



**St Helena
Government**

Landscape & Ecological Mitigation Programme (LEMP)

Annual Report

October 2013 – March 2014

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. Recommencing after the 2008 Airport Project “pause”, the four year Landscape & Ecology Mitigation Programme (LEMP) officially started on the 1 October 2013.
- 1.2. Shortly after, AECOM, UK based landscape consultants, were contracted to provide short-term specialist technical services to support the initial start-up of the LEMP, leading to AECOM’s continued involvement in the 4 year programme of delivery. An initial 3 month contract was completed delivering an updated LEMP Work Plan in parallel with a review of the Contractor’s construction programme and the current detailed design drawings.
- 1.3. The UK Department for International Development’s (DFID) Environmental Adviser completed an on-Island visit during September to October 2013, and provided further support to the project back in the UK including a visit to Royal Botanic Gardens (RBG) Kew’s Wakehurst Millennium Seed Bank facility in southern England, and DFID’s headquarters in London.
- 1.4. The LEMP Project Manager carried out initial part-time responsibilities including the site visit to RBG Kew’s Millennium Seed Bank and meetings in London between DFID and AECOM, prior to commencing full time employment on Island from the 1 January 2014.
- 1.5. A Service Level Agreement (SLA) was entered into with the St Helena Government’s (SHG) Environmental Management Division (EMD) in January 2014 for the provision of seeds, establishment and consolidation of permanent seed orchards, and small scale propagation of plants for habitat restoration purposes.

2. Partnerships

2.1. EMD

The SLA put in place the funds to recruit two full time dedicated staff from the 1 April 2014 and the procurement of specialist seed processing and storage equipment such as a microscope and fridge from overseas. Works progressed to ensure these resources would be in place for the year ahead.

The absence of detailed designs for the LEMP made understanding the germplasm (seed and cuttings) requirement difficult, however once these are better understood, the resources will be in place to meet this core challenging part of the LEMP.

2.2. St Helena National Trust (SHNT)

Originally highlighted as a significant delivery partner of the LEMP, SHNT has been engaged in contract negotiations to deliver such. SHNT is currently undergoing a change in Director with recruitment taking place from overseas. Once in post, it is envisaged that SHNT will deliver significant aspects of LEMP requirements within the Environmental Statement (ES).

2.3. AECOM

With its recognised valuable institutional knowledge, AECOM has been engaged in contract negotiations to be a partner in the delivery of the LEMP. It is envisaged that these negotiations will result in an on-Island visit by AECOM staff to push forward detailed landscape designs with on-Island partners early in the year ahead.

2.4. Basil Read

The airport contractor has significant responsibility for delivering LEMP works as described in the contractual documents, specifically the Environmental Statement (ES) and the Environmental Management Plan (EMP). Lines of communication have been

established to ensure works progress and opportunities are not missed. As the detailed landscape designs are developed, envisaged to be early in the year ahead, this will allow both parties clarity of the extent of works and areas of responsibility.

2.5. Community Compost Scheme

A community compost scheme has been highlighted as a potential source of growing medium for the Island tree nurseries, as well as a general beneficial change in waste management. Research and suppliers of desired equipment had already been developed by Saint Helena Government (SHG) departments, however funding was unavailable to progress the concept. The LEMP is facilitating this mini project and it is envisaged that community composting units will arrive on Island early in the year ahead.

3. Delivery

3.1. Management

The foundations have been put in place by the LEMP Project Manager for the resources to deliver the LEMP as set out in the Environmental Statement (ES) and the Project Manager will contract manage the partners in this delivery. An office has been established within the Air Access Office, Jamestown, which provides day to day contact with the rest of the Airport Project staff within SHG.

3.2. Surveys

A survey of the Northern Runway Area of Prosperous Bay Plain was contracted to the Saint Helena National Trust (SHNT) in February 2014. It is envisaged that its findings will be published early in the year ahead.

3.3. A working group has been established on Island to look into rabbit control possibilities. It is recognised that the widespread presence of this non-native invasive grazer presents a significant risk to any flora-based habitat restoration works. A public consultation is being undertaken to gain better understanding of the situation.

4. Future Works

4.1. Upon completion of contract negotiations it will be vital that partner organisations, such as AECOM and SHNT, mobilise at the earliest opportunity. The year ahead will require the: establishment of detailed landscape designs; targeted seed collections to boost island supplies; consolidation and development of Island propagation facilities; the establishment of a staff base to carry out large scale propagation; and the development of specifications for reinstatement works.

5. Conclusion

5.1. The first mobilisation months of the LEMP have sought to build the necessary partnerships required to deliver the outputs. EMD is confirmed as the partner responsible for delivering the necessary germplasm (seed and cuttings), AECOM is engaged to deliver the detailed landscape designs, and SHNT is expected to deliver propagation and habitat restoration activities. Communication protocols through the Project Management Unit (PMU) with Basil Read, the Airport Contractor, have been established and mechanisms put in place to maximise the opportunities for environmental mitigation moving forward. These will all be consolidated upon in the year ahead.

6. Acronyms

AAO	Air Access Office
ADA	Airport Development Area
AECOM	UK based environmental consultants
BR	Basil Read
DBO	Design Build Operate (Contract)
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)
EMD	Environmental Management Division (St Helena Government (SHG))
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
ENRD	Environmental & Natural Resources Directorate (SHG)
HTH	Half Tree Hollow
LEMP	Landscape & Ecology Mitigation Programme
LEMP PM	Landscape & Ecology Mitigation Programme Project Manager
LDDs	Landscape Detailed Designs
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
OLS	Obstacle Limitation Surface
PMU	Project Management Unit
ROL	Remote Obstacle Light
SEF	Stakeholder Engagement Forum
SHG	St Helena Government
SHNT	St Helena National Trust
SLA	Service Level Agreement