



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office



Department
for International
Development



DPLUS008

Darwin Plus: Overseas Territories Environment and Climate Fund Project Application Form

Submit by Monday 7 January 2013

Please read the Guidance Notes before completing this form
Information to be extracted to the database is highlighted in blue

Basic Data

1. Project Title	A rare plant census of St Helena
2. OT(s) covered by proposal	St Helena
3. Start Date:	1 st April 2013
4. End Date:	31 st March 2014
5. Duration of project (cannot be longer than 24 months)	1 year

Summary of Costs	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Total
6. Budget requested	£8,650			£8,650
7. Total value of Co-funding	£0			£0
8. Total Project Budget (all funders)	£8,650			£8,650
9. Names of Co-funders				

10. Lead applicant organisation (who will be responsible for delivering outputs, reporting and managing funds)	St Helena Nature Conservation Group (SNCG)
11. Project Leader name	Phil Lambdon
12. Email address	
13. Postal address	3 Fuller's Square, Jamestown, St Helena, South Atlantic Ocean, STHL 1ZZ
14. Contact details: Phone/Fax/Skype	

15. Type of organisation of Lead applicant. Place an x in the relevant box.								
OT GOVT	UK GOVT	UK NGO	Local NGO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	International NGO	Commercial Company	Other (e.g. Academic)	

16. Principals in project. Please identify and provide a one page CV for each of these named individuals. You may copy and paste this table if you need to provide details of more personnel or more than one main, or other, project partner.

Details	Project Leader	Project Partner 1 - Main	Project Partner 2
Surname	Lambdon		
Forename(s)	Philip		
Post held	Freelance ecologist		
Telephone/Skype			
Email			

17. Has your organisation received funding under the Darwin Initiative before? If so, please provide details of the most recent (up to 3 examples). No

Reference No	Project Leader	Title

18. If your answer to question 17 was no, provide details of 3 contracts previously held by your institution that demonstrate your credibility as an implementing organisation. These contracts should have been held in the last 5 years and be of a similar size to the grant requested in this application.

Contract 1 Title	Otep SH601: Illustrated field guides to the flora of St Helena
Contract Value	£66,700
Contract Duration	2 years
Role of institution in project	Only partner, responsible for entire project
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the contract.	To produce high-quality field guides to the lichens, bryophytes and flowering plants & ferns of St Helena. The guides are intended to be accessible to the general public but also useful for conservation workers and attractive to tourists on St Helena. All 3 volumes are now printed and due to be launched for sale early in 2013. Collectively, they provide amongst the most detailed floristic treatment available for any small island in the world. They include over 2,500 colour photos on nearly 900 pages, and present major advances in knowledge at all taxonomic levels treated.
Reference contact details (Name, e-mail, address, phone number).	Colin Clubbe, c.clubbe@kew.org, UK Overseas Territories Science team leader, The Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AB, Tel: 0044 (0) 208 332 5637

Contract 2 Title	Note: SNCG is a small and relatively young organisation which has not yet been presented with the opportunity to run many projects.
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Project Details

19. **Project Outcome Statement:** Describe what the project aims to achieve and what will change as a result. (100 words max)

Population surveys will be completed for the rare endemic vascular plant species of St Helena, with all locations recorded by GPS and numbers of individuals counted. The data will be used to schedule the species on the IUCN's red list. Training in survey techniques and conservation assessment will be given to government conservation staff. The resulting data set will provide the first detailed population baseline for monitoring changes in the status of the endemic flora, and will be made available on the island's GIS. The information will empower future decision making and provide an evidence basis for funding bids.

20. Background: (What is the current situation and the problem that the project will address? How will it address this problem? What key themes will it address? (200 words max)

St Helena has 45 species of endemic flowering plants and ferns, including many of the most threatened species currently protected under the UK's international obligations. In addition, an almost certainly endemic micro-species of grass has not yet been described to science. Basic population mapping is a fundamental early step in the conservation process, although a deficiency of necessary skills in field identification, survey techniques and data management has long been a barrier. Previous red list assessments made in 2003 covered only a subset of species, and were based on limited information which is now substantially out of date. IUCN recommend a revision every 9 years.

An accurate understanding of the current status of the endemic flora is essential to:

- inform biodiversity action plans and the high-profile development of a National Protected Area network.
- raise international awareness of St Helena's conservation plight.

Many populations are highly fragmented and could disappear without short-term action. Accessible knowledge of the locations will:

- help to prioritise conservation efforts
- facilitate monitoring programmes
- enable seed to be collected from a wide range of sources in order to preserve genetic diversity

Key themes addressed:

Habitat or species conservation

Development and use of tools and systems for environmental management

21. Methodology: Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended outcomes and impact. Provide information on how you will undertake the work (materials and methods) and how you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools etc.). Give details of any innovative techniques or methods. (500 words max)

All known sites for rare endemic plants will be visited and population information recorded using methodology established for a biological survey of the island in 2008 (also by the current project team), which mapped all vascular plant species on St Helena to a resolution of 1 km² and collected detailed baseline data on invasive species. Spatial locations will be georeferenced, thus enabling them to be relocated easily.

All endemic species will be included in the assessment. These fall into 3 groups:

- 1) Most are very rare and it should be possible to estimate the number of plants via individual counts. This has recently been conducted successfully by the project team for one species, *Eragrostis episcopus*. It is often impossible to achieve 100% accuracy as some populations are inaccessible. Photographic and binocular counts will be used to scan cliffs where necessary, and a few sites may require abseiling to gain better access. Staff have been trained in the necessary skills.
- 2) For locally abundant species (e.g. the tree fern *Dicksonia arborescens*), a less accurate method will be needed. The area of occurrence will be mapped and density estimated by random point counts.
- 3) There are a few species (e.g. *Bulbostylis lichtensteiniana* and *Diplazium filamentosum*) which are too abundant to assess by area mapping. In such cases, random point samples would be made to obtain ecological data, but the broader distributions would be obtained from 1 km² maps from the 2008 Botanical Survey. As the precise numbers are not critical in these cases, such information would be adequate for red-listing.

In all cases, vegetation relevés would be conducted to characterize the ecological community with which the species is associated. Local threats, e.g. from invasive species, would also be recorded.

Studies are also needed to scientifically confirm one species as an endemic. A grass, provisionally known as *Panicum joshuai*, displays subtle yet consistent differences from its nearest South African relative. However, as local environmental conditions have a large effect on its growth form, it will be necessary to grow different populations in controlled glasshouse conditions along with its congeneric cousin. Seed of the cousin, *P. stapfianum*, will be obtained from South Africa and grown in the government's Conservation Nursery in biosecure conditions alongside plants of local provenance. Morphometric analyses will be conducted to assess the differences, and the identity of the grass will be formally published if confirmed. This is a low-maintenance activity, necessary to complete the assessment of the endemic flora.

The fieldwork will take two months work in total, spread through the year. Once completed, the data will then be added to the island's database and GIS (SHEIS). Red-list assessments will be submitted based on the results.

22. How does this project:

- a) Deliver against the priority issues identified in the assessment criteria
- b) Demonstrate technical excellence in its delivery
- c) Demonstrate a clear pathway to impact in the OT(s)

(500 words max)

- a) The project contributes fundamentally to Objective 1 of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (Plant diversity is well understood, documented and recognized). It is also an essential step in the implementation of Objective 2 (Plant diversity is urgently and effectively conserved), since it is not possible to conserve species unless their locations are known. In 2010, populations of extremely rare ferns were almost destroyed by Conservation Staff carrying-out routine strimming, unaware of their presence. The project would help to prevent a repeat of similar incidents. Also, without a baseline estimate of numbers, it will not be possible to assess the efficacy of future conservation initiatives. There are significant benefits for the implementation of St Helena's national biodiversity strategy. Precise mapping data can be used to inform the development and management of St Helena's National Protected Areas network and to develop biodiversity action plans. The data also provide a much-needed evidential basis for ecological considerations in land development planning.
- b) The project has a simple, clear aim, enabling progress to be easily evaluated. Its personnel have visited all of the sites and are confident of the feasibility of the task. They have also extensively developed the island's biological database resources and have much experience with population monitoring (e.g. having conducted botanical surveys of invasive plant species on Crete and the entire vascular flora of St Helena, established a protocol for long-term monitoring of endemic species on Ascension Island, and been involved with numerous rare plant surveys in the UK). They are also experienced in red-listing (e.g., of Ascension Island's endemic flora in 2009). The necessary skills are available to enable the task to be undertaken efficiently and comprehensively.
- c) At the end of the project, the data will be lodged with the St Helena Government and the global IUCN red list will be updated. Shayla Ellick (Environmental Management Directorate of St Helena Government) will be trained as part of the work and will go on to develop species action plans using the data, thus ensuring that the benefits are directly incorporated into local policy. St Helena is currently in the process of increasing its tourism capacity and there is a large potential market for ecotourism. Guided tours to endemic plant sites may form part of the effort, but only if managed carefully and sustainably. The data will not only facilitate visits but also ensure that the necessary protective steps are taken to prevent damage to the sites. They will provide an evidence base for more confident Environmental Impact Assessments, important in view of the large projected increase in property developments.

23. 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. (250 words max)

The project will engage directly with the part of St Helena government concerned with nature conservation (the Environmental Management Directorate). The Directorate will be a key contributor, as described in Sections 22 and 24, and the project fits with their current objectives: a need has been identified within EMD to develop information capacity in order to successfully implement conservation policy.

24. Institutional Capacity: Describe the implementing organisation's capacity (and that of partner organisations where relevant) to deliver the project.
(500 words max)

The project will be lead by the SNCG. This is currently a small organisation with little funding but a substantial knowledge base. The active membership is a mix of locals interested in nature conservation, and more experienced conservation workers who are keen to further their commitment on a wider stage. Such a small project is well within the group's capacity, but it is important that the SNCG develops confidence in project management as an NGO, which will enable it to expand and become a more influential player on St Helena in the future, providing support to larger organisations. The work will be conducted by Phil Lambdon with assistance from Andrew Darlow where abseiling is required. Participation of government in the project through EMD is essential. This ensures that the findings are acted upon and that a key member of staff, Shayla Ellick, will benefit from appropriate training. Shayla will provide support for parts of the fieldwork and data processing. The input of government will greatly help dissemination of the results to a wider national and international audience.

25. Expected Outputs

Output (<i>what will be achieved e.g. capacity building, action plan produced, alien species controlled</i>)	Indicators of success (<i>how we will know if its been achieved e.g. number of people trained/ trees planted</i>)	Status before project/baseline data (<i>what is the situation before the project starts?</i>)	Source of information (<i>where will you obtain the information to demonstrate if the indicator has been achieved?</i>)
1. Census of rare endemic vascular plant species	Census completed	Locations of endemic populations known but not documented	Database compiled and information output through St Helena's GIS
2. Training in census and red listing methods	One member of government staff trained	No members of government staff appropriately trained	Training completed and staff using knowledge in on-going work. Methodology document lodged with the database.
3. All endemic vascular plants on St Helena red listed	Red list data sheets submitted to IUCN	A few species currently red-listed in 2003, but information now out of date	IUCN red list website updated with new information
4. Assessment of species status for <i>Panicum joshuai</i>	Evidence-based decision as to whether this grass is a new species	Currently the status is undetermined and this rare grass receives no protection	Published paper in mainstream journal

26. Expected Outcomes: How will each of the outputs contribute to the overall outcome of the project?
(100 words max)

All endemic vascular species on St Helena will be surveyed and the data added to the island's GIS. The information will be compiled into the existing Biological Records Database and analysed to produce red list assessments. The newly trained staff will contribute to this process and conduct on-going species management work using the data set as a tool.

27. Main Activities	
Output 1	Activities or tasks to be done to deliver the outputs. Include activities on information sharing and collaboration with other OTs
1.1	Census conducted by visiting each known endemic population
1.2	Information recorded in Biological Records Database
1.3	Database output to GIS layers and added to SHEIS
Output 2.1	One member of EMD personnel trained in field surveying during part of the survey.
2.2	The same member of EMD personnel trained in database management and red-listing alongside the development of the work.
Output 3.1	Red list assessments produced, written-up into detailed reports and submitted to IUCN for evaluation.
Output 4.1	Seed of <i>P. joshuai</i> collected from wild during census. Samples of <i>E. stapfianum</i> collected in South Africa via collaboration with Stellenbosch Botanic Garden.
4.2	Plants grown in controlled conditions in a nursery and morphometric analysis undertaken on the mature specimens, to supplement existing herbarium data collected at Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.
4.3	Results of analysis published as a scientific paper if appropriate.

28. Risks			
Description of the risk	Likelihood the event will happen (H/M/L)	Impact of the event on the project (H/M/L)	Steps the project will take to reduce or manage the risk
Core personnel leaving	L	H	Knowledge of the sites resides in at least two other individuals within the SNCG who may be able to complete, or advise on completion, of the work.
Trainee leaving	L	L	Another member of staff may be able to participate in the training.

29. Sustainability: How will the project ensure benefits are sustained after the project has come to a close? If the project requires on-going maintenance or monitoring, who will do this? (200 words max)
We aim to produce a discrete piece of work which will act as a baseline for the future, and provide detailed reference material in the form of red list reports. By training a member of government staff in the appropriate techniques and ensuring that the information is actively used after the project, the knowledge and skills will be developed for the longer term. Documented locations of all known endemic plant sites on St Helena will allow a more rigorous monitoring programme to be developed.

30. Monitoring & Evaluation: How will the project be monitored and who will be responsible? Will there be any independent assessment of progress and impact? When will this take place, and by whom?
(250 words max)

Since this is a small project taking no more than one year there are few milestones. The critical phase is the field work. Regular liaising with EMD will provide an independent check to ensure that this is completed in time, and that the training given to their staff is satisfactory. The red-listing component will be completed by the project end. The executive committee of the SNCG will monitor project progress and outcomes against the budget.

The project completion report is **due up to 3 months** after the project is over and is linked to the final payment.

31. Use of information: If your application is successful, the information in this form may be published on the internet or used in publications. If there are any parts of the application which you do not want to be used in this way, please indicate them in the box below.

32. Financial controls: (Who is responsible for managing the funds? What experience do they have? What arrangements are in place for auditing expenditure?)

The project funds will be managed by Phil Lambdon, who previously managed the OTEP project SH601 (see Part 18). The SNCG treasurer Derek Henry will provide an internal check on the accounts and, in consultation with the group's executive committee, approve bank transactions.

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

NB: Please state all costs by financial year (1 April to 31 March) and in GBP. **Budgets submitted in other currencies will not be accepted.** Use current prices – and include anticipated inflation, as appropriate, up to 3% per annum. The Darwin Initiative cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.

33. Value for Money

Please explain how you worked out your budget and how you will provide value for money through managing a cost effective and efficient project. You should also discuss any significant assumptions you have made when working out your budget.

(300 words max)

Most of the funding is devoted to staff time (project leader) and hire of a vehicle for field visits. Costs of the government trainee will be committed by EMD. Consultancy fees cover the participation of a qualified abseil partner when required, and a small contribution to external collaborators for obtaining seed of *P. stapfianum*. A sum of £200 is committed for consumables required for nursery work and basic office supplies, and £150 for internet use. £200 capital expenditure will contribute to climbing equipment. As all personnel are already in place there is no cost of sourcing staff.

The island is currently in a unique position to deliver the objectives of this project at very low cost. As a result of the 2008 botanical survey and follow-up work on the production of botanical field guides, the precise locations of the endemic populations are now well known. However, previous surveys have not been aimed at the level of detail required for an endemic plant census, and the knowledge is in the heads of a few key individuals who may leave the island in the long term. It has taken four years to accrue this knowledge base. Without it, the task would take many more months, at lower detection rates.

Red list assessments could be conducted without precise census information as to some extent the IUCN system allows for 'best guesses' where detailed data are not available. However, it would be conducted using out of date information, contain significant inaccuracies and will not represent an advance on the previous efforts of 2003. Conservation policy and action depend on high-quality data if they are to be effective, and the current knowledge gap is a major barrier to effective progress. The financial sum required to overcome this barrier is small in relation to its value.

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 (Q1 starting April 2013)

Activity	No of Months	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1													
1.1 Census conducted by visiting each known endemic population in turn	9	■	■	■									
1.2 Information collated into Biological Records Database	1			■									
1.3 Database output to GIS layer and added to SHEIS	1				■								
Output 2													
2.1 One member of EMD personnel trained in field surveying during part of the survey.	9	■	■	■									
2.2 The same member of EMD personnel updated with database management and red-listing.	2				■								
2.3													
Output 3													
3.1 Red list assessments produced, written-up into detailed reports and submitted to IUCN for evaluation.	3				■								
3.2													
3.3													
3.4													
Output 4													
4.1 Seed of <i>Panicum</i> species collected from wild.	1	■											
4.2 Plants grown in controlled conditions in a nursery and morphometric analysis undertaken	6		■	■									
4.3 Results of analysis published as a scientific paper	1				■								
4.4													
4.5													

CERTIFICATION 2013/14

On behalf of the trustees of St Helena Nature Conservation Group
I apply for a grant of £8,650 in respect of **all expenditure** to be incurred during the lifetime of this project based on the activities and dates specified in the above application.

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 lead institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)*

I enclose CVs for project principals and letters of support. Our most recent audited/independently verified accounts and annual report are also enclosed

Name (block capitals)	Phil Lambdon
Position in the organisation	Member

Signed



Date:

7th January 2013

Application Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you provided actual start and end dates for your project?	
Have you provided your budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP?	
Have you checked that your budget is complete , correctly adds up and that you have included the correct final total on the top page of the application?	
Has your application been signed by a suitably authorised individual? (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable in the email)	
Have you included a 1 page CV for all the principals?	
Have you included a letter of support from the <u>main</u> partner(s) organisations?	
Have you included a copy of the last 2 years' annual report and accounts for the lead organisation? An electronic link to a website is acceptable.	
Have you read the Guidance Notes?	
Have you checked the Darwin Plus website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	

Once you have answered the questions above, please submit the application, not later than midnight GMT at the end of Monday 7 January 2013 to Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk using the first few words of the project title **as the subject of your email**. If you are e-mailing supporting documentation separately please include in the subject line an indication of the number of e-mails you are sending (e.g. whether the e-mail is 1 of 2, 2 of 3 etc.). You are not required to send a hard copy.

DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998: Applicants for grant funding must agree to any disclosure or exchange of information supplied on the application form (including the content of a declaration or undertaking) which the Department considers necessary for the administration, evaluation, monitoring and publicising of Darwin Plus. Application form data will also be held by contractors dealing with Darwin Plus monitoring and evaluation. It is the responsibility of applicants to ensure that personal data can be supplied to the Department for the uses described in this paragraph. A completed application form will be taken as an agreement by the applicant and the grant/award recipient also to the following:- putting certain details (i.e. name, contact details and location of project work) on the Darwin Initiative and Defra/FCO/DFID websites (details relating to financial awards will not be put on the websites if requested in writing by the grant/award recipient); using personal data for the Darwin Initiative postal circulation list; and sending data to Governor's Offices outside the UK, including posts outside the European Economic Area. Confidential information relating to the project or its results and any personal data may be released on request, including under the Environmental Information Regulations, the code of Practice on Access to Government Information and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.