Applicant: **Ellick, Shayla**
Organisation: **RSPB**
Funding Sought: **£938,637.00**

DPR13S2\1019

Recovering St Helena’s cloud forest for wildlife & water security

This project will develop a sustainable, long-term and collaborative approach to managing St Helena’s unique cloud forest to enable nature recovery, improve water security, and provide a model for other key habitats on St Helena. This will be achieved by advancing cloud forest restoration and water monitoring, by addressing the key threats of plant pathogens and invasive species, and by developing a sustainable framework to scale restoration efforts to secure St Helena’s biodiversity.

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title	Ms
Name	Sarah
Surname	Havery
Organisation	RSPB
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CONTACT DETAILS

Title	Ms
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Organisation	RSPB
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Address	[redacted]

DPR13S2\1019

Recovering St Helena’s cloud forest for wildlife & water security

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title	Ms
Name	Sarah
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CONTACT DETAILS

Title	Ms
Name	Shayla
Surname	Ellick
Organisation	RSPB
Tel	[redacted]
Email	[redacted]
Address	[redacted]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	RSPB
Phone (Work)	[redacted]
Email (Work)	
Website (Work)	
Address	

Section 2 - Title & Summary

Q3. Project title:

Recovering St Helena's cloud forest for wildlife & water security

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DPR13S1\1123

DPR13S1\1042

Please attach a cover letter as a PDF document.

Darwin Plus Advisory Group RSPB St Helena 04 1 0 2024
07/10/2024
13:48:36
pdf 158.45 KB

Q4. Response to Stage 1 feedback

You must explicitly set out how and where you have addressed all the comments/feedback in the application form: briefly restating the feedback point, then clearly setting out how you have responded to it in the application.

1. Clearer link between restoration and long-term water security: We have amended the Stage 2 logframe to make it clearer that water security is a long-term benefit of this project. Outputs from the proposed project and previous research projects (DPLUS103 and FCDO Cloud Forest Restoration Project) will be used by SHG and Connect Saint Helena to support development of water catchment management options for the island Water Resource Management Plan. The 25-year plan provides an opportunity for St Helena to select water security and climate change resilient water management options which can support long term maintenance and recovery of the cloud forest habitat, alongside securing a reliable drinking water supply for islanders.

2. Outline risks and mitigation: The key project risks have been detailed in Section 20, and the project has an active risk register, building on from the current FCDO-funded project. Mitigation for the specific risks identified by DPAG are provided below.

(i) Invasive invertebrates: The Common wasp and the Big-headed ant controls have been tested and implemented during the DPLUS104 and the FCDO-funded project. These controls have shown positive outcome where the target species have declined in the target area. Common Wasp: The risk for these controls to be

unsuccessful is low as an effective toxin has already been identified and tested on other parts of the island for Common wasp. There may be barriers such as high bycatch of endemic species (like the Scaptomyza santahelenica) in the Peaks using the trappit solution or the chicken lure. However, these methods can be altered by using different protein lures (like fish) to combine with the toxin or carry out the controls on the fringes of the Peaks National Park where the bycatch will be minimal. Additionally, instead of using the trappit solution manually observations of wasps could be used, this method has no bycatch or cause any harm to invertebrates, this method will allow us to monitor the wasp activity and identify when the wasp is most active as these species are seasonal, which will indicate when to set the toxins. Big-headed Ants: If the big-headed ant control is not successful, this could be due to ants not being active in the area, the BH ants decline could be due to the increase of other ant species or the terrain is inaccessible. Therefore, we've decided to amend Indicator 3.5 in our Stage 2 logframe to improve our understanding of the feasibility of control of invasive ants and termites.

(ii) Phytophthora: In terms of Phytophthora (and indeed other potential plant pathogens that may be present in cloud forest habitats), it is unlikely that there are safe and/or effective techniques or methods that could completely eradicate plant pathogens. Therefore, plant pathogen impacts are best approached and managed as an ongoing threat, in the same way as other threats are managed. The presence and impact of plant pathogens does not necessitate a halt to habitat restoration or invalidate overall habitat restoration efforts. Indeed, the threats posed by plant pathogens strengthens the conservation imperative to undertake habitat restoration. There is ample evidence from the United States (Phytophthora ramorum in west coast forests), New Zealand (Phytophthora agathidicida in kauri trees) and Australia (Phytophthora cinnamomi affecting native plants and ecological communities) that shows that conservation and indeed recreational activities can safely continue, albeit with rigorous biosecurity and phytosanitary procedures in place. The project has been designed in a way that plant propagation and habitat restoration activities are undertaken using best practice biosecurity and phytosanitary protocols, which have already been developed and implemented in key sites, to avoid further spreading plant pathogens. We will continue to learn and apply adaptive management as further information arises from the research undertaken under DPLUS157. The DPLUS157 project and additional funding support from DEFRA is enabling plant pathogen inoculation experiments to take place this year (2024/25) to determine the susceptibility of Cloud Forest plant species to phytophthora and four other identified pathogens, enabling targeted, informed habitat restoration works to continue, without potentially jeopardising the future success of that activity.

(iii) Recruitment challenges: St Helena Government has recently successfully filled their vacant Head of Nature Conservation post, so the situation has changed since stage 1. Elizabeth Clingham, despite only having been in post for a few weeks, has prioritised this proposal and has provided invaluable input and leadership in its development. Although there are still key management posts to be filled within SHG, there has already been a notable gearshift in the management support available for the programme. Furthermore, this project plans to retain local staff positions currently funded through the FCDO-funded project. Retaining these employees will ensure immediate continuity, as we will be able to preserve valuable institutional knowledge and maximize the return on investment of prior projects. Their move from one project to another will also support the operational efficiency and capacity of the project, ensuring that the work programme commences soon after approval.

Value for money: We have provided additional detail in answer to Q27 & Q28. This project is the next phase of a long-term, complex, and holistic programme which involves a 10-partner strong collaboration, with implementation led by the three on-island partners. It builds on a multi-million-pound project and the foundations of a further eight previous Darwin projects. With the support of international expertise from RBG Kew, CABI, Species Recovery Trust, UKCEH, UBC and RSPB; coupled with the planned 78% project expenditure locally on St Helena through the three on island partners, this project represents excellent value for money in terms of investing in St Helena.

The logframe should be strengthened: The Stage 2 logframe has been changed to reflect the specific feedback and amended to make the indicators SMARTer. We will undertake some level of plant survivability

assessment/monitoring to ensure our planting efforts are providing results for restoration and whether lessons can be learnt for survivability of plants after each year of planting.

Q5. Summary of project

Please provide a brief non-technical summary of your project: the problem/need it is trying to address, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking.

Successful Darwin Plus Main projects must demonstrate substantial measurable outcomes in at least one of the themes of Darwin Plus either by the end of the project's implementation or via evidenced mechanisms for post-project delivery.

Preference will be given to discrete projects implementing existing identified environmental solutions on the ground.

The broad themes of Darwin Plus Main are:

- **Biodiversity:** improving and conserving biodiversity, and slowing or reversing biodiversity loss and degradation;
- **Climate change:** responding to, mitigating and adapting to climate change and its effects on the natural environment and local communities;
- **Environmental quality:** improving the condition and protection of the natural environment;
- **Capability and capacity building:** enhancing the capacity within UKOTs to support the environment in the short- and long-term.

This project will develop a sustainable, long-term and collaborative approach to managing St Helena's unique cloud forest to enable nature recovery, improve water security, and provide a model for other key habitats on St Helena. This will be achieved by advancing cloud forest restoration and water monitoring, by addressing the key threats of plant pathogens and invasive species, and by developing a sustainable framework to scale restoration efforts to secure St Helena's biodiversity.

Section 3 - UKOT(s), Dates & Budget Summary

Q6. UKOT(s)

Which UK Overseas Territory(ies) will your project be working in?

☑ St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha*

*** if you have indicated a territory group with an asterisk, please give detail on which territories you are working on here:**

St Helena

In addition to the UKOTs you have indicated, will your project directly benefit any other Territories or country(ies)?

⦿ No

Q7. Project dates

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):
01 April 2025	31 March 2028	3 years

Q8. Budget summary

Year:	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total request
Amount:	£321,894.00	£306,032.00	£310,711.00	£ 938,637.00

Q9. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

⦿ Yes

Please ensure you clearly outline your matched funding arrangement in the budget.

Q10. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you will fund the project if you don't manage to secure this?

N/A

Q11. Have you received, applied for or plan to apply for any other UK Government funding for the proposed project or similar?

⦿ Yes

If yes, please give details.

This project is to deliver the next phase of the St Helena cloud forest programme, which has received CSSF/UK Aid funding through FCDO over the last 4 years (2021-2025).

Section 4 - Problem statement

Q12. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in the UKOTs, relating to at least one of the themes of Darwin Plus:

For example, what are the specific threats to the environment that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify the need for your project? Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem.

St Helena's cloud forest, found entirely within the Peaks National Park, is vital for the water security of this drought prone island; with the water captured essential for its population and wildlife. The Peaks provides most of the island's water with an estimated 51-75% of the precipitation in the Peaks resulting from mist capture rather than direct rainfall. Rehabilitation of the cloud forest ecosystem, therefore, has a key role in achieving the island's long-term climate resilience and a sustainable water supply.

From a biodiversity perspective, the cloud forest of St Helena is the single most important site on British soil. Indeed, approximately 250 endemic invertebrate and plant species are found exclusively or almost exclusively in these fragments: this represents 1/6th of all unique British wildlife and is almost three times the number found

across the entire UK. But it is highly threatened, consisting of only 16ha of cloud forest fragments within its total 40ha area.

Fragmentation and pressure from invasive species, as well as the challenge of emerging plant pathogens, means that this cloud forest habitat is under significant threat - key parcels of old-growth cloud forest remain on the highest peaks and steepest slopes, but these are being steadily overwhelmed by invasive plant species and lack connectivity. Many of the Peaks endemic trees are being increasingly impacted by tree diseases and other invasive species (invertebrates and rodents) and some endemic tree species now number <10 individuals in the wild with the entire populations of their associated specialist endemic invertebrates currently known to persist on only a subset of these. Global extinctions are thus a very real threat. Invasive invertebrates in the Cloud Forest both predate and compete with the endemic invertebrates present, these include the Common wasp Vespula vulgare, which is in the IUCN's top 100 world's worst invasive species; as well as invasive ants (the island has no native ant species) and termites. Impacts of which are leading to the direct decline of endemic invertebrates, as result many are red listed as either CR or EN on the IUCN global red list.

Many other fragments of forest, scrub and dryland native habitats supporting unique biodiversity on the island are also facing similar threats of habitat loss, invasive species and climate change. They need protection and restoration too but resource limitations mean that they are currently not being conserved or managed to the level needed to stabilise and reverse biodiversity loss. These areas are mostly found within a network of National Conservation Areas (NCAs) that to date do not have Management Plans. This is currently being addressed under DPLUS154 which aims to develop Management Plans for 13 nature based NCAs by June 2025. The approach to implementing the Peaks Management Plan, practical restoration activities and lessons learnt in the cloud forest provides a valuable model to be applied to the implementation of the other 13 NCA Management Plans.

Section 5 - Environmental Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q13. Environmental Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Please detail how your project will contribute to the aims of the national and/or international agreement(s) your project is targeting. What key UKOT Government priorities and themes will it address and how? You should also consider local, territory specific agreements and action plans here. Letters of support from UKOT Government partners/stakeholders should also make clear reference to the agreements/action plans your project is contributing towards.

This project supports the UK's responsibilities under the CBD (Articles 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 18), UNFCCC and contributes to delivery against Sustainable Development Goals 6, 13 & 15.

The environment is at the heart of St Helena Government's Vision & Strategy for St Helena, and this project delivers against the 'Altogether Greener' goal and supports the Strategy's aims towards a Water Security Plan, a sustainable environment and sustainable tourism. It delivers actions against the Climate Change Action Plan for St Helena 2020 to 2027. Development of the Peaks National Park as a sustainable destination is written into SHG's Tourism Strategy.

The project also contributes to St Helena's Sustainable Economic Development Plan (2018 – 2028), specifically Goals 6 (Sustain and improve our Natural Capital) and 8 (Develop, Maintain and Attract a Skilled Workforce).

This project also supports 2 of the SHG's Environment, Natural Resources and Planning Portfolio's (ENRP) priorities: Protect the natural environment by conserving biodiversity, preventing, minimising or mitigating against any negative activity and or impact to conserve and enhance the Island's natural capital and Increase our capacity to safeguard natural habitats and save critically endangered species.

The project will contribute to the St Helena's Terrestrial Invertebrate Conservation Strategy 2023-2028 and will

deliver the following actions relating to endemic invertebrate recovery: 1.1.1, 1.3.2, 1.3.5, 1.3.6, 1.4.2, 3.2.2, 3.2.4, 3.3.1, 3.3.2.

Section 6 - Method, Project Stakeholders, Gender, Change Expected, Pathway to Change & Exit Strategy

Q14. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and contribute towards your Impact. Provide information on:

- **how you reflected on and incorporated evidence and lessons learnt from past and present similar activities and projects in the design of this project.**
- **the specific approach you are using, supported by evidence that it will be effective, and justifying why you expect it will be successful in this context.**
- **how you will undertake the work (activities, materials and methods).**
- **how the main activities will be and where these will take place.**
- **how you will manage the work (governance, roles and responsibilities, project management tools, risks etc.).**

Combining techniques developed and honed over three decades, with a now well-established public-private partnership, the project represents a global model for restoring cloud forests which are rich in biodiversity and vital for water security. This project is underpinned by the achievements of eight previous Darwin projects (see section 26). This strong foundation enabled St Helena Government to develop a management plan for the Peaks National Park, which has mostly been delivered through the 4-year FCDO-funded project (2021-2025).

Through the DPLUS157 and two Defra grants (C20113 and C25062; St Helena Phytophthora Outbreak), plant pathogens (including Phytophthora) have been identified to be impacting cloud forest tree species, which led to the closure of key sensitive areas within the National Park to reduce the risk of spread and protect the endemic species until more information was available. Nursery production and restoration activities have been adapted and new techniques adopted to help minimise risks of spread associated with restoration activities. Management and mitigation activities will need to continue to l to take into account emerging knowledge of the biology, distribution and host pathogen associations.

This project aims to (i) advance the restoration and water monitoring achieved during the FCDO-funded project; (ii) address the key threats to the cloud forest, notably by implementing some of the results from DPLUS157 (such as nursery and field testing); & (iii) enable St Helena Government to develop a sustainable framework to scale restoration efforts to secure St Helena's biodiversity across all NCAs (using outputs from DPLUS154).

The project is based on existing long-term partnerships between St Helena Government, St Helena National Trust, Connect Saint Helena (the islands' water utilities company) and international partners. It will build on the FCDO-funded project, which is concluding in March 2025, and deliver the next phase of delivery of the overall programme.

The project will be implemented by the three on-island partners (SHG, SHNT and Connect), with RSPB providing project management and administration. The project will be governed through a strategic board and delivery group. The international partners will provide support through a technical advisory group.
The overall Outcome of the project will be achieved through delivery of four main Outputs.
1. Cloud forest habitat is increased and enables species recovery: Through clearing invasive plants and propagating and planting 10,000 endemic plants annually, we will create/improve 2ha of cloud forest habitat. We will monitor plant survival to know our habitat restoration efforts are yielding results. Seeds will be collected from all endemic flowering plant species and living gene banks will be expanded. Standardised survey methods

(sweep netting and hand searches) of endemic invertebrate species and indicators, plus invertebrate habitat assessment will provide clarity on benefits of restoration and how restoration efforts can be improved to allow invertebrate recovery, with ecological research of threatened invertebrates informing forest management. Plant, lichen and bryophyte indicators of forest health will be identified with a monitoring plan developed.

2. Informed water resource management and habitat restoration efforts: We will expand our understanding of the island's water balance by collating more comprehensive data on infiltration, stream flow and climate data. This will feed into the island's water resource decision making and will inform restoration efforts.

3. Improved understanding and mitigation of threats facing the cloud forest: Using the outputs from DPLUS157 and DPLUS104, we will develop, embed and demonstrate best practice biosecurity and phytosanitary approaches whilst further developing our understanding of the plant pathogens impacting the cloud forest trees. This will be used to inform the future access management within the Peaks National Park. Invasive invertebrates (wasps & ants), which damage endemic plants and predate and compete with endemic invertebrates, will be controlled for the first time in the cloud forest using proven methods (toxin fipronil) as tested in DPLUS104, working towards an island-wide eradication of the invasive common wasp and the feasibility of suppressing of invasive ants and termites. Invasive rodents, which damage cloud forest plants, will be controlled. The techniques for invasive plant management will also be consolidated into a training and implementation programme.

4. Sustainable management: The management plan for the Peaks National Park will be updated and embedded within an island-wide framework, providing a model for all 14 of St Helena's nature based terrestrial National Conservation Areas (NCAs). This will lead to a Strategic funding proposal led by St Helena Government. We will also promote the results of this project locally through different media and will embed the findings within existing education programmes.

Q15. Project Stakeholders

Who are the stakeholders for this project and how have they been consulted (include local or host government support/engagement where relevant)? Briefly describe what support they will provide and how the project will engage with them

St Helena's Cloud Forest within the Peaks National Park is a valuable island resource for wildlife and people and there are several stakeholders committed to its recovery and hence the delivery of this project. Key stakeholders identified are the St Helena Government, specifically the Portfolios responsible for tourism development, education, and research and the ENRP Portfolio which has overall responsibility for managing the Peaks National Park. ENRP is committed to the delivery of this project and has committed staff time and resources from the Terrestrial Conservation Section for undertaking project activities; the St Helena National Trust responsible for invertebrate conservation and education and outreach, the Island's utility company Connect Saint Helena who will collect and manage data from mist capture and rainfall monitoring networks which will contribute to the Island's water security benefiting the St Helena community, the scientific and research community both on and off-island and visitors and locals who will use the cloud forest for outdoor recreation and nature appreciation.

This project is the next phase of the St Helena Cloud Forest Programme implementing the Peaks National Park's Management Plan. Through the participatory approach to developing the Management and Implementation Plan and the project partner approach to the delivery of the first phase of the programme (funded by the CSSF) stakeholders were identified, consulted, and engaged throughout, including international expertise. This stakeholder engagement and participatory approach has continued with the design of this project and will be built on and developed throughout project implementation and delivery.

Q16. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to promoting equality between persons of different gender and social characteristics. Please include reference to the GESI context in which your project seeks to work in. Explain your understanding of how individuals may be disadvantaged or excluded from equal participation within the context of your project, and how you seek to address this. You should consider how your project will proactively contribute to ensuring individuals achieve equitable outcomes and how you will ensure meaningful participation for all those engaged.

The project contributes to protecting and promoting the rights and inclusion of women to advance gender equality through our employment and education practice on St Helena and in the UK. The project delivery group comprises 70% women and the project board is 71% women, reflecting the number of women in governance roles on St Helena and including the CEO from SHNT, as well as a portfolio director from SHG. St Helena's economy, isolation, culture and history, however, all potentially contribute to a complicated gender situation and where impact on different genders and social groups is not always clearly understood.

Through the FCDO-funded project we have looked at how we can investigate the reasons for a split in gender for particular roles and how we might encourage more women across these (e.g. the majority of manual workers in the Peaks National Park are male). This has included focus groups with young people to understand their attitudes to the various roles within conservation as well as potential barriers for both male and female students. The previous FCDO funded project had a GESI category of 'B' in 2023/24, with an aim to improve to 'C' over the final year (2024/25).

All SHNT staff have recently received training in the ZSL (Zoology Society of London) FAIRER Conservation programme (July 2024), that covered ethical and human rights along with positionality statements, gender equality and social inclusion.

Q17. Change expected

Detail the expected changes this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who will benefit a) in the short-term (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended). Please describe the changes for the environment and, where relevant, for people in the OTs, and how they are linked.

When talking about how people will benefit, please remember to give details of who will benefit, differences in benefits by gender or other layers of diversity within stakeholders, and the number of beneficiaries expected. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used.

The expected Outcome of the project is that a sustainable, long-term and collaborative approach to managing St Helena's unique cloud forest enables nature recovery, improving water security, and providing a model for other key habitats on St Helena.

In the short term:
• Two hectares of cloud forest will be restored with evidence of it supporting endemic species.
• A greater understanding of endemic invertebrate needs and threatened species ecology integrated into management, this will support the cloud forest team's efforts and skills during long-term restoration work.
• Recovery of endemic threatened plant and invertebrate species initiated, benefiting the long-term biodiversity of the cloud forest, as well as the local community that uses the forest.
• By expanding living gene banks, plant propagation and planting, at least five globally threatened plants are secured or improved by the end of the project.
• Water and climate monitoring will be providing an improved understanding of the island's water balance by end of project.
• Control measures to reduce or eliminate the impacts of invasive species (plants, invertebrates, rodents & pathogens) are trialled and implemented where possible, with the scale of the impacts of invasive species reduced by end of project.

• An updated Peaks Management Plan formally adopted by Executive Council, which will provide a long-term plan for the ENRP and other stakeholders to use.
• On-island capacity and capability to manage and deliver large scale terrestrial conservation projects will have been improved.
• Lessons learnt from the cloud forest project will have been used to draft a Strategic Terrestrial Conservation Project for all of St Helena's nature based National Conservation Areas (NCAs).
• Increased awareness and interest locally and internationally of the value of the cloud forest.

In the long term:
This project will have resulted in a more connected and resilient cloud forest habitat leading to the recovery of habitat and endemic species. The people and unique biodiversity of St Helena will be more resilient to the risks of climate change by implementing a nature recovery-based solution, improving the island's water security. The control strategies initiated for invasive species will become embedded into long-term work and this project will be scalable as it will provide a template for all of St Helena's nature based NCAs.

Q18. Pathway to change

Please outline your project's expected pathway to change. This should be an overview of the overall project logic and outline <u>why and how</u> you expect your Outputs to contribute towards your overall Outcome and, in the longer term, your expected Impact.

The two root drivers of the cloud forest biodiversity loss on St Helena are the severe fragmentation of the forest and the fragility of native plants and invertebrates to the impacts of invasive species.

To address these drivers, we propose a package of conservation activities including clearance and re-planting of areas that are currently dominated by invasive plants; mitigation measures for plant pathogens, invasive invertebrates and rodents; and sustainable island-wide management planning. The expected immediate results of these activities are regeneration of indigenous forest patches, improved understanding of the link between restoration efforts and the island's water supply, and a defined management framework providing an island-wide model for nature conservation on St Helena. From these immediate results, longer-term benefits will include expanded indigenous forest cover, increased biodiversity and endemic species recovery, and improved and more resilient livelihoods through enhanced water security.

In summary, therefore, our Theory of Change statement is: IF the cloud forest is expanded through restoration and protection, IF the suite of threats facing the cloud forest are effectively mitigated, and IF a sustainable island-wide framework for all of St Helena's nature-based NCAs can be developed, THEN there will be improvements in island-wide water security and biodiversity.

Q19. Sustainable benefits

How will the project reach a sustainable point and continue to deliver benefits post-funding? Will the activities require funding and support from other sources, or will they be mainstreamed in to "business as usual"? How will the required knowledge and skills remain available to sustain the benefits? If relevant, how will your approach be scaled? How will you ensure your data and evidence will be accessible to others?

The project will help safeguard St Helena's precious cloud forest habitat and associated endemic species. Expanded forest habitat and gene banks will provide more opportunities for seed collection and banking, strengthening the island's seed banking programme, which is critical to the long-term conservation of St Helena's threatened flora. Species and habitat conservation are further embedded at the heart of SHG's business as usual practices, providing a long-term sustainable approach to biodiversity conservation.

The water and climate monitoring networks will become central to the annual operations of Connect Saint Helena and SHG's Met Station, and actively provide management information which will underpin/support the development of the island's Water Resources Management Plan. The Water Resources Monitoring Technician is

a critical role for the island, monitoring a crucial natural resource, and the role will eventually operate across Connect (the water utility company) and SHG (responsible for sustainable resource management) establishing a sustainable, joined up approach to water management.

Successful implementation of the project will embed sustainable management of the Peaks National Park, which will act as an exemplary approach that can be upscaled to cover the full network of terrestrial National Conservation Areas (NCAs) on St Helena. This will culminate in a proposal developed for an SHG-led Strategic Darwin application, which if successful, will facilitate a landscape scale approach to terrestrial nature conservation on St Helena, encompassing all NCAs and the full range of rare, threatened and endemic biodiversity on the island.

Data will be shared by project partners through a project Sharepoint page, and non-sensitive data and reports made public where applicable on an existing webpage (https://www.sthelenatourism.com/st-helenas-cloud-forest-project/). The project will continue to engage with the local community, fully recognising the importance of the cloud forest as both a natural and cultural heritage site as well as a key recreational and tourism asset.

If necessary, please provide supporting documentation e.g. maps, diagrams, references etc., as a PDF using the File Upload below:

Map of Dianas Peak
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pdf 508.56 KB

Section 7 - Risk Management

Q20. Risk Management

Please outline the 6 key risks to achievement of your Project Outcome and how these risks will be managed and mitigated, referring to the Risk Guidance. This should include at least one Fiduciary, one Safeguarding, and one Delivery Chain Risk.

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Inherent Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Fiduciary (Financial) Because the project involves multiple on-island and international partners there is a risk that financial reporting from one or more partners might be delayed, which could lead to funds not being utilised within the required period(s).	Moderate	Unlikely	Moderate	Clear reporting procedures and timetables in place within partner contracts. Regular, proactive liaison between RSPB financial and project management teams with partners. Effective relationships and procedures developed during current project to be continued.	Minor

Safeguarding: risk of sexual exploitation abuse and harassment (SEAH), or unintended harm to beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff. Because the project's education and engagement activities will involve working with primary and secondary school children, there is a potential risk of SEAH to children and young people, with significant associated potential harms to those involved.	Major	Rare	Moderate	Risk and impacts reduced by having safeguarding section within partner contracts. Project will adopt a best practice approach to safeguarding, with appropriate policies/procedures in place. Where partners may not have adequate safeguarding policies in place, ensure that partners understand and adhere to RSPB standards. Safeguarding training provided where needed/requested.	Moderate
Safeguarding: risks to health, safety and security (HSS) of beneficiaries, the public. Implementing partners, and staff. Because cloud forest habitat is on steep slopes in remote areas and associated restoration activities involve using swords/machetes and working on wet and uneven terrain, slips, trips, falls and other accidents are a significant risk and could potentially lead to serious injuries to project staff.	Major	Possible	Major	Risks and impacts reduced by all partners working to agreed health & safety protocols (eg rope access protocols, lone working systems in place etc). Risk assessments for all activities in place, controls followed, risk assessments regularly reviewed and updated.	Moderate
Delivery Chain Since the project involves multiple on-island and international partners (and in addition multiple consultants and contractors), the project unavoidably has multiple risks across multiple risk categories that have the potential to impact project delivery to greater or lesser extents.	Major	Possible	Major	RSPB has significant experience delivering multi partner projects on St Helena. Best practice project governance employed to identify and address impacts early (regular communication and liaison between partners, pathways established where escalation to senior staff is required etc). International partners are available to provide support to on-island partners where needed.	major

Risk 5 The presence of plant pathogens on St Helena and the knowledge gaps in our understanding of their distribution and impacts could substantially impact project activities (eg via direct mortality of plants, inadvertent spread of pathogens, management/monitoring activities potentially disrupted by access restrictions etc) and limit the achievement of project outcomes.	Severe	Possible	Severe	Biosecurity and phytosanitary protocols in place (and updated as new information emerges). All partners, staff, visitors made aware of importance of and need for best practice biosecurity. Ongoing compliance audits and refresher training across all project activities in place as necessary.	Severe
Risk 6 For some project roles, because of relatively low salaries, fixed term contracts, rising cost of living, and a limited on-island pool of potential applicants there is a risk that it is difficult for partners to recruit and retain staff which disrupts and impacts project delivery.	Moderate	Possible	Major	Funding for a three-year project reduces this risk to some extent (compared to the current project's annual funding model) since employed staff will have additional job security. The on-island capacity building of the current project has, to some degree, widened the pool of on-island ecologists/conservationists that could fill project roles.	Moderate
Risk 7 Because of the remoteness of St Helena, undertaking large scale projects on St Helena presents several logistical challenges (equipment/supplies shortages, shipping issues, procurement delays, difficulty of getting samples back to the UK etc) that can impact and disrupt project delivery activities.	Moderate	Possible	major	All partners to ensure project activities and associated procurement are well planned and procurement takes place early in the financial year to allow for potential shipping issues/delays. Proposed three-year project involves relatively little procurement of capital items, so overall the risk and impacts are reduced.	Minor

Q21. Project sensitivities

Please indicate whether there are sensitivities associated with this project that need to be considered if details are published (detailed species location data that would increase threats, political sensitivities, prosecutions for illegal activities, security of staff etc.). Please note your response to this question won't influence the outcome of your application.

⦿ Yes

Please provide brief details.

Specific locations of endemic invertebrates, field gene banks and older cloud forest habitat (that hosts mature trees and are designated seed sources) are sensitive. Disclosure of these locations has a risk of encouraging environmental crime, specifically theft of seed or invertebrate collection. Unauthorised trespass into these sites also increases the risk of spreading plant pathogens. To keep the habitat safe from intentional or unintentional destruction or collection of endemic species we will not publish their specific locations but state general areas in published documents/external communications. Sensitive records uploaded to iRecord St Helena will be blurred from the public.

Section 8 - Workplan

Q22. Workplan

Provide a project workplan that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the Word template as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project.

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docx 43.44 KB

Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Q23. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan

Describe how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, making reference to who is responsible for the project's M&E.

Darwin Plus projects will need to be adaptive and you should detail how the monitoring and evaluation will feed into the delivery of the project including its management. M&E is expected to be built into the project and not an 'add' on. It is as important to measure for negative impacts as it is for positive impact. Additionally, please indicate an approximate budget and level of effort (person days) to be spent on M&E (see Finance Guidance).

M&E will be the responsibility of all partners but will be led by RSPB via the Project Manager (based on St Helena) with overall accountability provided by the RSPB Head of UKOTs as Project Executive. There is an existing governance structure from the FCDO-funded project ending in March 2025, which will be maintained as part of this project.

A coordinator for each partner will be the main contact point for M&E and will work with the Project Manager through a continuation of 6-weekly project delivery group meetings and regular 1:1 meetings. The meetings will monitor progress against project activities, project indicators and provide opportunity to review and manage project risks.

Oversight and strategic direction, including risk management and future planning, will continue to be provided through the programme Board who meet quarterly. The Board is comprised of the heads of the relevant St Helena Government departments and the Directors of St Helena National Trust and Connect Saintt Helena. The Board Chair is the Project Executive.

Upon project start-up, we will convene a launch meeting with partners which will include review of project outputs, activities, and indicators, with roles and responsibilities agreed for each partner and a responsible

individual assigned for monitoring each of the logframe indicators.

Project monitoring and administration is enabled by the RSPB's project management software, CORA. RSPB has an established SharePoint site for the cloud forest programme to maintain project materials, ensuring accessibility to all partners. This will include an updated M&E plan, which will capture the outcomes of the project launch meeting and will be reviewed at least bi-annually led by the Project Manager in collaboration with project partners during online MS Teams meetings.

Partners will provide bi-annual project progress reports including provision of deliverables and means of verification as well as financial reports to monitor project spend effectively. RSPB will establish both financial and technical reporting templates for partners to facilitate this and align with the grant reporting schedule.

There will be crossover between partners to support project monitoring however, broadly speaking, SHG and SHNT will be responsible for monitoring biodiversity and threat mitigation indicators within the project (Output 1 and Output 3), Connect will be responsible for monitoring water & climate indicators (Output 2), and SHG will be responsible for sustainability planning indicators (Output 4).

A substantial proportion of the Project Manager's time (25%) will be allocated to M&E with additional support provided by partner staff. All of the Project Executive's time on the project (10%) will be for M&E. A total of approximately 273 days will be spent on M&E (including the monthly Delivery Group and quarterly Board meetings) and 1 RSPB in-territory visit per year in support of annual project meetings.

Project Manager [redacted]
Project Executive [redacted]
National & international travel & subsistence (over 3 years): [redacted]
Governance meetings: 24 days

Total project budget for M&E (£) **(this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)**	£[redacted]
Total project budget for M&E (%)	[redacted]
Number of days planned for M&E	273

Section 10 - Logical Framework & Standard Indicators

Q24a. Logical Framework (logframe)

Darwin Plus projects will be required to monitor and report against their progress towards their Outputs and Outcome. This section sets out the expected Outputs and Outcome of your project, how you will measure progress against these and how we can verify this.

SHCF_Stage2_logframe_Sept24_V3_FINAL
07/10/2024
13:53:52
pdf 171.03 KB

Impact:

The people and unique biodiversity of St Helena are more resilient to the risks of climate change due to implementation of a nature recovery-based solution for wildlife and water security

Outcome:

A sustainable, long-term and collaborative approach to managing St Helena's unique cloud forest enables nature recovery, improving water security, and providing a model for other key habitats on St Helena

Project Outputs
Output 1: Cloud forest habitat is increased in size, quality, and connectivity with enhanced species recovery of globally threatened plants and invertebrates
Output 2: Water and climate monitoring informs habitat restoration efforts and island-wide water resource management, aiming to improve the long-term water security of this drought-prone island
Output 3: Understanding of the threats facing the cloud forest is improved, and mitigation measures identified and implemented, enabling restoration efforts to advance
Output 4: The sustainable management of the Peaks National Park is scoped, planned and set within an island-wide framework for all 14 of St Helena's nature-based terrestrial National Conservation Areas (NCAs)
Output 5: *No Response*

Do you require more Output fields?

It is advised to have fewer than 6 Outputs since this level of detail can be provided at the Activity level.

⦿ No

Activities

Each activity is numbered according to the Output that it will contribute towards, for example, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 are contributing to Output 1.

Output 1: Habitat restoration & species recovery
1.1.1. A minimum of four seed collection trips per month (dependent on seasonality and seed viability, and according to seed collection protocols).
1.1.2. Propagation of 10,000 plants per year of a mix of cloud forest species.
1.1.3. Monthly planting of cloud forest species in existing field sites and field gene banks.
1.2.1. Monthly monitoring of plant establishment (species/ habitat) using visual fixed-point observations supported by photographic/ aerial surveying, using recording sheets/ iRecord.
1.2.2. Annual mapping and analysis to determine habitat establishment/survival.
1.3.1. Annual clearance of invasive plants from priority areas and as per work plans.
1.4.1. Monthly planting to create new cloud forest habitat in identified habitat corridors, restoration sites and water catchment sites
1.4.2. Mapping to determine habitat expansion by overall percentage per site by end of project.
1.5.1. Expand the seven gene banks, through new planting (subject to availability of cloud forest species).
1.5.2. Complete quarterly maintenance (invasive plant clearing) of the seven gene banks.

1.6.1. Complete two years of surveys in end of year 1 and year 2 across at least 5 sites, accommodating for climate and seasonal changes of endemic invertebrate species.
1.6.2. Survey reports collated, including graphs of endemic species numbers and diversity for sites of restoration, compared to previous baselines or control sites.
1.7.1. Habitat assessment results and invertebrate survey data are used to establish a set of endemic invertebrate recovery techniques, that are written in to the Peak plans.
1.8.1. Complete a series of monthly and quarterly invertebrate ecological surveys in year 1 and 2, for 3 endemic invertebrate species, involving day and night surveys looking at the behaviour of priority species.
1.8.2 Three research reports and four threatened invertebrate recovery sheets for cloud forest specialists created and results embedded in the Peak plans.
1.8.3 Review the IUCN red listing of cloud forest invertebrate species with the survey data and complete assessment for the Golden Sail Spider.
1.9.1. identification of priority vascular plants, lichens and bryophytes by end YR1 by completing a desk-based study including mapping and gap analysis/literature review of techniques.
1.9.2. Complete initial or baseline survey of identified priorities by end of project.
1.9.3. Species action plan drafted and restoration initiated for Sphagnum helenicum by end of project.
1.9.4. Complete training of field conservation staff to (i) identify keystone native and endemic species and invasive species and (ii) in survey methods by end YR2.

Output 2: Water & climate monitoring
2.1.1. Collect monthly climate monitoring data from three existing weather stations within the Peaks National Park (Depot, Diana's Peak, High Peak) & input data into database.
2.2.1. Collect monthly soil moisture content data from 5 sites and measure moisture content and input data into central database.
2.2.2. Collect Potential Evapotranspiration (PEt) data annually and input data into central database, and to be used to refine annual water balance.
2.3.1. Maintain and collect monitoring data from surface water telemetry network remotely, and groundwater monitoring network by downloading manually from data loggers monthly.
2.3.2. Annually update the calculation of the island's water balance.
2.4.1 Complete monthly reporting of climate and water resource data to Connect Saint Helena's management team.

Output 3: Threat mitigation
3.1.1. Biosecurity and phytosanitary protocols for working within the Peaks National Park updated annually.
3.1.2. Complete periodic audit to verify compliance of biosecurity and phytosanitary protocols across all partners/stakeholders (at least annually)
3.2.1. Continue and expand current soil and plant sampling and testing for plant pathogens throughout the lifespan of the project to better understand pathogen distribution and impacts (as per SHG sampling and monitoring plan).
3.3.1 Continue to implement and adhere to the SHG access management protocol to enable PNP to be opened whilst minimising risk of pathogen spread.
3.4.1. Common wasp eradication options trialled in the cloud forest and survey reports created showing wasp activity results pre/post treatment.
3.4.2. Common wasp eradication operational plan produced and reviewed by international experts by end of the project.
3.4.3 Common wasp eradication plan endorsed by SHG by the end of the project.
3.5.1. Pilot invasive ant control in the Cloud Forest in YR1 and collate survey results.
3.5.2 Two feasibility reports created with recommendations on ant / termite control in the Cloud Forest by the end of the project.
3.6.1 Implement rodent control plan and assess effectiveness annually.
3.6.2. Update rodent control training and practices to reflect control plan and results of annual reviews.
3.7.1. Review and refine previously developed invasive species management tools annually and update

accordingly.
3.7.2. Produce updated training guide for invasive plant control by end of project.

Output 4: Sustainable management
4.1.1. In Yr1 Q2 deliver a planning workshop to revise the management plan, involving partners and stakeholders with an interest in the future direction of the Peaks National Park.
4.1.2 Management plan document revised, updated, formally adopted and uploaded onto SHG website by end of year 1.
4.2.1 Project handover plan document/framework produced and agreed between RSPB and SHG by end YR2; and to begin implementation in YR3.
4.2.2. St Helena Government staffing model and resource plan for the nature based National Conservation Areas proposal (including the Peaks National Park) produced by end YR2.
4.2.3. Stakeholder mapping exercise to determine best engagement mechanisms by end YR1.
4.2.4. Develop appropriate stakeholder engagement tools by end YR2, building into existing governance structures.
4.3.1 Project concept for a strategic terrestrial conservation project agreed in YR1, with a project proposal developed by end YR2.
4.4.1 Regular on-island communications produced to promote the project activities through social media and other engagement portals, including data on the ecosystem services (e.g. water security, health & wellbeing) provided by the cloud forest.
4.5.1. All primary and secondary schools on St Helena engaged and exposure to activities delivered each year.
4.5.2 Assessment on effectiveness of communication/outreach at start and end of project.

Q24b. Standard Indicators

Standard Indicator Ref & Wording	Project Output or Outcome this links to	Target number by project end	Provide disaggregated targets here
e.g. DPLUS-A01: Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	**e.g. Output indicator 3.4 / Output 3**	**e.g. 60**	**e.g. 30 women; 30 men**
DPLUS-A01: Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured & relevant training	Outcome indicator 0.6 Output 3, output indicator 3.1 Output 3, output indicator 3.6 Output 3, output indicator 3.7	30	21 male 9 female
DPLUS-A03: Number of local or national organisations with enhanced capability and capacity	Outcome indicator 0.6	3	One public (SHG) One NGO (SHNT) One private (Connect)
DPLUS-A06: Number of people participating in community events and activities	Output 4, output indicators 4.4 & 4.5	200	100 male 100 female

DPLUS–C06: Analytics for funded project-specific social media posts	Output 4, output indicator 4.4	100,000	100,000 reach
DPLUS-C08: Number of Media related activities	Output 4, output indicator 4.4	15	12 print 3 radio
DPLUS-D01b: Area improved through restoration	Outcome indicator 0.1 Output 1; output indicators 1.2 & 1.3	2 hectares	Biome & management type: 2 hectares of tropical-subtropical forests managed by vegetation management
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*

If you cannot identify three Standard Indicators you can report against, please justify this here.

No Response

Section 11 - Budget and Funding

Q25. Budget

Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet which provides the Budget for this application and ensure the Summary page is fully completed. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.

Budget - DPR13S1 1042 - Recovering St Helenas Cloud Forest
07/10/2024
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xlsx 99.49 KB

Q26. Alignment with other funding and activities

This question aims to help us understand how familiar you are with other work in the geographic/thematic area, and how this proposed project will build on or align with this to avoid any risks of duplicating or conflicting activities.

Q26a. Is this new work or does it build on existing/past activities (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)?

◉ Development of existing work

Please provide details:

This project builds on techniques developed and refined over three decades, utilising achievements and lessons learnt from multiple previous Darwin projects:
DPLUS025 – Securing a threatened fragment Black Cabbage Tree woodland & improved knowledge on population biology of endemic Spiky Yellow Woodlice.
DPLUS029 - Secured the genetic diversity of four threatened keystone endemic tree species and their associated invertebrate fauna, through surveys and use of clonal material to create gene banks.
DPLUS037 – Built capacity in seed conservation and conservation horticulture, and secured the genetic diversity of 31 of St Helena's endemic plants through banked seeds.
DPLUS099 – Demonstrated restoration of cloud forest habitat increases rainfall and availability for water supply, whilst increasing habitat for biodiversity and improving climate change resiliency.
DPLUS059 – improved knowledge and capacity for managing invasive plant species to safeguard endemic biodiversity.
DPLUS103 – established a climate change and drought warning network on island.
DPLUS104 – testing and establishing methods for control of key invasive invertebrate species across St Helena
DPLUS157 - Managing the pathogens threatening St Helena's biodiversity and food security
and an FCDO-funded 4 year project (2021 – 2025) which largely delivered the Peaks National Park management plan 2018 - 2024.

Q26b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for work in the geographic/thematic area to the proposed project?

⦿ Yes

If yes, please give details explaining similarities and differences, and explaining how your work will be additional, avoiding duplicating and conflicting activities and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and share lessons learnt for mutual benefit.

The project (Output 4) builds on the outputs of DPLUS154 (Sustainable management planning for St Helena's National Conservation Areas) which will conclude in June 2025. This project will scope and plan a framework for managing the nature-based terrestrial National Conservation Areas, which will have management plans in place through DPLUS154.

A Darwin Plus People & Skills proposal has been submitted by St Helena Government in partnership with CABI to install qPCR technology and provide training for the use of this technology to allow better online identification of plant pathogens. If successful, the results of this People and Skills project will directly benefit this project.

An application for a PhD on St Helena's bryophytes has been submitted to the DLA by the St Helena Research Institute and the Natural History Museum. If successful, this PhD will support (but is not critical to) the delivery of indicator 1.8: Plant, lichen and bryophyte indicators of habitat health identified by end year 1 and monitoring programme developed by end of project.

Q27. Balance of budget spend

Defra are keen to see as much Darwin Plus funding as possible directly benefiting UKOT communities and economies. While it is appreciated that this is not always possible every effort should be made for funds to remain in-Territory.

Explain the thinking behind your budget in terms of where Darwin Plus funds will be spent. What benefits will the Territory/ies see from your budget? What level of the award do you expect will be spent locally? Please explain the decisions behind any Darwin Plus funding that will not be spent locally and how those costs are important for the project.

The project has been designed in a way which enables St Helena Government to be the lead partner for project delivery, with St Helena National Trust and Connect St Helena in supporting roles to implement this project, to

ensure a high-level of local engagement and ownership. RSPB is providing project oversight/administration and a suite of international experts with existing long-standing relationships with St Helena are providing technical support through an advisory group. As such, most of the project funding will benefit St Helena, with St Helena Government receiving 49%, St Helena National Trust: 22% and Connect St Helena 7% of the overall budget. This means a total of 78% of the overall budget will directly benefit St Helena and its community. People power is core to delivering conservation on St Helena, and as such the major component of expenditure include salaries/salary contributions for 19 on-island staff positions, 18 of which will be filled locally by Saints.

Q28. Value for Money

Please describe why you consider your application to be good value for money including justification of why the measures you will adopt will secure value for money.

This project is the next phase of a long-term, complex, and holistic programme which involves a 10-partner strong collaboration, with implementation led by the three on-island partners. This project captures what would have traditionally been several smaller projects under three core-pillars: biodiversity, water security and socio-economics; as per the Peaks National Park management plan (2019-2024). It also builds on a multi-million project and the foundations of a further eight previous Darwin projects. With the support of international expertise from RBG Kew, CABI, Species Recovery Trust, UKCEH, UBC and RSPB; coupled with the planned 78% project expenditure locally on St Helena through the three on island partners, this project represents excellent value for money in terms of investing in St Helena. Given the local context and the fragile nature of this ecosystem, the proposed addition of 2ha of new forest will also provide significant impact for biodiversity. This project will facilitate long-term embedded practices, not only to safeguard the single most important site on UK soil for its suite of endemic species, but to have longer term island and community-wide benefits for biodiversity, water security, tourism and recreation.

Q29. Capital items

If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin Plus funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end. If you are requesting more than 10% capital costs, please provide your justification here.

None

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q30. Safeguarding

All projects funded under the Biodiversity Challenge Funds must ensure proactive action is taken to promote the welfare and protect all individuals involved in the project (staff, implementing partners, the public and beneficiaries) from harm. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have specific procedures and policies in operation.

Please upload the following mandatory policies:

- **Safeguarding and/or PSEAH Policy: including a statement of commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance to inaction statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse. Policy should include a commitment to either Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS), IASC minimum operating standards for PSEA MOS-PSEA) or CAPSEAH minimum standards.**
- **Whistleblowing Policy: which details a clear process for dealing with concerns raised and protects whistle blowers from reprisals**
- **Code of Conduct: which sets out clear expectations of behaviours – inside and outside the workplace – for staff and volunteers involved in the project and makes clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards, up to and including dismissal.**

- **Safety and Security Policy or Security Plan: that outlines a plan on how to mitigate and respond to potential health, safety and security threats.**

If any of these policies are integrated into a broader policy document or handbook, please upload just the relevant or equivalent sub-sections to the above policies, with (unofficial) English translations where needed.

Please outline how your project will ensure:

a) beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff are made aware of your safeguarding commitment and how they can confidentially raise a concern,

b) safeguarding issues are investigated, recorded and what disciplinary procedures are in place when allegations and complaints are upheld,

c) you will ensure project partners also meet these standards and policies.

Indicate which minimum standard protocol your project follows and how you meet those minimum standards, i.e. CAPSEAH, CHS, IASC MOS-PSEA. If your approach is currently limited or in the early stages of development, please clearly set out your plans address this.

All RSPB workforce and representatives and any organisation or individual working in partnership with RSPB (whether formal or informal) is expected to follow the RSPB Safeguarding Policy.

The policy is publicly available on the RSPB website and all RSPB staff are familiarised with it during inductions and compulsory annual training. The policy and relevant training detail how to confidentially raise a concern.

Sub-contracts include our standard Annex, obliging partners to uphold safeguarding policies and outlining how they report, record and mitigate any incidents. All RSPB workforce and other representatives/project partners are obliged to report any safeguarding concerns following the required RSPB procedure.

Safeguarding issues are reported to a Safeguarding Advisor (SA) or a member of the Safeguarding Team (ST) and recorded on the RSPB Incident Reporting System (PRIME). SA/ST determines the appropriate course of action, if necessary in consultation with the Local Authority (LA) Safeguarding Team and/or Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) or Police.
Concerns are handled as a misconduct issue using RSPB complaints/disciplinary procedures as appropriate or by the appropriate authority. A disciplinary investigation is launched, and hearing held by RSPB if concerns remain, involving LADO, or investigated by LA/Police and supported by RSPB. The disciplinary process can be appealed.

The St Helena Government (SHG) demonstrates its commitment to safeguarding through its own internal Safeguarding Policy and Code of Management (CoM) and its exploitation protocol, which includes a statement of our commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse. This policy applies to all SHG employees including those who have direct or indirect contact with children or vulnerable adults.

St Helena National Trust also has in place a suite of policies that governs our operations – a code of conduct, safeguarding policy, grievance mechanisms as well as disciplinary policy and procedures.

Q31. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the key principles of good ethical practice, as outlined in the guidance.

The project adheres to the legal/ethical requirements of all organisations and territories involved in the project.

The project has been co-developed with in-territory partners at all stages, with these partners leading the projects on the ground delivery. Delivery by local staff sensitive to their territory's culture means they can effectively champion the wellbeing and safety of anyone directly or indirectly impacted by the project and can

act as a
visible contact point for anyone wishing to voice a concern.

The health and safety of all project staff is a priority and will be informed by the relevant employing partner's health and safety guidelines. The RSPB will ensure compliance by following its own policies and assumes responsibility of monitoring and upholding them across all partner activities.

Section 13 - Project Staff

Q32. Project staff

Please identify the core staff (identified in the budget), their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project (these should match the details you provide in the budget).

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Shayla Ellick	**Project Leader**	100	Checked
Robert George	Water Resource Monitoring Technician	100	Checked
TBC	Peaks chargehand/ Senior Technician	100	Checked
TBC x 3	Peaks Conservation Worker/ Technician	100	Checked

Do you require more fields?

◉ Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
TBC x 4	Nursery Conservation Worker	100	Checked
Zac Bargo	Research Assistant	60	Checked
Jacob Cupit	Head of Conservation	50	Checked
Natasha Stevens	Invertebrate Project Manager	100	Checked
Liza Fowler	Cloud Forest Invert Specialist	100	Checked
Daryl Joshua	Invertebrate Field Officer	100	Checked
Marcella Corcoran	Horticulturalist (year 1 only)	30	Checked
Wendy Cain	Senior Finance Officer	7	Checked

Please provide 1 page CVs (or job description if yet to be recruited) for the project staff listed above as a combined PDF.

CV's for Key Staff
07/10/2024
13:55:00
pdf 856.16 KB

Have you attached all project staff CVs and job descriptions?

⦿ Yes

Section 14 - Project Partners

Q33. Project partners

Please list all the Project Partners (including the Lead Organisation who will administer the grant and coordinate delivery of the project), clearly setting out their roles and responsibilities in the project including the extent of their engagement so far.

Lead organisation name:	RSPB
Is the Lead Organisation based in a UKOT where the project is working?	⦿ No
Please explain why this project is led from outside the UKOT	The RSPB is administering this project on the request of St Helena Government and the current Board members of the FCDO funded St Helena Cloud Forest Project (including senior representatives from St Helena Government, St Helena National Trust & Connect).
Why is this organisation the Lead Organisation, and what value to they bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	The UK Overseas Territories (OTs) are a major strategic priority for the RSPB, and we have a track record of successful project delivery in the OTs under Darwin. The RSPB has been working with the OTs for over 25 years. The underlying principle of our work is to establish enduring relationships with local partners in order to help support the development of sustainable and locally-lead conservation programmes. St Helena Government and St Helena National Trust are longstanding RSPB partners. RSPB has strong capacity to engage and deliver the project, proving a Project Manager, Project Executive and Finance Officer. RSPB will manage project administration and partnership facilitation.
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	[redacted]
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	⦿ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from the Lead Partner?	⦿ Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

⦿ Yes

1. Partner Name:	St Helena Government (SHG): Environment, Natural Resources & Planning Portfolio (ENRP), St Helena Research Institute (SHRI), Sustainable Development Portfolio St Helena
Website address:	www.sainthelena.gov.sh
What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	As the statutory body responsible for all nature conservation areas on St Helena, we at the ENRP bring significant institutional knowledge and technical expertise to the Cloud Forest Restoration and Monitoring Project. Our role in managing these areas daily has provided us with extensive experience in invasive plant clearance, habitat restoration, and endemic plant production through our nurseries. This expertise will be critical in ensuring that the restoration of the island's unique cloud forest is carried out effectively and sustainably. In addition, our team includes experienced managers who will be available to support the project team in delivering this initiative, offering guidance based on our successful management of similar environmental projects in territory. Our established stakeholder relationships and partnership arrangements will also add value, enabling us to facilitate collaboration and community engagement, both of which are key to the project's success. Our involvement ensures that this project benefits from our in-depth understanding of St Helena's unique environment, as well as our ability to navigate the regulatory landscape and foster partnerships. This will contribute to the restoration and long-term monitoring of the cloud forest, helping preserve one of the island's most vital ecosystems.
UKOT-based/other Partner	⦿ UKOT-based
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	[redacted]
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	⦿ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⦿ Yes

2. Partner Name:	St Helena National Trust (SHNT), St Helena
Website address:	St Helena National Trust (SHNT), St Helena www.trust.org.sh

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	SHNT is the leading conservation body on St Helena for invertebrate conservation. As partner to this project we provide a) essential Cloud Forest health monitoring through the flourishing invertebrate species whilst carrying out in-depth study of key invertebrate species and their link between the different habitats, b) control invasive invertebrates that prey on endemic invertebrates and plants. Without this intervention, imbalance can be created and newly planted species may not have the opportunity to establish themselves. Outside of the national curriculum, SHNT is the leading body for education and outreach. In this project we will work closely with other partners to develop key messages and activities to create awareness and understanding to the public and students on the importance of the Cloud Forest.
UKOT-based/other Partner	⦿ UKOT-based
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	[redacted]
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	⦿ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⦿ Yes

3. Partner Name:	Connect Saint Helena, St Helena
Website address:	www.connect.co.sh
What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	Connect Saint Helena is the islands water and energy utlity provider. Connect manage and maintain the islands water resource infrastructure and are the primary responder to water shortages and drought. Connect is responsible for the management and collection of data from water resource and mist & rainfall monitoring networks, working closely with the Bottom Woods Met Office with climate data. Deliverables will include geology surveys, hydrology and hydrogeology investigations and interpreting water resource and geology data. Connect will contribute technical expertise as a member of the Project Steering Group.
UKOT-based/other Partner	[redacted]
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	⦿ UKOT-based
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	⦿ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⦿ Yes

4. Partner Name:	Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, UK
Website address:	www.kew.org
What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	Kew will bring to the project their extensive experience of working on the ex-situ conservation of St Helena's threatened plants. This will be through feeding into St Helena partner's conservation planning and prioritisation for individual plant species and providing technical support to SHG towards the collecting and management of new plant accessions (both seeds and vegetative material), and their propagation in nursery conditions. These will feed directly into developing living genebanks and habitat restoration. Kew is also well placed to care for off-island ex-situ conservation collections, which are ever more important with the threat of plant pathogens on St Helena. This project would secure the time of Kew's Conservation Horticultural Scientist and Research Leader (UK Overseas Territories), with a combined experience of more than 30 years of working on conservation of UK Overseas Territories threatened plants
UKOT-based/other Partner	⊙ Other
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	[redacted]
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	⊙ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⊙ Yes

5. Partner Name:	CABI, UK
Website address:	https://www.cabi.org/

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	CABI can support all aspects dealing with plant pathogens and plant disease management. This includes collecting and identification of pathogens and vectors and based on this develop recommendations for improved habitat management. CABI has also ample experience and capacity to conduct training activities covering all aspects of plant health and food security. For this, CABI has all necessary training materials in place including online tools. CABI scientists have considerable experience in conducting research linked to plant pathology and biodiversity conservation covering taxonomic, ecological and other aspects such as biological control and improvement of biosecurity. CABI scientists have collaborated on and managed many DFID and DEFRA funded projects. Aside from plant health and capacity building through participatory approaches work at CABI focuses on knowledge dissemination, sustainable crop and land management and the biological control of invasive species. An overview over CABI's wide range of activities is provided here: https://www.cabi.org/about-cabi/annual-reviews-and-financials/ . Globally, CABI has successfully helped a large number of farmers and has equally protected the environment on numerous occasions. One prominent example for successful farmer support is the Plantwise initiative, one for biodiversity protection the rescue of endemic gumwoods on St Helena through the control of the invasive Insignorthezia insignis.
UKOT-based/other Partner	⦿ Other
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	[redacted]
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	⦿ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⦿ Yes

6. Partner Name:	Species Recovery Trust (SRT), UK
Website address:	www.speciesrecoverytrust.org.uk
What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	Species Recovery Trust, via Vicky Wilkins, who has supported invertebrate conservation work on St Helena for the last 12 years, including 19-029 and DPLUS104. SRT would provide support and capacity building to St Helena National Trust on the delivery of the invertebrate elements of the project, both advice on endemic surveys and invasive control methods making connections with international expertise when needed. SRT would advise and train on data collection, data analysis and report writing. As well as, enabling the translation results into conservation techniques. SRT also could provide support on Red listing, as they have supported all invertebrate red listing for St Helena to date.
UKOT-based/other Partner	⦿ Other

Allocated budget (proportion or value):	[redacted]
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	⊙ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⊙ Yes

Please provide a combined PDF of all letters of support.

Letters of support
07/10/2024
14:25:39
pdf 2.17 MB

Section 15 - Lead Organisation Capability and Capacity

Q34. Lead Organisation Capability and Capacity

Has your organisation been awarded Biodiversity Challenge Funds (Darwin Plus, Darwin Initiative or Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund) funding before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)?

⊙ Yes

If yes, please provide details of the most recent awards (up to 6 examples).

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
DPSTR001	Sarah Havery	Enabling effective biosecurity in the Caribbean UK Overseas Territories
DPLUS207	Joe Jeffcoate	Empowering and preparing Cayman's Sister Islands to tackle invasive mammals
DPLUS196	Charlie Butt	Habitat restoration of Great and Little Tobago National Parks (BVI)
DPLUS191	Andy Schofield	Enabling invasive plant eradications and long-term management in Tristan
DPLUS181	Charlie Butt	East Caicos Wilderness Area: Protecting the Caribbean's largest uninhabited island
DPLUS178	Andy Schofield	Inhabited Territory restoration: completing preparations for a rodent-free Pitcairn Islands

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts?

⊙ Yes

Section 16 - Certification

Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

RSPB

I apply for a grant of

£938,637.00

I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the project schedule should this application be successful.

(This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the applicant institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)

- **I enclose CVs for key project personnel, a cover letter, letters of support, a budget, logframe, Safeguarding and associated policies, and project workplan.**
- **Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report (covering three years) are also enclosed.**

Checked

Name	Sarah Havery
Position in the organisation	Head of UK Overseas Territories programme
Signature (please upload e-signature)	e-signature 07/10/2024 13:59:12 png 124.96 KB
Date	07 October 2024

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

RSPB Audited Accounts 2021-22
07/10/2024
13:58:27
pdf 697.12 KB

RSPB Audited Accounts 2022-23
07/10/2024
13:58:14
pdf 738.44 KB

RSPB Audited Accounts 2023-24
07/10/2024
13:58:03
pdf 565.5 KB

Please upload the Lead Organisation's Safeguarding and Associated Policies as a PDF

RSPB Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy & Code of Conduct
07/10/2024
13:58:40
pdf 1.04 MB

Section 17 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, **including the "Guidance Notes for Applicants", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Standard Indicator Guidance", "Risk Guidance", and "Finance Guidance".**	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions **for this fund.**	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates **for the project.**	Checked
I have provided a budget based on UK government financial years **i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.**	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, **correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.**	Checked
The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual **(clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).**	Checked
I have attached the below documents to the application: • **a** cover letter from the Lead Partner, **outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant and referencing any potential conflicts of interest, as a single PDF.**	Checked
• **the** completed logframe **as a PDF using the Stage 2 template provided and using "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance" and "Standard Indicator Guidance".**	Checked
• **the budget (which meets the requirements above) using the template provided.**	Checked
• **a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts (covering three years) for the Lead Organisation, or provided an explanation if not.**	Checked
• **the completed workplan as a PDF using the template provided**	Checked

• **a copy of the Lead Organisation's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy, Code of Conduct and Safety and Security Policy or Security Plan (Question 30).**	Checked
• **1 page CV or job description for each of the Project Staff identified at Question 32, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not, combined into a single PDF.**	Checked
• **a letter of support from the Lead Organisation and partner(s) identified at Question 33 and relevant OT Governments, or an explanation of why not, combined into a single PDF.**	Checked
The additional supporting evidence is in line with the requested evidence, amounts to a maximum of 5 sides of A4, and is combined as a single PDF.	Checked
(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	Checked
I have checked the Darwin Plus website **immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.**	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Plus website.	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant (Flexi-Grant Account Holder) and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current application rounds under the Darwin Initiative and our sister grant scheme, the IWT Challenge Fund. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share our quarterly project newsletter. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in the application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the **Privacy Notice**, available from the Forms and Guidance Portal.

This **Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals** whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).

Project Title: Recovering St Helena's cloud forest for wildlife & water security

Project Summary	**SMART Indicators (including disaggregated targets)**	**Means of Verification**	**Important Assumptions**
Impact: The people and unique biodiversity of St Helena are more resilient to the risks of climate change due to implementation of a nature recovery-based solution for wildlife and water security (Max 30 words)			
Outcome: (Max 30 words) A sustainable, long-term and collaborative approach to managing St Helena's unique cloud forest enables nature recovery, improving water security, and providing a model for other key habitats on St Helena	0.1. At least 2 ha of additional cloud forest is created or improved in quality and connectivity by March 2028. 0.2. The population or distribution trajectory of at least five globally threatened species are stabilised or increasing by the end of the project 0.3. An improved understanding of the island's water balance by end of project 0.4. Impacts of invasive species (plants, invertebrates, rodents & pathogens) are reduced by end of project through reduced area	0.1. Cloud forest restoration plan and survey plan in existence and implemented; Ongoing habitat mapping; records of number of plants planted; drone photography 0.2 Survey results/reports; species action plan; IUCN red list assessments 0.3. Operational water balance workplan in existence and implemented; Updated water balance report 0.4 Operational survey workplan in existence and implemented; Reports/survey results of invasive species, ongoing habitat mapping	The impacts of plant pathogens can be sufficiently managed and mitigated so that habitat restoration at a sufficient scale is achievable: *We believe this assumption will hold true because there are examples globally of where this has been achieved, and we are building our knowledge base of the pathogens and their impact through inoculation trials which will help us to identify resistant plant species to plant (experiments are happening in Jan 25, with results planned to be available by March 25) and we have the necessary expertise built into the project's technical advisory group (CABI, RBG Kew).* Recruitment challenges do not continue to impact SHG capacity to do work on the ground: *We believe this assumption will hold*

	and/or numbers of invasives from existing baselines. 0.5. Updated and revised Peaks Management Plan formally adopted and implementation plan approved by end of project. 0.6 An increased level of on-island capacity and capability achieved through 19 staff to manage large-scale terrestrial conservation projects, monitored through a start and end of project competency framework. 0.7. Lessons learned from cloud forest work incorporated into a draft Strategic Terrestrial Conservation Project for all of St Helena's nature-based National Conservation Areas by end of year 3	 0.5. Approved Management Plan 0.6. Staff contracts for key SHG positions; staffing plan, competency framework document 0.7. Draft funding proposal led by SHG	*true as SHG have just successfully hired a Head of Nature Conservation, who has provided leadership in this project's development*
Outputs: 1. Cloud forest habitat is increased in size, quality, and connectivity with enhanced species recovery of globally threatened plants and invertebrates	1.1. 10,000 plants propagated across SHG plant nurseries and planted in field sites for habitat restoration works and expansion of field gene banks annually. 1.2 Monthly monitoring of plant survival of planting efforts determines cloud forest habitat establishment.	1.1. Operational Plant Propagation workplan in existence and implemented; Plant propagation records, planting records 1.2 Operational Drone photography and survey work plan in existence and implemented; Drone photography & mapping, analysis report	The impacts of plant pathogens can be sufficiently managed and mitigated so that nursery production and habitat restoration are achievable at sufficient scale: *We believe this assumption will hold true as nursery protocols have been developed and are beginning to be implemented.*

	1.3. Invasive plant species cleared annually from 1.45ha of existing cloud forest habitat.	1.3. Cloud forest restoration plan and survey plan in existance and implemented; Habitat mapping and photo records; drone photography	Seed germination rates are high enough to yield sufficient plants for habitat restoration: *We believe this assumption will hold true, depending on climatic factors and seed collection, as previous nursery data has indicated that this level of germination is achievable.* Future access restrictions do not impact our ability to clear invasives or plant native species and collecting environmental data: *We believe this assumption will hold true because SHG permitting processes are now in place to provide access and have been used effectively over the last year.*
	1.4. 0.49 ha of new cloud forest habitat planted along existing corridors, at key restoration and water catchment sites by March 2028.	1.4. Cloud forest restoration plan and survey plan in existance and implemented; Habitat mapping and photo records; records of number of plants planted; drone photography	
	1.5. Seven living gene banks are expanded and a quarterly maintenance schedule is in place by the end of the project	1.5. Seed collecting operational plan and survey plan in existence and implemented; Seed banking data, germplasm database	
	1.6. Increases in abundance and diversity of endemic indicator species in areas of restorations and control sites, compared to previous 2024 baselines, using 2 annual surveys of endemic invertebrates to be completed by Y3 Q2.	1.6. Surveys undertaken; Survey reports from 2 annual surveys, including graphs of endemic species numbers and diversity for sites of restoration, compared to previous or control sites	
	1.7 Informed restoration techniques for the long-term recovery of endemic invertebrate communities are adopted within the Peaks management and implementation plan by Y3 Q3	1.7 Habitat assessment results and invertebrate survey data are used to establish a set of endemic invertebrate recovery techniques, which will inform the Peaks plans.	

	1.8 Long-term cloud forest management for 4 threatened invertebrate species recovery embedded within Peaks plans, through ecological research of 3 threatened species of priority endemic invertebrates (including Spiky Yellow Woodlouse *Pseudolaureola atlantica,* Golden Sail Spider *Argyrodes mellissii*) and collation of previous data for species (*Elachista trifasciata*) by Y3 Q1 1.9. Plant, lichen and bryophyte indicators of habitat health identified by end year 1 and monitoring programme developed by end of project	1.8. 4 threatened invertebrate recovery sheets created and 2 research reports and embedded in the Peak plans 1.9. Desk study undertaken; Prioritisation report, monitoring plan	
2. Water and climate monitoring informs habitat restoration efforts and island-wide water resource management, aiming to improve the long-term water security of this drought-prone island.	2.1. Island-wide monitoring programme (using existing monitoring network) supported by monthly climate monitoring data from three existing weather stations within the Peaks National Park (Depot, Diana's Peak, High Peak) 2.2. A data set on soil moisture content data is collected from five stationary sites and Potential Evapotranspiration (PEt) data is collected from three sites on an annual basis.	2.1. Operational workplan; Annual reports 2.2. Monitoring plan; Refined annual water balance report	The St Helena water resource management plan is drafted in 2024/25 as planned: *We believe this assumption will hold true because this is built into the work plans of the Connect Saint Helena team.* Existing monitoring equipment from FCDO-funded project and DPLUS103 remains fit-for-purpose over course of project: *We believe this assumption will hold true because the equipment is relatively new and has been adapted over the FCDO-project,*

	2.3. More comprehensive surface and ground water data collated to enable updating of island's water balance annually. 2.4. A monthly report of water resource data used to support Connect Saint Helena's decision making, and to inform restoration efforts	2.3. Monthly reports; refined annual water balance 2.4. Monthly reports	*and will be further mitigated as budget has been allocated within this project for maintenance.*
3. Understanding of the threats facing the cloud forest is improved, and mitigation measures identified and implemented, enabling restoration efforts to advance.	3.1. Best-practice biosecurity and phytosanitary approaches to plant production and habitat restoration further developed, embedded and demonstrated by end of project, using outputs from Defra-funded CABI project, to mitigate the risks posed by *Phytophthora* and other plant pathogens 3.2. Annual programme of sampling and testing to improve on-island knowledge base of plant pathogen distribution and impacts 3.3 SHG access management protocol for Peaks National Park implemented in year 1 and reviewed annually/when new information becomes available.	3.1. Updated phytosanitary and biosecurity protocols; audits demonstrating compliance 3.2. Documents detailing pathogen sampling and testing results, and informing conservation efforts 3.3. Access management protocol, access maps, permit compliance.	It proves possible for us to advance our knowledge of plant pathogens on St Helena enough to develop effective mitigation measures and a refined access management plan: *We believe this assumption will hold true because new information is forthcoming from CABI-led work (funded by Darwin/Defra), and it is recognised by SHG that there balance to be made between the need to mitigate and minimise the risks from plant pathogen with the need for access given cultural and socioeconomic importance of the cloud forest to the local community.* Effective methodology for invasive invertebrate control is identified during year 4 of FCDO-funded project and from DPLUS104: *We believe this*

	3.4. Reduction in the number of Invasive common wasp in the Cloud Forest by piloting the eradication plan and island-wide invasive common wasp eradication plan endorsed by the end of the project	3.4. Eradication plan, control / survey data	*assumption will hold true because several trials have been completed under DPLUS104 and the FCDO-funded project.*
	3.5. Better understanding of the feasibility of control of invasive ants and termites in the Cloud Forest and next steps defined in Peaks plans by Y3 Q3.	3.5. Feasibility report	Pilot rodent control programme initiated under FCDO-funded project provides data to develop rodent control plan: *We believe this assumption will hold true as data collection has begun.*
	3.6. Rodent control plan implemented, reviewed and refined annually, covering the full topography of the cloud forest, and potential for rodent control in buffer zones around the Peaks National Park scoped to further reduce the direct and indirect impacts of rodents on cloud forest habitats	3.6. Rodent control plans and protocols; records and reports of control efforts	Recruitment challenges do not impact SHG capacity to deliver work on the ground: *We believe this assumption will hold true as SHG have just successfully hired a Head of Nature Conservation, who has provided leadership in this project's development*
	3.7. Priority invasive plants, priority affected areas and most appropriate control methods determined by end of year 1, and training guide produced by end of project	3.7. Maps, reports, training guide	
4. The sustainable management of the Peaks National Park is scoped, planned and set within	4.1 Peaks Management Plan updated by end year 1 and formally adopted by end of	4.1. Management Plan	As an output of DPLUS154, Management Plans for all 13 terrestrial nature-based NCAs

an island-wide framework for all 14 of St Helena's nature-based terrestrial National Conservation Areas (NCAs)	project, moving from a five-year to a ten-year timeframe 4.2. Sustainable and long-term implementation of the updated Management Plan achieved through: (i) transition of administration from RSPB to SHG by end year 2; (ii) approval of a long-term NCA staffing model, informed by the collaborative approach adopted during cloud forest work; (iii) establishment of stakeholder forums (for volunteers, landowners and local businesses) by end year 2. 4.3. SHG-led Strategic Terrestrial Conservation Project proposal, applying learning from the cloud forest project to the other 13 NCAs, drafted by end Year 2 4.4. An increase of Cloud Forest news and information exposure for the local community through promotion and on-island communication engagement by Y3 Q4. 4.5. All primary and secondary schools engaged on the Cloud Forest project results and are using lesson materials by Y3 Q4	 4.2. SHG recruitment records; training/coaching reports; agreed staffing model; stakeholder forum records 4.3. A draft funding proposal 4.4. Communication plan; Social media posts; local newspaper articles; radio transcripts; training/coaching records 4.5. Updated education pack; school visit records and teacher's feedback	are completed and adopted by June 2025, together with a governance framework for these NCAs: *we believe this assumption will hold true as the project is on track to be delivered by June 2025*

Project Title: Recovering St Helena's cloud forest for wildlife & water security

Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1. Each activity should start on a new line and be no more than approximately 25 words.)

Output 1: Habitat restoration & species recovery

1.1.1. A minimum of four seed collection trips per month (dependent on seasonality and seed viability, and according to seed collection protocols).

1.1.2. Propagation of 10,000 plants per year of a mix of cloud forest species.

1.1.3. Monthly planting of cloud forest species in existing field sites and field gene banks.

1.2.1. Monthly monitoring of plant establishment (species/ habitat) using visual fixed-point observations supported by photographic/ aerial surveying, using recording sheets/ iRecord.

1.2.2. Annual mapping and analysis to determine habitat establishment/survival.

1.3.1. Annual clearance of invasive plants from priority areas and as per work plans.

1.4.1. Monthly planting to create new cloud forest habitat in identified habitat corridors, restoration sites and water catchment sites

1.4.2. Mapping to determine habitat expansion by overall percentage per site by end of project.

1.5.1. Expand the seven gene banks, through new planting (subject to availability of cloud forest species).

1.5.2. Complete quarterly maintenance (invasive plant clearing) of the seven gene banks.

1.6.1. Complete two years of surveys in end of year 1 and year 2 across at least 5 sites, accommodating for climate and seasonal changes of endemic invertebrate species.

1.6.2. Survey reports collated, including graphs of endemic species numbers and diversity for sites of restoration, compared to previous baselines or control sites.

1.7.1. Habitat assessment results and invertebrate survey data are used to establish a set of endemic invertebrate recovery techniques, that are written in to the Peak plans.

1.8.1. Complete a series of monthly and quarterly invertebrate ecological surveys in year 1 and 2, for 3 endemic invertebrate species, involving day and night surveys looking at the behaviour of priority species.

1.8.2 Three research reports and four threatened invertebrate recovery sheets for cloud forest specialists created and results embedded in the Peak plans.

1.8.3 Review the IUCN red listing of cloud forest invertebrate species with the survey data and complete assessment for the Golden Sail Spider.

1.9.1. identification of priority vascular plants, lichens and bryophytes by end YR1 by completing a desk-based study including mapping and gap analysis/literature review of techniques.

1.9.2. Complete initial or baseline survey of identified priorities by end of project.

1.9.3. Species action plan drafted and restoration initiated for *Sphagnum helenicum* by end of project.

1.9.4. Complete training of field conservation staff to (i) identify keystone native and endemic species and invasive species and (ii) in survey methods by end YR2.

Output 2: Water & climate monitoring

2.1.1. Collect monthly climate monitoring data from three existing weather stations within the Peaks National Park (Depot, Diana's Peak, High Peak) & input data into database.

2.2.1. Collect monthly soil moisture content data from 5 sites and measure moisture content and input data into central database.

2.2.2. Collect Potential Evapotranspiration (PEt) data annually and input data into central database, and to be used to refine annual water balance.

2.3.1. Maintain and collect monitoring data from surface water telemetry network remotely, and groundwater monitoring network by downloading manually from data loggers monthly.

2.3.2. Annually update the calculation of the island's water balance.

2.4.1 Complete monthly reporting of climate and water resource data to Connect Saint Helena's management team.

Output 3: Threat mitigation

3.1.1. Biosecurity and phytosanitary protocols for working within the Peaks National Park updated annually.

3.1.2. Complete periodic audit to verify compliance of biosecurity and phytosanitary protocols across all partners/stakeholders (at least annually)

3.2.1. Continue and expand current soil and plant sampling and testing for plant pathogens throughout the lifespan of the project to better understand pathogen distribution and impacts (as per SHG sampling and monitoring plan).

3.3.1 Continue to implement and adhere to the SHG access management protocol to enable PNP to be opened whilst minimising risk of pathogen spread.

3.4.1. Common wasp eradication options trialled in the cloud forest and survey reports created showing wasp activity results pre/post treatment.

3.4.2. Common wasp eradication operational plan produced and reviewed by international experts by end of the project.

3.4.3 Common wasp eradication plan endorsed by SHG by the end of the project.

3.5.1. Pilot invasive ant control in the Cloud Forest in YR1 and collate survey results.

3.5.2 Two feasibility reports created with recommendations on ant / termite control in the Cloud Forest by the end of the project.

3.6.1 Implement rodent control plan and assess effectiveness annually.

3.6.2. Update rodent control training and practices to reflect control plan and results of annual reviews.

3.7.1. Review and refine previously developed invasive species management tools annually and update accordingly.

3.7.2. Produce updated training guide for invasive plant control by end of project.

Output 4: Sustainable management

4.1.1. In Yr1 Q2 deliver a planning workshop to revise the management plan, involving partners and stakeholders with an interest in the future direction of the Peaks National Park.

4.1.2 Management plan document revised, updated, formally adopted and uploaded onto SHG website by end of year 1.

4.2.1 Project handover plan document/framework produced and agreed between RSPB and SHG by end YR2; and to begin implementation in YR3.

4.2.2. St Helena Government staffing model and resource plan for the nature based National Conservation Areas proposal (including the Peaks National Park) produced by end YR2.

4.2.3. Stakeholder mapping exercise to determine best engagement mechanisms by end YR1.

4.2.4. Develop appropriate stakeholder engagement tools by end YR2, building into existing governance structures.

4.3.1 Project concept for a strategic terrestrial conservation project agreed in YR1, with a project proposal developed by end YR2.

4.4.1 Regular on-island communications produced to promote the project activities through social media and other engagement portals, including data on the ecosystem services (e.g. water security, health & wellbeing) provided by the cloud forest.

4.5.1. All primary and secondary schools on St Helena engaged and exposure to activities delivered each year.

4.5.2 Assessment on effectiveness of communication/outreach at start and end of project.

Guidance (please delete this before attaching your logframe to your application): Refer to the **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Guidance** when developing your logical framework.