

## Darwin Plus Main & Strategic: Annual Report

30<sup>th</sup> April 2025

### Darwin Plus Project Information

Scheme (Main or Strategic)	Main
Project reference	DPLUS192
Project title	<b>Delivering biodiversity and human well-being gains for Montserrat's sustainable development</b>
Territory(ies)	Montserrat
Lead Organisation	UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (UKOTCF) and Montserrat National Trust (MNT)
Project partner(s)	Government of Montserrat Ministry of Agriculture, Land, Housing and Environment, UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Species Recovery Trust
Darwin Plus grant value	£485,986.00
Start/end dates of project	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2024- 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2024-Mar 2025) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2)	Annual Report 2
Project Leader name	Mrs Catherine Wensink
Project website/blog/social media	<a href="http://www.ukotcf.org.uk">www.ukotcf.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.montserratnationaltrust.ms">www.montserratnationaltrust.ms</a> Montserrat National Trust Facebook page
Report author(s) and date	Mrs Catherine Wensink & Jodey Peyton, April 2025

### 1. Project summary

Land-use change is one of five main drivers of biodiversity loss (Díaz et al., 2019). Piecemeal development of land is seen as a major threat to unique biodiversity and the ecosystem services they provide in many UKOTs, including Montserrat, (Pienkowski & Wensink, 2015; Pienkowski et al., 2021) and elsewhere (Donovan et al., 2005).

Montserrat, a UK Overseas Territory, is located in the eastern Caribbean; with a population of 4,386 (estimate 2023). It lies 43 km SW of Antigua and 64 km NW of Guadeloupe at 16°45'N, 62°12'W (Figure 1). The volcanic island is approximately 102km<sup>2</sup> of mountainous, streams (locally termed “ghauts”) and waterfalls amongst dense tropical forest and a rugged coastline. Between 1995 and 2010 the island's volcano became active resulting in pyroclastic eruptions which destroyed its capital and displaced people from the residential and economic centre. This means that, even today, about two-thirds of the island is uninhabited. Despite the continuing challenges, the global biodiversity importance of the island remains immense.

For Montserrat, development for improved infrastructure and housing is an ongoing necessity. Successive Island-plans have recognised Montserrat's natural resources as important assets in economic growth and sustainability, but, to date, there has been limited practical support or detailed guidance on how to integrate biodiversity conservation adequately into built-development practices (pers comms, MNT). Since 2010 when the last island development plan was published, there has been an explosion of research linking biodiversity with human health and well-being (Butler et al., 2024; Hedin et al., 2022; Sandifer et al., 2015; White et al., 2019, 2017)



Figure 1: Map of Montserrat (Google Earth Pro version 7.3.6.9796; Montserrat 16.742498°; -62.187366°; elevation 0m; Date of image 12/7/2023; Accessed April 2024)

Built-developments can provide an opportunity for biodiversity to flourish; however there are examples on Montserrat that have shown development can result in localised biodiversity-loss (e.g. the Pipers Pond infilling in 2014 which destroyed Montserrat's only functioning mangrove habitat) and accidental or deliberate introduction of non-native species that can ultimately become invasive (e.g. red fire ants *Solenopsis invicta* believed to have been introduced during construction of the airport post-2008), resulting in negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems, human health and/or the economy.

Members of the leadership team within the Montserrat National Trust (MNT) formulated the project idea. It recognises the role of the MNT as guardian to the island's historical and natural assets. As a main information service and point of contact, MNT is bringing its knowledge and skills, and its partnerships worldwide, to provide a dedicated service to the community, through this project, which supports sustainable development and recognises that action for people and biodiversity is required. It is an important stakeholder in the Montserrat Sustainable Development Plan (SDP) and Physical Development Plan (PDP) and promotes sustainability on the island (for example, it has one of the first public buildings to run on 100% renewable energy, reducing its dependency on diesel-generated energy).

MNT presented the idea in discussions with UKOTCF and UKCEH in 2022. The latter had some recent experience leading on a similar project in the UK (Botham et al., 2021). Based on existing tools, the project was designed to support developers and the community by providing practical ways to support sensitively constructed and landscaped developments and their ongoing care. While building on experiences elsewhere the project takes into consideration Montserrat's unique biodiversity, its circumstances and economic challenges.

Project outputs provide a mechanism for the community to implement the objectives of the SDP&PDP, currently being updated and expected by the end of 2025, in a way which acts for biodiversity and human well-being. It will extend the use of Montserrat's valued asset, the native plant nursery and develop an on-island herbarium, ultimately to promote and conserve the value of endemic and native wildlife. This is important because native-plant nurseries can reduce reliance on imports for landscaping in developments and contribute directly towards species conservation and education (Clubbe et al., 2010) and reduces the risk of importing invasive non-native species (Patoka et al., 2016). The project has used standardised baseline survey and build on emerging citizen-science recording (including iNaturalist) to evaluate successes for biodiversity.

## 2. Project stakeholders/partners

The Project Management team include Catherine Wensink (CW) and Jodey Peyton (JP) from the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (UKOTCF), Chris 'Virginie' Sealys (CS) and Sarita Francis (SF) from the Montserrat National Trust (MNT) with support from other senior personnel including Dr Mike Pienkowski (UKOTCF) and Fay Needham (MNT). CS began working for the Trust at the start of the project and has been involved in all activities but in 2024-5 has taken a much more involved part in the project. This combination of experience, skills and location has enabled the project to: (1) benefit from persons involved in similar projects conducted elsewhere that could be adapted; (2) local knowledge on Montserrat of unique flora and fauna; (3) personnel based on Montserrat; (4) local knowledge & experience in planning and implementing projects on Montserrat (5) project planning & implementation of Darwin Projects.

CW, JP and CS worked together across the first year meeting with various partners to implement the project. As reported in the HYR2, the original project personnel changed within MNT's team. These changes, so that there is no significant impacts on the project or the expected outputs and outcome. While the Project Officer (PO) working with CW and JP is now CS, this does not represent a change in skill set, experience or capabilities.

The three persons coordinate with others on island roughly as follows:

- CW: across all partners at all times; generally informed of all activities and ensuring they are in line with implementation plan and logframe.
- JP: with UKCEH partners and Species Recovery Trust on technical aspects such as toolkit chapters; biological recording and developing management options based on local consultations and conditions.
- CS (supported by SF): working with MNT staff members, local community members, Ministry of Agriculture, Land, Housing and Environment (MAHLE) partners, Meise Botanic Gardens, Royal Botanic Gardens (RBGK), Kew and the Manx Wildlife Trust to ensure consultations are well attended, community are well-informed; trial sites are identified, and management options appropriate for the local context.

While coordinating with a number of partners can be challenging, the long-term working relationships established prior to this project have enabled the team to work well in the second year with a number of successes highlighted throughout the report including: (1) publication and launch of some trial merchandise making use of the agreement in writing with botanical artist [Lizzie Harper](#), who works independently but also a variety of bodies including the Field Studies Council (FSC). This agreement enabled the use of Lizzie's work for the development of merchandise and has led to items being piloted that depict a selection of the 30 of the most common traditional medicinal-plants of Montserrat; with sales generating approx. \$1,000 income for the MNT; (2) publication of a model garden for Montserrat using a design by Lizzie Harper and layout from the Field Studies Council; (3) Development and publication of the biodiversity & well-being toolkit management options; (4) Two Higher Education evenings attended by around 100 persons; (5) Launch of Monty's Ambassadors; a grouping of young persons of at least high-school age. working together to provide opportunities for young persons on island including hiking, volunteering, event-organisation and public speaking; (6) training on horticulture for staff and gardeners, co-delivered by MNT and the Manx Wildlife Trust, attended by 15 persons; (7) facilities improvement and launch of Montserrat's National Herbarium with samples from the Howard Collection returned from RBG Kew; (8) Award from International Plant Taxonomy Association (IPTA) for \$2,000 for a dryer to ensure that specimens are well preserved; (9) over 8,500 records from 150 recorders on iNaturalist as of March 2025; (10) updates to invertebrate list with publication on Montserrat's tarantula species and further plans for publication on some new species; (12) Education materials under development and meeting with Director of Education; (13) Sample vegetation plots in Centre Hills re-surveyed and expedition to Katy Hill elfin forest to collect samples; (14) intensive moth collection in July 2024 and development of Flower to Insect Timed Count (FIT) app to measure

abundances of pollinator and invertebrate species; (15) art competition for young persons as the end to a week of activities to highlight links between art, nature and well-being; (16) Darwin Local bid submitted for the Museum garden (October 2024); (17) Exposure visit for CS to RBGK and Meise Botanic Garden, Belgium in December 2024.

The project management team uses a management tool [www.monday.com](http://www.monday.com) to enable partners to log activity and review project activities throughout the project; this makes use of a non-government subscription with additional features. A screen shot of this is included in Annex 4.1; this mirrors the log-frame activities section to ensure that it is streamlined with reporting and ensures the project team can stay on top of tasks. Additional activities that take place are included in a separate section of Monday. Team meetings have taken place throughout the year, with extended meetings occurring during two trips in the year and an online meeting in March before the reporting period closed. Notes were taken and circulated to participants (See Annex 4.2: Notes of the Full team meeting).

### **Interactions with other Project Partners**

The team works with technical specialists at the UKCEH on several aspects such as (1) developing management options based on consultations; developing options for monitoring biodiversity and linking local biodiversity monitoring to supporting delivery of international targets (Marc Botham (MB) is involved in the analysing the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme data in the UK; Alan Gray (AG) has vast experience of working in the UKOTs and leads Ecosystem Integrity Assessment training at UKCEH);(2) liaising with Vicky Wilkins (VW) at Species Recovery Trust who has been building upon information sources on invertebrates on Montserrat first collated under previous project DPLUS155). VW is currently working on a cross territory project DPLUS216.

MB visited in Montserrat in June 2024 to meet with the team to discuss the development/tailoring of the FIT Count tool, a biological recording app. (see SOS NoM newsletter [issue 17](#) (page 6)). Since the use of iNaturalist, used to observe and record species around the island, this tool goes one step further to begin to record, through structured surveys, abundances of pollinator groups. The FIT count app was developed in the UK has been adapted for Anguilla (as part of DPLUS158). Through conversations with the UK FIT Count team, the project is working towards tailoring the app to Montserrat. Some testing of the FIT Count app was done in February 2025 using the Anguilla app as a basis for it. Plans to update the plant and pollinator list for it are underway and will be completed by summer 2025 with help from JP, MB, VW, CS and CW. The project team has negotiated some technical support from the app developer through UKCEH for the tailoring of the app making best use of links between UKCEH and other Darwin projects in the region. A hard copy of the data entry form was also developed as a backup to using the app in the field- see Annex 4.3 & 4.4.

MAHLE, specifically: the Department of Environment and the Department of Agriculture (DoA); continues to build on partnerships built elsewhere (e.g. DPLUS155). The project has benefited from experience and knowledge of personnel from DoA, Mr Elvis Gerard. Elvis has enabled a strong partnership with MNT and UKOTCF to continue. Elvis has provided technical knowledge on plants and pests, food production, understanding of climatic conditions across the island and more. Elvis' has provided technical input on the model garden. With this in mind, an illustration showing concepts such as companion planting and medicinal plants has been developed- see Annex 4.9.

In December there was a change in government on Montserrat. CW wrote to Minister outlining some of the work with MNT including the DPLUS192. Meeting with the Premier and the new Minister for MAHLE was held in February outlining the project and some of its outputs so far. Annex 4.15.

Partners from Meise Botanic Garden, Quentin Groom (QG) and Sofie Meus (SM) are involved in the MNT herbarium development and have supported the purchase and instalment of the herbarium cabinet, materials for developing the herbarium and liaison with RBGK to ensure work under the project continues to build on earlier work. The non-Montserrat-based part of the team visited in June 2024 and February 2025 and reports are included in Annex 4.17. In February team members visited Katy Hill (cloud forest) to collect plant samples. They also undertook to re-survey at permanent plots inside the Centre Hills with the Department of



Environment, originally set up in 2017-18 with support from RBGK and the project team are looking at how to support work going forward.

Plant specimens, rescued from the original herbarium in Plymouth by RBGK were sent to Montserrat having been previously temporarily stored there for safe-keeping. These are now in the Montserrat National Herbarium which is housed at the Trust. Work continues on the herbarium and specimens continue to be added. SM, led a workshop on specimen-mounting at the MNT in February (see Annex 4.11 for advertisement on social media). This was announced also on the radio as a way to ensure mounting of specimens was done, but also an opportunity for members of the public to get involved. It was attended by 7 persons who successfully mounted around 25 specimens, increasing the amount in the herbarium to 700 specimens.

The team found a funding call from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) for mobilising data to GBIF (for example there is a large unpublished data-set for Montserrat). The team held meetings with the GBIF Secretariat in Denmark, including three of the UK nodes (National Biodiversity Network, Natural History Museum and RBGK); with Defra and with JNCC. It is unclear whether as a result of these meetings, GBIF have made best efforts to include those with data needs in a new call. However, we are pleased to report that Montserrat (the only UKOT on the list) has been included in a recent call for funding. The team will work together on a bid and submit in May 2025.

### **Important Delivery Partners**

The team notes that during the year, three persons involved in the project (and or wider work) completed post-graduate courses. These were Ms Ajhermae White (MSc in Island Biodiversity and Conservation), Dr Rebecca Machin and Dr Jodey Peyton (Doctorates in Philosophy).

Dr Rebecca Machin coordinated an activity with the Monty's Messengers which saw them explore the botanic garden and create a rainbow collage (Annex 4.6 Rainbow collage & Annex 4.17 SOS Nature of Montserrat issue). Rebecca is developing a series of education materials which were presented to the Director of Education, Dr Julius, and his team in February 2025 (see Annex 4.8).

Botanical artist, Lizzie Harper produced drawing of Montserrat's traditional medicinal plants for the project. Lizzie agreed to allow images created, both in the first edition of the book and those produced in Y2 of the project, to be used on a commercial basis by the Montserrat National Trust to increase their merchandising capabilities. Lizzie will continue to provide botanic drawings throughout the project and exploring ways to contribute towards up-skilling on Montserrat and inspiring the youth to wide-ranging careers in environmental science. Lizzie delivered a programme of activities in February 2025 (see elsewhere). One highlight was taking Elvis' concept of a traditional Montserrat garden and creating a publication for use in the toolkit and for wider outreach. Lizzie presented the original artwork to Elvis during her visit (See Annex 4.9; Montserrat Garden Plan and illustrations at Annex 4.24 – both colour and black and white versions and Lizzie's own blogs on her website: <https://lizzieharper.co.uk> and samples of pilot merchandise Annex 4.25).

The Field Studies Council (UK) has been involved with many of the project partners as a designer, producer and printer of high-quality environmental education materials (see Annex 4.9 with Darwin Plus logo).

Following an initial meeting in February 2025, with two officers from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) who were on Montserrat carrying out some sampling of mosquitoes for a long-term project with the UKOTs, project team members followed up with their colleagues who have been working across the UKOTs and wider region for several years on mosquito management. From these meetings, there are plans to share by-catch from the UKHSA cross territories mosquito sampling (which could potentially be analysed as part of another linked project DPLUS216) and for UKHSA to provide input into useful community management tools that they have been developing with the Environmental Health Department on Montserrat.

### **3. Project progress**

Overall, the project has achieved its intended objectives for the second year. We have not reported again on those activities that have been completed. Instead we refer to them as complete. More detail is included in the logframe.

### **3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities**

Text headings below are taken directly from the logframe in Annex 2 and activity numbers correspond with these.

#### ***1.1 Biodiversity and human well-being toolkit developed informed by consultations with local community***

1.1.1 Complete

1.1.2 Complete

1.1.3.1 Partially complete – on course: Management options are ready to be worked into a publication for the community to use, the first part of the toolkit on management options complete. See Annex 4.8

1.1.3.2 RM has been leading on and working with the Montserrat Museum curator, Sam Lauren. After discussions on use of the Google Arts and MyLearning platforms, it was felt that the materials should be created 'in-house' and make information available on both UKOTCF's and MNT's webpages which would be more long-lasting given there are no costs involved and allow more flexibility in the formatting. This decision was confirmed as the best way forward during a meeting with Dr Julius, Head of the Department of Education during the February 2025 trip. This meeting gave the team an opportunity to inform and facilitate the development of the new school curriculum on Montserrat. See Annex 4.10 for Itinerary from February 2025 Trip. Annex 4.11 shows some examples of the sessions that have taken place during the year of both Monty's Messenger (primary aged children) and Monty's Ambassadors (11+) sessions during the year. Annex 4.7 and Annex 4.8 includes plans and draft materials. more information in this and other meetings held during the visit can be found in Annex 4.10 Itinerary from February 2025 Trip.

1.1.4 Complete see: <https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/key-projects/biodiversity-and-wellbeing-toolkit/>. During FY2, JP worked with Elvis Gerard to develop a matrix of the residential areas of the island and mapped microclimates, based on habitat maps available (DoE) to provide a simple guide to what grows well where informed by Department of Agriculture Extension Officer and MNT staff. This is included in the Management Options publication (completed in November 2024). This was a good example of agile project management and adapting to needs of Montserrat specifically, which is known locally to have some micro-climates.

1.1.5 & 1.1.6 In development

#### ***1.2 Extending provision of MNT and its' Botanic Garden to support sustainable development***

As reported also under DPLUS155 (Final report), the MNT team with UKOTCF was able to secure some technical advice from UKOTCF Council Member (and CEO of the Manx Wildlife Trust) Leigh Morris, to conduct some training in horticulture. This took place in August 2024. One output of the training and most relevant to DPLUS192 was the gardening course which included a certificate in horticulture for the participants, who including gardeners, MNT staff and others See:

CS, SL, CW and RM established that the museum garden would form part of the Toolkit trial site network, with the focus being on well-being and medicinal plant options, with corresponding evaluation of benefits to human well-being. A Darwin Local application was worked on throughout the year and was submitted October 2024. [Projects were expected to start in April 2025; however, there has been a delay in decisions and projects are under review]. This is unfortunate, but the project team is formulating plans to ensure that the project outcomes are not impacted. For example, a section of the garden will be designed and developed which is adapted to the conditions and requires little maintenance (e.g. drier area, exposed to feral goats) within the resources available. Interpretation boards installed in this area will be adapted to account for the climatic conditions and for the final design of the area.

1.2.1 This is an ongoing activity and is benefiting from the work of Bard University (through their Simon's Rock campus on Montserrat) to create a more up-to-date checklist based on the 2005 Centre Hills plant checklist and also the PL's part-time PhD research. This information is being used to feed into the development of a tailored app for Montserrat to look at Flower to Insect times counts (FIT counts).

1.2.2 This work is being led by VW at the Species Recovery Trust (building on earlier work started in DPLUS155) and working with entomologists including David Clements, Dr Wolfgang Rabitsch and MB; liaising with other local and regional experts; and also reviewing citizen-science records on iNaturalist. Two publications have been produced: on pollinators and their plant hosts and on micro-habitats, and feed into the management options in 1.1.4. See: <https://linktr.ee/montserratbiodiversitytoolkit>. This information will be used to support the development and trailing of the of the UKCEH Butterfly Count app. A species check-list continues to be updated; this year especially on molluscs.

1.2.3 Ongoing

1.2.4 & 1.2.5 See 1.1.3.2

1.2.6 See 1.3.3 below; In addition to the use of citizen-science tools such as iNaturalist, FIT Count app (and the Butterfly Count app currently being explored for use on Montserrat), Meise Botanic Garden and have been exploring the opportunities around an environmental data portal for Montserrat. Progress was made towards a portal following a meeting with local stakeholders in June 2024, requested by the MNT (see all presentations at [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1A-WTWqI\\_5O9yALCMZ6jhZ2wpPN4G6JHa?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1A-WTWqI_5O9yALCMZ6jhZ2wpPN4G6JHa?usp=share_link)). This is because further discussion and dialogue was needed to ensure any such portal was fit-for-purpose and that all stakeholders had an opportunity to feed into the process including some concerns and practicalities around potentially sensitive data. The meeting held in June tried to understand some of the challenges around data storage, sharing and use for the Government of Montserrat's National Environmental Information System (a delivery output of the Conservation and Environmental Act, 2014). It was attended by DoE (4 persons including the Director); MNT (5 persons including two young persons); Montserrat National Museum (1 person); GIS Unit (1 person) and a Data Specialist, Meise Botanic Garden (2 persons); UKCEH (1 person); UKRI (1 person) 2 others. Given the project teams knowledge of some of the opportunities that GBIF provides, further meetings were arranged with the GBIF Secretariat (based in Denmark), National Biodiversity Network; one of the UK nodes of GBIF), Defra and JNCC. In February 2025, a meeting was arranged with technical staff from MAHLE to go through what a portal might be able to achieve and how this might be delivered within current resources (e.g. the GIS Unit using the open access developer platform, Github with support from Meise Botanic Garden to create the front end of the portal. As of end of March 2025, with the DoE, MNT are submitting a formal request to GBIF to set up a template portal. A portal will make use of GBIF records, will be free, stable and long-term and so the team feel this should be pursued.

### ***1.3 Enhancing and evaluating biological records for Montserrat through a community of wildlife data-recorders***

1.3.1&1.3.2 A bioblitz took place in summer 2024 with children (as in 1.3.5) as well as encouragement on hikes to use Seek (off-line version suitable for young persons) and iNaturalist.

In February 2025, QG, SM and JP carried out a training event with Bard University training on use of iNaturalist and open date. This has resulted in many new records for the island.

In addition to citizen science, several surveys have been carried out through the year, with Meise working with the Forestry team to review permanent plots in the Centre Hills (replacing old tree tags with new ones). This has resulted in a proposal submission to the Franklinia to look at rare tree conservation on Montserrat.

1.3.3 New records continue to be added to the Island iNaturalist site. The promotion through the work of the Trust means the statistics for iNaturalist have exceeded project aim of 100 recorders; as of March 2025, there are now 150 recorders; and the number of observations is now at 8294 (doubled in a year as this was 4266 in April 2024). See Annex 4.12. The PL took

part in iNaturalist session on phenology (flowering of plants, noted by many local persons as becoming more sporadic and unpredictable). The project ambition increased from XX to 10,000 records to be submitted to iNaturalist before the end of the project (see 1.3.5). FIT Count app trialling based on the app for Anguilla was undertaken during the February 2025 trip (UKCEH – see *other Darwin project this project is learning from*). See Annex 4.4

1.3.4 A prize backpack given to MNT for XX as apt of the XX competition. In addition to this, an art competition linking nature, art and well-being was launched in January 2025. Annex 4.23 a selection of the winning pieces.

1.3.5 Records on iNaturalist fulfil this activity. See:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/biodiversity-of-montserrat-d74f33fd-6145-4b47-aa12-ae6870d80113>

## **2.1 Toolkit trialled at several locations and the process to evaluate success for biodiversity and human well-being established**

2.1.1 Five sites have been identified for trialling the Toolkit, which include the Hospital, Museum, port and several smaller sites such as XX.

2.1.2 Baselines completed where possible (access to sites and XX). Results have been collated.

2.1.3 Completed See above 1.1.2

2.1.4 Started in Y2 and continue into Y3

2.1.5 Started in Y2 and continue into Y3

## **2.2 Additional capacity and facilities at MNT and its Botanic Garden with opportunities for young people**

2.2.1 Sam Paul and Jo-Diaz Tye, all other garden staff creole garden have taken part in horticulture training (August 2024). Lists ongoing.

2.2.2 Ongoing see above in 1.1.3.2

2.2.3 Ongoing see above in 1.1.3.2

## **3.1. Stakeholder mapping and communications plan developed and implemented promoting results locally, regionally and internationally with stakeholders.**

Overall, A stakeholder analysis was completed for the project Y1Q1. A Communications Plan was drafted in Y1Q2 order to ensure that key project messages are communicated to each group in an appropriate way and this plan is regularly reviewed to ongoing relevance and use. The plan is being implemented throughout the project including: a dedicated webpage for project outputs in addition to the introductory webpage has been created set up on the UKOTCF website which is mirrored on the new MNT website, under development and due for promotion XX.. SOS Nature of Montserrat (see 1.1.1) issue 16 (June 2024), 17 (September 2024) and 18 (March 2025) were drafted, published and then circulated to over 200 persons on island and online available from: [ukotcf.org.uk](https://www.ukotcf.org.uk). See

<https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/newsletters/project-newsletter-1/>

3.2 See 1.1.2

3.2.1 Complete and reported in Y1 Annual report

3.2.2 & 3.2.3 Complete see 1.1.2 and reported in Y1 Annual report

3.2.4 CS lead on this and is working with Monty's Ambassadors and working links with the Caribbean Youth Network

3.2.5 See 1.1.2 CS leading on this

3.2.6 August 2024. See SOS NM issue 18 (in Annex 4.17)

3.2.7 Completed and reported in Y1 Annual report

3.2.8 Registration launched for the UKOTCF conference October 2025. In addition to this opportunity to share information from the project, a meeting was held with the Sustainability Representative at a group of resorts on the Turks and Caicos. This was in response to a query with regards to the development of a sanctuary for wildlife. Outputs of the project, including planting native species for biodiversity, were discussed. The project and its outputs were discussed during a visit to Sark in May 2024 by the PL, which demonstrated the rapid progress made in data collection with iNaturalist as well as....



3.2.9 Deliverable due FY3: as explained in XX, the UKOTCF online conference will take place in October 2025. The registration for this event is now open (see: <https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/online-conference-2025/>). We expect several project partners including MNT to present some project results.

Two Higher Education evenings took place, one each in July 2024 and in November 2024,. A highlight included a reading of poetry written by a Monty's Ambassador:

<https://fb.watch/yYC8ULQv-D/>

In addition to the higher education evenings, two panel discussions run by Monty's Ambassadors took place at MNT this FY; the first held in 14 November, was on the topic 'A Call to Action: youth and the future of conservation of Montserrat's environment and cultural heritage.'; the second, held in February 2025 was titled: "Is social media affecting the mental health of Montserrat's youth and how can engagement with biodiversity mitigate these effects?". These were recorded by ZJB national radio station and played on the radio.

## 3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

*Output 1: Biodiversity and human well-being integrated into sustainable development with creation of toolkit and linked resources, capacity building for the Montserrat National Trust and its community partners, native plant nursery facilities extended and increased island-wide biological recording and monitoring.*

**Indicator 1.1 means of verification (MOV):** Feedback collated and reviewed at minuted meeting.

**Indicator 1.2 MOV** Draft Toolkit widely available for comment (as a typical consultation) by network of stakeholders, in public places e.g. Montserrat Library notice and shared in AR1 report. Feedback was collated in questionnaire responses rather than a minuted meeting as using questionnaires forms made available online were less likely to be misplaced or lost and data could be held more securely.

**Indicator 1.3 MOV** finalised version of biodiversity and human well-being toolkit sent to Field Studies Council for lay-out and printing and available online on the MNT, UKOTCF websites as well as some hard copies available on Montserrat.

**Indicator 1.4 MOV** are MNT employs native plant nursery assistants and purchases additional materials and equipment (see Annex 4.13 Asset Register); MNT plant inventory records; MNT develop species plant lists and other wildlife to be encouraged (e.g. native insects) advice on plants for planting and how to encourage other native flora and fauna at 5 locations during trial and document those using such facilities.

**Indicator 1.5a MOV** is Records on iNaturalist and attendees at 'bioblitz' event (one hosted at MNT garden in Y1, and in Y2 on hiking trails).

**Baselines:** 1.1 Consultations on biodiversity & well-being not held by MNT with no direct knowledge or opinions recorded; 1.2 a toolkit bringing together information on biodiversity and well-being not available; 1.3; Not currently finalised but information needed for it being gathered throughout 1.4; achievable with capacity at the Trust in FY2 and FY3; 1.5a & 1.5b: in July 2022 (when application written) there were 1000 records.

**Change Recorded to date** As reported in ARFY1 1.1 Public consultation (responses n=46); Montserrat Secondary School (responses n=29), Farmers Association (responses n=5) in total 80 responses; all response anonymous with those not wishing to be included deleted; 1.2. toolkit with framework drafted; management options sense-checked with local expertise Department of Agriculture and MNT; 1.3. additional information for the toolkit being gathered throughout both planned (companion planting as in Garden plan see Annex 4.9) and on an ad hoc basis e.g. UK Public Health campaign information; etc) 1.4 Sales records at the native plant nursery- see Annex 4.21; 1.5a&1.5b as of March 2025, there are 150 observers and 8294 observation or records (from 100 recorders and 4266 observations in April 2024j).

**Source of Evidence:** 1.1. Google sheets (example in [ARY1 Annex 4.7](#)) 1.2. See Annex 4.14 for Management Options published in November 2024; 1.3 ongoing project team outputs and information gathering held in Monday.com (see Annex 4.1); 1.4 Plant list records with >700 sales (equivalent to XCD\$14,286.00 in sales) more expected throughout Y3. 1.5a Annex 4.11

Social media posts on events & 1.5b iNaturalist itself Annex 4.12 screen shot to date (April 2025).

Overall, for this output, the information for the toolkit continues to be collated and is building a body of knowledge via technical experts and citizen science tools. The capacity of the gardens continues to be strengthened as seen by the technical training, guidance from senior MNT staff supported by other partners in the team e.g. UKOTCF and Meise Botanic Gardens.

*Output 2: Monitoring and Evaluation of use of toolkit and other linked resources by community to drive integration of biodiversity and human well-being into sustainable development*

**Indicator 2.1 the MOV** is 2.1 Five locations reports showing how aspects of the toolkit used, recognised and approved from MNT project staff that concepts and design have been incorporated. Additional users of the toolkit complete questionnaire on how it was to integrate the toolkit into their outdoor space.

**Indicator 2.2 the MOV** indicator 2.2. MNT present GDPR-compliant (as good practice on Montserrat) records of sites where toolkit used on information systems and other online free webtools.

**Indicator 2.3 MOV** 2.3 MNT deliver training events in Y1, Y2 and Y3 in orientation for iNaturalist – with new biological records created.

**Indicator 2.4 the MOV** 2.4 Annual report published on records received over the year reported in local news channels with guest presentations by MNT on species of interest found. Radio shows allow it to be presented to community with lively phone in discussions and providing feedback.

**Baseline:** 2.1 there is no toolkit or systematic method to support biodiversity on Montserrat in development; 2.2 no system in place; 2.3 no assistants working from MNT on integrating biodiversity and well-being into sustainable development; 2.4; no reports on iNat records being added through bioblitz and other collection events.

**Change Recorded to date:** 2.1: trial sites in Y2 surveyed include Site 1: New Hospital Buildings at Glendon Hospital; Site 2: National Museum Garden; Site 3: Port Area; Site 4: Montserrat Children's Society; Site 5: Silver Hills Retreat Centre.

2.2 Source of Evidence: 2.1 Itinerary in Annex 4.10; 2.2 See notes on response to HYR logframe as should be by Y3; 2.3 [In ARY1 Annex 4.14 & 4.17](#); 2.4 See Annex 4.11; panel events and radio interviews. Presentation to Premier and Minister of Environment (February 2025) See Annex 4.15 and images of iNaturalist training of Bard University students in February 2025 in Annex 4.16 with Meise Botanic Garden's Sofie Meeus.

*Output 3: Opportunities created to communicate, promote and celebrate toolkit and linked resources to support integration of biodiversity and human well-being into sustainable development*

**Indicator 3.1 is The MOV** is Communication plan developed outlining key stakeholder groups, and added to project page on MNT website.

**Indicator 3.2 is The MOV** Materials collated and shared with wider team via project team's site. Through another project have gathered lists of traditional medicinal plants. This will promote and encourage passing of knowledge to younger generations.

**Indicator 3.3 is The MOV** Higher Education evening promoted through MNT and UKOTCF social media channels and even broadcast via social media

**Indicator 3.4 is The MOV** is Biodiversity Badge developed and awarded to at least 10 young people with certificates created and Youth Forum for Biodiversity first meeting attended by 5 interested persons (between ages 16-18).

**Indicator 3.5 is The MOV** is Natural heritage materials linked to well-being and sustainable development available on Google Arts & Culture, MyLearning as well as hard copies printed through the Field Studies Council by Y2Q4.

**Indicator 3.6 is The MOV** is Questionnaire with feedback on most important elements, resources available or needed, available as part of Toolkit package

**Indicator 3.7 is The MOV** is Attendance list from training event with at least 15 attending and giving support to the initiative via feedback forms.

**Indicator 3.8** is **The MOV** is Event promoted via local media channels and blog written and shared on MNT website- livestreamed with recording for those that can't attend at time.

**Indicator 3.9** is **The MOV** is Recorded webinar organised and promoted through UKOTCF channels with feedback received post-seminar.

**Baseline: 3.1;** MNT had not previously mapping stakeholder or communications for this particular area of interest 3.2; Version 1 of booklet including 15 medicinal plants of Montserrat; some resources on UKOTCF's webpages 3.3; The first Higher Education Evening with environmental focus took place in 2022; 3.4; No recognised internationally recognised certification for youth persons relating to environment and Sustainable Development Goals organised on island; 3.5; Education materials linking biodiversity and well-being lacking; 3.6; No well-being and biodiversity survey being trailed at 5 sites 3.7; MNT not worked directly with landscapers, gardeners and developers at facilities so building communications lines important 3.8; 3.9 development always recorded concern to conservationists project attempt to work with and address it.

**Change Recorded to date:** 3.1 Stakeholder mapping and Communications Plan complete (Y1Q2) and being implemented in Y2 evidence in Annex 4.11 social media and in SOS nature Montserrat newsletters see Annex 4.17 or at <https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/newsletters/project-newsletter-1/> for issue 16 and 17; 3.2; Booklet published with 30 medicinal plants of Montserrat to be used in education material online and developed throughout the project now can be downloaded for \$10USD to generate income for MNT see: <https://ukotcf.sellfy.store/p/thirty-popular-medicinal-plants-from-montserrat/> 3.3; Two events held; the first in July 2024 held at the Montserrat National Trust offices with booths from the Governor's Office, DoE, MNT and with a presentation from botanical artist Lizzie Harper- See Annex 4.18 for video shown part way through before power outage. The second in November 2024 was held at the Cultural Centre with around 100 attendees: booths included: MVO, Governors Office, Farmers Association, DoE, GIS consultancy, MNT and others (Lizzie's video shown). 3.4; Education Officer in post for one year with MNT; See profiles of Monty's Ambassadors and roles in SOS Nature Montserrat issue 18 at Annex 4.17; 3.5; Plan created for how materials will link together, discussed with MNT and presented to Head of Department of Education and colleagues; 3.6; Completed; results being compiled; 3.7; See Annex 4.19 section of Leigh Morris' blog with regards to the gardening certificate presentation awarded to 15 persons and 3.8; Y3 activity 3.9: in progress (but timing should be Y3Q4 for seminar/conference; see response to HY report feedback)

Source of Evidence: 3.1 See Annex 4.18; 3.2; Booklet published see Annex 4.3, also presentation at the Montserrat Secondary School Annex 4.19; 3.3; See stills from draft video Annex 4.20 3.4; See Annex 4.21 and first page of Darwin Local application Annex 4.22; 3.5; See Annex 4.3; 3.6; In progress; 3.7; In progress; 3.8; Year 3; 3.9 In progress with invitation given to MNT to present at October 2025 conference

### 3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

*Outcome By 2026, key Sustainable Development Goals achieved successfully through creation and use of community-led tools which integrate protection of biodiversity and ensure improved human well-being in the islands' physical development.*

**Indicator 0.1** In Y1-Y2 at least 100 Montserratians involved in designing and shaping toolkit for biodiversity and well-being (50% women/girls). **MOV** is Meeting records/reports of stakeholder meetings (focal groups and MNT's children's group) with feedback on vision of what they envisage sustainable development will be on Montserrat in 10-20 years.

**Indicator 0.2** At least five developments / private residences grounds working with project to use tools on Y2Q4. **MOV** is Joint press releases Montserrat National Trust (MNT) & Ministry of Agriculture Housing Lands and Environment (MAHLE) radio interviews on MAHLE vibes showcasing public support for this community-led project.

**Indicator 0.3** 10 outreach materials on ecological and cultural heritage in Montserrat co-developed and available for use online and in person by Y3Q4 **MOV** Published materials online with open-sourced free webtools (with personal data protected) including via MNT UKOTCF websites.

Outcome Indicator 0.1 is adequate as it refers to designing and shaping. In the design so far has been 80 persons (46 adults, 29 young persons and 5 farmers/gardeners) in shaping the toolkit we expect more. Gender ratio has been recorded with more than 50% women and girls responding. This target is largely achieved in year 2 given the following: around 100 different persons attending the Higher Education Evening in July and November 2024, panel discussion events with around 20-30 persons in attendance at each event, the Arts Council (2 persons) in meeting in February 2025, the Department of Education in meeting in February 2025 (3 senior personnel from Department of Education), inclusion of Bard students at Simon's Rock Campus on Montserrat (11 persons in attendance). Additional events included the arts competition, art classes and arts lessons at the Montserrat Secondary School, which highlighted the links between nature, art and well-being; well-timed as they came shortly after the panel discussion held at the Montserrat National Trust in February 2025.

Outcome Indicator 0.2 is found to be adequate as within resources at least 5 trial sites will be established; the scale of the sites varies on island, but some are highly visible and offer a unique opportunity to showcase the project e.g. the hospital (we should note that the plans for the site are agile and adapting to this large infrastructure project, but MNT are working closely with the General Manager at the hospital). Radio interviews continue to be a good way to communicate and deliver positive messages; it is also a good way to ensure that the community links project activities to the overall project. Press release are now considered not such an effective indicator given that the radio is widely used. Preparations for radio shows are considered by the project team as sufficient for getting messages across. This indicator is likely to be achieved. Social media posts continue to be a good way to communicate through the MNT Facebook page and Instagram accounts.

Outcome Indicator 0.3 materials have been developed in Y2 and are on track to be achieved by year end. 10 materials consist of a mixture of published items including:

1. 30 medicinal plants of Montserrat (published)
2. Micro-habitats (published)
3. Plant/invertebrate pollinators (published)
4. Garden plan promoting a sustainable garden on Montserrat (published)
5. Toolkit Management options (published)
6. 15 new illustrations of medicinal plants of Montserrat and trial merchandise from botanical illustrations (published tea towel and mugs; see Annex 4.24 and Annex 4.20 Montserrat National Trust Tea Towel V4)
7. Plant/vertebrate pollinators (in progress)
8. Colouring book (in progress)
9. Introduction to grasses of Montserrat (in progress)
10. Final toolkit (in progress)

### 3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

*[Note Assumptions are numbered according to how they appear in the logframe e.g. 0.1, 0.2 is Outcome Assumptions 1 and 2 whereas 1.1, 1.2 are Output 1 assumptions 1 and 2 etc. Outcome]*

**Outcome Assumption 0.1** Detailed records of meetings kept and maintained. MNT and UKOTCF have jointly run projects for >20 years. Communication lines established and ways of working together to achieve project outcomes. **Comments:** Meeting notes and correspondence regularly; project management via Monday.com. (See Annex 4.1 & 4.2)

**Assumption 0.2** MNT and MAHLE have good communication lines and regularly interact including the radio show to talk to about their projects. This assumption still holds true.

**Comments:** Have been working with the Department of Agriculture in addition to ensure that information is accurate and produced in engaging ways see Annex 4.9; the artist presented the original drawing to Mr Gerard in February 2025.

**Assumption 0.3** Websites regularly and easily updated. Information is added to both MNT&UKOTCF sites for double exposure.

**Comment:** Holds true; MNT additional capacity with new Museum curator who has updated the website to enable it to be more regularly updated. UKOTCF's site and link.tree page as well as Google Drive and Dropbox accounts for storing information are being used by the team.



**Outputs Assumption 1.1 & Assumption 1.2** Complete process **Comment:** >100 participants involved in a variety of activities which feeds into the toolkit in various ways (Higher Education evening, Monty's Ambassadors, feedback from training events etc).

**Assumption 1.3** Toolkit of options recognised as valuable for Montserrat and MNT promote it widely with support of Government of Montserrat. **Comments:** Project locally led from Montserrat by MNT; organised and ran consultation meetings; Medicinal Plant Committee etc. Department of Environment has been involved heavily in a variety of aspects of the project including on data mobilisation via the work on the National Herbarium. In Y3 it will be important to engage with various other parts of Government of Montserrat. The meeting with the new Premier and Minister of Environment were key to establishing this rapport (see presentation Annex 4.15)

**Assumption 1.4a** MNT able to recruit native plant nursery assistants and equipment able to be purchased in Montserrat **Comment:** MNT enhanced staffing levels through the project and including Senior Conservation Officer.

**Assumption 1.4b** Plants selected and species lists drawn up suitable for growing by MNT; regular biosecurity monitoring ensures healthy plants. **Comment:** holds true as sales suggest see Annex 4.21; Project draws on biosecurity projects by DoE & Great Britain Non-Native Species Secretariat (GBNNNS) being lead by JP and making further links e.g. UK Health Security Agency. In addition making best use of information collated during complementary projects (e.g. DPLUS155).

**Assumption 1.4c** MNT staff deliver advice on local planting **Comment:** holds true; MNT re working on collating results of the baseline surveys which will be shared with those trialling toolkit.

**Assumption 1.5** Community engaged in biological recording and use iNaturalist. **Comment** Bioblitz held in August 2024 event (see Social media posts in Annex 4.11); with the results seen on iNaturalist; this has exceeded expectations for participation from local persons and from those visiting the island also. In Y3, plans are being made for training sessions that explore the use of this data for conservation reporting and planning.

**Assumption 2.1** Montserrat Government Departments including PPU and DoE work actively to promote the toolkit into development approval process / Developers / residents willing to voluntarily uptake toolkit and promote it. **Comment:** The MNT is looking to ways in which it can contribute towards the planning process using the toolkit as a way to ensure that information is available to planners.

**Assumption 2.2** MNT informed of developments and able to host GDPR-compliant record system. **Comment:** able to identify partners; partly holds true as this should be by project end not in first year. This may be a simpler system built 'in-house' to ensure that it is not an ongoing cost which had to be managed beyond Y3 and can still be useful.

**Assumption 2.3** MNT staff equipped with expertise in use of iNaturalist **Comment:** yes holds true evidence (MNT staff records to iNaturalist can be seen in the "Biodiversity of Montserrat" project on [www.inaturalist.org](http://www.inaturalist.org))

**Assumption 2.4.** Records available on iNaturalist for reporting. **Comment:** holds true (see Annex 4.12)

**Assumption 3.1** Stakeholder mapping allows for targeting communication planning.

**Comment:** Communications being implemented within resources of the project team, but playing to strengths e.g. social media and local radio.

**Assumption 3.2** Existing materials shared and available for use in developing resources.

**Comment:** Holds true as MNT & UKOTCF are able to make use of materials gathered during previous projects and opportunities to explore use of innovative tools elsewhere e.g. Extension of tools used in other Darwin Plus projects (e.g. DPLUS158; FIT Count App).

**Assumption 3.3** Successive cohorts of young people sufficiently interested in attending the Higher Education event. **Comments:** Two events held in Y2 with over 100 people attending. The first HE event, held in 2022, resulted in a DoE employee continuing studies (with a Darwin Fellowship award) and was awarded an MSc in Island Biodiversity and Conservation at the end of 2024.

**Assumption 3.4** Materials created suitable for sharing on Google Arts & Culture **Comment:** Partially held true as applied for Google Arts & Culture account but not forthcoming in this year due to additional unexpected costs; alternatives on stable UKOTCF site and will be copied to MNT.

**Assumption 3.5** participants willing to undertake survey. **Comment:** Access to sites has been forthcoming during Y2.

**Assumption 3.6** Event promoted in timely fashion to allow maximum participation from local community **Comment:** Yes held true

**Assumption 3.7** Event of sufficient interest to other UKOTs to attend- previous experience of UKOTCF (conferences and workshops) events has demonstrated good attendance. **Comment:** Event will take place in October 2025 and registrations for it now open.

**Assumption 3.8** Meeting well attended- 664 marketing group successful in promoting events on island (Higher Education evening 20+ persons, around 60 involved in bioblitz, over 40 kids involved in kid's club) **Comment:** Believe this to be true as above.

**Assumption 3.9** UKOTCF have held six conferences (from 2003-2021) in person and online events with over 100+ delegated attending throughout with positive feedback received.

**Comment:** Conference will take place in October 2025 with members of the project team expected to present and attend.

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

##### **BIODIVERSITY & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

- Montserrat's Sustainable Development Plan (SDP) and Physical Development Plan (PDP)

The process for the updating the SDP began in November 2021.

The project is timely as will contribute towards its wider implementation. Some project partners were involved in the review process including workshops to formulate and steer the plan and through this considered how they might drive forward sustainable development on island. The project supports delivery of the SDP objectives in the short, medium and long term. The Premier, who took office at the end of 2024, recently made an announcement saying the SDP would be available by the end of the year: <https://www.zjbradio.com/news/2025/3/5/premier-honourable-reuben-t-meade-confirms-work-on-new-sustainable-development-plan-for-montserrat>

With regards to the Physical Development Plan (PDP), which supports the higher-level objectives of the SDP MNT was a key stakeholder during this process and the project will ensure conserving biodiversity is a prerequisite for sustainable development through its engagement with the Planning and Development Authority, the PDP process and the community. A core objective of the PDP is "to set the framework for identifying appropriate land use to support planned economic and socially inclusive development while safeguarding the environment."

The project will provide documentation for the Government of Montserrat which they can include in pre-or post screening of development projects.

-United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Results from the project can contribute to the following Goals and Indicators (with explanation):

Sustainable Development Goal 4.4 Indicator 4.4.1 Proportion of youth and adults with information and technology skills made possible through project (Meise Botanic Garden/UKOTCF data scientist training and mentoring)

Sustainable Development Goal 4.7 Indicator 4.7.1 Extent to which education for sustainable development can be mainstreamed (MNT/Work with Montserrat Community College and students)

Sustainable Development Goal 4.b Indicator 4.b.1 Volume of scholarships by sector (UKOTCF by exploring links with Jersey International Centre for Advanced Studies (JICAS)

Sustainable Development Goal 5.1 Indicator 5.1.1 promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination (UKOTCF and all)

Sustainable Development Goal 5.5 Indicator 5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions (MNT&UKOTCF likely to be 80% by project end)

Sustainable Development Goal 11.4 Indicator 11.4.1 Spend on preservation, protection and conservation (approx. £1/2m over 3 years, but with other linked projects likely to be higher).

Sustainable Development Goal 12.8 As in 4.7

Sustainable Development Goal 15.4 Indicator 15.4.2 (tentative) Mountain Green Cover Index (UKOTCF explore if appropriate)

Sustainable Development Goal 15.9 Indicator 15.a.1 Spend on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems (HMG £1/2m ODA with possible in-kind from Montserrat sources)

## BIODIVERSITY

- Montserrat's Conservation & Environmental Management Act (2014) The Department of Environment will be supported to carry out its duties under the Act including providing information on the islands' biodiversity, development of information systems it can access and as a stakeholder in the project.

- Convention on Biological Diversity: (CBD; Aichi Target numbers): Through toolkit promotion and take up it supports targets 1, 9, 11, 12, 14 and 19 to which the UK is a signatory (COP/10 /INF/12/Rev.1). <https://www.cbd.int/gbf> e.g. Target 6 - Reducing INNS through reducing INNS by trying to grow local <https://www.cbd.int/gbf/targets/6>

- Environment Charter: toolkit helps UK to meet commitment 1 and 10; enables Montserrat to meet its commitment under 2, 3, 7, 9 and 10.

- The toolkit, by actively promoting options for developers that reduce the risk of human-induced extinction of endemic and native species through wildlife friendly landscaping, it addresses the UK Government's 25 Year Environment Plan Supports strategic aim (i) of the 2014 UK Government's plan for UKOTs. -Implementing recommendation of 2019 Environmental Audit Committee Inquiry into Invasive Species including prescribed planting of native species - following principles of RBGK Declaration (2021). Although not yet published it is likely to fulfil objectives as set out in the UKOT Biodiversity Strategy (expected in 2025).

## 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.	X
<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>Transformative</b>	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	

In the design of the project the team knew that they wanted to include as many Montserratian voices as possible. The survey method used in Y1 to capture information aimed to ensure that GESI was taken into account by the use of a questionnaire available in paper copy to pick up from one of the two public consultations or via QR code to insure inclusion of those unavailable at the time of public meetings. Questionnaires were used given that they are advantageous for the following reasons, not limited to being: accessible, anonymous, cost saving, easy to analyse and standardise, scalable, flexible and informative.

The use of language in printed and published material is important when it specifically aimed at the Montserratian community. To make it engaging we want to ensure it uses appropriate language which is clear and not overly technical. MNT reviewed text drafted by the non-island team to ensure suitability for local audiences.

The project is also sensitive to Montserratian culture and traditional use of knowledge, particularly on use of medicinal plants. The booklet produced in Y2 as part of the project includes knowledge captured from elder people in the community. The team worked together, following ethics guidelines to ensure that a disclaimer is both respectful to local culture and traditional ways of life, but is also fit for purpose.

During Y2, the Project Team and MNT sought to address limitations in social inclusion as part of the developing a Youth Programme. As such the MNT applied to the Darwin Local grant fund in order to provide for both a youth programme coordinator and vehicle. This was important because it was found to be the case that some families of children were not able to provide transport to sessions outside of school which could have been limiting attendance of those without transport. This makes the activities of the youth programme more inclusive to those wishing to attend.

With regards to Gender equality, there are several aspects of the project that we consider to be important. (1) the wider project team- see table below; (2) the inclusion of male and female voices in consultations- (>50% respondents were female).

There have been some changes within the wider team in Y2, with the gender balance roughly equal with some additional capacity in the botanic garden adding several male personnel and one key position being left by a senior female MNT staff member.

Organisation	Female	Male	% Project Leadership female
UKOTCF*	2	1	66.6
MNT**	2	1	66.6
UKCEH	0	2	
SRT	1	0	
Meise	1	1	
MAHLE	1	1	
PPU	1	1	
Additional staff	2	4	
Total	10	11	

\*this has been increased in Y2 given some staff changes

\*\*this has been reduced in Y2 given some staff changes

## 6. Monitoring and evaluation

There are several ways in which the project monitors and evaluates activities to meet the outputs and outcome, which do not differ from the M&E plan we originally had for the project.

The Project Management team CS (supported by SF), CW and JP are responsible for M&E. Typically, an intensive period of activity would be planned for each 6 months of the year lasting about 2 weeks. In preparation for this an itinerary would be drawn up – see Annex 4.10 for an example. The itinerary would be agreed in advance, but with some flexibility for changes in dates and times before and during those weeks.

2) Catch-ups after long absences e.g. Christmas and Easter holidays



The team has found this important to do given that there can be weeks where team members may be absent with no overlap. The logframe is reviewed at these points to ensure the team is on track.

3) One-on-one discussion between the three core members of the project management teams  
Regular dialogue between the project team members help to create a collaborative atmosphere and share challenges or discuss approaches. This typically takes place via email, Zoom and WhatsApp.

4) Ongoing written reports HYR and ARs

These help to document activities being undertaken; opportunities, challenges and successes in a table produced with information collected by members of the Project Management Team. See Annex 4.2

5) Monday.com

A screenshot of the project management tool is given in Annex 4.1 t. This tool is useful as it is a central place where project team members can find documents, add information or review activities. The 'updates' function allows team members to share links to document and to find them easily.

6) Quarterly UKOTCF Council meetings

CW uses Quarterly Trustee meetings of UKOTCF to provide short summaries of ongoing projects. A paper published is published for each meeting. This is useful as it provides an avenue to discuss the project to those not close to the project so that it is clear and concise. This provides an opportunity to report and review project progress and UKOTCF's role in the project. SF, Director of the MNT, is a UKOTCF Council Member and as such this quarterly review is helpful in regularly reviewing the projects outcome, outputs and activities.

7) Half-year and Annual reports

The processes used in 1-6 allows for HYR & AN reports to be drafted in an efficient and timely manner. Project Team members contribute to this.

## **7. Lessons learnt**

The following successes are highlighted for Y2:

- Events are being well-attended e.g. Higher Education Evening, Panel discussions
- Management options document finished
- Use and promotion of iNaturalist; exceeded expectations.
- The team led an application to Darwin Main to expand some work and carry out new work, which made it to Stage 2.
- After seeking approval from the botanical illustrator of the medicinal plants, the team produced some sample merchandise using the images which have been used as a source of income
- Art competition received over 20 entries relating to nature and the environment. Prizes were awarded including art supplies as advised by Lizzie Harper (botanical illustrator) see Annex 4.23 A Selection of artwork from the winner of the competition and social media Annex 4.11)
- 15 additional medicinal plant drawings produced; now have 30 which are being used for trialling some merchandise for the Montserrat National Trust.
- Visit of Beth Penhallurick to explore education opportunities.
- Award from the International Plant Taxonomy Association (IPTA) for \$2000 to purchase a drier for the newly established National Herbarium of Montserrat. Award letter received March 2024.
- Expansion of the FIT Count app (using Anguilla's app as a basis for testing).
- Application for a GBIF hosted portal developed (for submission in Y3)
- Specimens received from RBGK now in herbarium.

The following challenges have been experienced:

- In October, a Darwin Local was submitted for a project focusing on the Montserrat National Museum garden, specifically to make improvements to its sustainable management and long-term conservation goals. However, Darwin funds have been paused with no knowledge of whether the project has been funded. The project will assume that it will not and needs to make adjustments accordingly.
- Staff employed on several projects requires careful time planning needed to ensure delivery across these projects. This is a challenge, but one being overcome.
- There were some staff changes during the year within the Trust. It is encouraging that in recent years and with strong partnerships on island and elsewhere, MNT has been able to use a relatively larger pool of personnel to buffer these transitional times.
- There have been some changes in the sites used to trial the toolkit and some flexibility needed within the project to account for this. We do not see this as impacting the outcomes of the project, but want to ensure that challenges are recorded.

#### *General Recommendations*

- It can be difficult to recruit persons on Montserrat and cost of living is high; so alternatives, such as part-time roles, can be explored but also having senior managers able to deliver outputs when there are gaps due to illness, constraints on Project Officers, e.g. childcare duties.
- Volunteer opportunities and paid internships, particularly those highly skilled and experienced, can accelerate projects and should be encouraged.
- Roles for young persons allow the Trust and others to identify suitable future environment officers for both non-government and government bodies on island as a shared resource. Enabling them to study at the same time as working is advantageous and gives longer-term planning.
- In some territories, mobile-phone data-charges are high, so that junior staff may not be able to afford them. If data-collection depends on mobile phone apps, projects may need to consider covering the costs of this, especially for junior staff and volunteers.
- There have been instances where staff have not had the proper attire or equipment for outdoor working. The availability of such items (such as adequate walking-boots, waterproofs/high-vis clothing etc) on Montserrat is limited; this should be built into project budgets, particularly for young persons learning to manage outdoor working and risks.
- Regular catch-ups with project partners do not need to involve all partners and sub-groups can be created. This is because schedule managing across a large project can be difficult.

#### *Building into future*

- In March an application was developed to the Franklinia Foundation (submitted in April 2025) for a project that would support the conservation of rare trees on Montserrat. This was led by Meise Botanic Gardens with information gathered from the Department of Environment and MNT who would be partners. Fieldwork would start in April 2026 after this project ended.
- Additional funds are also being sought to continue this work and the partnership build up over the last 5 years or so and it is hoped that the Darwin funds are continued to enable this.

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

Annex 4.22 is a copy of an email sent to BCF/NIRAS after the HYR2 report. No response was received and as such it is considered that the follow up was accepted. The team are ready to act if it transpires that this is not the case given that the changes are minor and do not impact on the project outcome or outputs.

## 9. Risk Management

Risk-register submitted in ARY1 and reviewed every three months and as issues arise. No risks have arisen that were not originally accounted for.

## 10. Scalability and durability

### Additionality

Links with other projects, particularly with Darwin Locals. Several were approved including (DPLR3\1065 Project Title: Fostering Youth engagement in Biodiversity and Conservation in Montserrat"). The new van purchased under this project is now at the MNT office.

New funding explored via the Franklinia Foundation (submitted in April 2025) and the GBIF Call for projects (to be submitted in May 2025).

Future Funding: Darwin Main project resubmission on Silver Hills in next call.

### Publicity

Logos are used throughout and the funding is acknowledged at each opportunity. The project is very supportive of the Darwin Plus (Biodiversity Challenge Fund) and facilitated the delivery of decals for the Trust's new van which were more economically designed, produced and shipped from the UK. (See Annex 4.9, 4.14, 4.15, 4.17;)

We expect the post-project sustainable benefits such as information provision, engaged biodiversity & well-being advocates, an informed general public and an empowered, engaged and effective NGO able to speak for the non-human and human voices on Montserrat as they strive towards sustainable development on the island.

During the year, the PL was approached by a private business in the Turks and Caicos Islands seeking advice on the development of a sanctuary for wildlife. Based on processes followed during the current project and earlier work, a remote meeting was held, with further meetings anticipated. This expands the reach of the project and Darwin Plus funding further.

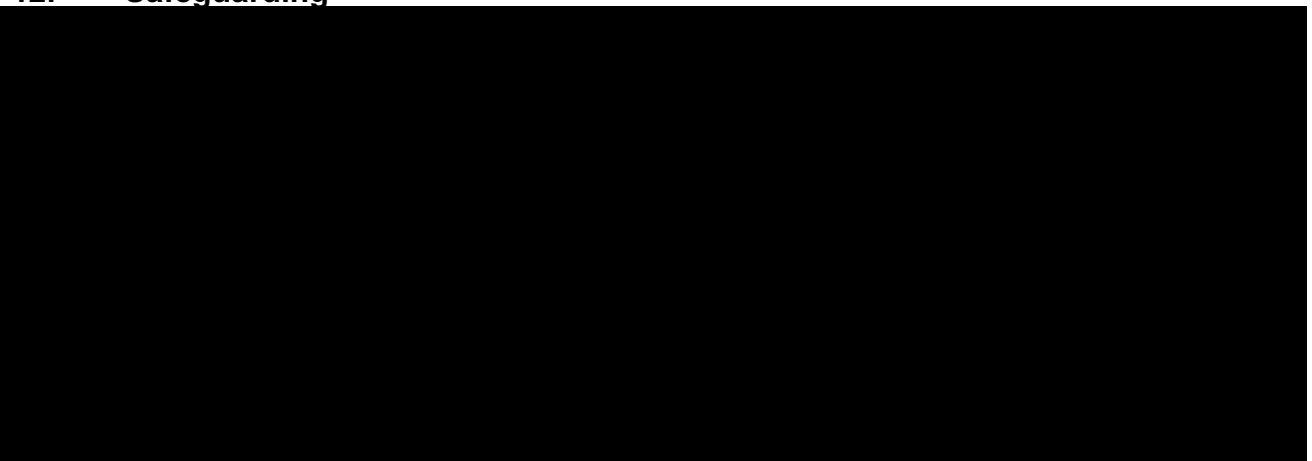
## 11. Darwin Plus identity

-When making radio appearances on Montserrat, the Project Team has highlighted the Darwin Plus project verbally. It is recognised with a clear identity within UKBCF funding.

The newsletter UKOTCF produces called *Save Our Special Nature of Montserrat* (see Annex 4.17).has the Darwin Plus logo prominent at the top of the front page, and this is similarly displayed at the head of the relevant section of our main newsletter *Forum News*

The garden plan (Annex 4.9) produced this year features the Darwin Plus logo as does the management options publication. Social media mentions BCFs also. As noted the official logos were requested this year to facilitate the design and delivery of decals for the vehicle purchased with Darwin Local funds.

## 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>172104</b>	<b>17210</b>	<b>0</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			Lizzie Harper - illustration discount 15 medicinal plants (not recorded in FY23-4 a/c)



deliver the project (£)		This included a grant from the John Ellerman Foundation. Unfortunately, UKOTCF were not awarded a grant. However, MNT were with a grant for 3 years for staff. This has benefited the project significantly, but we feel it would not be appropriate to include here.]	Lizzie Harper - illustration discount additional medicinal plants(not recorded in FY23-4 a/c)  Lizzie Harper - illustration work discount grasses and colouring book  Mike Pienkowski  Leigh Morris  Beth Penhallurick  Donated by UKOTCF  Donated by Ms Francis at MNT  [This is noted in a spreadsheet]
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)		We could include estimate of merchandise and plant sales for MNT income, but will do this at end of Y3.	International Plant Taxonomy Association (submitted by MNT and Meise)

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

Please could we ask that the Annexes are not made available online.

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

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

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

## 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> <i>In 2026, Montserratian community empowered to support biodiversity and improve well-being based on island knowledge and experience. Tailored practical solutions created and shared widely, ensuring the island's sustainable development.</i>	Publication of Thirty popular traditional medicinal plants of Montserrat; host-pollinator lists drawn up; plants for medicinal plant garden in museum garden; management options document published.	
<b>Outcome</b> By 2026, key Sustainable Development Goals achieved successfully through creation and use of community-led tools which integrate protection of biodiversity and ensure improved human well-being in the islands' physical development		
Outcome indicator 0.1 In Y1-Y2 at least 100 Montserratians involved in designing and shaping toolkit for biodiversity and well-being (50% women/girls).	By end of Y2, complete as outlined in main text the involvement of >100 in the toolkits development.	Complete; Higher Education event planned for 2025.
Outcome indicator 0.2 At least five developments / private residences grounds working with project to use tools on Y2Q4	>5 trial sites identified, visited and sampled (where appropriate) listed above where toolkit can be trialled with support of community partners and developers	FIT Count App launched and in use. Hopes for this to be embraced given use of mechanisms identified for this to be utilised alongside iNaturalist on island. Training on how to start making use of data obtained through iNaturalist and on the Global Biodiversity Information Facility
Outcome indicator 0.3 10 outreach materials on ecological and cultural heritage in Montserrat co- developed and available for use online and in person by Y3Q4	Publications listed in narrative text	See publication list in narrative report.
<b>Output 1 1. Biodiversity and human well- being integrated into sustainable development with creation of toolkit and linked resources, capacity building for the Montserrat National Trust and its community partners, native plant nursery facilities extended and increased island- wide biological recording and monitoring.</b>		
Output indicator 1.1 By Y1Q2-Q3 consultation process with Montserratians, using existing model toolkit as basis for community- focussed questionnaires and stakeholder-consultation, including with local school children to develop it in the island context.	Management options published	Management options published; now looking at trialling, promoting and demonstrating positive impacts on biodiversity and well-being.

Output indicator 1.2 Y1Q4, biodiversity and human well-being toolkit drafted	Toolkit split into two parts. (1) is the toolkit to be published after being drafted by end of Y1Q4, with (2) the final all-encompassing toolkit published at the end  (1) background; consultations and management options for sharing now and testing to; information assembled and shared in Google document with partners an interim toolkit for practical use which has been drafted;  (2) final toolkit encompassing all areas of biodiversity, sustainable development, well-being, outputs, all publications produced, trial results etc the final toolkit published by FSC.	(1) management options of toolkit published  (2) final toolkit in development for publishing in Y3 bringing all information together including results of trial sites.
Output indicator 1.3 By Y3Q4, finalised version of biodiversity and human well-being toolkit (see main text for overview) shared locally and across UKOTs.	See 1.2	See above 1.2 and also planned presentation at UKOTCF online conference in October 2025 (registration now open).
Output indicator 1.4 By Y3Q4, facilities at plant nursery extended to promote the initiative and support the toolkits use on island e.g. by marketing, provision of resources (e.g. sale of plants, plant lists, organic compost, advice and support). at least 2000 plants for selling in Y3	MNT employs native plant nursery assistants and purchases additional; MNT plant sales recorded on MNT database.	Continue to develop the nursery; Plant lists finalised.
Indicator 1.5a By Y3Q4 At least 1500 more records are added to iNaturalist, the use of which is promoted through an annual bioblitz and MNT events. Number of observers increased from 60 to 100 by Y4.	As of March 2025, there are 150 observers and >8200 observations (records of species).	Continue to support community to use iNaturalist; bioblitz in summer 2025; training on iNaturalist to ensure good quality records.
1.5b By Y3Q4 Enhanced capacity for biological recording for Montserrat through a community data recorders	See 1.5a	See 1.5a
<b>Output 2. Monitoring and Evaluation of use of toolkit and other linked resources by community to drive integration of biodiversity and human well-being into sustainable development</b>		
Output indicator 2.1 In Y2, following baseline assessment, toolkit trialled at five locations with corresponding evaluation mechanism including ecological and well-being surveys to monitor impact of tools.	>5 Trial sites identified and sampled where appropriate to do so;	Baselines conducted and will be repeated in Y3.
Output indicator 2.2 As part of development of the toolkit, a system to evaluate uptake of the toolkit established and integrated with MNT record management systems by Y1Q4.	Minor mistake on logframe this this should be project end and not Y1Q4 and should be Y3Q4. Email sent to NIRAS/BCF to seek advice on change request (October 2024). No response received.	Change request to change from Y1Q4 to Y3Q4 as minor mistake as no results to show from that at end of Y1; no response so

		think accepted. This will be developed in Y3.
Output indicator 2.3 Five Assistants (both Montserratian paid interns and data processors and volunteers) provide additional capacity and opportunities for young people keeping records by Y3Q4	MNT have had some staff changes, but not impacted on project outputs throughout the year.	Explored throughout the year especially with regards to the GBIF portal development.
Output indicator 2.4 Annual findings of results 'bioblitz' published in reports in Y1, Y2&Y3, with input from young attendees one month after event demonstrating results key native flora and fauna recorded and ways to evaluate status of biodiversity, changes over time and trends for net- gains for biodiversity.	See Annex 4.12; Summer activity held in August 2024.	Bioblitz to take place in Summer 2025 and throughout the year to add to iNaturalist records.
<b>Output 3. communicate, promote and celebrate toolkit and linked resources to support integration of biodiversity and human well-being into sustainable development</b>		
Output indicator 3.1 Stakeholder mapping and communication plan developed and implemented to promote work locally, regionally & internationally with all stakeholders by Y1Q4 This exercise informs 1.1.	See Annex 4.18 complete	NA
Output indicator 3.2 By Y1Q4, collation of existing materials for exhibit displays on human well-being particularly traditional use of medicinal plants added to My Learning	Education materials being developed and presented to Department of Education in February 2025	RM to continue to work with SL at museum and develop materials in Y3.
3.3 Annual Higher Education Evening event to showcase experiences and opportunities for young people, held through project lifetime. In Y1, 30 persons will attend with presenters consisted of at least as many females as males. Participation will increase by 25% each year.	Two events held in Y2; June and November 2024.	Higher Education event to be held in Y3.
3.4 Exploration of joining the Youth and United Nations Global Alliance (YUNGA) partnership and creation of a Youth Forum	See SOS Nature Montserrat articles on Monty's Ambassadors; Panel discussions a highlight	Programme continues in Y3.
3.5 Development of 5 sets of additional resources for MNT's native-plant nursery, cultural heritage and story-telling, including interpretation materials by Y2Q4	Have been in development throughout the year	Finalised in Y3.
3.6 By Y1Q4, well-being survey developed and, by Y2Q4, trialled at locations in 2.1, undertaken as part project participation questionnaire	Plan developed at Museum garden	Museum garden development in Y3.
3.7 Training event for developers and interested persons on native wildlife and tour of botanic garden at Y2 to highlight facilities	LM and CS co-delivered gardening certificate in July/August 2024.	Tour of botanic garden as an open day and native plant nursery planned to take place in Y3.



3.8 At Y3Q3 launch event attended by at least 50 Montserratians promoted on social media	In progress	Celebration of project to be planned in Y3Q3 and then held February 2025 with project team.
3.9 By Y1Q4 Seminar held sharing toolkit with at least 5 UKOTs attending session on toolkit creation additional opportunities by Y3Q4	See minor error in logframe which will be corrected should be all in Y3Q4 with UKOTCF conference event planned in October 2025.	UKOTCF taking place in October 2025 with project team members expected to present and to participate.

## 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> In 2026, Montserratian community empowered to support biodiversity and improve well-being based on island knowledge and experience. Tailored practical solutions created and shared widely, ensuring the island's sustainable development.			
<b>Outcome:</b> By 2026, key Sustainable Development Goals achieved successfully through creation and use of community-led tools which integrate protection of biodiversity and ensure improved human well-being in the islands' physical development	0.1 In Y1-Y2 at least 100 Montserratians involved in designing and shaping toolkit for biodiversity and well-being (50% women/girls). 0.2 At least five developments / private residences grounds working with project to use tools on Y2Q4 0.3 10 outreach materials on ecological and cultural heritage in Montserrat co-developed and available for use online and in person by Y3Q4	0.1 Meeting records/reports of stakeholder meetings (focal groups and MNT's children's group) with feedback on vision of what they envisage sustainable development will be on Montserrat in 10-20 years. 0.2 Joint press releases Montserrat National Trust (MNT) & Ministry of, Agriculture, Housing, Lands and Environment (MAHLE); radio interviews on MAHLE vibes showcasing public support for this community-led project. 0.3 Published materials online with open-sourced free webtools (with personal data protected) including via MNT, UKOTCF and MyLearning websites.	0.1 Detailed records of meetings kept and maintained. MNT and UKOTCF have jointly run projects for >20 years. Good communication lines established and ways of working together to achieve project outcomes. 0.2 MNT and MAHLE have good communication lines and regularly interact including the radio show to talk to about their projects. These invitations are open-ended. 0.3 Websites regularly and easily updated. When information uploaded on use MNT&UKOTCF sites for double exposure.
<b>Outputs:</b> <b>1. Biodiversity and human well-being integrated into sustainable development with creation of toolkit and linked resources, capacity building for the Montserrat National Trust and its community partners, native</b>	1.1 By Y1Q2-Q3 consultation process with Montserratians, using existing model toolkit as basis for community-focussed questionnaires and stakeholder-consultation, including with local school children to develop it in the island context. 1.2 Y1Q4, biodiversity and human well-being toolkit drafted 1.3 By Y3Q4, finalised version of biodiversity and human well-being toolkit (see main text for overview) shared locally and across UKOTs. 1.4 By Y3Q4, facilities at plant nursery extended to promote the initiative and	1.1 Feedback collated and reviewed at minuted meeting. 1.2 Draft Toolkit widely available for comment (as a typical consultation) by network of stakeholders, in public places e.g. Montserrat Library notice and shared in AR1 report 1.3 Finalised version of biodiversity and human well-being toolkit sent to Field Studies Council for lay-out and printing and available online on the MNT, UKOTCF websites as well as some hard copies available on Montserrat.	1.1 Participation by Montserratian community in co-development process 1.2 Stakeholder community interested to co-develop Toolkit and attend meetings or responding to online consultations when not able to attend meetings when held. 1.3 Toolkit of options recognised as valuable for Montserrat and MNT promote it widely with support of Government of Montserrat. 1.4a MNT able to recruit native plant nursery assistants and

<p><b>plant nursery facilities extended and increased island-wide biological recording and monitoring.</b></p>	<p>support the toolkits use on island e.g. by marketing, provision of resources (e.g. sale of plants, plant lists, organic compost, advice and support). at least 2000 plants for selling in Y3 1.5a By Y3Q4 At least 1500 more records are added to iNaturalist, the use of which is promoted through an annual bioblitz and MNT events. Number of observers increased from 60 to 100 by Y4. 1.5b By Y3Q4 Enhanced capacity for biological recording for Montserrat through a community data recorders</p>	<p>1.4a MNT employs native plant nursery assistants and purchases additional gardening equipment to support plant growing for sale to landscapers and developers. 1.4b MNT plant inventory records on Google forms 1.4c MNT develop species plant lists and other wildlife to be encouraged (e.g. native insects) advise on plants for planting and how to encourage other native flora and fauna at 5 locations during trial and document those using such facilities. 1.5 Records on iNaturalist and attendees at 'bioblitz' event (one hosted at MNT garden. (Baseline= Trial in July 2022 now 1000 records, pre-trial 180 records.)</p>	<p>equipment able to be purchased in Montserrat 1.4b Plants selected and species lists drawn up suitable for growing by MNT; regular biosecurity monitoring ensures healthy plants. 1.4c MNT staff deliver advice on local planting 1.5 Community engaged in biological recording and use iNaturalist. Lessons learned at very first bioblitz trialled in July 2022 informs future events.</p>
<p><b>2. Monitoring and Evaluation of use of toolkit and other linked resources by community to drive integration of biodiversity and human well-being into sustainable development</b></p>	<p>2.1 In Y2, following baseline assessment, toolkit trialled at five locations with corresponding evaluation mechanism including ecological and well-being surveys to monitor impact of tools. 2.2 As part of development of the toolkit, a system to evaluate uptake of the toolkit established and integrated with MNT record management systems by Y1Q4. 2.3 Five Assistants (both Montserratian paid interns and data processors and volunteers) provide additional capacity and opportunities for young people keeping records by Y3Q4 2.4 Annual findings of results 'bioblitz' published in reports in Y1, Y2&amp;Y3, with input from young attendees one month after event demonstrating results key native flora and fauna recorded and ways</p>	<p>2.1 Five locations reports showing how aspects of the toolkit used, recognised by stamp of approval from MNT project staff that concepts and design have been incorporated. Developers complete questionnaire on how it was to integrate the toolkit into their work. 2.2. MNT present GDPR-compliant (as good practice on Montserrat) records of sites where toolkit used on information systems and other online free webtools. 2.3 MNT deliver training events in Y1, Y2 and Y3 in orientation for iNaturalist – with new biological records created. 2.4 Annual report published on records received over the year reported in local news channels with guest presentations by MNT on species of interest found. Radio shows allow it to be presented to community with</p>	<p>2.1 Montserrat Government Departments (including Physical Planning Unit and Department of Environment work actively to promote the toolkit into development approval process / Developers / residents willing to voluntarily uptake toolkit and promote it. 2.2 MNT informed of developments and able to host GDPR-compliant record system. 2.3 MNT staff equipped with expertise in use of iNaturalist 2.4. Records available on iNaturalist for reporting.</p>

	to evaluate status of biodiversity, changes over time and trends for net-gains for biodiversity.	lively phone in discussions and providing feedback.	
<b>3. Opportunities created to communicate, promote and celebrate toolkit and linked resources to support integration of biodiversity and human well-being into sustainable development</b>	<p>3.1 Stakeholder mapping and communication plan developed and implemented to promote work locally, regionally &amp; internationally with all stakeholders by Y1Q4 This exercise informs 1.1.</p> <p>3.2 By Y1Q4, collation of existing materials for exhibit displays on human well-being particularly traditional use of medicinal plants added to My Learning</p> <p>3.3 Annual Higher Education Evening event to showcase experiences and opportunities for young people, held through project lifetime. In Y1, 30 persons will attend with presenters consisted of at least as many females as males. Participation will increase by 25% each year.</p> <p>3.4 Exploration of joining the Youth and United Nations Global Alliance (YUNGA) partnership and creation of a Youth Forum</p> <p>3.5 Development of 5 sets of additional resources for MNT's native-plant nursery, cultural heritage and story-telling, including interpretation materials by Y2Q4</p> <p>3.6 By Y1Q4, well-being survey developed and, by Y2Q4, trialled at locations in 2.1, undertaken as part project participation questionnaire</p> <p>3.7 Training event for developers and interested persons on native wildlife</p>	<p>3.1 Communication plan developed outlining key stakeholder groups, and added to project page on MNT website.</p> <p>3.2 Materials collated and shared with wider team via project team's site. Through another project have gathered lists of traditional medicinal plants. This will promote and encourage passing of knowledge to younger generations.</p> <p>3.3 Higher Education evening promoted thought MNT and UKOTCF social media channels and even broadcast via social media</p> <p>3.4 Biodiversity Badge developed and awarded to at least 10 young people with certificates created and Youth Forum for Biodiversity first meeting attended by 5 interested persons (between ages 16-18).</p> <p>3.5 Natural heritage materials linked to well-being and sustainable development available on Google Arts &amp; Culture, MyLearning as well as hard copies printed through the Field Studies Council by Y2Q4</p> <p>3.6 Questionnaire with feedback on most important elements, resources available or needed, available as part of Toolkit package</p> <p>3.7 Attendance list from training event with at least 15 attending and giving support to the initiative via feedback forms</p> <p>3.8 Event promoted via local media channels and blog written and shared on MNT website- livestreamed with recording for those that can't attend at time.</p>	<p>3.1 Stakeholder mapping allows for targeting communication planning.</p> <p>3.2 Existing materials shared and available for use in developing resources.</p> <p>3.3 Successive cohorts of young people sufficiently interested in attending the Higher Education event.</p> <p>3.4 Materials created suitable for sharing on Google Arts &amp; Culture</p> <p>3.5 participants willing to undertake survey.</p> <p>3.6 Event promoted in timely fashion to allow maximum participation from local community</p> <p>3.7 Event of sufficient interest to other UKOTs to attend- previous experience of UKOTCF (conferences and workshops) events has demonstrated good attendance.</p> <p>3.8 Meeting well attended- 664 marketing group successful in promoting events on island (Higher Education evening 20+ persons, around 60 involved in bioblitz, over 40 kids involved in kid's club)</p> <p>3.9 UKOTCF have held six conferences (from 2003-2021) in person and online events with over 100+ delegated attending</p>

	<p>and tour of botanic garden at Y2 to highlight facilities</p> <p>3.8 At Y3Q3 launch event attended by at least 50 Montserratians promoted on social media</p> <p>3.9 By Y1Q4 Seminar held sharing toolkit with at least 5 UKOTs attending session on toolkit creation additional opportunities by Y3Q4</p>	<p>3.9 Recorded webinar organised and promoted through UKOTCF channels with feedback received post-seminar.</p>	<p>throughout with positive feedback received.</p>
<p><b>Activities</b></p> <p><b>1 Biodiversity and human well-being integrated into sustainable development with creation of toolkit and linked resources, capacity building for the Montserrat National Trust and its community partners, native plant nursery facilities extended and increased island-wide biological recording and monitoring.</b></p> <p><i>1.1 Biodiversity and human well-being toolkit developed informed by consultations with local community</i></p> <p>1.1.1 Project team assembled and series of introductory meetings undertaken via Zoom</p> <p>1.1.2 Framework toolkit drafted for consultation</p> <p>1.1.3 Stakeholder-groups provide input and feedback gathered via:</p> <p>1.1.3.1 Developers and physical planners focus group-meetings feedback;</p> <p>1.1.3.2 MNT's kids' club: interactive sessions held creating a vision for Montserrat for their future</p> <p>-Creation of activity book– e.g. colouring, recording species, storytelling oral histories, on all aspects of biodiversity, human-well-being and sustainable development (e.g. via Google Arts &amp; Culture)</p> <p>-Creation of an online- free platform space (MyLearning) so that results of children and young people's ideas and contribution are accessible</p> <p>1.1.4 Interim toolkit draft published online informed by above</p> <p>1.1.5 Final toolkit sent to designer Field Studies Council for lay out</p> <p>1.1.6 Final toolkit published online with supporting materials and project outputs</p> <p><i>1.2 Extending provision of MNT and its' Botanic Garden to support sustainable development</i></p> <p>1.2.1 Plant species lists created including endemics, naturalised non-invasive species, food items and medicinal plants</p> <p>1.2.2 Species lists created on native insects created with fact sheets drafted on preferred micro-habits it's possible to re-create</p> <p>1.2.3 Supplies of plant species grown and available for subsidised purchase to toolkit up-takers</p> <p>1.2.4 Interactive education materials developed to provide a journey from past, present to future for the island's biodiversity.</p> <p>1.2.5 Demonstration areas &amp; herbarium development to provide space for knowledge transfer through generations.</p> <p>1.2.6 Online-free tools for sharing biological information (e.g. plants, invertebrates) created which provides information to public in Montserrat, the regional and internationally</p> <p><i>1.3 Enhancing and evaluating biological records for Montserrat through a community of wildlife data-recorders</i></p> <p>1.3.1 Annual 'bioblitz' training materials prepared and introduction sessions organised and delivered</p> <p>1.3.2 Bioblitz event organised promoted and delivered</p>			



- 1.3.3 New records collected submitted to the iNaturalist platform as part of 'bioblitz' events.
- 1.3.4 Prizes (e.g. free native plants) for most records awarded (excluding project team)
- 1.3.5 Summary report on 'bioblitz' published online shortly after annual event with results.

## **2 Monitoring and Evaluation of use of toolkit and other linked resources by community to drive integration of biodiversity and human well-being into sustainable development**

### *2.1 Toolkit trialled at several locations and the process to evaluate success for biodiversity and human well-being established*

- 2.1.1 Locations identified for trial sites
- 2.1.2 Baseline ecological surveys at trial sites documenting key features such as existing native trees preferred by native pollinators (many insects) /opportunities e.g. hedging with endemic shrub, *Rondeletia buxifolia*
- 2.1.3 Consultations undertaken with those trialling toolkit to feed into process
- 2.1.4 Records of toolkit use and successes at trial sites logged
- 2.1.5 System to evaluate uptake of the toolkit established and integrated with MNT record management systems.

### *2.2 Additional capacity and facilities at MNT and its Botanic Garden with opportunities for young people*

- 2.2.1 Assistants and volunteers recruited to provide additional capacity keeping records on (1) species checklists provided to developers, (2) plants provided to new developers/landscapers.
- 2.2.2 Interpretation created in garden and online so that visitors will be able to follow the journey of a plant from the herbarium and oral histories (how was / is it used) and then see and smell the plant in the garden and purchase them as outlined in the toolkit
- 2.2.3 'How to' created on how to set up biodiversity and well-being space using results of toolkit consultations, species lists, local context etc.

## **3. Opportunities created to communicate, promote and celebrate toolkit and linked resources to support integration of biodiversity and human well-being into sustainable development**

### *3.1. Stakeholder mapping and communications plan developed and implemented promoting results locally, regionally and internationally with stakeholders.*

### *3.2 Series of public information events and stakeholder workshops take place to feed into framework toolkit and promote it*

- 3.2.1 Public launch of project at Montserrat National Trust livestreamed on Facebook and recorded.
- 3.2.2 Public workshops take place to feed into creation of toolkit (with opportunities to input online also)
- 3.2.3 MNT's kid's club workshops take place and feed into creation of toolkit
- 3.2.4 MNT explore joining YUNGA to create Biodiversity badge for Montserrat
- 3.2.5 Consultation on creation of Youth Forum for Biodiversity (ages 16-18) investigated
- 3.2.6 MNT organise training events at botanic garden for developers and interested persons on native wildlife, landscaping and facility tour
- 3.2.7 Public launch of toolkit at Montserrat National Trust livestreamed on Facebook and recorded.
- 3.2.8 Presentation given and available online promoting toolkit to other UKOTs via UKOTCF long established seminar/conference series.
- 3.2.9 Paper drafted on public participation in creation of toolkit- lessons learned

### Annex 3: Standard Indicators: 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
Core Indicator: Policies, Practices and Management DPLUS -B05	Number of people with increased participation in local communities / local management organisations (i.e., participation in Governance/citizen engagement). <i>[Output: 1.1 By Y1Q2-Q3 consultation process with Montserratians, using existing model toolkit as basis for community- focussed questionnaires and stakeholder-consultation, including with local school children to develop it in the island context.]</i>	People	Female	55 Female 14 Males 11 Did not include	Taking total over >100		>100	>100
Indicator: Capability & Capacity DPLUS-A07	Number of government institutions/departments with enhanced awareness and understanding of biodiversity and associated local community issues <i>[Output 1.3 By Y3Q4, finalised version of biodiversity and human well-being toolkit (see main text for overview) shared locally and across UKOTs.]</i>	Organisations/D epartments		2	2		2	2
Group D: Sustainable Benefits to People, Biodiversity and Climate DPLUS -D02	Number of people whose disaster/climate resilience has been improved. [Note: Disaggregation includes food security and health] <i>[Output 1.4 By Y3Q4, facilities at plant nursery extended to promote the initiative and support the toolkits use on island e.g. by marketing, provision of resources (e.g. sale of plants, plant lists, organic compost, advice and support). at least 2000 plants for selling in Y3]</i>	Number	New	N/A as overlap with previous DPLUS1 55	>700	>1300	0	2000 plants sold to X customers
Core Indicator: Evidence and Best Practices DPLUS -C05	Number of projects contributing data, insights, and case studies to national Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) related reporting processes and calls for evidence. <i>[Note: GBIF records through iNat] Output 1.5a By Y3Q4 At least 1500 more records are added to iNaturalist, the use of which is promoted through an annual bioblitz and MNT events. Number of observers increased from 60 to 100 by Y4.</i>				1	1	1	New target of 10,000 records
Group D: Sustainable Benefits to People, Biodiversity and Climate	Drivers of biodiversity loss assessed to have been reduced or removed <i>[Outputs: 2.1 In Y2, following baseline assessment, toolkit trialled at five locations with corresponding evaluation mechanism including ecological and well-being surveys to monitor impact of tools.]</i>	Number of threats address on monitoring sites				Number of threats removed/ reduced on 5 sites	0	Number of threats at 5 sites removed or reduced

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- D18								
Core Indicator: Capability & Capacity DPLUS- A03	Number of local/national organisations with improved capability and capacity as a result of project. <i>[Output 2.2 As part of development of the toolkit, a system to evaluate uptake of the toolkit established and integrated with MNT record management systems by Y1Q4.]</i>	Number of organisations			2	2	2	2 local organisations
Core Indicator: Capability & Capacity DPLUS- A02	Number of secondments or placements completed by individuals of key local and national stakeholders <i>[Output 2.3 Five Assistants (both Montserratian paid interns and data processors and volunteers) provide additional capacity and opportunities for young people keeping records by Y3Q4]</i>	Number of persons	Female		2	5 (anticipated)	4 (but has fluctuated)	Number of persons
Core Indicator: Capability & Capacity DPLUS- A01	Number of people from key national and local stakeholders completing structured and relevant training <i>[Output 3.7 Training event for developers and interested persons on native wildlife and tour of botanic garden at Y2 to highlight facilities]</i>	Number of persons attending training			15	0	15	Number of persons attending training
Group C: Evidence and Best Practices DPLUS-C12	Social Media presence <i>[Output 3.8 At Y3Q3 launch event attended by at least 50 Montserratians promoted on social media]</i>	Number of persons attending				50	0	Number of persons attending launch of toolkit
Group C: Evidence and Best Practices DPLUS-C13	Number of webinar attendees. <i>[Output 3.9 By Y1Q4 Seminar held sharing toolkit with at least 5 UKOTs attending session on toolkit creation additional opportunities by Y3Q4]</i>	Number of other UKOTs attending				At least 5	5	Number of other UKOTs learning from project in Oct 2025

**Table 2        Publications**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Type</b> (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs)	<b>Detail</b> (authors, year)	<b>Gender of Lead Author</b>	<b>Nationality of Lead Author</b>	<b>Publishers</b> (name, city)	<b>Available from</b> (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
Saving Our Special Nature of Montserrat (*)	Newsletter 16	UKOTCF, June 2024	Male & Female	UK	UKOTCF	<a href="https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/SOSnatureNewsletter16e.pdf">https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/SOSnatureNewsletter16e.pdf</a>
Saving Our Special Nature of Montserrat (*)	Newsletter 17	UKOTCF, September 2024	Male & Female	UK	UKOTCF	<a href="https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/SOSnatureNewsletter17.pdf">https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/SOSnatureNewsletter17.pdf</a>
Saving Our Special Nature of Montserrat (*)	Newsletter 18	UKOTCF, March 2024	Male & Female	UK	UKOTCF	<a href="https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/SOSnatureNewsletter18g.pdf">https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/SOSnatureNewsletter18g.pdf</a>
Forum News	Newsletters 60	UKOTCF, July 2024	Male & Female	UK	UKOTCF	<a href="https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Forum60_July2024.pdf">https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Forum60_July2024.pdf</a>
Forum News	Newsletters 61	UKOTCF, October 2024	Male & Female	UK	UKOTCF	<a href="https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Forum61_Oct2024.pdf">https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Forum61_Oct2024.pdf</a>
Garden Plan	pdf	UKOTCF, June 2024	Female	UK	UKOTCF	<a href="https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/">https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/</a>
Toolkit Management Options	Report/information document	November 2024	Female	UK	UKOTCF & MNT	<a href="https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/key-projects/biodiversity-and-wellbeing-toolkit/biodiversity-well-being-toolkit-management-options/">https://www.ukotcf.org.uk/key-projects/biodiversity-and-wellbeing-toolkit/biodiversity-well-being-toolkit-management-options/</a>
Capacity building needed to reap the benefits of access to biodiversity collections	bioRxiv preprint	November 2024	Female	Belgium	in press	<a href="https://doi.org/10.1101/2024.11.12.623213">doi: 10.1101/2024.11.12.623213</a>
A new species of Cyrtopholis Simon, 1892 from Montserrat, with notes on some other Caribbean theraphosines (Araneae: Theraphosidae)	Journal article	November 2024	Female	UK	Arachnology	<a href="https://doi.org/10.13156/arac.2024.19.9.1298">Doi: 10.13156/arac.2024.19.9.1298</a>

## 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, scheme, 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.	x
<b>Is your report more than 10MB?</b> If so, please consider the best way to submit. One zipped file, or a download option, is recommended. We can work with most online options and will be in touch if we have a problem accessing material. If unsure, 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
<b>Have you provided an updated risk register?</b> If you have an existing risk register you should provide an updated version alongside your report. If your project was funded prior to this being a requirement, you are encourage to develop a risk register.	Provided in ARY1 and during 'spot check'
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 15)?	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	x
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	x
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	