

Darwin Plus Main: Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Project Reporting Information Note”
(<https://darwinplus.org.uk/resources/information-notes>)

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2024

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line

Darwin Plus Project Information

Project reference	DPLUS155
Project title	Securing Montserrat’s threatened endemic species and natural capital through community-action
Territory(ies)	Montserrat
Lead Partner	UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum
Project partner(s)	Montserrat National Trust), Species Recovery Trust (SRT)
Darwin Plus grant value	£293,447
Start/end dates of project	October 2021- September 2024
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2023-Mar 2024) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2)	1 st April 2023 to 31 st March 2024, Annual Report 3
Project Leader name	Dr Mike [REDACTED] & Catherine [REDACTED]
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/key-projects/adoptahomeforwildlife/ Twitter: @ukotcf; Facebook: @ukotcf
Report author(s) and date	Mrs Catherine [REDACTED] & Dr Mike [REDACTED] (April 2024) with input from Project Team members

1. Project summary

The project takes place on Montserrat, a UK Overseas Territory and one of the Leeward Islands in the eastern Caribbean (Figure 1). It lies 43 km SW of Antigua and 64 km NW of Guadeloupe at 16°45’N, 62°12’W. The volcanic island is approximately 102km² of mountainous, streams (locally termed the English-based “ghauts”) and waterfalls amongst dense tropical forest and a rugged coastline. Between 1995 and 2010 the island’s volcano became active resulting in pyroclastic eruptions which destroyed its capital and displaced people from the residential and economic centre. This means that, even today, about 2/3 of the island is uninhabited. Despite the continuing challenge, the global biodiversity importance of the island remains immense.

With biological records collected, updated and consolidated throughout the project, for invertebrates alone, Montserrat has approximately 116 single island endemics and 300 regional endemics. The Government of Montserrat’s targets for food production on island, will be stalled without healthy pollinators and native plants populations providing multiple benefits e.g. pollination, soil stability and productivity.

Pressures on the natural environment in the inhabited areas of Montserrat are high. The project enables Montserratians to undertake informed decisions and actions to improve the biodiversity value of the land they manage, via training, advice and action, so Montserrat’s unique wildlife and ecosystems thrive. The project empowers Montserratians by building up knowledge of biodiversity, so is most relevant to them on a local level. Known locally as *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* (AHW), the initiative demonstrates wildlife-rich sites (Wildlife Homes, WHs) and aims to promote livelihoods, based on sustainable-use of natural resources (e.g. food-security, low-

impact ecotourism, small enterprise). Across the island, the project is building a network of community-led managed conservation areas. The high-level objectives of the project are to (1) safeguard biodiversity by addressing some of the most pressing issues which threaten it, invasive plant species. Impacts vary but displacement has been identified locally as the immediate concern and (2) stimulate action and engagement among the Montserratian community, ensuring that resource and capacity issues of the islands main non-government organisation, the Montserrat National Trust are also addressed.

The project aimed to achieve this by establishing a minimum of 10 sites in the project period. Due to the popularity of the initiative in its first 6 months, a phased approach was introduced whereby the sites included at first in the project are Phase 1. Phase 2 sites, likely to lack time to monitoring them effectively, are the legacy of the project and will provide added value. In year 1, the Phase 1 sites were surveyed using robust, but non-technical survey methods focusing on plants and invertebrate groups found at the sites. When possible, technical experts supplemented these efforts by collecting on the sites under permits gain from the Department of Environment. Basic survey techniques could be replicated by persons with limited training. With this we have had at least 8 Montserratians carrying out the surveys and building up skills and knowledge. In addition to this, the project has made use of other initiatives to supplement the knowledge gained via citizen-science platforms such as iNaturalist.

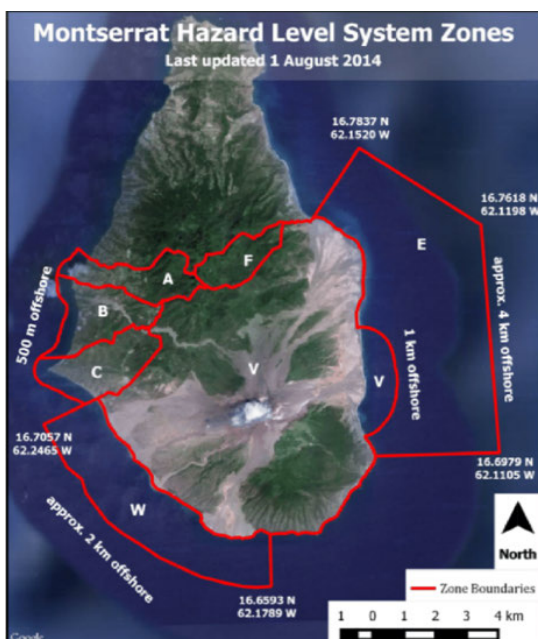
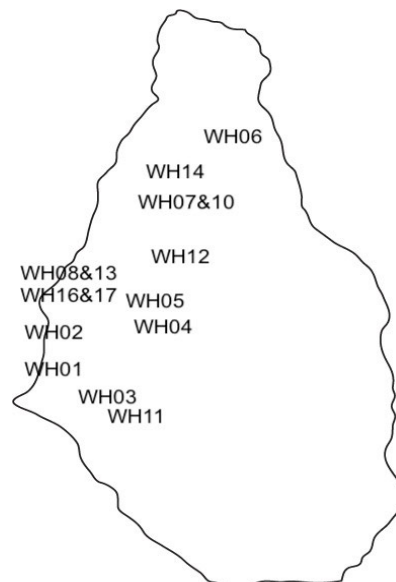


Figure 1: (Top Left) Satellite image of Montserrat (© Google Earth; accessed April 2024); (Top Right) rough sketch of where Wildlife Sites are located: Note: Site WH09 has been withdrawn by the Governor's Office; (Bottom left) Montserrat Hazard Level System Zones last official updating of map in 2014. Note that Zones A and B are fully accessible. Zones C and F are accessible during daytime only. Zone V is fully restricted except for essential workers. Zones E and W are maritime zones, respectively with restricted access to essential workers and daytime access. Source: Montserrat Volcano Observatory and Disaster Management Coordination Agency (2014)

Management plans were developed in Year 1 between the “Adopter”, the land-owner (if different e.g. school principal), the Montserrat National Trust (MNT) and UKOTCF. In year 2, the management plans are being implemented jointly by the project team and the Adopters with added opportunities being explored for improved livelihoods and well-being for owners and the community. Progress in year 2 has been monitored by *ad hoc* visits. The network of sites is representative of all habitat types on the island with diverse groups/individuals responsible for them, e.g. school, community group, private land-owner, lease-holder etc. In Year 3 (which started in October 2023; given the Darwin delay in that round of funding), re-surveys of the sites are commencing, in seasons when the baseline surveys were conducted.

2. Project stakeholders/partners

Main Partnerships

The Montserrat National Trust (MNT), the lead local partner of the project on Montserrat originally worked with UKOTCF to develop the project and is now the key implementation partner on island and delivers the project activities. MNT was established by statute in 1970. It leads on preserving and conserving natural, cultural, historic and archaeological heritage. Its objectives are to: conserve/enhance Montserrat’s beauty; preserve/rehabilitate historical sites, including buildings, monuments, documents etc; preserve Montserrat’s wildlife; make the public aware of the value and beauty of Montserrat’s heritage; pursue a policy of preservation and act as advisor; acquire property for the benefit of Montserrat; attract funds for effective carrying-out of objectives; to compile photographic and architectural records of the above.

This year its Executive Director, Mrs Sarita Francis received the National honour award making the significant contribution made to the island.

All members of MNT team are based on Montserrat and have extensive skills and experience, including, but not limited to: organisational management, wildlife surveying skills, biosecurity and pest management, invasive species control and food production. MNT is best-placed to encourage and engage with the community; a continuous exercise facilitated by a year-round events programme (flower show, St Patrick’s (the national holiday), Christmas lights show, etc).

The Project Officers within the Project Team meet regularly with Adopters.

The team in Year 1 included Project Officers, Mrs Delmaude Ryan, Mr Elvis Gerard and Miss Ajhermae White. Each Officer led with different “Adopters” and their “Wildlife Homes”, with the expertise of the other POs available in support. This has been challenging with a range of officers working across the sites and led to some delivery challenges, but coordination and management by MNT and its senior staff has led to team-working and division of tasks. At the start of Y3, Miss White began a Darwin Fellowship at the Jersey International Centre for Advanced Studies (JICAS; accredited by the University of Exeter). This was subsequent to the pilot Higher Education Evening held in 2022. While the team lost Miss White and some momentum, it was pleasing to support and facilitate her development. After some delay, Mr Tavis Weeks was seconded to the Project from the Department of Environment. This was beneficial in that Tavis had previously worked with one of the Adopters as part of the Mountain Chicken project, which has a semi-wild enclosure on the site as a result of discussions through DPLUS155, and he has experience in surveying and liaising with partners on a variety of projects.

During the year, the capacity of the MNT has been further increased with the successful grant from the John Ellerman Foundation, which provided for Senior & Junior Conservation Officers to deliver a variety of projects, but driving forward a grant received in the first round of Darwin Local (on one of the *Adopt a Home* sites; WH04 Pipers Lot). This project has features in Darwin promotion of the initiative. MNT, with support from other partners, has been successful in receiving a grant in all three rounds so far. The support the MNT has had from partners during this project has enabled them to leverage funds and carry out work which meets their Strategy. *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* featured heavily in MNT’s Annual report event in February 2024 as a proud moment for the team in how far it has come since 2021.

Management of this larger team (and raised capacity) is a challenge. The Senior Conservation, hired and arriving in May 2023, has a set of outputs to achieve in the 3-year post, but already has become a key player at MNT, but inevitably this means demands on their time and expertise can be overwhelming.

MNT and UKOTCF are, and have been for several decades, in constant dialogue about priority needs for conservation on the island. Since a pilot study in 2016-2017, which first developed and then tested the *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* initiative, MNT and UKOTCF have planned to roll this out operationally in order to work directly with the community on empowering their conservation action. MNT's partnership with UKOTCF through DPLUS155, has enabled it to spend most of its time engaging directly with the community, whereas the role it asks UKOTCF to do is to focus on technical aspects, including designing surveys and the conservation approach, training, organising outside technical support for this (mainly voluntary) and financial and administrative tasks, as well as some high-level interactions. UKOTCF has also used this opportunity to help with capacity building at MNT, through engaging MNT with all technical and management aspects of the project.

UKOTCF itself is a UK charity, which has had, for over 35 years, a close and continuing relationship with UKOTs, including Montserrat. It is the only organisation solely devoted to conservation, sustainability and related education and research across all UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) and Crown Dependencies (CDs). It does not have a separate agenda, other than that determined in consultation with the territories, with which it always works in partnership. This and other projects developed out of this relationship. Meetings between the core project team, consisting of MNT and UKOTCF take place via Zoom. As planned, the team decided to meet less frequently in Year 3 (key decisions and actions points are documented in a record of the meeting, which is circulated to partners); an example of the record of a meeting is included in Annex 4.15. Advanced notice of meetings are shared with the Project Team to plan ahead and present on island of any visiting members of the wider team are used as an opportunity to have lengthier face-to-face discussions. The team also decided in the year that meetings in the early morning for Montserrat and midday for the UK team worked better. This has helped overcome some challenges in late-night UK working, which some had found particularly difficult to manage.

The Project Team meetings are where discussions take place and decisions are made. In Year 3, a project management tool, (www.monday.com) was used as central hub for monitoring progress and a means for the Project Team to access this information. While input from the wider project team has been limited, those responsible for M&E are close to the project and find the tool useful to track both progress towards the outcome, but also as a way to record lessons learned, and additionally a central place to keep documents or links so that they are easy to find.

In April 2023, co-project lead officially registered at the Jersey International Centre for Advanced Studies (JICAS) with University of Exeter. The research project aims to investigate the opportunities presented by the Global Biodiversity Framework target on protected and conserved areas on small islands, specifically on those conservation areas referred to as "other area-based effective conservation measures" or OECMs – using Montserrat as a case study.

As part of the Ethics Review, the researcher and co-lead has worked with the team to liaise with Adopters to ensure that high ethical standards are achieved and consent to use data collected on their land is officially documented.

UKOTCF personnel also sit on the IUCN-UK Protected Areas Working Group and are able to feed into current thinking on community conservation.

Partnerships with Adopters and others on island

Adopters are those local people or groups who volunteer and are accepted to manage an area of land (*Wildlife Home*; WH) within the project. POs visit Adopters at practicable times and keep in contact with them by a group on WhatsApp, phone or email, as preferred

The list of sites, including Phase 2 is shown in Annex 4.1. Several sites are connected including those on Hibiscus Drive. These, together with the lots owned by the Montserrat National Trust, make up an interesting coastal area. It has not been possible to survey the MNT areas because: (1) the steep terrain (2) access issues; (3) sensitive issues around the site boundary and (4) resources. That said, Montserrat Government's GIS unit have been very helpful in supporting the team and supplying an image of the plots so the team could investigate. At present the MNT land (WH16 & 17), together with *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* sites WH08 and WH13, a *de facto* larger area of coastal scrub with some mature trees including some important tree species such as *lignum vitae*, *Guaicum sanctum* (Latin for 'tree of life'). Annex 4.2 shows the location of the MNT parcels of land with WH08&wh13 as a wider area.

It is important to note that 2/3rd of Montserrat is now uninhabited (due to the earlier volcanic activity) and only very limited activities can take place in the exclusion zone of the whole of this area of the south of the island. A change request was submitted to NIRAS/LTS in May 2023 which addressed the intention to focus more on strengthening the engagement of Adopters in the project to maximise the legacy, rather than expanding the areas to achieve an overall area target. This change request was accepted.

Video material, including interviews of Adopters have continued to be collected, edited and published, each (or a group of them) focussing on a particular WH. The intention is to make further use of this material to be shared in different ways and to different audiences.

Adopters have taken part in events, training sessions and other activities throughout the year as outlined below.

With some personnel changes at the MNT garden, the project team had identified a gap in knowledge at the botanic garden and with Adopters which include on (1) biosecurity and plant hygiene (2) techniques in plant care.

UKOTCF organised a visit on a voluntary basis by highly experienced horticulturalist, Leigh Morris; CEO of the Manx Wildlife Trust and UKOTCF Council Member. This trip took place in May 2023 and is documented in UKOTCF's *Forum News* newsletter (https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/ForumNews58_July2023f.pdf). The visit was particularly timely as it was the first few weeks of the new Senior Conservation Officer Chris Virgine Sealys.

In summary, activities which two of the Adopters attended included:

- grafting & air-layering workshop (with Hon. Crenston Buffonge, Minister of Agriculture, Housing, Lands & Environment, trying his hand at grafting);
- delivering classroom-based interactive session to MNT and Ministry staff in MNT meeting room;
- discussions with the Farmers Association including an appearance on their radio show;
- visits to *Adopt a Home* sites and various farms around the island.

Leigh made some recommendations to the team to take forward after his visit.

- Work even more closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Housing & Environment (MALHE) on the *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* project.
- Aim to bring agriculture and environment closer to benefit food and the environment.
- Develop the MNT agriculture plot as a model farm, potentially with intercropping on show.
- Join Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI).

Pleasingly, MNT have now joined BGCI (<https://www.bgci.org>). This organisation could provide additional support to the organisation. The team also encouraged Leigh to return to carry out further training in future.

While on island, Leigh contributed to other initiatives such as Monty's Messengers; marine conservation with Scuba Montserrat (a Darwin Local funded project) and a twinning project between Montserrat Secondary School and a school on the Isle of Man.

MNT hosted a meeting on invasive ants led by UK's FERA see: <https://www.fera.co.uk/news/controlling-the-fire-ant-invasion-in-montserrat/>. Equipment purchased under the project e.g. microscope were used in the event.

Sam Paul and Jo-Diaz Tye at MNT were given positions in the nursery team, given their enthusiasm as some other members of staff were shifted to ensure that other funded projects (e.g. Mountain Chicken) were fully staffed.

Partnerships with others

Vicky Wilkins, at the Species Recovery Trust (who works across the UKOTs on invertebrates), provided invertebrate conservation knowledge, including interpreting the results of invertebrate surveys and adding invertebrate requirements into management plans. She has also collated endemic invertebrate information for delivery on sites, focusing on endemic pollinators. While the team decided that at this time it was not appropriate to encourage honey production from

native bees, advice has been provided through the year on importation of bees following a query from one Adopter.

Vicky has continued to liaise with entomologist, David Clements, in order to make information on Montserrat's invertebrate fauna held in collections around the world more readily available to decision-makers, general public (including special mentions for Adopters). During the year, David and Vicky, supported by project co-leads Mike and Catherine, arranged a visit to the Montana State University laboratory and extensive collection of specimens. David was able to work with Professor Mike Ivie; a long-time researcher on West Indian Beetle Fauna, as well as other groups. With permission granted to photograph some of the collection as well as work through some material, David has been working on a series of id sheets for many groups of invertebrates on Montserrat.

David's report from the trip will appear in the next edition of the *Saving Our Special Nature of Montserrat newsletter* and *Forum News* with images, but can be found here:

https://uk-overseas-territories-conservation-forum.monday.com/protected_static/13735931/resources/1407928102/Clements%202024%20-%20Entomology%20on%20Montserrat%20-%20Montana%20article.pdf .

An example of the identification sheets put together can be found in Annex 4.3; discussion with MNT partners will include how to display this information both digitally and potentially within the National Museum.

Vicky has continued to bring all this work together liaising with partners and also working on identification of iNaturalist records, create galleries to make records easily searched and has updated a species list, which will be made publicly available during the project. During the year Vicky has worked on a new Darwin Proposal. Montserrat partners, as well as other UKOTs were included in these preparatory discussions to advance invertebrate conservation across the UKOTs.

One interesting aspect of this is the paper on a new tarantula species for Montserrat. Vicky through arachnid expert, Dani Sherwood (and expert working on projects in St Helena and Ascension Island, has communicated with MNT and the Department of Environment on this paper.

Linkages with other complementary projects continue such as Darwin Local, a new Darwin Plus project DPLUS192.

3. Project progress

We should note here that targets relate to planning years. However, because of the delays in UK Government approving this particular round of project applications for UKOTs eligible for ODA (and temporarily transferred to Darwin Main from Darwin Plus, before being restored to Darwin Plus after the decision was made), the project started about 6 months after originally envisaged (October 2021) and 3 months later than later revised. Accordingly, 30 months of the project have taken place before this report required under Darwin procedures with 6 months to go.

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

UNDER OUTPUT 1

1.1 Complete and reported previously

1.2 Complete and reported previously; in addition, Project Officers have worked with an additional Adopter, starting Phase 2, at Tropical Mansions. Annex 4.1 is an updated record of Adopters.

1.3 Management Plans for sites complete and provided as an example in Annual Report 2.

1.4 Complete and reported previously

1.5 Ongoing in year 3; site visits have taken place by POs but have not been formally recorded.

1.6 Maps of sites were produced when surveys were undertaken.

1.7 Following the pilot Higher Education Evening held (reported on in Annual Report 2). Project Officer, Miss Ajhermae White applied and was successfully awarded a Darwin Fellowship to undertake an MSc in Island Conservation and Biodiversity at Jersey International Centre for Advanced Studies (JICAS) accredited by University of Exeter. See for award information:

<https://darwinplus.org.uk/project/DPLUS193>

“Monty’s Messengers” has continued and widened its reach by instituting joint activities with Montserrat Children’s Society.

1.8 Under Communications plan and (1.8.1) newsletter *Saving Our Special Nature of Montserrat* issues 15 (see Annex 4.5), with 16 planned shortly following trip and information collected in March 2024, with coverage also in UKOTCF’s main newsletter *Forum News* issues 58 & 59

MNT new designed website to facilitate ease of information added.

1.8.2 See Annex 4.4, and also videos at 1.3 above on social media presence used to promote the project on Montserrat and beyond: https://uk-overseas-territories-conservation-forum.monday.com/protected_static/13735931/resources/1408014570/ANNEX%20X%20DPLUS155%20SOCIAL%20MEDIA%20POSTS%202024.pdf

1.9.1 See Annex 4.13; seedling production.

1.9.2 Labelling system being developed with QR code system trialled, but decided against due to privacy concerns following the project end; an Excel file would be kept to understand levels of sales and customers.

1.9.3 As above, the MNT team believe that the Excel file on plant records is fit for purpose.

1.9.4 Organic fertiliser produced using the shredder made available to Adopters and sold to others; means of helping Adopters making more themselves being explored.

1.10 Demonstration sites will be WH04 and WH05, with showcases elsewhere being considered at WH02, WH12 and WH13. Particular roles are under consideration for some other WHs.

1.11 Project team meetings have taken place throughout the year at less frequency than the first two years, but are used to report on progress and any other aspects of M&E.

1.12 Held a meeting on Thursday 21st March 2024 to feedback and discuss with Adopters. This was Informal, rather than formal, to fit in with the preference of steering group members. The agenda for the meeting was:

5:20pm: Welcome (Sarita Francis) & Introduction (Mike Pienkowski)

5:40; Garden Tour (Chris Sealys)

6:25: Project Update (Delmaude Ryan)

6:50: Example WH Videos (Mike Pienkowski)

7:05: Open discussion (led by Adopters, with comments from others) addressing any comments, enquiries, complaints, continuing the project after the grant)

7:45: Mingle with food and soft drinks

8:10: end

For Adopters interested and available, there was also an informal walk on Saturday 23rd March to see developments at the new trail through Pipers Lot (WH04).

1.13 Reports submitted as per grant requirements.

UNDER OUTPUT 2

2.1 In May 2023, training in native plant nursery management including new techniques in plant care etc was provided to 2 Adopters, MNT officers and Department of Environment officers as well as opened to the general public. This is reported in *Forum News* 58 in Annex 4.6.

2.2 As advised by feedback after the sessions (see one of the feedback cards in Annex 4.7), videos of training events were uploaded to Dropbox for the team and some videos shared on Facebook (See link:)

2.3 Report cards were developed to help POs monitor progress on sites against the management plans as reported in Annual Report 2.

2.4 Technical specialists to facilitate knowledge exchange are reported under partnerships.

Two during the year: (1) Leigh Morris – see *Forum News* 58 and his own blog: Annex 4.8 – and (2) David Clements to Montana State University in Boseman, Montana – see Annex 4.9

2.5 Summary of surveys and some basic knowledge shared with Adopters in WhatsApp group and email, where appropriate: see Annex 4.10; feedback from Adopters including:

“Your posting was so informative! I am anxious to locate and either introduce or try to control as recommended. As I am certainly not a botanist the pictures really helped. Happy holidays to all Interesting information!” “Much appreciated. Blessings and peace” “Thanks for this information. Very helpful indeed”.

And on bottle bees see Annex 4.11. Adopters are using iNaturalist to upload images.

2.6 Improvements to both UKOTCF and MNT’s website under development.

2.7 As 1.12 & 1.13

UNDER OUTPUT 3

- 3.1 iNaturalist – page set up see Annex 4.4. As of April 2024, there are over 4000 records. After several verifications which agree with the identification, the records are then labelled as “Research Grade” and are then uploaded to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility/GBIF, where they can be accessed by anyone.
- 3.2 Training events took place on grafting and horticulture and iNaturalist.
- 3.3 See Monty’s Messengers under reviewer’s comments in section 8 (comment 5).
- 3.4 As above in 1.10
- 3.5, and Adopters’ gathering took place in March 2024.
- 3.6 Other public events: Montserrat Children’s Society week of activities August 2023 (Annex 4.12)
- 3.7 Consent forms being sought for repeat survey in first week of September 2024. General survey will also be repeated by local marketing company 664 Connect.
- 3.8 Newsletter *Saving Our Special Nature of Montserrat* issue 15 with coverage also in UKOTCF’s main newsletter *Forum News* issues 58 & 59, and WH videos (links at <https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/key-projects/adoptahomeforwildlife/>)
- 3.9 See 3.8, and Annex 4.4 and 4.5 for social media and newsletters. Engagement April 2023-March 2024: Regularly engaging with over 3,000 persons – in Montserrat and internationally. Top social media posts given.
- 3.10. Extensive radio coverage. Project Team members have featured on the revived MNT Heritage Show, Farmers Association; ZJB’s Saturday morning Culture Show with Rose Willock, until recent retirement.
- 3.11 A Plan for database to store information created as part of the project is under development.
- 3.12 As above 1.12&1.13

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1. Baseline: At project start (October 2021) we had two Adopters from the pilot and one other expressing an interest in partnering with MNT/UKOTCF. There were no invertebrate or vegetation data collected or published in these areas. Zero saplings, organic fertilizer, equipment, dedicated advice or materials were available to Adopters.

Change recorded to date: Since project start (October 2021), the project now covers 14 sites (Indicator 1.1), this has extended the area of area of important habitats under community management (in addition to the islands statutory protected area; such as tropical dry forest and wetland). Including the 3 Adopters from the pilot phase we have 14 Adopters regularly working with us (this equates to an estimate of 210 individuals; WH01=2; WH02=1-10; WH03=at least 7; WH04=17; WH05=same grouping as in WH04 so no double counting; WH06=175; WH07=1; WH08=2; WH10=1; WH11=1; WH12=2; WH13=1 WH14=1 plus guests) (Indicator 1.3). See Annex 4.1 for age, gender information of Adopters. Visits to sites and surveys for vegetation and insects have been developed and conducted on all sites (Indicator 1.2 and 1.4) (tables of results can be seen at:

Plants have been identified to species level where possible. A category has been assigned using Royal Botanic Kew’s *Plants of the World* (<https://powo.science.kew.org>) and CABI’s *Compendium on Invasive Species* (<https://www.cabidigitallibrary.org/product/qj>); where both data sources were unable to provide information on a species or species was unknown – the category assigned is “unknown”. POs are adding information on plant species specific to Montserrat based on their findings. A basic analysis is made of percentage cover of ground, shrub and canopy layers, which will provide a baseline for measuring indicator (Indicator 1.5) A master list of plants found across all sites is in draft. Once complete, a version which lists all plants found in the surveys will be openly available online (via UKOTCF’s website); using this list we expect to be able to have a record of each on iNaturalist before project end. For invertebrates we classify them to groups of insects and functional groups, e.g herbivores, predators, pollinators. Our invertebrate specialist, Vicky, has been able to take this information and provide appropriate advice which has been fed into the management plans, for example, creation of microhabitats to encourage more of particular types of invertebrate group.

Management plans for the sites with complete surveys in draft and being agreed with Adopters with activities being undertaken (Indicator 1.4). Saplings propagated (Annex 4.13b). High-quality shredder (with replacement blades and safety equipment) and strimmer arrived on island for use by Adopters and is producing organic fertiliser for Adopters and for sale at the Trust.

Source of evidence Table of records of *Adopters*, site extent, ownership, GPS coordinates, type of habitat – see Annex 4.1. This document is updated periodically. Sections of vegetation and plant surveys in management plan links to all here:

Output 2 Baseline: Little information or advice freely available on how individuals or groups could make improvements to areas or identify species in an accessible way.

Change recorded to date: Data sources so far:

In relation to indicator 2.1 and 2.4 Target management plans finalised and signed with Adopters

-Webpage development

-Social media posts on MNT site visits gaining lots of interest

-iNaturalist records and training sessions, herbarium creation and insect id

Source of evidence:

See posts of summary of results shared with Adopters (Annex 4.10)

Output 3 Baseline Records on iNaturalist, the system we are trialling with POs, was approximately 200.

Change recorded to date: For Indicator 3.1

- Posts on social media regularly exceed 1000+ views on MNT Facebook on sites.

- For Indicator 3.2 and establishing demonstration sites, WH04 and WH05

- establishment of community biodiversity-recording system iNaturalist training provided to

- project officers in August 2023 bioblitz event with Montserrat's Children's Society and Monty's Messengers

Source of evidence: Social media post from August showing flyer and showing team set up at Old Road Bay (WH02).

Indicator 3.4 iNaturalist platform used as the community biodiversity report system. A project "Biodiversity of Montserrat" had over 4000 observations by March 2024.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

1. The areas community-managed, number of sites ("Wildlife-Homes"), and number of individual 'Adopters' (or community managers & assistants). The target is 12 sites with 150 individuals involved by 2024.

As per the change request, the target number of *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* sites has been amended to 12 at present with the number of individuals involved exceeding 150 persons

Videos created show Adopters on their sites and gives them the opportunity to talk about the project in their own words.

2. regeneration and restoration demonstrated in at least 10 Wildlife-Homes in the globally threatened tropical dry forest/wetland mosaic, with before and after assessments demonstrating a decline in invasive plants and 10% increase in native/endemic ones.

So far the project is working on 12 sites. A plan for re-surveying has been developed with the Project Officers. One site has been resurveyed (WH01) as of February 2024, but results are still to be analysed.

Note that there were some severe storms in November 2023, which changed entirely the landscape of one site. Project Officers knew that this site was always one which could fluctuate and managed this accordingly. Evidence will be provided in final results and fixed point photography. From visits throughout Year 2, Project Officers would expect the situation on most sites to be as follows:

WH01: Stable with slow (inevitable in dry tropical forest) replacement of invasive trees by natives; WH02: A dynamic coastal situation, with continuing wildlife interest; WH03: Not achieved; WH04: Stable; WH05: Stable; WH06: Increase; WH07: Increase; WH08: Increase; WH10: Increase; WH11: moved to Phase 2; WH12: Increase; WH13: Increase; WH14-WH17: Phase 2, so changes will appear in legacy of project.

3. Demonstration Wildlife-Homes created; target: two created by 2024.

Demonstration areas are defined as: sites with public access, where the project has enabled areas of land to be managed in a way which showcases ecosystem services and natural capital and beneficial to the island's native biodiversity.

Plans are to use Belham River Mouth (WH02), EcoPlay (WH05) and Pipers Lot (WH04). Some others are being explored both for this role and for particular purposes.

4. 'Adopt-a-Home-for-Wildlife' increases awareness of the opportunities to engage in restoration/conservation efforts with human-benefits. Target is to increase community-awareness reaching >60% of Montserratian, via activities throughout.

There are approximately 5000 people on Montserrat and the project aims to reach roughly 3000 of them. The communications during the project via the Montserrat National Trust's Facebook page have been targeted to ensure that a wide range of information is provided. These regularly get many thousands of views from the community on Montserrat, and diaspora in UK and US. Some examples are included in Annex 4.14

Found during attitudes questionnaires completed in September 2022 will be repeated in early September 2024 and comparison made.

Overall, we would expect the project to meeting its outcome.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption 1: No volcanic activity experienced during reporting period to disrupt project. See reports from the Montserrat Volcano Observatory www.mvo.ms for the period. True for the project period. However, other external interruptions over which the project has no control include the long-sustained periods of electricity outages. As noted, work at the Trust offices could continue (due to its recent conversion to solar power energy), it made life difficult outside of office hours for personnel on Montserrat.

Assumption 2: Interest in *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* has remained. True, from many measures, including that more people want to join than project resources allow; this is being addressed as much as possible.

Assumption 3: Adequate sapling supply: Largely true, with vermin-proofing and further training helping.

Assumption 4: Re: Pandemic: True

Assumption 5: Suitably qualified and experienced project officer recruited from near the start of the project. Done in Year 1. Whilst Project Officer Ajhermae White left the project to pursue her MSc, this was welcomed as good for Montserrat in the longer term; an alternative Project Officer with experience was nominated and joined in later summer 2023. Some capacity problems (see Section 7).

Assumption 6: Key community members remain engaged throughout the project. Largely true; as reported earlier, one WH was withdrawn due to a change in Governor from one who was highly supportive. Two others have had to delay activities due to external factors.

Assumption 7: Site-surveys conducted pre- and post-work on Wildlife Homes. True: pre-work surveys done; post-work starting.

Assumption 8: PO builds up good relationships with community participants, ensuring 'Adopters' and wider community have support, and progress can be monitored effectively. Largely true; Team is working on how the initiative will continue beyond project end.

Assumption 9: Adopters take up available land-management advice. True: see videos.

Assumption 10: Forms of communication are varied to capture all groups, e.g. radio, social media, website, newsletters.

Assumption 11: Good level of uptake by community-groups in *Adopt a Home*. True – see 2.

Assumption 12: Newsletters are receiving wide readership. True; frequently referred to in communications from island residents. Over 200 interested persons. Facebook pages where directed most efforts as regularly viewed and engaged with.

Assumption 13: True- Training events carried out by highly experienced well-qualified persons.

Assumption 14: Restoration of ecosystems takes time but interim measures will lead to good outcomes for biodiversity. True; interest generated and platform through iNaturalist enables Adopters to be part of the action to record, observe and monitor, but also to make new records and if possible cryptic or rarely recorded species.

4. Project support to environmental and/or climate outcomes in the UKOTs

The project supports the Biodiversity Challenge Fund objectives in the following ways:

1. *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* aims to protect important habitats across the island. Annex 4.1 lists sites which include a range of habitats (e.g coastal areas, freshwater forest ghaunts, wet and dry forest). By working with *Adopters* to manage these sites, e.g. ensuring clear of rubbish, vegetation which prevents effective flow/drainage, and potentially to expand into additional similar or adjacent sites, multiple pressures which could lead to freshwater habitats decline can be addressed.
2. POs (also Departments of Agriculture and Environment officials) have knowledge of pest species and methods to remove and deal with them that are not harmful to local wildlife. They are using this knowledge to help *Adopters* understand how food production, livelihoods can be compatible with reducing biodiversity loss and building resilience to climate change.
3. POs working with *Adopters* are promoting the responsible stewardship of natural assets and sharing this information online (via popular social media channels).
4. Communications materials promote the sharing of the benefits arising from the use of biodiversity.
5. Management of *Wildlife Homes* is contributing towards reversing the increase in threats of extinction to the world's flora and fauna – site survey results demonstrate the number of native plant species found.

Meeting Montserrat's obligations under multi-lateral agreements extended to the UKOTs, particularly those on biodiversity and climate change

Montserrat has not yet had the UK's ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity extended to it. However, it does have the Conservation and Environment Management Act, which sets out its aspirations and goals under international convention-objectives:

CBD: (Aichi Targets numbers; note these are used as were still in play when the project started in 2021):

1. *people aware of biodiversity-value and their potential steps to conserve/use it sustainably:* Being achieved direct advice provided to *Adopters* on site-management options by the well-qualified Project Team member and communication materials developed (Facebook post and radio programmes).
5. *halving natural-habitat loss-rate; degradation/fragmentation reduced:* by communities restoring natural capital on land they manage - through the *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* initiative. This will be demonstrated via the management plans and results of repeat site surveys. Through surveys (see:

identified difficult or problematic plant species and identified gaps in knowledge e.g. grasses which will be looked at in more detail in a supplementary project DPLUS192 and one UKRI project in development).

7. *agriculture/forestry areas ensuring biodiversity-conservation:* One PO has extensive experience in this as an extension officer of the Agriculture Dept. Working with the other POs and especially the officer from the Environment Dept, providing advice and expert input (see management plans: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/158z50XH34etO9j_qYeGskMFafPF3GpD1?usp=sharing);
8. *pollution to non-detrimental levels:* Already working with farmers on-island and surveying to provide information and best-practice. Leigh Morris training and liaison with Farmers Association making important links (see elsewhere)

9. *invasive alien species controlled*: Sites surveyed (with repeated in Year 2 to develop young persons' training and to update knowledge) and already identifying invasive species to target either for control or removal/replacement (updates from POs in meeting minutes; videos produced with Adopters)

11. *terrestrial/coastal/marine areas conserved and integrated into wider landscapes*: network of sites through community protected-areas network links both see table (Annex 4.1).

12. *threatened-species-extinction prevented*: by this network, and building community-appreciation, including through community information-recording system; endemic and Critically Endangered pribby, *Rondeletia buxifolia* see propagation list; See Annex 4.13 list of plants given away or sold in reporting period.

14. *ecosystem-services restored/safeguarded especially for women, local communities, poor and vulnerable*: this includes the site-network itself and management plans of sites;

15. *ecosystem-resilience and carbon-stocks-contribution enhanced*: through degraded-ecosystem restoration via removal and replacement of invasive species initial surveys have identified and recorded many invasive species now being managed as per management plans. Master List of Plants Found on WH and Invertebrate Species (Excel files)

19. *knowledge widely shared*: through outreach activities and activities in communications plans (see social media posts see Annex 4.4).

Specifically, on CBD Aichi target 11, the 2019 IUCN-published report from World Commission on Protected Areas Task Force on "other effective area-based conservation measures" (OECMs) acknowledges the contribution that many areas not legally designated as protected areas can contribute to effective conservation, and that OECMs are likely to play a significant role post-2020 Aichi targets. Sites managed under this project can act as a model for how potential OECMs can contribute towards target 11, reducing biodiversity-loss as well as contribute towards improved livelihoods. The project co-lead began a part-time PhD at the Jersey International Centre for Advanced Studies (JICAS) accredited by the University of Exeter in April 2023. The study aims to look at OECMs in the context of small islands and considering Montserrat as a case study.

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Montserrat's only proposed terrestrial Ramsar Site is UK46002 (Centre Hills & forested ghauts). Ghauts, steep stream-valleys linking the hills to other native habitats, are vulnerable because they cut through settlement areas. The local community has already proposed parts of these and the hills as *Wildlife Homes*, achievable only with a local advisory officer supported by UKOTCF's wider network of voluntary specialists.

The project contributes to SDGs (as noted in application):

3. Ensure healthy lives and well-being - as areas managed through the project are productive, pleasant and clean areas to live, visit and exercise in, contributing towards Montserratians' well-being. Livelihoods protected and improved, e.g. reduction in over-reliance on imported food (largely as a result of the major volcanic activity from 1995-2010, currently most goods are imported to the island, despite rich soil and traditions), and improved health with more fresh and nutritious produce; Well-being has been considered in the questionnaire launched in September 2022 to be repeated in 2024. Also extended in project which started in April 2023: <https://darwinplus.org.uk/project/DPLUS192>

4. Ensure inclusive education and lifelong learning - through training and outreach available online and via the newsletter (*SOS Nature of Montserrat* continues as link between projects in island), Kids Club *Monty's Messengers* set-up and being run, and community-meetings at MNT; pilot Higher Education evening, resulting in Darwin Fellowship: <https://darwinplus.org.uk/project/DPLUS193>

8. Promote sustainable economic growth - productive work restored through small local enterprises, improvements at MNT's Botanic Garden and encouraged low-impact tourism. Several new Darwin Local project applied for an won including: see <https://darwinplus.org.uk/project/DPL00061>

10. Reduce inequality - by encouraging small enterprises, e.g. plans for this by Year 3 end are to hold a festival showcasing opportunities for Adopters and wider community with natural

products some including invasive plant species (such as neem, *Azadirachta indica*, which have uses in terms of mosquito repellent and oils for skin and hair etc)

11. Make human-settlements sustainable - aims of project; over-subscribed initiative - expanded to Phase 2. Adopters ready to become involved but also progressing in new projects focusing on developing a biodiversity and well-being toolkit (DPLUS192); it is worth noting that this project would not have been possible to develop and manage were it not for DPLUS155.

15. Promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems - reverse land-degradation and, where appropriate, natural regeneration through the development of site management-plans for the *Wildlife Homes* which are implemented (see Aichi 5);

17. Strengthen implementation ... for sustainable development - through a grassroots-movement (*Adopt a Home for Wildlife*) encouraging and helping the community to act; targeting all levels of community: from school age (club) to retirees (radio interview and discussion) and in between (online and social media posts).

Contribution the project is making to key Government of Montserrat priorities and themes

National biodiversity strategies

The Conservation and Environment Management Act (2014) sets out the intention to produce a National Strategy for the Conservation of Biological Diversity. In development.

Environmental action plans

Montserrat has several species action plans, including for mountain chicken *Leptodactylus fallax* and galliwasp *Diploglossus montisserrati*. The project supports these by creating land management with *Adopters* which encompasses suitable habitat for these species (e.g. tropical dry forest at site in Garibaldi Hill; ghaut habitat at Runaway Ghaut). iNaturalist serves as a way to document rare sightings; although neither species have been recorded recently. WH01 supports a semi-wild enclosure for the Mountain Chicken programme. Project Officers are involved in this work. Moreover, previous project support officers, Antwone Sinclair, an original member of the team, is now involved in this project which exemplifies the way in which this project has contributed to wider impact on the island's biodiversity.

Environmental Charters

The project contributes towards meeting all guiding principles in the following ways:

1. The well-being and livelihood opportunities of *Adopters* is being recorded over time via surveys – see survey results to be repeated at the end of the project.
2. The project aims to document how reducing biodiversity loss and protection of natural resources can be achieved with community endeavour. All generations included – see above.
- 3 & 4. Project results are being fed into the physical planning policy development via the MNT team and MNT has been appointed as a member to the Conservation and Environmental Advisory Council see: <https://www.gov.ms/2023/11/10/post-cabinet-press-notes-for-october-19-2023/>
5. Some *Wildlife Homes* are precisely where development is taking place and so the project aims to work with land-owners and developers to put forward solutions including where possible on suitable planting and ways in which these developments can be wildlife-friendly (e.g. in buffer zones WH07 and WH10).
6. Montserrat has globally important biodiversity. The plant species being propagated in the Botanic Garden include endemic and Critically Endangered species. (see native garden walk through video: <https://youtu.be/gSPRZyI3w00>. Exploring ways to enhance invertebrate fauna with technical specialists identifying microhabitats and opportunities to learn more about habitat requirements adding to species lists throughout the project. [Including site visit by Wolfgang Rabitsch January 2023])
7. The site surveys conducted are identifying plant invasive species which are being targeted for removal and replacement so that restoration of habitat can be achieved. Information on this gathered on iNaturalist and will be possible to map distributions from 'Research Grade' records.
9. Pollution is being controlled through public messaging and working with *Adopters*. This has been building throughout the year. Alternatives to traditionally used pesticides are being recorded with Project Officer, Elvis Gerard.

10. *Monty's Messengers* children's club, is continuing throughout the project and will remain as central to MNT's core activities beyond the project end was set up deliberately to meet the target of celebrating Montserrat's natural heritage as well as other (see Facebook posts and example in Annex 4.12; note parent permission are always provided in advance of sharing information online).

5. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ .	73%
Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women ² .	100%

GESI Scale	Description	Put X where you think your project is on the scale
Sensitive	The GESI context has been considered and project activities take this into account in their design and implementation. The project addresses basic needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups and the project will not contribute to or create further inequalities.	X

Our original application was considered under Darwin Main guidelines and so our logframe included indicators on gender and livelihoods. We will continue to include these in our project even though these could now be considered optional (given that the project was moved to Darwin Plus at a late stage in the application process).

On Montserrat females have, historically and to the present day, held the very highest offices in the country. Our MNT female leading team, held the previous role: former Permanent Secretary and Deputy Governor and former Deputy Premier and Minister of Health & Education.

This year, MNT's Executive Director was awarded an Order of Excellence for "hard work and dedication in the fields of education and environmental conservation". This is a highly visible indicator of the success of the strong project team leadership recognised at the National level. The award ceremony took place during the annual St Patrick's Day festivities and included an at length interview with ZJB radio station outlining her journey in public services, an educator and as a conservation stalwart. The team was remarkably proud of this achievement.

See:

<https://www.facebook.com/MontserratNationalTrust/posts/pfbid0aPREZxd4ZaoaL4Ys7AQtmZuRHlR9gGyHRNxAD27EshAuf8v7AruFn7Yo1yG1JXQQI>

Our Project Team consists of the following ratio (Mike, Catherine, Ann, Sarita, Delmaude, Tavis, Elvis, Jo-Diaz, Vernaire, Vicky, Samantha) so 3 males to 8 females. Our lead *Adopters* at present consist of the following ratio (5 males to 6 females) – excluding community groups which are mixed and have been largely estimated in Annex 4.1 (Cork Hill, MNT, Lookout School (head, who leads on the project, is male; his predecessor early in the project was female). In wider society, we are making the project as flexible as it can be.

We have two indicators in our logframe relating to gender quality.

2.3 Between 2021-2024, information on Wildlife-Home management shared via well-interpreted information systems made available online in the first instance, but with alternative ways to access it for those that cannot attend training events at certain times. Linking both websites to social media accounts, with public radio and other news media mentions, will provide a basis

¹ A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

² Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

for providing information to *Adopters*. These are set-up and are starting to be used. See gender ratios of social media content in Annex 4.14.

Capacity building and Gender equality:

3.1 By 2024, wider public engagement takes place on habitat restoration/ natural regeneration, at Wildlife Homes. 3 training events held, with >25 members from a range of community-groups attending, supplemented by remote means; plus. 6 community-gatherings, 6 radio interview sessions and 20 social media posts with high engagement rates. Profiles of at least 10 Adopters' published during Y1 & Y2, with updates and results in Y3.

As noted in our logframe under output 3, we are making arrangements for training events to be available online in order for those unable to attend in person can have access. Also, they are able to provide feedback and comments via the website. We have provided, as suggested by the reviewer in Y2AR2 a matrix of training opportunities provided and their attendance. While incomplete for the project up to its end, this indicator has been exceeded as more than 3 training events have been held, more than 25 members of the community have attended these, more than 6 community gatherings have taken place (still to be recorded in matrix) and profiles and videos on Facebook and Youtube with 4 this year and 17 so far in total (see: <https://www.youtube.com/@ukotcf4676/videos>) of Adopters have been published in SOS Montserrat see: <https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/newsletters/project-newsletter-1/>

Kids Club ensuring young people involved. Records are being kept by MNT on gender of those participating and can be provided to show indicator being met. Questionnaires to repeat in early September 2024 will provide information on how Monty's Messengers (began during the project) has achieved in the minds of young persons (primary ages children).

Gender equality: 3.3 In Y3, Adopt-a-Home ambassadors selected and celebrated (across all sections of society) through a public event organised, in conjunction with the Governor's Office, by MNT and other partners; with wider promotion (60% or 3,000 of population of Montserrat) of the initiative, to ensure project-legacy and continuation beyond project-end. Qualities in the Ambassador roles include: gender balance, strong advocate of the project and importance of a range of societal benefits.

See Annex 4.14 for Facebook analytics of gender ratio which indicates a greater number of females subscribed to the page. 57% Female to 43% Male (unchanged since Y2AR2).

We are not certain that the Governor's Office will partner with MNT on this event, but will be invited. At project outset (and as noted throughout our reporting) the Governor's Residence (which was being prepared and plans to renovate it were in place) was identified at an early stage with the support of the Governor at the time. However, after baseline surveys were completed, and with the arrival of a new Governor, plans to work with the Office were discontinued unilaterally by the new Governor without consultation. The Governor has been generally supportive (e.g. has attending Safeguarding training and some events); however, a more active role did not materialise.

We have several project Ambassadors who we are working with to ensure the legacy of the project and that lessons learned are expressed more widely on the island. We have identified one female and one male potential lead Ambassadors to ensure the gender ratio is balanced.

The project is getting the exposure it anticipated with the use of social media and the radio show (according to latest census data 70.9% of Montserratian households own a radio appliance compared to 90.1% that own a mobile phone and 24.6% have a freezer; [Source Montserrat Census data]). While it has not been possible to obtain listening figures this could be an indicator of the importance of radio on Montserrat.

6. Monitoring and evaluation

The steering group, or Project Team meets at least quarterly via Zoom given that the team includes partners on Montserrat and the UK. This group reviews progress, as well as solving problems and innovating to ensure the efficient delivery of the project and its outcomes. Minutes of meetings include action points circulated. An example of the minutes recorded and circulated are included in Annex 4.15.

As reported previously, the project uses an online tool, www.Monday.com as a virtual way to monitor progress on project activities. Both qualitative and quantitative indicators of achievement are documented here.

There is no cost associated with the platform as an NGO account has been secured. Additionally, the outcomes and outputs are review verbally at Project Team meetings to ensure activities and progress are driving towards their delivery.

The NIRAS/LTS reviewers were very interested in this tool and in the spirit of sharing how projects are monitored and evaluated gave access to see how the tool is used throughout the project. While it works for this project, as both a place to keep track of key documents (links to Dropbox, web addresses or just stand-alone documents can be created within the platform) both meeting the outcomes and objectives, we do not believe this should be pre-prescribed to Darwin Project holders. It should just be part of a toolkit and a suggestion on how to M&E rather than dictating how this should be done.

Project Stakeholder group (to include more of the Adopters), as we are calling it, has met once in the reporting period at an informal event (March 2023). We expect that it will meet once more in summer to bring together the group as a celebration of the project and its achievements and launch of the demonstration areas, as well as being actively involved in developing the legacy.

Dialogue with *Adopters* informally and formally covers the role of the Stakeholder group adequately. If more frequent and wide involvement is needed, we will organise to meet with Adopters on an *ad hoc* basis. This can be difficult sometimes when some are off-island, but has been managed. We continue to believe that this set-up is facilitating accurate annual reporting and means we are able to highlight and address rapidly any problems in achieving outputs and the outcomes. This allows for adaptive management, inclusion and voices to be heard.

As such M&E is shared, has been central to the projects progression, but information is gathered by the co-lead.

7. Lessons learnt

The following aspects worked particularly well:

- Input from Government of Montserrat with two officers (one each from Departments of Environment and Agriculture joining the Project Team outside of regular hours; allowing flexibility) despite one leaving for study in the UK (see above); a replacement was found.
- Ministerial support from outset including taking part in horticulture techniques training session and grafting own fruit tree and sharing on social media.
- Monty's Messengers has continued to be run despite the resources needed to put on events during the weekend. This has to be carefully managed
- The MNT Heritage Radio show is going from strength to strength with regular listeners providing feedback to Project Officers around the island. It should be noted that this works really well in Montserrat. There may be other UKOTs where the radio is not as popular; whatever works as a form of engagement with the community should be pursued.
- New Senior Conservation Officer (recruited from outside of Montserrat; but from the Region) able to work across multiple projects as very experienced and confident in a variety of situations.
- Using additional and complementary projects to full advantage (e.g. DPLUS192 and various Darwin Local Projects)
- Major contributions of unpaid time by main partners and making use of a pool of supportive organisations and institutions should be acknowledged throughout. For example, Leigh Morris working alongside new Conservation Officer Chris Sealys; recommendations from Leigh's visit already taken forward e.g. joining Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI).
- Use of free-online tools used elsewhere which can contribute to legacy of the project as they prevent on-going costs as a burden to project partners (e.g. iNaturalist)

- Commitment from project partners e.g. MNT and UKOTCF to continue beyond the project end and bringing in additional partners to support the Trust's work.
- Free online resources (and NGOs accounts) can be a good way to fill gaps (e.g. Canva)
- Pursuing access to data and information collected on Montserrat is a worthwhile and important exercise. For example, one technical expert was able to visit the laboratory in Montana State University and working with them is producing id guides which will be available to the Trust to use in a variety of ways.

The following aspects worked less well:

- There were significant power outages during the summer months, which severely impacted the lives of Montserratians during a period of extreme heat. The Montserrat National Trust has now moved off-grid with solar powered generation. This enabled Offices to continue desk-based work at the Trust offices, but impacted work off site.
- It has not been possible to follow-up all leads in Phase 2 of AHW. However, it has been possible to retain some of this interest to work with the Trust in other ways, for example, in another Darwin Funded project, MNT/UKOTCF refer to those persons testing out the Biodiversity & Well-being toolkit as 'Adopters' of the Toolkit, as noted in legacy section.
- It has not always been possible to provide equipment to Adopters needed to manage their land. Import costs are a limiting factor for Adopters to be able to buy their own. Sharing the equipment is necessary and cost-effective for the Trust, but it can lead to delays/frustrations when management needs to place.
- During the year, time availability of the local part-time project officers became very limited due to moving to higher education, illness and other factors. Where possible, this was covered by extra work both remotely by UKOTCF personnel and by some local recruitment. Work is in hand to adjust schedules so that the project delivers as well as the first 18 months indicated.

Similar projects would benefit from the following recommendations:

- Hiring qualified persons can be difficult as the population in Montserrat (and several other UKOTs) is limited and cost of living high; so alternatives, such as splitting roles, can be explored but also senior managers able to deliver outputs when there are gaps due to: illness, constraints on Project Officers, e.g childcare duties.
- Volunteer opportunities can supplement and drive projects forward and should be encouraged particularly highly skills, experienced persons that might wish to support projects on sabbaticals or working vacation from jobs.
- Roles for young persons allow the Trust and others to identify suitable future environment officers for both non-government and government bodies on island as a shared resource.
- Connections with other similar bodies through webinars etc can pool resources and provide insights into shared challenges and enable additional projects to be explored (for example: Darwin Fellowship mentioned above; DPLUS192 also mentioned; Darwin Local projects), which are highly relevant, can continue work started or develop ideas generated.
- In some territories, mobile phone data charges are high, so that junior staff may not be able to afford them. If data collection depends on mobile phone apps, projects may need to consider covering the costs of this, especially for junior staff and volunteers.

8. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

Project partners welcomed the report.

Reviewers comments from Annual Review AN2Y2 that we needed to address in this AR:

1. Example of meeting minutes and training materials supplied this time in Annex 4.15.
2. A clear cross-referencing of Adopter attendance at workshops provided in Annex 4.17. This is not complete but indicates the level we will be able to report at project end.
3. Annex 4.14 shows gap in outreach in groups under 18 trying to address this through Darwin Local and other Darwin Plus project (DPLUS192) reported elsewhere.
4. No response needed, but emphasises 'wordy' indicators with multiple measures within them.

5. Lessons learned identified via Project meetings, conversations with staff, Adopters, children, feedback from sessions etc.
6. Addressed in HYR, but update is that additional training has happened (see Annex 4.17).

The team was asked by NIRAS/LTS to take part in a mid-term review of the project. This took place in June 2023. In all honestly, the co-leads did not know if this meant that there were concerns for how the project was running when the first invitation was received. This was slightly worrying, but it became immediately obvious once meeting with NIRAS/LTS representatives on Montserrat that this was not the case. In fact, the review was a learning opportunity on both sides. For NIRAS/LTS it was an opportunity to understand more of the unique challenges facing Montserrat. For the project team, it was a chance to learn more about the Darwin Plus process, reporting expectations and some clarification on some aspects.

We estimate that the hours taken in preparation for the review, travel and the review itself as:
Co-lead CW: Preparation pre-visit 2-3 working days, Organisation of the visit 2-3 working days, Visit itself 7 days = 13 working days

Co-lead MP: Preparation pre-visit 4 working days Visit itself 7 days =11 days

MNT staff (at least 2 persons split between MNT team): Preparation pre-visit 2-3 working days Visit itself 7 days =10 days. Thus 34 days in total for Darwin Mid-term review.

Unfortunately, the review team itself has suffered from the lack of resources common to most Darwin-supported work, and has not yet been able to produce its report expected within about a month of the visit. However, the verbal exchanges were of value.

9. Risk Management

One risk identified by the Project Officers previously, in consultation with the botanic nursery staff, was the health of the plants in the nursery. This is because it would be counterproductive to be providing plants to Adopters which were not in good condition or were carrying pests (e.g. scale insects). To address this, a review of practices was conducted in May 2023 with visiting horticulturalist (Leigh Morris, CEO of the Manx Wildlife Trust and UKOTCF Trustee <https://www.linkedin.com/in/leigh-morris-a522a59/>).

Risk was losing staff, but see this as for the greater good of conservation.

Communication between Adopters identified as way for mutual learning WhatsApp used but is not suited to all.

We were not required to have a Risk Register at the start of the project, so have not been maintaining one on this project.

Power Outages in July; significant impact although mitigated as MNT now fully solar powered. Impacts on lives at home.

Storm; knowledge was that this was likely to happen. Avoided anything in this area and focussed on promotion of site as dual recreation area and wildlife watching area. Patience of golfers evident with site visits from visitors not necessarily with the team.

10. Sustainability and legacy

Key Adopters expressed strong wishes for *Adopt a Home for Wildlife* to continue beyond the grant, and we are working closely with them to facilitate this.

Montserrat's & MNT's Organisation Capacity

The young persons being exposed to a variety of projects and especially with this project are continuing to gain experience and have indicated their wish to continue working with the Trust beyond project end. (See profiles in *SOS Nature of Montserrat* issue 15; Sam Paul, Jo-Diaz Tye and Kadine Cabey in <https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/SOSnatureNewsletter15a.pdf>) MNT and UKOTCF will continue to foster this relationship providing opportunities to remain involved as well as providing further opportunities for young people on Montserrat.

Following the Higher Education Evening piloted in May, Project Officer Ajhermae White was successful in applying for a Darwin Fellowship (note her name is the application is

Sovanye Ajhermae White DPLUS193; £53,459 see: <https://darwinplus.org.uk/project/DPLUS193>).

Darwin Plus project DPLUS192 aims to use same language as “Adopter” of the toolkit to maintain this tagline beyond the project aim. The advice that Adopters during this project need will be explored through building of the Biodiversity and Well-being toolkit see: <https://darwinplus.org.uk/project/DPLUS192>

Darwin Local Projects:

Successful applications from MNT team (all supported by co-lead Catherine Wensink and UKOTCF in general):

1. Demonstrating Adaptation and Sustainability at the Montserrat National Trust's Botanical Gardens see: <https://darwinplus.org.uk/project/DPL00061>

2. MNT- Pipers Lot Outdoor Educational Facility & Nature Trail <https://darwinplus.org.uk/project/DPL00031>

With tentative projects 3 & 4 in round 2&3 yet to be announced.

Environmental Education

Monty’s Messengers will remain and with EcoPlay the MNT has branding around children’s club.

Biodiversity Monitoring

Records system building and will remain permanently via iNaturalist.

It is highly likely that the use of iNaturalist on island will continue beyond project end to enhance open access knowledge on island.

Livelihoods

Generation of income from natural projects big push in last 6 months on that.

Global Targets on Conservation Areas e.g. OECM on Pipers Lot

PhD research from project; recommendations to MNT and to other small islands in potential designations as other area-based effective conservation measures (OECMs).

11. Darwin Plus identity

During Mid-term review visit appearance on radio show provided the review team with an opportunity to talk about the fund in general.

Meetings were also arranged with the Montserrat Governor with the Minister for Environment to highlight Darwin Plus.

When making radio appearances on Montserrat, the Project Team has highlighted the Darwin Plus contribution to the project.

Our newsletter *Saving Our Special Nature of Montserrat* has the Darwin Plus logo prominent at the top of the front page, and this is similarly displayed at the head of the relevant section of our main newsletter *Forum News*.

12. Safeguarding

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	No
Have any concerns been reported in the past 12 months	No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes: As named in application Mrs Ann [REDACTED]
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	No [If yes, please provide date and details of training]

What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	Past: unchanged Planned: only 6 months to go so no plans to update or refresh
Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses. MNT published their safeguarding policy in 2023 – see Annex 4.16	
Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify. No	
Please describe any community sensitisation that has taken place over the past 12 months; include topics covered and number of participants. No	
Have there been any concerns around Health, Safety and Security of your project over the past year? If yes, please outline how this was resolved. No	

13. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)

Project spend (indicative) in this financial year	2023/24 D+ Grant (£)	2023/24 Total actual D+ Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs				Within 10% allowed
Consultancy costs				No budget or expenditure
Overhead Costs				Within the 10% allowed
Travel and subsistence				Within the 10% allowed
Operating Costs				Within the 10% allowed
Capital items				No budget or expenditure
Others (Please specify)				No budget or expenditure
TOTAL	£86,457.00	£86,457.00		

Table 2: Project mobilised or matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)

	Secured to date	Expected by end of project	Sources
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£)			Donated time, expenses and facilities
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)	See section 10 above. This cannot be given a figure without inappropriate and disproportionate deployment of resources.		

14. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

15. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes.

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds to edit and use the following for various promotional purposes (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)	File Name or File Location	Caption including description, country and credit	Social media accounts and websites to be tagged (leave blank if none)	Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)
videos	Links under Project Updates in https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/key-projects/adoptahomeforwildlife/ More will be added in coming weeks	See source. Credit www.uotcf.org.uk	https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/key-projects/adoptahomeforwildlife/	Yes
Still photos and text	In <i>Saving Our Special Nature of Montserrat</i> and <i>Forum News</i>	See source Credit publication name and Credit www.uotcf.org.uk	https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/newsletters/project-newsletter-1/ https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/newsletters/forum-newsvers2/	Yes

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2023-2024

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>Increasing Montserrat's globally important endemic/native plants and invertebrates, via decreasing invasive plants, through community-led site-restoration; this will enhance biodiversity close-alongside people (overcoming volcano-caused increased human-density), sustainable small-enterprise opportunities and community-wellbeing</p>	See below	
<p>Outcome</p> <p>By 2024, Montserrat's protected areas increased by at least 12 community-managed "Wildlife-Homes" with site-specific plans delivered by at least 150 site-"Adopters" and active supporters; and increased recognition/use of livelihood-opportunities, while safeguarding globally important native/endemic biodiversity.</p>		
<p>0.1 By 2024, as part of the 'Adopt a Home for Wildlife' initiative expanded in the project, a minimum of 12 sites ("Wildlife-Homes") with at least 150 individual 'Adopters' (Wildlife-Home managers & assistants)</p>	14 Wildlife Homes and 210 persons involved in project.	Maintain high level of involvement and facilitate continuance after end of grant period.
<p>0.2 By 2024, regeneration and restoration demonstrated in at least 10 Wildlife-Homes in the globally threatened tropical dry forest/wetland mosaic, with before and after assessments demonstrating a decline in invasive plants and 10% increase in native/endemic ones.</p>	Repeat surveys to check this started on schedule	Complete repeat surveys on schedule and analyse
<p>0.3 By 2024, at least 2 demonstration Wildlife-Homes created as models for new 'Adopters', beyond the life of the project, demonstrating restoration techniques and benefits.</p>	4 demonstration WHs effectively open but interpretation to complete.	Complete interpretation and publicise.
<p>0.4 By 2024, the project has demonstrated that at least 60% or 3,000 people of total population of Montserrat have an increased awareness of the opportunities to engage in restoration/conservation efforts) via 'Adopt a Home for Wildlife'</p>	Survey scheduled in next FY	Undertake survey and analyse
<p>Output 1. By 2024, a network of at least 12 Wildlife-Homes, effectively increasing protected areas across the island, are being managed actively for conservation while providing human-benefits, with 'Adopters' recruited; community-run restoration and protection of these Wildlife-Homes in place, and baseline plant and invertebrate data gathered and published.</p>		

Output indicator 1.1 By 2024, there are at least 12 Wildlife-Homes, extending protected areas in the tropical dry forest/wetland complex, the start of a community-led island-wide network of protected areas across globally important ecosystems including tropical dry forest and wetlands.	14 Wildlife Homes currently active (Annex 4.1)	Ensure as high a level of continued involvement of WHs as possible and secure legacy beyond the grant period.
Output indicator 1.2 In Y1, we demonstrate discussion and plans for wildlife and human-benefit, as well as recruiting a PO, hold team meeting and steering group meetings, start recruitment of sites and conduct first survey visits to 5 Wildlife-Homes. In Y2, we demonstrate activities are underway, hold annual meetings, recruit 10 Wildlife-Homes and conducted first or second surveys at all 10. By end Y3 we are able to demonstrate results covering all above.	Initial surveys and management plans complete for WHs in phase 1. Repeat surveys on schedule. Surveys start for WHs in phase 2. Regular project team meetings and Adopters meeting held.(Annexes 4.1, 4.5, 4.15)	Complete repeat surveys and analyse.
Output indicator 1.3 By 2024, at least 150 individuals 'Adopters' (or community managers & assistants) (facilitated by PO and local team at MNT), actively encouraging a diverse socio-economic, gender and age-range to support management of each of these Wildlife-Homes, so that beyond project end, all groups are represented in what has been achieved. By end Y1, at least 30 recruited, and at least 70 by end Y3.	210 individuals actively involved in Wildlife Homes, with age spread from primary school to senior citizens and roughly equal gender balance.	Maintain interest and involvement. Facilitate transfer to Adopter lead.
Output 1.4 By 2024, the composition of native non-invasive botanical and invertebrate within Wildlife-Homes is documented, and celebrated through outreach (see output 3), to ensure good representation of Montserrat's endemic wildlife across the island's tropical-dry-forest and wetland areas. By mid-Y2, 10 site reports demonstrate base-line with initial results. By end of Y3 clear link between community actions and benefits for wildlife and people documented.	Repeat surveys commenced on schedule.	Complete repeat surveys and analyse.
Output 1.5 By 2024, active regeneration demonstrated at the first ten Wildlife-Homes. By the end of Y1, demonstrate plans on how to achieve this; end of Y2, actions toward it; and end of Y3, results of progress made with plans on how to maintain this beyond project end.	Scheduled for final 6 months of project. However, a good start made to planning post-grant maintenance of initiative, with enthusiastic support of key Adopters.	Undertake analysis on planned schedule to report this. Complete arrangements for initiative to continue post-grant.
Output 1.6 By 2024, at least 2000 individual saplings grown at the MNT's botanic garden, labelled and supplied to "Adopters". (Y1, improvements to irrigation developed and at least 600 saplings grown and supplied; Y2 700 saplings grown and supplied; Y3 700 grown and supplied) Organic fertiliser will also be provided and information packs to accompany these.	1200 saplings produced in year	
Output 2. By 2024, increased ability and confidence of 'Adopters' (1) to experiment and monitor Wildlife-Home quality in relation to the islands' unique and native biodiversity; (2) to make choices which benefit native plant and pollinator species, leading to protecting and enhancing the wildlife (important also to		

the economy), despite the increased housing-density close to wildlife habitats due to volcanic displacement of the human population, and also providing food-security, as well as contributing towards well-being.		
Output indicator 2.1 By end of Y1, plans with initial Adopters in place and being implemented. By end of year 2, subsequent 'Adopters' make use of best practice on new Wildlife-Homes. By Y3, information systems in place and being used widely. Between 2021-2024 continuing work with 'Adopters' develops techniques for implementing and monitoring success of removal and (natural or assisted) replacement of native plants (and subsequent encouragement of native pollinators), and informs management techniques used in other Wildlife-Homes.	Exchange of experience and innovative trials taking place, assisted by a social media group as well as personal contact. Need for a more systematic, interrogatable system identified and being developed.	Systematic, interrogatable system to be developed and implemented.
Output indicator 2.2 Training and guidance on site-management techniques provided to at least 25 community members as part of the Adopt a Home for Wildlife. This will include a mixture of on-site training and workshops held at MNT's conference centre, possibly supplemented by remote communications.	Well over the target number trained by a combination of on-site training and workshops (e.g. 4.1, 4.3, 4.7, 4.8, 4.17)	Training to continue on topics identified as priority by Montserrat personnel
Output indicator 2.3 Between 2021-2024, information on Wildlife-Home management shared via well-interpreted information systems made available online in the first instance, but with alternative ways to access it for those that cannot attend training events at certain times.	See 2.2	See 2.2
Output indicator 2.4 An evidence base established so that, by 2024, site-management Wildlife-Homes has demonstrated an increase in biodiversity and decrease in invasive species. In year 1, plans are discussed with stakeholders and refined. By Year 2, tested and modified. By end of Year 3, system is functioning and in use.	Repeat surveys started on schedule.	Repeat surveys to be completed on schedule and analysed.
Output 3 By 2024, opportunities for all sections of Montserrat's community to contribute to, and express, a greater understanding of how a network of community-protected sites leads to both conservation benefits and improved livelihoods – demonstrated particularly by food-security, tourism opportunities, well-being, and safeguarding of, and reducing pressure on, Montserrat's unique biodiversity (including endemic species) and globally threatened habitats (e.g. tropical dry forest and wetlands) within areas of volcano-caused increased human density.		
Output indicator 3.1 By 2024, wider public engagement takes place on habitat restoration/ natural regeneration, at Wildlife-Homes. 3 training events held, with >25 members from a range of community-groups attending, supplemented by remote means; plus. 6 community-gatherings, 6 radio interview sessions and 20 social media posts with high engagement rates. Profiles of at least 10 'Adopters' published during Y1 & Y2, with updates and results in Y3.	>4000 records in iNaturalist page set up (Annex 4.4). Training events took place on grafting and horticulture and iNaturalist (Annex 4.17). Monty's Messengers /Montserrat Children's Society week of activities August 2023 (Annex 4.12)	Planning in progress for public event at end of June 2024. Publication and publicising of WH videos to be completed.

	Profiles of 11 Wildlife Homes and their Adopters publishes in SOS Nature of Wildlife and one or more videos prepared for each, with on-site interviews with Adopters (see Annex 4.5; https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/key-projects/adoptahomeforwildlife/)	Invertebrate identification sheets (Annex 4.3) to be published.
3.2 By end Y1, 2 demonstration Wildlife-Homes are identified, and plans in place to implement them. By end Y2, these sites launched and are being visited. By end Y3, plans in place to expand these demonstration Wildlife-Homes, showing effective ways to conserve the island's unique biodiversity, by a range of ecological and entrepreneurial opportunities available in Wildlife-Homes. These are recorded, and are widely promoted in a variety of media, enabling all sections of society to be included.	WH02, WH04, WH05 & WH13 are open but need more interpretation, which is being worked on (Annexes 4.1, 4.5).	Complete interpretation and publicise.
3.3 In Y3, Adopt-a-Home ambassadors selected and celebrated (across all sections of society) through a public event organised, in conjunction with the Governor's Office, by MNT and other partners; with wider promotion (60% or 3,000 of population of Montserrat) of the initiative, to ensure project-legacy and continuation beyond project-end. Qualities in the Ambassador roles include: gender balance, strong advocate of the project and importance of a range of societal benefits.	Scheduled for latter half of Y3 (i.e. FY 2024-5)	Implement
Output indicator 3.4 Between 2021 and 2024, a community biodiversity reporting system established, to report information about biodiversity at Wildlife-Homes and elsewhere which may otherwise be missed in ecological surveys. Community-members able (or trained) to record/ report and, where possible, recognise rare endemic wildlife (e.g. the critically endangered and little-known galliwasp lizard), both enabling further study and drawing additional community members into the project, By the end Y1, system planned; by end Y2, being used; by end Y3, information obtained through the system published.	>4000 records in iNaturalist page set up (Annex 4.4). Training events took place on grafting and horticulture and iNaturalist (Annex 4.17). Identification materials produced (Annexes 4.3, 4.5)	Continue to encourage use of iNaturalist. Publish the invertebrate identification sheets and plant identification material.
Output indicator 3.5 By 2024, community support demonstrated towards native ecosystems and their associated plant/s invertebrates, and MNT embedded in continuing this community-driven project, particularly in how to manage land for increased security, good for Montserrat's unique native biodiversity, including that having to live closely alongside the increased human density resulting from volcano-caused displacement.	A high level of support evident from participation in events, including for young persons, requests to join newsletter circulation and positive feedback, social media (Annexes 4.4, 4.7, 4.13, 4.17). Formal survey of attitudes planned for next FY.	Undertake and analyse survey.

Annex 2: Project’s full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project Summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: Increasing Montserrat’s globally important endemic/native plants and invertebrates, via decreasing invasive plants, through community-led site-restoration; this will enhance biodiversity close-alongside people (overcoming volcano-caused increased human-density), sustainable small-enterprise opportunities and community-wellbeing</p>			
<p>Outcome:</p> <p>By 2024, Montserrat’s protected areas increased by at least 12 community-managed “Wildlife-Homes” with site-specific plans delivered by at least 150 site-“Adopters” and active supporters; and increased recognition/use of livelihood-opportunities, while safeguarding globally important native/endemic biodiversity.</p>	<p>0.1 By 2024, as part of the ‘Adopt a Home for Wildlife’ initiative expanded in the project, a minimum of 12 sites (“Wildlife-Homes”) with at least 150 individual ‘Adopters’ (Wildlife-Home managers & assistants)</p> <p>0.2 By 2024, regeneration and restoration demonstrated in at least 10 Wildlife-Homes in the globally threatened tropical dry forest/wetland mosaic, with before and after assessments demonstrating a decline in invasive plants and 10% increase in native/endemic ones.</p> <p>0.3 By 2024, at least 2 demonstration Wildlife-Homes created as models for new ‘Adopters’, beyond the life of the project, demonstrating restoration techniques and benefits.</p> <p>0.4 By 2024, the project has demonstrated that at least 60% or 3,000 people of total population of Montserrat have an increased awareness of the opportunities to engage in restoration/conservation efforts) via ‘Adopt a Home for Wildlife’</p>	<p>0.1 By project end, ten reports documenting the site and progress from initial site visit in year 1, 2 or 3.</p> <p>0.2 By project end, presence of invasive species, native flora and fauna before-and-after site surveys showing % change, providing evidence that project activities, via communities’ actions have led to a positive outcome for biodiversity. (pilot-project covered, at peak, 30 ha; the baseline is the part of this still active)</p> <p>0.3 Elements of 0.2 demonstrating improvements in habitats and some pilot-work to provide sites with forage-plants (tree, herbs, shrubs) and nesting-sites, creating resilient landscapes for endemic invertebrates (including key pollinators), and human-benefit surveys/ feedback forms. Project newsletter articles and web- pages with sites mentioned and approaches promoted.</p> <p>0.4 Feedback received from survey results from community members in Y1, Y2 and Y3; attendance records</p>	<p>Volcanic or hurricane action does not impede work; this cannot be guaranteed re volcano but, after 10 years of stability, leading to re-opening of some restricted access areas. Former unlikely, and is monitored continuously by Montserrat Volcano Observatory. Hurricanes may occur, but local precautions are good, and experience demonstrates that only slight delays are likely, unless there is a direct hit from a super-hurricane. (If this were considered blocking, no conservation work would be resourced in the Caribbean.)</p> <p>Community groups and sympathetic/engaged businesses and land-managers continue to be ready to volunteer to Adopt Wildlife-Homes. Likely, given commitments already shown and maintained in the pilot and continuing effort.</p>

		<p>at workshops, courses and community gatherings and feedback forms published, social media posts (including remote ones; records of reactions to newsletters and broadcasts, including of call-ins; social media analytics records).</p>	<p>Adequate supply of saplings to replace invasive species with non-invasive and native species (where these do not grow from the natural seed-bank), through the MNT native-plant nursery at the botanic gardens. This is planned for.</p> <p>Pandemic-related measures do not prevent activities. Montserrat has very successful quarantining and self-distancing arrangements. These, supplemented by remote communications as necessary, should be able to overcome most challenges in this regard.</p>
<p>Outputs: 1. By 2024, a network of at least 12 Wildlife-Homes, effectively increasing protected areas across the island, are being managed actively for conservation while providing human-benefits, with 'Adopters' recruited; community-run restoration and protection of these Wildlife-Homes in place, and baseline plant and invertebrate data gathered and published.</p>	<p><i>Biodiversity:</i> 1.1 By 2024, there are at least 12 Wildlife-Homes, extending protected areas in the tropical dry forest/wetland complex, the start of a community-led island-wide network of protected areas across globally important ecosystems including tropical dry forest and wetlands.</p> <p><i>Biodiversity and Livelihoods:</i> 1.2 In Y1, we demonstrate discussion and plans for wildlife and human-benefit, as well as recruiting a PO, hold team meeting and steering group meetings, start recruitment of sites and conduct first survey visits to 5 Wildlife-Homes. In Y2, we demonstrate activities are underway, hold annual meetings, recruit 10 Wildlife-Homes and conducted first or second surveys at all 10. By end Y3 we are able to demonstrate results covering all above.</p>	<p>1.1 Database and map of Wildlife-Homes, with report explaining known site-information</p> <p>1.2 Wildlife-Home initial reports in Y1; management-plans and summary of activities in; Y2 final site reports in Y3.</p> <p>1.3 List of guardians and profiles in newsletters and web-site published online throughout the project.</p> <p>1.4 Ecological survey field-sheets, fixed-point images, Wildlife-Home site-reports, and human-benefit surveys/ feedback forms – initially in Y1 and throughout Y2-Y3.</p>	<p>Suitably qualified and experienced project officer recruited from near the start of the project enables community work to be driven on-island throughout the project. A detailed job description and criteria have been drafted by UKOTCF & MNT to ensure that the candidate is suitably qualified and has the key qualities needed for the kind of community engagement which is crucial to the project. Flexible working hours and conditions will be available to remove barriers for suitable candidates (home- working, part-time hours etc). Measures are incorporated</p>

	<p><i>Gender equality:</i> 1.3 By 2024, at least 150 individuals ‘Adopters’ (or community managers & assistants) (facilitated by PO and local team at MNT), actively encouraging a diverse socio-economic, gender and age-range to support management of each of these Wildlife-Homes, so that beyond project end, all groups are represented in what has been achieved. By end Y1, at least 30 recruited, and at least 70 by end Y3.</p> <p><i>Biodiversity:</i> 1.4 By 2024, the composition of native non-invasive botanical and invertebrate within Wildlife-Homes is documented, and celebrated through outreach (see output 3), to ensure good representation of Montserrat’s endemic wildlife across the island’s tropical-dry-forest and wetland areas. By mid-Y2, 10 site reports demonstrate base-line with initial results. By end of Y3 clear link between community actions and benefits for wildlife and people documented.</p> <p><i>Biodiversity:</i> 1.5 By 2024, active regeneration demonstrated at the first ten Wildlife-Homes. By the end of Y1, demonstrate plans on how to achieve this; end of Y2, actions toward it; and end of Y3, results of progress made with plans on how to maintain this beyond project end.</p> <p><i>Biodiversity and Livelihoods:</i> 1.6 By 2024, at least 2000 individual saplings grown at the MNT’s botanic garden, labelled and supplied to “Adopters”. (Y1, improvements to</p>	<p>1.5 Report including data on area and plant species cleared, extent of native regeneration encouraged and number of natives planted; project newsletter articles outlining plots and activities; progress reports</p> <p>1.6 Records of supply of plants and fertiliser from the native plant nursery to community partners, and tags supplied with plants that provide information (also available in digital form). Infographics can be used on social media and in newsletters. The number of information packs downloaded or printed by ‘Adopters’ or the public.</p>	<p>to manage in the interim if there is a delay in recruitment.</p> <p>Key community members remain engaged throughout the project. Pilot-work indicates this to be likely, with very low drop-out.</p>
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	irrigation developed and at least 600 saplings grown and supplied; Y2 700 saplings grown and supplied; Y3 700 grown and supplied) Organic fertiliser will also be provided and information packs to accompany these.		
2. By 2024, increased ability and confidence of 'Adopters' (1) to experiment and monitor Wildlife-Home quality in relation to the islands' unique and native biodiversity; (2) to make choices which benefit native plant and pollinator species, leading to protecting and enhancing the wildlife (important also to the economy), despite the increased housing-density close to wildlife habitats due to volcanic displacement of the human population, and also providing food-security, as well as contributing towards well-being.	<p><i>Biodiversity & Livelihoods</i></p> <p>2.1 By end of Y1, plans with initial Adopters in place and being implemented. By end of year 2, subsequent 'Adopters' make use of best practice on new Wildlife-Homes. By Y3, information systems in place and being used widely. Between 2021-2024 continuing work with 'Adopters' develops techniques for implementing and monitoring success of removal and (natural or assisted) replacement of native plants (and subsequent encouragement of native pollinators), and informs management techniques used in other Wildlife-Homes.</p> <p><i>Capacity Building:</i></p> <p>2.2 Training and guidance on site-management techniques provided to at least 25 community members as part of the Adopt a Home for Wildlife. This will include a mixture of on-site training and workshops held at MNT's conference centre, possibly supplemented by remote communications.</p> <p><i>Gender equality</i></p> <p>2.3 Between 2021-2024, information on Wildlife-Home management shared via well-interpreted information systems made available online in the first instance, but with alternative ways to access it for those that cannot attend training events at certain times.</p>	<p>2.1 Monitoring materials produced and made available, with ability to track when information material is being accessed online, including ecological benefits but also human-benefit surveys/ feedback forms.</p> <p>2.2 Before-and-after training surveys and feedback forms made available in hard-copy, so as to be as inclusive as possible, and online.</p> <p>2.3 Database records and online materials</p> <p>2.4 As in 2.3, but including site management reports and feedback surveys from 'Adopters'</p>	<p>Site-surveys conducted pre- and post-work on Wildlife-Homes. This will be facilitated by an easy-to-use assessment methods developed in UK and US and adapted for use on Montserrat.</p> <p>PO builds up good relationships with community participants, ensuring 'Adopters' and wider community have support, and progress can be monitored effectively. This will be cemented by the partners long based on the island already.</p> <p>Adopters take up available land-management advice/ . Our pilot work demonstrated this to be so. MNT/UKOTCF hosted lectures (one on insects including >1% of island population present & others later via radio), and open days with high engagement, and regular supporters in habitat management. Training will be tweaked to match skills and need.</p> <p>68% of island-households have internet connection (Labour</p>

	<p><i>Biodiversity:</i> 2.4 An evidence base established so that, by 2024, site-management Wildlife-Homes has demonstrated an increase in biodiversity and decrease in invasive species. In year 1, plans are discussed with stakeholders and refined. By Year 2, tested and modified. By end of Year 3, system is functioning and in use.</p>		<p>Force Census and Intercensal Count 2018), so we will ensure alternative ways to access information.</p> <p>Good level of uptake by community-groups in Adopt-a-Home. Consultation with community-groups, shows keen interest. Good design of site report-cards (visitation rates, indicator species hover-flies, bees etc) will enable basic level of monitoring which can be carried out by local community participants.</p>
<p>3. By 2024, opportunities for all sections of Montserrat's community to contribute to, and express, a greater understanding of how a network of community-protected sites leads to both conservation benefits and improved livelihoods – demonstrated particularly by food-security, tourism opportunities, well-being, and safeguarding of, and reducing pressure on, Montserrat's unique biodiversity (including</p>	<p><i>Capacity building and Gender equality:</i> 3.1 By 2024, wider public engagement takes place on habitat restoration/ natural regeneration, at Wildlife-Homes. 3 training events held, with >25 members from a range of community-groups attending, supplemented by remote means; plus. 6 community-gatherings, 6 radio interview sessions and 20 social media posts with high engagement rates. Profiles of at least 10 'Adopters' published during Y1 & Y2, with updates and results in Y3.</p> <p><i>Biodiversity & Livelihoods:</i> 3.2 By end Y1, 2 demonstration Wildlife-Homes are identified, and plans in place to implement them. By end Y2, these sites launched and are being visited. By end Y3, plans in place to expand these demonstration Wildlife-Homes, showing effective ways to conserve the island's unique biodiversity, by a range of ecological and entrepreneurial opportunities available in Wildlife-</p>	<p>3.1 Training and workshop reports, before-and-after training evaluation surveys and feedback questionnaires (a combination of online and face-to-face). Information (via leaflets, radio broadcasts, newsletter, web-sites etc.) provided to including a profile of each 'Adopter' and show benefits of site management including: relationship with crop fertilisation and other benefits, how maintenance costs can be reduced, services provided by native pollinators and what opportunities are available</p> <p>3.2 Demonstration Wildlife-Homes themselves and visitor records. Promotion of all project materials via websites e.g. UKOTCF, MNT, local</p>	<p>Newsletters are receiving wide readership. Likely because of enthusiastic receipt of those of recent earlier and continuing work – and social media channels will be used to broaden spread of publications (previous social media have had high levels of engagement (for example, one had the equivalent of the total population of Montserrat).</p> <p>High quality training materials. MNT has run engagement projects for many years on island and knows how to design materials that inspire action.</p>

<p>endemic species) and globally threatened habitats (e.g. tropical dry forest and wetlands) within areas of volcano-caused increased human density.</p>	<p>Homes. These are recorded, and are widely promoted in a variety of media, enabling all sections of society to be included.</p> <p><i>Gender equality:</i> 3.3 In Y3, Adopt-a-Home ambassadors selected and celebrated (across all sections of society) through a public event organised, in conjunction with the Governor’s Office, by MNT and other partners; with wider promotion (60% or 3,000 of population of Montserrat) of the initiative, to ensure project-legacy and continuation beyond project-end. Qualities in the Ambassador roles include: gender balance, strong advocate of the project and importance of a range of societal benefits.</p> <p><i>Biodiversity:</i> 3.4 Between 2021 and 2024, a community biodiversity reporting system established, to report information about biodiversity at Wildlife-Homes and elsewhere which may otherwise be missed in ecological surveys. Community-members able (or trained) to record/ report and, where possible, recognise rare endemic wildlife (e.g. the critically endangered and little-known galliwasp lizard), both enabling further study and drawing additional community members into the project, By the end Y1, system planned; by end Y2, being used; by end Y3, information obtained through the system published.</p> <p>3.5 By 2024, community support demonstrated towards native ecosystems and their associated plant/s invertebrates, and MNT embedded in continuing this community-driven project, particularly in how to manage land for increased security, good for Montserrat’s unique native</p>	<p>marketing and communications company (and others), posters, videos, podcasts, radio broadcasts.</p> <p>3.3 Public event communications, including social media posts showing level of engagement, online news reports, videos.</p> <p>3.4 The reporting system itself available online with potential to add records in other ways, e.g. record cards, so as not to exclude any sections of society; and guidance notes, project newsletters and reports.</p> <p>3.5 Results of questionnaires analysis, newsletters, records of public and stakeholder meetings, radio-broadcasts and social media posts with detailed analytics. These are entered into the reporting system (as in 3.3) which holds records and information.</p>	<p>Because of the long period required to restore ecosystems, develop small enterprises and demonstrate income and employment outcomes, the interim measures which have to be used here reflect the longer-term outcomes. Likely on the basis both of the views of experienced local entrepreneurs and experience elsewhere through UKOTCFs 30+ years of experience working across many UK territories, including Montserrat.</p>
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	biodiversity, including that having to live closely alongside the increased human density resulting from volcano-caused displacement.		
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Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)

Output 1. By 2024, a network of at least 12 Wildlife-Homes, effectively increasing protected areas across the island, are being managed actively for conservation, with 'Adopters' recruited; community-run restoration and protection of these Wildlife-Homes in place, under guidance of ecologists (through the PO at MNT and the PL's wider network of specialists; UKOTCF retains highly-qualified botanists in its wider team), with physical removal of invasive plants, encouraging of native ones supplemented by planting of those native species not self-regenerating from the seed-bank, using local stock grown at the botanic garden; and baseline plant and invertebrate data gathered and published.

- 1.1 Project Officer recruited at Montserrat National Trust, and any supplementary training needed arranged, and other project team members have an introductory meeting via Zoom.
- 1.2 Adverts for Adopt a Home for Wildlife designed and distributed on-island, outlining project and welcoming new sites and 'Adopters,' as well as reinstating advice to those in the pilot; PO and local partners use also word of mouth, radio and social media.
- 1.3 PO and other members gather contacts and begin working with 'Adopters,' both in person and via remote means (depending on any Covid restrictions), to formulate site-plans, assistance required, joint management agreements and plan for action.
- 1.4 PO site-visits to record information and to survey Wildlife-Homes in areas already pre-identified as areas for action to provide baselines, e.g. at Cork Hill, other small enterprises identified with an interest, e.g. Tina Banana.
- 1.5 PO continues to visit Wildlife-Homes at times convenient to 'Adopters,' to facilitate activities and carry on continuous monitoring of the Wildlife-Homes.
- 1.6 Maps produced to indicate coverage of these community-managed protected areas across the island
- 1.7 Student and traineeship possibilities explored and, where appropriate, undertaken, to facilitate capacity-building and opportunities for young people to be involved with the project and gain experience.
- 1.8 Communications plan developed and implemented. This includes:
 - 1.8.1 newsletters (built on wide circulation achieved in pilot-work) published every quarter by UKOTCF, with articles from other team members, and which outline progress and facilitate M&E
 - 1.8.2 Social-media posts produced to outline project; profiles of 'Adopters' produced and published. These will be carried out by a Montserratian marketing group, 664 Connect, to undertake a variety of communications across all sections of society on-island and with Montserratian diaspora in UK, US (and elsewhere).
- 1.9 New works begin at the native-plant nursery at the Montserrat National Trust botanic garden. This includes:
 - 1.9.1 Equipment and materials needed for the native plant nursery acquired.
 - 1.9.2 Labelling system developed

- 1.9.3 Facility to record information on plants given to 'Adopters' (and for sale) is set up
- 1.9.4 Organic fertilisers produced and made available to 'Adopters' (and for sale)
- 1.10 Plans/improvements to demonstration Wildlife-Homes (including native plants, food securing plants and pollinators) developed and implemented.
- 1.11 Quarterly project team meeting to report on progress and any other aspects of M&E.
- 1.12 Annual stakeholder steering group meets at least one month in advance of year-end reporting, with specific updates on M&E and success stories from each year.
- 1.13 Half-year, first, second and third year reports produced and finalised by administration team with support from all team members particularly those involved in M&E

Output 2. By 2024, ability and confidence of 'Adopters' to experiment and monitor Wildlife-Home quality in relation to the islands' unique and native biodiversity increased and make choices which benefit native plant and pollinator species, leading to good outcomes for biodiversity, but also providing some food-security, as well as contributing towards well-being, and protecting and enhancing the wildlife (important also to the economy), despite the increased housing-density close to wildlife habitats due to volcanic displacement of the human population.

- 2.1 PO identifies with 'Adopters' if training (conservation and survey techniques and monitoring particularly in changes over time) is required for themselves or for others, based on their experience, either at Wildlife-Homes or as part of workshops organised by the Montserrat National Trust and taking place at their conference centre
- 2.2 Training reports, survey results and feedback produced, circulated to participants, and published online.
- 2.3 Report cards designed and used by PO annually to document activities at each Wildlife-Home in collaboration with the 'Adopters'. These will be conducted at times appropriate for 'Adopter', as most will have jobs and/or family or other commitments. They will be used to also record enhanced food-security, income and well-being benefits.
- 2.4 Technical specialists (part of the wider UKOTCF team) undertake periodically site visits to conduct M&E and facilitate further complementary work (e.g. on native pollinators not within the resources of the project; maintained advice to related conservation projects, to Montserrat National Trust and to the Governor).
- 2.5 Materials to facilitate this wider pool of knowledge and evidence developed and produced (including information on endemic and native species, invasive species, crops including cucumber, pumpkin etc)
- 2.6 Improvements to both UKOTCF and MNT's website (and other partners as applicable) making best use of information and data and recording systems
- 2.7 As 1.12 & 1.13

Output 3. By 2024, opportunities for all sections of Montserrat's community to contribute to and express a greater understanding of how a network of 'community-protected sites' leads to both conservation benefits and improved livelihoods – demonstrated particularly by food-security, tourism opportunities, well-being, and safeguarding of and reducing pressure on Montserrat's unique biodiversity (including endemic species) and globally threatened habitats (e.g. tropical dry forest and wetlands) within areas of volcano-caused increased human density.

- 3.1 The reporting system set up in order for 'Adopters' or other members of the community to report or upload sightings and other information on rarely seen species and other key biodiversity information, in their own time, allowing flexibility especially for those unable to participate during fixed hours.
- 3.2 Training events planned and undertaken on habitat restoration and or natural regeneration at the MNT or on the Wildlife-Homes. Meeting reports/training notes are published online.
- 3.3 Plans developed to expand offerings at the botanic garden are developed and initiated, e.g. ecotourism, kids' holiday clubs
- 3.4 Demonstration Wildlife-Homes showcasing good practice and multiple benefits to nature and livelihoods (e.g. pollinator-friendly) planned and initiated with accessibility to community
- 3.5 Public event organised and held to celebrate 'Adopters' and to facilitate continuation of the initiative beyond project-end.
- 3.6 Other public events organised to highlight project and opportunities (including Rotary and similar groups, kids' clubs, school-visits, online materials, possibly village competitions)
- 3.7 Project team members (including some facilitated by young persons) undertake online and face-face surveys of local community, across all sections of the community providing a baseline of attitudes towards the projects aims in Year 1, which is then replicated at the end of the project in Y3 in order to confirm whether community protected areas (Wildlife-Homes) have been effective on island.
- 3.8 Profiles produced of 'Adopter' success stories and published in newsletters
- 3.9 Communications plan implemented, with newsletters produced with articles written by 'Adopters' and/or materials gathered from 'Adopters' or from the existing UKOTCF/MNT book and videos on Montserrat wildlife, particularly success stories and shared widely on social-media posts; links with Tourism. Community surveys conducted (as in Activity 3.7) before and after communications strategy is implemented will allow us to demonstrate that Output 3 (Indicator 3.5 has been achieved).
- 3.10. Radio-interviews, panel-discussions and other broadcasts take place on Montserrat (within project constraints and where possible, podcasts developed), and made available to regional and international media.
- 3.11 Radio-interviews, panel-discussions and other broadcasts take place on Montserrat (within project constraints and where possible, podcasts developed), and made available to regional and international media.
- 3.11 Plan for database produced and implemented to store information created as part of the project
- 3.12 As 1.12 & 1.13

Securing Montserrat's threatened endemic species and natural capital through community-action

Annex 3: Standard Indicators

We did not specify standard indicators in this project as these were introduced late into the project.

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

n/a

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
Saving Our Special Nature of Montserrat (*)	Newsletter 15	UKOTCF, August 2023	Male & Female	UK	UKOTCF	https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/SOSnatureNewsletter15.pdf
Forum News	Newsletters 58 & 59	UKOTCF, July & December 2023	Male & Female	UK	UKOTCF	https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/ForumNews58_July2023f.pdf https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Forum59_December2023.pdf

Annex 4: Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

List of Annex 4 documents

All Annexes are found at:

- 4.1 List of Wildlife Homes; as of March 2024
- 4.2 Map of MNT parcels at Nantes River in relation to WH08 and WH13
- 4.3 Examples of invertebrate identification sheets by David Clements and Vicky Wilkins
- 4.4 Top social media posts from April 2023 to March 2024
- 4.5 Save our Special Nature Montserrat newsletter issue 15 (August 2023)
- 4.6 Forum News 58 extracted lead article.
- 4.7 Example of feedback from Farmers Association on training received
- 4.8 Leigh Morris' blog from time on Montserrat
- 4.9 David Clements Blog on visit to West Indian Beetle Fauna collection at Montana State University, Bozeman.
- 4.10 Summary of surveys as short snippets for Adopters send in WhatsApp
- 4.11 Bottle bee infographic
- 4.12 Flyer for summer events for children at WH02, Old Road Bay Belham River Mouth
- 4.13 List of plants and compost given to Adopters or sold
- 4.13b Saplings propagated at Montserrat National Trust botanic garden nursery
- 4.14 Montserrat National Trust Facebook analytics showing subscribers by gender
- 4.15 Example of minutes from Project Meeting (October 2023)
- 4.16 Montserrat National Trust's safeguarding policy
- 4.17 Adopt a Home for Wildlife training matrix
- 4.18 Summary of Adopt a Home PO Activities and Progresses

Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the correct template (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and deleted the blue guidance text before submission?	Y
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	Y
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	Y
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	Y
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 15)?	Y
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	Y
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Y
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	