

The St Helena Cloud Forest Project

Key achievements year 2



1.5ha



Clearance of invasive species has been undertaken across five main sites and approximately 1.5ha in this financial year, with approximately 1,300m² of new habitat planted.



17

In year one **18,816 plants** and in year two **17,114 plants** from 17 different Peaks' species were planted into wild restoration sites and living gene banks.



Across years one and two of the project **63,054 plants** were propagated from Peaks species in both nurseries (target was 60,500 plants).



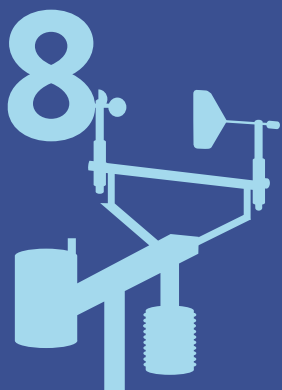
4

Research has identified a potential four **new invertebrate species** new to science and endemic to the St Helena Cloud Forest. These are currently being confirmed through peer review.



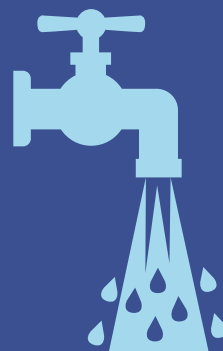
72

72 endemic invertebrate species were genome skimmed and **added to the global DNA database 'BOLD'**.



Eight automatic weather stations

and four pairs of mist and rain data loggers are now operational, alongside a water resource monitoring network of 35 surface water and groundwater monitoring locations.



Phase one fieldwork and annual water resource data collection and climate monitoring have **enabled water pillar teams** to draft the hydrogeology conceptual model and recharge model **to inform water resource management**. This work will be expanded and developed in year three.



PhD studentship established

between the St Helena Research Institute and Imperial College London and the Natural History Museum to support research into bryophytes within the cloud forest.



450

In this financial year we have engaged positively with more than **450 people through 15 sessions** which include school groups, talks and community events, including a Jubilee Tree Planting.

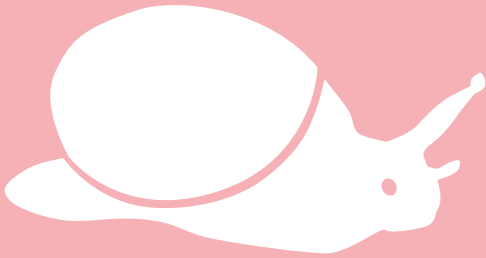


More than 100 responses to our baseline engagement survey were received in March 2023 (equalling the number from the previous year).



15.5

15.5 full time equivalent posts have been funded to support the Cloud Forest Project in year two, of which 14.5 posts were locally based St Helenians, or Saints.



Invertebrate surveys have found endemic invertebrates using restored sites, **proving the success** of habitat restoration work.

On the island approximately **70 staff from the three partner organisations** have been involved in a range of training courses including financial and budget management, invertebrate monitoring and identification, ecosystem integrity and soil sampling.



Eight St Helena staff members from three core partners (SHNT, SHG and Connect) have been on **UK exposure visits** for training and capacity building as part of the project.



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