

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	DPLUS178
Project title	Inhabited Territory restoration: completing preparations for a rodent-free Pitcairn Islands
Territory(ies)	Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie & Oeno Islands
Lead Partner	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Project partner(s)	Government of the Pitcairn Islands (Environmental, Conservation & Natural Resources Division)
Darwin Plus grant value	£249,999
Start/end dates of project	1 st June 2022 - 31 st March 2025
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2023-Mar 2024) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2)	1 st April 2023 - 31 st March 2024, Annual Report 2
Project Leader name	Andy [REDACTED]
Project website/blog/social media	N/A
Report author(s) and date	David [REDACTED], Michele [REDACTED] (dictated over phone due to internet issues on Pitcairn) 24/05/24

1. Project summary

The Pitcairn Islands are an environmental hotspot, with assets including Henderson Island World Heritage Site, the world’s third largest fully-protected marine reserve and over 95 unique species. Introduced rodents have had major impacts on these remote island ecosystems, extirpating species from all four islands and driving several to extinction. Henderson Island is consequently now at high risk of being placed on the official ‘World Heritage Site in Danger’ list. Rodents meanwhile have a significant impact on the Pitcairn community, with agricultural produce regularly eaten or soiled, home infrastructure (especially electricity wiring) damaged, and important eco-tourism assets, such as Pitcairn’s seabird colonies, wiped out.

The community have now formally asked RSPB to complete the final exploratory/preparatory steps to enable rodent eradication on their inhabited island, with the goal of combining a Henderson and Pitcairn eradication operation and being the first inhabited Territory to become entirely rodent-free. This would enable Territory-wide ecosystem recovery of avifauna, invertebrate and plant communities. The Pitcairn Council included this commitment to work with RSPB on advancing both island restorations in their recently published Pitcairn Islands MPA Management Plan 2021-2026.

A Pitcairn eradication feasibility study was completed in 2014 (updated in 2020). This concluded that eradication was technically feasible but identified several outstanding issues that need to be addressed before an eradication could proceed, which this project aims to deliver on. Continuous community consultation, pre-operational mapping and non-target species mitigation research will empower fully-informed local decisions on whether to proceed with eradication delivery. The majority of the community of c.40 people must be prepared to accept the proposed methodology, and fully aware of all its requirements and consequences, if this eradication operation is to succeed.

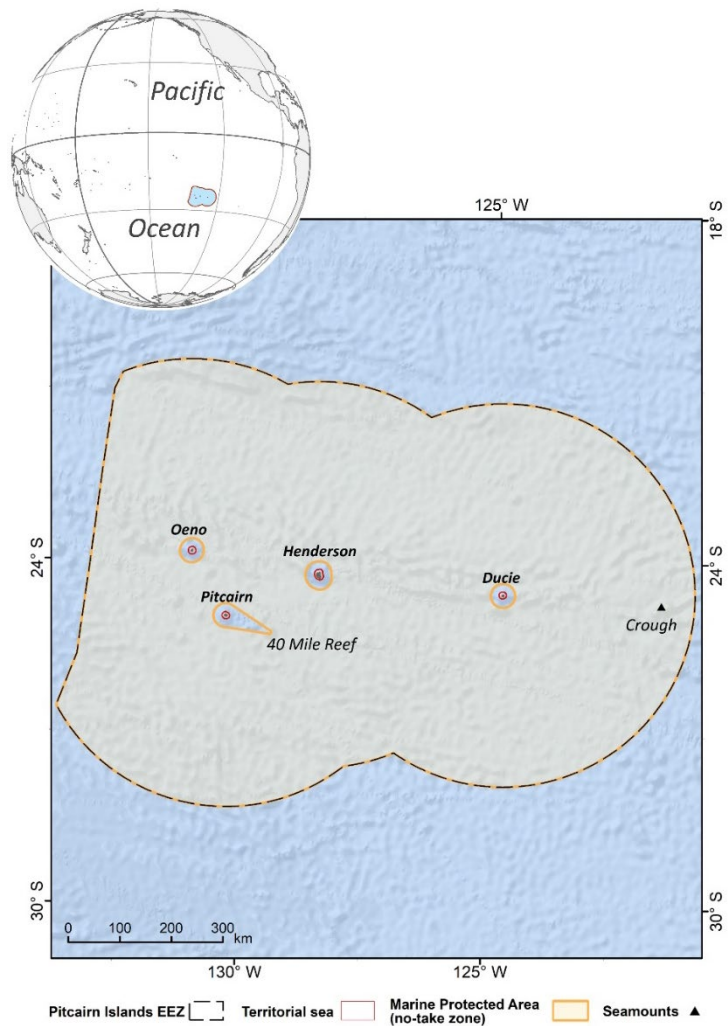


Figure 1. The Pitcairn Islands consist of four small islands located in the South Pacific Ocean between New Zealand and South America at a latitude of approximately 24 degrees south.

2. Project stakeholders/partners

The **Government of the Pitcairn Islands**, represented by Michele Christian, Head of the Environmental, Conservation & Natural Resources Division, have been well-engaged in this second year of the project. The partnership arose from a formal request for support in completing the preparatory steps necessary for a rodent eradication on their inhabited island. The 2020 feasibility study showed the significant logistical and cost-saving benefits of combining a Pitcairn and Henderson operation, not to mention the risk of Henderson becoming a 'World Heritage Site in Danger' should rodents not be eradicated; this is obviously something the community is very keen to take steps to prevent.

Michele writes:

'Biosecurity is of great importance to the Pitcairn Islands because of our vulnerability to new invasive species. The presence of the Polynesian Rat on Henderson has taken an immense toll on the birdlife in comparison to our other outer islands that have no rats. It is vitally important that we restore bird populations and the only way to do this is with a rat eradication. The community are supportive of a rat eradication for both Henderson and Pitcairn but obviously have concerns/questions which need to be addressed.'

'Our long-standing partnership with RSPB has enabled us to address our biosecurity weaknesses, providing staff training in early detection and rapid response and external expertise/advice. This collaboration put the spotlight on the need to ensure Pitcairn has a robust biosecurity management system in place which we have achieved. RSPB understands our limited resources and continues to provide ongoing support.'

October 2023 saw a second visit to Pitcairn and a first visit to Henderson Island in this project. This trip represented the first opportunity for the island eradications expert (IEE) to visit the islands and for the community to be able to ask more targeted questions around the logistics of a baiting operation. The RSPB team and IEA joined a Pitcairn Council meeting on 19th October (**Annex 4.1**) and hosted a community meeting on 23rd October which more than half the population attended. Questions were very similar to those raised during the visit in the first year. A community consultation document (**Annex 4.2**), finalised this year and based around concerns raised during the first visit, was made available to everyone and was very well-received. By meeting more members of the team and having most questions satisfactorily addressed, support remains strong for the proposed operation. The charter to Henderson was also opened to the community to allow some people a first visit to the island, and future trips will give others this same opportunity.

The project team meet on a weekly basis to discuss project progress. Although it is the primary responsibility of the RSPB to monitor and evaluate the project, Michele Christian and Pitcairn's Administrator now join these discussions on a fortnightly basis to update on any news/issues on the island and to feed into the decision making/planning process (Pitcairn's Co-Administrators, Fiona Kilpatrick and Steve Townsend were replaced by Lindsay Thompson in April 2024). During the October visit, Fiona commented about how impressed she had been by the level of community consultation from this project, which was a positive endorsement. RSPB's Community Engagement Lead (CEL) was unfortunately unable to visit Pitcairn this year, although the relationship with the community remains strong and it has been useful to introduce new members of the team. However, it is important that the CEL and IEE visit in the final project year to ensure the Pitcairn community feel they can make an informed decision on whether to proceed with the proposed operation.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

The activities which have not commenced to date, as per the project timeline, have not been reported on below.

Output 1

1.1 Community Impact Assessments written for Pitcairn Island community.

Following a visit to Pitcairn in January 2023 by the Community Engagement Lead (CEL), feedback was collated to produce a consultation document which covered the key issues/concerns raised by the community (Annex 4.2). This document was structured as follows:

- Concern raised by community member(s)
- Summary of CEL's initial response
- Our understanding of the response(s) to issue or mitigation offered
- Going forward with consultation

This document was shared during the recent October visit and was well received by the community. It will be updated as the consultation process progresses.

1.2 RSPB engagement lead and an eradication operation expert complete initial face-to-face consultations with Island Council & community.

A follow-up trip to Pitcairn took place in October 2023 which was a first chance for the Island Eradication Expert (IEE) to visit. RSPB staff and IEE were able to meet with Council (19th) and hosted a community meeting (22nd), as well as speaking with households individually during the stay. A three-day chartered trip to Henderson provided Pitkerners a rare chance to visit the island as well as having an opportunity to discuss operational logistics further.

Broadly similar issues were raised during the trip but having plenty of opportunity to question the IEE, as well as read the consultation document, went some way to alleviating community concerns. Conversations had more of a focus on the logistics of an operation and individuals were able to ask about their specific situation e.g. plans for their livestock/pets, water supply, fishing etc. The IEE raised the need to produce bespoke property management plans for each household, working closely with each Pitkerner to do what is best for them whilst ensuring the best chance of success for the operation; this idea was received positively by the community.

1.3 Four bespoke Pitcairn eradication proposal papers written and submitted in-person to Island Council for consideration.

Four papers will be written and presented to Council in the final project year covering four critical areas highlighted by the community. In the meantime, questions have been incorporated into the community consultation document which was shared with the Pitcairn community during the October 2023 visit. Rather than limiting ourselves to four key topics initially, we instead wanted to be led by Pitkerners and to reassure them that any issues raised are taken seriously, will be thoroughly researched and appropriate mitigation measures put in place. This is a fluid document and will be regularly updated as the consultation process progresses, with a final version submitted to Council alongside the four papers in the final project year.

1.5 In-depth face-to-face follow-up consultations undertaken by RSPB community engagement lead.

See **1.2**. Unfortunately, due to being delayed elsewhere overseas, the CEL was unable to visit Pitcairn in October. However, RSPB staff were briefed and went in his stead, continuing the community consultation work alongside the IEE.

Output 2

2.1 Mapping of coconuts on Henderson is undertaken and ground-truthed.

A three-day visit to Henderson Island took place during the October 2023 trip. It was possible to land on both North and West Beach which hold the main coconut groves on the island. Photographic comparisons with previous expeditions show that the density of the trees in the groves has noticeably increased with saplings taking over previously cleared areas (**Annex 4.3**). Jay Warren (Pitcairn's Biosecurity Lead) hadn't been out to Henderson for four years and was taken aback by the spread of the coconuts, subsequently writing a report (**Annex 4.4**) for Council's consideration requesting that the trees are thinned out. Trees planted in the island's interior could not be located using a drone which may suggest that the spread is less than that in the beach back area, but further surveys will be required to inform the operation.

2.2 Mapping of built structures, domestic animal pens and hives on Pitcairn is undertaken.

Most built structures, domestic animal pens and hives were visited during the October trip to Pitcairn. However, there wasn't time to ground-truth mapping work carried out last year from satellite imagery due to the sheer number and several unknown abandoned buildings where access was more complicated. The plan is to visit every Pitkerner during a trip next year, mapping structures and starting to put together bespoke management plans for each household, considering everyone's unique situation.

2.3 Photographic survey of domestic animal pens and waste management facilities on Pitcairn undertaken.

Photographs of waste management facilities as well as domestic animal pens were taken during the recent trip to Pitcairn (Annex 4.3). The waste management facilities are very well organised with recycling sorted into separate bins and non-recyclable waste burnt monthly. Animal pens vary in condition across the island, with some simply requiring shade netting around the edge and on the roof to keep livestock safe during an operation, with others requiring more work. Should the operation be supported by the community and proceed, animal pens will be included in each household's property management plan.

2.4 All built infrastructure and natural feature issues re-assessed as part of an updated final feasibility study.

The October visit provided the IEE an opportunity to assess natural features across both islands and some of the built infrastructure on Pitcairn. The information gathered will be vital for producing the updated feasibility study i.e., the fact that Henderson would require a minimum of two helicopters because of its size and would almost certainly be a boat-based operation as there doesn't appear to be a suitable bait-loading area on land (see **Annex 4.5** for a rough draft Operational Plan for the proposed eradication, as informed by the October 2023 trip). A follow-up visit to both islands next year is essential to ensure all activities listed under Output 2 are completed, enabling a comprehensive feasibility study to be written.

Output 3

3.1 Surveys of Pitcairn Reed Warblers provide a population estimate and feeding habit assessment, with the results written up for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.

As of 18 November 2023, the manuscript entitled '*Population status of the endemic Pitcairn Reed Warbler on Pitcairn Island, South Pacific*' has been accepted for publication in the journal, Bird Conservation International. The paper has now been published online (**Annex 4.6**) but it might not be until 2025 that it appears in a journal issue.

3.2 Pitcairn Reed Warbler feeding trials with non-toxic blue bait and rat carcasses conducted and used to inform an updated risk assessment.

During the October visit, Pitcairn Reed Warbler (PRW) feeding trials were continued in sites used for bait availability assessment. These sites were hectare plots, hand-baited at rates likely to be used during an operation. During last year's trials, bait was placed at a much greater density near to birds to see if there was any interaction. Forcing such a situation was seen as not especially helpful for informing a potential avicultural strategy.

37 observations were carried out during the October trip at a baiting rate of 40kg/ha which equates to two pellets every m²; none of these birds appeared to show any interest in the bait. PRWs were regularly seen feeding on insects during observations which may be a potential pathway for the birds to receive secondary poisoning from insects which have consumed bait, but the risk appears negligible. Following these findings, the recommendation from the programme board is that should the proposed operation go ahead, PRWs do not need to be taken into captivity but further population surveys should go ahead before and after the eradication (**Annex 4.7**).

3.5 Surveys of Henderson rail provide a population status estimate and are used to inform the writing of an updated Henderson avicultural strategy.

Due to limited time on Henderson, and the fact that trails on the island were completely overgrown, it was not possible to carry out a Henderson Rail population assessment. It is all but confirmed that there would have to be captive holding of rails during a Henderson operation but without an estimated population, it is impossible to judge how many rails would need to be taken into captivity, and the feasibility of doing this. The trails need to be reopened at the next available opportunity to enable a count to take place; this work is planned as part of the wider Pitcairn/Henderson programme in June 2024 and Darwin will be notified of the progress.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1. Detailed community consultation achieves agreement on the eradication's operational approach and mitigation measures, plus ensures local understanding to achieve prior informed consent

See section 3.1, Output 1. Output 1 one is on track, progressing well after the second year of the project. Remaining elements related to non-target species mitigation, outstanding questions from Pitkerners and follow-up community consultation will be addressed during a 2024 trip to the islands.

Despite the Community Engagement Lead (CEL) being unavailable for the 2023 trip, RSPB staff and the Island Eradication Expert (IEE) met with the majority of Pitkerners on the island at the time, participated in a Council meeting and hosted a meeting with more than half of the community attending (Indicators 1.2 & 1.5). The community consultation document was presented during this visit addressing issues previously raised by the community (Indicator 1.1) and was met with broad support. This document will be updated and finalised in the final year of the project to ensure all concerns have been considered, with a final version presented to the community and Council alongside four papers covering key issues (Indicator 1.4).

Output 2. Mapping and condition assessment of built infrastructure and natural features fills outstanding knowledge gaps required to inform operational planning

See section 3.1, Output 2. Output 2 is on track, but with all indicators dependent on a 2024 trip to both Pitcairn and Henderson.

Following a 2023 visit to Henderson, coconut groves remain confined to areas previously mapped although there has been significant expansion (Indicator 2.1). Trees in the interior of the island will be assessed during the 2024 expedition. All large built structures have been previously mapped using satellite imagery and most structures were visited during the 2023 trip (Indicator 2.2). Due to the large number of structures on the island (inc. animal pens), ground-truthed maps will be finalised in 2024. Similarly, waste management facilities and several

animal pens were photographed and assessed in 2023 but this will need to be progressed in 2024 as part of Pitcairn's feasibility study (indicators 2.3 & 2.4).

Output 3. Potential non-target bird species are better understood, have more detailed risk assessments and, if necessary, have undergone successful trials of mitigation measures to inform operational planning

See section 3.1, Output 3. Output 3 is on track with work on Pitcairn Reed Warbler (PRW) all but complete and Henderson Rail work due to be completed in 2024.

The PRW manuscript has been accepted for publication in Bird Conservation International (Indicator 3.1). Bait trials with PRWs were repeated during the 2023 trip using baiting rates likely to be used during the operation; from 37 observations, no birds showed any interest in the bait and this data will be used to inform the risk assessment for the species (Indicator 3.2 & 3.4). Research has shown that it is unlikely that captive holding of PRWs will be necessary during an operation but follow-up population surveys would be required should the operation proceed (Indicator 3.3). It is critical that trails on Henderson are reopened at the next available opportunity to enable a Henderson Rail census to go ahead during a 2024 expedition. It is all but confirmed that Henderson Rails will need to be taken into captivity during the operation but surveys are essential for the final avicultural strategy (Indicator 3.5).

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Outcome: Community consultation, pre-operational mapping and non-target species mitigation research enables and empowers the Pitcairn community to make fully-informed decisions to proceed with rodent eradication operation delivery on Henderson & Pitcairn.

Continued community consultation and a first visit to both Pitcairn and Henderson for the Island Eradication Expert (IEE) this year have been invaluable for working towards the project Outcome. Giving the community an opportunity to ask targeted questions about the logistics of a baiting operation to the IEE, with the support of the consultation document, has really helped to alleviate concerns whilst highlighting what needs to be done in the final year of the project. With planning for a longer trip to the islands in 2024 well underway, we remain on track to achieve the Outcome above; the indicators below remain adequate for measuring the level of this achievement.

Indicator 0.1 By end of Y3, over 95% of resident Pitcairn Islanders indicate via questionnaire that they feel well informed about the implications of both island eradication operations

Over two visits to the islands, every Pitkerner has now had an opportunity to ask questions about the proposed eradication to the project team. More than half of the community attended the public meeting in October 2023 and the consultation document was made available to all and received very positively. There remains strong support for moving to the next stage of the operation. One Pitkerner still opposes moving forwards, but we have been reassured by several community members that they will once they are given the information by someone they know and trust on the island rather than 'outsiders'.

Indicator 0.2 By end of Y3, the Pitcairn Island Council will have taken decisions on all 4 thematic areas outlined in the operational approach proposal papers

A visit is planned for 2024 where a finalised version of the consultation document and papers covering four key issues will be presented to Council for their decision. The consultation document was received very positively by everyone during the 2023 trip and will be updated with new questions from this visit to ensure everything is addressed.

Indicator 0.3 By end of Y3, a revised operational feasibility study (Pitcairn) and updated avicultural strategy (Henderson) confirm outstanding issues are addressed and that eradications can proceed with the chosen approaches

Further non-toxic bait trials were conducted during the October 2023 visit, with baiting density at rates more likely to be used during an operation. From another 37 observations, the PRWs again showed no interest in the pellets. With surveys in 2022 suggesting the population to be stable, the recommendation from the programme board is that should the proposed operation go ahead, PRWs do not need to be taken into captivity but that further population surveys are conducted before and after the eradication attempt to measure impact, if any. Conversely, captive-holding of Henderson Rails is all but confirmed, with surveys due to take place during 2024 to inform the strategy.

Indicator 0.4 By end of Y3, Pitcairn Island Council make a final decision on whether to undertake (funding-dependent) eradication operations on Henderson & Pitcairn

Two visits to Pitcairn and engaging every Pitkerner has shown that the community remains very supportive of the eradication. Outstanding questions will be addressed in the final project year, with Council making an informed decision on whether to progress to the next stage of the operation.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

All key assumptions are outlined in the logframe (**Annex 2**). Most assumptions that have been tested have held true, as outlined below:

Assumption 1: Good faith engagement with the consultations and proposal discussions will occur. This should hold because Pitcairn Natural Resources Division have asked for this project to proceed and, alongside the Pitcairn Island Council, were consulted during project development. Both entities have longstanding personal and professional relationships with the RSPB and the project leader, who has worked with Pitcairn for over 6 years, including living on-island for 3 months.

Comments: The Pitcairn Government, represented by the Natural Resources Division and Island Council remain fully engaged and supportive of the project. Without this support, the recent visit, community and Council meetings or Henderson trip with associated complex logistics would not have taken place. Opening the Henderson visit to the community has further strengthened the relationship between project partners.

Assumption 2: A world-class eradication expert will be able to be hired to visit the Territory.

Comments: Pete McClelland has been hired and was able to visit Pitcairn and Henderson for the first time in 2023. As well as conducting trials, he was able to answer questions from the community around operational logistics and potential impacts on daily lives.

Assumption 3: Regular non-quarantine travel will be possible from Q3 Y1 onwards. The Government of the Pitcairn Islands has confirmed it intends to reopen the French Polynesia route in Q2 Y1.

After a backlog of bookings caused by the pandemic, berth availability appears much improved enabling the October 2023 visit to go ahead, and no concerns for future visits within this project.

Assumption 4: Island residents will be willing to engage in consultation discussions.

Comments: Following the visit by the community engagement lead in January 2023, a second trip took place in October 2023 for three team members who had never visited Pitcairn before. Most of the community were willing to engage directly, and the one member who wasn't keen still attended the community meetings during the visit. Community feedback was generally very positive and were supportive of the approach the project team are taking and of further visits.

Assumption 5: GIS expert is able to access all areas of relevance to complete accurate mapping.

Comments: Satellite imagery has so far sufficed, and we continue to work closely with a GIS consultant who will advise whether buildings, natural features etc. need ground-truthing on island.

Assumption 6: Whilst the very closely-related Henderson Island Reed Warbler was unaffected by a baiting operation on Henderson, the Pitcairn Reed Warbler lives in a heavily modified ecosystem and there are some reports of dead individuals being found after the 1997/98 eradication attempt. A detailed and separate assessment is therefore required to accurately assess its non-target potential.

Comments: The Pitcairn Reed Warbler was not observably seriously affected by separate rat eradication attempts in 1997 and 1998 (Bell & Bell 1998), suggesting the potential for this species being negatively affected in the planned eradication is low. Adding to this evidence, and to better replicate the planned aerial bait drops (rather than the ground-based methods in previous attempts), in trials we conducted in January and October 2023 Pitcairn Reed Warblers did not interact or feed on non-toxic bait pellets presented to them (570 behavioural records from 47 observation periods totalling 2 hours and 52 minutes). This, combined with the stable population, is indicating that captive holding of the species is unlikely but with further population surveys conducted before and after the eradication.

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

The project is making good progress on tackling an extremely damaging invasive species for the Territory. A target of the UK Government's 25-Year Environment Plan (2018) is "to prevent human induced extinction or loss of known threatened species in.....the Overseas Territories", with invasive species being a strategic priority in the UK Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy (2010). More specifically, both Pitcairn and Henderson's Management Plans and Pitcairn's Environment Charter all have commitments to eradicating invasive species. Each activity in this project will inform the proposed delivery of a combined Pitcairn and Henderson Pacific Rat eradication operation, also supporting Objective 6.3 of the Pitcairn Islands MPA Management Plan 2021-2026.

There was already a level of community support for another eradication attempt on Henderson as the 2017 UNESCO Conservation Outlook for Henderson Island World Heritage Site concluded 'Significant Concern' largely due to "rat predation and competition and its effects on avifauna, invertebrates, and the wider ecological processes on the island". Removing rodents is therefore the key action required to prevent Henderson Island being formally placed on the official 'World Heritage Site in Danger' list, which the community are understandably keen to avoid. A more tangible benefit for Pitcairners would be agricultural produce no longer be eaten or spoiled, and infrastructure (especially electric wiring) not being damaged, directly delivering against Sustainable Development Goal 11.

In March 2024, Pitcairn's Biosecurity Ordinance was written into law which now provides the community with the legal framework to protect their islands from damaging non-native species, thereby reducing the chance of future incursions. Removal of invasive species, with the subsequent recovery of native wildlife, will naturally improve climate resilience for the islands. This is very apparent on Oeno and Ducie with their thriving seabird colonies but with the expectation that both islands will be severely impacted by sea level rise in the next few decades. It is therefore critical that Henderson Island becomes rodent free to provide a haven for displaced seabirds in the future.

Carefully planning elements of such an ambitious operation throughout this project will ensure the greatest chance of success, whilst putting the Pitcairn community at the heart of all decision making. Continued community engagement, non-target species and bait trials this year have all contributed towards achieving the overall outcome of this project and moving forwards to the next step of operational planning. Ongoing research into Pitcairn Reed Warblers has all but confirmed that captive holding of the species would be unnecessary during the proposed

operation. Planning for an assessment of Henderson Rails next year has also progressed well, as the protection of all endemic species is a critical objective and priority for the community.

5. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ .	3:3
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
Not yet sensitive	The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn't quite meeting the requirements of a 'sensitive' approach	
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.	
Empowering	The project has all the characteristics of a 'sensitive' approach whilst also increasing equal access to assets, resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups	X
Transformative	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	

We believe the project is 'Empowering' on the GESI scale. All opportunities for the Pitcairn community, be that participating in discussions, activities, trips, are offered on an equal basis. Should someone miss out the first time something is offered, they will be prioritised for future participation should they still be interested. Community consultation is key to this project and whether the proposed rodent eradication on both islands proceeds. Efforts have been made on both trips to Pitcairn so far to engage every member of the community, taking particular care to visit anyone who has either been off-island during a previous visit or who is unable to attend the community meetings for whatever reason, ensuring everyone has an opportunity to ask questions and voice concerns. The trip to Henderson Island during this project year was advertised to the whole community, and anyone who missed out will have several opportunities to visit the island in the final project year should the yacht charter go ahead, always working to secure equal female/male participation when possible.

The small Pitcairn community has strong levels of gender equality, with a female leader of the Environment, Conservation & Natural Resources (ECNR) Division (and former female Mayor).

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.

Although Council decisions on the project's proposal papers (amongst other project related materials) will now be chaired by a man (the new Mayor), the female lead of ECNR Division will lead on presenting these documents, giving a relatively equal gender split. As of April 2024, Pitcairn now also has a new female Administrator who will preside over these meetings.

RSPB has strict employment policies in place to ensure fair and non-discriminatory recruitment practices, and these are always followed for any roles to be filled.

6. Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation is led by the RSPB, with the Project Leader taking overall charge. They are supported by the wider project team, with the RSPB's UKOT Island Restorations Programme Manager providing critical scrutiny and oversight; he is best placed to provide a critical eye as he will have overall responsibility for the subsequent implementation of the eradications, if supported by the Pitcairn community, and will need to be personally satisfied that all feasibility and consent criteria have been suitably met.

In this second year, the logframe and project timetable have been continually referenced to monitor progress and identify issues/delays before they arise. Weekly meetings with the RSPB project team and monthly meetings with our Pitcairn partners have enabled continual project monitoring and identified key risks, thereby directing planning. In recent months these meetings have increased in frequency, with the RSPB project team meeting multiple times a week and fortnightly with Pitcairn, in preparation for a two-month trip to Pitcairn and Henderson in the final year to address remaining outputs of this project, as well as addressing wider operational questions. The regularity of these meetings has ensured that the community have been updated on any significant developments when they arise and are given opportunity to feed into the process.

The logframe indicators remain an effective way of monitoring the success of the project. The Output indicators relate mainly to the 'monitoring' aspect (i.e. to project progress), whereas the Outcome indicators relate mainly to 'evaluation' (i.e. project's overall impact). All associated activities of the three Outputs contribute to our overall understanding of the issues related to a combined eradication operation. By clearly presenting this information to the Pitcairn community, our Outcome indicator of >95% of islanders indicating that they feel well informed about the implications of a Pitcairn and Henderson operation, is an achievable and realistic aim. Both visits to the islands during this project have showed that there is strong community support for the proposed operation. The consultation document (Annex 4.2) presented during the October 2023 visit was very well received as it showed that concerns/questions had been thought about and addressed, contributing towards that 'informed' decision the project is working towards.

7. Lessons learnt

- As already mentioned, a planned rail assessment could not take place this year due to limited time on Henderson and because survey trails were well overgrown. This work is critical for operational planning, but logistically more challenging than expected. Additional funding has been successfully raised to support a longer two-month visit to the islands beginning in June 2024 to enable the rail survey to take place, trial work which will inform the operational plan, and continued community engagement. As such, a change request was submitted in December 2023 and approved in January 2024 to reallocate some funding for roles which will now support the expedition to Henderson Island.
- Previous projects with Pitcairn have highlighted the need to minimise any additional workload for this tiny and under-resourced community, especially given the many competing demands on all individuals. We had hoped that a team of Pitkerners would be able to join the 2024 expedition to Henderson Island to minimise the need for external expertise and provide opportunities to as many of the community as possible. Two-, three- and five-week options were offered but there was very limited take-up meaning more external support has been required than expected. Several Pitkerners

will support the set-up phase of the expedition for a few days, but it is a valuable lesson learned should the proposed operation proceed as more opportunities will arise.

- The community consultation element of this project has been very successful with multiple members of the Pitcairn community and the Administrator appreciating the regularity of visits and documentation provided. We'd recommend similar projects create a consultation document which is regularly updated but is made available to the community to show that they have been listened to and efforts are made to answer questions and mitigate against concerns. Such transparency has engendered real support and trust from the community.
- It is critical when sending equipment to somewhere as remote as Pitcairn that the correct items arrive at the right time. We were fortunate to have contractors based in New Zealand who were able to visit the freight forwarding agent prior to equipment being shipped to ensure everything had arrived and to organise related kit. This visit highlighted that certain equipment we assumed had arrived hadn't, as well as having a clearer idea of the logistical burden of unloading the other side. We'd recommend other projects, which have time-dependent essential equipment to get to remote places, to factor in a visit to the freight forwarder prior to shipment.
- Although meeting frequency with Pitcairn has increased in preparation for the expedition in 2024, it has also helped with maintaining the level of community consultation and bridging the gap between Natural Resources, Council and Administrator. This connection gives the community regular opportunities to ask questions and participate in the project.

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

The Pitcairn reed warbler bait trial reports that of 40 feeding bouts, 10 were recorded with bait present, but the rate of feeding bout encounters was much lower than expected, based on other observations. Does the project feel that this exercise will need to be repeated, to reinforce its findings?

Trials were repeated in October 2023 using a baiting rate similar to what would be used during an operation to better replicate conditions. There was no interaction between birds and bait from a further 37 observations, suggesting very low risk to the species from the proposed operation and captive holding is unlikely to be necessary. A signed off decision is likely to be made in the final year of the project.

With one exception, the project has not reviewed its assumptions, but stated that they still hold true.

All assumptions in the first project year held true and any related details were included in Section 3 so information wasn't included so as to avoid repetition. This year, all assumptions have been commented on (see 3.4).

The project indicates that there has not been any safeguarding training conducted over the past year, but also states that the RSPB Safeguarding policy includes appropriate 'annual' training for all staff working internationally.

This wasn't strictly true, as the text referred to whether the safeguarding focal point has attended safeguarding training in the last 12 months. The project doesn't have a safeguarding focal point as it is the responsibility of all project staff to follow safeguarding policies and procedures. All RSPB staff must complete mandatory e-learning safeguarding training every 12 months as per RSPB policy, which they have.

9. Risk Management

A risk register was started for this project, but a decision was made to capture risk and mitigation in meeting minutes instead due to the increased frequency of meetings. Issues are therefore raised and acted upon swiftly, with all project partners feeding into the process. A risk register of sorts has been developed for the two-month expedition in the final year of the project as there are numerous risks associated with such an expedition.

10. Sustainability and legacy

This project represents a vital step in a collaborative process towards restoring the Pitcairn Islands as a rodent-free archipelago. It will reach a stable end point, as it will complete the preparatory research, consultation and management decisions required for the Pitcairn Island Council and community to have a detailed understanding of exactly how a rodent eradication would be conducted and what all the potential implications would be, enabling a fully informed final decision on whether to proceed.

Continued community consultation and increased frequency of meetings with Pitcairn Government have been key to delivering the workplan with minimal delays in this second year, as well as getting community buy-in. This project is recognised as a priority by Island Council, especially as it is contributing towards the planning of another operation on Henderson which reduces the likelihood of the island being placed on the 'World Heritage Site in Danger' list. A visit this year from the Island Eradications Expert (IEE) answered the appeal by several members of the community requesting more information on the logistics of a baiting operation. The expedition to Henderson Island in 2024 is also providing multiple opportunities for community members to participate in the trip or support activities on Pitcairn, growing community understanding and support for the project.

Irrespective of the ecological and community benefits of an eradication should it be given the go ahead and succeed, activities of this project will leave a valuable legacy. The Government will have access to up-to-date maps of all built and relevant natural infrastructure on Pitcairn, as well as coconut groves on Henderson Island. Community understanding of their iconic 'Sparrow' (local name for PRW) and Henderson's endemic landbirds will be increased, with accurate population estimates of all species. Pitkerners will have a detailed insight into the logistics of an aerial baiting operation on their island, should that happen at some point in the future. The project will also provide employment opportunities to Pitkerners to participate in, and facilitate, an expedition to Henderson. It will also provide multiple opportunities for residents to visit Henderson Island World Heritage Site, some of whom have never visited.

Assuming the expedition to Pitcairn and Henderson goes ahead as planned in 2024, the exit strategy remains unchanged. Continued community engagement alongside research and logistical planning will provide the Pitcairn islanders with all the information they require to make an informed decision on whether to proceed with a rodent eradication.

11. Darwin Plus identity

The Darwin Initiative is positively regarded on Pitcairn with the benefits of previous Darwin projects witnessed first-hand. Indeed, Darwin are recognised as one of the few funders who directly support work on the island, and approximately 10% of the community have previously worked on a Darwin project. This project will increase that participation, with at least 20% of Pitkerners directly involved and 100% engaged throughout, given the emphasis on community consultation. Following a visit in October 2023 by the IEE and RSPB staff, and Council and community meetings held during this trip, the project is well recognised within the wider community as being funded by Darwin but is seen as part of a wider programme of work focusing on controlling invasive species on the islands. Where possible, the Darwin logo has been used on project documentation including an acknowledgement in the PRW manuscript which is now available online.

12. Safeguarding

The RSPB have clear safeguarding policies and procedures (updated in January 2022) which apply to our international work and includes appropriate annual training for all our staff members working internationally. We now have an internal Global Safeguarding Subgroup who oversee and advise on our international safeguarding work. This group includes staff with extensive safeguarding experience as well as representation from staff posted overseas working with partners and local communities. Fortunately, there have been no safeguarding concerns in this reporting year, but this subgroup would advise should any concerns arise.

We have a strong commitment to work closely with all our partners to ensure they adhere to good safeguarding practices; the sub-grant contract with Pitcairn Government included our standard Annex outlining the obligations of the partner to safeguarding and how they report, record and mitigate any incidents. For the remainder of the project, we will continue to liaise with the relevant FCDO desk officer around whether there are any new potential safeguarding issues on Pitcairn which we should be aware of.

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?	No
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	N/A – all lead partner staff have completed online safeguarding training in the last 12 months
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	Past: 100% [10] Planned: NA
Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses.	No
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.	NA
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 (£)	2024/25 Total actual D+ Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				NA
Capital items				NA
Others (Please specify)				
TOTAL				

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

NA

	Secured to date	Expected by end of project	Sources
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£)			
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)			

14. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Annexes 4.6 & 4.7 are still very much in draft so please do not share these documents.

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).

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>The Pitcairn Island group is free of introduced rodents, enabling native wildlife and habitat recovery, safeguarding rodent-free islands and benefitting community agriculture, infrastructure & eco-tourism assets.</p>	<p>A second visit to the islands and a first visit to Henderson as part of this project, enabling the Island Eradications Expert (IEE) to visit for the first time. This has enabled the community to ask more targeted questions around the logistics of a baiting operation and for the IEE to begin drafting an Operational Plan. Assessment/surveys of endemic landbirds on Pitcairn and Henderson continue to inform the avicultural strategy and associated non-target species mitigation.</p>	
<p>Outcome</p> <p>Community consultation, pre-operational mapping and non-target species mitigation research enables and empowers the Pitcairn community to make fully-informed decisions to proceed with rodent eradication operation delivery on Henderson & Pitcairn.</p>		
<p>Outcome indicator 0.1</p> <p>By end of Y3, over 95% of resident Pitcairn Islanders indicate via questionnaire that they feel well informed about the implications of both island eradication operations.</p>	<p>See section 3.3</p> <p>Over two visits, every Pitkerner has been met with and had opportunity to ask questions and been provided with consultation document (Annex 4.2). More than half of community attended public meeting in October 2023.</p>	<p>Continued community consultation and provision of updated documentation. Questionnaire or similar showing majority of population are informed about operation, produced.</p>
<p>Outcome indicator 0.2</p> <p>By end of Y3, the Pitcairn Island Council will have taken decisions on all 4 thematic areas outlined in the operational approach proposal papers.</p>	<p>See section 3.3</p> <p>Consultation document (4.2) made available to every Pitkerner considering all questions/issues raised by the community so far.</p>	<p>Consultation document finalised and four papers covering key issues submitted to Council.</p>
<p>Outcome indicator 0.3</p> <p>By end of Y3, a revised operational feasibility study (Pitcairn) and updated avicultural strategy (Henderson) confirm outstanding</p>	<p>See section 3.3</p>	<p>Census of rails on Henderson informing avicultural strategy for species. Ongoing trial work</p>

issues are addressed and that eradications can proceed with the chosen approaches.	Further non-toxic bat trials conducted during October 2023 visit, with PRWs showing no interest in pellets suggesting no captive holding of species for operation.	which will inform a revised operational plan.
Outcome indicator 0.4 By end of Y3, Pitcairn Island Council make a final decision on whether to undertake (funding-dependent) eradication operations on Henderson & Pitcairn.	See section 3.3 October 2023 visit showed continued strong support of proposed operation, with additional questions raised factored into ongoing consultation.	Finalised consultation document and thematic papers presented to Council, and a decision captured (minutes) of whether to move onto next stage.
Output 1 - Detailed community consultation achieves agreement on the eradications' operational approach and mitigation measures, plus ensures local understanding to achieve prior informed consent		
Output indicator 1.1 By end of Q1 Y2, a detailed 'Pitcairn Community Impact Assessment', covering human health, water management, domestic animals, building access, fisheries and honey export certification, is prepared to inform consultation discussions.	See section 3.2 Community consultation document presented to community addressing issues previously raised during year 1 trip – very positively received.	Consultation document updated and finalised from 2024 trip and worked into thematic papers covering critical community issues.
Output indicator 1.2 By end of Q3 Y2, a RSPB engagement lead, and an eradication operation expert will have completed initial face-to-face consultations regarding Henderson & Pitcairn with Island Council, Heads of Government Departments and at least 50% of island residents.	See section 3.2 Across two trips to Pitcairn (January and October 2023), F2F discussions with every resident, Council and Head of Government Departments. More than 50% of community attended meeting during October visit.	Complete
Output indicator 1.3 By end of Y2, four bespoke Pitcairn eradication proposal papers on i) domestic animal mitigation and long-term management, ii) feral animal management, iii) water mitigation and management and iv) inshore fisheries mitigation and management prepared and submitted in-person to Island Council and community by RSPB community engagement lead.	See section 3.2 Community consultation document, covering all key issues raised, presented to community and draft versions of bespoke proposal papers created but not yet submitted.	Finalised consultation document and thematic papers submitted to Council and community.
Output indicator 1.4	See section 3.2	Finalised paper produced following Henderson Rail survey in 2024 and visit from Auckland

By end of Y3, a proposal paper on non-target species mitigation prepared and submitted to both Island Council and community.	Draft paper created, following ongoing bait trials in October 2023 with PRWs.	Zoo, and submitted to Council/community.
Output indicator 1.5 Over 95% of island residents have participated in follow-up face-to-face consultations with a RSPB engagement lead in both Y2 and Y3, including discussion regarding the updated feasibility study in Y3.	See section 3.2 Engagement Lead (CEL) unavailable for October 2023 visit but RSPB staff visited in his stead, continuing discussions started in January 2023.	Visit from CEL in 2024 to discuss finalised consultation document and updated feasibility study.
Output 2 - Mapping and condition assessment of built infrastructure and natural features fills outstanding knowledge gaps required to inform operational planning		
Output indicator 2.1 By end of Q3 Y3, accurate maps illustrating the location of all coconuts on Henderson, are created, ground-truthed and shared.	See section 3.2 Main coconut groves on North and West Beach visited in October 2023 and although confined to similar area, a notable increase in density (Annex 4.4).	Coconut grove areas waypoint marked during 2024 expedition.
Output indicator 2.2 By end of Q3 Y3, accurate maps illustrating the location of all built structures, domestic animal pens, and hives on Pitcairn are created, ground-truthed and shared.	See section 3.2 All large built structures previously mapped using satellite imagery. Most structures, pens, hives etc. visited and some photographed during October 2023 visit (Annex 4.3).	Built structures, pens, hives etc. waypoint marked during 2024 visit as directed by GIS consultant.
Output indicator 2.3 By end of Q3 Y3, a photographic report demonstrating condition of domestic animal pens and the waste management facilities on Pitcairn is created.	See section 3.2 Waste management facilities and several animal pens visited, assessed and photographed during October 2023 visit.	Animal pens assessed as part of bespoke property management plans. Plan for waste management facility incorporated into feasibility study
Output indicator 2.4 By end of Y3, an updated Pitcairn feasibility study concludes that any remaining issues around built infrastructure and natural features have been identified and can be addressed.	See section 3.2 Both Pitcairn and Henderson visited and circumnavigated by boat, informing draft operational plan (Annex 4.6). Built infrastructure also assessed during October 2023 visit.	2024 expedition and further trials inform an updated feasibility study for Pitcairn. Draft study produced.
Output 3 - Potential non-target bird species are better understood, have more detailed risk assessments and, if necessary, have undergone successful trials of mitigation measures to inform operational planning.		
Output indicator 3.1	See section 3.2	Complete

By end of Q3 Y2, a population estimate and feeding habit assessment of the Endangered Pitcairn Reed Warbler has been completed and submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.	PRW manuscript accepted for publication in Bird Conservation International and now available online (Annex 4.5).	
Output indicator 3.2 By end of Q3 Y2, a non-toxic blue bait and rat carcass trial has informed an updated risk assessment for the Pitcairn Reed Warbler.	See section 3.2 Non-toxic bait trials continued during October 2023 visit using baiting rates similar to those used during an operation. Birds showed no interest, reinforcing the recommendation that captive holding would not be necessary (Annex 4.7)	Complete (landbird monitoring and management document to be finalised)
Output indicator 3.3 By end of Q3 Y3, the methodology for successfully capturing, holding and releasing Pitcairn Reed Warblers has been established through physical trials and taught to local Government staff.	See section 3.2 See above. Now not necessary as observations and trials of PRWs have show that risk is minimal and captive holding likely not necessary (4.7).	Complete
Output indicator 3.4 By end of Y3, an updated Pitcairn feasibility study concludes that all remaining issues around non-target bird species mitigation have been identified and can be addressed.	See section 3.2 PRW non-toxic bait trials conducted in October 2023 contributing towards our understanding of non-target species mitigation and updated Pitcairn feasibility study.	Surveys of rails (and other Henderson endemics) during 2024 expedition. Trials by Auckland Zoo specialists to inform avicultural strategy.
Output indicator 3.5 By end of Q3 Y3, the population status of the Henderson rail has been re-assessed to inform an updated avicultural strategy.	See section 3.2 Henderson visited in October 2023 but trails too overgrown to conduct census. Planning for 2024 expedition to island.	Henderson Rails re-censused during 2024 expedition.

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

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: The Pitcairn Island group is free of introduced rodents, enabling native wildlife and habitat recovery, safeguarding rodent-free islands and benefitting community agriculture, infrastructure & eco-tourism assets.</p>			
<p>Outcome: Community consultation, pre-operational mapping and non-target species mitigation research enables and empowers the Pitcairn community to make fully-informed decisions to proceed with rodent eradication operation delivery on Henderson & Pitcairn.</p>	<p>0.1 By end of Y3, over 95% of resident Pitcairn Islanders indicate via questionnaire that they feel well informed about the implications of both island eradication operations.</p> <p>0.2 By end of Y3, the Pitcairn Island Council will have taken decisions on all 4 thematic areas outlined in the operational approach proposal papers.</p> <p>0.3 By end of Y3, a revised operational feasibility study (Pitcairn) and updated avicultural strategy (Henderson) confirm outstanding issues are addressed and that eradications can proceed with the chosen approaches.</p> <p>0.4 By end of Y3, Pitcairn Island Council make a final decision on whether to undertake (funding-dependent) eradication operations on Henderson & Pitcairn.</p>	<p>0.1 Consultation reports; questionnaire; quarterly updates to Island Council.</p> <p>0.2 Proposal papers; Council meeting minutes; quarterly updates to Island Council.</p> <p>0.3 Finalised feasibility study; updated avicultural strategy.</p> <p>0.4 Finalised feasibility studies; Council meeting minutes; quarterly updates to Island Council.</p>	<p>Assumption: Good faith engagement with the consultations and proposal discussions will occur. This should hold because Pitcairn Natural Resources Division have asked for this project to proceed and, alongside the Pitcairn Island Council, were consulted during project development. Both entities have longstanding personal and professional relationships with the RSPB and the project leader, who has worked with Pitcairn for over 6 years, including living on-island for 3 months.</p>
<p>Outputs: 1. Detailed community consultation achieves agreement on the eradications' operational approach and mitigation measures, plus ensures local understanding to achieve prior informed consent</p>	<p>1.1 By end of Q1 Y2, a detailed 'Pitcairn Community Impact Assessment', covering human health, water management, domestic animals, building access, fisheries and honey export certification, is prepared to inform consultation discussions.</p>	<p>1.1 Community Impact Assessment reports; quarterly updates to Island Council.</p> <p>1.2 Council minutes; Trip reports; Signed receipts of discussion; quarterly updates to Island Council.</p>	<p>Assumption: A world-class eradication expert will be able to be hired to visit the Territory.</p> <p>Mitigation: RSPB already has strong relationships with a number of world-leading New Zealand practitioners and</p>

	<p>1.2 By end of Q3 Y2, a RSPB engagement lead, and an eradication operation expert will have completed initial face-to-face consultations regarding Henderson & Pitcairn with Island Council, Heads of Government Departments and at least 50% of island residents.</p> <p>1.3 By end of Y2, four bespoke Pitcairn eradication proposal papers on i) domestic animal mitigation and long-term management, ii) feral animal management, iii) water mitigation and management and iv) inshore fisheries mitigation and management prepared and submitted in-person to Island Council and community by RSPB community engagement lead.</p> <p>1.4 By end of Y3, a proposal paper on non-target species mitigation prepared and submitted to both Island Council and community.</p> <p>1.5 Over 95% of island residents have participated in follow-up face-to-face consultations with a RSPB engagement lead in both Y2 and Y3, including discussion regarding the updated feasibility study in Y3.</p>	<p>1.3. Proposal papers; quarterly updates to Island Council.</p> <p>1.4 Non-target species mitigation decision paper; quarterly updates to Island Council.</p> <p>1.5 Trip reports; Signed receipts of discussion; quarterly updates to Island Council.</p>	<p>has discussed this role in principle with them.</p> <p>Assumption: Regular non-quarantine travel will be possible from Q3 Y1 onwards. The Government of the Pitcairn Islands has confirmed it intends to reopen the French Polynesia route in Q2 Y1.</p> <p>Assumption: Island residents will be willing to engage in consultation discussions.</p> <p>Mitigation: RSPB has very strong community relations and is conducting this project in partnership with the Government of the Pitcairn Islands.</p>
<p>2. Mapping and condition assessment of built infrastructure and natural features fills outstanding knowledge gaps required to inform operational planning</p>	<p>2.1 By end of Q3 Y3, accurate maps illustrating the location of all coconuts on Henderson, are created, ground-truthed and shared.</p> <p>2.2 By end of Q3 Y3, accurate maps illustrating the location of all built structures, domestic animal pens, and hives on Pitcairn are created, ground-truthed and shared.</p>	<p>2.1 Ground-truthed maps. Henderson trip report.</p> <p>2.2 Ground-truthed maps. Pitcairn trip report.</p> <p>2.3 Photo report.</p> <p>2.4 Updated Pitcairn feasibility study.</p>	<p>Assumption: GIS expert is able to access all areas of relevance to complete accurate mapping.</p> <p>Mitigation: This will be completed in partnership with local Government Departments.</p>

	<p>2.3 By end of Q3 Y3, a photographic report demonstrating condition of domestic animal pens and the waste management facilities on Pitcairn is created.</p> <p>2.4 By end of Y3, an updated Pitcairn feasibility study concludes that any remaining issues around built infrastructure and natural features have been identified and can be addressed.</p>		
<p>3. Potential non-target bird species are better understood, have more detailed risk assessments and, if necessary, have undergone successful trials of mitigation measures to inform operational planning.</p>	<p>3.1 By end of Q3 Y2, a population estimate and feeding habit assessment of the Endangered Pitcairn Reed Warbler has been completed and submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.</p> <p>3.2 By end of Q3 Y2, a non-toxic blue bait and rat carcass trial has informed an updated risk assessment for the Pitcairn Reed Warbler.</p> <p>3.3 By end of Q3 Y3, the methodology for successfully capturing, holding and releasing Pitcairn Reed Warblers has been established through physical trials and taught to local Government staff.</p> <p>3.4 By end of Y3, an updated Pitcairn feasibility study concludes that all remaining issues around non-target bird species mitigation have been identified and can be addressed.</p> <p>3.5 By end of Q3 Y3, the population status of the Henderson rail has been re-assessed to inform an updated avicultural strategy.</p>	<p>3.1 Field report; journal paper submission.</p> <p>3.2 Trial report; updated feasibility study.</p> <p>3.3 Aviculturist and veterinarian trip reports; captive-holding guidelines for Pitcairn Reed Warblers.</p> <p>3.4 Updated feasibility study.</p> <p>3.5 Updated avicultural strategy for Henderson eradication</p>	<p>Assumption: Whilst the very closely-related Henderson Island Reed Warbler was unaffected by a baiting operation on Henderson, the Pitcairn Reed Warbler lives in a heavily modified ecosystem and there are some reports of dead individuals being found after the 1997/98 eradication attempt. A detailed and separate assessment is therefore required to accurately assess its non-target potential.</p>

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)

- 1.1 Community Impact Assessments written for Pitcairn island community.
 - 1.2 RSPB engagement lead and an eradication operation expert complete initial face-to-face consultations with Island Council & community.
 - 1.3 Four bespoke Pitcairn eradication proposal papers written and submitted in-person to Island Council for consideration.
 - 1.4 Pitcairn Reed Warbler mitigation proposal written and submitted to Island Council for consideration.
 - 1.5 In-depth face-to-face follow-up consultations undertaken by RSPB community engagement lead.
-
- 2.1 Mapping of coconuts on Henderson is undertaken and ground-truthed.
 - 2.2 Mapping of built structures, domestic animal pens and hives on Pitcairn is undertaken.
 - 2.3 Photographic survey of domestic animal pens and waste management facilities on Pitcairn undertaken.
 - 2.4 All built infrastructure and natural feature issues re-assessed as part of an updated final feasibility study.
-
- 3.1 Surveys of Pitcairn Reed Warblers provide a population estimate and feeding habit assessment, with the results written up for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.
 - 3.2 Pitcairn Reed Warbler feeding trials with non-toxic blue bait and rat carcasses conducted and used to inform an updated risk assessment.
 - 3.3 Avicultural-holding trials of Pitcairn Reed Warblers take place on Pitcairn in partnership with local Government staff.
 - 3.4 All Pitcairn Reed Warbler mitigation needs and issues are re-assessed as part of an updated final feasibility study.
 - 3.5 Surveys of Henderson rail provide a population status estimate and are used to inform the writing of an updated Henderson avicultural strategy.

Annex 3: Standard Indicators

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

DPLUS Indicator number	Name of indicator using original wording	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DPLUS Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DPLUS-A01	By end of Q2 Y3, the methodology for successfully capturing, holding and releasing Pitcairn Reed Warblers has been established through physical trials and taught to local Government staff	Number of people from key national and local stakeholders completing structured and relevant training	People	Women:Men Trained in trial work to inform operational strategy	0	0		0	2 (1:1)
DPLUS-B02	By end of Y3, an updated Pitcairn feasibility study concludes that all remaining issues around non-target bird species mitigation have been identified and can be addressed	Number of new/improved species management plans available and endorsed	Number	Feasibility study (non-target species mitigation)	0	0		0	1
DPLUS-B05	By end of Y3, over 95% of resident Pitcairn Islanders indicate via questionnaire that they feel well informed about the implications of both island eradication operations	Number of people with increased participation in local communities / local management organisations (i.e., participation in Governance/citizen engagement)	People	Pitcairn community	0	0		0	c.35-40 (95% of adult community)
DPLUS-C05	By end of Q4 Y2, the population status of the Henderson rail has been re-assessed to inform an updated avicultural strategy By end of Q3 Y2, a population estimate and feeding habit assessment of the Endangered Pitcairn Reed Warbler has been completed	Number of projects contributing data, insights, and case studies to national Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) related reporting processes and calls for evidence	Number	Pitcairn Reed Warbler (population, productivity) Henderson Rail (population)	1	0		1	2
DPLUS-C17	By end of Q3 Y2, a population estimate and feeding habit assessment of the Endangered Pitcairn Reed Warbler has been completed and submitted to a peer-reviewed journal	Number of unique papers submitted to peer reviewed journals	Number	Pitcairn Reed Warbler population status	0	0		0	1

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)
Population status of the endemic Pitcairn Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus vaughani</i> on Pitcairn Island, South Pacific	Journal	Steffen Oppel, Robert Eisler, Nik Aspey (2024)	Male	German	Bird Conservation International. Cambridge	Population status of the endemic Pitcairn Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus vaughani</i> on Pitcairn Island, South Pacific Bird Conservation International Cambridge Core

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

Annex	Evidence provided	Document name
4.1	Pitcairn Council minutes from meeting during Oct '23	4.1_DPLUS178_AR2_Council_Minutes(19Oct23)
4.2	Consultation doc shared with Pitcairn community	4.2_DPLUS178_AR2_Pitcairn_Community_Consultation
4.3	Photographs from the Oct '23 trip to Pit & Hen	4.3_DPLUS178_AR2_October23_Photos
4.4	Coconut report from Jay Warren from Oct '23 visit	4.4_DPLUS178_AR2_Coconut_Report
4.5	Published PRW manuscript available online	4.5_DPLUS178_AR2_PRW_Manuscript
4.6	Draft operational plan informed by Oct '23 trip	4.6_DPLUS178_AR2_DRAFT_Operational_Plan
4.7	Draft landbird monitoring & management plan	4.7_DPLUS178_AR2_DRAFT_Landbird_Monitoring&Management

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?	X
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	X
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.	
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.	X
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 15)?	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	X
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	X
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	