

# DPLR1\1089

Darwin Plus Local - Final Report (1)

Officer: Linzi Ogden

## Section 1 - Darwin Plus Local Project Information (Essential)

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### Project Reference Number

DPL00029

### Q1. Project Title

*No Response*

### Overseas Territory(ies)

Montserrat

### Lead Organisation or Individual

Montserrat National Trust

### Partner Organisation(s)

Department of Environment, Department of Agriculture, United Kingdom Conservation Forum

### Value of Darwin Plus Local Grant Award

£42,498.30

### Project Start Date

01 May 2023

### Project End Date

31 March 2024

### Project Leader Name

Delmaude Ryan

### Project Website/Twitter/Blog etc.

[www.montserratnationaltrust.ms/](http://www.montserratnationaltrust.ms/)@montserratnationaltrust.ms

### Report Author(s)

Delmaude Ryan

### Report Date

15 April 2024

### Project Summary

*No Response*

### Project Outcomes

Checked	<b>Biodiversity: improving and conserving biodiversity, and slowing or reversing biodiversity loss and degradation;</b>
Unchecked	<b>Climate Change: responding to, mitigating and adapting to climate change and its effects on the natural environment and local communities;</b>
Unchecked	<b>Environmental quality: improving the condition and protection of the natural environment;</b>
Checked	<b>Capability and capacity building: enhancing the capacity within OTs, including through community engagement and awareness, to support the environment in the short- and long-term.</b>

## Section 2 - Project Outcomes (Essential)

On a scale of 1 (high – outcome substantially exceeded ) to 5 (low – outcome substantially did not meet expectation ), how successful do you think your project has been?

2 - Outcome moderately exceeded

### Project outcomes and justification for rating above

The project facilitated the development two junior officers who successfully completed the Endangered Species Course by Durrell Conservation Academy. They also achieved certification in Fire Ant Management and field training ant identification by UK Animal & Plant Health Agency and FERA Science Ltd, UK. The juniors were given hands on training in data collection for health checks, rain collection, nest data and training in excel. This allowed the junior project officers to undertake this exercise without supervision over a 9 month period. In supporting education and outreach , the juniors were able to create their own social media content in providing education regardind the mountain chickens, they also led sessions with students at the primary school level. The junior officers are now fully competent to manage the live feed breeding insect facility , which they have successfully undertaken without any decrease in production, during this project cycle. One other major outcome was the ability to have a fully locally led team, with the secondment by Durrell of a former local project officer as the Coordinator. The new local coordinator had the opportunity to build leadership skills managing the team and the operations of this project. Montserrat now has three additional competent individuals who can undertake the care and management of engandered species given the years experience provided through this project.

There is evidence of better identification of the chytridiomycosis, post outbreak management and husbandry of the mountain chickens at the semi-enclosed facility. Over the last 5 months prior to end of project reporting, there has been no loss of frogs in comparison to the previous year.

Collection of essential evidence to inform the survival rate of the frogs involved monthly health checks, for disease screening. Visible health checks by observation, three days per week, review of camera footage of frogs usage of ponds,rain and temperature data to determine changes in frogs behavior and presence of chytridiomycosis at the semi-enclosed facility. Nest data, tree frog surveys, historical surveys of hotspots where mountain chicken once lived in the wild and postmortems. This data informs partners from, Zoological Society of London, Durrell Wildlife, Chester Zoo and Nordans Ark. The team was able to perform all the data collections as programmed. The data is now available for further scientific analysis to determine ways to improve the prodcution and survical rate of the frogs on island.

Every second month, the Regional Group meets , which includes Dominica ( the other island in which mountain chickens are present) benefits from the local team experience in the management of the frogs in the semi-wild facility. Semi-wild enclosure of the mountain chicken is not practiced in Dominica, The Dominican team can now learn about what works in managing the impact of the chytridiomycosis affecting mountain chickens.

Although the breeding season has expanded with early nesting from March to December, these nest were unfortunately infertile. This could be attributed to the frog's recovery from a heavy outbreak of chytridiomycosis in October - December 2022.

### Supporting Evidence - file(s) upload

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[Cleaning and putting fresh food for crickets at the Insects Facility \(Montserrat\)](#)  
📅 01/05/2024  
🕒 04:55:56  
📎 jpg 326.57 KB

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[Alecia caught her first frog on a Health Check \(Montserrat\)](#)  
📅 01/05/2024  
🕒 04:55:41  
📎 jpg 101.11 KB

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[Alecia Allison got her Certificate for the GIS Training \(Montserrat\)](#)  
📅 01/05/2024  
🕒 04:55:23  
📎 jpg 187.01 KB

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[Alecia and Antwone doing their outreach at LookOut Primary School Grade 4,5 and 6 \(Montserrat\)](#)  
📅 01/05/2024  
🕒 04:55:03  
📎 jpg 301.45 KB

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[ESR Course Alecia and Antwone got their certificates \(Montserrat\)](#)  
📅 01/05/2024  
🕒 04:53:07  
📎 jpg 614.11 KB

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[Kaysie Ryan Fire Ant Management Training Course Certificate \(Montserrat\)](#)  
📅 01/05/2024  
🕒 04:52:42  
📎 pdf 77.44 KB

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[Alecia Allison ESR Training Course Certificate \(Montserrat\)](#)  
📅 01/05/2024  
🕒 04:52:26  
📎 pdf 172.32 KB

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[Alecia Allison Fire Ant Management Training Course Certificate \(Montserrat\)](#)  
📅 01/05/2024  
🕒 04:52:26  
📎 pdf 77.35 KB

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[Antwone Sinclair ESR Training Course Certificate \(Montserrat\)](#)  
📅 01/05/2024  
🕒 04:52:07  
📎 pdf 310.04 KB

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[Antwone Sinclair Fire Ant Management Training Course Certificate \(Montserrat\)](#)  
📅 01/05/2024  
🕒 04:52:07  
📎 pdf 78.17 KB

## Supporting Evidence - links to published document/online materials

The junior project officers spoke of their experience in November 2023 on the Heritage Show six months into the project.

<https://montserratradoecho.wordpress.com/2023/11/21/tuesday-november-21-2023-the-montserrat-national-trust-heritage-radio-show-with-host-delmaude-ryan/#:~:text=Tuesday%20November%2021%2C%202023%20%E2%80%9CThe,Delmaude%20Ryan%20%7C%20Montserrat%20Radio%20Echo>

## Project Challenges

Change of Coordinator for the project. The external Durrell employee who was assigned to this project moved on after the first month on the project. It was determined that the local project officer had sufficient exposure to take over the lead with external guidance when required. This provided opportunity to include another intern and expanded the capacity to three rather than two individuals. The project now has the face of a fully locally led team which encouraged interests from the local community, while providing the opportunity to build skills in managing the facilities, and collecting the data to inform new approaches of how to restore the mountain chicken population on Montserrat.

## Lessons Learned

- i) The secondment of the Project Coordinator by Durrell allowed for more individuals to be exposed to managing endangered species. Having young persons involved in the project piqued the interest of other youths. The collaboration of the Department of the Environment by having an assigned officer to support the team demonstrated the Governments committed in finding a solution to improving the survival rate of the mountain chickens, and potentially enabln them to be re-integrated into the wild in the future.
- ii) Additional certification in basic skills development for the junior staff to enable higher level studies. For example courses in veterinary studies that can allow a quick analysis on outcome of loss of frogs when undertaking postportem.
- iii) More outreach sessions; most of the focus was on keeping the frogs alive.

## Section 3 - Project Finance (Essential)

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### Project Expenditure

Project Spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2023/24 Grant (£)	2023/24 Total actual Darwin Plus Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
<b>Staff Costs</b>				
<b>Consultancy Costs</b>				
<b>Overhead Costs</b>				
<b>Travel and Subsistenc</b>				
<b>Operating Costs</b>				
<b>Capital Items</b>				
<b>Others</b>				
<b>Total</b>	49,998.00	47,891.84	-4.21%	

### Please provide a short narrative summary on project finances.

i) Actual spend included project expenditure for 12 months. It was necessary to commence the project in April rather than May to ensure that the needed staff were not lost in the small but competitive labour market. Staff were selected from among interns that showed an interest in conservation and biodiversity. With the unplanned loss of the named Project Coordinator, it was necessary to reallocate the staffing structure to allow for the intent of the project; to build the local capacity. Two junior project officer roles were recommended while the named Senior Project Officer was assigned to the Project Coordinator role. In addition, additional support for health checks were inadvertently omitted from the original design of the project. However this was necessary to ensure that the health of the frogs were intact and the requisite data was collected during healthchecks. This activity was absorbed in the operations costs. There was also a need to include a printer to assist with the record compilation and field data collection.

### Section 4 - Contribution of Project to Darwin Plus Programme Objectives

Please select up to **one** indicator that applies within **each group/indicator list (A, B, C, D)** and report your results for that indicator in the text box underneath. If you do not have relevant results to report for any of the indicators in a particular group, you can leave them blank.

Please also submit some form of evidence (above) to demonstrate any results you list below, where possible.

#### Group A: Capability and Capacity - Core Darwin Plus Standard Indicators (select one)

Checked **DPLUS-A01: Number of people from key national and local stakeholder groups completing structured and relevant training.**

Unchecked **DPLUS-A02: Number of secondments or placements completed by individuals of key local and national stakeholders.**

Unchecked **DPLUS-A03: Number of local/national organisations with improved capability and capacity as a result of project.**

Unchecked **DPLUS-A04: Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training.**

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Unchecked **DPLUS-A05: Number of trainers trained reporting to have delivered further training by the end of the project.**

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## Group A Indicator Results

3 persons completed structured and relevant training

## Group B: Policies, Practices and Management- Core Darwin Plus Standard Indicators (select one)

Unchecked **DPLUS-B01: Number of new/improved habitat management plans available and endorsed.**

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Unchecked **DPLUS-B02: Number of new/improved species management plans available and endorsed.**

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Unchecked **DPLUS-B03: Number of new/improved community management plans available and endorsed.**

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Unchecked **DPLUS-B04: Number of new/improved sustainable enterprises/ community benefits management plans available and endorsed.**

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Checked **DPLUS-B05: Number of people with increased participation in local communities / local management organisations (i.e., participation in Governance/citizen engagement).**

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Unchecked **DPLUS-B06: Number of Local Stakeholders and Local Communities (people) with strengthened (recognised/clarified) tenure and/or rights.**

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## Group B Indicator Results

3 persons increased their participation in citizen engagement to educate the community about the mountain chicken

## Group C: Evidence and Best Practices - Core Darwin Plus Standard Indicators (select one)

Unchecked **DPLUS-C01: Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed.**

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Unchecked **DPLUS-C02: Number of new conservation or species stock assessments published.**

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Unchecked **DPLUS-C03: New assessments of habitat conservation action needs published.**

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Unchecked **DPLUS-C04: New assessments of community use of biodiversity resources published.**

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Checked **DPLUS-C05: Number of projects contributing data, insights, and case studies to national Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) related reporting processes and calls for evidence.**

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## Group C Indicator Results

monthly reports on mountain chicken health and environment share with Durrell Wildlife

## Group D: Sustainable Benefits to People, Biodiversity and Climate - Core Darwin Plus Standard Indicators (select one)

Unchecked **DPLUS-D01 Hectares of habitat under sustainable management practices.**

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Unchecked **DPLUS-D02: Number of people whose disaster/climate resilience has been improved.**

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Unchecked **DPLUS-D03: Number of policies with biodiversity provisions that have been enacted or amended.**

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## Group D Indicator Results

nothing to note

## Section 5 - Project Partnerships, Wider Impacts and Contributions

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### Project Partnerships

- i) The Department of Environment, assigned two field officers to assist with upkeep of the Mountain Chicken semi-wild enclosure. They also assisted in the mountain chicken health checks and one Intern from the Department assists with the upkeep of the live food (insect) facility.
- ii) The Government of Montserrat was involved through the support of its Department of the Environment and Ministry officials including the Minister attends activities of the Montserrat National Trust where updates are provided on fitting occasions
- iii) Durrell Wildlife facilitated partners such as Chester Zoo and Zoological Society of London in keeping abreast and provide labwork and analysis on the health and cause of death of frogs, where deaths occurred. The knowledge sharing helped to increase the teams awareness and understanding in applying appropriate techniques in swabbing and data collection.
- iv) The local community was kept abreast on the management of the mountain chickens, through outreach sessions in schools, career fairs and summer programmes and on radio programmes such as the Heritage show. Technical specialist are engaged during a postmortem as part of the postmortem group to determine cause of death whenever there is a loss of frog. Local expert in tree frog collection and swabbing was sort to assist in the tree frog surveys and historical survey. Rain water data is collected by a neighbour who resides in the vicinity of the semi-wild enclosure.

### Wider Impacts and Decision Making

The Project has helped with wider decision -making on the future of the frogs. A team of field officers from Montserrat was involved in the census of the Mountain Chickens in Dominica to determine the numbers still living in the wild. Having a knowlege of the population will inform future decisions on how the frogs can improve the re-wilding of the Montserrat Frogs. There was public conversation to include media houses of Dominica to sensitize on the importance of the frogs and the threat caused by human consumption. Media houses were engaged to spread the information to the local community in Dominica on the importance of protecting the frogs.

### Sustainability and Legacy

Montserrat now has a core staff to continue the care and management of the critically endangered (Mountain Chicken) *Leptodactylus fallax*. The Montserrat National Trust, Department of the Environment and Durrell Wildlife will continue to partner on this initiative.

## Section 6 - Communications & Publicity

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### Exceptional Outcomes and Achievements

Participation by the Montserrat team in the Dominica surveys.

Keeping the frogs alive after the intense chytridiomycosis outbreak. Photos of the local team undertaking health checks; swabbing the frogs and at the insect facility refreshing feed for the cockroaches at the live-feed facility where insects are bred for feeding the mountain chickens in semi-wild enclosure.

Photos of team member Alecia and Kaysie measuring endangered fruit bats.

A radio Interview of the young team, six months in, speaking of their experiences in Dominica and in managing the facilities on Montserrat.

### Photo, video or graphic to be used for publicity and communications.

**Please upload at least one relevant and engaging image, video or graphic that you consent to be used alongside the above text in Defra, JNCC or NIRAS communications material.**

<a href="#">Putting fresh food in the cockroach bins at the Insect Facility (Montserrat)</a> 01/05/2024 05:27:07 jpg 290.3 KB	<a href="#">Conducting Health Check-Swabbing the frog</a> 01/05/2024 05:26:36 jpg 221.11 KB
<a href="#">The Heritage Show with the MCRP Team (Montserrat).(2)</a> 01/05/2024 05:26:01 jpg 73.34 KB	<a href="#">Aleacia measuring the Rat Bat wing (Montserrat)</a> 01/05/2024 05:25:06 jpg 157.76 KB
<a href="#">Alecia doing measurement on the Mountain Chicken (Dominica)</a> 01/05/2024 05:24:56 jpg 301.66 KB	<a href="#">Alecia and Kaysie weighing the bat (Montserrat)</a> 01/05/2024 05:24:44 jpg 192.91 KB
<a href="#">The MCRP Team from Montserrat assisting the Dominica Team (Dominica)</a> 01/05/2024 05:24:28 jpg 266.12 KB	<a href="#">SoundCloud link</a> 01/05/2024 05:23:29 eml 6.23 KB

### Photo, video, and/or graphic captions and credits.

A Listen to Montserrat's Team building their capacity in leadership, and coordination, and acquiring the basic skills in managing endangered species. Here, the team speak of their entire experience managing the insect facility and caring for the mountain chickens.

Project Coordinator, Kaycie Ryan, Junior Project Officer, Alicia Allison and Antwone Sinclair, Department of the Environment Representative, Tavis Weekes, Interviewer MNT Heritage Show; Delmaude Ryan - Aired and Video live streames by Radio ZJB, Montserrat.

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds Secretariat, Administrator, and/or JNCC to publish the content of this section.

Yes, I agree for the BCFs Secretariat and/or JNCC to publish the content of this section.

Please list any accounts that you would like tagged in online posts here. This can include project pages, partners' pages or individuals' accounts for any of the following platforms: LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.

Instagram: mountainchickenrecovery #mcrp  
 #montserratnationaltust  
 Facebook: Mountainchickenrecovery programme

Twitter: rewildcaribbean

### Section 7 - Darwin Plus Contacts

Please tick here to confirm that you have read and acknowledge the BCF's Privacy Notice on how contact details will be used and stored and that you have sought agreement from anyone that you are sharing personal details with us on their behalf.

I confirm I have read the Privacy Notice and have consent to share the following contact details

### Project Contact Details

Project Contact Name	Delmaude C Ryan
Role within Darwin Plus Project	Project Lead
Email	[REDACTED]
Phone	[REDACTED]

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**Do you need further sections to provide additional contact details?**

Yes

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## Additional Project Contact Details

Project Contact Name

Kaysie Ryan

Role within Darwin Project

Project Coordinator

Email



Phone

**Do you need further sections to provide additional contact details?**

No

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