

DPLR1\1080

Building on island capacity for long-term seabird monitoring

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Two species of conservation interest in St Helena will be focused on. The Band-Rumped (South Atlantic) Storm Petrel and the Masked Booby.

The storm petrels found on St Helena and Ascension will soon be split from the Band-Rumped Storm Petrel and recognised as an endemic species, the South Atlantic Storm Petrel. This makes them of particular conservation interest on St Helena. Egg Island is one of only 3 confirmed breeding grounds for this endemic species. The last census work (2013-2015) hinted at a decline in the hot season population. That census needs to be repeated in order to determine if the colony has maintained the previous population numbers or if the decline noted in the hot season has continued. Success indicators: 4 staff trained to undertake the census, two 10-night census surveys completed (1 hot and 1 cold season), population data recorded and compared to the census data recorded in 2013-2015, new data provided to St Helena Government (SHG) for use in the development of future management plans for the protection of this island.

If rodents become established on Egg Island it will have a devastating impact on the nesting success of the storm petrel colony and overall seabird biodiversity there. Immediate management measures would need to be undertaken to eradicate them. While staff are on Egg Island conducting the storm petrel census, monitoring will also be undertaken to determine if Egg Island is still rodent free. Outreach and education will also be conducted with the local community to stress the importance of not disturbing the highly sensitive habitat of Egg Island and ensuring no predators are accidentally transported to the island. Success indicators: two 10-day installations of baited rodent stations, document whether those stations indicate the presence or absence of rodents, provide this data to SHG, develop outreach information about the need for biosecurity on Egg Island, distribute that info via social media (6 times), newspaper (4 times), and radio (4 times).

Masked boobies historically declined on the mainland of St Helena and were pushed to nest on the small nearshore islands due to intense nest predation by rats and cats on the mainland. In recent years they have re-colonized the mainland at ridge locations at Lot's Wife and Blue Point. At the Lot's Wife location the colony has grown in recent years, despite the presence of predators. The protection of St Helena's marine environment may be facilitating the recovery, but it is unclear whether the increased booby productivity on St Helena is sufficient to explain the observed expansion of breeding colonies. To begin to understand the colony expansion on St Helena, the Trust will undertake colony monitoring on a portion of the colonies at both Blue Point and Lot's Wife for a period of one year. This monitoring will focus on abundance and nest success. Success indicators: completion of one year of surveying, data provided to SHG, a long-term monitoring plan developed based on experience gained in pilot project.

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name Martina
Surname Peters
Organisation Saint Helena National Trust
Website (Work) [Redacted]
Tel (Work) [Redacted]
Email (Work) [Redacted]
Address [Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

CONTACT DETAILS

Title Ms
Name Helena
Surname Bennett
Organisation Saint Helena National Trust
Website (Work) [Redacted]
Tel (Work) [Redacted]
Tel (Work) [Redacted]
Email (Work) [Redacted]
Address [Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

CONTACT DETAILS

Title Ms
Name Michelle
Surname Fletcher
Organisation Saint Helena National Trust

Website (Work) [Redacted]

Tel (Work) [Redacted]

Email (Work) [Redacted]

Address [Redacted]

[Redacted]

DPLR1\1080

Building on island capacity for long-term seabird monitoring

Section 1 - Project Title & Contact Details

Q1. Project Title

Building on island capacity for long-term seabird monitoring

Q2. Please select whether you are applying as an organisation or as an individual (**Guidance section 3 and Guidance Glossary**)

Organisation

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name	Martina
Surname	Peters
Organisation	Saint Helena National Trust
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Tel (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]

CONTACT DETAILS

Title Ms
Name Helena
Surname Bennett
Organisation Saint Helena National Trust
Website (Work) [REDACTED]
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
Email (Work) [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CONTACT DETAILS

Title Ms
Name Michelle
Surname Fletcher
Organisation Saint Helena National Trust
Website (Work) [REDACTED]
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
Email (Work) [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	St Helena [REDACTED]
Phone (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Section 2 - Overseas Territory(ies)

Q3. Overseas Territory (Guidance section 1.3):

Which UK Overseas Territory(ies) will your project be working in? Please note that in case of a non-permanent resident population you need to demonstrate a clear, meaningful, long-term link to the territory.

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:**

St Helena

In addition to the UKOT(s) you have indicated, will your project directly benefit any other UK OT(s) or country(ies)?

No

Section 3 - Project Partners

Q4. Project partners (Guidance section 3.2)

In this section, please give details of all the partners involved (including the Lead Partner) and provide a summary of their roles.

Project Leader name (Guidance section 3.1):	Helena Bennett
Lead Partner name (if applying as an organisation; Guidance section 3.1):	St Helena National Trust
Lead Partner Website (if applicable):	http://www.trust.org.sh/
Is the Lead Partner based in a UKOT where the project is working (Guidance section 3.1)?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes

List other partners involved and where are they based (Guidance section 3.2):

RSPB
UK office
The Lodge
Potton Road
Sandy
Bedfordshire
SG19 2DL

Marine Section
Environment, Natural Resources and Planning Portfolio (ENRP)
St Helena Government
The Wharf
Jamestown
St Helena


Summary of roles and responsibilities of each partner in the project:


St Helena National Trust- manage the project, conduct the on the ground fieldwork, collect and manage the data, monitor and evaluate the project, analyse the data, report on the project to funder
RSPB- collation of historic data into an accessible long-term database, analysis of the historic data, scientific advice on project design, training and capacity building
St Helena Government- provide historic data, provide insight into locations where seabird work has been previously undertaken, lend equipment until the Trust is able to purchase and receive new equipment


I confirm that all listed partners are aware of this application and have indicated support:


Checked

Attach a Cover Letter for your application (Guidance section 4.2).

 [Darwin Plus Local Cover Letter - Building on is land capacity for long-term seabird monitorin g.docx](#)

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Section 4 - Project Summary & Description

Q5. Project Summary (Guidance section 3.8)

Please provide a brief summary of your project. This may be used in communication activities and/or published online, if your application is successful.

The St Helena National Trust (the Trust) are looking to take the lead on seabird conservation and monitoring activities on St Helena. In consultation with both St Helena Government and RSPB, a pilot

project has been developed that will build capacity for local Trust staff enabling them to undertake this work over the long-term. The species selected for this pilot year, Band-Rumped Storm Petrel and Masked Booby, are of high local conservation interest on St Helena.

Q6. Description (Guidance section 2.1)

Please provide a description of your project, including:

- the overall objective
- the current situation and the problem the project is trying to address
- what success will look like and how you will measure it

Please be as specific as possible when describing the project, using quantified data and evidence where available. You may wish to consider: what are the specific threats to the environment that the project will attempt to address, and what should we know about these threats? What does your successful project look like? And how will you demonstrate whether and how your project has been successful?

Currently no organization conducts seabird monitoring and conservation on St Helena, despite their value in monitoring the health of the marine ecosystem. The St Helena National Trust feels this gap needs to be filled in order to prevent biodiversity loss. The Trust intends to use this funding in a pilot project to develop a long-term seabird monitoring and conservation program. The objectives of this pilot year are to: 1) build capacity of local Trust staff in the skills required to undertake long-term monitoring/conservation work with seabirds, and 2) conduct an initial year of data collection that will feed into management plans being developed to conserve national biodiversity.

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nearshore islands due to intense nest predation by rats and cats on the mainland. In recent years they have re-colonized the mainland at ridge locations at Lot's Wife and Blue Point. At the Lot's Wife location the colony has grown in recent years, despite the presence of predators. The protection of St Helena's marine environment may be facilitating the recovery, but it is unclear whether the increased booby productivity on St Helena is sufficient to explain the observed expansion of breeding colonies. To begin to understand the colony expansion on St Helena, the Trust will undertake colony monitoring on a portion of the colonies at both Blue Point and Lot's Wife for a period of one year. This monitoring will focus on abundance and nest success. Success indicators: completion of one year of surveying, data provided to SHG, a long-term monitoring plan developed based on experience gained in pilot project.

(Optional) Please upload any additional and supporting materials or files (such as maps of project sites, etc) below. Maximum of 5 pages:

No Response

Section 5 - Project Outcome(s)

Q7. Project Outcome(s) (Guidance section 1.2)

Successful Darwin Plus Local projects must demonstrate measurable outcomes in at least one of the themes of Darwin Plus, either by the end of the project or soon after through a credible plan.

Please tick which theme(s) of Darwin Plus your project underpins:

Checked	Biodiversity: improving and conserving biodiversity, and slowing or reversing biodiversity loss and degradation;
Unchecked	Climate change: responding to, mitigating and adapting to climate change and its effects on the natural environment and local communities;
Unchecked	Environmental quality: improving the condition and protection of the natural environment
Checked	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.

Please justify your selection.

One endemic storm petrel population census in each season (hot and cold) will be completed. Data will be compared to data from 2013-2015 to determine if population numbers have been maintained. Data will be provided to SHG to assist with upcoming management actions for Egg Island.

RSPB staff will work with the Trust to build local staff capacity and train four staff how to physically undertake seabird monitoring (mist netting, ringing) and properly collect data. RSPB will also assist the Trust with project design to ensure that the correct work is undertaken to provide the data that is needed.





Section 6 - Project Timeline

Q8. Project timeline (Guidance section 2.2)

Please provide anticipated dates for the start and end of your planned project here. Please use the Darwin Plus Local Project Implementation Timetable Template (which can be downloaded below) to provide a list of the individual activities you have planned for this project, a brief description of what each activity entails, and the months in which the activities will be carried out. If the project involves only one activity (e.g. a purchase), please still provide project start and end dates (noting estimated times for procurement). Please note that your project will need to be completed by 31 March 2024.

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 3 months):
01 May 2023	31 March 2024	11

Please upload the completed Darwin Plus Local Project Implementation Timetable template with your proposed project activities below.

-  [R1-DPlus-Local-Implementation-Timetable-Template-FINAL seabird monitoring](#)
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Section 7 - Costs

Q9. Costs (Guidance section 2.2 and please read the Finance Guidance)

Please provide a breakdown of costs to be funded through Darwin Plus Local (in GBP).

Are you seeking any matched funding for this project? (Please note that this is optional and there is no requirement to seek matched funding for Darwin Plus Local projects).

Yes

How much matched funding are you seeking and where from?

The Trust – half of the total wage costs for the time dedicated to the project by the Marine Project Manager and the Marine Conservation Manager, full wage costs for time dedicated to the project by the Director, bait stations, tracking tunnels (██████)

RSPB – full wage costs for a minimum of 25 days staff time dedicated to the project, ██████ towards accommodation for staff when on St Helena conducting capacity building training (██████)

Budget line	Explanation	Cost in GBP
-------------	-------------	-------------

Staff costs:	Kenickie Andrews - Marine Project Manager, Kirsten Augustus - Marine Assistant, Michelle Fletcher - Marine Conservation Manager, Gavin Ellick - Project Assistant, Dennis Leo - Project Officer	██████████
Overhead costs:	Contribution towards office space, internet, phone, water, electricity, printing, finance, and HR, etc.	██████████
Travel & subsistence costs:	Boat rental to travel to Egg Island to conduct Storm petrol censuses. Vehicle rental and petrol to travel to masked booby colonies. Travel and accommodation for RSPB staff to come from the UK to train local Trust staff.	██████████
Operating costs:	Equipment/materials for seabird surveys that will not last past the life of the project (rodent bait, bird bags, nitrile gloves). Outreach materials (newspaper ads, printed materials)	██████████
Capital equipment:	Equipment for seabird surveys (mist nets, scales, rulers, ringing pliers, rings). Computer with high enough processing power to run QGIS for mapping data collected during the project.	██████████
Consultancy costs:	N/A	██████████
Total:		██████████

This section provides more information on the budget to help evaluators understand how you will use the funds you are requesting. You do not need to list all costs, but please list and detail costs of more than £1,000 per item below, under the appropriate budget line.

Details of staff costs over £1,000 (if relevant)

██████████ (70 days @ ██████████/day for Kenickie Andrews - Marine Project Manager wages for fieldwork, data entry, outreach and education, monitoring and evaluation) – additional 70 days wages in-kind
 ██████████ (140 days @ ██████████/day for Kirsten Augustus - Marine Assistant wages for fieldwork, data entry, outreach and education, monitoring and evaluation)
 ██████████ (33 days @ ██████████/day for Michelle Fletcher – Marine Conservation Manager wages for fieldwork, data entry, outreach and education, monitoring and evaluation) - additional 33 days in-kind

Details of overhead costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

██████████ (11 months @ ██████████ per month for overheads - contribution towards office space, internet, phone, water, electricity, printing, finance, and HR, etc.)

Details of travel and subsistence costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

██████████ (20 boat trips @ ██████████ each to Egg Island to conduct population census)
 ██████████ (66 days @ ██████████/day for vehicle rental to complete fieldwork)
 ██████████ (1 roundtrip airplane ticket from the UK for RSPB staff to undertake local capacity building)

Details of operating costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

No Response

Details of capital equipment costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

No Response

Details of consultancy costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

No Response

Details of other costs over £1,000 (if relevant)

No Response

If your project budget was prepared in another currency and converted to GBP, please provide the exchange rate, its source, and the date it was accessed:

Other currency:	Exchange rate:	Source of this exchange rate:	Date exchange rate accessed:
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response

Darwin Plus Local has been created to build capacity and contribute to local economies in-territory.

What % of the total will be spent in the OTs?

If less than 80% of the total project spend is to be spent within the OT(s), please explain why.

No Response

Section 8 - Local and National Priorities

Q10. Local and national priorities

Please explain how this project aligns with local and national priorities? You may wish to consider the project in the context of national environmental laws, objectives, strategies, territory specific agreements, action plans or policies.

SHG are in the process of hiring someone to write management plans for the National Conservation Areas (NCAs). Staff are currently working on the baseline data reports to identify what information is available and where there are data gaps to inform what additional data needs to be collected in the future. They have indicated that any current data that can be submitted on seabirds will be valuable. They have confirmed that the data to be collected within this Trust project can feed into the NCA Management Plans being developed as part of DPLUS154 Sustainable Management Planning for St Helena's National Conservation Areas.

The Research and Monitoring Plan for the St Helena Marine Management Plan is currently being drafted. Research Theme 3 within this draft plan is focused on protecting biodiversity and important species.

Under long-term monitoring activities in this theme it lists:

Masked boobies-monitor changes in population abundance at Lots Wife and Blue Point to establish known breeding/foraging areas


Storm petrels- monitor colony success on Egg Island


Will the project take place on Government owned land or water?


Yes

Please attach evidence that you have Government support i.e. Letter of Support.

 [Letter MichelleFletcher SHNT 08022023](#)

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Section 9 - Project Risks

Q11. Project Risks

Please demonstrate your consideration of any risks involved in this project and how you intend to manage them. Depending on your project, you may wish to consider:

- Biosecurity risks – particularly for projects involving external equipment.
- Safeguarding risks – particularly for projects involving vulnerable groups such as children, older people or people with disabilities.

Risk	Mitigation
Biosecurity on Egg Island	All equipment being taken onto the island will be checked before transporting. As part of the boat tender the boat captain will be required to certify that the vessel is rat free.
Risk of weather disrupting boat travel to Egg Island	Weather forecasts will be watched and team members will be ready to board the boat early if need be. Tents will be sourced to bring to the island if it is anticipated staff may not be able to leave the island on time due to incoming weather.
Risk of capacity building knowledge lost if staff members leave	Four staff members are being trained so that the loss of one or two of those members will not result in the loss of knowledge. The four staff will also train additional staff to the degree this is possible (e.g. some training can only be done by someone who is certified as a trainer).

Do you require more fields?

No

Section 10 - Terms & Conditions

Q12. Terms and conditions (Guidance section 3.10)

By applying for Darwin Plus Local you are adhering in full to the grant Terms and Conditions in full (available at: <https://dplus.darwininitiative.org.uk/apply> and as referenced in the Guidance at section

3.10). For information, the Terms and Conditions include requirements for all applicants to (amongst other requirements as per the full Terms and Conditions):

- Uphold a zero tolerance for inaction approach to tackling sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment.
- Where appropriate, make all reasonable and adequate efforts to address gender inequality and other power imbalances.
- Notify all cases of fraud and theft (whether proven or suspected) relating to the project to the Grant Administrator as soon as they identified.

Please indicate you have read, and understood, and will adhere to the Terms and Conditions.

Checked

If your application is successful: If your project application is successful, the Fund Administrator (NIRAS) will ask you to provide some financial evidence for due diligence checks before you receive your project grant. (Please see section 3.3 of the Darwin Plus Local Finance Guidance). Please be ready to provide this evidence promptly.

Financial evidence for organisations: Year-end financial statements, the latest management accounts or audited accounts (if you have these).

Financial evidence for individuals: Proof of identity such as a passport, ID card or driving licence and solvency (such as bank statements) and a police check.

Section 11 - Certification

Certification

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the statements made in this application are true and the information provided is correct.

Checked

I have the authority to submit an application on behalf of my organisation.

Checked

Name: Helena Bennett

**Position in the organisation:
(if applicable)** Director

Signature (please upload e-signature)

-  [Signature](#)
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Section 12 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance documents, including the “Darwin Plus Local Guidance” and the “Darwin Plus Local Finance Guidance”.	Checked
If my proposed project takes place on public lands or water, I have uploaded a Letter of Support from Government.	Checked
I have uploaded a cover letter that details the information requested in the guidance (Guidance section 4.2 has information on what this cover letter should include).	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 summary budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP in the application form.	Checked
I have uploaded my project implementation timetable using the specific template provided.	Checked
(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	Checked
The application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	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 Darwin Plus. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share project news. 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 Darwin Plus including project details (usually title, lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).

Project Title:

Darwin Plus Local

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. Projects are based on UK Financial Years (**1 April – 31 March** - 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 months in which an activity will be carried out. The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

Activity #	Description (max 25 words)	No. of months	UK Financial Year 2023/24											
			Calendar Year 2023									Calendar Year 2024		
			Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
	Order equipment and arrange shipping	3												
	Masked Booby nest success monitoring	11												
	Masked Booby colony counts	5												
	RSPB capacity building with local Trust staff for seabird surveying	1												
	Storm Petrels census (cold & hot seasons)	2												
	Storm Petrels rodent monitoring Egg Island	2												
	Storm Petrels biosecurity outreach (information development)	1												
	Storm Petrels biosecurity outreach (social media)	6												
	Storm Petrels biosecurity outreach (newspapers & radio)	4												
	Data entry and analysis	11												
	Submit data to St Helena Government	1												
	Monitoring and evaluation	11												