

DPLR1\1074

Island wide predator control to prevent loss of bird biodiversity

The negative impact of introduced predators on remote island bird population numbers is well documented in the literature. The St Helena National Trust has documented this on St Helena as part of the Trusts' work with the endemic St Helena Plover (Wirebird). Past work conducted by the Trust on predator control has highlighted the need for an all-encompassing island wide predator control plan to be developed. The Trust intends to use this Darwin funding in a pilot project to trial and develop a long-term predator control program to benefit bird biodiversity. The objectives of this pilot year are to: 1) further build capacity of local Trust staff in the skills required to undertake predator control (e.g. new habitats and new species -seabirds), and 2) trial an initial year of island wide predator control for seabirds and wirebirds while collecting data and lessons learned that will feed into management plans being developed by the St Helena Government to conserve national biodiversity in National Conservation Areas.

A minimum of three species of birds will be focused on for this project. The Masked Booby, the Red-Billed Tropicbird, and the critically endangered endemic St Helena Plover.

In the learning/capacity building stage of the project staff with existing skills in predator control for Wirebirds will adapt their techniques to work with mainland seabird colonies (Red-billed Tropicbirds at Ladder Hill and Masked Boobies at Lot's Wife and Blue Point). They will have initial discussions with a seabird expert to discuss areas most likely to be experiencing the highest impact, limitations of the current techniques/equipment for those areas, and agree upon best areas to try some initial monitoring for predators via camera traps. This will inform if traps would be effective at these sites or if new locations should be selected. Traps will then be set for 5-day intervals with daily monitoring. Once staff have determined they have developed successful techniques for the new species, through a process of trial, error, and adaptation, then additional Trust staff will be trained in the full range of predator control techniques that the project staff have. Success indicators: 2 staff develop effective techniques to trap predators at seabird colonies (predators successfully trapped at a minimum of Ladder Hill, Lot's Wife, and Blue Point seabird colony locations), 2 additional Trust staff receive training in predator control techniques for seabirds and Wirebirds by the end of the 11-month project.

In the trial stage of the project Trust staff will use existing and new trapping methodologies/skills to set traps at rotating locations around the island to determine best locations and best timing for year-round predator control for bird populations (Red-billed Tropicbirds, Masked Boobies, Wirebirds). This will be an 11-month learning process that will result in the development of a year-round predator management plan for birds that can be applied island wide. Success indicators: island-wide predator management program documented including lessons learned (what works and doesn't work), data collected during the 11-month trial, data and predator management program for birds document submitted to SHG for inclusion in the NCA management plans being written within the next 18 months.

Throughout the project outreach and education, in partnership with Veterinary Services, will be conducted with the local community to stress the negative impact that feral and free roaming pet cats have on bird populations. Success indicators: develop outreach information about the negative impact of cats on bird

populations, distribute that info via social media (monthly posts), newspaper (4 times), and radio (4 times), workshops (2 times), pop-up events (3 times).

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name Martina
Surname Peters
Organisation Saint Helena National Trust
Website (Work) [REDACTED]
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
Email (Work) [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CONTACT DETAILS

Title Ms
Name Helena
Surname Bennett
Organisation Saint Helena National Trust
Website [REDACTED]
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

DPLR1\1074

Island wide predator control to prevent loss of bird biodiversity

Section 1 - Project Title & Contact Details

Q1. Project Title

Island wide predator control to prevent loss of bird biodiversity

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

Organisation

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name	Martina
Surname	Peters
Organisation	Saint Helena National Trust
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Tel (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

CONTACT DETAILS

Title Ms
Name Helena
Surname Bennett
Organisation Saint Helena National Trust
Website [REDACTED]
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	Saint Helena National Trust
Phone (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Website	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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 Island

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

No





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):	Martina Peters
Lead Partner name (if applying as an organisation; Guidance section 3.1):	St Helena National Trust
Lead Partner Website (if applicable):	www.trust.org.sh
Is the Lead Partner based in a UKOT where the project is working (Guidance section 3.1)?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
List other partners involved and where are they based (Guidance section 3.2):	Environment, Natural Resources and Planning Portfolio (ENRP) St Helena Government The Castle Jamestown St Helena
Summary of roles and responsibilities of each partner in the project:	St Helena National Trust- manage the project, conduct the on the ground fieldwork, collect and manage the data, monitor and evaluate the project, analyse the data, report on the project ENRP- euthanising/training to euthanize of selected species (in particular feral cats), assist with education and awareness promoting good animal health (spay/neuter, animal welfare) through media (newspaper, radio, social media) and in person events i.e. workshops/presentations, support education programmes.
I confirm that all listed partners are aware of this application and have indicated support:	Checked

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

 [Darwin Plus Local Cover Letter - predator control](#)
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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.

The St Helena National Trust (the Trust) plans to learn additional predator control skills to trial and develop an island wide comprehensive predator control program for seabirds and endemic Wirebirds. Historically bird populations on St Helena have experienced drastic population declines when predators such as rats and cats were introduced. Predation continues to be a limiting factor on the mainland for the species that still nest here. This project will help protect the bird biodiversity on the island.

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?

The negative impact of introduced predators on remote island bird population numbers is well documented in the literature. The St Helena National Trust has documented this on St Helena as part of the Trusts' work with the endemic St Helena Plover (Wirebird). Past work conducted by the Trust on predator control has highlighted the need for an all-encompassing island wide predator control plan to be developed. The Trust intends to use this Darwin funding in a pilot project to trial and develop a long-term predator control program to benefit bird biodiversity. The objectives of this pilot year are to: 1) further build capacity of local Trust staff in the skills required to undertake predator control (e.g. new habitats and new species -seabirds), and 2) trial an initial year of island wide predator control for seabirds and wirebirds while collecting data and lessons learned that will feed into management plans being developed by the St Helena Government to conserve national biodiversity in National Conservation Areas.

A minimum of three species of birds will be focused on for this project. The Masked Booby, the Red-Billed Tropicbird, and the critically endangered endemic St Helena Plover.

In the learning/capacity building stage of the project staff with existing skills in predator control for

Wirebirds will adapt their techniques to work with mainland seabird colonies (Red-billed Tropicbirds at Ladder Hill and Masked Boobies at Lot's Wife and Blue Point). They will have initial discussions with a seabird expert to discuss areas most likely to be experiencing the highest impact, limitations of the current techniques/equipment for those areas, and agree upon best areas to try some initial monitoring for predators via camera traps. This will inform if traps would be effective at these sites or if new locations should be selected. Traps will then be set for 5-day intervals with daily monitoring. Once staff have determined they have developed successful techniques for the new species, through a process of trial, error, and adaptation, then additional Trust staff will be trained in the full range of predator control techniques that the project staff have. Success indicators: 2 staff develop effective techniques to trap predators at seabird colonies (predators successfully trapped at a minimum of Ladder Hill, Lot's Wife, and Blue Point seabird colony locations), 2 additional Trust staff receive training in predator control techniques for seabirds and Wirebirds by the end of the 11-month project.

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Throughout the project outreach and education, in partnership with Veterinary Services, will be conducted with the local community to stress the negative impact that feral and free roaming pet cats have on bird populations. Success indicators: develop outreach information about the negative impact of cats on bird populations, distribute that info via social media (monthly posts), newspaper (4 times), and radio (4 times), workshops (2 times), pop-up events (3 times).

(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 at least one of the themes 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.

Island wide predator control work will be undertaken. The locations selected and bird species targeted will alter throughout the year as staff trial when it is most effective to undertake control work (e.g. by location and by species to be protected). Predator numbers will be reduced while developing the most efficient long-term predator control plan.

Trust staff with existing predator control skills will learn new techniques suited to controlling predators at seabird colonies. Those staff will then train two additional staff in this full set of predator control techniques.

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). Please note that your project will need to be completed by 31 March 2024.


Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 3 months):
01 May 2023	31 March 2024	11 months


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

 [R1-DPlus-Local-Implementation-Timetable-FIN](#)

[AL predator control](#)

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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).

Yes

How much matched funding are you seeking and where from?

St Helena National Trust – half of the total wage costs for the time dedicated to the project by the Head of Conservation (Terrestrial), full wage costs for time dedicated to the project by the Director, full value of the predator traps (████████)

Budget line	Explanation	Cost in GBP
Staff costs:	Marjorie Fowler – Project Manager, Nico Benjamin - Field Officer, Mario Green - Field Assistant, Martina Peters – Head of Conservation (Terrestrial), Sheena Benjamin - Education and Outreach Manager	████████
Overhead costs:	Contribution towards office space, internet, phone, water, electricity, printing, finance, and HR, etc.	████████
Travel & subsistence costs:	Annual vehicle rental and petrol for daily travel to bird nesting areas across the country to set and check predator traps.	████████
Operating costs:	Bait for traps, workshops.	████████
Capital equipment:	Computer with high enough processing power to run QGIS for mapping data collected during the project, PPE, bait for traps.	████████
Consultancy costs:	N/A	████
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)

████████ (120 days @ ██████/day for Marjorie Fowler - Project Manager wages for outreach and education, monitoring and evaluation, project reporting)

████████ (241 days @ ██████/day for Nico Benjamin - Field Officer wages for fieldwork, data entry, outreach and education, monitoring and evaluation)

████████ (241 days @ ██████/day for Mario Green - Field Assistant wages for fieldwork, data entry, outreach and education, monitoring and evaluation)

████████ (33 days @ ██████/day for Sheena Benjamin – Education and Outreach Manager wages for outreach and education)

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

█ (11 months @ █ per month for overheads - Contribution towards office space, internet, phone, water, electricity, printing, finance, and HR, etc.)

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

█ (241 days @ █ /day for vehicle rental to complete fieldwork)
█ (241 days @ █ /day for petrol to conduct fieldwork)

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

No Response

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

No Response

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

No Response

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:
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

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.

St Helena Government is in the process of hiring someone to write management plans for the National Conservation Areas (NCAs). Staff are currently working on the baseline data reports to determine what information is available and where the data gaps are to inform what additional data needs to be collected. Staff have confirmed that they would welcome any data for both wirebirds and seabirds as well as any


data on the predators and lessons learned etc. from predator control methods. Predators identified by the Trust at the individual NCAs will be identified as a threat to the endemic fauna and flora within the NCA and the management plans will include management actions to address this. The NCA Management Plans are being developed as part of DPLUS154 Sustainable Management Planning for St Helena's National Conservation Areas.


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 MichelleFletcher SHNT 13022023 \(002\)](#)

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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
Biosecurity in work areas	The Trust is well educated in the risks to biosecurity due to potentially transporting invasive seeds from one work site to another. Cleaning protocols will be in place to ensure that seeds are not transported on equipment or clothing from one site to another.
Terrain and weather exposure	Weather forecasts will be watched and team members will be ready to alter plans if necessary.
Risk of skills and knowledge loss if staff members leave	Two staff members currently have the skills and experience to undertake this work. During the course of the project those staff members will train other staff not directly assigned to this project. This will help to ensure that this skill set is retained within the Trust even if some staff members leave (this is always a possibility in an organization where staffing relies on project funding).

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: <https://dplus.darwininitiative.org.uk/apply> 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:	Martina Peters
Position in the organisation: (if applicable)	Head of Conservation (Terrestrial)
Signature (please upload e-signature)	E signature 14/02/2023 15:43:27 jpg 40.38 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 [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 Darwin Plus including project details (usually title, lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).

Project Title:

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 months	UK Financial Year 2023/24											
			Calendar Year 2023									Calendar Year 2024		
			Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
	Purchase and receive materials and equipment	3												
	Visit seabird colonies with bird expert	1												
	Camera trap at agreed upon seabird locations	2												
	Trial techniques and adapt them at positive camera trap locations for seabirds	1												
	Deploy newly tested techniques and existing techniques at rotating locations island wide (seabirds and wirebirds)	9												
	Train additional staff in predator control techniques	2												
	Develop outreach materials	1												
	Outreach via newspaper and radio	4												
	Outreach via social media	11												
	Workshops and pop-ups	7												
	Data entry and analysis	11												

Project Title:

Activity #	Description (max 25 words)	No. of months	UK Financial Year 2023/24												
			Calendar Year 2023									Calendar Year 2024			
			Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	
	Write island-wide predator control plan written and submitted to St Helena Government	1													
	Submit data to St Helena Government	1													
	Monitoring and evaluation	11													