

INNS INFORMATION PORTAL

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You are receiving this as a member of the Darwin Plus project [DPLUS175](#)



RECENT ACTIVITIES

The latest UKOT we had the pleasure of visiting was St Helena. St Helena is one of the remotest islands on Earth and is home to >500 endemic animal and plant species that benefit from the diverse habitats and microclimates across the mountainous island.

Experts from a wide range of organisations attended our workshop in January 2024: St Helena Government (Environment, Natural Resources & Planning, Environmental Management, Project Management Office), St Helena National Trust, St Helena Research Institute, RSPB, students and local farmers and land users.

One INNS that was discussed extensively was Whiteweed (*Austroeuatorium inulifolium*). This species was originally introduced as an ornamental plant and has spread extensively across the island via wind and vector (human/vehicle/bird) dispersal. It dominates the vegetation in many areas of the island and is thought to increase the risk of soil erosion. Experts stressed the importance of regular surveying of the distribution of Whiteweed and targeted removal to prevent its spread.

DATABASE UPDATE

We have added 146 non-native species to the Pitcairn database.

RESOURCES UPDATE

We have finished co-developing non-native species postcards for Gibraltar and the British Antarctic Territory.



Climate change is a growing concern for the island, manifesting so far through unpredictable weather patterns. During the workshop, we mapped out the different ways in which climate change might directly and indirectly affect the spread, establishment and impact of the INNS of most concern. It became evident that the biggest concern to participants was raising awareness of invasive non-native species presence on the island and the co-development of a policy brief for the St Helena Council highlighting the need for ongoing management and funding sources for continuity of action.

We hope that the information systems and resources we develop with our inspiring partners on St Helena will play a part in addressing the threat biological invasions pose to this incredible island. We are extremely appreciative of all the time and expertise that has been given so far and we are looking forward to our ongoing collaborations. Thank you to everyone for making us so welcome. Particular thanks to Julie Balchin for her support and guidance including in the co-development of the workshop programme.

OF INTEREST:

- **Potential database changes:** Recently we have been looking into changes to the UK Overseas Territories non-native species database. Some ideas currently being discussed are the incorporation of [IUCN habitat classifications](#) and data from the [World Checklist of Vascular Plants](#) database following consultation through the workshops on the UKOTs.
- **Impact assessments:** In our recent UK Overseas Territories workshops Helen Roy has been presenting on the use of the [Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa](#) (EICAT) and [Socio-economic impact classification of alien taxa \(SEICAT\)](#) for classifying the environmental and socio economic impacts of non-native species. We hope that this will be a useful approach to classifying impacts for INNS listed within the database.
- **Risk Assessments:** [template risk assessment documents](#) used by Great Britain to assess the risk of a non-native species entering, establishing, spreading and causing impacts on the island which can be used to aid prioritisation, to help enable effective rapid responses and for underpinning decision-making.
- [CyDAS | RIS-ky](#): Cyprus are currently working on a CyDAS (Cyprus Database of Alien Species) data paper which will be published in the near future as a collation of current data on non-native species in Cyprus.
- [IPBES Thematic Assessment Report on Invasive Alien Species and their Control!](#): experts assessed the current status and trends of invasive alien species, their impacts, their drivers, their management and policy options to address the challenges they pose with specific reference to biological invasions on islands.
- **British Indian Overseas Territories:** Earlier this month we were pleased to hold a combined workshop for [DPLUS151](#) and [DPLUS175](#) which was looking at building knowledge on invasive non-native species on Diego Garcia and enhancing monitoring and prevention of invasive non-native species across the UK Overseas Territories.
- **Congratulations to Natasha Stevens, Liza Fowler** and the St Helena team on being acknowledged through the naming of [two new sympatric species of pirate spider](#).

The UK Centre for Hydrology & Ecology project team would like to thank all the project partners for their contributions to DPLUS175 – we are looking forward to our ongoing collaborations through the final year of the project.



Picture provided by UKCEH

UKCEH website:

For more information on the work we are currently doing as part of the UK Overseas Territories Darwin-Plus Project please visit [Enhancing monitoring and prevention of invasive non-native species across UKOTs | UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology \(ceh.ac.uk\)](#)

Call for information:

Contact Meg Williams (UKCEH): megwil@ceh.ac.uk

We are always looking for further data and resources to help with the compilation of each UK Overseas Territory non-native species database. If you have any data or resources that you think would be of relevance please get in touch.

