



## Darwin Initiative Main Project Half Year Report (due 31 October 2015)

<b>Project Ref No</b>	19-029
<b>Project Title</b>	Laying the foundations for invertebrate conservation on St Helena
<b>Country(ies)</b>	St Helena and the UK
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Buglife – the Invertebrate Conservation Trust
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	St Helena National Trust, St Helena Government, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH)
<b>Project Leader</b>	Vicky Kindemba
<b>Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)</b>	October 2015
<b>Project website/Twitter/Blog/Instagram etc</b>	<a href="http://www.nationaltrust.org.sh/shnt-conservation-programmes/natural-heritage/bugs-on-the-brink-our-invertebrates/">http://www.nationaltrust.org.sh/shnt-conservation-programmes/natural-heritage/bugs-on-the-brink-our-invertebrates/</a>
<b>Funder (DFID/Defra)</b>	DEFRA

### 1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).

#### Output 1

In order to ensure that invertebrate conservation remains as a core activity with the St Helena Government, St Helena National Trust and wider stakeholders, an invertebrate conservation strategy for the next five years is currently under development. We held two workshops to initiate this process in August and was supported by the IUCN conservation planning committee. The workshops we held over two days in both St Helena and the UK, and 22 stakeholders attended, from these workshops a draft strategy has been developed and this will be finalised and taken forward by a sub-group of island partners; and provide a framework for future work.

The baseline invertebrate data including distributional data is now available on SAERI and is being promoted via the Saint Helena National Trust website and to encourage use and integration into wider work both on St Helena but also for UK Overseas Territories <http://www.nationaltrust.org.sh/publications/data-and-research/> .

The Mid Atlantic Island Invertebrate Specialist Group is now established and has been authorised by the IUCN; with the co-chairs attending a recent meeting of Species Leaders with the IUCN to initiate and develop the group; and the group's first official meeting was held by Skype on 19<sup>th</sup> October. This group will support the ongoing red listing for the island post the project and recently the flagship species, Spiky Yellow Woodlouse *Pseudolaureola atlantica* <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/67368866/0> was listed at Critically Endangered.

A consultation for the Species Ordinance was released by the St Helena Government and this still retains a high number of invertebrate endemics for protection as recommended by the project.

#### Output 2

A training review session was run for Government staff and wider stakeholder in July on the invertebrate resources and knowledge established provided by the Invertebrate Coordinator before he concluded his role on the project.

Museum staff have been trained on the management of the invertebrate reference collection, the invertebrate coordinator who previously managed reference collections, and have invertebrate collection guide to support this.

The guide of the island's invertebrates is underway and has been further revised to include more photos of invertebrates on island to establish a more usable and comprehensive guide.

The website has being revised to include more information on the project and more resources, in addition, leaflets were produced and disseminated on island to increase wider knowledge and understanding of the project and invertebrate conservation.

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.sh/shnt-conservation-programmes/natural-heritage/bugs-on-the-brink-our-invertebrates/>

#### Output 3

A piece of research is currently being worked on to better understand pollinators and their role in forest restoration on island, samples are being identified and analysed to understand pollinator habitat use at key sites.

Garden experiments both in the UK and St Helena are well underway in order to understand plant fitness and to inform future restoration work on island. A report will be produced and will feed into guidance for restoration work.

Guidance on fitness experiments and their use restoration techniques is currently being written to inform future restoration work.

#### Output 4

The Education Officer has continued to conduct education sessions as well as develop educational materials. The Loan Box including materials are 90% complete and sessions with the teachers on island are currently being organised to train them on use of the box. Completed educational materials include: educational worksheets, bug crafts, games, invertebrate science document, invertebrate flashcards; and nearly all equipment for collecting bugs with instructions on their use and maintenance.

There has been 2 articles on on educational work with schools in the local newspapers, as well as a big piece on the project and its achievements. The project was included in the Buglife magazine. There is also plan for a big media push on the project in its last 6 months.

**2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

Alice Farr left to go on maternity leave and so Vicky Kindemba who has consistently been involved in the project from its development and has previously managed the project, has again taken over as Project Leader.

**2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

Discussed with LTS: Yes/No

Formal change request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No

**3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g., more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?**

Yes  No  Estimated underspend: £

**3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully as it is unlikely that any requests to carry forward funds will be approved this year.** Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project and would like to talk to someone about the options available this year, please indicate below when you think you might be in a position to do this and what the reasons might be:

We just reviewing the budget and potentially have a small underspend that may be reallocated to ensure other project aspects and we should be in a position to look at this in December.

**4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?**

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also** be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at [Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk) . The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g., Subject: 20-035 Darwin Half Year Report**