Peters

Position in the organisation

Head of Conservation

Signature (please upload e-signature)

 [E- Signature](#)

 17/10/2022

 17:41:57

 pdf 21.45 KB

Date

17 October 2022

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

 [Annual Report 2019-20 Final](#)
 17/10/2022
 17:45:00
 pdf 794.19 KB

 [SHNT Annual Report 2020-21](#)
 17/10/2022
 17:43:47
 pdf 2.55 MB

 [SHNT Financial Statements 2020-21](#)
 17/10/2022
 17:40:44
 pdf 447.67 KB

 [A200 SHNT annual report and financial statements 2022 - SVLLP](#)
 17/10/2022
 17:40:41
 pdf 502.54 KB

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

 [Safeguarding Policy](#)
 17/10/2022
 17:41:45
 pdf 4.07 MB

Section 17 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including the "Darwin Plus Guidance", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Risk Guidance" and "Financial 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 the project.	Checked
I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April - 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application 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 30, 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), including relevant OT Governments, identified at Question 31, or an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant.	Checked

I have included a copy of the Lead Partner’s safeguarding policy, which covers the criteria listed in Question 28.	Checked
I have included a signed copy of the last 2 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 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 the application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the **Privacy Notice**, available from the [Forms and Guidance Portal](#).

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 partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).

Project Title:

Guidance – please delete before submitting

Provide a **Project Implementation Timetable** that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the following table as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project. Quarters are based on UK FYs (**1 April – 31 March** - Q1 therefore starts April 2023).

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 shade only the quarters in which an activity will be carried out. The activity numbers should correspond to the activities in your logical framework (logframe). The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

This template covers multiple Biodiversity Challenge Funds schemes, so ensure you check the eligible dates/project length for the scheme you are applying to and feel free to delete later years if not applicable for your project.

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4																
Output 1: Effective pasture management is implemented across priority grassland areas																						
1.1	Recruit Senior Project Officer by Q1 Year 1.	1																				
1.2	In consultation with project partners and stakeholders, pasture management techniques are identified and agreed by Q2 Year 1.																					
1.3	A trial pasture management plan and map for all priority trial sites is produced by end Year 1.	2																				
1.4	Intensive management techniques (both mechanical and through livestock) initiated by end Yr.1 across 3 high priority trial sites (Man and Horse, Deadwood Plain and Bottom Woods).	3																				
1.5	Less intensive management techniques (both mechanical and through livestock) initiated by end	6																				

Project Title:

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4																
	of Yr. 2 across 3 medium priority trial sites (Middle Point Woody Ridge and Thompson’s wood).																					
1.6	Supplementary seed trial sites with useful pasture grass species if required (depending on the level of natural regeneration) by end Q2 Year 3.	3																				
Output 2 Livelihoods of agriculturalist communities (through existing farming syndicates) are enhanced through climate resilience initiatives.																						
2.1	Recruit Field and Livelihoods Officer by Q1 Year 1.	1																				
2.2	Produce a repeatable questionnaire to better understand the drivers of recent land use change and the needs of the farming syndicates and landowners to inform initiatives and diversification schemes by Q3 Year 1.	1																				
2.3	Collect baseline assessment from questionnaire surveys with farming syndicates and landowners by end of Year 1.	4																				
2.4	Repeat questionnaire assessment at end of project to monitor impact against Year 1 baseline.	3																				
2.5	Produce a finalised pasture management stocking plan (based on 1.1) in Year 3	4																				
2.7	Based on 2.3, complete a scoping assessment for two climate resilient livelihood initiatives in year 2.	9																				

Project Title:

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4																
2.8	Implement a trial of one additional livelihood initiative in Year 3.	6																				
2.9	Produce a best practice protocol for pasture management in National Conservation Areas by end Year 2.	4																				
2.10	Integrate best practice pasture management and development mitigation into any drafted National Conservation Areas management plans under DPLUS154 for grassland areas by end of project.	3																				
2.11	Integrate best practice pasture management into lease agreements by the end of the project.	6																				
2.12	Produce a livelihood enhancement plan (linking provision of livelihood benefits to support for improved pasture management) in consultation with farming syndicates, landowners and St Helena Government by end of project	6																				
Output 3 The conservation and livelihood impact of pasture management are monitored and evaluated																						
3.1	Recruit Field and Monitoring Officer by Q1 Year 1.	1																				
3.2	Complete annual vegetation surveys of all trial management areas.	3																				

Project Title:

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4																
3.3	Establish bi-annual data collection of rabbit culling effort led by farming syndicate at Deadwood from Year 1.	6																				
3.4	Complete Invertebrate monitoring undertaken pre and post pasture management (start and end of the project), inside and outside of trial sites.	4																				
3.5	Complete annual St Helena Plover census counts and nest monitoring.	18																				
3.6	Training delivered to project staff on ringing St Helena Plover and monitoring techniques by end Year 1	9																				
3.7	Annual monitoring of St Helena Plover movement based on ring re-sightings.	24																				
3.8	Complete annual data analysis to monitor population and survival trends	3																				
3.9	Produce a map of St Helena Plover re-sightings data by end of project.	2																				
Output 4 Enhanced in-territory capacity to implement and monitor effective management of St Helena’s grassland protected areas																						
4.1	Recruit Project Manager by Q1 Year 1.	1																				
4.2	Complete review and update of St Helena Government leases to	12																				

Project Title:

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4																
	farming syndicates to integrate improved land management practices within National Conservation Areas by the end of the project																					
4.3	Review and draft updated St Helena agricultural policies (Agricultural strategy and Estates Management policy) to integrate improved land management practices by end of project	12																				
4.4	Hold species action planning workshop in Year 2 to update Wirebird Species Action Plan	1																				
4.5	Produce updated species action plan document by end of project.	4																				
4.6	Provide cross-organisational training opportunities between project partners and wider stakeholders (farming syndicates and landowners) throughout the project.	33																				
4.7	Produce regular public communication materials through the newspaper, radio and social media to promote the project to the wider community.	36																				
4.8	Take regular film footage of project activities throughout the project and produce an end of project film by Q3 Year 3	33																				

Project Title:

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4																
4.9	Host a community event with a project film screening in Q4 Year 3.	1																				
4.10	Deliver regular wirebird tours to community members and visitors, including information on the active pasture management and the win-win relationship for people and wildlife.	36																				

Project Title: **Improving St Helena’s grasslands to benefit people and wildlife**

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact:</p> <p>The unique biodiversity of St Helena’s grasslands can thrive through effective and sustained pasture management achieved via enhanced local livelihoods, providing a win-win for the island’s people and wildlife. (Max 30 words)</p>			
<p>Outcome: (Max 30 words)</p> <p>Effective pasture management implemented to improve St Helena’s grassland habitats by sustainably enhancing local livelihoods through increased livestock capacity and quality, which also benefits grassland biodiversity.</p>	<p>0.1 8 ha of grassland under improvement management practices by the end of the project</p> <p>0.2 Three priority trial sites have increased quantity of pasture grasses by at least 20% (through invasive plant removal) by the end of the project</p> <p>0.3 The livelihoods of 21 syndicate members are measurably enhanced (monitored via project start/end repeated assessments) over the course of the project.</p> <p>0.4 Annual biodiversity surveys reveal no loss of native species richness in existing grassland habitat over the course of the project and a significant increase in areas under enhanced management</p>	<p>0.1 Maps, GIS data, reports</p> <p>0.2 Methodologies of controls produced, monitoring data and analysis of results, reports, public presentations and feedback</p> <p>0.3 Baseline and end of project assessments, public presentations, workshops and feedback, livestock data</p> <p>0.4 Biodiversity surveys data and reports (invertebrates, vegetation and rabbits) including annual Wirebird census counts and regular nest monitoring</p>	<p>Effectiveness of pasture management techniques are detected and measurable. Methods will be built upon previously explored techniques with additional expert advice provided.</p> <p>Continued positive engagement with farming syndicates and St Helena Government. We believe this will hold true based on discussions during project development, as demonstrated in the provided letters of support from both the farming community and St Helena Government. Government department ANRD is a project partner and has a long-term close working relationship with the St Helena National Trust.</p>

Project Title: **Improving St Helena's grasslands to benefit people and wildlife**

	<p>0.5 Pasture management and development mitigation measures built into protected area management plans by the end of the project</p> <p>0.6 St Helena Government leases and draft agriculture policies (Agricultural strategy and Estates Management policy) in National Conservation Areas updated to include provisions for improved land management by end of project</p>	<p>0.5 Policies, legislation and species action plans reviewed and updated including practices identified adopted by National Conservation Areas project outputs (DPLUS154)</p> <p>0.6 Lease documents, draft policy amendments</p>	
<p>Outputs: 1. Effective pasture management is implemented across priority grassland areas</p>	<p>1.1 Pasture management techniques (including livestock stocking; rotavating/rolling and invasive species management) identified with a trial pasture management plan produced by end Yr. 1.</p> <p>1.2 Higher impact management techniques initiated by end Yr.1 across 3 high priority trial sites (Man and Horse, Deadwood Plain and Bottom Woods).</p> <p>1.3 Lower impact management techniques initiated by end of Yr. 2 across 3 medium priority trial</p>	<p>1.1 Methodologies documented and action plans produced, map of priority sites.</p> <p>1.2 Photo evidence, documentation, survey data, maps produced, signed contracts</p> <p>1.3 Photo evidence, documentation, survey data, maps produced</p>	<p>The Wirebird mitigation project 2008-2011 worked toward enhancing agriculture and natural resources department's (ANRD) licencing system and collaborate with grazing syndicates and farmers to manage wirebird sites to offset the impact of the development of the islands airport. A steering group was formed and Identified sites underwent clearance of invasive woody plants with good response in the wirebird population. Over the last decade droughts and increased costs have</p>

Project Title: **Improving St Helena’s grasslands to benefit people and wildlife**

	<p>sites (Middle Point, Woody Ridge and Thompson’s wood).</p> <p>1.4 Planting and encouragement of useful pasture grasses and species (Kikuyu grass <i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i>, mat grass <i>Stenotaphrum secundatum</i> and legume <i>Desmodium incanum</i>) (depending on the level of natural regeneration) in all trial sites by end of project.</p>	<p>1.4 Vegetation survey data, seeding/planting records, photo evidence</p>	<p>hindered agricultural sectors and aided new invasive species to take hold.</p> <p>St Helena agriculturalist communities (farming syndicates) continue to engage with project through active face-to-face communication with meetings on site, providing their views and receiving updates on planned project works. We believe this will hold true based on project development discussions, as evidenced by syndicate support letter</p>
<p>2. Livelihoods of agriculturist communities (through existing farming syndicates) are enhanced through climate resilient initiatives</p>	<p>2.1 A baseline assessment completed in Yr. 1 to better understand the drivers of recent land use change and the needs of the farming syndicates and landowners to inform initiatives and diversification schemes.</p> <p>2.2 Best practices produced for pasture management techniques and built into protected area management plans and lease agreements by the end of the project.</p> <p>2.3 A finalised pasture management plan produced</p>	<p>2.1 Assessment report and recommendations, workshop and stakeholder feedback.</p> <p>2.2 Best practices documents produced, DPLUS154 management plans, draft leases, draft relevant policies/legislation.</p>	<p>Drought events do not impact livestock stocking.</p>

Project Title: Improving St Helena's grasslands to benefit people and wildlife

	<p>(based on 1.1) and implemented for at least 2 of the 3 priority sites in Year 3</p> <p>2.4 Two additional livelihood initiatives are identified (with a focus on climate resilience) with one developed and trialled by the end of the project, in line with 2.1 (Baseline data to be established).</p> <p>2.5 A repeated assessment with farming syndicates and landowners completed at end of project to monitor impact against year 1 baseline (2.1).</p> <p>2.6 A livelihood enhancement plan (linking provision of livelihood benefits to support for improved pasture management) is developed in consultation with farming syndicates, landowners and St Helena Government by end of project.</p>	<p>2.3 Pasture management plan, public presentation, attendance and feedback</p> <p>2.4 Documentation of initiatives, survey data, feedback</p> <p>2.5 Database, completed assessment questionnaires, report</p> <p>2.6 Plan document, meeting notes</p>	
<p>3. The conservation impacts of the pasture management are monitored and evaluated</p>	<p>3.1 Annual vegetation surveys of trial management areas.</p> <p>3.2 Establish bi-annual data collection of rabbit culling effort led by farming syndicate at Deadwood from Yr. 1.</p>	<p>3.1. Survey reports and data (shorter yearly report and a detailed final report in Yr. 3)</p> <p>3.2 Survey data and report produced</p>	<p>RSPB sabbatical undertaken in August 2022 has been successful at providing baseline habitat and livelihood information in relation to the St Helena Plover including a starting point for</p>

Project Title: Improving St Helena's grasslands to benefit people and wildlife

	<p>3.3 Invertebrate monitoring undertaken pre and post pasture management (start and end of project), inside and outside of trial sites.</p> <p>3.4 Annual St Helena Plover census counts undertaken showing a 10% increase in presence across all priority sites by end of project.</p> <p>3.5 St Helena Plover nests showing a 5% increase in survival rate across all priority sites by end of project.</p> <p>3.6 Improved understanding of St Helena Plover movement in relation to protected areas through ringing at least 30 birds and annual monitoring.</p>	<p>3.3 Invertebrate monitoring data and report produced (shorter report in Yr. 1 and final report in Yr. 3)</p> <p>3.4 Annual census counts</p> <p>3.5 nest records (includes success rate) and maps produced.</p> <p>3.6 Ringing training report, ringing database and monitoring data and report.</p>	<p>review of the Wirebird species action plan.</p>
<p>4. Enhanced in-Territory capacity to implement and monitor effective management of St Helena's grassland protected areas</p>	<p>4.1 Review and update of St Helena Government leases on crown pasturelands to integrate improved land management practices within National Conservation Areas by the end of the project</p> <p>4.2 Review and draft updated St Helena agricultural policies to integrate improved land</p>	<p>4.1 Updated leases, workshops and public presentations and feedback</p> <p>4.2 Draft policy documents</p>	

Project Title: Improving St Helena’s grasslands to benefit people and wildlife

	<p>management practices by end of project (Agricultural strategy and Estates Management policy)</p> <p>4.3 Update of Wirebird Species Action Plan produced in YR2</p> <p>4.4 Grassland management and development mitigation measures included within the outputs of the sustainable management planning for St Helena’s National Conservation Areas project (DPLUS154)</p> <p>4.5 A total of 20 persons from SHG, Trust and general public (farmers etc.) well informed and trained in pasture management techniques through cross-partner training by the end of the project</p> <p>4.6 Ongoing communication of project outputs with wider community through promotional and educational materials throughout the project duration</p> <p>4.7 Conduct Wirebird tours with an overall attendance of 30 persons by end of the project.</p>	<p>4.3 Workshops, public consultation and Species action plan produced</p> <p>4.4 National Conservation Areas management plans</p> <p>4.5 Workshop, public presentation and feedback surveys</p> <p>4.6 Social media analytics, newspaper articles (number of papers sold), radio interviews and public film screening at end of project</p> <p>4.7 Tour records (attendance), feedback and photo evidence.</p>	
<p>Activities</p> <p>Output 1: Effective pasture management is implemented across priority grassland areas</p>			

Project Title: **Improving St Helena's grasslands to benefit people and wildlife**

- 1.1 Recruit Senior Project Officer by Q1 Year 1.
- 1.2 In consultation with project partners and stakeholders, pasture management techniques are identified and agreed by Q2 Year 1.
- 1.3 A trial pasture management plan and map for all priority trial sites is produced by end Year 1.
- 1.4 Intensive management techniques (both mechanical and through livestock) initiated by end Yr.1 across 3 high priority trial sites (Man and Horse, Deadwood Plain and Bottom Woods).
- 1.5 Less intensive management techniques (both mechanical and through livestock) initiated by end of Yr. 2 across 3 medium priority trial sites (Middle Point Woody Ridge and Thompson's wood).
- 1.6 Supplementary seed trial sites with useful pasture grass species if required (depending on the level of natural regeneration) by end Q2 Year 3.

Output 2: Livelihoods of agriculturist communities (through existing farming syndicates) are enhanced through climate resilience initiatives

- 2.1 Recruit Field and Livelihoods Officer by Q1 Year 1.
- 2.2 Produce a repeatable questionnaire to better understand the drivers of recent land use change and the needs of the farming syndicates and landowners to inform initiatives and diversification schemes by Q3 Year 1.
- 2.3 Collect baseline assessment from questionnaire surveys with farming syndicates and landowners by end of Year 1.
- 2.4 Repeat questionnaire assessment at end of project to monitor impact against Year 1 baseline.
- 2.5 Produce a finalised Pasture Management plan (based on 1.1) in Year 3
- 2.6 Based on 2.3, complete a scoping assessment for two climate resilient livelihood initiatives in year 2.
- 2.7 Implement a trial of one additional livelihood initiative in Year 3.
- 2.8 Produce a best practice protocol for pasture management in National Conservation Areas by end Year 2.
- 2.9 Integrate best practice pasture management and development mitigation into any drafted National Conservation Areas management plans under DPLUS154 for grassland areas by end of project.
- 2.10 Integrate best practice pasture management into lease agreements by the end of the project.
- 2.11 Produce a livelihood enhancement plan (linking provision of livelihood benefits to support for improved pasture management) in consultation with farming syndicates, landowners and St Helena Government by end of project

Output 3: The conservation and livelihood impacts of the pasture management are monitored and evaluated

- 3.1 Recruit Field and Monitoring Officer by Q2 Year 1.
- 3.2 Complete annual vegetation surveys of all trial management areas.
- 3.3 Establish bi-annual data collection of rabbit culling effort led by farming syndicate at Deadwood from year 1.
- 3.4 Complete Invertebrate monitoring undertaken pre and post pasture management (start and end of the project), inside and outside of trial sites.
- 3.5 Complete annual St Helena Plover census counts and nest monitoring.
- 3.6 Training delivered to project staff on ringing St Helena Plover and monitoring techniques by end Year 1

Project Title: **Improving St Helena's grasslands to benefit people and wildlife**

- 3.7 Annual monitoring of St Helena Plover movement based on ring re-sightings.
- 3.8 Complete annual data analysis to monitor population and survival trends.
- 3.9 Produce a map of St Helena Plover re-sightings data by end of project.

Output 4: Enhanced in-Territory capacity to implement and monitor effective management of St Helena's grassland protected areas

- 4.1 Recruit Project Manager by Q1 Year 1.
- 4.2 Complete review and update of St Helena Government leases to farming syndicates to integrate improved land management practices within National Conservation Areas by the end of the project
- 4.3 Review and draft updated St Helena agricultural policies (Agricultural strategy and Estates Management policy) to integrate improved land management practices by end of project
- 4.4 Hold species action planning workshop in Year 2 to update Wirebird Species Action Plan
- 4.5 Produce updated species action plan document by end of project.
- 4.6 Provide cross-organisational training opportunities between project partners and wider stakeholders (farming syndicates and landowners) throughout the project.
- 4.7 Produce regular public communication materials through the newspaper, radio and social media to promote the project to the wider community.
- 4.8 Take regular film footage of project activities throughout the project and produce an end of project film by Q3 Year 3.
- 4.9 Host a community event with a project film screening in Q4 Year 3.
- 4.10 Deliver regular wirebird tours to community members and visitors, including information on the active pasture management and the win-win relationship for people and wildlife.