

## 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: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

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### Darwin Plus Project Information

Project reference	DPLUS190
Project title	Improving St. Helena’s Grassland to Benefit People and Wildlife
Territory(ies)	St. Helena
Lead Partner	St. Helena National Trust
Project partner(s)	Saint Helena Government, RSPB
Darwin Plus grant value	£149,465 (after CR submitted and approved)
Start/end dates of project	April 2023 - March 2026
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2023-Mar 2024) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2)	April 2023 – March 2024, Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Helena [REDACTED]
Project website/blog/social media	<a href="https://www.trust.org.sh/">https://www.trust.org.sh/</a> X: SHnationaltrust Facebook: SHnationaltrust Instagram: shnationaltrust Linked in: @st-helena-national-trust
Report author(s) and date	James [REDACTED] and Martina [REDACTED], April 2024

### 1. Project summary

This project has been designed to tackle the following biodiversity challenges: climate change (drought), invasive alien species and destruction of habitats. It is wholly relevant to St Helens and its current arising issues that range from protecting native habitats and species to local production for increased sustainability. Droughts have occurred on island in 2016, 2018 and 2022 and pasture management practises have changed over time which combined has led to significant habitat loss due to invasive alien species such as the Bull grass (*Juncus capillaceus*), Wild currant (*Lantana camara*) and Gorse aka furze (*Ulex europaeus*). This has rendered the land undesirable to grazing pasture animals (sheep and cattle) and for habitation of the St Helena Plover aka Wirebird, the last surviving endemic land bird on St Helena.

The project is hoping to improve and develop effective pasture management techniques for longer-term sustainability that will provide suitable habitat for the St Helena Plover and benefit local people’s livelihoods – and the local market – through the increase in number of grazing animals and quality of meat produced. These problems were identified throughout years of working undertaking Wirebird conservation efforts and watching the land change. For example: a previous high nesting site for the St Helena Plover has severely reduced over time. Also, St

Helena Governments (SHG), Environment and Natural Resources Portfolio (ENRP) have had tenants handing back land due to unsuitability.

St Helena Island is a remote UK Overseas territory in the middle of the South Atlantic Ocean along with its sister islands Ascension and Tristan da Cunha.

(UKOT) Our project sites are spread across the island on sites that are designated Important Wirebird Areas (IWA's) which is a part of the islands National Conservation Areas (NCA's) for which there is a current project that is focussing on writing management plans for all NCA's (DPLUS154) that this project will contribute to.



All Sites overview  
with NCAs.png"

## 2. Project stakeholders/partners

The project has 2 partners: Royal society for the protection of birds (RSPB) and SHG ENRP, with main stakeholders being syndicates (Deadwood and Man and Horse) as well as the general farming community. All partners and stakeholders have a representative on the Project board, in regards to the farming community and syndicates many are a part of the Chamber of commerce which doubles as a farmer's association. Members can be seen in the project board minutes below



DPLUS190  
Grasslands Project Bo

RSPB over this first year of the project has provided the project with technical (land management), project management and science support. A visit was made in November – December 2023 where Andy Schofield trained all project staff with particular focus on the Senior Project Officer and the Field and Livelihoods Officer on leg flagging St Helena Plovers. A total of 59 birds were flagged. This is reflected in the dataset below



Wirebird leg-flag  
data\_StHelena\_2023.xl



Denny\_Nico\_w\_AndyS  
cofield.jpg"

Andy had much input on the intensive management trials both during application for the project and advising on the intensive management proposal for the 3 sites in this first year. Harry Marshall has provided much support with design of surveys (i.e. vegetation surveys), data management and analysing of data as well as procurement of equipment (i.e. binoculars). It has been beneficial to have two different mindsets contributing to our project to allow for accounting of many variables. Surveys have been carried out and trials started in this first year, with data being analysed and reported on. A slight challenge was the arranging of the RSPB visit to St Helena due to everyone's work schedules and timing for the nesting season. The visit successfully coincided with the nesting season, flagged a large number of birds, and initiated the training of the team towards their BPO licenses. The timing of the visit unfortunately contributed to a delay of the finalising of the intensive management proposal and thus the contracts for undertaking the work with the impending end of financial year. Regardless of this, management at each high priority site was initiated by the end of the financial year.

SHG has many representatives on the Project Board representing the DPLUS154 project, general conservation work via the would be Terrestrial Conservation Officer (remains vacant, was covered by RSPB seconded person via the St Helena Cloud Forest Project) and the agricultural, Farmers support section which is the only one that has remained constant. SHG is currently attempting to fill/cover the vacant roles at this time. Andrea (Andy) Timm, Agriculture Development Officer, sits on the project board and is or main contact linking to the syndicates providing help with arranging meetings/site visits, providing advice and information. Over this first year, the Farmer support section has hosted our Fields and Livelihood Officer 4 times,

where they will assist with works relating to this project as well as being a direct and clear integrated link between our organisations. They have also provided advice when procuring equipment i.e. electric fencing and weed wiper. Again scheduling has been a hurdle for any other irregular meetings (exception of project board meeting).

There are many varying stakeholders, then main ones being the relevant syndicates (Deadwood and Man and Horse) as we are working on their lease land. The Project team has established a good relationship with both syndicates and have been especially successful in repairing and maintaining the relationship with the Deadwood syndicate as prior to the project there had been some issues. All syndicates are regularly engaged, on their respective sites where there has been interaction in helping each other - the team with syndicate work and the syndicate with project work i.e. land clearance, sorting sheep etc. This has fostered trust and shown our commitment to achieving the best possible outcome with the syndicate members being updated and having the chance to feedback on the intensive management trials planned to be undertaken. A livelihood questionnaire was undertaken in this first year, where 21 syndicate members participated.



Farmers helping prep DW the site.jpg"



Syndicate getting filmed.jpg"

Other stakeholders include those interested in shooting rabbits, the project team has been working with 2 people to record how many rabbits have been shot to contribute to project activities.

In addition to this the project has presented at the Chamber of Commerce twice over the course of this first project year with good feedback from members. This has been the best way to reach many of the wider farming community in high numbers.

### 3. Project progress

The project has successfully recruited project staff. Most of the staff were recruited internally. The staff have many years' experience with Wirebird conservation, some working with wirebirds for over 10 years. The Project Manager is an ex-member of staff (worked for the Trust from 2017-2021) but was residing in the UK at the time of recruitment, thus was not available for work until Q2. Contracts can be found under the relevant sections in 3.1.

Our three high priority sites for pasture improvement have been chosen with consultation and collaboration with project partners and stakeholders. These sites are Deadwood Plain, Bottomwoods, and Man and Horse. The pasture management techniques went through a few rounds of development before they were signed off by the board in January 2024. These were finalized and approved in the project board meeting in February 2024. The trial management plan can be found under activity 1.2 in section 3.1.

A major stakeholder to be collaborated with throughout this process was the farmers themselves, whom were engaged through regular visits and meetings on site during their regular activities. Through these visits, positive relations have been established between the project and the farming community. This is evidenced in the farming community's willingness to help with project activities, such as completing surveys, being on film, providing constructive discussions, and helping with site clearance.

The management plan includes our three management techniques; ploughing, herbicide treatments with weed wiper and mower, and rotational grazing. In the October steering group meeting the board provisionally agreed with the idea of incorporating agricultural lime into treatments, something that was raised during DPLUS059. This was provisional on the condition of good trial design and review. Because of the nature of having things sent to St. Helena and the time it takes this lime was procured, as to not delay any management activities that were to include it. However, during project partner RSPB's November visit to the island to carry out bird flagging training, some concerns were raised as to the repeatability of the lime treatment, as well as the effect it could have on trial design. Thus, the management proposal was amended and presented again without the use of agricultural lime in the January board meeting, where it

was met with approval. The management plan has been initiated at all three sites. At Man and Horse one site was prepared in February with the help of the farming syndicate, and the subsequent mowing completed in March. On the other plot at Man and Horse, mowing has been initiated but has stopped due to a broken mower, the part for which is being procured. Tenders to carry out the work on the further two sites went out to the public promptly after the trial management plan was approved by the project board. Site visits with the contractors took place. Contracts were given to 2 members of the agricultural community, and work was completed in March. The tender advertisements, award documents, and photo evidence can be found under activity 1.4 in section 3.1.

A “livelihood questionnaire” was produced, reviewed by the project board, and has been given to farmers from both named syndicates in the project. Responses have been received from 20 different farmers. Qualitative data is still to be analysed and reported on after some staff training in data analysis. The questionnaire was received well by farmers, evidence of the project’s good relationship with them. The farmers have also agreed to help us regarding the project activity 3.3 that pertains to collect bi-annual rabbit data on Deadwood plain. We created simple data collection forms with details of numbers of rabbits shot and dates, and delivered them to farmers in September 2023. In April 2024, we received forms back from 3 farmers, who were happy to keep reporting their numbers. Some farmers have claimed to not have done much shooting at all in the time period. In order to get baseline data for rabbit population health, the project designed rabbit surveys to be undertaken at night using high powered searchlights. night-time surveys. These were ordered from the UK via air in September. These unfortunately were lost by the freight handling company in Johannesburg, and new ones were ordered by our freight forwarder We received them in February 2024. Rabbit surveys then commenced, and data has been collected and analysed.

Wirebird work has been successful, a testament to the experience shared by the team in this field. There has been ongoing nest monitoring since the introduction of our Field and Monitoring Officer. In November, project partner RSPB visited and trained staff in bird flagging. This saw the flagging of 59 wirebirds which will be monitored for re-sightings, in conjunction with our regular nest monitoring. The wirebird census was undertaken in January on schedule and returned 650 wirebirds (confidence interval 572-731). The flagging data can be found under section 2. The nest monitoring data and wirebird census report can be found under section 3.1 under activity 3.5.

Vegetation surveys were designed with RSPB and carried out throughout the year. They were spread over a fairly long period as some trial sites changed throughout the year as result of input from stakeholders. Surveys were finished in February 2024 and will be repeated throughout the project. Data has been analysed and the report has been circulated to the project board. Invertebrate surveys were delayed due to the need to subcontract the ongoing Cloud Forest Project staff (within the National Trust). This required a change request, and drafting of contracts. This change was unforeseen, as this aspect of the project was designed before the Cloud Forest Project was underway. These were completed in late February 2024. The report will be completed in Q1 Yr. 2 by the invertebrate team. The vegetation survey report can be found in section 3.1 under activity 3.2.

The project film is going well. UK-based production company Swimming Head productions has been contracted to produce a film based on a strong proposal, and visited the island in January 2024. They did a number of interviews with local farmers, syndicates, and project staff. In their absence project staff have been using a GoPro, drone, and cell phone cameras to capture other footage of the project. You can find a picture of them filming the deadwood syndicate in section 3.1, under activity

The project has excelled in public communications. The project delivered 4 radio interviews about the project, released 3 newspaper articles, and posted to social media 14 times. We held 3 community pop-up stands in Q2 to engage with the public and gather their views. Our Wirebird tours have been particularly popular, having delivered 11 so far, to a total of 79 people, one of whom being the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Edward. Pictures of these and the activity tracking spreadsheet can be found in section 3.1 under activity 4.10

### 3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

#### 1.1 Recruit Senior Project Officer by Q1 Year 1

Senior Project Officer, Denis Leo was recruited internally at start of project. In the first 2 months of Q1 (April - May), his time was split on another project that required completion due to an extension.



Senior Project Officer  
First Page DL.pdf"

#### 1.2 In consultation with project partners and stakeholders, pasture management techniques are identified and agreed by Q2 Year 1.

Meetings were held with farming syndicates and project stakeholders. Project activities were responded to generally positively. Pasture management techniques were identified early in the project, but more input was needed on how best to implement them, and on which sites, than originally thought. As a result, a final agreement wasn't made until Q4. The below Project Board minutes evidence this.



Intensive



DPLUS190



DPLUS190



Dplus190 Project



DPLUS Steering



Project Manager

Management Plan FIN Grasslands Project BoGrasslands Project BoBoard Meeting #4.doGroup 5 Meeting Min meeting with Deadwo

Need to find pic of M&H

#### 1.3 A trial pasture management plan and map for all priority trial sites is produced by end Year 1.

The trial management plan and map have been produced and agreed on by project board in Q4 year 1. Maps are included within the management plan.



All sites overview  
map2.png"



Intensive  
Management Plan FIN

#### 1.4 Intensive management techniques (both mechanical and through livestock) initiated by end Yr.1 across 3 high priority trial sites (Man and Horse, Deadwood Plain and Bottom Woods).

An invitation to tender for a control trial was advertised in September 2023, but had no applications. The trial management plan was rethought and rewritten following the visit of RSPB. New tenders advertised for works at Deadwood and Bottomwoods which commenced in March 2024. Work at Man and horse also commenced in March 2024. At the time of writing, works have been complete on 1 site in each of the 3 areas.



Invitation to Tender  
Bottomwoods and De



Tractor beginning  
work at Deadwood Pl.



Pulling Topper  
Mower MH02.jpg"



Deadwood fully  
plowed.jpg"



Prepping MH site  
with Farmers.jpg"



Man and Horse  
Before and After.png"

#### 2.1 Recruit Field and Livelihoods Officer by Q1 Year 1.

Nico Benjamin was recruited as Field and Livelihoods Officer in Q1, Yr1 again as per the Senior Project Officer recruitment his time was also split between 2 projects. Below is the first page of his contract



Nico Benjamin Field and Livelihoods Office

## **2.2 Produce a repeatable questionnaire to better understand the drivers of recent land use change and the needs of the farming syndicates and landowners to inform initiatives and diversification schemes by Q3 Year 1.**

Livelihoods questionnaire was developed with active participation from the project board on reviewing and finally approval by project board in October 2024. We have given this



DPLUS190

Questionnaire Final.pc

questionnaire to a total of 20 farmers.

## **2.3 Collect baseline assessment from questionnaire surveys with farming syndicates and landowners by end of Year 1.**

The Project team has collected data from 20 farmers



Deggy with Survey October 2023.png



James assisting deadwood syndicate



Nico interviewing Mark longwood oct20

## **2.4 Integrate best practice pasture management and development mitigation into any drafted National Conservation Areas management plans under DPLUS154 for grassland areas by end of project.**

The Project has been working with DPLUS154 on NCA management plans, particularly for important Wirebird areas. DPLUS154 sits on our project board as a member of the Trust does on their core delivery group.

Denis Leo, Helena Bennett and Martina Peters attended an IWA Stakeholder Consultation workshop for the development of management plans for the Important Wirebird Areas (IWA's) on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and Gavin Ellick and Martina Peters attended a site visit to Bottomwoods - one of the IWA's - on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 to do some ground truthing looking at wirebirds, grazing areas and areas marked for development all within this IWA. The boundaries of the IWA's are being assessed.

## **3.1 Recruit Field and Monitoring Officer by Q2 Year 1**

Gavin Ellick was recruited as Field and Monitoring Officer on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 as the first full time member of this project.



Gavin Ellick Field and Monitoring Officer.pd

## **3.2 Complete annual vegetation surveys of all intensive trial management areas.**

We have completed baseline surveys on all high priority trial sites for intensive management at man and Horse, Bottomwoods and Deadwood. Report has been made and submitted to project board.



Adam and Eddie Veg  
Survey - Copy.jpg



Combined\_Vegetatio  
n survey data 260220:Survey Report 3.docx'



DPLUS190 Vegetation

### **3.3 Establish bi-annual data collection of rabbit culling effort led by farming syndicate at Deadwood from year 1.**

The project team has approached 3 farmers that are known for regular shooting on Deadwood Plain informed them of the project given data collection forms. 2 were returned in March 2024. Pre- trial rabbit surveys have been designed and have been undertaken at all 3 intensive management sites, undertaking of this activity was delayed due to the first order of search lights being lost in transit.



Rabbit Data  
Report.png"



Rabbit survey  
Protocol.docx"

### **3.4 Complete Invertebrate monitoring undertaken pre and post pasture management (start and end of the project), inside and outside of trial sites.**

Invertebrate surveys have been completed at all intensive management sites. The data has been collated and the report is pending by the SHNT invertebrate team. Report will be finalised in Q1 of Year 2.

### **3.5 Complete annual St Helena Plover census counts and nest monitoring.**

Annual census counts took place in January 2024. The report has been made public through local media and social media. The census this year returned the highest bird count since censuses began with 659 adults counted.

Nest monitoring is ongoing throughout the year. Data is collected and digitized. From the data, it can be shown that Prosperous Bay has the highest number of nest sites throughout the year, with two of our named high priority sites returning few nests in comparison. Overall, birds are showing a 30% survival rate.



Wirebird census  
report 2024\_final.pdf



WIREBIRD\_DATA  
Steffen format 2013 F

### **3.6 Training delivered to project staff on ringing St Helena Plover and monitoring techniques by end Year 1**

RSPB staff member, Andy Schofield visited St Helena in November 2023 and trained 4 project staff on bird flagging. As a result Denis Leo and Nico Benjamin is to be endorsed to undertake bird flagging and Gavin Ellick – as he previously had a BTO ringing licence – is being looked into renewing this.



FB DPLUS190 Bird Flagging.png"



Denny\_Nico\_w\_AndyS\_cofield.jpg"

#### 4.1 Recruit Project Manager by Q1 Year 1.

James Fantom was recruited as Project Manager during first round of recruitment in April however could not start until September 2023. This activity took longer than planned due to the applicant residing overseas at the time, needing time to return to the island.



James Fantom Project Manager First

#### 4.6 Provide cross-organisational training opportunities between project partners and wider stakeholders (farming syndicates and landowners) throughout the project.

An appeal of interest for herbicide application training was made to the Chamber of Commerce (15 farmers) in October; this was met with little enthusiasm. A new appeal for interest will be made in Year 2. Despite this, 4 National Trust staff (x3 project staff and x1 Millennium Forest staff member) were trained in herbicide application prior to the Man and Horse pasture management that will involve herbicide handling and application.



Project staff receiving herbicide training.jpg

#### 4.7 Produce regular public communication materials through the newspaper, radio and social media to promote the project to the wider community.

So far there have been 14 Social Media posts by the project as well as 3 Newspaper articles, 4 Radio interviews, and 3 "community pop-ups".



Wire habitat\_littering\_screenshot.png



Bird Flagging November 2023.png



Census Volunteers December 2023.png"



Grasslands Project May 2023.png"



Grasslands Litter July 2023.png



YogaDay June 2023.png



Road Wirebird November 2023.png



Wader Quest January 2024.png



Pop-up Jamestown-social media.png



Denny Talking to Longwoodian.jpg"



Gavin chatting in Levelwood.jpg"



7 Sept, 08.58 SAMS Project intro.aac



Denny leo on STFMs 0503.jpg



Interview - James Phantom and Tony Leto Tender February 2024 (livelihood surveys No)



FB DPLUS190 Invites



FB DPLUS190 Mowing MH.png



FB DPLUS190 Mowing MH.png"



FB DPLUS190 Rabbit Surveys.png"



FB DPLUS190 Wirebird Census Report



Birds of St Helena\_2024.02.06\_SB



## 4.8 Take regular film footage of project activities throughout the project and produce an end of project film by Q3 Year 3

Film footage has been captured by the DPLUS190 Project Team and wider National Trust Staff, since Q2. In Q3, UK production company Swimming Head Productions made a visit to St. Helena to collect footage and interviews from the project staff, syndicate members and partners.



Swimming Head  
Tender Award.PDF



Swimming Head  
Productions.jpg

## 4.10 Deliver regular Wirebird tours to community members and visitors, including information on the active pasture management and the win-win relationship for people and wildlife.

We have delivered 12 Wirebird tours to a total of 158 people, including Prince Edward. Out of these, 76 were tourists and 82 were locals (mostly schoolchildren) This far exceeds the project goal of 30 people over the course of the project, by about 500% achieved in the first 2 quarters in the first year of the project.



School Tour.jpg"



Cruise SHip Tour.jpg"



Thank you from Duke  
of Edinburgh.pdf"



DPLUS190 Activity  
recording sheet\_upda

## 3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

### 1. Effective pasture management is implemented across priority grassland areas

The base condition for this output is that there has been some attempt at pasture management for many years by the government as well as farming syndicates, but due to new arising issues and pressures, there is a fair amount of uncertainty as to how best to manage the growing invasive plant problem. We have so far taken some recommendations from project partner RSPB as well as learned from previous invasive plant control trials on the island, to identify 3 pasture management techniques that are being/will be trialled. Since these have been developed with collaboration from farming syndicates and the government sector, those stakeholders are learning lessons and new methods of control alongside us, and will pay close attention to any results achieved.

#### 1.1 Pasture management techniques (including livestock stocking; rotavating/rolling and invasive species management) identified with a trial pasture management plan produced by end Yr. 1.

We have successfully identified trial pasture management techniques and finalized them with the project board. The approved management technique proposal can be found under Activity 1 in section 3.1. This indicator was not completed until later than anticipated, after a longer period of review was required. This put a delay in achieving indicator 1.2 below.

#### 1.2 Higher impact management techniques initiated by end Yr.1 across 3 high priority trial sites (Man and Horse, Deadwood Plain and Bottom Woods).

Since there was a delay in agreeing the management plan as stated in above indicator 1.1. the mowing was not initiated until late February 2024, and the rotational grazing not to be initiated until Yr. 2. The rotational grazing was dependant on procuring an electric fence, which could not be done until after the management plan was approved by the board. This was ordered in February 2024 through a freight forwarder in South Africa. This item arrived

in April 2024. so the initiation of the rotational grazing will be delayed slightly. The ploughing techniques were completed in March 2024. There is evidence of this output in Section 3.1 under activity 1.4

**1.3 Lower impact management techniques initiated by end of Yr. 2 across 3 medium priority trial sites (Middle Point, Woody Ridge and Thompson's wood).**

This will happen on time. We have been in discussions with landowners on these medium priority sites, and have received their support. We have procured a brush cutter in anticipation to begin this action.

**1.4 Planting and encouragement of useful pasture grasses and species (Kikuyu grass *Pennisetum clandestinum*, mat grass *Stenotaphrum secundatum* and legume *Desmodium incanum*) (depending on the level of natural regeneration) in all trial sites by end of project.**

This is likely to be achieved in the stated timescales, depending on the levels of natural regeneration.

**Output 2:**

**Livelihoods of agriculturalist communities (through existing farming syndicates) are enhanced through climate resilient initiatives**

The baseline condition is being assessed by our "livelihood questionnaire". Overall needs of farmers identified are, unsurprisingly, a sustainable and affordable solution to the invasive plant problem. We are in preliminary stages of discussions with SHG agriculture sections about potential initiatives; utilizing data from the syndicate questionnaires. This Output will be addressed further in Year 2.

**2.1 A baseline assessment completed in Yr. 1 to better understand the drivers of recent land use change and the needs of the farming syndicates and landowners to inform initiatives and diversification schemes.**

We have conducted 20 surveys so far, with one yet to be returned. Data has been compiled and the report is pending. Field and Livelihoods officer is currently undergoing training to be able to best analyse this data. Evidence can be found in section 3.1 under activities 2.2 and 2.3.

**2.2 Best practices produced for pasture management techniques and built into protected area management plans and lease agreements by the end of the project.**

We have been working closely with DPLUS154, as that project sits on the steering group of this project, and vice versa. We have joined site visits with them to discuss challenges affecting the NCAs that are important Wirebird areas. We also reviewed the draft NCA document, and input into the areas pertaining to important Wirebird habitats. This will be addressed further in years 2 and 3.

**2.3 A finalised pasture management plan produced (based on 1.1) and implemented for at least 2 of the 3 priority sites in Year 3**

This will be completed on time, assuming that trials go forward as planned.

**2.4 Two additional livelihood initiatives are identified (with a focus on climate resilience) with one developed and trialled by the end of the project, in line with 2.1 (Baseline data to be established).**

This is likely to be completed on time.

**2.5 A repeated assessment with farming syndicates and landowners completed at end of project to monitor impact against year 1 baseline (2.1).**

This is likely to be completed on time.

**2.6 A livelihood enhancement plan (linking provision of livelihood benefits to support for improved pasture management) is developed in consultation with farming syndicates, landowners and St Helena Government by end of project.**

Likely to be completed on time.

**Output 3. The conservation impacts of the pasture management are monitored and evaluated**

The baseline condition for this Output is that there is some data on vegetation and invertebrate makeup of the high priority areas, as a result of previous projects such as DPLUS059 and the South Atlantic Invasive Species Project, but there are many gaps. The vegetation and invertebrate surveys of the areas done during this project could fill in a knowledge gap when it comes to flora and fauna present on St. Helena pasturelands.

**3.1 Annual vegetation surveys of trial management areas.**

All High Priority management areas have had vegetation surveyed in accordance with the protocols developed by the project and RSPB. The data for this can be found in section 3.1, under activity 3.2

**3.2 Establish bi-annual data collection of rabbit culling effort led by farming syndicate at Deadwood from Yr. 1.**

The project has identified three regular shooters on Deadwood Plain, and given out simple data collection sheets to them, which are pending return. The data collection sheets can be found in Section 3.1, under activity 3.3.

**3.3 Invertebrate monitoring undertaken pre and post pasture management (start and end of project), inside and outside of trial sites.**

Invertebrate surveys have been completed for all 3 high priority sites by the Saint Helena National Trust. The data is collected and compiled, but report is still to be submitted by the invertebrate team.

**3.4 Annual St Helena Plover census counts undertaken showing a 10% increase in presence across all priority sites by end of project.**

We have completed our first annual St. Helena Plover Census as part of this project, the report for which can be found in section 3.1 under activity 3.5.

**3.5 St Helena Plover nests showing a 5% increase in survival rate across all priority sites by end of project.**

This will be completed by end of project, assuming the trial pasture management has a positive effect. The initial survival rates can be seen in the evidence provided in section 3.1 under activity 3.5

**3.6 Improved understanding of St Helena Plover movement in relation to protected areas through ringing at least 30 birds and annual monitoring.**

During November, the team rang 54 birds as part of their training with the RSPB. These birds will be monitored through our usual nest monitoring activity, with the aid of new binoculars being sent by the RSPB. The data collection forms and protocols are still to be shared by RSPB. The evidence for this can be found in section 2, "Wirebird Leg Flag Data"

**Output 4. Enhanced in-territory capacity to implement and monitor effective management of St Helena's grassland protected areas**

This Output is mainly to be achieved at later stages of the project, but already we are trialling management techniques that will be used by stakeholder's post-project. Meetings have taken place with SHG at start of project to "fact-find" and establish baseline conditions. The project livelihood officer has been joining the SHG agriculture sector regularly to share and learn lessons about current agricultural practices on pastures.

#### **4.1 Review and update of St Helena Government leases on crown pasturelands to integrate improved land management practices within National Conservation Areas by the end of the project**

In October 2023 meetings took place between the project team and SHG agriculture department to establish baselines of lease agreements, and potentially find where pasture management practices could be integrated. This will be addressed more in year 2

#### **4.2 Review and draft updated St Helena agricultural policies to integrate improved land management practices by end of project (Agricultural strategy and Estates Management policy)**

This is likely to be achieved on time, and will be addressed in years 2 and 3.

#### **4.3 Update of Wirebird Species Action Plan produced in YR2**

This is likely to be achieved on time, and will be addressed in Year 2.

#### **4.4 Grassland management and development mitigation measures included within the outputs of the sustainable management planning for St Helena's National Conservation Areas project (DPLUS154)**

The project has been frequently conferring with DPLUS 154 and feeding input into their NCA documents. Grassland management, pending results of the trials in this project, will be fed into those documents as well.

#### **4.5 A total of 20 persons from SHG, Trust and general public (farmers etc.) well informed and trained in pasture management techniques through cross-partner training by the end of the project**

We have trained 4 Trust staff in herbicide application. Training was carried out by Project manager, who received advanced training during DPLUS059. A picture of this can be seen in section 3.1, Activity 4.6. This will be addressed further in years 2 and 3, after there are results of our pasture management techniques to show farmers.

#### **4.6 Ongoing communication of project outputs with wider community through promotional and educational materials throughout the project duration**

As stated in Section 3.1 of this report, we have been producing promotional materials and engaging with the public since the start, with 14 social media posts, 2 newspaper articles, 4 radio interviews, and a number of school activity days. A mini education pack has been produced to be circulated to the local schools. All the evidence can be found in section 3.1 under activity 4.7

#### **4.7 Conduct Wirebird tours with an overall attendance of 30 persons by end of the project.**

We have already surpassed this number by a large margin (79 total attendees) including the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Edward. The evidence for this can be found in section 3.1 under activity 4.10

### **3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome**

**Outcome: Effective pasture management implemented to improve St Helena's grassland habitats by sustainably enhancing local livelihoods through increased livestock capacity and quality, which also benefits grassland biodiversity.**

We have done good groundwork for the Outcome to be achieved. This first year has been primarily about building relationships, and collecting many types of data to measure the impact of the project. Indicator 0.1 specifically relates to the area of grassland under active management. In our high priority sites alone we will be managing 6 hectares of grassland. This will be direct implementation of pasture management, and will also be groundwork for the

management to be carried on in the future by stakeholders. It is likely that these will have a positive impact on pasture grasses and indicator 0.2.



All sites with areas  
maps.png

We have collected comprehensive data on flora and fauna on our trial sites, good quality data is vital to show that the project work will benefit grassland biodiversity. We won't know yet whether the project will result in a loss or gain of native species richness on the sites, however, we have the data to provide a meaningful result at project end. All of our biological data can be found in Section 3.1 under activities 3.2-3.6

The syndicates show interest in the project, as they are very keen for solutions to invasive plant problems. This was a common theme in their returned questionnaires. If the management techniques are successful, their livelihoods and farming on St. Helena will be enhanced. It is important that syndicates are interested in the project for effective pasture management to be carried on post project, so our positive relationship with them is key. Our baseline surveys conducted this year will allow us to measure the affect the project has on them and be able to provide evidence for indicator 0.3. Due to data privacy, we cannot share the raw data, however, there are pictures of the team conducting these questionnaires in section 3.1 under activity 2.3

We have been working with the National Conservation Area project team; they sit on this projects steering group and vice-versa, as well as separate meetings. This year we fed into national conservation area documents, and have been advising on preliminary work around important Wirebird areas. This, as well as our positive relationship with the government sector, ensures that indicators 0.4 and 0.5 have a good chance of being met. This however will be addressed more directly in years 2 and 3.

#### 0.1 8 ha of grassland under improvement management practices by the end of the project

We have so far started management on 3 hectares of our 6 hectares of trial plots, with 2 fully completed. The other trial plots are waiting on the materials to arrive in April, and suitable conditions to conduct spraying. We have 6 hectares in our high priority sites, and the further 2 hectares will be made up from. The evidence below is a) the trial sites with GIS extracted areas showing that they are each an acre, pictures of the work being done, and an invoice for an electric fence which will used to manage one of the trial sites. This indicator will directly contribute to the output because by improving the management of 8 hectares of land, the local farmers can increase the number of livestock, as there is more land for grazing. This will hopefully improve biodiversity by reducing thick coverage of invasive species and introducing more balanced native species, benefiting invertebrate and vertebrate life as well. Refer to the evidence in Section 3.1, activity 3.1.



Pulling Topper  
Mower MH02.jpg"



All sites with areas  
maps.png"

#### 0.2 Three priority trial sites have increased quantity of pasture grasses by at least 20% (through invasive plant removal) by the end of the project

We have moved forward with the work in our trial priority sites. The methodologies of control have been created in collaboration with RSPB and the other project partners and approved by the project Board. The vegetation surveys for the first year have been completed, and a report made. From these surveys we will be able to quantify the amount of increase in useful pasture grasses in our priority trial sites.

#### 0.3 The livelihoods of 21 syndicate members are measurably enhanced (monitored via project start/end repeated assessments) over the course of the project.

Our livelihood survey was approved by the project board in October 2023. We have completed 19 out of 21 livelihood surveys. This will provide baseline data to measure the change in the condition of the farmers' livelihoods. This will be the main evidence to show that the livelihoods have been enhanced through the activities of our project. Success in indicator 0.2 will lead to an enhancement of livelihoods by increasing stocking numbers due to more available food. It will also showcase successful management techniques that landowners and farmers will be able to adopt. The evidence for this indicator is referred to in the narrative above.

0.4 Annual biodiversity surveys reveal no loss of native species richness in existing grassland habitat over the course of the project and a significant increase in areas under enhanced management

We have completed our initial rounds of Biodiversity surveys including vegetation, Wirebird, and invertebrate surveys. Reports made for vegetation and Wirebird surveys. Through the annual surveys, we will be able to measure the change in biodiversity. If the project reveals no loss in species richness, it will show that our control methods have benefitted biodiversity. All of our biological data is referred to in the narrative above.

0.5 Pasture management and development mitigation measures built into protected area management plans by the end of the project

This output is to be addressed into years 2 and 3 of the project, but we have had input into the national conservation area management plans through meetings with the DPLUS154 to discuss the Important Wirebird Areas, and fed into drafts of the NCA management plan, particularly in regards to the Important Wirebird Areas. This work is vital to ensuring the enhanced management of St. Helena's Grasslands is sustainable and long-lasting. As St. Helena

0.6 St Helena Government leases and draft agriculture policies (Agricultural strategy and Estates Management policy) in National Conservation Areas updated to include provisions for improved land management by end of project

This output is to be addressed in years 2 and 3. As mentioned in indicator 0.5, we are attending meetings for the NCA Darwin plus project (154), attending site visits, and providing expert advice to the creation of the Important Wirebird Habitats.

### **3.4 Monitoring of assumptions**

Monitoring of critical conditions (risks and assumptions) is crucial to project success. Report on whether Outcome and Output level assumptions still hold true. If there have been any changes in assumptions, in what ways is the project meeting or managing these? Please support comments with evidence.

Assumption 1: Effectiveness of pasture management techniques are detected and measurable.

Comments: Methods will be built upon previously explored techniques with additional expert advice. We are collecting comprehensive data that will subjectively provide evidence towards the effectiveness of pasture management techniques.

Assumption 2: Continued positive engagement with farming syndicates and SHG.

Comments: relationships with key project stakeholders is key to the success of this project. Through regular communicating and engagement we will continue to have positive relationships with farming community. SHG will continue to be engaged through board meetings, regular communications, and staff visits. Further relationship building and communication with SHG must take place in year 2.

Assumption 3:

The Wirebird mitigation project 20008-2011 worked toward enhancing agriculture and natural resources department's (ANRD) licensing system and collaborated with grazing syndicates and farmers to manage Wirebird sites to offset the impact of the development of the islands airport. A steering group was formed and identified sites underwent clearance of invasive woody plants

with a good response in the Wirebird population. Over the last decade droughts and increased costs have hindered agriculture sector and helped new invasive species to take hold.

Assumption 4: St Helena agriculturalist communities continue to engage with project through active face-to-face communication with meetings on site, providing their views and receiving updates on planned project works.

This still holds true as an important assumption. As mentioned in Section 2, engagement from farming sectors has been positive, with a willingness to help and contribute being shown by them.

Assumption 5: Drought events do not impact livestock stocking

This still holds true, as there are factors outside of the project's control that can influence the livelihoods of farmers. Our livelihood initiatives can address the issue of water security, especially in the face of climate change (increasing capacity for water storage, etc).

Assumption 6: RSPB sabbatical undertaken in August 2022 has been successful at providing baseline habitat and livelihood information in relation the St. Helena Plover including a starting point for the review of the Wirebird species action plan.

This still holds true, as the RSPB are a key stakeholder who will have to support the project with some technical aspects, as well as providing strategic direction for the Wirebird species action plan.

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

This project is committed to providing support to the UKOTs strategic long-term outcomes for the natural environment.

Our works have contributed greatly over the past year to the Convention on Biological diversity (CBD) Article 8 (h), through the development and implementation of intensive management techniques. These techniques aim to promote sustainable land management techniques that enhance habitat for both livestock and native wildlife. By the end of the first year, groundwork had commenced on approximately three hectares across three sites.

Our project team has been actively collaborating with the SPLUS154 project, contributing to management plans for the Important Wirebird Areas (IWA). This collaboration involved attending workshops, site visits, and our Project co-leader's participation in the core delivery group of this project (refer to section 3). Our involvement in the DPLUS154 also aligns with and supports our territorial priorities.

In addition to Article 8 (h), our work has also contributed to Articles 12 and 13 of the CBD. In the first two quarters of the 2023-24 year, we exceeded our targeted tour attendance. Our tours remain popular with tourists and school groups, and we maintain a robust social media presence, highlighting our successes, challenges, and raising awareness of our unique sensitive environment. Furthermore, we have flagged Wirebirds to study their movement patterns, mating habitats, age etc, which will inform future works.

All these efforts also align with the South Atlantic Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (2010), particularly objectives A and E, as we continue to combat invasive species and strive to reverse their impact.

#### **5. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)**

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board <sup>1</sup> .	There are 5 women and 4 men on the Project Board, reduced to 3 men in September 2023. Refer to Project Board minutes in section 3.1, activity 1.2. This likely to change (not confirmed) to 6 women and 4 men
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 <sup>2</sup> .	All women on the project boards are in senior leadership roles.  Trust senior management team is comprised of 83% women, there are 3 people working on this project from the senior management team.  ENRP (SHG) is 50% women oriented  RSPB – The new Overseas territories lead is a woman (Sarah Havery) whom will keep regular contact with the Trust (Director) and has regular contact with Head of Conservation on progress of project and development of new project. Representative on Project Board is male and is appointed by the territory lead.

<b>GESI Scale</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Put X where you think your project is on the scale</b>
<b>Not yet sensitive</b>	The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn't quite meeting the requirements of a 'sensitive' approach	
<b>Sensitive</b>	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.	
<b>Empowering</b>	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
<b>Transformative</b>	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	

GESI is an unfamiliar scale to this project or organisation and was not considered during the application stage for this project, further clarification on this scale is required. However at this stage there is good gender equality and diversity within our Project board with 6 locals and 3 non-local (1 RSPB staff member, 1 seconded RSPB staff member and 1 expatriate employed on the DPLUS154), indicating that the skills and knowledge is available on island to fill such roles. The project team consists of 4 male staff members working 100% on the project and 3

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.



female staff members working various percentages. These 3 females also make up the Senior



TeamStructure\_2024.J  
PG"

management team within the Trust.

Looking at gender equality females are doing very well in a sense actually outcompeting the male percentage as administrative roles are not readily taken up by the male population. The x3 field staff are being encouraged to expand their skills through undertaking of on-the-job and formal training opportunities provided to them.

We have ensured meaningful participation for all project stakeholders taking a more proactive approach by visiting the syndicate members on their syndicate sites on their regular monthly meeting days as well as including all of them in the livelihood's surveys. It has been noted that majority of the syndicate members are male, which is beyond the control of the Trust or this project. Previous projects for outreach arranged meeting that were poorly attended by the general public or farming community, in this project we have changed our approach to attending the Chamber of Commerce meetings - which covers the role of the former farmers association – this has yielded a better turn out including the chairperson also sits on this projects board.

In addition, Pop-up stall have been held in various districts, - again using the proactive approach – to raise awareness of this project and volunteering with the project to undertake annual census counts have been accommodated for all genders, ages and nationalities where possible. In terms of disabilities participation in some activities are limited for example: on tours we chose scope and chose sites that are easily accessible. Including supporting alternative learning and special education needs groups

The activity tracker that tracks the demographics and numbers of people engaged can be found in section 3.1 under activity 4.10. Pictures of school groups, and tours can be found in section 3.1, under activity 4.10. Pictures of the team engaged with farming syndicates on sites can be found in section 3.1 under activity 1.4

## 6. Monitoring and evaluation

The coordination of project monitoring and evaluation of the project will be led by St Helena National Trust with direction mainly being given by the Project Board and has comprised of internal evaluations for this year as follows:

- Establishing responsibility for indicators: A project start up TOR's were established for the Project Board setting out the roles and responsibilities. All board member were sent the project documents (application, logframe, finances etc) in order to deliver their roles effectively. RSPB has an agreement which outlines their role and responsibility to this project.



DPLUS190\_Terms-of-  
Reference\_V3.01.pdf"



Partnership  
Agreement\_RSPB\_final

A project monitoring plan has not been formally developed but will be rectified in this second year.

- Regular project management meetings, quarterly project skypes/conference calls: Project team meetings are held weekly (unless agreed to be delayed due to workload etc.) this also include the Project co-leader and the Education and outreach manager where updates are provided on progress, tasks to be carried out and raise issues etc. On a monthly basis the Project board meets, this is more difficult to organise due to the

varying and busy schedules of board members.  
In both meetings the logframe is looked at for progress, delays etc.

- Annual meetings: In the second year (and again in third year) a workshop will be planned to review the current logframe and implementation timetable with project board and team as well as any other identified stakeholders. This will review how the project is progressing and whether changes need to be made etc.

## 7. Lessons learnt

During the first year, the way we engage with stakeholders has worked well. Having a team of local people whom understand how to talk to, meet with, and gain the trust and understanding of the local farming community has been invaluable.

One challenge has been getting livelihood questionnaires returned fully completed and in a timely manner. Some questionnaires were completed in person, especially for accessibility reasons. However, some were filled in by individuals at home. Some of these were quite difficult to track down again afterwards, and when received weren't of the highest quality, using further time resources to be rectified by staff. Another challenge was that due to the low-connectivity on St. Helena, some farmers were difficult to track down and basically relied on chance encounters. This clearly needs addressing in future, and will require more structured meetings in order to carry out surveys.

Another challenge has been having different members of the team needing to mobilise to different areas while only using one vehicle. More strategic planning is required next year to ensure that things can be as efficient as possible.

General data handling has been challenging. This has identified the need for staff training, which will be undertaken in the start of year 2.

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

No reviews have been given as this is the first year of the project. Feedback was given when project was funded as listed below, here are some responses to these below:

- The logframe outcome states that 8ha of grassland will be under improvement management practises by the end of the project. What proportion of the total grassland is this?  
**Response:** 8ha of grassland is 0.73% of the total grassland available on island (1086.743ha) and 1.7% of the grassland which form a part of the NCA's
- The logframe needs further strengthening:

Many of the indicators need to be better specified: e.g. 0.2 'increased quality of pasture grass' (what is the baseline, how will this be measured and how large an increase in quality?), 0.3 'livelihoods measurably enhanced' (by how much); 0.4 'significant increase in pasture under management' (=8ha mentioned at 0.1?)

Response: 0.2 - the baseline is gathered from the first vegetation survey carried out before trials are implemented. The design of this survey involves 25-31 x1m quadrats placed at regular intervals across each plot, and then listing what is measured from each quadrat. Also, each trial plot as an adjacent control plot. The metrics calculated from the baseline survey data. For example, the vegetation survey data provides measures for each trial plot of species richness, mean vegetation height, % cover of: all vegetation; invasive species; species good for Wirebirds; and species good for grazing.

Quality will be determined by the amount of coverage of the plot taken over by useful pasture grasses we are looking for 25% increase in useful pasture grasses from the baselined amount.

0.4 – 8 hectares represent a small fraction of the total pasture area available on St Helena, however, in the long-term the hope is that these trial plots will act as examples to encourage the farming community to adopt some of the management techniques being trialled as it will demonstrate how they can improve land for grazing and biodiversity. This is unlikely to occur prior to the end of the project and is therefore a longer-term change.

- The benefits to people island economy could be more clearly stated and these benefits captured in the logframe.

Response – this response has not been incorporated into the logframe. In the short term the benefits to the community are the decrease in invasive vegetation and an increase in suitable, available pastureland for grazing livestock, leading to healthier livestock and realising the potential for increased stocking capacity. In the longer term it is hoped that these efforts could contribute to reducing imports and instead becoming more self-sustaining island, supporting its local population and contributing to the local economy.

## 9. Risk Management

New risks have arisen in the last 12 months that were not accounted for such as HPAI and the threat of being spread to staff dealing with birds, and associated project management risks of underspend due to procurement and delays with finalising the intensive management plan for the trials.

All of this was updated in the projects risk management framework (template as provided by Darwin Plus)

No significant adaptations to the project design made in yr. 1, just awareness on the above risks raised with the project board, team and the Trusts senior management team which include the Finance manager.



2022\_Biodiversity\_Challenge\_Funds\_Risk\_Fra

## 10. Sustainability and legacy

This project has had good promotion from both advertising avenues utilising local newspaper and social media and social interactions by the project team with targeted stakeholders (i.e. on-site meetings) and general population (i.e. pop-up stalls and tours). Feedback and questions has been directed at the project team and wider Trust staff. It has also resulting in increased participation which especially from the framing syndicates and community which we are looking to see more of in Yr. 2.

Interest is being shown from other organisations especially other syndicates – as there are more than the 2 syndicates that we are working with but they do not occupy the areas in which we are working – the wider farming community, and other SHG departments (i.e. Forestry) who also face problem with the same targeted invasive vegetation on this project.

Both the project short-term and long-term benefits are still expected to be realised. Long-term benefits will be successful if we can show ‘cheapness’ and ‘effectiveness’ of the method employed. However in regards to short-term benefits these are occurring now with increased public and stakeholder engagement in and awareness of habitat management to benefit agricultural practises and native wildlife, The started trial have already shown good potential for the St Helena Plover as monitoring observed that they immediately moved into the areas to feed on the invertebrates exposed by the upturned soil and enjoyed the short cut vegetation as per their preferences.

At this time there are no planned changes to the intended sustainable benefits post-project.

## 11. Darwin Plus identity

The project has used the logo on all its official project documentation, on project polo shirts which are worn for events especially outreach activities and official Trust events. In all publicity materials from newspaper articles, mentioned in radio interviews and BCF is tagged in post on all social media platforms (X - formerly Twitter – Facebook, and Instagram). Social media has received many responses and reactions from the wider public and world, connecting the Trust publicly to RSPB and BCF, including being shared wider by tagging in these other organisations.

The funding was recognised as part of a programme due to the past and other ongoing works relating to the St Helena Plover (Wirebird), even though it is a distinct project that has shifted away from predator control to more habitat management.

There is good understanding of the Darwin initiative within St Helena, as it has been and continues to be a popular fund to apply to for the UKOT's especially with many limitations from other funders where we are eligible. Darwin is recognised as being a scheme from the UK government.

## 12. Safeguarding

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	No – in process of being updated
Have any concerns been reported in the past 12 months	No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes Director (also Project Leader) [REDACTED]  (Focal point will change under updated policy once approved.)
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	No – awaiting training provision from SHG Adult and Children services
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	Past: 0% [0] Planned: 100% [7]
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.	The project plans to have all staff – including wider Trust – undertake formal training in safeguarding

Please describe any community sensitisation that has taken place over the past 12 months; include topics covered and number of participants.

- Pop-up stalls – The team promoted the project in various location across the island to raise awareness and to get views and opinions on the project activities.
- Radio interviews – Again to raise awareness of the project and the planned intensive management trials that are going to be implemented as well as promoting this year’s annual Wirebird census count.

Please refer to activity tracker for dates, frequency and number of participants.

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.

Health and safety issues were recorded in the Risk register. No security concerns raised over the past year.

### 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				Trust policy state that staff are entitled to 6 days sick leave per year, 2 staff members exceeded this threshold. In May 2023 x2 staff had time split therefore not full salary spent that month.
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				Supposed to be full amount of ██████ spent, incorrect calculation
Travel and subsistence				These figures also include the RSPB partner costs, so exceeds the amount dedicated to the lead organisation. HTDT was lower than originally expected due to late employment of the Project manager and in first 2 months of the project both the Senior Project Officer and the Field and livelihoods officer HTDT was split between this project and another. Additionally, in Sep and Oct the Education and outreach manager went on an exposure trip therefor HTDT costs were not paid to her during this period.
Operating Costs				No conference, workshops or seminars were held/attended during this first year. Additional funds were added in CR to help cover freight costs however overestimated on this.
Capital items				Hand-held radios were not brought as was being advised by telecommunications company and rescue service on best options and ability to hook into existing radio network for wider coverage
Others (Please specify)				Unable to sort the staff training with BTO before end

				of financial year. RSPB visit occurred in Nov-Dec 2023 and availability limited due to other work commitments to remote islands.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>149,165</b>	<b>£141,586.82</b>		

**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 (£)			SHG ENRP - In-kind support and transport costs  RSPB
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)			SHG ENRP – piloting the intensive management ideas.

**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).

<b>File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)</b>	<b>File Name or File Location</b>	<b>Caption including description, country and credit</b>	<b>Social media accounts and websites to be tagged (leave blank if none)</b>	<b>Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)</b>
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No



## 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><b>Impact</b></p> <p>Insert agreed project Impact statement</p>	<p>(Report on any contribution towards positive impact on biodiversity or positive changes in the conditions of human communities associated with biodiversity e.g. steps towards sustainable use or equitable sharing of costs or benefits)</p>	
<p><b><i>Outcome: Effective pasture management implemented to improve St Helena's grassland habitats by sustainably enhancing local livelihoods through increased livestock capacity and quality, which also benefits grassland biodiversity.</i></b></p>		
<p>Outcome indicator 0.1 8 ha of grassland under improvement management practices by the end of the project</p>	<p>We have so far started management on 3 hectares of our 6 hectares of trial plots, with 2 fully completed. The other trial plots are waiting on the materials to arrive in April, and suitable conditions to conduct spraying. We have 6 hectares in our high priority sites, and the further 2 hectares will be made up from medium priority sites in year 2. The evidence for this indicator can be found in section 3.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree medium priority site management techniques with stakeholders</li> <li>• Create Medium priority sites management plans</li> <li>• Carry out medium priority site work.</li> <li>• Continue high priority site works.</li> </ul>
<p>0.2 Three priority trial sites have increased quantity of pasture grasses by at least 20% (through invasive plant removal) by the end of the project</p>	<p>We have moved forward with the work in our trial priority sites. The methodologies of control have been created in collaboration with RSPB and the other project partners and approved by the project Board. The vegetation surveys for the first year have been completed, and a report made. From these surveys we will be able to quantify the amount of increase in useful pasture grasses in our priority trial sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue with the work on the priority control sites.</li> <li>• Annual vegetation surveys</li> <li>• Reseeding if necessary, in year 3</li> </ul>

<p>0.3 The livelihoods of 21 syndicate members are measurably enhanced (monitored via project start/end repeated assessments) over the course of the project.</p>	<p>Our livelihood survey was approved by the project board in October 2023. We have completed 19 out of 21 livelihood surveys. Find</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete surveys.</li> <li>• Analyse and report on data</li> </ul>
<p>0.4 Annual biodiversity surveys reveal no loss of native species richness in existing grassland habitat over the course of the project and a significant increase in areas under enhanced management</p>	<p>We have completed our initial rounds of Biodiversity surveys including vegetation, Wirebird, and invertebrate surveys. Reports made for vegetation and Wirebird surveys. Analysis of invertebrate surveys is ongoing by SHNT invertebrate team.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Invertebrate Survey report</li> <li>• Complete annual Vegetation Surveys</li> <li>• Complete Nest Monitoring</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<p>0.5 Pasture management and development mitigation measures built into protected area management plans by the end of the project.</p>	<p>This output is to be addressed into years 2 and 3 of the project, but we have had input into the national conservation area management plans through meetings with the DPLUS154 do discuss the Important Wirebird Areas, and fed into drafts of the NCA management plan, particularly in regards to the Important Wirebird Areas. We have also been working to survey and monitor a site that is due for development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review protected area management plans with SHG and DPLUS154</li> </ul>
<p>0.6 St Helena Government leases and draft agriculture policies (Agricultural strategy and Estates Management policy) in National Conservation Areas updated to include provisions for improved land management by end of project</p>	<p>This output is to be addressed in years 2 and 3. As mentioned in indicator 0.5, we are attending meetings for the NCA Darwin plus project, attending site visits, and providing expert advice to the creation of the Important Wirebird Habitats.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet with project partners, particularly ANRP and DPLUS154.</li> </ul>

<b>Output 1. Effective pasture management is implemented across priority grassland areas</b>		
<b>Output indicator 1.1 Pasture management techniques (including livestock stocking; rotavating/rolling and invasive species management) identified with a trial pasture management plan produced by end Yr. 1.</b>	We have successfully identified trial pasture management techniques and finalized them with the project board. The approved management technique proposal can be found under Activity 1 in section 3.1. At the end of the proposal is a trial management plan.	
<b>Output indicator 1.2, Higher impact management techniques initiated by end Yr.1 across 3 high priority trial sites (Man and Horse, Deadwood Plain and Bottom Woods).</b>	Since there was a delay in agreeing the management plan as stated in above indicator 1.1. the mowing was not initiated until late February 2024, the ploughing not initiated until late march 2024, and the rotational grazing not to be initiated until Yr. 2. The rotational grazing is dependent on procuring an electric fence, which could not be done until after the management plan was approved by the board. This was ordered in February 2024 through a freight forwarder in South Africa. This item is not anticipated to arrive until May 2024, so the initiation of the rotational grazing will be delayed by a few months. Project Board minutes, and pictures of the intensive management can be found in section 3.1 under activities 1.4 and 1.2.	Continue to undertake high impact management techniques including herbicide application, and high intensity grazing
<b>1.3 A trial pasture management plan and map for all priority trial sites is produced by end Year 1.</b>	We have been in discussions with landowners on these medium priority sites, and have received their support. We have procured a brush cutter in anticipation to begin this action.	Meetings with Landowners Management Plan and Workplan Drafted Work undertaken according to workplan.

<p><b>1.4 Planting and encouragement of useful pasture grasses and species (Kikuyu grass Pennisetum clandestinum, mat grass Stenotaphrum secundatum and legume Desmodium intanum) (depending on the level of natural regeneration) in all trial sites by end of project.</b></p>	<p>This is likely to be achieved in the stated timescales, depending on the levels of natural regeneration, it is possible that it might not be necessary at all.</p>	<p>Monitoring of natural regeneration Procurement of grass seed depending on levels of regeneration</p>
<p><b>Output 2. Livelihoods of agriculturalist communities (through existing farming syndicates) are enhanced through climate resilient initiatives</b></p>		
<p><b>2.1 A baseline assessment completed in Yr. 1 to better understand the drivers of recent land use change and the needs of the farming syndicates and landowners to inform initiatives and diversification schemes.</b></p>	<p>We have conducted 16 surveys so far, and 5 surveys are outstanding (to be turned in by farmers). You can find this data under heading 3.1. <b>Report is still pending</b></p>	<p>Analysing data Submitting report</p>
<p><b>2.2 Best practices produced for pasture management techniques and built into protected area management plans and lease agreements by the end of the project.</b></p>	<p>We have been working closely with DPLUS154, as that project sits on the steering group of this project, and vice versa. We have attended site visit with them to discuss challenges affecting the NCAs that are important Wirebird areas. The project team also reviewed the draft NCA document, and input into the areas pertaining to important Wirebird habitats. The project team attended an NCA workshop in March 2024.</p>	<p>Best practices drafted based on results of trial management  Meetings with NCA time to implement them into management plans.</p>
<p><b>2.3 A finalised pasture management plan produced (based on 1.1) and implemented for at least 2 of the 3 priority sites in Year 3</b></p>	<p>Marked for year 3.</p>	<p>Monitor effects of management on priority areas. Review Trial Management Plan</p>

<p><b>2.4 Two additional livelihood initiatives are identified (with a focus on climate resilience) with one developed and trialled by the end of the project, in line with 2.1 (Baseline data to be established).</b></p>		<p>Desk Research of livelihood initiatives Meeting with ANRP to identify climate resilient initiatives.</p>
<p><b>2.5 A repeated assessment with farming syndicates and landowners completed at end of project to monitor impact against year 1 baseline (2.1).</b></p>	<p>Marked for project end.</p>	<p>Continue to have positive relationships with farmers Regular syndicate meetings.</p>
<p><b>Output 3. The conservation impacts of the pasture management are monitored and evaluated</b></p>		
<p><b>3.1 Annual vegetation surveys of trial management areas.</b></p>	<p>All high priority management areas have had vegetation surveyed in accordance with the protocols developed by the project and RSPB. The data for this can be found in section 3.1, under activity 3.2</p>	<p><b>Schedule vegetation surveys in line with year one surveys</b> <b>Carry out vegetation surveys</b></p>
<p><b>3.2 Establish bi-annual data collection of rabbit culling effort led by farming syndicate at Deadwood from Yr. 1.</b></p>	<p>The project has identified three regular shooters on Deadwood Plain, and given out simple data collection sheets to them, which are pending return. The data collection sheets can be found in Section 3.1, under activity 3.3.</p>	<p><b>Continue to hand out and collect rabbit shooting sheets bi-annually</b></p>
<p><b>3.3 Invertebrate monitoring undertaken pre and post pasture management (start and end of project), inside and outside of trial sites.</b></p>	<p>Invertebrate surveys have been completed for all 3 high priority sites by the Saint Helena National Trust. The data is collected and compiled, report to be completed.</p>	<p><b>Receive report and share with project board</b></p>

<p><b>3.4 Annual St Helena Plover census counts undertaken showing a 10% increase in presence across all priority sites by end of project.</b></p>	<p>We have completed our first annual St. Helena Plover Census as part of this project, the report for which can be found in section 3.1 under activity 3.5.</p>	<p>Annual censuses every January.</p>
<p><b>3.5 St Helena Plover nests showing a 5% increase in survival rate across all priority sites by end of project.</b></p>	<p>This will be completed by end of project, assuming the trial pasture management has a positive effect.</p>	<p>Wirebird nest monitoring in trial plots ongoing</p>
<p><b>3.6 Improved understanding of St Helena Plover movement in relation to protected areas through ringing at least 30 birds and annual monitoring.</b></p>	<p>During November, the team rang 54 birds as part of their training with the RSPB. These birds will be monitored through our usual nest monitoring activity, with the aid of new binoculars being sent by the RSPB. Monitoring data can be found under section 3.1</p>	<p>Ongoing nest monitoring Mapping of re-sightings</p>
<p><b>Output 4. Enhanced in-territory capacity to implement and monitor effective management of St Helena's grassland protected areas</b></p>		
<p><b>4.1 Review and update of St Helena Government leases on crown pasturelands to integrate improved land management practices within National Conservation Areas by the end of the project</b></p>	<p>In October 2023 meetings took place between the project team and SHG agriculture department to establish baselines of lease agreements, and potentially find where pasture management practices could be integrated.</p>	<p>Meetings with ANRP</p>
<p><b>4.2 Review and draft updated St Helena agricultural policies to integrate improved land management practices by end of project (Agricultural strategy and Estates Management policy)</b></p>	<p>No progress yet, due to be completed by end of project</p>	<p>Meeting with ANRP Review of Agricultural Policies</p>

<p><b>4.3 Update of Wirebird Species Action Plan produced in YR2</b></p>	<p>This is likely to be achieved on time.</p>	<p><b>Wirebird Species Action Plan Review by Team</b></p> <p><b>Wirebird Species Action Plan Workshop</b></p> <p><b>Draft Updated action plan</b></p>
<p><b>4.4 Grassland management and development mitigation measures included within the outputs of the sustainable management planning for St Helena’s National Conservation Areas project (DPLUS154)</b></p>	<p>The project has been frequently conferring with DPLUS 154 and feeding input into their NCA documents. Grassland management, pending results of the trials in this project, will be fed into those documents as well.</p>	<p><b>Engage in DPLUS154 workshops and project board meetings.</b></p>
<p><b>4.5 A total of 20 persons from SHG, Trust and general public (farmers etc.) well informed and trained in pasture management techniques through cross-partner training by the end of the project</b></p>	<p>We have trained 4 Trust staff in herbicide application already. This will lead to an increase in efficacy and great cost effectiveness of such management efforts. Training was carried out by Project manager, who received advanced training during DPLUS059. A picture of this can be seen in section 3.1, Activity 4.6</p>	<p><b>Identify training needs of ANRP and Stakeholders</b></p> <p><b>Identify training providers</b></p>
<p><b>4.6 Ongoing communication of project outputs with wider community through promotional and educational materials throughout the project duration</b></p>	<p>So far there have been 14 Social Media posts by the project as well as 3 Newspaper articles, 4 Radio interview, and 3 “community pop-ups”. Evidence for this can be found in section 3.1 under activity 4.7</p>	<p><b>Continue to provide regular newspaper, social media, and radio content.</b></p> <p><b>Radio show in April</b></p> <p><b>Year Two newspaper article.</b></p> <p><b>Bi-monthly social media posts.</b></p>
<p><b>4.7 Conduct Wirebird tours with an overall attendance of 30 persons by end of the project.</b></p>	<p>We have already surpassed this number by a large margin (79 total attendees) including the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Edward.</p> <p><b>Evidence can be found in</b></p>	<p><b>Continue to provide Wirebird tours as and when necessary</b></p>


**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
<b>Impact:</b> The unique biodiversity of St Helena’s grasslands can thrive through effective and sustained pasture management achieved via enhanced local livelihoods, providing a win-win for the island’s people and wildlife.			
<b>Outcome:</b> Effective pasture management implemented to improve St Helena’s grassland habitats by sustainably enhancing local livelihoods through increased livestock capacity and quality, which also benefits grassland biodiversity.	<p>0.1 8 ha of grassland under improvement management practices by the end of the project</p> <p>0.2 Three priority trial sites have increased quantity of pasture grasses by at least 20% (through invasive plant removal) by the end of the project</p> <p>0.3 The livelihoods of 21 syndicate members are measurably enhanced (monitored via project start/end repeated assessments) over the course of the project.</p> <p>0.4 Annual biodiversity surveys reveal no loss of native species richness in existing grassland habitat over the course of the project and a significant</p>	<p>0.1 Maps, GIS data, reports</p> <p>0.2 Methodologies of controls produced, monitoring data and analysis of results, reports, public presentations and feedback</p> <p>0.3 Baseline and end of project assessments, public presentations, workshops and feedback, livestock data</p> <p>0.4 Biodiversity surveys data and reports (invertebrates, vegetation and rabbits) including annual Wirebird</p>	<p>Effectiveness of pasture management techniques are detected and measurable. Methods will be built upon previously explored techniques with additional expert advice provided.</p> <p>Continued positive engagement with farming syndicates and St Helena Government. We believe this will hold true based on discussions during project development, as demonstrated in the provided letters of support from both the farming community and St Helena Government. Government department ANRD is a project partner and has a long-term close working relationship with the St Helena National Trust.</p>



Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>increase in areas under enhanced management 0.5 Pasture management and development mitigation measures built into protected area management plans by the end of the project</p> <p>0.6 St Helena Government leases and draft agriculture policies (Agricultural strategy and Estates Management policy) in National Conservation Areas updated to include provisions for improved land management by end of project</p>	<p>census counts and regular nest monitoring 0.5 Policies, legislation and species action plans reviewed and updated including practices identified adopted by National Conservation Areas project outputs (DPLUS154)</p> <p>0.6 Lease documents, draft policy amendments</p>	
<p><b>Output 1</b> 1. Effective pasture management is implemented across priority grassland areas</p>	<p>1.1 Pasture management techniques (including livestock stocking; rotavating/rolling and invasive species management) identified with a trial pasture management plan produced by end Yr. 1.</p> <p>1.2 Higher impact management techniques initiated by end Yr.1 across 3 high priority trial sites (Man and Horse, Deadwood Plain and Bottom Woods).</p>	<p>1.1 Methodologies documented and action plans produced, map of priority sites.</p> <p>1.2 Photo evidence, documentation, survey data, maps produced, signed contracts</p>	<p>The Wirebird mitigation project 2008-2011 worked toward enhancing agriculture and natural resources department's (ANRD) licencing system and collaborate with grazing syndicates and farmers to manage Wirebird sites to offset the impact of the development of the islands airport. A steering group was formed and Identified sites underwent clearance of invasive woody plants with good response in</p>

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>1.3 Lower impact management techniques initiated by end of Yr. 2 across 3 medium priority trial sites (Middle Point, Woody Ridge and Thompson's wood).</p> <p>1.4 Planting and encouragement of useful pasture grasses and species (<i>Kikuyu grass Pennisetum clandestinum</i>, mat grass <i>Stenotaphrum secundatum</i> and legume <i>Desmodium incanum</i>) (depending on the level of natural regeneration) in all trial sites by end of project.</p>	<p>1.3 Photo evidence, documentation, survey data, maps produced</p> <p>1.4 Vegetation survey data, seeding/planting records, photo evidence</p>	<p>the Wirebird population. Over the last decade droughts and increased costs have hindered agricultural sectors and aided new invasive species to take hold. St Helena agriculturalist communities (farming syndicates) continue to engage with project through active face-to-face communication with meetings on site, providing their views and receiving updates on planned project works. We believe this will hold true based on project development discussions, as evidenced by syndicate support letter</p>
<p><b>Output 2</b> 2. Livelihoods of agriculturist communities (through existing farming syndicates) are enhanced through climate resilient initiatives</p>	<p>2.1 A baseline assessment completed in Yr. 1 to better understand the drivers of recent land use change and the needs of the farming syndicates and landowners to inform initiatives and diversification schemes.</p> <p>2.2 Best practices produced for pasture management techniques and built into protected area management</p>	<p>2.1 Assessment report and recommendations, workshop and stakeholder feedback.</p> <p>2.2 Best practices documents produced, DPLUS154 management plans, draft leases, draft relevant policies/legislation.</p>	<p>Drought events do not impact livestock stocking.</p>

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>plans and lease agreements by the end of the project.</p> <p>2.3 A finalised pasture management plan produced (based on 1.1) and implemented for at least 2 of the 3 priority sites in Year 3</p> <p>2.4 Two additional livelihood initiatives are identified (with a focus on climate resilience) with one developed and trialed by the end of the project, in line with 2.1 (Baseline data to be established).</p> <p>2.5 A repeated assessment with farming syndicates and landowners completed at end of project to monitor impact against year 1 baseline (2.1).</p> <p>2.6 A livelihood enhancement plan (linking provision of livelihood benefits to support for improved pasture management) is developed in consultation with farming syndicates, landowners and St Helena Government by end of project.</p>	<p>2.3 Pasture management plan, public presentation, attendance and feedback</p> <p>2.4 Documentation of initiatives, survey data, feedback</p> <p>2.5 Database, completed assessment questionnaires, report</p> <p>2.6 Plan document, meeting notes</p>	

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p><b>Output 3.3.</b> The conservation impacts of the pasture management are monitored and evaluated</p>	<p>3.1 Annual vegetation surveys of trial management areas.</p> <p>3.2 Establish bi-annual data collection of rabbit culling effort led by farming syndicate at Deadwood from Yr. 1.</p> <p>3.3 Invertebrate monitoring undertaken pre and post pasture management (start and end of project), inside and outside of trial sites.</p> <p>3.4 Annual St Helena Plover census counts undertaken showing a 10% increase in presence across all priority sites by end of project.</p> <p>3.5 St Helena Plover nests showing a 5% increase in survival rate across all priority sites by end of project.</p> <p>3.6 Improved understanding of St Helena Plover movement in relation to protected areas through ringing at least 30 birds and annual monitoring.</p>	<p>3.1. Survey reports and data (shorter yearly report and a detailed final report in Yr. 3)</p> <p>3.2 Survey data and report produced</p> <p>3.3 Invertebrate monitoring data and report produced (shorter report in Yr. 1 and final report in Yr. 3)</p> <p>3.4 Annual census counts</p> <p>3.5 nest records (includes success rate) and maps produced.</p> <p>3.6 Ringing training report, ringing database and monitoring data and report.</p>	<p>RSPB sabbatical undertaken in August 2022 has been successful at providing baseline habitat and livelihood information in relation to the St Helena Plover including a starting point for review of the Wirebird species action plan.</p>

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p><b>4. Enhanced in-Territory capacity to implement and monitor effective management of St Helena’s grassland protected areas</b></p>	<p>4.1 Review and update of St Helena Government leases on crown pasturelands to integrate improved land management practices within National Conservation Areas by the end of the project</p> <p>4.2 Review and draft updated St Helena agricultural policies to integrate improved land management practices by end of project (Agricultural strategy and Estates Management policy)</p> <p>4.3 Update of Wirebird Species Action Plan produced in YR2</p> <p>4.4 Grassland management and development mitigation measures included within the outputs of the sustainable management planning for St Helena’s National Conservation Areas project (DPLUS154)</p> <p>4.5 A total of 20 persons from SHG, Trust and general public (farmers etc.) well informed and trained in pasture management techniques</p>	<p>4.1 Updated leases, workshops and public presentations and feedback</p> <p>4.2 Draft policy documents</p> <p>4.3 Workshops, public consultation and Species action plan produced</p> <p>4.4 National Conservation Areas management plans</p> <p>4.5 Workshop, public presentation and feedback surveys</p> <p>4.6 Social media analytics, newspaper articles (number of</p>	

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>through cross-partner training by the end of the project</p> <p>4.6 Ongoing communication of project outputs with wider community through promotional and educational materials throughout the project duration</p> <p>4.7 Conduct Wirebird tours with an overall attendance of 30 persons by end of the project.</p>	<p>papers sold), radio interviews and public film screening at end of project</p> <p>4.7 Tour records (attendance), feedback and photo evidence.</p>	
<p><b>Activities</b></p> <p><b>Output 1: Effective pasture management is implemented across priority grassland areas</b></p> <p>1.1 Recruit Senior Project Officer by Q1 Year 1.</p> <p>1.2 In consultation with project partners and stakeholders, pasture management techniques are identified and agreed by Q2 Year 1.</p> <p>1.3 A trial pasture management plan and map for all priority trial sites is produced by end Year 1.</p> <p>1.4 Intensive management techniques (both mechanical and through livestock) initiated by end Yr.1 across 3 high priority trial sites (Man and Horse, Deadwood Plain and Bottom Woods).</p> <p>1.5 Less intensive management techniques (both mechanical and through livestock) initiated by end of Yr. 2 across 3 medium priority trial sites (Middle Point Woody Ridge and Thompson’s wood).</p> <p>1.6 Supplementary seed trial sites with useful pasture grass species if required (depending on the level of natural regeneration) by end Q2 Year 3.</p> <p><b>Output 2: Livelihoods of agriculturist communities (through existing farming syndicates) are enhanced through climate resilience initiatives</b></p> <p>2.1 Recruit Field and Livelihoods Officer by Q1 Year 1.</p> <p>2.2 Produce a repeatable questionnaire to better understand the drivers of recent land use change and the needs of the farming syndicates and landowners to inform initiatives and diversification schemes by Q3 Year 1.</p> <p>2.3 Collect baseline assessment from questionnaire surveys with farming syndicates and landowners by end of Year 1.</p> <p>2.4 Repeat questionnaire assessment at end of project to monitor impact against Year 1 baseline.</p>			

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>2.5 Produce a finalised Pasture Management plan (based on 1.1) in Year 3</p> <p>2.6 Based on 2.3, complete a scoping assessment for two climate resilient livelihood initiatives in year 2.</p> <p>2.7 Implement a trial of one additional livelihood initiative in Year 3.</p> <p>2.8 Produce a best practice protocol for pasture management in National Conservation Areas by end Year 2.</p> <p>2.9 Integrate best practice pasture management and development mitigation into any drafted National Conservation Areas management plans under DPLUS154 for grassland areas by end of project.</p> <p>2.10 Integrate best practice pasture management into lease agreements by the end of the project.</p> <p>2.11 Produce a livelihood enhancement plan (linking provision of livelihood benefits to support for improved pasture management) in consultation with farming syndicates, landowners and St Helena Government by end of project</p>			
<p><b>Output 3: The conservation and livelihood impacts of the pasture management are monitored and evaluated</b></p>			
<p>3.1 Recruit Field and Monitoring Officer by Q2 Year 1.</p> <p>3.2 Complete annual vegetation surveys of all trial management areas.</p> <p>3.3 Establish bi-annual data collection of rabbit culling effort led by farming syndicate at Deadwood from year 1.</p> <p>3.4 Complete Invertebrate monitoring undertaken pre and post pasture management (start and end of the project), inside and outside of trial sites.</p> <p>3.5 Complete annual St Helena Plover census counts and nest monitoring.</p> <p>3.6 Training delivered to project staff on ringing St Helena Plover and monitoring techniques by end Year 1</p> <p>3.7 Annual monitoring of St Helena Plover movement based on ring re-sightings.</p> <p>3.8 Complete annual data analysis to monitor population and survival trends.</p> <p>3.9 Produce a map of St Helena Plover re-sightings data by end of project.</p>			
<p><b>Output 4: Enhanced in-Territory capacity to implement and monitor effective management of St Helena’s grassland protected areas</b></p>			
<p>4.1 Recruit Project Manager by Q1 Year 1.</p> <p>4.2 Complete review and update of St Helena Government leases to farming syndicates to integrate improved land management practices within National Conservation Areas by the end of the project</p> <p>4.3 Review and draft updated St Helena agricultural policies (Agricultural strategy and Estates Management policy) to integrate improved land management practices by end of project</p> <p>4.4 Hold species action planning workshop in Year 2 to update Wirebird Species Action Plan</p> <p>4.5 Produce updated species action plan document by end of project.</p> <p>4.6 Provide cross-organisational training opportunities between project partners and wider stakeholders (farming syndicates and landowners) throughout the project.</p> <p>4.7 Produce regular public communication materials through the newspaper, radio and social media to promote the project to the wider community.</p>			

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>4.8 Take regular film footage of project activities throughout the project and produce an end of project film by Q3 Year 3.</p> <p>4.9 Host a community event with a project film screening in Q4 Year 3.</p> <p>4.10 Deliver regular Wirebird tours to community members and visitors, including information on the active pasture management and the win-win relationship for people and wildlife.</p>			



**Table 1 Project Standard Indicators**

DPLUS Indicator number	Name of indicator	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DPLUS-A01	Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	People	Stakeholders	4			4	40
DPLUSD1 1	Number of people benefitting from improved sustainable agriculture practices and are more resilient to weather shocks and climate trends.	People	Men/women	0			0	21
DPLUSD0 4	Stabilised/ improved species population (relative abundance/ distribution) within the project area.	% increase	Flora	0			0	20
DPLUSD1 2	Area of degraded or converted ecosystems that are under active restoration	Area Hectares	Biome/ecosystem/habitat	4			4	8

In addition to reporting any information on publications under relevant standard indicators, in Table 2, provide full details of all publications and material produced over the last year that can be publicly accessed, e.g. title, name of publisher, contact details, cost. You should include publications as supporting materials with your report. Mark with an asterisk (\*) all publications and other material that you have included with this report.

**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)

## 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 <b>correct template</b> (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and <b>deleted the blue guidance text</b> before submission?	X
<b>Is the report less than 10MB?</b> If so, please email to <a href="mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com">BCF-Reports@niras.com</a> putting the project number in the Subject line.	
<b>Is your report more than 10MB?</b> If so, please discuss with <a href="mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com">BCF-Reports@niras.com</a> about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	X
<b>Have you included means of verification?</b> 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)?	X
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.	