



Submit by 21 January 2005

DARWIN INITIATIVE APPLICATION FOR GRANT ROUND 13 COMPETITION:STAGE 2

Please read the Guidance Notes before completing this form. Applications will be considered on the basis of information submitted on this form and you should give a full answer to each question. Please do not cross-refer to information in separate documents except where invited on this form. The space provided indicates the level of detail required. Please do not reduce the font size below 11pt or alter the paragraph spacing. Keep within word limits.

1. Name and address of organisation

Name: RSPB	Address: The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire. SG19 2DL Phone: 01767 680551 Fax: 01767 683211
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2. Project title (not exceeding 10 words)

Enabling the people of Montserrat to conserve the Centre Hills
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3. Project dates, duration and total Darwin Initiative Grant requested

Proposed start date: 01 May 05		Duration of project: 2 years 11 months			
Darwin funding requested	Total	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
	£160,900	£69,867	£64,367	£26,666	£0

4. Define the purpose of the project in line with the logical framework

<p>The purpose of the project is to enable the people of Montserrat to take targeted action so that the Centre Hills Forest Reserve is conserved for present and future generations.</p> <p>The Centre Hills are of global biodiversity importance, supporting many of Montserrat's key endemic species. The volcanic eruptions of 1996/7 destroyed almost all the forests of the southern hill ranges, resulting in the total loss of about 60% of Montserrat's forest ecosystem. The Centre Hills now holds much the largest intact forest area remaining on Montserrat. It is the last viable enclave for most of the island's wildlife, including those of global conservation concern, including the critically threatened Montserrat Oriole <i>Icterus oberi</i>, Montserrat Galliwasp <i>Dipoglossus montisserrati</i>, and Mountain Chicken <i>Leptodactylus fallax</i>. The Centre Hills forests also provide essential environmental goods and services to the people of Montserrat. They are the main water catchment area on the island and provide protection from soil erosion, landslides and flooding during severe weather events.</p> <p>Despite this importance, recent research by the project partners indicates the Centre Hill forests are currently in relatively poor ecological health, due to a combination of historical factors and increasing pressure as the island's infrastructure is rebuilt in the North. Historically the area was cleared for plantations so most of the forest is secondary. Non-native species such as rats and pigs have been introduced. These are having a devastating impact on the ecology of the forest, and are major predators of native wildlife; little is known of the impacts of alien plant invasives, but they are known to be widespread. The Centre Hills now provides the sole water supply for the people on Montserrat and there is substantial water abstraction for human use, which may be adversely affecting forest ecology.</p> <p>There are several barriers to be overcome if successful management of the Centre Hills is to be achieved: Little is known about the status and distribution of some taxa, so there is an urgent need to assess the current status of the remaining biological resources; The protection status of the Centre Hills is unclear. Conflicts have arisen over the Centre Hills Forest Boundary and people are not aware of their rights and responsibilities; There are few persons on the island with the technical skills to take forward conservation work; There are a range of stakeholders involved in the management of the Centre Hills but communication between them is poor.</p>

Montserrat is also seeking to rebuild its economy following the volcanic catastrophe. The Government of Montserrat envisages nature tourism as a major future source of income and that the Centre Hills would need to play a key role in this, but this potential is not yet developed.

The overall goal of the project is to conserve the biodiversity of the Centre Hills Forest Reserve for present and future generations. The purpose of the project is therefore to strengthen the capacity of the people of Montserrat so that they are better able to take targeted action to do this. The project will support Montserratians to undertake an assessment of biological resources and socio-economic use of the Centre Hills. It will research the impact of alien invasives on forest ecology. Consultations will be held with all stakeholders that have an interest in the Centre Hills. Data collected from these assessments and consultation processes will inform a participatory management plan that conserves the environmental integrity of the Centre Hills, whilst also taking into account the needs and concerns of the wider Montserratian community. It will be based on the identification of zones for various management interventions: conservation, restoration and sustainable use. The training needs of Montserratians will be assessed and technical skills strengthened so they can take forward the management plan. Legislation will be progressed to support the designation of the Centre Hills as Montserrat's first Protected Area. Awareness of the Centre Hills, and the benefits from conserving the area, will be raised at both the local and international level. Implementation of the management plan will be started.

By increasing Montserratian participation in the conservation of the Centre Hills, and strengthening local management and research capacity, this project will achieve global conservation benefits that are sustainable in the long-term, and benefit the people and wildlife of Montserrat as well as the global conservation community.

5. Principals in project. Please provide a one page CV for each of these named individuals

Details	Project Leader	Other UK personnel (working more than 50% of their time on project)	Main project partner or co-ordinator in host country
Surname	Sanders	Hilton	Gerald
Forename (s)	Sarah	Geoff	Claude
Post held	International Officer	Senior Research Biologist	Director of Agriculture
Institution	RSPB	RSPB	Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Housing and Environment (MALHE)
Department	Global Programmes	International Research	Director of Agriculture
Telephone			
Fax			
Email			

6. Has your organisation received funding under the Darwin Initiative before? If so, give details

We have been awarded the following funding under the Initiative.

- £84,000 in Round 3 for a project to compile a directory of important ornithological sites in Tanzania. This project has been completed successfully.
- £136,000 in Round 7 for a three-year project entitled *Management planning for conservation of mesotrophic fen mire biodiversity in Belarus*. This project has been completed successfully.
- £158,000 in Round 9 for a project entitled *Action plans for conservation of globally threatened birds in Africa*. This project is in its third and final year.
- £98,000 in Round 10 for a project entitled *Kenyan Important Biodiversity Areas: improving monitoring, management and conservation action*. This project is in the second year of three.
- £231,975 in Round 11 for a project entitled *Prediction and management of declines in Gyps species vultures*. This project is in the first year of four.
- £154,117 in Round 11 for a project entitled *Empowering the people of Tristan to implement the CBD*. This project is in the first year of three.
- £109,889 in Round 11 for a project entitled *Implementing urgent conservation actions in mesotrophic fen mires in Belarus*. This project is in the first year of three.
- £78,770 in the first round of Follow-Up Funding for a project entitled *Enabling implementation of threatened bird Species Action Plans in Africa* – a follow-up to the Round 9 project described above. This project will start in April 2004 and last for two years.
- £109,992 in Round 12 for a project entitled *Gurney's Pitta research and conservation in Thailand and Myanmar*. This project will be funded from Jan 2005.
- £133,556 in Round 12 for a project entitled *Pioneering an innovative conservation approach in Sierra Leone's Gola Forest*. This project will be funded from Nov 2004.

7. IF YOU ANSWERED NO TO QUESTION 6 describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of your organisation. (Large institutions please note that this should describe your unit or department)

Aims (50 words)

Activities (50 words)

Achievements (50 words)

8. Please list the overseas partners that will be involved in their project and explain their roles and responsibilities in the project. Describe the extent of their involvement at all stages, including project development. What steps have been taken to ensure the benefits of the project will continue despite any staff changes in these organisations? Please provide written evidence of partnerships.

The **Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)** has been assisting the **Forestry Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Housing and Environment (MALHE)** and the **Montserrat National Trust (MNT)** since 1997. This partnership most recently has identified the long-term strategic need to secure the conservation of the Centre Hills for the future. RSPB staff visited Montserrat in September 2004, met all key stakeholders, and agreed and finalised the project objectives. Along with other key stakeholders from Montserrat and the UK, RSPB staff participated at a meeting in Jersey, organised by the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust (DWCT) in December 2004, to agree arrangements for the biodiversity assessment, which will take place in 2005. Key stakeholders have been consulted via email at all stages in development of the proposal.

MALHE is responsible for the management of the Centre Hills Forest Reserve. It conducts regular monitoring of key species including the endemic Montserrat Oriole *Icterus oberi* and the misleadingly-named Mountain Chicken *Leptodactylus fallax* (a native frog!). **MALHE** will be involved in the biodiversity assessment and eventually the implementation of the Centre Hills management plan. They will be responsible for the maintenance of the database in conjunction with the National GIS run by the Physical Planning Unit.

The **MNT** is an NGO mandated to preserve and protect the natural, historical and cultural heritage of Montserrat. It has recently opened nature trails in the Centre Hills, held seminars to inform teachers about the Oriole and is preparing education materials. The project manager will be based at offices in the MNT. Apart from overseeing the management of the project, they will be responsible for assisting the MNT in consultations with the communities around the Centre Hills, conducting the social, cultural and economic assessment and public awareness activities.

The **Montserrat Tourist Board (MTB)** will be responsible for marketing the Centre Hills as an international tourist destination and for collection of tourist statistics. It will co-ordinate the distribution and collection of Tourist Satisfaction Survey Forms. It will provide funds to support the development of the Centre Hills database and tourist infrastructure whilst managing tourism in line with the management plan.

Other institutions on Montserrat that will also be involved include: the **Montserrat Water Authority** for the management of water resources within the Centre Hills; the **Attorney General's Office** for the preparation of draft legislation; and, the **Department of Physical Planning and Lands and Surveys**, responsible for the national GIS database.

This project has been developed in collaboration with the **Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust (DWCT)** and the **Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (RBG-Kew)**, with the support of the **Governor's Office** on Montserrat.

The **DWCT** have a long involvement with Montserrat. They have supported research on the Mountain Chicken and *Chytrid* fungus, which is causing a devastating decline to populations of mountain chickens on Dominica. DWCT have begun the development of a GIS database for Montserrat on Jersey. They will fund and lead on the biological assessment.

RBG-Kew were involved in the first submission of this project proposal to Darwin in 2002 and have been supporting botanical initiatives in Montserrat, including a feasibility study for establishing a botanic garden, which has included several visits to Montserrat for discussions and to run workshops. They will advise on the botanical aspects of the project and provide training in the UK.

Montserrat, like other small islands has limited human resources, and therefore staff changes pose a challenge. To strengthen human capacity on Montserrat, the project will use the opportunity to train up to 10 local field staff and a project manager; this pool of trained persons can also be drawn upon to provide additional project stability and continuity, should there be any staff changes during the course of project. The e-group established to prepare the Darwin proposal, comprised of stakeholders from the UK and Montserrat will continue to provide advice and guidance to Montserrat during implementation of the project.

Letters of support are attached from all of the main partner organisations.

9. What other consultation or co-operation will take place or has taken place already with other stakeholders such as local communities? Please include details of any contact with the government not already provided.

There are four communities living around the Centre Hills: Salem, St Peters, St Johns and Cudjoehead. Contact has already been established with the Cudjoe Community Group, who are interested in supporting the management of the Centre Hills. The mandate of the Group is to empower the local community. They have been active for more than 15 years on Montserrat and have over 20 members. In the past, they have worked with the community to explore alternatives to hunting the mountain chicken. During the project we plan to work with all of the Community Groups around the Centre Hills to enlist their support for the management plan.

PROJECT DETAILS

10. Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source?) Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations carrying out similar work, or of any completed or existing Darwin Initiative projects relevant to your work? If so, please give details explaining similarities and differences and showing how results of your work will be additional to any similar work and what attempts have/will be made to co-operate with and learn lessons from such work for mutual benefits.

Since the eruption of the volcano, the need to conserve and manage the Centre Hills Forest Reserve has been established as one of the priorities of the Montserrat Government. It is a key component of the National Tourism Strategy and Plan (2003) and Montserrat Oriole Species Action Plan (2004). In 2002, the MNT submitted a proposal to Darwin entitled 'Forest conservation, sustainable management & education: building Montserrat's capacity. Although unsuccessful at Stage 2, the Darwin Committee encouraged resubmission.

At the invitation of MALHE, staff members from RSPB, DWCT and RBG-Kew visited Montserrat in 1997, for an emergency assessment of the potential for saving the island's biodiversity from the volcanic eruption. This initial contact led to the long-term involvement of all three institutions on the island, through a variety of initiatives, some of which were self-funded, while others received external funding. This has allowed the project partners to identify the key issues for conservation of the Centre Hills forest, and the capacity building requirements on the island.

The RSPB has recently supported MALHE and the MNT on a FCO funded project to research the decline of the Montserrat Oriole. It has also assisted MALHE to establish a long-term forest bird monitoring scheme. DWCT and MALHE developed a Mountain Chicken monitoring scheme, and have jointly researched the species' status in recent years.

Coventry University were funded by the FCO to catalogue plant species on Montserrat. However, this was limited to coastal ecosystems with little local involvement and no records left on Montserrat. Despite this research, there is still little known about the status and distribution of many taxa so there is an urgent need to assess the current status of the remaining biological resources. In addition, the impact of alien invasive species on the forest ecology needs urgent investigation.

The Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust will undertake a biodiversity assessment of Montserrat in 2005, which includes the Centre Hills. This will produce an inventory of the main taxonomic groups and result in the preparation of a habitat map, which if this Darwin application is successful, will contribute to the Centre Hills management plan.

The Darwin project will build on this biodiversity assessment by:

- 1) Consulting with all the key stakeholders and communities linked to the Centre Hills so that their concerns and needs are taken into account in the management plan and to build support for the plan;
- 2) Conducting a social, economic and cultural assessment of the Centre Hills so that both the biological integrity of the area is conserved and the economic potential of the area is maximised;
- 3) Undertaking research on the impact of invasive introduced species on the forest ecosystem; and
- 4) Raising awareness and strengthening pride amongst the people of Montserrat about the global significance of the Centre Hills.

The Cudjoe Community Group on Montserrat has applied for funding from the DFID/FCO Overseas Territories Environment Programme to manage one of the trails and to produce a video documentary on the Centre Hills. This initiative supports but does not overlap with the activities proposed in the Darwin project. A decision on the proposal will be made by the end of February 2005. The project will work closely with the Cudjoe Community Group as it is hoped that they will become a role model for other communities around the Centre Hills.

11. How will the project assist the host country in its implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity? Please make reference to the relevant article(s) of the CBD thematic programmes and/or cross-cutting themes (see Annex C for list and worked example) and rank the relevance of the project to these by indicating percentages. Is any liaison proposed with the CBD national focal point in the host country? Further information about the CBD can be found on the Darwin website or CBD website.

The UK has ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity on behalf of Montserrat. The project will support implementation of Articles 6 (15%), 8 (15%), 8h (10%), 12 (10%), 7 (5%), 10 (5%), 13 (5%), with particular emphasis on protected areas (20%), alien species (10%), forest biodiversity (10%) and biodiversity and tourism (5%). The project will also make significant contributions to several of the targets of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

The focal point for Montserrat's biodiversity is the Sustainable Development and Commonwealth group at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London.

12. How does the work meet a clearly identifiable biodiversity need or priority defined by the host country? Please indicate how this work will fit in with National Biodiversity Strategies or Environmental Action Plans, if applicable.

Since the eruption of the volcano, conservation and management of the Centre Hills has become one of the priorities of the Montserrat Government. The Centre Hills are proposed as Montserrat's first National Park, a key component of the National Tourism Strategy and Plan (2003) and their conservation is a priority in the Montserrat Oriole Species Action Plan (2004).

Although Montserrat is a signatory to the UK Environment Charter and St George's declaration, no formal environment plan has yet been developed for their implementation. However, this project will assist Montserrat in meeting the following commitments under the UK Environment Charter:

2. Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas policy, and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species.

This will be achieved through the development of a locally driven management plan for the Centre Hills, which in consultation with all stakeholders on Montserrat will assess the options to conserve and restore key habitats, in particular addressing the issue of alien invasive species. It will involve the preparation of protected area legislation, which should lead to the designation of the Centre Hills as Montserrat's first National Park.

6. Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to Montserrat and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.

The project will assist Montserrat in progressing its own ratification of the CBD. The development of a GIS database will support Montserrat to meet its monitoring and reporting obligations under this agreement, once ratified.

7. Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity.

The first stage of the project will be to assess the biological resources in the Centre Hills to provide baseline data for the management plan.

9. Ensure that teaching within schools promotes value of our local environment and explains its role within the regional and international environment.

Workshops will be held with teachers on Montserrat to develop an education pack of activities, which will promote within the classroom the local and global importance of the Centre Hills. Work experience placements with the Forestry Department and Montserrat Tourist Board will be set up for students from the secondary school.

10. Promote through the media, cultural programmes and publications awareness of the special features of the environment in Montserrat; promote on Montserrat the guiding principles set out above.

Press releases and local radio interviews will be a routine part of all activities on Montserrat. A good working relationship already exists between project partners and the local media. A leaflet, poster and guide will be produced to promote the Centre Hills to tourists.

The project will also support Montserrat in achieving the St George's Declaration principles. In particular:

2. Integrated Development Planning

The management plan will integrate and address the environmental, social, cultural and economic factors affecting the Centre Hills.

3. More Effective Laws and Institutions

Draft Protected Area legislation will be produced. The capacity of institutions responsible for the management of natural resources on Montserrat to implement programmes and to enforce appropriate laws will be strengthened.

4. Civil Society Participation in Decision-making

A consultation process will be established to ensure all stakeholders associated with the Centre Hills participate in the development of the management plan and have the opportunity to share traditional knowledge on environmental management.

7. Broad-based Environmental Education and Awareness

Information on the Centre Hills will be available to the public. Workshops will be held with teachers on Montserrat to develop an education pack of activities based on the Centre Hills.

13 Protecting Plant and Animal Species

Flora and fauna of global conservation concern will be documented and protected. The management plan will seek to mitigate the impact of alien invasive species, which are having a negative impact on the forest ecology of the Centre Hills.

13. If relevant, please explain how the work will contribute to sustainable livelihoods in the host country.

Since the eruptions, over half of the 11,500 population have left Montserrat and the economy has gone into serious decline. It has become heavily dependent on development assistance from the UK. The Montserrat Government has given high priority to increasing economic self-sufficiency through private sector development, of which tourism is seen as a key driver. The project will contribute to sustainable livelihoods through the development of a product, the Centre Hills National Park, which can be marketed internationally and thus attract tourists to Montserrat. This in turn will improve the economic prospects of all those involved in the tourist industry on Montserrat, including hotels, restaurants, tour guides and producers and vendors of local handicrafts. At the same time, the effective protection of the Centre Hills forests is critical for all livelihoods on Montserrat because of the ecosystem services provided such as soil retention, hydrological management and climate amelioration.

14. What will be the impact of the work, and how will this be achieved? Please include details of how the results of the project will be disseminated and put into effect to achieve this impact.

The impact of the work will be to greatly strengthen the involvement of the people of Montserrat in the management of the Centre Hills. This will lead to sustainable global conservation benefits that are also of benefit to the people and wildlife of Montserrat.

The impact will be achieved by engaging all of the stakeholders on Montserrat throughout the preparation of the Centre Hills management plan, so they ultimately take ownership and responsibility for implementing the plan. The resources and technical skills necessary for taking forward the plan on Montserrat as a fully operational conservation tool will be generated during the project.

The project results will be disseminated locally, nationally and internationally. There will be regular articles in the local media (radio, newspapers) and regionally in in-flight magazines and other tourist brochures. Presentations will be given at international conferences: e.g. Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds, Guadeloupe, July 2005 and the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum conference in October 2006. Media releases, scientific papers, articles and presentations will be distributed through MNT, RSPB, RBG-Kew and DWCT, which all have popular websites.

The results of the project will be put into effect through locally driven implementation of the plan in Year 3 of the project and beyond.

15. How will the work leave a lasting legacy in the host country or region?

The Centre Hills forests are by far the most important terrestrial wildlife habitat on Montserrat; they are a source of considerable pride on the island, and have substantial amenity and economic value. However, their ecological condition is relatively poor and declining. Baseline information, technical capacity and institutional mechanisms to avert the loss of these values are currently lacking. This project will deliver the necessary conditions for improved management of the Centre Hills, securing their future for the people of Montserrat. Specifically, the Centre Hills will be designated as Montserrat's first National Park and a stakeholder committee established to oversee its management in the long-term. The people of Montserrat will be more aware of the global and local importance of the Centre Hills and the benefits to be gained from conserving them. The technical capacity and knowledge to manage the Centre Hills will be permanently enhanced. Montserratians will thus be empowered to take ownership of the management plan and support its implementation. The project will seek to secure additional funding to enable Montserrat to enact the management plan, especially focusing on regular revenue streams such as nature tourism. Ultimately, the Centre Hills will be conserved and both people and wildlife will benefit.

Lessons learnt during the process will inform and build support for both the designation and establishment of Protected Areas in the South of Montserrat as the exclusion zone opens up. It should also inform work across other Caribbean Islands and UK Overseas Territories.

16. Please give details of a clear exit strategy and state what steps have been taken to identify and address potential problems in achieving impact and legacy.

The project's benefits will continue through the implementation of the management plan, which will form the framework for future work in the Centre Hills. The stakeholder committee established to oversee its management in the long-term will provide guidance and be responsible for ensuring that the plan achieves its objectives. The participatory planning process will ensure the people of Montserrat are aware of the global significance of the Centre Hills and take ownership of the management plan. Assistance will be provided during the project to secure funding for management plan implementation. RSPB, along with DWCT and RBG-Kew, intend to continue working on Montserrat well beyond the end of the project as necessary, supporting implementation of the plan.

The biggest potential constraints to achieving this impact and legacy are: 1) The volcano erupts and/or there are severe weather events (hurricanes) that devastate the surrounding infrastructure of the Centre Hills. The MVO has indicated that the volcano is unlikely to be a constraint as the chances of an eruption that severely damages the Centre Hills are extremely remote; 2) The limited human and financial capacity on Montserrat. The project will strengthen this capacity by providing training for professionals at MALHE and the MNT, but also by increasing the value that decision-makers and the public attach to natural resources, so that there is popular support for the work of MALHE and MNT. It will also provide training to improve fundraising capacity

17. How will the project be advertised as a Darwin project and in what ways would the Darwin name and logo be used?

The Darwin project will be promoted through a wide range of outputs, all displaying the Darwin logo. These include the websites of participating organisations, media releases, scientific papers, articles, tourist leaflets and presentations. The UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum and BirdLife Caribbean Programme will publicise the project through their websites and in their respective newsletters. The project posters will be placed at the main points of entry to Montserrat and Antigua (ferry and airport). The tourist leaflets and Centre Hills guide will be disseminated at international events including the annual British Birdwatching Fair in UK and the World Tourism Market in London. The Centre Hills Management Plan will be launched at an event on Montserrat to which key decision makers will be invited.

All of these activities will help to increase the profile of the Darwin Initiative and make it better known.

18. Will the project include training and development? Please indicate who the trainees will be and criteria for selection and that the level and content of training will be. How many will be involved, and from which countries? How will you measure the effectiveness of the training and will those trained then be able to train others? Where appropriate give the length and dates (if known) of any training course. How will trainee outcomes be monitored after the end of the training?

Training will be aimed at project staff, the Government of Montserrat, the Montserrat National Trust and local people on Montserrat. It will be delivered through the following means:

- 1) Workshops and training will be held to strengthen the technical and professional skills of local people in biological assessment survey techniques, GIS, project management, invasive species management, participatory planning approaches and fundraising. Interested school students will be invited to participate. We expect at least 4 - 12 participants at each of the 3 workshops, which will last from 2 – 5 days, depending on the topic.
- 2) On-the-job training will be given to two local field staff by an external scientist, so they can take forward the research on the impact of alien invasives on forest ecology.
- 3) One person from Montserrat will participate on the Kew Plant Conservation Strategies course held in the UK (2 months). This would be combined with a training visit to the RSPB.
- 4) We hope to recruit the project manager from Montserrat but if this is not possible then they will be recruited externally. If this is the case then a local project manager will be recruited to work alongside the external project manager. They will be trained in the first two years of the project to take over full management of the project in year 3
- 5) We will encourage students from the secondary school to participate in the project as part of work experience.

The effectiveness of the training will be measured by evaluation forms and by RSPB's assessment of the ability of participants to apply skills learnt in the field and/or on the job. RSPB intends to remain involved in Montserrat well beyond the end of the project and will continue to assess training needs as part of this work.

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Goal: To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the conservation of biological diversity, • the sustainable use of its components, and • the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources 			
Purpose The people of Montserrat are better able to take targeted action to conserve the Centre Hills Forest Reserve for present and future generations	Centre Hills are designated a Protected Area by end of Y4; Actions in management plan are initiated and led by local team from Y3;	Draft Protected Area Ordinance; Local Project Manager leads project in Y3; Annual workplans	Volcanic activity impacts on the forest are minimal. Hurricanes do not destroy island infrastructure.
Outputs 1. Knowledge of the ecology and socio-economic use of the forest is available to guide management of the Centre Hills	Management plan by end of Y2 integrates conservation of species and habitats and socio-economic needs; All key stakeholders support scientific and socio-economic basis for management plan by end of Y2	Inventory of forest biota; Scientific publications; Socio-economic report; GIS database; Habitat map	Trained staff remain on Montserrat. Continued co-operation between stakeholders.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
2. Participatory management plan is produced for the Centre Hills	2 stakeholder workshops (Y1&2); All key stakeholders sign up to management plan by Y2 All key stakeholders renew their commitment to the implementation of the plan at the end of the project (Y3)	Workshop reports; Management Plan; Composition of project steering committee; End of project meeting report	
3. Technical and professional skills to conserve, manage and restore the Centre Hills are strengthened on Montserrat	All key stakeholders participate in 2 training workshops during Y1 & 2; 2 staff receive training in UK by Y2; 10 local persons involved in fieldwork Y1 – Y3; Database established by Y2; Local person employed as project manager or co-project manager (Y1 – Y3) Funding applications submitted by Y3	Workshop evaluation forms; Assessment of UK training; Project Steering Committee Minutes; Project Reports; Funding applications	
4. Significant progress is made towards establishing the Centre Hills as Montserrat's first Protected Area	Draft legislation approved in principle by key stakeholders at end of Y3; Proposed Protected Area contains representative examples of all key habitats and species for which the Centre Hills are important f	Draft legislation; Protected Area Maps	
5. Appreciation of the Centre Hills forest and an awareness of its value is increased locally and internationally	No. of tourists visiting Centre Hills increases by 10% during the project; >60% of tourists express satisfaction with visit; Final project survey compared to initial project survey shows increased awareness amongst local people; Increased local media coverage of the Centre Hills; No. of website hits increases	Tourist survey forms; Tourist board stats; Guided Tour stats; Awareness questionnaire; Radio; Newspaper coverage; Web hit stats	
6. Programme of work to manage the Centre Hills is started	Boundary is demarcated on the ground by end of Y3; 2 significant conservation interventions in the management plan are begun by end of Y3; 90% of first year of annual workplan is completed on schedule by end of Y3	Annual Workplan; Management plan; Implementation monitoring report;	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Activities 1.1 Recruit project manager, scientific researchers & local field staff 1.2 Establish project steering committee, assign roles among members, and create an email group 1.3 Project start up workshop 1.4 Undertake biological assessment 1.5 Produce habitat map 1.6 Prepare report on biological assessment 1.7 Develop GIS database on Montserrat to monitor biological resources 1.8 Visit of external researcher to advise on invasives & forest ecology research 1.9 Train 2 local fieldworkers to continue research on invasives & forest ecology 1.10 Plan research on invasives & forest ecology 1.11 Conduct research on invasives & forest ecology 1.12 Prepare scientific paper on invasives & forest ecology 1.13 Plan social, cultural and economic assessment 1.14 Undertake social, cultural and economic assessment 1.15 Prepare report on social, cultural and economic assessment		Activity Milestones (Summary of Project Implementation Timetable) Staff appointed, trained and briefed. Project equipment procured. Workshop report, evaluation forms Summary report of Biological Assessment GIS database is handed over to Montserrat 2 Local fieldworkers trained Monitoring protocol produced for local fieldworkers to take forward Scientific paper on invasives & forest ecology submitted for peer review Summary report of Social, Cultural and Economic Assessment	
2.1 Plan consultation process 2.2 Conduct consultations (communities, local landowners etc.) 2.3 Review and agree Centre Hills boundary amongst stakeholders 2.4 Management Plan workshop on Montserrat (finalise boundary, agree management zones – conservation, restoration, sustainable use) 2.5 Prepare summary report of consultation process 2.6 Complete draft Management Plan 2.7 Finalise draft Management Plan with project steering committee and key stakeholders 2.8 Publish and launch Management Plan 2.9 Prepare funding proposals		Workshop report, evaluation forms Summary report of consultation process Management Plan published	
3.1 Assess Training Needs 3.2 Fundraising workshop on Montserrat 3.3 Prepare and submit funding proposals 3.4 Herbarium training in the UK 3.5 Mentor counterparts		Workshop report, evaluation forms Funding applications Plant conservation training course completed	
4.1 Assess existing legislation 4.2 Work with Government of Montserrat to define Protected Areas, regulations, boundaries and management structures 4.3 Draft new Protected Area Legislation 4.4 Secure agreement on draft Protected Area Legislation		Draft Legislation	
5.1 Conduct and analyse results from awareness survey at start and end of project 5.2 Conduct tourist satisfaction surveys 5.3 Prepare project leaflet to promote Centre Hills 5.4 Produce project poster to promote Centre Hills 5.5 Teacher workshops to prepare educational materials 5.6 Production educational materials/pack 5.7 Prepare a Guide to the Centre Hills 5.8 Submit articles to local media (radio, newspapers) 5.9 Produce annual project newsletter 5.10 Give presentations/papers at conferences		Project Leaflet Project Poster Educational Pack Guide to the Centre Hills Attendance at the SCSCB and UKOTCF conferences	
6.1 Handover project/management plan to local manager 6.2 Develop programme of work 6.3 Demarcate boundary of Centre Hills 6.4 Implement priority actions in the plan 6.5 Monitor key biodiversity		Boundary of Centre Hills is demarcated	

20. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities.

Project implementation timetable		
Date	Financial year	Key milestones
	Apr-Mar 2005/6 Apr-Mar 2006/7 Apr-Mar 2007/8	
Year 1: May – Aug 2005 May – Dec 2005 Jul 2005 Oct 2005 Oct 2005 Oct – Dec 2005 Dec 2005 Jan 2006 Mar 2006	Apr – Mar 2005/6	Staff appointed, trained and briefed. Project equipment procured. Undertake Biological Assessment Presentation at the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds Conference, Guadeloupe Plan for consultation process prepared Project start up workshop Local fieldworkers trained to take forward research on impacts of invasives on forest ecology 1 st project newsletter Monitoring protocol for research on impacts of invasives on forest ecology produced for local field workers to take forward First annual Darwin Report
Year 2: Apr 2006 Jun 2006 Jun 2006 Jul – Sep 2006 Jul 2006 Aug 2006 Oct 2006 Nov 2006 Dec 2006 Mar 2007 Mar 2007 Mar 2007	Apr – Mar 2006/7	Project leaflet completed Fundraising workshop Biological Assessment Report Published Plant Conservation training completed in UK Summary report from social, cultural, economic assessment Priorities and structure of management plan agreed at workshop on Montserrat Presentation at the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum Conference Summary report from consultation process 2 nd project newsletter 2 nd annual Darwin Report Handover computer database to Montserrat Handover project to local project manager
Year 3: Apr 2007 Apr 2007 Apr 2007 Jun 2007 Jun 2007 Dec 2007 Dec 2007 Dec 2007 Feb 2008 Mar 2008	Apr – Mar 2007/8	New protected area legislation drafted Project poster prepared Education materials produced Scientific paper from research on impacts of invasives on forest ecology submitted for publication Management plan for Centre Hills published Guide to the Centre Hills published 3 rd project newsletter Centre Hills Boundary is demarcated End of project evaluation meeting Final Darwin Report

21. Set out the project's measurable outputs using the separate list of output measures.

PROJECT OUTPUTS		
Year/Month	Standard output number (see standard output list)	Description (include numbers of people involved, publications produced, days/weeks etc.)
Oct 2005 – Apr 2007	6A	25 people to receive training
Oct 2005 – Apr 2007	6B	23 training weeks to be provided
Jan 2006 Apr 2006 Jun 2007 Apr 2007	7	1 Monitoring Protocol 1 Project leaflet 1 Educational materials pack 1 Project poster to promote the Centre Hills
Oct 2005 – Mar 2008	8	Geoff Hilton = 27 weeks Sarah Sanders = 15 weeks Colin Clubbe = 10 weeks Project Manager = 77 weeks Forest Ecologist = 24 weeks Durrell Experts = 45 weeks
Jun 2007	9	1 Management plan for the Centre Hills
Dec 2007	10	1 Guide to the Centre Hills
Jan 2006 Jul 2006 Nov 2006 Jun 2007	11 B	1 Summary report biological assessment 1 Summary report of social, cultural and economic assessment 1 Summary report of consultation process 1 scientific paper to be submitted to a peer reviewed journal on impact of invasives on forest ecology of Centre Hills
Mar 2007	12 A 12 B	1 Plants of Montserrat specimen database established 1 Plants of Montserrat specimen database handed over to Montserrat 1 Computer database handed over to Montserrat
	13 A	1 Plant herbarium reference collection established
Jul 2005 - Oct 2006	14B	2 – representation at 2 international conferences
Oct 2005 – Mar 2008	15 A	6 - At least two national press releases per year on Montserrat
Oct 2005 – Mar 2008	15 C	3 - At least one national press release in the UK per year
May 2005 – Mar 2008	16 A	3 – One newsletter to be produced per year
	16 B	500 of each newsletter circulated on Montserrat
	16C	50 of each newsletter circulated in the UK
Oct 2005 – Mar 2008	17 B	The Montserrat Biodiversity e-group will be strengthened
Oct 2005 – Mar 2008	19 A	6 - At least two national radio interviews in Montserrat per year
Mar 2008	20	£31,500 worth of computer, equipment etc. to be handed over
Oct 2005 – Mar 2007	22	Number not known at present but likely to be less than 12
May 2005 – Mar 2008	23	RSPB - £87,003 DWCT - £106,028 (biological assessment) Kew – 10,549 (mostly in staff time) MTB - £11,000 (support development of database) MNT - £1,500 (staff time) MAHLE - £44,010 (staff time)

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

22. Describe, referring to the Indicators in the Logical Framework, how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, including towards delivery of its outputs and in terms of achieving its overall purpose. This should be during the lifetime of the project and at its conclusion. Please include information on how host country partners will be included in the monitoring and evaluation.

<p>The overall success of the project will be measured by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Protected Area Ordinance and designation of the Centre Hills as a National Park approved by the Government of Montserrat • The Centre Hills Management Plan is enacted by the Montserratians during Year 3 and beyond the end of the project <p>Although beyond the duration of this project, the success of the project in the long-term (i.e. after 5 years of implementing the management plan) will be measured by population indices of key species (e.g. Montserrat Oriole and Mountain Chicken) remaining stable or increasing.</p>
<p>To evaluate whether the knowledge of the ecology and socio-economic use of the forest is available to guide management of the Centre Hills, the following indicators were identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management plan for the Centre Hills integrates the conservation of habitats and species with socio-economic needs. • All key stakeholders support the scientific and socio-economic basis for the management plan. <p>The above two indicators will involve some resolution of conflicts by reaching a consensus amongst stakeholders. The success of this task will be indicated through the report prepared on the consultation process.</p>
<p>To evaluate whether a participatory management plan is produced for the Centre Hills, the following indicators were identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 multi-stakeholder workshops held on Montserrat to develop plan. The workshop reports will reflect the degree of participation. • All key stakeholders sign up to the management plan indicating participation in the process and agreement with results. • All key stakeholders renew their commitment to the implementation of the plan at the end of the project.
<p>To evaluate whether technical and professional skills to conserve, manage and restore the Centre Hills are strengthened on Montserrat, the following indicators were identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All key stakeholders participate in 2 training workshops. The workshop evaluation forms and fieldwork will indicate the strengthening of technical and professional skills. • 2 staff receive training in the UK • 10 local persons involved in fieldwork. Technical skills will be developed on the job. • A GIS database to monitor biological resources will be handed over to and managed by Montserrat • Funding proposals submitted to donors to support implementation of the management plan after the Darwin project ends. • Actions in management plan are initiated and led by the local team in the final year
<p>To evaluate whether significant progress is made towards establishing the Centre Hills as Montserrat's first Protected Area, the following indicators were identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft legislation approved in principle by key stakeholders by the end of the project • The proposed Centre Hills Protected Area contains representative examples of all the key habitats and species for which the Centre Hills is important.
<p>To evaluate whether an appreciation of the Centre Hills forest and an awareness of its value is increased locally and internationally, the following indicators were identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of tourists visiting the Centre Hills increases by 10% during the project • More than 60% of tourists express satisfaction with their visit to the Centre Hills • Final project survey compared to initial project survey shows increased awareness amongst local people • There is increased local media coverage of the Centre Hills • Number of website hits increases over the project

To evaluate whether a programme of work to manage the Centre Hills is started, the following indicators were identified:

- Centre Hills boundary is demarcated on the ground by the end of the project
- 2 significant conservation interventions in the management plan are enacted by the end of the project
- 90% of annual workplan is completed on schedule

A project steering committee comprised of the project partners and other experts will be established to provide advice and guidance to the project. The progress of the project will be monitored on a daily basis by the project manager, who will regularly report back to the project steering committee and seek their guidance when required.