Applicant: **Cairns-Wicks, Rebecca** Organisation: **St Helena Research Institute** Funding Sought: **£36,355.00**

DPLR1\1044

iRecord St Helena: wildlife recording for research, education and decision-making

St Helena has a rich, diverse and threatened flora and fauna that represents almost a third of the endemics from the UK and Its Overseas Territories. St Helena has suffered from habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation, the introduction of non-native invasive species and climate change. 3.5% of the original habitat survives, endemic plant populations are in decline and extinction rates are expected to increase (Lambdon & Cronk, 2020). The impacts of climate change have been little studied and the potential for new species to be introduced is a continual danger. The most recent discovery of Phytopthora on the endemic cabbage trees of the cloud forest is extremely worrying and increases the extinction crisis.

Biological records, cataloguing species abundance and spatial and temporal distributions are needed to inform environmental management and conservation action planning, especially for national conservation areas; assessing risk of new introductions; prioritising conservation management and interventions (identifying biodiversity hotspots and trends in species distributions) and identifying and monitoring emerging threats (e.g. INNS or species sensitive to climate change).

A start-up project established a centralized database for all biological records accessible through a userfriendly web-based portal iRecord St Helena. The associated App: will be officially launched to the public at the end of February. iRecord St Helena makes it easier to make and submit biological records. We have a foundational species list of the terrestrial plants and animals on St Helena and have begun to populate the database with records. As of today 1,424 new records representing 103 species have been submitted by 18 recorders. However, to become an effective tool for natural resources management we need to increase the number and diversity of reliable records, collected over time, that are available for analysis and interpretation. We also need to have staff in place to manage and develop the system, promote its use and evidence its value for decision making. This project will help us achieve this by:

1) Managing and developing iRecord St Helena.

1.1 Employment of a Data Manager who has developed a range of skill sets to support the establishment and management of the system. By the end of the project we will identify the mechanism to secure the position assuring continuity and sustainability.

1.2 Engaging an experience island-based terrestrial and marine biologist to provide technical support in biological recording, data collation and mapping.

1.3 System development: including setting up a user forum; increasing the number of species listed (including adding marine species); adding photographs; adding habitat and Peaks National Park management compartment maps, and collating historical datasets, bringing into the centralized database all the historical records we know about and continuing to populate with new records.

2) Biological recording & surveys to meet priority needs: develop specific forms to make it easier to make records to address priority needs. We will develop:

i) survey form for tree disease

ii) survey form for EMD to record seed collecting activity and monitor and map wild and source populations.

3) Mapping and surveillance: regular mapped outputs, accessible via iRecord St Helena and the St Helena Government Data Portal showing the spread of tree disease and biodiversity in relation to the island's national conservation areas.

4) Training and capacity building

4.1 On-island capacity building (e.g. fieldwork with local experts, training in ID of plants and invertebrates, QGIS and on-line courses)

4.2 Deliver training and outreach including 1-2-1 sessions in use of iRecord St Helena and submission of data (with a focus on biosecurity, INNS, including disease and biodiversity).

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title	Dr
Name	Rebecca
Surname	Cairns-Wicks
Organisation	St Helena Research Institute
Website (Work)	
Tel (Work)	
Email (Work)	
Address	

DPLR1\1044

iRecord St Helena: wildlife recording for research, education and decision-making

Section 1 - Project Title & Contact Details

Q1. Project Title

iRecord St Helena: wildlife recording for research, education and decision-making

Q2. Please select whether you are applying as an organisation or as an individual (Guidance section 3 and Guidance Glossary)

 \odot Organisation

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title Name Surname	Dr Rebecca Cairns-Wicks
Organisation	St Helena Research Institute
Website (Work)	
Tel (Work) Email (Work)	
Address	

GMS ORGANISATION

Туре	Organisation
Name Phone (Work) Email (Work)	St Helena Research Institute
Website (Work)	
Address	

Section 2 - Overseas Territory(ies)

Q3. Overseas Territory (Guidance section 1.3):

Which UK Overseas Territory(ies) will your project be working in? Please note that in case of a non-permanent resident population you need to demonstrate a clear, meaningful, long-term link to the territory.

☑ 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 UKOT(s) you have indicated, will your project directly benefit any other UK OT(s) or country(ies)?

⊙ Yes

Please list these below and describe how they will benefit:

The UK and global science and research. iRecord St Helena database is located with the BRC, UKCEH, Wallingford. As with iRecord data, we have an automated system to share data with iNaturalist, the eBMS (https://butterfly-monitoring.net/) and GBIF (https://www.gbif.org/) extending the local recording system to global databases, broadening the access base to add records, view and use them for analysis and interpretation.

We are the first UKOT to adopt the iRecord system and we could provide knowledge exchange to other UKOTs considering to go down this route.

Section 3 - Project Partners

Q4. Project partners (Guidance section 3.2)

In this section, please give details of all the partners involved (including the Lead Partner) and

provide a summary of their roles.

Project Leader name (Guidance section 3.1):	Rebecca Cairns-Wicks
Lead Partner name (if applying as an organisation; Guidance section 3.1):	St Helena Research Institute
Lead Partner Website (if applicable):	No Response
Is the Lead Partner based in a UKOT where the project is working (Guidance section 3.1)?	⊙ Yes
List other partners involved and where are they based (Guidance section 3.2):	The SHRI will continue to work collaboratively with the local and international organisations who supported the establishment of iRecord St Helena, but they are not officially recognised or involved as project partners. They include SHG (ENRP - biosecurity, agricultural development, and environmental management), GIS and Press Office); the St Helena National Trust, UKCEH, Professor Quentin Cronk, University of British Columbia, Timm Karisch, Museum für Naturkunde, Dessau and Roger Key consultant entomologist.
Summary of roles and responsibilities of each partner in the project:	Lead Partner: has overall responsibility for the successful delivery of the project, this includes: project design and inception, project staff and contractor management, financial management, timely delivery of project activities, monitoring & evaluation, project closure and identifying financial mechanisms to sustainably manage iRecord St Helena post project.
l confirm that all listed partners are aware of this application and have indicated support:	Unchecked

Attach a Cover Letter for your application (Guidance section 4.2).

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Section 4 - Project Summary & Description

Q5. Project Summary (Guidance section 3.8)

Please provide a brief summary of your project. This may be used in communication activities and/or published online, if your application is successful.

We will build on the infrastructure established under the EU BEST 2.0+ SA- 2020-91 project, a biological recording system, called iRecord St Helena to develop and manage the system increasing the number of reliable records available for analysis and interpretation to support conservation management decisions and strategic planning needs, with a focus on biodiversity conservation, supporting tree disease surveillance and management and National Conservation Area management planning.

Q6. Description (Guidance section 2.1)

Please provide a description of your project, including:

- the overall objective
- the current situation and the problem the project is trying to address
- what success will look like and how you will measure it

Please be as specific as possible when describing the project, using quantified data and evidence where available. You may wish to consider: what are the specific threats to the environment that the project will attempt to address, and what should we know about these threats? What does your successful project look like? And how will you demonstrate whether and how your project has been successful?

St Helena has a rich, diverse and threatened flora and fauna that represents almost a third of the endemics from the UK and Its Overseas Territories. St Helena has suffered from habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation, the introduction of non-native invasive species and climate change. 3.5% of the original habitat survives, endemic plant populations are in decline and extinction rates are expected to increase (Lambdon & Cronk, 2020). The impacts of climate change have been little studied and the potential for new species to be introduced is a continual danger. The most recent discovery of Phytopthora on the endemic cabbage trees of the cloud forest is extremely worrying and increases the extinction crisis.

Biological records, cataloguing species abundance and spatial and temporal distributions are needed to inform environmental management and conservation action planning, especially for national conservation areas; assessing risk of new introductions; prioritising conservation management and interventions (identifying biodiversity hotspots and trends in species distributions) and identifying and monitoring emerging threats (e.g. INNS or species sensitive to climate change).

A start-up project established a centralized database for all biological records accessible through a user-friendly web-based portal iRecord St Helena. The associated App: will be officially launched to the public at the end of February. iRecord St Helena makes it easier to make and submit biological records. We have a foundational species list of the terrestrial plants and animals on St Helena and have begun to populate the database with records. As of today 1,424 new records representing 103 species have been submitted by 18 recorders. However, to become an effective tool for natural resources management we need to increase the number and diversity of reliable records, collected over time, that are available for analysis and interpretation. We also need to have staff in place to manage and develop the system, promote its use and evidence its value for decision making. This project will help us achieve this by: 1) Managing and developing iRecord St Helena.

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4) Training and capacity building

4.1 On-island capacity building (e.g. fieldwork with local experts, training in ID of plants and invertebrates, QGIS and on-line courses)

4.2 Deliver training and outreach including 1-2-1 sessions in use of iRecord St Helena and submission of data (with a focus on biosecurity, INNS, including disease and biodiversity).

(Optional) Please upload any additional and supporting materials or files (such as maps of project sites, etc) below. Maximum of 5 pages:

No Response

Section 5 - Project Outcome(s)

Q7. Project Outcome(s) (Guidance section 1.2)

Successful Darwin Plus Local projects must demonstrate measurable outcomes in <u>at least one of the</u> <u>themes</u> of Darwin Plus, either by the end of the project or soon after through a credible plan.

Please tick which theme(s) of Darwin Plus your project underpins:

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

Please justify your selection.

Improving knowledge of the location and abundance of biodiversity and building capacity to monitor trends in spatial and temporal distributions. The project will specifically support monitoring and surveillance for tree disease and natural populations of native species (collected through the EMD seed collecting database).

The project addresses the need to increase capability and build capacity for biological recording and data management working with local and international wildlife experts and IT consultants.

iRecord St Helena makes it easier to make records and contribute sightings, increasing community engagement is essential to the long term success of iRecord St Helena.

Section 6 - Project Timeline

Q8. Project timeline (Guidance section 2.2)

Please provide anticipated dates for the start and end of your planned project here. Please use the Darwin Plus Local Project Implementation Timetable Template (which can be downloaded below) to provide a list of the individual activities you have planned for this project, a brief description of what each activity entails, and the months in which the activities will be carried out. If the project involves only one activity (e.g. a purchase), please still provide project start and end dates (noting estimated times for procurement). <u>Please note that your project will need to be completed by 31 March 2024.</u>

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 3 months):
01 April 2023	31 March 2024	12 months

Please upload the completed Darwin Plus Local Project Implementation Timetable template with your proposed project activities below.

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Section 7 - Costs

Q9. Costs (Guidance section 2.2 and please read the Finance Guidance)

Please provide a breakdown of costs to be funded through Darwin Plus Local (in GBP).

Are you seeking any matched funding for this project? (Please note that this is optional and there is no requirement to seek matched funding for Darwin Plus Local projects).

⊙ No

Budget line Explanation

Cost in GBP

Staff costs:	Salary for Selene Gough Data Manager	
Overhead costs:	Overhead costs have been charged at 5% of total project costs to reflect a proportion of the organisational costs for the management and delivery of the project.	
Travel & subsistence costs:	Not any	
Operating costs:	Included in operating costs: Supplies and services: Printing (posters, leaflets) - Media press statements & advertisements (total contents of charged @/page) Staff mileage (1 journey @/mile est) for meetings etc. Car hire for fieldwork (2 days per week @/day fuel included for 8 months) PPE (2 x/per person) IT SHG recharges @ Phytosanitary chemical and equipment @ Other training costs @	
Capital equipment:	Camera and camera bag for high quality images for ID and recognition	
Consultancy costs:	Annalea Beard - local terrestrial and marine biologist providing technical support, recording and mentorship (3 days per week for 8 months () Local biodiversity experts (Stedson Stroud) to facilitate knowledge of biodiversity locations () John van Breda (Biodiverse IT) - John built the iRecord St Helena web-portal and we would like to retain his technical input to support the development of the web-portal and provide technical advice to support Selene. () Karolis Kazlauskis (Flumens) built the iRecord St Helena App and we'd like to retain his technical input to develop the survey forms and integrate into the App. ()	
Total:		

This section provides more information on the budget to help evaluators understand how you will use the funds you are requesting. You do not need to list all costs, but please list and detail costs of more than £1,000 per item below, under the appropriate budget line.

Details of staff costs over £1,000 (if relevant)

- one year's salary for Selene Gough, Data Manager - this is her current salary and includes 15% for pension contribution.

Details of overhead costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

Overhead costs have been charged at 5% of total project costs to reflect a proportion of the organisational costs for the management and delivery of the project.

The SHRI does not have a budget beyond the support given by E,S & E Portfolio to run our office and the part time salary of its Coordinator, Rebecca Cairns-Wicks and is expecting to be able to advertise for a new full time post Administrative Support Officer. Being able to charge overheads to the project will ensure we can cover our reasonable costs and provide the required input to support Monitoring and Evaluation.

Details of travel and subsistence costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

No Response

Details of operating costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

Car hire for fieldwork (2 days per week @ day fuel included for 8 months) = days. The SHRI does not have its own vehicle. We need to be able to hire a vehicle or pay staff for mileage for the use of their own car to attend meetings and conduct fieldwork.

IT SHG recharges @ - we are charged for the computers and IT equipment we use for the project - this charge represents one years charge for 2 computers - the Data Manager's and a computer we will make available for Annalea Beard.

Details of capital equipment costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

No Response

Details of consultancy costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

Annalea Beard is writing up her PhD on the breeding and foraging ecology of two cavity nesting seabird species at St Helena: the Band-rumped storm petrel, or Madeiran storm petrels (Hydrobates castro), and red-billed tropicbirds (Phaethon aethereus). She has extensive terrestrial and marine conservation experience to bring to the project (3 days per week for 8 months ()) John van Breda (Biodiverse IT) - John built the iRecord St Helena web-portal and we would like to retain his technical input to support the development of the web-portal and provide technical advice to support Selene. ()

Karolis Kazlauskis (Flumens) built the

Details of other costs over £1,000 (if relevant)

No Response

If your project budget was prepared in another currency and converted to GBP, please provide the exchange rate, its source, and the date it was accessed:

Other currency:	Exchange rate:	Source of this exchange rate:	Date exchange rate accessed:
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response

Darwin Plus Local has been created to build capacity and contribute to local economies in-territory.

What % of the total will be spent in the OTs?

If less than 80% of the total project spend is to be spent within the OT(s), please explain why.

No Response

Section 8 - Local and National Priorities

Q10. Local and national priorities

Please explain how this project aligns with local and national priorities? You may wish to consider the project in the context of national environmental laws, objectives, strategies, territory specific agreements, action plans or policies.

The project will contribute to and help meet the requirements set out in:

Environmental Protection Ordinance (2016) providing a singular source of data to enable the Chief Environmental Officer to produce the state of the Environment report summarising the state of terrestrial and marine environments to implement climate change monitoring.

National Biosecurity Policy 'Biosecurity St Helena' (2014)

National Environmental Management Plan (2012-2022) Objectives A, B, D

Invertebrate Conservation Strategy (2016-2021) making data publicly accessible

The Overseas Association Decision Part Article 15 & Article 16 paras c) (ii) strengthening capacity – exchange information, knowledge and best practise amongst stakeholders, broadening the knowledge base and filling gaps, including quantifying the value of ecosystem function and services. Article 31 contributing to raising awareness of research activity and needs and promoting St Helena as a centre for research excellence.

The project supports the Island's 10-Year Plan (2017-2027) to be altogether greener and the SEDP (2018-2028) contributing to goal 6: sustain and improve our natural capital and increasing research activity to reduce the trade imbalance. The project also supports the Government's implementation of several Articles of the CBD, notably and 12 (Research & Training) and 7 (Identification & Monitoring).

Will the project take place on Government owned land or water?

⊙ Yes

Please attach evidence that you have Government support i.e. Letter of Support.

& Letter of support Darwin Local Feb 23

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Section 9 - Project Risks

Q11. Project Risks

Please demonstrate your consideration of any risks involved in this project and how you intend to manage them. Depending on your project, you may wish to consider:

- Biosecurity risks particularly for projects involving external equipment.
- Safeguarding risks particularly for projects involving vulnerable groups such as children, older people or people with disabilities.

Risk	Mitigation
Fieldwork - health and safety for project staff	Risk assessment conducted for field work activities, measures will include provision of suitable PPE & no lone working policy. Staff have training in emergency first aid response or equivalent depending on what's locally available.
Biosecurity to protect biodiversity	Provision of phyto-sanitary equipment (wheel and boot cleaning, chemical disinfectant, spray bottles), PPE, strict adherence to St Helena Government's policy and any procedures put in place for protection of biodiversity, no working in upland areas in the rain.
Safeguarding - working with children	all staff have a vetting certificate and have completed an online safeguarding course for working with children

Do you require more fields?

⊙ No

Section 10 - Terms & Conditions

Q12. Terms and conditions (Guidance section 3.10)

By applying for Darwin Plus Local you are adhering in full to the grant Terms and Conditions in full (available at: <u>https://dplus.darwininitiative.org.uk/apply</u> and as referenced in the Guidance at section 3.10). For information, the Terms and Conditions include requirements for all applicants to (amongst other requirements as per the full Terms and Conditions):

- Uphold a zero tolerance for inaction approach to tackling sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment.
- Where appropriate, make all reasonable and adequate efforts to address gender inequality and other power imbalances.
- Notify all cases of fraud and theft (whether proven or suspected) relating to the project to the Grant Administrator as soon as they identified.

Please indicate you have read, and understood, and will adhere to the Terms and Conditions.

Checked

If your application is successful: If your project application is successful, the Fund Administrator (NIRAS) will ask you to provide some financial evidence for due diligence checks before you receive your project grant. (Please see section 3.3 of the Darwin Plus Local Finance Guidance). Please be ready to provide this evidence promptly.

Financial evidence for organisations: Year-end financial statements, the latest management accounts or audited accounts (if you have these).

Financial evidence for individuals: Proof of identity such as a passport, ID card or driving licence and solvency (such as bank statements) and a police check.

Section 11 - Certification

Certification

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the statements made in this application are true and the information provided is correct.

Checked

I have the authority to submit an application on behalf of my organisation.

Checked

Name:	Rebecca Cairns-Wicks
Position in the organisation: (if applicable)	Coordinator, St Helena Research Institute
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 <u>e-sign</u> <u>m</u> 14/02/2023 <u>0</u> 19:50:15 <u>p</u> <u>p</u> <u>df</u> 5.02 KB
Date:	14 February 2023

Section 12 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance documents, including the "Darwin Plus Local Guidance" and the "Darwin Plus Local Finance Guidance".	Checked
If my proposed project takes place on public lands or water, I have uploaded a Letter of Support from Government.	Checked
I have uploaded a cover letter that details the information requested in the guidance (Guidance section 4.2 has information on what this cover letter should include).	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 my summary budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP in the application form.	Checked
I have uploaded my project implementation timetable using the specific template provided.	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
The application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	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 Darwin Plus. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share project news. 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 <u>Forms and Guidance Portal</u>.

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 Darwin Plus including project details (usually title, lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).

Darwin Plus Local

Provide a **Project Implementation Timetable** that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the following table as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project. Projects are based on UK Financial Years (**1 April – 31 March** - therefore starts April 2023).

Please add/remove columns to reflect the length of your project. For each activity (add/remove rows as appropriate) indicate the number of months it will last, and shade only the months in which an activity will be carried out. The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

Activity #	Description (max 25 words)	No. of	UK Financial Year 2023/24												
		months	Calendar Year 2023										Calendar Year 2024		
			Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	
1.	Managing & developing iRecord St Helena														
1.1	Revise JD and secure 1 yr contract for Data Manager	12													
1.2	Agree and sign contract for non-salaried technical support (3 days per week)	8													
1.3	System development	12													
2.	Biological recording & surveys														
2.1	Adding existing digital records and lists to iRecord St Helena & collation, sorting and uploading of historical data sets	10													
2.2	Contracts for web-portal and App support	3													
2.3	Production of survey forms: tree disease and seed collection	2													
2.4	Capturing local biological knowledge (not on paper) through field based visits (1 day per month)	5													
3	Mapping & surveillance														

Activity #	Description (max 25 words)	No. of	UK Financial Year 2023/24												
		months	Calendar Year 2023										Calendar Year 2024		
			Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	
3.1	Agree map format, data sensitivity and sharing and map-based outputs	1													
3.2	Produce maps and regularly update (6 monthly)	4													
4.	Training and capacity building														
4.1	Training, exposure and capacity building UK (DPLUS Fellowship 197)	3													
4.2	On-island capacity building (fieldwork with local experts, invertebrate ID, QGIS and on- line data science courses)	6													
4.3.	Training and refreshers/updates for users not yet exposed or confident in use of the system (including Planning Officers) and for updates	3													
5.	Local awareness and promotion														
5.1	1 short video for local tv and online audiences	3													
5.2	Biological recording project developed for Yrs 10-13	2													
5.3	Media publications, social media posts, posters, leaflets	4													