



POLICY TITLE: POLICY FOR COLLECTION, PROPAGATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ENDEMIC/NATIVE PLANTS. (UPDATED 06 DECEMBER 2013).

Policy written by Environment Management Division, St Helena Government and formally adopted by SHG committee

Date approved:

Date for policy review:

Lead officer: Shayla Ellick, Species Conservation & Environmental Research Officer

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BACKGROUND

- Effective management of the environment is a National Goal under the Sustainable Development Plan. Strategic Objective 6.2 states: St Helena's environment, both terrestrial and marine, safeguarded for future generations through effective environmental management. Strategic Objectives 1.2, 3.2, 6.4 & 7.3 will also be addressed under this policy.
- The National Environmental Management Plan (NEMP) has been created to implement this national goal.
- This (draft) policy will provide the framework for the development of endemic and native plant species action plans (NEMP target 15.3). It will also directly address Objective D of the plan specifically the clause '.. through improving the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity.'
- A key asset of St. Helena's terrestrial environment is its endemic and native plants. There are 45 recognised endemic species and between approximately 31 and 43 native species (Lambdon, 2012¹), many of which are threatened with extinction.
- There are a growing number of different individuals and organisations working to conserve, propagate and sometimes sell St. Helena's endemic and native plants.
- To ensure effective management of this resource, a transparent, managed programme of species collection, propagation and distribution is required.
- Within the landscape of activity, there needs to be a clear policy that sets out parameters within which activities can happen, to ensure that human intervention enhances rather than threatens the existence of endemic and native plant species.
- This policy provides these parameters.

LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

- The Endangered Species Protection Ordinance 2003 forbids the taking, damaging or killing of specified species; however, the Ordinance does not address propagation of endemic plants or distribution of propagated material. This policy seeks to address these gaps.
- The (draft) Environmental Ordinance (Section 20, Subsections 1 & 2) makes it illegal to collect wild listed species, and to propagate and distribute listed species, unless acting under a licence. This policy provides that licensing system.

¹ Lambdon, P. (2012). Flowering Plant & Ferns of St Helena. Pisces Publications for St Helena Nature Conservation Group: Newbury.

POLICY AIMS

This policy aims to:

- facilitate the management of endemic and native plants on St. Helena.
- set out the parameters within which seed collection, plant propagation and distribution can occur.
- ensure human intervention enhances rather than threatens the existence of these species.
- enable commercial and non-commercial growing of (named) endemic and native plant species.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

- Implement the licensing system as outlined in this policy.
- Carry out 6 monthly monitoring of all licences that have been issued under this policy.
- Support nurseries/groups/individuals to implement collection, propagation and distribution best practice, including through training where required.
- Ensure adherence to requirements as outlined in the licences.

POLICY DEFINITIONS

Commercial growers

'anyone selling a plant'

Non- commercial growers

'principally the Endemic Nursery [of the Environment and Natural Resources Directorate], but may include other approved nurseries growing plants for conservation purposes only'

St Helena Government (SHG) conservation authority 'currently the Environmental Management Division'

Invasive

'a plant that is not native and has negative effects on the environment, economy and human health'

Hybridisation

'the act of mixing different species of plants and producing hybrids'

POLICY STATEMENTS

- (1) Any nursery, group or individual wishing to propagate endemic and native plants can approach the SHG conservation authority for a copy of a distribution restrictions map (currently being prepared), and species specific propagation and reintroduction guidelines where available.
- (2) Under the (draft) Environmental Ordinance, all nurseries, groups or individuals require a licence to collect and propagate listed species. Nurseries, groups or individuals will be granted a blanket licence (see Annex 4) by the SHG conservation authority, to propagate Annex 1 species and to collect motherstock of Annex 1 species from established seed orchards. Licences will be valid for 1 year and will be subject to a small fee.
- (3) Collections of seed and spores from endemic plants in the wild can only be undertaken by the SHG conservation authority or individuals issued with a special licence by the SHG conservation authority (see Annex 5). Licences for cuttings will only be given in exceptional circumstances.
 - a. Licences for wild collection will only be issued if the conservation authority does not have sufficient motherstock available.
 - b. Wild seed sources should be used to establish a sustainable seed orchard to reduce the need for wild collection.
 - c. A collection licence will have limited validity and will be subject to a fee.
- (4) The SHG conservation authority will provide seed collecting training opportunities for individuals who are interested in applying for a seed collection licence.
 - a. Training will last approximately for half a day (minimum) and will be subject to a small fee to cover staff time and resources.
 - b. Licences will be granted on satisfactory completion of the training.
- (5) Annex 2 identifies plant species that can potentially be propagated and distributed by nurseries, individuals or groups, but applications (see Annex 6) for permission to propagate and distribute these species will need to be submitted to the SHG conservation authority for approval. Each situation will need to be considered on a case by case basis². A propagation and distribution licence for Annex 2 species will be valid for 1 year and will be subject to a fee.
 - a. Nurseries, groups or individuals who have received permission to propagate Annex 2 species will be subject to biannual monitoring visits, which will be subject to a small fee to cover staff time.
 - b. The Endemic Nursery, while run by the licensing authority, will not propagate or distribute species commercially (with the exception of the sale of motherstock material) and will act as the exemplar for others to follow.

² To protect against hybridisation, commercial nurseries need to obtain advice from EMD on the final destination of that plant for any that are identified as ‘special case’ (see Annex 2). They need to and agree to abide by this advice and to advise any onward plant purchasers of final destination requirements.

- (6) Annex 3 outlines the plant species that cannot be propagated by nurseries, groups or individuals except the SHG conservation authority, or approved non-commercial growers.
- (7) Plants will be added and removed from annexes by the SHG conservation authority either during a 5 year review process or periodically if relevant evidence is provided.
- (8) If licence requirements are not being met the following intervention measures will occur:
 - a. The SHG conservation authority will provide best practice guidance to the nursery on how to improve standards to meet the requirements.
 - b. The SHG conservation authority will have the authority to revoke the licence if the guidance is not followed, and no improvement is made.
- (9) No endemic or native plant seed can be exported without a licence issued by the Environmental Management Division.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

- This policy will be implemented through the licensing system outlined in the Policy Statements section. Application forms and licence templates can be found in Annexes 4, 5 & 6.
 - Licences and training will be issued following applications for collection of wild material or propagation and distribution of restricted species.
- Applications for licences will be handled through the procedure outlined in Annex 7.

POLICY DISTRIBUTION

This policy will be issued to all existing nurseries, groups and individuals collecting, propagating and distributing endemic and native species, and to those interested in doing so in the future; along with a map showing limitations for species distribution (currently being prepared), and also copies of the 'Growing Guide for St Helena's Endemic Flowering Plants' and the 'Where to plant what: Reintroduction Guidelines' for guidance.

This policy and Annexes and other supporting documents will also be available online on the SHG website ([link](#)) or on request from EMD.

**ANNEX 1: NON-RESTRICTED SPECIES WHICH CAN BE PROPAGATED AND DISTRIBUTED
BY LICENSED NURSERIES, GROUPS OR INDIVDUALS**

Latin name	Common name	Commercial Prop Permission	Distribution restrictions
<i>Chenopodium helenense</i>	St. Helena goosefoot	Yes	none
<i>Hydrodea cryptantha</i>	babies' toes	Yes	none
<i>Hypertelis acida</i>	salad plant	Yes	none
<i>Osteospermum sanctae-helenae</i>	boneseed	Yes	none
<i>Trimeris scaevolifolia</i>	lobelia	Yes	none
<i>Eragrostis saxatilis</i>	hair grass	Yes	none
<i>Asplenium compressum</i>	plastic fern	Yes	none
<i>Dicksonia arborescens</i>	St. Helena tree-fern	Yes	none
<i>Diplazium filamentosum</i>	black-scale fern	Yes	none
<i>Pseudophegopteris dianae</i>	brown-scale fern	Yes	none
<i>Pteris paleacea</i>	lays back fern	Yes	none
<i>Portulaca oleracea</i>	purslane	Yes	none
<i>Suaeda fruticosa</i>	samphire	Yes	none
<i>Lycopodiella cernua</i>	buckshorn	Yes	none
<i>Eragrostis cilianensis</i>	fish-bone grass	Yes	none
<i>Asplenium aethiopicum</i>	parsley fern	Yes	none
<i>Asplenium lunulatum</i>	hen and chicks fern	Yes	none
<i>Pteris dentata</i> ssp. <i>flabellata</i>	comb fern	Yes	none
<i>Asplenium platybasis</i>	sickle fern	Yes	none
<i>Cheilanthes multifida</i>	crevice fern	Yes	none
<i>Hypolepis villosa-viscida</i>	sticky fern	Yes	none
<i>Pleopeltis macrocarpa</i>	dotted tongue-fern	Yes	none
<i>Hibiscus trionum</i>	bladder ketmia	Yes	none
<i>Cyperus laevigatus</i>	salt drip sedge	Yes	none

<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>	thatching rush*	Yes	none
<i>Isolepis prolifer</i>	proliferous spike-rush	Yes	none
<i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i>	annual beard grass	Yes	none
<i>Polypogon tenuis</i>	Cape beard-grass	Yes	none
<i>Christella parasitica</i>	christella	Yes	none
<i>Amaranthus thunbergii</i>	candlestick amaranth	yes	none
<i>Ipomoea pes-caprae</i>	camel's-foot creeper	Yes	none
<i>Psoralea pinnata</i>	gobblegheer	Yes	none
<i>Cyperus cyperoides</i>	bottle-brush sedge	Yes	none
<i>Cyperus distans</i>	graceful sedge	Yes	none
<i>Cyperus polystachyos</i>	clustered sedge, field sedge	Yes	none
<i>Isolepis marginata</i>	rock spike-rush	Yes	none
<i>Isolepis sepulcralis</i>	bristle club-rush	Yes	none
<i>Tribolium obliterum</i>	bayonet grass	Yes	none
<i>Bulbostylis lichtensteiniana</i>	tufted sedge	Yes	None
*not recommended			

**ANNEX 2: RESTRICTED SPECIES WHICH CANNOT BE PROPAGATED OR DISTRIBUTED
WITHOUT A SPECIAL LICENCE FROM THE SHG CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (SPECIAL
CASE³- SPECIES)**

Latin name still to be added	Common name	Commercial prop permission	Distribution restrictions
<i>Commidendrum robustum</i>	gumwood	issues	x
<i>Commidendrum rugosum</i>	scrubwood	issues	x
<i>Lachanodes arborea</i>	she cabbage	issues	none
<i>Melanodendron integrifolium</i>	black cabbage	issues	x
<i>Nesohedyotis arborea</i>	dogwood	issues	none
<i>Pelargonium cotyledonis</i>	old father live forever	Yes	x
<i>Petrobium arboreum</i>	whitewood	issues	none
<i>Phylica polifolia</i>	St. Helena rosemary	Yes	x
<i>Pladaroxylon leucadendron</i>	he cabbage	issues	none
<i>Plantago robusta</i>	St. Helena plantain	Yes	x
<i>Berula bracteata</i>	jellico	Yes	x
<i>Trochetiopsis ebenus</i>	ebony	issues	x
<i>Trochetiopsis erythroxylon</i>	redwood	issues	x
<i>Wahlenbergia angustifolia</i>	small bellflower	Yes	x
<i>Eragrostis episcopulus</i>	cliff hair grass	Yes	x
<i>Commicarpus helenae</i>	hogweed	Yes	x
<i>Elaphoglossum furcatum</i>	Mossy fern	Yes	x
<i>Bulbostylis neglecta</i>	neglected tuft sedge	Yes	none

³ due to low numbers / hybridisation issues or other factors these plants could be grown by commercial nurseries, if sufficient motherstock available, but advice needs to be sought from the SHG conservation authority first.

ANNEX 3: SPECIES WHICH CANNOT BE PROPAGATED OR DISTRIBUTED FOR COMMERCIAL GROWING (DEEMED TOO RARE/ ENDANGERED AT THIS TIME)

Latin name to be added	Common name	Commercial Prop Permission	Distribution restrictions
<i>Commidendrum rotundifolium</i>	bastard gumwood	no	x
<i>Commidendrum spurium</i>	false gumwood	no	x
<i>Euphorbia heleniana</i>	French grass, St. Helena spurge	no	x
<i>Frankenia portulacifolia</i>	tea plant	no	x
<i>Mellissia begonifolia</i>	boxwood	no	none
<i>Berula burchellii</i>	dwarf jellico	no	x
<i>Wahlenbergia linifolia</i>	large bellflower	no	x
<i>Carex dianae</i>	Diana's Peak grass	no	x
<i>Ceterach haughtonii</i>	barn fern	no	x
<i>Dryopteris cognata</i>	greater kidney fern	no	x
<i>Dryopteris napoleonis</i>	lesser kidney fern	no	x
<i>Elaphoglossum dimorphum</i>	toothed tongue-fern	no	x
<i>Elaphoglossum nervosum</i>	veined tongue-fern	no	x
<i>Grammitis ebenina</i>	watchstrap fern	no	x
<i>Hymenophyllum capillaceum</i>	St. Helena filmy fern	no	x
<i>Panicum joshuai</i>	orange stamen grass	no	x
<i>Mesembryanthemum crystallinum</i>	ice plant	no	-
<i>Huperzia saurus</i>	large buckshorn	no	-
<i>Elaphoglossum conforme</i>	common tongue-fern	no	-
<i>Ophioglossum polyphyllum</i>	lily fern	no	none
<i>Setaria welwitschii</i>	Angolan bristle-grass	no	-
<i>Tribulus cistoides</i>	sand caltrop, devils thorn, puncture vine	no	-

ANNEX 4: APPLICATION FORM AND LICENCE FOR COMMERCIAL AND NON-COMMERCIAL COLLECTION, PROPAGATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ANNEX 1 SPECIES



St. Helena Government Environmental Management Division

Application for nurseries, groups or individuals to be licensed to collect, propagate and distribute Annex 1 species

Application number _____

Name of Individual _____

Name of organisation _____

Please provide any other information you deem relevant to this application:

Please note: seed or plant material can only be collected from established seed orchards/sources; approval of this application will NOT be deemed permission to collect material from Annex 1 species in the wild.

I hereby apply for a licence to collect, propagate and distribute Annex 1 species for commercial/ non-commercial growing. I am aware that the collection of wild seed or plant material requires a separate licence.

Signed _____

Job title _____

Date _____

The SHG conservation authority will create and make publically available a list of licensed nurseries/groups/individuals. Submission of this application form indicates your agreement that your nursery will be added to this list. NOTE: this does not in any way impede self-promotion.

For official use only

Application accepted/rejected

comments

Name _____

Job title _____

Date _____

Signature _____

Approved by Countersigning officer: {Name, Job title}

Signature _____

Date _____

Draft



Licence for nurseries, groups or individuals to collect, propagate and distribute Annex 1 species

Licence number _____

This licence has been issued to

Name of Individual _____

Name of organisation _____

For the purposes of:

Valid from _____ to _____

This licence is approved based on the information submitted in licence application form number xxxx

Authorised by

Name _____

Job title _____

Date _____

Signature _____

Approved by Countersigning officer: {Name, Job title}

Signature _____

Date _____

Agreed by licence holder: {Name, Job title}

Signature _____

Date _____

ANNEX 5: APPLICATION FORM AND LICENCE TO COLLECT SEED FROM WILD ENDEMIC/NATIVE PLANTS



St. Helena Government Environmental Management Division

Application for licence to collect seed from wild endemic/native plants

Application number _____

Name of Individual _____

Name of organisation _____

Reason for application

Question	response	Additional information
Have you received seed collection training from EMD staff	Yes/No	<i>If the answer to this question is no, please contact EMD in the first instance to arrange training, or to have an assessment of your skill level if you have received formal training from an external organisation.</i>
Which species have you received seed collection training for?	List species...	
Which species are you applying for a licence for seed collection?		
What quantity of seed are you applying for a licence for?	List species and put quantity of seed for each species.	
What duration do you require this licence for?	Start date: End date:	
Is your request linked to a specific	Yes/No.	<i>If yes, name the project, if no, leave blank/add explanation of</i>

project? If so, please name	Name of project	<i>what you are going to use the seed for.</i>
Proof/agreement that collection of any plant material from the wild will not have significant impact on natural populations		<i>Please provide a brief statement of the current status of the species and show how collection of wild material will not negatively affect the natural population.</i>
Why do you need these species?		<i>Demonstrable requirement of use for endemics (i.e. as opposed to another more widely available species being able to fulfil requirement)</i>
Please provide evidence that you do not have existing motherstock for these species		<i>Either through nursery records or site visit by EMD staff.</i>
Please provide evidence that you have successfully grown species from motherstock already accessed/provided.		<i>Either through nursery records or site visit by EMD staff.</i>

Signed _____

Job title _____

Date _____

For official use only

Application accepted/rejected

comments

Name _____

Job title _____

Date _____

Signature _____

Approved by Countersigning officer: {Name, Job title}

Signature _____

Date _____

Draft



Licence to collect seed from wild endemic/native plants

Licence number _____

This licence has been issued to

Name of Individual _____

Name of organisation _____

For the purposes of:

Valid from _____ to _____

This licence is approved based on the information submitted in licence application form number xxxx

This licence is only for collection as outlined in the table below

Species name	Number of seeds	Species location	Any other restrictions.

Authorised by

Name _____

Job title _____

Date _____

Signature _____

Approved by Countersigning officer: {Name, Job title}

Signature _____

Date _____

Agreed by licence holder: {Name, Job title}

Signature _____

Date _____



Draft

ANNEX 6: APPLICATION FORM AND LICENCE TO PROPAGATE ANNEX 2 ENDEMICH AND NATIVE PLANT SPECIES



St. Helena Government Environmental Management Division

Application for Licence to propagate Annex 2 endemic/native plants.

Application number _____

Name of Individual _____

Name of organisation _____

Reason for application

Question	Response	Additional information
Have you ever propagated these endemic plants before?		
What species have you propagated?		
Where did you get the motherstock for these propagated species?		Please give evidence of proof of origin of motherstock.
What species do you currently hold motherstock for?		
Please outline the precautions you have in place to minimise the spread of pests and diseases		
Please outline the measures you have in place to prevent genetic contamination.		

Biannual monitoring and advisory visits will be undertaken by the SHG conservation authority. Submission of this application form indicates agreement that these visits will be undertaken.

The SHG conservation authority will create and make publically available a list of nurseries/groups/individuals that are registered to grow Annex 2 endemic and native species. Submission of this application form indicates agreement that your nursery will be added to this list. NOTE: this does not in any way impede self-promotion.

Signed _____

Job title _____

Date _____

For official use only

Application accepted/rejected

comments

Name _____

Job title _____

Date _____

Signature _____

Approved by Countersigning officer: {Name, Job title}

Signature _____

Date _____



Licence to propagate Annex 2 endemic/native plants.

Licence Number _____

This licence has been issued to

Name of Individual _____

Name of organisation _____

For the purposes of:

Valid from _____ to _____

This licence is approved based on the information submitted in licence application form number xxxx

This licence is only for propagation and distribution as outlined in the table below

Species name	Start-up stock available from:	Areas where species can be distributed	Any other restrictions.

Propagation should be in accordance with the growing and reintroduction guidelines available [via [weblink](#)], hard copy issued on request. Distribution should be in accordance with the distribution restrictions map (currently being prepared).

You must keep a record of sales and areas of distribution for each plant

Authorised by

Name _____

Job title _____

Date _____

Signature _____

Approved by Countersigning officer: {Name, Job title}

Signature _____

Date _____

Agreed by licence holder: {Name, Job title}

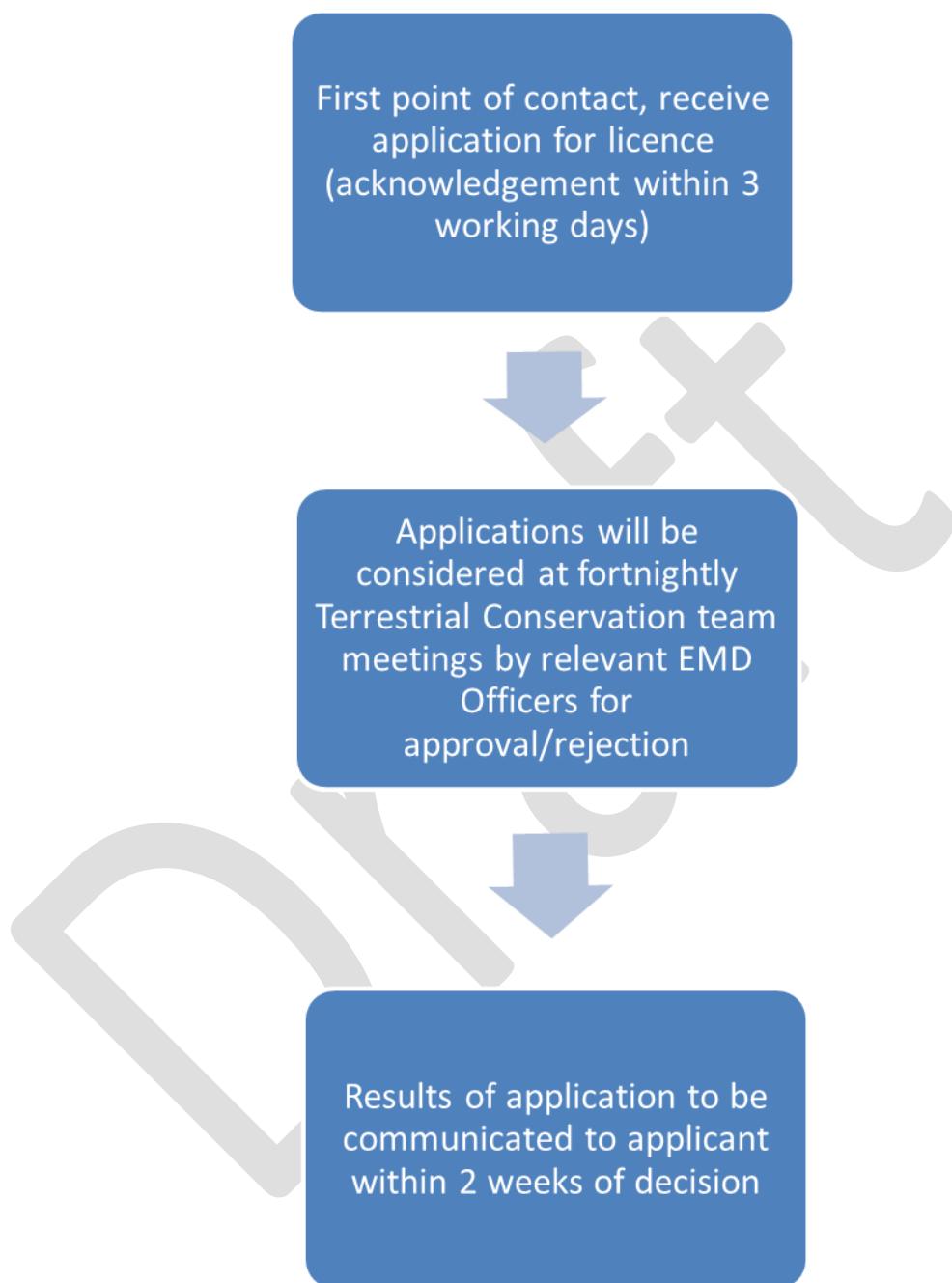
Signature _____

Date _____



Draft

ANNEX 7: COLLECTION, PROPAGATION AND DISTRIBUTION POLICY, LICENCE APPLICATION PROCEDURE



FIRST POINT OF CONTACT

The first point of contact for applications for licences under this policy within EMD is Shayla Ellick shayla-ellick@enrd.gov.sh, telephone number 22270 ext 207.

START-UP STOCK PRICES

Where available, start-up stock for certain species can be purchased from the Endemic Nursery at a rate of:

£1.06 per plant*

(Price per gram of seed currently being investigated).

*Prices based on resources used in collecting and storing seed, and propagation of plants.

DRAFTED BY

Originally drafted by Lourens Malan (Habitats Officer ANRD), Vanessa Thomas (Nurseries Officer ANRD), Dr Nikki Chapman (Manager Nature Conservation EMD) Tara Pelembe (Director EMD)

Based on outcomes of a workshop held at ANRD on 12th October 2012 attended by Nikki Chapman (Lead / facilitator), Lourens Malan and Vanessa Thomas (Technical preparation), Adam Wolfe (SHNT), Ross Towers (SHNT) Phillip Lambdon (SHNT), Derek Henry (Private nursery operator), Mikko Paajanen (Private nursery operator) , Darrell Leo (ANRD), Andrew Darlow (SNCG). Rebecca Cairns-wicks (Independent) Gareth Johnson (EMD)

Updated at workshop (17.04.13): Vanessa Thomas (EMD); Derek Henry (Private nursery operator); Shayla Ellick (EMD), Mikko Paajanen (SHNT); Ross Towers (SHNT); Lourens Malan (EMD); Darrell Leo (EMD); David Higgins (EMD); Melvyn Robinson (EMD); Tara Pelembe (EMD)