

Darwin Fellowship - Interim Report

Due within one month of the half way point of your Fellowship (*maximum 3 pages*)

Remove the blue guidance text before you submit your report.

Darwin Fellowship reference	DPLUS193
Name of Darwin Fellow	Sovanye Ajhermae White
Lead organisation	Department of Environment
Fellow's organisation(s)	Department of Environment
Fellow's role within the organisation (prior to Fellowship)	Environment Officer
Start/end date of Fellowship	August 2023 – October 2024
Location of Fellowship	Jersey, Channel Islands
Darwin Fellowship grant value (£)	
Type of work (e.g. research, training, if other please specify)	Education and research
Main contact in lead organisation	Ernestine Corbett
Author(s) and date	Ernestine Corbett - 6 th June 2024

1. Background

My involvement in the project was to mainly support the applicant in her pursuit of a Master's Degree in Island Biodiversity and Conservation. This was done through identification of a reputable institution that delivers a course in the environmental field.

The aim of the fellowship is to improve the environmental capacity and technical skills within the Department of Environment

The objectives include:

Reading a Masters in Island Biodiversity and Conservation

Conducting research about Montserrat's biodiversity

The roles of the Department of Environment are:

1. Directing and implementation of environmental policy;
2. Biodiversity conservation and research;
3. Management of protected areas;
4. Multilateral environmental agreements;
5. Climate change adaptation and mitigation;
6. Sustainable forestry and watershed management;
7. Environmental assessment and monitoring;
8. Public education and outreach; and
9. Collection and management of environmental data.

The DOE also provides technical support and professional advice via coordination and facilitation of environmental best practice.

Progress

The fellow moved to Jersey to start the Masters in Island Biodiversity and Conservation in September 2023. The fellow completed 4 modules in term 1 (September to January) and 4 modules in term 2 (January to May). The fellow is now on Montserrat to gather data for her dissertation which is due in September 2024.

There has not been any notable issues during the course of this fellowship.

2. Achievements and Outcomes

The main achievements have been the successful completion of 8 modules with an average grade to date of 72.5%. The fellow is also more confident and knowledgeable with respect to environmental conservation.

3. Impact of COVID-19 on Fellowship

COVID-19 did not impact the project

The fellow followed proper health guidelines by isolating herself when she felt unwell.

The Fellow's research could assist the Department of Environment in controlling species that impact food security. This would be beneficial for the island because the island would be more self-reliant during any future pandemics.

4. Safeguarding

Please tick this box if any safeguarding or human rights violations have occurred during this financial year. ☐

If you have ticked the box, please ensure these are reported to ODA.safeguarding@defra.gov.uk as indicated in the T&Cs.

5. Next Steps

- Finish Dissertation
- Return to Montserrat to work as an Environment Officer
- Develop the capacity of the Department of Environment