

# MEMORANDUM OF COLLABORATION

## CONSERVATION OF THE MONTSERRAT CENTRE HILLS

1. Parties
  - 1.1 This Memorandum of Collaboration (hereafter referred to as “MoC”) is agreed between the Department of Agriculture Montserrat (“DOA”), the Montserrat National Trust (“MNT”), the Montserrat Tourist Board (“MTB”), the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust (“DWCT”), the Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (“Kew”) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (“RSPB”) (hereafter collectively referred to as the “Parties”).
2. Need & Obligations
  - 2.1 *Recognising* the sovereign rights of States over their own biological resources and the letter and the spirit of the 1973 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (“CITES”), the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (“CBD”), the 2002 Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and relevant national laws and regulations concerning biodiversity;
  - 2.2 *Appreciating* that the Centre Hills are the largest intact forest area remaining on Montserrat and are an area of outstanding natural beauty;
  - 2.3 *Recognising* that the Centre Hills are the last viable enclave for most of the island’s wildlife, including the globally threatened Montserrat Oriole *Icterus oberi*, Montserrat Galliwasp *Dipoglossus montisserrati*, and Mountain Chicken *Leptodactylus fallax*;
  - 2.4 *Further recognising* that the Centre Hills provide essential environmental goods and services to the people of Montserrat and are an important asset to tourism;
  - 2.5 *Aware* that Montserrat is a signatory to the UK Environment Charter and St George’s declaration and thus are committed to ensuring the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas policy;
  - 2.6 *Noting* there is wide public concern about the plight of the Centre Hills and corresponding hope that conservation efforts will be successful;

3. Organisation Missions
- 3.1 *Given* that the DOA as a **department within the Ministry of Agriculture, Land, Housing and the Environment** is the national authority for the management and conservation of all species and forests and forest protected areas so gazetted under relevant legislation;
- 3.2 *Given* that the MNT is the leading non-government organisation involved in environmental conservation and education on Montserrat;
- 3.3 *Given* that the MTB is committed to conserving the unspoiled scenery of Montserrat for the enjoyment of visitors and residents alike;
- 3.4 *Given* that Kew's mission is to ensure better management of the Earth's environment by increasing knowledge and understanding of the plant and fungal kingdoms - **the basis of life on earth** and that Kew is one of the leading centres for advice and action on plant conservation in the UK and worldwide;
- 3.5 *Given* that the DWCT is committed to saving species from extinction worldwide, through their extensive experience and expertise in field research, conservation management and captive breeding;
- 3.6 *Given* that the RSPB as the BirdLife Partner in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland **is committed** to the assistance of the UK Overseas Territories in the furtherance of its Mission to conserve wild birds and their habitats and has relevant experience in research and conservation management activities both in the UK and worldwide;
4. The Project
- 4.1 *Given* that the Parties have jointly developed a three (3) year collaborative project; "Enabling the people of Montserrat to conserve the Centre Hills" (the "Project"). The Project will be funded, in part, by the **United Kingdom Darwin Initiative** and aims to empower the people of Montserrat to take targeted action to conserve the Centre Hills Forest Reserve for present and future generations;
5. Collaboration
- 5.1 The Parties hereby agree to work together to implement the Project through an equal and open collaboration, especially through the sharing of information and ideas and in their relationship with other stakeholders.

6. Project Management and Reporting
- 6.1 The Project will be co-ordinated by the RSPB, represented by Sarah Sanders, Claude Gerald, DoA, Eudora Fergus, MNT, John Skippings, MTB, Dr. Colin Clubbe, Kew, and Dr Richard Young, DWCT will be deemed the “Project Collaborators”.
- 6.2 The RSPB in consultation with the Project Collaborators will appoint a Project Manager based in Montserrat to undertake day to day management of the Project.
- 6.3 A Project Steering Committee (the “Committee”) consisting of the RSPB, the Project Collaborators and other experts will be established. Members of the Committee will communicate regularly to monitor implementation of current Project activities, plan future activities, agree the annual budget and to help the RSPB to prepare bi-annual reports for the Darwin Initiative (due 30 April and 31 October of each year). The Committee will meet twice a year. It is anticipated that, over the course of the Project, the Committee will evolve into a National Parks Working Group.
- 6.4 Scientific papers based wholly or in part on scientific data gathered during the Darwin Project and/or the biodiversity assessment shall be produced collaboratively between all Project Parties. All Parties shall be given the opportunity to comment on draft manuscripts. Each Party shall have the right to co-authorship where it has contributed significantly to the data gathering, analysis or write-up, or has had significant intellectual input.
7. Project Activities
- 7.1 Subject to the terms and conditions set out in this MoC, the Parties will work together to realise the Project outputs listed at Annex 1.
- 7.2 Key project activities include the following:
- a. *The undertaking* of a biological assessment led and funded by DWCT, with technical support from DOA, Kew, RSPB and MTB;
  - b. *The production* of a participatory management plan. The planning process will include identification and inclusion of all relevant stakeholders and will be facilitated by a mutually agreed independent person or persons at a management plan workshop, held in 2006;
  - c. *The development* of draft protected areas legislation to establish the Centre Hills as Montserrat’s first National Park;

- d. *The production* of educational and promotional materials to raise awareness of Montserrat's critical biodiversity.
- e. *Training activities* in Montserrat and in the UK to help build local capacity.
- f. *Joint fundraising* by all Parties, where relevant.


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| 8. Key Roles and Responsibilities | <p>8.1 RSPB will provide Darwin funds until March 2008 according to the project budget listed at Annex 1 for the Project outputs listed at Annex 2. RSPB will lead on the research into ecological processes and the socio-economic assessment. They will facilitate the review of legislation and work towards securing private landowner support;</p> <p>8.2 DWCT will lead and fund the biological assessment due to be completed in June 2006;</p> <p>8.3 Kew will undertake the plant survey and produce a habitat map for the Centre Hills;</p> <p>8.4 DOA will provide relevant permissions for all necessary activities within the Centre Hills and will undertake or lead all components related to the implementation of research recommendations as well as forest and habitat management;</p> <p>8.5 MTB will produce a promotional national parks brochure; conduct surveys and collect information on the tourists that visit the Centre Hills; and, support the development of a field guide;</p> <p>8.6 MNT will provide office space for the Project manager and Counterpart Project Manager and assist with the consultation process.</p> |
| 9. Publicity                      | <p>9.1 The Parties agree that there will be recognition of all participating organizations, including the Darwin Initiative, in all Project publications, web pages and media releases concerned with the Project.</p> <p>9.2 The Darwin Initiative, RSPB, BirdLife International, DWCT, Kew, MNT, MTB and GoM logo must appear on the front cover and title page of any reports, which substantially use material from the project.</p> <p>9.3 Any press release with reference to this MoC or the relationship</p>  |

established between the parties to this MoC shall be subject to the prior approval of the Parties.

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| 10. Duration and Amendment | 10.1 This MoC will come into force on the date of the final signature. It will be valid for three (3) years from that date.  |
|                            | 10.2 It can be amended at any time through mutual agreement expressed in writing. Such amendments, once approved all by the Parties, will become part of this MoC. |
| 11. Termination            | 11.1 This MoC may be terminated by one party giving three (3) months notice in writing to the other Parties.   |
|                            | 11.2 On termination, any unspent yearly advances shall be returned to RSPB on a pro rata basis.  |

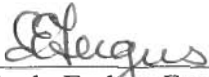
Signatures

For and on behalf of The Ministry of Agriculture, Housing, Lands, and Environment:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Eugene Skerritt  
Permanent Secretary

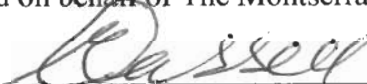
25/10/05  
Date

For and on behalf of The Montserrat National Trust:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lady Eudora Fergus  
Director


24/10/05  
Date

For and on behalf of The Montserrat Tourist Board:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ernestine Cassell  
Director

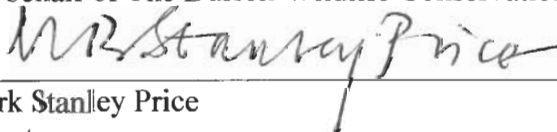
4/11/05  
Date

For and on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Professor Sir Peter Crane FRS  
Director

6/12/05  
Date

For and on behalf of The Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Stanley Price  
Director

17 Jan. 2006  
Date

For and on behalf of The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John O'Sullivan  
Head of Global Programmes

29/1/06  
Date

## Annex 1

	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	TOTAL
<b>Rents, rates, heating, cleaning, overheads</b>				
• Darwin funding	0	0	0	0
• Other funding	3,297	3,126	3,011	9,434
<b>Office costs e.g. postage, telephone, stationary</b>				
• Darwin funding	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000
• Other funding	0	0	0	0
<b>Travel and subsistence</b>				
• Darwin funding	16,000	15,500	6,500	38,000
• Other funding	4,400	4,000	4,000	12,400
<b>Printing</b>				
• Darwin funding	2,000	4,000	1,000	7,000
• Other funding	2,000	2,000	0	4,000
<b>Conferences, Seminars etc</b>				
• Darwin funding	5,200	4,200	1,500	10,900
• Other funding	0	0	0	0
<b>Capital items/equipment (please break down)</b>				
• Darwin funding	(20,500)	(0)	(0)	(20,500)
Desktop Computer	1,000	0	0	1,000
Laptop Computer	1,000	0	0	1,000
GPS/GIS	500	0	0	500
Software (General)	1,500	0	0	1,500
Second Hand Vehicle	10,000	0	0	10,000
Field Sampling Equipment	3,000	0	0	3,000
Camping Equipment	2,000	0	0	2,000
PowerPoint Projector	1,000	0	0	1,000
Mobile Phones	500	0	0	500
• Other funding	(11,000)	(0)	(0)	(11,000)
Software (Mapping)	11,000	0	0	11,000
<b>Other costs (including Audit costs to a maximum of £500) (Please specify and break down)</b>				
• Darwin funding	(2,167)	(667)	(666)	(3,500)
Website Costs	1,000	500	500	2,000
Legal Advice	1,000	0	0	1,000
Audit Costs	167	167	166	500
• Other funding	(0)	(0)	(5,000)	(5,000)
Implementing Management Plan Activities	0	0	5,000	5,000
<b>Salaries (from previous table)</b>				
• Darwin funding	23,000	39,000	16,000	78,000
• Other funding	144,683	43,826	29,748	218,257
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COSTS</b>	<b>235,246</b>	<b>117,319</b>	<b>68,425</b>	<b>420,990</b>
TOTAL COSTS FUNDED FROM OTHER SOURCES	165,379	52,952	41,759	260,090
<b>TOTAL DARWIN COSTS</b>	<b>69,867</b>	<b>64,367</b>	<b>26,666</b>	<b>160,900</b>

## Annex 2

## PROPOSED PROJECT OUTPUTS

Year/Month	Standard output no.	Description
Oct '05 – Mar '08	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 '07	9	1 Management plan for the Centre Hills
Dec '07	10	1 Guide to the Centre Hills
Jan '06 Jul '06 Nov '06 Jun '07	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 '07	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 '05 - Oct '06	14B	2 – representation at 2 international conferences
Oct '05 – Mar '08	15 A	6 - At least two national press releases per year on Montserrat
Oct '05 – Mar '08	15 C	3 - At least one national press release in the UK per year
May '05 – Mar '08	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 '05 – Mar '08	17 B	The Montserrat Biodiversity e-group will be strengthened
Oct '05 – Mar '08	19 A	6 - At least two national radio interviews in Montserrat per year
Mar '08	20	£31,500 worth of computer, equipment etc. to be handed over
Oct '05 – Mar '07	22	Number not known at present but likely to be less than 12
May '05 – Mar '08	23	RSPB - £87,003 (mostly in staff time) DWCT - £106,028 (biological assessment) Kew – £10,549 (mostly in staff time) MTB - £11,000 (support production of promotional materials and guide) MNT - £1,500 (staff time) MAHLE - £44,010 (staff time)