

# Darwin Plus Main & Strategic: 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 2025**

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## Darwin Plus Project Information

Scheme (Main or Strategic)	Main
Project reference	DPLUS191
Project title	Enabling invasive plant eradications and long-term management in Tristan
Territory(ies)	Tristan da Cunha group
Lead Organisation	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Project partner(s)	Conservation Department, Tristan Government (TCD) Key contractors: Indigena Biosecurity International (Indigena), I-Rigging Solutions (I-Rigging)
Darwin Plus grant value	£532,182
Start/end dates of project	April 2023 – March 2027
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2024-Mar 2025) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2)	April 2024 – March 2025, Annual Report 2
Project Leader name	Andy Schofield
Project website/blog/social media	N/A
Report author(s) and date	Chloe Harrison & David Kinchin-Smith (RSPB), Trevor Glass and Shannon Swain (Tristan Conservation Department), Bradley Myer (Indigena)

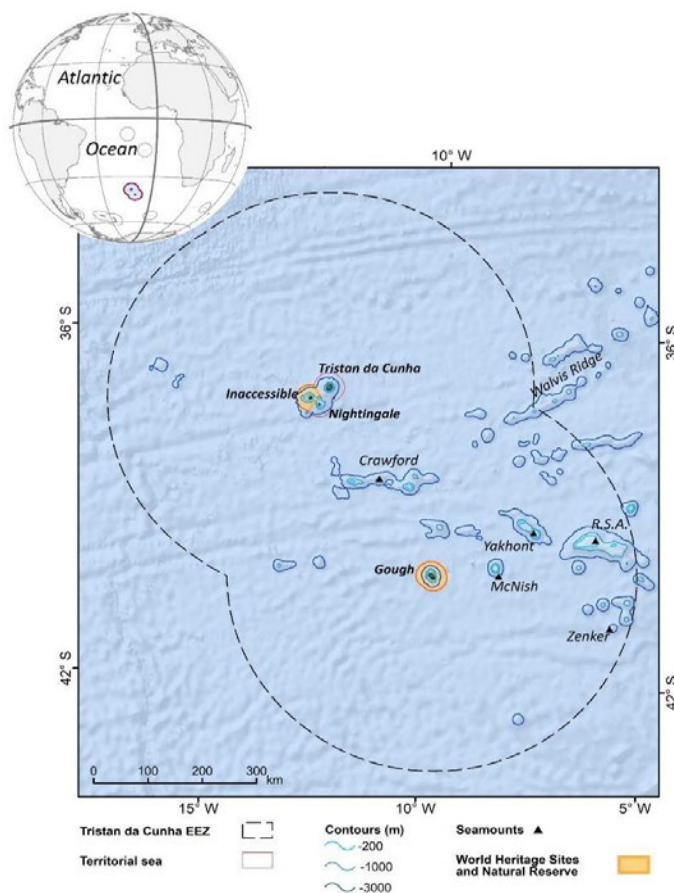
## 1. Project summary

The Tristan archipelago is one of the remotest in the world (Fig. 1), home to 95+ unique species which have evolved in isolation. With the transport of people and goods across the globe, many plant species have been introduced into novel areas, with devastating and far-reaching consequences for the native biodiversity. A 2007/8 expert botanical survey identified 137 alien plant species on Tristan itself. Many of these species threaten to transform the island's ecosystems, driving biodiversity loss and impacting on livelihoods; these depend heavily on subsistence agriculture, via cattle-grazing on the highly limited pastureland, and potato-growing. Of the 137 species identified, 17 were highlighted as of imminent concern, but competing urgent priorities and limited capacity meant little follow-up was undertaken.

New Zealand Flax (*Phormium tenax*) was previously introduced to the islands as an important windbreak and thatching species. However, its unchecked spread resulted in an impenetrable monoculture that has the potential to destroy the breeding sites of millions of seabirds in the Tristan Group. Eradication efforts began on Inaccessible Island in 2019, and this project will complete the final three years of eradication effort estimated to remove all emergent flax plants within the known invaded area on Inaccessible Island, delivering one of the primary conservation management objectives for this UK World Heritage Site.

The subsequent rapid spread of two invasive tree species Pōhutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*) and Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiata*) is now highly visible around both the settlement and on key pastureland, and they are starting to spread into natural sites. Pōhutukawa is currently estimated to be present over 100 ha (c.1% of the island's total area), and Monterey Pine 8 ha (<0.1%), with the Pōhutukawa now spreading very rapidly. The Tristan community have therefore formally asked the RSPB for urgent support in their management before the scale of the invasion renders eradication impossible and requires in-perpetuity control costs of these invasive species instead.

In close collaboration with international experts, this project aims to eradicate all mature NZ Flax plants on Inaccessible Island World Heritage Site, plus train and enable a Tristan-led eradication of all emergent, accessible Pōhutukawa trees and self-sown Monterey Pine on Tristan itself. A comprehensive survey of all Tristan's other invasive plants will provide Tristan Conservation Department with a prioritised long-term management & eradication strategy, safeguarding natural habitats and vital agricultural land.



**Figure 1.** The Tristan da Cunha archipelago is the world's most remote inhabited island group, located almost half-way between South America and South Africa. The project will work on two of the three main northern islands: Tristan da Cunha (Tristan) and Inaccessible.

## 2. Project stakeholders/partners

The partnership is between Tristan da Cunha Government's Conservation Department (TCD) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). Although not formal project partners, the specialised nature of the work required external expertise with invasive plant experts, Indigena Biosecurity International (Indigena) and rope access specialists, I-Rigging Solutions (I-Rigging) joining the project as key consultants (for ease, both will be referred to as 'partners' henceforth). This partnership was formed because of a request for urgent support from Tristan to manage several invasive plant species which have shown a dramatic spread in recent decades. There is growing community concern for the encroachment of species on already very limited pastureland, as well as their impact on endemic and threatened flora and fauna. All partners were involved in project planning, feeding in their relevant expertise for the design of each output. Although it is the primary responsibility of the RSPB to monitor and evaluate the project, all partners also regularly meet to discuss project progress, make decisions, and feed into planning.

Unfortunately, there was a relationship breakdown in 2023 (Year 1) between TCD and Indigena. As lead partner, RSPB worked separately with both TCD and Indigena to find a resolution, and both parties indicated that they were committed to the project and continuing to work together. Therefore, in this second project year, RSPB has focused on working closely with TCD and Indigena to rebuild the relationship, which has been successful. Monthly meetings between TCD, Indigena and RSPB proved highly productive, and Indigena have provided TCD with plant control, recording and mapping support throughout the year. Consequently, both partners are now in regular conversation and working productively together and are looking forward to a second Indigena visit to Tristan in the project's third year.

The decision to postpone this year's NZ Flax season on Inaccessible due to lack of berths to Tristan was not taken lightly, and heavily involved impacted partners TCD and I-Rigging. Over the 5-month period of considering solutions and then making the final decision, RSPB was in weekly contact with both partners as we worked together to assess all options, and the decision to postpone the flax season was mutually agreed as the only and best course of action.

While these challenges have altered project planning, navigating them as a team has developed relationships of regular, productive, and honest communication between all partners and has created a strong team dynamic which will serve the project well in the coming two years.

**NB** - To make the report text more concise, project partners have been abbreviated as follows:

- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds - RSPB
- Tristan da Cunha Conservation Department - TCD
- Indigena Biosecurity International - Indigena
- I-Rigging Solutions – I-Rigging

## 3. Project progress

### 3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Activities which have not commenced to date or were not scheduled for delivery in Year 2 as per the project timeline have not been reported on below. Due to the postponement of Year 2's New Zealand Flax season (Output 1), only completed activities related to expedition planning are reported.

#### Output 1

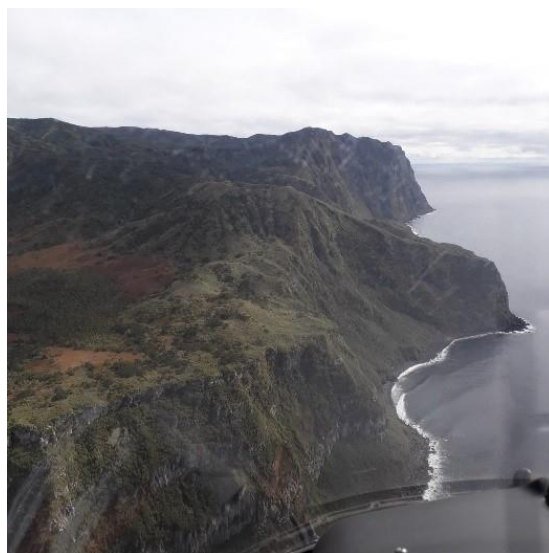
**1.3.1** Experienced rope access team hired to travel to Inaccessible Island in Q3 of Years 1, 3 and 4 to carry out NZ Flax eradication work

The experienced rope access team recruited in Year 1 was organised and ready to travel to Inaccessible. One member of the Year 1 team was not a good fit for the expedition team and caused strain. They were therefore replaced in June with a new team member, a highly

experienced climber assessed for their suitability for working in such a challenging environment to ensure good team dynamics. The team includes a Tristanian who has been on the last four flax expeditions to the island.

**1.3.3 Inaccessible Island equipment/food airdrop takes place during the annual SA Agulhas II Gough Island relief voyage, in each project year.**

After the unfortunate failed airdrop last year, the errors contributing to its failure were learned from and remedied. This year's airdrop was confirmed successful in September. Although this year's flax field season has since been postponed, the nature of the air/water-tight container and its expedition-style food means all equipment and food will safely last and be used in year 3's field season instead.



**Figure 2.** Picture of Inaccessible Island, taken by the helicopter crew after the successful airdrop this September.

## Output 2

**2.1.3 Invasive plant specialist provides software, spreadsheet templates and training documents to Tristan Conservation Department (TCD), so all plant eradication work is recorded.**

Indigena provided TCD with the 'Locus' mapping app to record and create maps of all their plant eradication work. Indigena have managed the set up and transition, setting TCD up on the app, providing training sessions and associated documents, and offering regular check-in support at the monthly team meetings. TCD was also provided with a new smartphone that can run the Locus app. Throughout this year's field season, TCD have been using the Locus app to record 'tracklogs' when performing plant removal work. When turned on, the Locus app uses GPS to record the location of the team when performing clearance work, allowing Indigena to then produce maps to show the areas and extent of invasive plant removal on Tristan (**Fig.3**). Due to the steep learning curve involved in learning this software, the map in Figure 3 does *not* show the full extent of all the control work performed but acts as an indicative visual and fully updated versions will be submitted in future reports.

**2.3.2 Tristanian project team carry out annual control of all accessible, emergent Pōhutukawa trees.**

Tristan Conservation Department have worked on Pōhutukawa clearance all throughout the austral summer, from October through to March (and will continue into April and May, and beyond, until winter weather truly sets in). The three young conservation apprentices were notably involved in all the control work. TCD managed to remove an estimated additional 55-

65% of trees, prioritising areas indicated by Indigena which would limit the spread (**Fig.3**). These areas will be checked in Year 3 to ascertain the effectiveness of control, but the lack of new seedlings recorded this year from Year 1's cleared areas suggests this will be highly effective.

Trevor Glass, Head of Tristan Conservation Department, writes:

"At the moment, the invasive tree project has been a great success; at least 65-70% of the trees have been eradicated. Most of the areas we have not cut yet require special access, so we will use the help of the rope access team to deal with them. 5 extra people have been trained to handle the chainsaw and pole saw, which has stepped up the progress on the project. I have also checked back on the work that we have done in the past two years. Of all the trees that we have sprayed with pesticide, nothing has grown back."

### ***2.3.3 TCD check Year 1 and Year 2's previously cleared areas in Year 2 and Year 3 and record and re-treat any new Pōhutukawa seedlings found.***

TCD have checked all areas previously cleared in Year 1's control efforts and are delighted to report that no new Pōhutukawa seedlings were found. If they were to re-grow, Indigena have confirmed they would be showing by now. This is a significant win, highlighting the effectiveness of the control methods and allowing the team to focus solely on taking out mature and established trees.

## **Output 3**

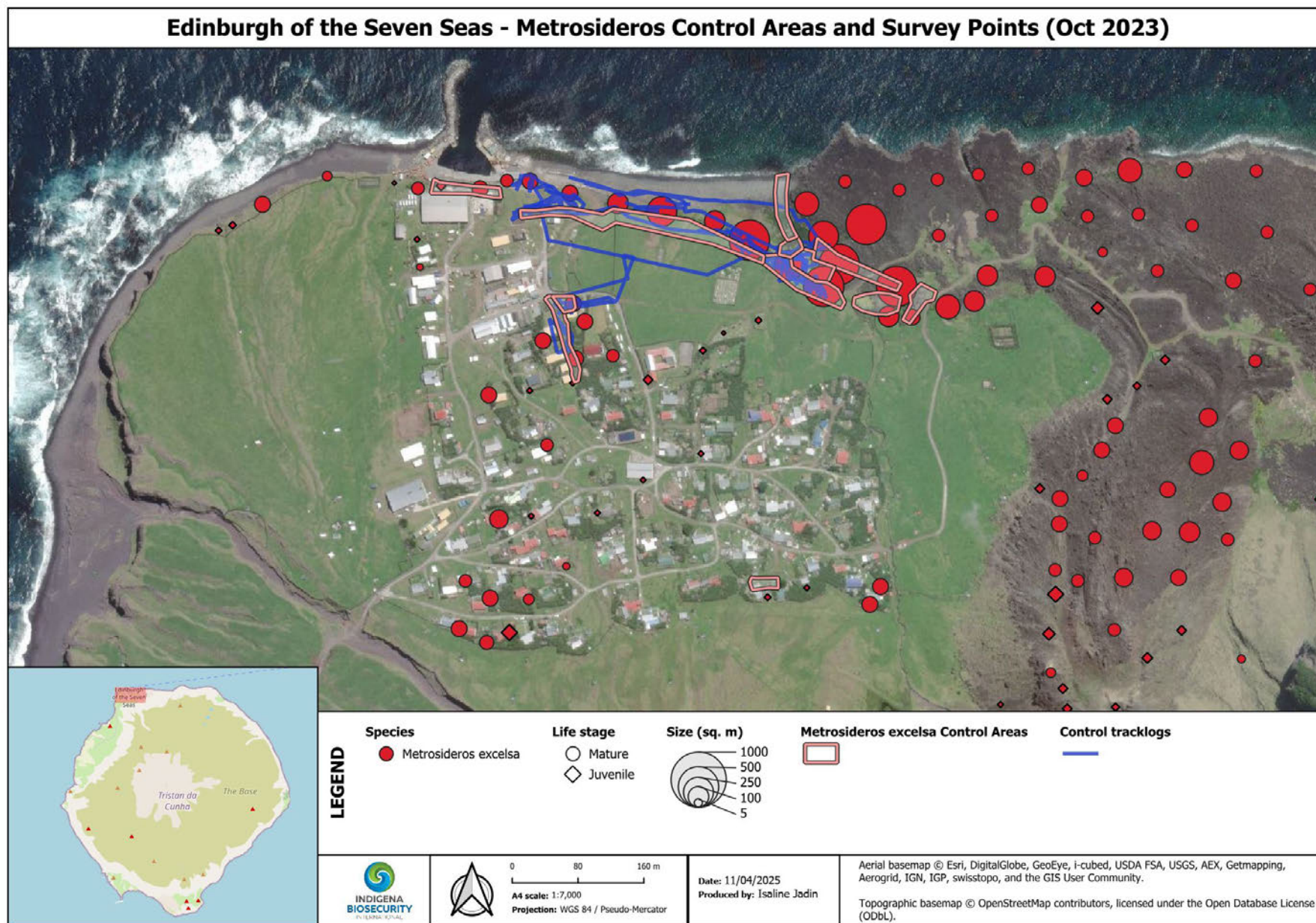
### ***3.1.1 Tristan Conservation Department staff trained in safe Monterey Pine control – including chainsaw/herbicide usage and safe Monterey Pine eradication techniques.***

Indigena provided TCD with a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Monterey Pine eradication techniques (**Annex 4.1**) and delivered a virtual training session during one of the monthly team catch-ups to go through its contents. The SOP was developed using the highly successful techniques used in New Zealand and then adapted by Indigena specifically for Tristan's needs and operating environment.

### ***3.3.1 Tristanian project team fell and treat all self-sown Monterey Pines by end of Year 2***

The Monterey Pine stand is only accessible by boat, with no safe anchorage, requiring safe pick up and drop offs. Unfortunately, TCD have been unable to clear the Monterey Pines this year. During project design, we underestimated the strain competing responsibilities from their largely subsistence lifestyle place on TCD's time and set unrealistic expectations of the team. When clearance trips were planned, weather and associated sea state prevented the team from accessing the pines on multiple occasions. However, TCD are confident that the pines will be successfully removed by project end, with plans now made to tackle the stand on-mass with additional manpower from Tristan Agriculture Department and community members. We are in the process of contacting a NIRAS consultant and producing a change request to allow for the completion of the Monterey Pine work by end of Year 3.





**Figure 3.** Map showing areas of Pōhutukawa distribution around the capitol, Edinburgh of the Seven Seas (red circles), areas cleared (outlined in orange), and the tracklogs recorded in the Locus app (blue lines). Due to the steep learning curve involved with learning this new software, this map does not yet show all areas that have been cleared. Full and updated maps will be submitted in the next report.





**Figure 4.** *Tristan Conservation Department clearing various Pōhutukawa stands with chainsaws, a very physically demanding job.*



**Figure 5.** *Before and after shots of Pōhutukawa clearance along a coastal stretch.*

## Output 4

**4.2.1 Invasive plant specialist produces up to date maps of all 17 priority species of concern from the 2008 report using a drone and GIS software.**

Indigena have continued to work on developing maps for all of the 17 priority species of concern using data collected in their Year 1 visit to Tristan. Based off data collected in 2023, Indigena have produced 5 draft distribution maps for *Juncus articulatus*, *Leptospermum laevigatum*, *Metrosideros* spp., *Phormium tenax* and *Pinus pinaster* and *Pinus radiata* (**Annex 4.2**). These maps, and the additional 12, will be completed following additional data collection in Indigena's Year 3 visit to Tristan.

**4.5.1 Invasive plant specialist works in partnership with Conservation and Agriculture Departments and Tristan community to identify plant species of concern and to write 'Weed Control Manual', focused on at least 5 priority species of agricultural threat and 5 of conservation threat**

This activity is planned for completion later in the project. However, using data collected in their Year 1 visit, Indigena have created a draft version of this document (**Annex 4.3**). This will be developed and completed in Year 3 of the project following discussions with Tristan Conservation and Agriculture Departments on their needs, and additional data collected during Indigena's Year 3 visit to Tristan.

## 3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

### **Output 1. All mature New Zealand Flax plants eradicated from areas of known presence on Inaccessible Island World Heritage Site**

See section 3.1, *Output 1*. Despite this year's field season being postponed, the project is still on track to deliver all Output 1 indicators. Successful delivery of Output 1 indicators was based on the presumption of three field seasons, and so with a fourth project year in which to deliver the postponed field season, targets will be met.

There has been no meaningful progress on Output 1 this year, as the New Zealand Flax field season had to be postponed. Due to unprecedented berth pressure on Tristan, the specialist flax team was unable to travel to Tristan to complete the work on Inaccessible Island. The decision to postpone the flax season was not made lightly, and only after months of working through alternative solutions with project partners. Following a discussion with a NIRAS consultant, we submitted CR24-088 in December 2024 and were granted a project extension to deliver the postponed field season in a fourth project year. See AR1 for progress up until now.

### **Output 2. Targeted Pōhutukawa control with tree coverage significantly reduced on Tristan**

See section 3.1, *Output 2*. Output 2 is on track with Pōhutukawa control training complete and control efforts around two thirds complete following the second of three field seasons. Although Pōhutukawa mapping is incomplete, it is not impacting eradication activities as its extent is largely known and priority areas for eradication identified.

TCD have now removed an estimated 65-70% of plants identified in the Year 1 survey. All seven members of TCD (2 female: 5 male) were trained in Pōhutukawa control and safe herbicide/chainsaw use in Year 1 and have solidified this knowledge during the delivery of this year's field season. This year, Indigena also provided the three young conservation apprentices (1 female:2 male) training in the use of a specialist weed management app (Locus) to enable them to record and map all control efforts (Indicator 2.1, **Figure 3**). Pōhutukawa coverage mapping began in Year 1, with the full extent of coverage to be completed in Year 3 when Indigena visit Tristan again. Mapping revealed the distribution is greater than anticipated from the 2007/08 baseline, with areas to be prioritised for control identified and targeted during Year 1 and 2's field seasons (Indicator 2.2). Areas previously cleared in Year 1 were checked for seedlings and found no new growth (Indicator 2.3).



### **Output 3. All emergent self-sown Monterey Pine eradicated from Tristan**

See section 3.1, *Output 3*. The original target timeline for Monterey Pine eradication (Year 2) has been delayed to Year 3. However, the project is still on track to deliver all Output 3 indicators by project end, with Monterey Pine removal training complete, and the coverage mapping and control work to be completed in Year 3. Indicators are not referenced when not applicable to this project year.

All seven members of TCD (2 female, 5 male) were trained in safe herbicide/chainsaw use as planned by the end of Year 1, exceeding the minimum target of four. Indigena shared the document and delivered a training session on their recommended Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Monterey Pine control in Year 2 (Indicator 3.1, **Annex 4.1**). Monterey Pine coverage will be mapped in Year 3 following a second visit from an Indigena specialist (Indicator 3.2).

### **Output 4. Baseline knowledge and community understanding of existing priority invasive plant species improved through surveys, mapping and F2F discussion**

See section 3.1, *Output 4*. Output 4 is on track and progressing well. The invasive plant species assessment is underway, with monthly project meetings taking place to organise Indigena's Year 3 visit to Tristan where all assessments and mapping will be completed. Indicators are not referenced when not applicable to this project year.

The Indigena specialist began reassessment of all 137 species highlighted in the 2007/08 invasive plant report and any new species discovered (Indicator 4.1), updating the baseline maps of the 17 priority species (Indicator 4.2) during his Year 1 visit to Tristan. In Year 2 Indigena produced draft maps of 5 of the 17 species (**Annex 4.2**), and will complete the reports and maps following a visit to Tristan in Year 3. 13 new species, and several species which can be brought to zero density with minimal effort and significant impact, were identified in Year 1, one of which Tristan Conservation have already completely eradicated this project year (Jointed Rush, **Section 15**). Indigena also produced a draft Weed Control Manual in Year 2 (Indicator 4.5, **Annex 4.3**), which will be completed in Year 3 following their visit to Tristan.

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

**Outcome: All mature NZ Flax, all emergent Pōhutukawa and self-sown Monterey pine are removed from known and accessible invasion sites, and Tristan Government is informed and upskilled to deliver long-term invasive plant eradications / management.**

A successful second field season of Pōhutukawa control and the completion of invasive plant control and mapping training for all seven members of Tristan Conservation Department, combined with progress on the Weed Management Plan, mapping of the 17 priority species and reassessment of some of the 137 known invasive plants, have been significant steps towards the Project Outcome. Despite the delays to Monterey Pine and New Zealand Flax control, adapted operational planning means this work will still be completed within the project's lifespan, and we therefore remain on track to achieve the Outcome. The indicators below remain adequate for measuring the project's overall success.

### **Indicator 0.1. No mature New Zealand Flax plants are recorded on the previously infested Inaccessible Island plateau or cliffs by end of Year 4**

Due to unprecedented berth pressure for medivacs on Tristan, this year's flax field season was postponed until Year 4 in an approved project extension. In Year 1, IRS delivered a successful first season of eradication work, mapping and removing 1,142 New Zealand Flax plants from four different infested areas, with a further 183 seedlings removed from Waterfall Ridge (an area cleared two years previously). This gives the team a strong baseline of cleared areas on which to monitor the effectiveness of control work between years when they return in

Years 3 and 4. Despite the postponed field season, the project extension will allow the flax team to still deliver the necessary three years of control work, and so the project remains on track to deliver this Indicator.

**Indicator 0.2. 80% reduction of emergent Pōhutukawa trees achieved on Tristan by end of Year 3**

With all seven TCD members receiving training in Pōhutukawa control and safe herbicide use, the team successfully removed 10-15% of all Pōhutukawa trees mapped by the invasive plant specialist during the Year 1 survey in Year 1, and a further 50-65% this project year. No new seedlings have been recorded in Year 1's previously cleared areas, revealing the control method to be highly effective. A change request approved in March 2025 allowed for the purchase of additional equipment and the involvement of the Tristan community as additional manpower to tackle the Pōhutukawa, which will enable a significant scaling up of work in Year 3 to complete the control.

**Indicator 0.3. By project end, 15% increase in available pastureland at Sandy Point post self-sown Monterey Pine removal**

If all emergent self-sown Monterey Pine is eradicated from Tristan, as this project intends, the community should see a 15% increase in available pastureland at Sandy Point. Although Monterey Pine control did not begin by Year 2 as intended, all seven members of TCD are now trained in safe herbicide/chainsaw use and Monterey Pine control techniques and are therefore ready to complete control work in Year 3 (pending approval of an upcoming change request). TCD is confident that given the extent of the Monterey Pine, this is feasible. For a community almost exclusively reliant on subsistence agriculture, pastureland at Sandy Point is at a premium, and so Tristanians are highly motivated to remove all the encroaching pine. Tristan Agricultural Department have therefore offered to assist control efforts in Year 3, which alongside also allowing community members to be involved in the control work means there will be more than sufficient manpower to successfully tackle the pines in Year 3.

**Indicator 0.4. 5% of Tristanians report they are applying new capabilities regarding invasive plant management (3:1 male:female ratio)**

5% equates to 12 Tristanians. All seven members of TCD (2 female: 5 male) received training in invasive plant control from a trained RSPB staff member (safe herbicide/chainsaw use and Pōhutukawa control) in Year 1. This year, TCD also trained an additional 5 Tristanians (3 female:2 male) to handle the chainsaw and pole saw, and Indigena have provided training on the Standard Operating Procedure for Monterey Pine control, as well as software and training (using the Locus app) to enable the team to monitor control efforts. The three TCD apprentices (1 female: 2 male) are also receiving rope access training during each of the flax team's three field seasons. In Year 3, Indigena will deliver training on safe agro-chemical herbicide use for domestic agriculture to all community members who wish to attend, and Tristan Agricultural Department and Tristan community members will have the opportunity to get involved with Monterey Pine and Pōhutukawa clearance. We therefore have already met, and are likely to exceed, this target.

**Indicator 0.5. By project end, Tristan Conservation Department formally adopts a Tristan Invasive Plant Strategy**

In Year 1, an Indigena specialist visited Tristan and began work reassessing all 137 species highlighted in the 2007/8 report, updating baseline maps of the 17 priority species, and noting any new species. 13 new species, and several species which can be brought to zero density with minimal effort and significant impact, have already been identified, and Pōhutukawa mapping has revealed its distribution to be much greater than anticipated. This year, Indigena have created maps for 5 of the priority species (**Annex 4.2**), and a draft Weed Management

Plan (**Annex 4.3**). This information will be used to help shape the Invasive Plant Strategy, due to be finalised in Year 3 following a second visit by an Indigena specialist.

### 3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

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

**Assumption:** A goal of invasive plant eradication is not possible within the three-year timeframe of the project due to the uncertain size, distribution and longevity of these species' seedbank in the soil. The primary objective is therefore to reduce and then maintain invasive plant populations at 'zero density', whereby all individuals capable of reproduction are removed and no further seed is added to the seedbank. Ultimately this will result in eradication.

**Comments:** Following survey work carried out by the New Zealand Flax eradication team in Year 1, more seedlings in previously cleared areas than anticipated have made it highly unlikely that they will be able to remove all emergent flax plants in this project's lifespan. In the approved change request CR24-088, we therefore proposed to change all references to the control of invasive NZ Flax to focus on all 'mature' flax plants. Seedlings will still be removed where possible, but mature plants capable of reproduction are the priority target. Targeting mature flax ensures that the control work will have the greatest impact and honours the assumption, as it will significantly reduce the seedbank of the species, making a complete eradication more achievable.

**Assumption:** 8-12 week working period on Inaccessible essential for reaching control/mapping targets. Time on island not impacted by unpredictable shipping schedules/suitable weather conditions for drop-off and pick-up. Both elements mitigated against by carrying out work in summer months plus yacht charter.

**Comments:** This year's New Zealand Flax season was postponed as a lack of berths made it impossible to get the flax team to Inaccessible this year. Berth pressure this year on Tristan was at an unprecedented and unforeseeable high due to medivacs, with Tristanians needing urgent access to Cape Town's medical care. The project therefore submitted approved change request CR24-088 in December 2024, requesting a fourth-year project extension in which to complete this year's postponed flax field season. In Year 3, the project has the yacht charter to transport the flax team to Tristan to mitigate against berth uncertainty. By the new fourth project year, it is expected that berth pressure will have eased.

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

After Year 2 the project is making good progress on tackling rapidly spreading, highly invasive plants and upskilling TCD to deliver an effective long-term invasive plant management strategy. All of Tristan Conservation Department have received full invasive plant control, management and recording training, an estimated 65-70% of the Pōhutukawa has been cleared, the Monterey Pine control will be completed in Year 3, and the New Zealand Flax team is still on track after this year's postponed field season was granted permission to go ahead in a fourth-year project extension. Such strategic long-term outcomes will not only safeguard Tristan's natural habitats and biodiversity but also the limited agricultural land on the island.

Invasive non-native species are declared a primary threat to biodiversity in the UKOTs, and their removal is a priority in DEFRA's UKOT's Biodiversity Strategy (2014). This is reiterated in the UK Government's 25-Year Environment Plan (2018), with a named target 'to prevent... loss of known threatened species in... the Overseas Territories' and reflected under Tristan's own Biodiversity Action Plan to introduce a 'Programme of control or removal of alien plants'. The project is recognising this significant and immediate threat by controlling three priority invasive non-native species, protecting native flora and habitat for millions of globally important seabirds. Tristan Government will deliver work against Commitment 2 of its Environment Charter, 'Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats... and attempt the control and



eradication of invasive species'. With one season of New Zealand Flax eradication work on Inaccessible already complete, this project is also delivering on eradicating the plant from the island, which is a priority action in the Inaccessible Island Management Plan.

Commitment 6 in Tristan's Environmental Charter is to 'Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to Tristan'. By removing flax from Inaccessible Island, as both a Ramsar and World Heritage Site (WHS), the project is implementing Tristan's responsibilities under Resolution V.III/18 'Invasive Species & Wetlands' and delivering the key action needed to respond to the UNESCO site assessment which identified flax as a threat to the integrity of the WHS which must be addressed. At least five Convention of Migratory Species (CMS) Appendix-listed species are breeding on Tristan and Inaccessible in habitats threatened by Pōhutukawa and flax, and so eradication efforts restoring such habitats will deliver on Article III of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels.

By targeting three invasives impacting on Tristan's biodiversity across two islands, the project also supports the new Convention on Biological Diversity Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target 6 to 'eliminate, minimize, reduce and or mitigate the impacts of invasives... especially in priority sites, such as islands'. With Pōhutukawa damaging brickwork and Monterey Pine encroaching on the vital pastureland at Sandy Point and threatening subsistence agriculture, this project also supports Sustainable Development Goal 11 (Sustainable Communities).

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

GESI Scale	Description	Put X where you think your project is on the scale
<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	<b>X</b>
<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	

We believe the project is 'Empowering' on the GESI scale. Previously on Tristan, roles have been divided down traditional gender norms, with males typically carrying out practical tasks and the women more administrative-focused. The project logframe was therefore designed to give training and practical opportunities on as equal a basis as possible, whilst considering what was realistic in three years.

The Conservation Department on Tristan (TCD) used to be male dominated but there are now two female members; these women serve as role models to others in the community, which this project aims to further. Chainsaw and herbicide training was given to all seven Conservation

Department members in this first year, all of whom have equally shared the workload of the practical invasive plant control work in the second year. TCD have now extended appropriate elements of this training to a further 5 Tristanians, 3 of which are female – the fact that this training was offered to women, interested them, and was delivered to more females than males, marks a considerable step change.

One of the young conservation trainees at TCD, Shannon (see **Fig.6**, page 10), is a recent school leaver and has already taken on a high level of responsibility in this project. This includes delivering the practical control work (a task normally reserved for the men on Tristan), leading on the recording and mapping of such work, and assisting with reporting, both financial and written. She is a trailblazer, inspiring the younger generation on Tristan to participate in conservation efforts, and showing them what the future of Tristan Conservation could look like - a vision in which both genders participate equally. We hope that helping to create the next generation of conservation leaders in the image of a more equal society could be a key tool in overturning historical norms and creating newer, more inclusive ones.

In a recent approved change request, we also altered the project budget to allow community members to assist with the control work. This opportunity will be advertised to and available to all community members. We hope that the involvement of the two women in the Conservation Department in the practical work will serve as an inspiring example to the community of how the typical gender-assigned roles can be successfully subverted, and that female community members will get involved in community clearance days. To encourage this, this year TCD purchased appropriate working equipment and clothing in women's sizes, which previously has been lacking. Removal of these highly invasive species will also benefit the whole community, improving livelihoods irrespective of gender.

The flax team lead from I-Rigging Solutions is female and recruits members on a team dynamics and skills basis. The team currently consists of 1 female: 3 male, with a female Project Leader. Following the expedition to Inaccessible Island in Year 1, rope access training was given to the three Conservation Department apprentices on Tristan (1 female: 2 male), providing training opportunities to the next generation.

RSPB has strict employment policies in place to ensure fair and non-discriminatory recruitment practices, and these are always followed for any roles to be filled. The CEO and Executive Director of Conservation are all roles currently held by women, helping to inform the RSPB's work in Tristan, the UK and globally.

## **6. Monitoring and evaluation**

RSPB leads the project's monitoring and evaluation (M & E), coordinated by the RSPB Project Manager who assumes overall responsibility. In Year 1, regular monitoring meetings between all four partners were planned bi-monthly to discuss the work plan and evaluate progress against the project timetable and indicators. Due to the relationship breakdown in 2023, these meetings were put on hold from October 2023 until June 2024. In place of full-team meetings, RSPB instead maintained regular contact with partners individually. In this second project year, working relationships have been repaired, and team meetings resumed in June and have increased in frequency, occurring every month. During the August to December 2024 period, weekly meetings were held with TCD and I-Rigging when navigating the eventual decision to postpone this year's flax season. These discussions also informed the change request CR24-088 submitted in December 2024, which requested a one-year project extension to enable the delivery of the postponed flax work.

Our measures of achievement are guided by the progress against logframe indicators, which all project activities contribute towards. The logframe and timetable have been continually referenced this year to ensure everything is on track and the Outcome remains achievable. The Output indicators relate mainly to the 'monitoring' aspect (i.e., to project progress), whereas the Outcome indicators relate mainly to 'evaluation' (i.e., project's overall impact). In response to the reviewer's feedback to our Year 1 annual report, we also worked with a NIRAS consultant

to develop proposed changes to the Logframe to '*SMARTen*' indicators and remove duplication between Output and Outcome indicators', which were all approved in CR24-088. This has ensured the targets we are working towards are more clearly defined and measurable.

The survey work carried out by the New Zealand Flax eradication team in Year 1 revealed more seedlings in previously cleared areas than anticipated, making it highly unlikely that they will be able to remove all emergent flax plants in this project's lifespan. Following multiple discussions with partners and Darwin, we therefore revised all logframe references to its control to focus on all 'mature' flax plants. Targeting mature flax ensures that the control work will have the greatest impact, as it will significantly reduce the seedbank of the species, making a complete eradication more achievable. Although this was disappointing to discover, it showed that the M & E plan for the project is effective, coming up quickly with a well thought out and achievable revision which still delivers huge conservation benefit to Tristan. A significant legacy of this project is the upskilling of TCD and developing an invasive plant strategy for Tristan, meaning that control efforts and ongoing monitoring will continue in perpetuity.

## **7. Lessons learnt**

- This year, due to unprecedented berth pressure on Tristan, medevacs naturally took priority, and we were unable to secure three berths to get the New Zealand Flax team to Inaccessible Island to continue the flax removal work. Despite months of considering alternative solutions, unfortunately we had to postpone Year 2's flax season, and submitted a change request to deliver it in an extended fourth project year instead. Berth pressure is always high, but we have never failed to get project staff to island before now. Nether the less, to minimise risk, we budgeted for an independent boat charter in Years 1 and 3 of the project, when the highest volume of project staff needs to travel to island. Clearly, despite the additional cost, this was a justifiable and necessary mitigation measure – taking risk mitigation seriously in project design can prove critical to achieving project outcomes.
- TCD are responsible for the control work on invasive Pōhutukawa and Monterey Pine. However, the largely subsistence lifestyle on Tristan means all islanders, including all members of TCD, help with managing crops, cattle, fishing, the tourism industry and many other critical responsibilities alongside their daily life and employment; and all such demands peak in the summer when the control work takes place. During project design, we underestimated the strain these competing responsibilities place on TCD's time and set unrealistic expectations of the team, with too few people assigned too great a workload. We therefore submitted a change request to allow the project to reimburse the wider community as well as TCD for the control work. It is an important lesson going forward to ensure work volumes assigned to project partners are feasible within the constraints of their other priorities and number of staff.
- We also underestimated the wear and tear on equipment already in use by the TCD team, with the punishing nature of the work, especially when working on the lava flow from the 1961 eruption. This is eroding equipment faster than expected, and so we submitted a change request to purchase additional equipment to re-supply TCD. We encourage others to think carefully about the unique contexts of their projects when creating equipment lists rather than basing budgets off the 'normal' needs to ensure it is sufficient.
- As previously detailed in our Year 1 annual report, a relationship breakdown between TCD and Indigena during an Indigena consultant's visit to island had an impact on project activities in Year 1 and a change request needed to be submitted. This year, at their request, we removed the impacted Indigena individual from the project and worked on rebuilding the relationship between TCD and Indigena after both expressed a desire and commitment to continuing to work together. Monthly team catch-ups have proved effective at repairing this relationship, which we will continue into Year 3. When relationship breakdowns occur, we recommend understanding the needs of both parties, ensuring everyone feels comfortable with working arrangements before building in regular catchups with an 'independent' party leading the sessions (in this instance, the RSPB). To rebuild trust and rapport, it was also important that the meetings did not



solely focus on work, and over time we developed channels of communication between TCD and Indigena not reliant on the RSPB.

- During this project year, Tristan da Cunha was connected to the Starlink network and so now benefits from a much stronger and more reliable internet connection. This has massively helped communication and project delivery (e.g. enabling more regular calls, video calling, sending/downloading larger documents/photos, downloading relevant apps etc.), and so this additional capability will now be factored into the design of future projects.
- To record invasive plant control efforts, this project relies on technology such as the use of drones and the mapping app 'Locus', which involves a steep learning curve. We have found that entrusting these responsibilities primarily to younger project staff to be effective, as this age bracket is typically more 'tech savvy', and can then support and train other staff to whom such skills are often newer.

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

### **1) It would be helpful for future reviews if an updated timeline could be provided.**

In the December 2024 change request CR24-088, we submitted an updated timeline, which was approved. We have attached this as **Annex 4.4**.

### **2) Please provide information on matched funding leveraged to deliver the project. Relate this to the original budget's confirmed commitments and account for any discrepancies.**

Two RSPB roles (Andy Schofield, Project Lead and David Kinchin-Smith, Project Manager) are part match-funded, the Project Lead role substantially so. In the fourth and final project year, we anticipate the Project Manager's time to increase to a high percentage of match funding to cover their time, as this fourth year, as a project extension, was not originally budgeted for but needs RSPB staff time.

Trevor Glass, Head of Tristan Conservation Department (TCD), has given all his project time as matched. Both RSPB and TCD are also providing match funding as overheads. TCD's overheads have been slightly reduced compared to the original budget, as upon review they were too high as per Darwin guidance and TDC internal expectations. TCD are also match funding some operating costs (boat fuel, to reach the Monterey Pine stands).

Indigena have provided TCD access to and use of software and systems to assist with plant control recording and mapping as matched. This value has moved from Other Costs to Operating Costs as per CR24-088 when Indigena's budget was correctly moved all under 'Consultancy'. The matched funding value has also decreased slightly as Indigena have now provided Tristan with an alternative, cheaper software compared to the original offering. The original software was both too complex and placed too high a strain on Tristan's limited WiFi to be viable.

### **3) Consider SMARTening indicators (many read as Activities); and remove duplication between Output and Outcome indicators.**

We agreed with this feedback. Following discussions with a NIRAS consultant and project partners, we submitted a SMARTer logframe in the December 2024 change request CR24-088 that resolved these issues. This has been approved and is the version shared in **Annex 2**.

## **9. Risk Management**

No new risks have arisen in the last 12 months that were not previously accounted for. However, when creating the risk register, we identified 'competing demands on Tristanians'

time' as an unlikely, but major impact risk on the delivery of the Pōhutukawa and Monterey Pine work. In Year 2, we found we underestimated these competing demands and placed too high a workload on too few individuals (just Tristan Conservation Department), with the risk evolving from 'unlikely' to 'likely' and an issue to address. We therefore followed our mitigation guidance, submitting an accepted change request allowing community members to receive project pay and assist in the control work, making the volumes of work achievable. Having received training in the first year, the Conservation Department team are able to direct the work safely, whilst carrying out the higher risk aspects themselves – e.g. chainsaw and herbicide usage.

While this project began before the risk register requirement, as per the stated intention in our Year 1 annual report, we have developed a risk register for Year 2 of the project and reviewed it regularly throughout the year. Please find a risk register submitted alongside this Annual Report (**Annex 4.5**).

## 10. Scalability and durability

Non-native plant species and their impacts are already well-known on Tristan, with the community requesting RSPB's support in this project due to the impacts on biodiversity and livelihoods already taking place. Indeed, a significant aspect of Tristan's Conservation and Agricultural Departments work programme involves plant control, but the former have had limited training on techniques.

This project has been designed with long-term sustainability at its core. With 137 invasive species highlighted in the 2007/8 report, it is critical that priority species are tackled as soon as possible; their unchecked spread could make species too logistically challenging or costly to remove. The project is also equipping Tristanians with the necessary tools and knowledge to manage eradication work independently, beyond this project. All of Tristan Conservation Department have now received herbicide application, chainsaw and mapping training, as well as specific invasive plant removal training for Pohutukawa and Monterey Pine. This department includes 3 young conservation apprentices, who also receive annual rope access training from the specialist flax team. This secures a strong legacy for the project, as the necessary skills and knowledge to deliver invasive plant removal is being embedded in the future leaders of Tristan Conservation Department.



**Figure 6.** Shannon Swain, one of three young conservation apprentices, developing her rope access skills during a visit from the specialist rope access team. Shannon writes 'We did a rope access training course with Carmen and her team. We practiced rescue training, knot-tying, cross-hauling, and climbing up and abseiling down the ropes when they had knots in them that were tied there due to knot-wearing. We also learned to identify the ropes that needed to be tied if they were worn. I realized how much hard work you need to put in while working on the ropes. Although I had done this last year with Carmen and her team, this year was much different, and I enjoyed it.'

Project consultant Indigena are also producing revised coverage maps for 17 priority invasive species, and a bespoke Weed Control Manual and Invasive Plant Strategy for Tristan, which will be a long-lasting and critical resource for guiding their control work beyond the life of the project. Indigena have produced coverage maps and a draft Weed Management Strategy (**Annex 4.2, 4.3**) this year that are due to be finalised in Year 3 after their visit to Tristan. This year, Indigena also taught the 3 conservation apprentices how to monitor and record control efforts using an app (Locus), which has provided Tristan with a means to track control work during and post-project to record progress (**Fig.3**).

One local Tristanian is also part of the 4-person flax team that travels to Inaccessible every year to complete the flax control work and is being trained to lead his own team to monitor/control flax post-project. He only needs a further 374 hours in the next two seasons to achieve the required 1,000 hours for IRATA Level 2. This internationally recognised qualification will ensure there is local capacity to monitor flax presence on Inaccessible post-project, as well as continuing community rope access training.

By clearing all mature, emergent and/or accessible plants of the target species by project end, future control work will only need to primarily focus on the seedbanks of the species. This work will be more focussed and considerably less time-consuming, meaning it will fit well into the established work programmes of each Government department. Teams will be able to monitor and remove any further individuals, ensuring the seed bank reduces over time eventually resulting in eradication.

St Helena National Trust are keen to find out how successful flax eradication efforts are on Inaccessible during this project, so there may be the opportunity to share learnings post-project to enable similar eradication efforts on other islands. This is following a previous knowledge exchange visit for the flax team lead, Carmen Ferreira, where she learned flax eradication techniques in return for providing rope access training to the team.

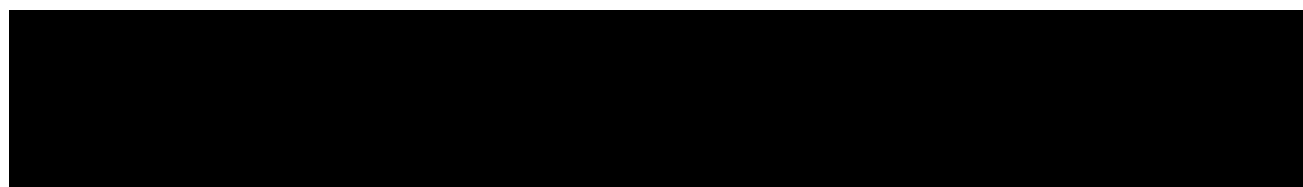
## **11. Darwin Plus identity**

The Darwin identity continues to be positively regarded within the community on Tristan da Cunha and there is a good understanding of Darwin, particularly within the Conservation and Fisheries Departments. Approximately 10% of the community have worked directly on a Darwin project, and project updates are given at the fortnightly Government Department meetings.

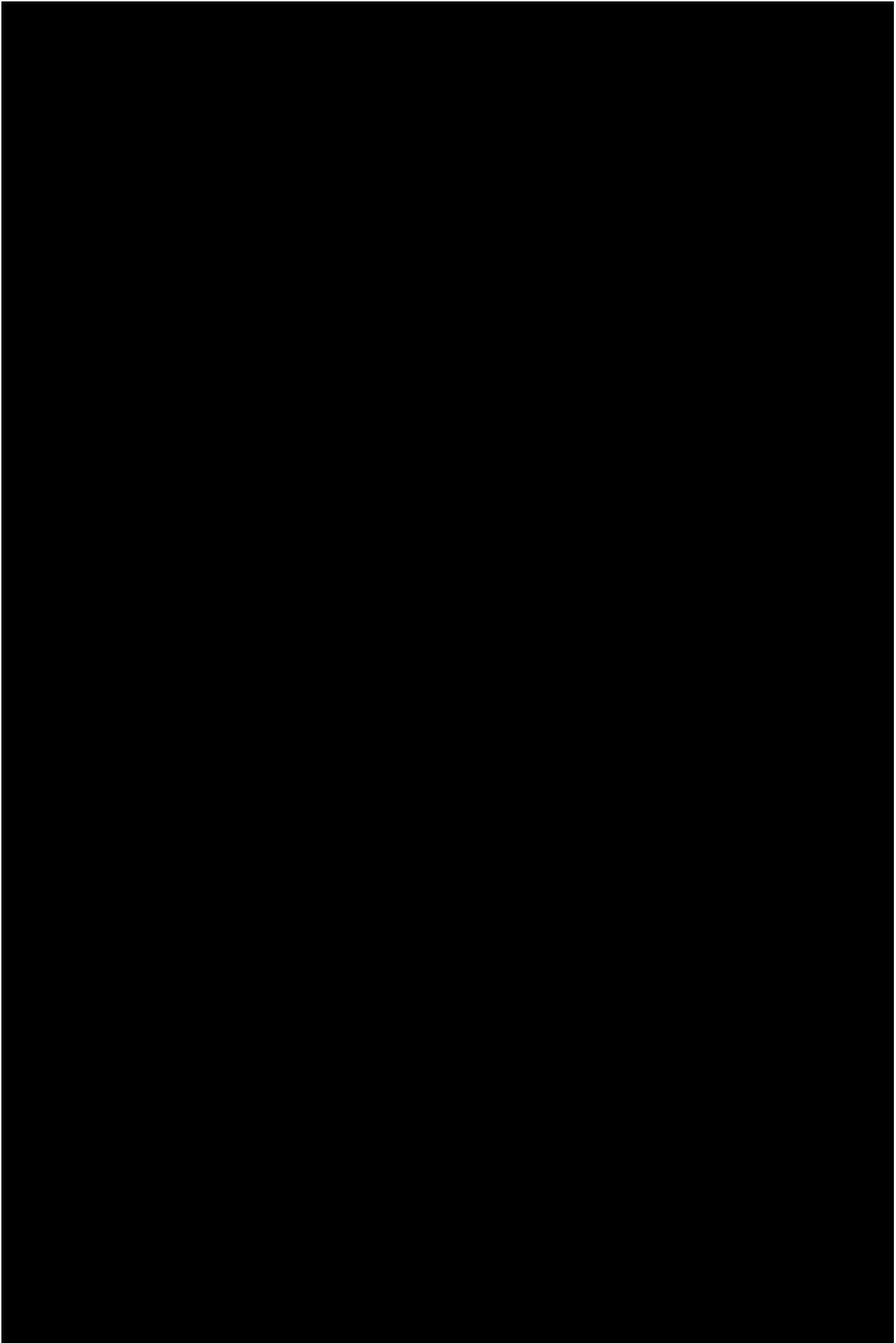
Darwin is recognised as one of the very few funders who directly support work on the island, and is highly regarded in recognition of its fundamental role in enabling significant conservation efforts on the island. This project has several elements which directly support livelihoods on Tristan, be that employment, training, providing equipment, or simply the legacy of invasive plant removal and a future control strategy for Tristan. By opening the opportunity to be involved with the plant control work up to the whole community through the recent change request, we anticipate a much larger proportion of the community will become directly involved with the project in Year 3, which will only further awareness of Darwin Plus.

Where possible, the Darwin logo has been used on project documentation showing the sometimes-extreme lengths gone to carry out vital conservation work in some of the most remote places on earth - something the Darwin Initiative stands out as supporting.

## **12. Safeguarding**







### **13. Project expenditure**

**Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025)**

Project spend (indicative) in this financial year	2024/25 D+ Grant (£)	202/25 Total actual D+ Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items				
Others (Please specify)				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£70,86</b>	<b>£65,574</b>		

**Table 2: Project mobilised or matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025)**

	Secured to date	Expected by end of project	Sources
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RSPB staff time (Project Leader Andy Schofield, Project Manager David Kinchin-Smith)</li> <li>- Trevor Glass (Head of Tristan Conservation Department, TCD) staff time</li> <li>- RSPB and TCD overheads</li> <li>- TCD Operating Costs (boat fuel)</li> </ul>

			- Consultancy (Indigena granting TCD use of plant control monitoring software)
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)	n/a	n/a	n/a

#### 14. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

N/A - The project was discussed with a Darwin representative prior to submitting a significant change request in December 2024. All other comments on progress have been covered in the narrative above.

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

This project is targeting three highly invasive species on Tristan da Cunha – New Zealand Flax, Monterey Pine and Pōhutukawa. However, there are at least 139 invasive species present. During project consultant Indigena Biosecurity International's visit to Tristan in Year 1, the specialist identified several species which can be brought to zero density with considerably less effort than the target species. We are therefore delighted to report that this year, Tristan Conservation Department have completely eradicated an invasive plant species, Jointed Rush, from Tristan! This is a significant win and goes above and beyond the goals and Outcome of the project.

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds to edit and use the following for various promotional purposes (Images will be submitted as image files alongside the report, **Annex 4.6**).

File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)	File Name or File Location	Caption including description, country and credit	Social media accounts and websites to be tagged (leave blank if none)	Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)
Image	Digging out the Jointed Rush	A JCB tackles digging out the firmly rooted Jointed Rush, Tristan da Cunha (credit - Tristan Conservation Department).	<a href="#">Tristan Conservation Department</a> , Facebook	Yes
Image	Jointed Rush - Before	Jointed Rush choking out the pond before removal, Tristan da Cunha (credit - Tristan Conservation Department).	<a href="#">Tristan Conservation Department</a> , Facebook	Yes
Image	Jointed Rush - After	The pond cleared of the invasive plant, Tristan da Cunha (credit - Tristan Conservation Department).	<a href="#">Tristan Conservation Department</a> , Facebook	Yes

## Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2024-2025

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
<b>Impact</b> Native wildlife thrives on Inaccessible World Heritage Site in the absence of invasive plants, and Tristan's community and biodiversity benefit from successful eradications of all feasibly removed invasive plant species.	Eradication work continued removing emergent Pōhutukawa on Tristan, with the additional win of completely eradicating Jointed Rush which went above and beyond the project's remit. All of Tristan Conservation Department have received training in invasive plant control, and they have already trained an additional 5 Tristanians.	Tristan Conservation Department will finish the Pōhutukawa and Monterey Pine control work, and the specialist rope access team will complete their second field season of New Zealand Flax control. An Indigena specialist will visit Tristan to complete invasive plant assessments and mappings.
<b>Outcome - All mature NZ Flax, all emergent Pōhutukawa and self-sown Monterey pine are removed from known and accessible invasion sites, and Tristan Government is informed and upskilled to deliver long-term invasive plant eradications / management.</b>		
<b>Outcome indicator 0.1</b> No mature New Zealand Flax plants are recorded on the previously infested Inaccessible Island plateau or cliffs by end of Year 4.	<b>See section 3.3</b> N/A – Field season postponed to Year 4.	Flax team complete another three-month field season of flax eradication and survey work.
<b>Outcome indicator 0.2</b> 80% reduction of emergent Pōhutukawa trees achieved on Tristan by end of Year 3.	<b>See section 3.3</b> Estimated 65-70% of all Pōhutukawa trees mapped in Year 1 by Indigena removed by Tristan Conservation Department, with no seedlings recorded in Year 1's previously cleared areas.	Tristanians complete their third and final field season of Pōhutukawa eradication and record any new seedlings in previously cleared areas.
<b>Outcome indicator 0.3</b> By project end, 15% increase in available pastureland at Sandy Point post self-sown Monterey Pine removal.	<b>See section 3.3, Annex 4.1</b> Tristan Conservation Department trained by Indigena in the Standard Operating Procedure for Monterey Pine control and enlist the support of the Agriculture Department for next year's control work.	Tristanians remove all emergent self-sown pine from Sandy Point.
<b>Outcome indicator 0.4</b> 5% of Tristanians report they are applying new capabilities regarding invasive plant management (3:1 male: female ratio).	<b>See section 3.3</b> 5% of Tristanians (5 female: 7 male) have received some form on invasive plant management training,	Indigena specialist delivers safe agro-chemical herbicide use training to all interested Tristanians.

	including safe herbicide use/chainsaw use and Pōhutukawa and Monterey Pine control methodology.	
<b>Outcome indicator 0.5</b> By project end, Tristan Conservation Department formally adopts a Tristan Invasive Plant Strategy.	<b>See section 3.3</b> N/A – Activities to be completed in Year 3.	Indigena complete the Invasive Plant Strategy following a visit to Tristan and hold a meeting alongside the RSPB Community Engagement Lead when on island to introduce the Strategy.
<b>Output 1 - All mature New Zealand Flax plants eradicated from areas of known presence on Inaccessible Island World Heritage Site.</b>		
<b>Output indicator 1.1</b> One local Tristan trainee accumulates 1000 rope hours by project end needed for IRATA Level 2 certification.	<b>See section 3.2</b> N/A – Field season postponed to Year 4.	Christian to renew his IRATA Level 1 and to join the flax team in the upcoming field season and log more rope hours.
<b>Output indicator 1.2</b> All Tristan school leavers (minimum 2:1 male: female ratio) demonstrate increased understanding of rope-access techniques and flax control by project end.	<b>See section 3.2</b> N/A – Field season postponed to Year 4.	Flax team deliver more rope access lessons to the Tristan Conservation Department trainees when on island.
<b>Output indicator 1.3</b> Year 3 and 4 Flax monitoring shows a 10% reduction in new emergent plants year on year.	<b>See section 3.2</b> N/A – Field season postponed to Year 4.	Flax team surveys at least two random plateau and two random cliff transects in previously 'cleared' areas.
<b>Output 2 - Targeted Pōhutukawa control with tree coverage significantly reduced on Tristan.</b>		
<b>Output indicator 2.1.</b> A minimum of 7 Tristanians (at least 2 female) are trained in aspects of Pōhutukawa control by Q4 of Year 1.	<b>See section 3.2</b> N/A – All 7 members of Tristan Conservation Department already trained in Year 1.	Completed.
<b>Output indicator 2.2.</b> Pōhutukawa coverage mapped and compared with 2008 baseline by Q3 of Year 1.	<b>See section 3.2</b> N/A – Pōhutukawa mapped in Year 1.	Indigena specialist to finalise Pōhutukawa mapping during their visit to island.



<b>Output indicator 2.2.</b> 100% of any new seedlings found in in Year 1 and Year 2's cleared areas retreated in subsequent years.	<b>See section 3.2</b> Tristan Conservation Department checked all areas previously cleared in Year 1 and found no new seedlings.	Tristanian project team record and re-treat any new Pōhutukawa seedlings in areas cleared in Years 1 and 2.
<b>Output 3 - All emergent self-sown Monterey Pine eradicated from Tristan.</b>		
<b>Output indicator 3.1.</b> A minimum of 7 Tristanians (5 male, 2 female) are trained in Monterey Pine control by Q4 of Year 2.	<b>See Section 3.2</b> All 7 members of Tristan Conservation Department (5 male: 2 female) trained in Monterey Pine control by Indigena.	Completed.
<b>Output indicator 3.2.</b> Monterey Pine coverage mapped, compared with 2008 baseline by end of Year 2.	<b>See section 3.2</b> Mapping efforts have been rescheduled to take place in Year 3 when an Indigena specialist visits Tristan.	Indigena specialist completes mapping during their island visit.
<b>Output indicator 3.3.</b> 100% of any new seedlings found in Year 2's cleared areas retreated in Year 3.	<b>See section 3.2</b> N/A in Year 2.	N/A (No Year 2 clearings to check in Year 3 due to operational rescheduling – this will be completed in Year 4 instead following Year 3's control work).
<b>Output 4 - Baseline knowledge and community understanding of existing priority invasive plant species improved through surveys, mapping and F2F discussion.</b>		
<b>Output indicator 4.1.</b> All 137 known invasives reassessed against 2008 baseline by project end.	<b>See section 3.2, Section 15, Annex 4.6</b> In Year 1 several species which can be brought to zero density with reduced effort highlighted – one of which, Jointed Rush, has been eradicated completely from Tristan this year.	Indigena to complete all species reassessments following a visit Tristan to complete data collection.
<b>Output indicator 4.2.</b> Maps of all 17 priority species updated against 2008 baseline by project end.	<b>See section 3.2, Annex 4.2</b> Indigena produced 5 draft priority species maps.	Indigena to complete all priority species maps following a visit Tristan to complete data collection.
<b>Output indicator 4.3.</b>	<b>See section 3.2</b> N/A – all activities planned for Year 3.	Indigena and RSPB Community Engagement Lead to visit Tristan and host a community meeting and

Engagement activities give 100% of Tristanians the opportunity to hear about the project's findings.		introduce the Invasive Plant Strategy, and all project field teams to compile a plant eradication newsletter.
<b>Output indicator 4.4.</b> At least 50 Tristanians have face-to-face discussions with the Community Engagement Lead in Q3 of Years 1 and 3 (including Council members, school children, and other community members).	<b>See section 3.2</b> N/A – activities planned in Years 1 and 3.	RSPB Community Engagement Lead to visit Tristan and host face-to-face discussions with all the community via meetings, informal discussions and classroom visits.
<b>Output indicator 4.5.</b> Weed Control Manual produced by project end.	<b>See section 3.2, Annex 4.3</b> Indigena prepared a draft version of the Weed Control Manual.	Indigena to complete the Weed Control Manual following a visit to Tristan.
<b>Output indicator 4.6.</b> By end of project, a minimum of 10 members of the Tristan community have received training in safe agro-chemical herbicide use for their domestic agriculture.	<b>See section 3.2</b> N/A – activity planned for Year 3.	Indigena to deliver safe agro-chemical training for all interested Tristanians during their visit to island.

## 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> Native wildlife thrives on Inaccessible Island World Heritage Site in the absence of invasive plants, and Tristan's community and biodiversity benefit from successful eradications of all feasibly-removed invasive plant species.			
<b>Outcome:</b> All mature NZ Flax, all emergent Pōhutukawa and self-sown Monterey pine are removed from known and accessible invasion sites, and Tristan Government is informed and upskilled to deliver long-term invasive plant eradications / management.	0.1 No mature New Zealand Flax plants are recorded on the previously infested Inaccessible Island plateau or cliffs by end of Year 4  0.2 80% reduction of emergent Pōhutukawa trees achieved on Tristan by end of Year 3	0.1 Flax assessment final report; updated flax presence maps; photographic evidence  0.2 Pōhutukawa presence maps updated annually; assessment report; photographic evidence	A goal of invasive plant eradication is not possible within the three-year timeframe of the project due to the uncertain size, distribution and longevity of these species' seedbank in the soil. The primary objective is therefore to reduce and then maintain invasive plant populations at 'zero density', whereby all individuals capable of reproduction are removed and no further seed is

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>0.3 By project end, 15% increase in available pastureland at Sandy Point post self-sown Monterey Pine removal</p> <p>0.4 5% of Tristanians report they are applying new capabilities regarding invasive plant management (3:1 male:female ratio)</p> <p>0.5 By project end, Tristan Conservation Department formally adopts a Tristan Invasive Plant Strategy</p>	<p>0.3 Monterey Pine maps updated annually; Photographic evidence</p> <p>0.4 Training reports; end of project survey</p> <p>0.5 Invasive Plant Strategy report; updated 'species of concern' list</p>	<p>added to the seedbank. Ultimately this will result in eradication.</p> <p>Tristan Conservation Department and the RSPB will continue monitoring and control efforts beyond the life of the project. We have worked in partnership for almost 20 years, and RSPB funds a core staff salary in the Conservation Department, neither of which are dependent on further project-funding, so we will be able to deliver on this.</p> <p>New invasive plant introductions are likely to be much reduced as Tristan has a new biosecurity officer and legislation (2021), plus a bespoke new biosecurity facility (2022).</p>

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<b>Output 1</b> All mature New Zealand Flax plants eradicated from areas of known presence on Inaccessible Island World Heritage Site.	1.1 One local Tristan trainee accumulates 1000 rope hours by project end needed for IRATA Level 2 certification  1.2 All Tristan school leavers (minimum 2:1 male : female ratio) demonstrate increased understanding of rope-access techniques and flax control by project end  1.3 Year 3 and 4 Flax monitoring shows a 10% reduction in new emergent plants year on year	1.1 Baseline skills assessment on rigging techniques, gear inspection and rope management; trainer's report; IRATA Level 2 certificate (project end)  1.2 TDC community flax update articles, school presentation ppt, community presentation ppt., trainers report  1.3 Monitoring SOPs; monitoring report; photographic evidence	<p>Prior to each field season, an airdrop is essential to transport equipment/supplies to the plateau to minimise time spent moving between base- and satellite-camps. This is highly achievable as it has occurred in the two years prior to this project.</p> <p>Team size: four-person team for each year is essential to achieve stated indicators. Injuries / unforeseen circumstances in team could have a significant impact on results but is highly unlikely as the team has been working safely on Inaccessible for the past three years and are experienced in all elements of the work.</p> <p>8-12 week working period on Inaccessible essential for reaching control/mapping targets. Time on island not impacted by unpredictable shipping schedules/suitable weather conditions for drop-off and pick-up. Both elements mitigated against by carrying out work in summer months plus yacht charter.</p>

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<b>Output 2</b> Targeted Pōhutukawa control with tree coverage significantly reduced on Tristan.	2.1 A minimum of 7 Tristanians (at least 2 female) are trained in aspects of Pōhutukawa control by Q4 of Year 1  2.2 Pōhutukawa coverage mapped and compared with 2008 baseline by Q3 of Year 1  2.3 100% of any new seedlings found in in Year 1 and Year 2's cleared areas retreated in subsequent years	2.1 Pōhutukawa control training protocol; herbicide training report; photographic evidence; training register  2.2 Updated Pōhutukawa coverage map  2.3 Monitoring report; weed management app data; photographic evidence	Possible community fears about herbicide use can be allayed. This is highly likely as Tristan Conservation and Agriculture Departments already use herbicides widely on the island and will be given additional training in their safe use. The project will also always favour the least toxic herbicide that will get the job done.  All required herbicides are available in South Africa. Highly likely as Tristan already source multiple varieties from SA.  Sufficient personnel available to carry out the eradication work. Highly likely as Tristan Conservation Department are highly committed and all salary costs are covered.  Community allows trees to be removed from gardens and other private land. Highly likely as 98% of the trees are on Crown land and Community have already stated their support for removal due to Pōhutukawa damaging brickwork and outcompeting native 'island tree' (Conservation Department regularly gets asked to remove Pōhutukawa from near homes).
<b>Output 3</b> All emergent self-sown Monterey Pine eradicated from Tristan.	3.1 A minimum of 7 Tristanians (5 male, 2 female) are trained in Monterey Pine control by Q4 of Year 2  3.2 Monterey Pine coverage mapped, compared with 2008 baseline by end of Year 2	3.1 Monterey Pine control training report (Indigena); chainsaw training report (RSPB); photographic evidence  3.2 Updated Monterey Pine coverage map; community meeting minutes/photographic evidence	Possible community fears about removing pines can be allayed (the planted stand is a popular landmark from sea). This will be possible as the planted stand will remain untouched and the pines are encroaching into the highly valued yet limited available public pastureland. Tristan Conservation



Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	3.3 100% of any new seedlings found in Year 2's cleared areas retreated in Year 3	3.3 Monitoring report; weed management app data; photographic evidence	Department will be leading the work on the ground, with Indigena support, so visibly a locally-run project that can therefore better engage locals.
<b>Output 4</b> Baseline knowledge and community understanding of existing priority invasive plant species improved through surveys, mapping and F2F discussion.	4.1 All 137 known invasives reassessed against 2008 baseline by project end  4.2 Maps of all 17 priority species updated against 2008 baseline by project end  4.3 Engagement activities give 100% of Tristanians the opportunity to hear about the project's findings  4.4 At least 50 Tristanians have face-to-face discussions with the Community Engagement Lead in Q3 of Years 1 and 3 (including Council members, school children, and other community members)  4.5 Weed Control Manual produced by project end  4.6 By end of project, a minimum of 10 members of the Tristan community have received training in safe agro-chemical herbicide use for their domestic agriculture.	4.1 Reassessment of invasive plant species report  4.2 Updated alien plant maps  4.3 Newsletter; attendance register; picture of community notice board  4.4 Photographs from public meetings and school talks; educational resources for school; trip report  4.5 Weed Control Manual; Manual feedback  4.6 Training Report (Indigena)	COVID-19 restrictions don't prevent plant specialist travelling to South Africa from New Zealand (both countries previously having some of the strictest measures put in place globally). Highly likely as prevalence of Covid less, vaccination rates high and travel will occur during spring/summer months when case rate significantly lower.  Islanders will engage as invasive plants are an increasingly prominent issue. Significant demand in particular for weed control advice as some novel weeds are rendering some of the potato patches unviable.

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p><b>Activities</b> (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)</p> <p>1.1.1 NZ Flax team are joined by a Tristanian with rope access experience during each field season</p> <p>1.1.2 Tristanian flax team member receives training and attains 1000 rope hours during three field seasons needed to complete their IRATA Level 2 certification by project end</p> <p>1.2.1 Flax team deliver engagement activities each field season (Q4 flax eradication community newsletter, school lesson), culminating in an end-of-project presentation given to the Tristan community in the final year</p> <p>1.2.2 NZ flax team deliver rope-access training to school leavers annually after each flax control field season</p> <p>1.3.1 Experienced rope access team hired to travel to Inaccessible Island in Q3 of Years 1, 3 and 4 to carry out NZ Flax eradication work</p> <p>1.3.2 Flax team Lead receives drone/GIS training Year 1 Q2 to guide eradication work/produce flax coverage maps each season of known infested areas (plus 500m buffer)</p> <p>1.3.3 Inaccessible Island equipment/food airdrop takes place during the annual SA Agulhas II Gough Island relief voyage, in each project year</p> <p>1.3.4 NZ Flax team assess effectiveness of flax control in Year 3 &amp; 4 by surveying at least two random plateau and two random cliff transects in previously 'cleared' areas</p> <p>2.1.1 Experienced invasive plant specialist hired to assess and map non-native plant species on Tristan, and to deliver safe herbicide usage training</p> <p>2.1.2 RSPB community engagement lead delivers Pōhutukawa control and chainsaw training to 7 Tristanians in Year 1</p> <p>2.1.3 Invasive plant specialist provides software, spreadsheet templates and training documents to Tristan Conservation Department (TCD) so all plant eradication work is recorded</p> <p>2.2.1 Invasive plant specialist uses drone/GIS software to create a revised map of Pōhutukawa coverage on Tristan</p> <p>2.3.1 Tristanian invasive plant team recruited and trained in safe Pōhutukawa eradication techniques</p> <p>2.3.2 Tristanian project team carry out annual control of all accessible, emergent Pōhutukawa trees</p> <p>2.3.3 TCD check Year 1 and Year 2's previously cleared areas in Year 2 and Year 3 and record and re-treat any new Pōhutukawa seedlings found</p> <p>3.1.1 Tristan Conservation Department staff trained in safe Monterey Pine control – including chainsaw/herbicide usage and safe Monterey Pine eradication techniques</p> <p>3.2.1 Invasive plant specialist provides drone and mapping training to Tristan Conservation Department staff – revised coverage map created in partnership</p> <p>3.3.1 Tristanian project team fell and treat all self-sown Monterey Pines by end of Year 2</p> <p>3.3.2 Tristanian project team check Year 2's previously cleared areas in Year 3 and record and re-treat any new Monterey Pine seedlings found to assess effectiveness of eradication work</p> <p>4.1.1 Invasive plant specialist reassesses all 137 invasive plant species highlighted in the 2008 report and records any new invasive species discovered, feeding back in person to Tristan Government and producing a written report</p> <p>4.1.2 Invasive plant specialist writes 'Invasive Plant Strategy' by project end to provide guidance to Conservation Department for future seedbank control of priority species</p>			

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>4.2.1 Invasive plant specialist produces up to date maps of all 17 priority species of concern from the 2008 report using a drone and GIS software</p> <p>4.3.1 Invasive plant specialist and community engagement lead host meeting for the community and introduce the Invasive Plant Strategy in Year 3</p> <p>4.3.2 Plant eradication newsletter detailing the project's work compiled by project field teams and made available to all Tristan community members in Year 3</p> <p>4.4.1 Community engagement lead visits Tristan in Q3 Years 1-3 to engage Council, school children and community members via public meetings, informal discussions and classroom teaching</p> <p>4.5.1 Invasive plant specialist works in partnership with Conservation and Agriculture Departments and Tristan community to identify plant species of concern and to write 'Weed Control Manual', focused on at least 5 priority species of agricultural threat and 5 of conservation threat</p> <p>4.5.2 Council meeting held in Q4 Year 3 to review all control work and to decide future eradication priorities using Weed Control Manual as guidance</p> <p>4.6.1 Invasive plant specialist delivers a training session on safe agro-chemical herbicide use for any interested members of the community</p>			

## Annex 3: Standard Indicators

**Table 1 Project Standard Indicators**

DPLUS Indicator number	Name of indicator	If this links directly to a project indicator(s), please note the indicator number here	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DPLUS-A03	Tristan Conservation Department (1 female / 3 male) trained in invasive plant identification, control and mapping by project end.	2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2	Number of organisations	Tristan Conservation Department	1	1		1	1
DPLUS-A04	5% of Tristanians report they are applying new capabilities regarding invasive plant management (3:1 male:female ratio)	2.1, 3.1	People	Gender	7 (2F:5M)	5 (3F:2M)		12 (5F:7M)	7 (2F:5M) (minimum)
DPLUS-B02	Weed Control Manual produced by project end.	4.5	Number	Invasive Species Management	0	0		0	1
DPLUS-B05	By end of project, a minimum of 10 members of the Tristan community have received training in safe agro-chemical herbicide use for their domestic agriculture.	4.6	People	Gender	0	0		0	10 (5F:5M)
DPLUS-D12	By project end, 15% increase in available pastureland at Sandy Point post self-sown Monterey Pine removal.	0.3	Area (hectares)	New	0	0		0	15% increase in available pastureland

**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)
N/A						