



Job Title: Darwin Restoration Ecologist

Project title: 'Increasing local capacity to conserve St Helena's threatened native biodiversity'

Location: St Helena Island, South Atlantic

Duration: 3 years

Salary: £17,000 + travel allowance

Hours of Work: 37.5 hours per week

Overall Purpose of the Job

Working closely with the Darwin Project Manager and Horticulturalist to ensure the successful delivery of the Darwin project according to its aims and objectives – specifically to restore endemic vegetation at two sites; to deliver conservation training for apprentices and other stakeholders in techniques associated with successful habitat restoration; and to develop and help implement effective management at the restored sites.

Main duties and responsibilities

1. Habitat restoration

- Identify and prioritise key activities to restore native habitats
- Carry out habitat restoration at the two project sites, with the aim of making them self-sustaining habitats
- Prepare sites for largescale plant reintroductions
- Implement and continually assess invasive species control
- Work closely with the Darwin Horticulturalist to continually refine and improve habitat restoration techniques
- Undertake vegetation surveys to monitor success of habitat restoration at the project sites
- Provide advice, training and support to Environment & Conservation Section (ECS), National Trust staff and other stakeholders where needed to support the delivery of the project
- Develop and implement site specific management plans for High Peak and Blue Point Ridge in collaboration with ECS management
- Provide data required for IUCN species assessments

2. Education and training

- Deliver elements of a plant conservation training programme/NVQ (working closely with Darwin Horticulturalist and ECS)
- Ensure NVQ requirements are met (including regular assessment of conservation apprentices, periodic meetings with local NVQ Co-ordinator)

- Provide information to Project Manager for training materials and schools education packs
- Lead habitat restoration and site management training days for other stakeholders
- Lead conservation activities for public and schools
- Coordinate volunteer activities (invasives clearance, planting out)

3. Awareness raising

- Support activities and publicity work aimed at promoting the work of the project/National Trust (eg contribute articles to Trust's quarterly newsletter and website; provide talks and presentations on project)
- Provide information for site interpretation
- Support establishment of demonstration habitat restoration areas

Working relationships

Post holder reports to: Darwin Project Manager

Reporting to Post holder: Conservation apprentices, volunteers

Other key working relationships: Darwin Horticulturist; Environment & Conservation Section (Nursery Officer, Conservation Officer); OTEP Horticultural Support Officer; RBG Kew; Tourism Office; Education Department; Adult and Vocational Education Service (AVES);

Personal Attributes and Skills

- Practical, creative, good problem solving skills
- Team oriented, enjoys working with a wide cross section of the community
- Good communication and inter-personal skills with the ability to engage stakeholders and to motivate staff and volunteers
- Ability to work to deadlines and under pressure
- Ability to work with a small team and with colleagues within the wider organisation / project base
- Physically fit and able to work independently in the field, often in harsh conditions (weather, terrain) requiring self-reliance and initiative
- Good endurance and able to lift their own body weight
- Able to work at heights and on steep slopes
- Able to spend extensive periods of time away from home during the contract period

Essential Requirements

- A degree in the field of restoration ecology or relevant subject
- A minimum of 5 years relevant practical experience
- A minimum of 3 years experience managing teams in relevant practical (ecosystem / habitat restoration) projects, preferably in remote locations
- Demonstrable research experience including data management, statistical analysis and field methodology
- Experience and knowledge of biodiversity monitoring techniques, including survey and mapping

- Computer skills: able to use spreadsheets, database analysis
- Ability to produce well-written and presented reports
- Past supervisory experience, able to raise awareness, facilitate learning and encourage participation of schoolchildren, youth and adults
- FEPA PA1 & PA6
- Clean driving licence
- Clean police vetting certificate (a St Helena immigration requirement)

Desirable Skills, Knowledge, Experience

- A post-graduate qualification in the field of restoration ecology or relevant subject
- Familiarity with GIS data systems
- Experience of working on small remote islands
- Knowledge of conservation issues on St Helena
- Familiarity with IUCN Red Data Listing
- NVQ Assessor A1 Award (or experience of NVQ assessment process)
- Experience of managing volunteers
- Ability to deliver public presentations
- Rope work experience
- Current First Aid Certification