



Participant Information Sheet

Title of Project: Enhancing monitoring and prevention of invasive non-native species across UKOTs

Introduction

We would like to invite you to take part in a research study. This study is part of a DarwinPlus (a UK government grants scheme) project and is run by the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH). Joining the study is voluntary and your decision. To help you decide you need to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve from you. One of our team will go through this information sheet with you and answer any questions you may have. Please ask questions if anything you read is not clear or you would like more information.

What is the purpose of the study?

The UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH) are conducting research on invasive non-native species across UK overseas territories. We are using the information we collect from the questionnaire and during the workshops to help identify potential sources of data on invasive non-native species, as well as the data needs and monitoring priorities for each UKOT. After the workshops, reports will be circulated to the participating stakeholders for review and will then be published on the Non-Native Species Secretariat website <https://www.nonnativespecies.org/>

Why have I been asked/offered the opportunity to take part?

We hope this survey will be completed by a broad range of stakeholders – those involved in biodiversity monitoring or working in a conservation or environmental management body, as well as interested parties from other organisations. We wish to have input from people with different perspectives and a broad range of experiences. You have been invited because we believe you have relevant experience of knowledge for your country.

Do I have to take part?

No. Participating in this research project is voluntary, and entirely your decision/choice. If you do not want to take part, that is ok.

We, the research team, will discuss the study with you and give you a copy of this information sheet. If you agree to take part, we will then ask you to sign a consent form.

What will happen to me if I take part; what will I have to do?

Participants will be asked to complete an on-line questionnaire that contains a series of questions about the monitoring priorities of invasive non-native species. Participants of the workshops will take part in discussions and hear presentations on the same topic. Participants may choose to take part in one or both activities as they prefer.

What are the possible risks and disadvantages?

We believe the risks of participation are low but please do contact us if you have any concerns.

What are the possible benefits?

We cannot promise the study will help you but the information we get from the study will help our knowledge and understanding of the invasive non-native species across UKOTs.

A copy of this informed consent document to be offered to the participant

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Version & Date: v1 13.04.2023

UKCEH Principal Investigator:

Helen Roy

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What if something goes wrong?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should ask to speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions. The main point of contact is: Prof. Helen Roy (hele@ceh.ac.uk, +44 (1491) 692252)

If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can do this by contacting the UK Research Ethics Committee ukcehresearchethics@ceh.ac.uk

Can I change my mind about taking part?

Yes. You can withdraw from the research project at any time. You just need to tell the research team, or contact Prof. Helen Roy (hele@ceh.ac.uk, +44 (1491) 692252)

What will happen to information collected about me?

We will use information you provide by answering the on-line questionnaire or during discussion at the workshops to help us understand the monitoring priorities of invasive non-native species. We will use this information to write a report and scientific publication. Your name will not be linked with any of the answers, so that you remain anonymous. The questionnaire asks for information on the sector of your main activity. To ensure you are not identifiable by this question, we will not share this information in a public forum.

What are your choices about how your information is used?

If you provide us with your email address, you can ask us to delete it at any point during the project, by emailing hele@ceh.ac.uk.

Where can you find out more about how your information is used?

You can find out more about how we use your information

- At: <https://www.ceh.ac.uk/contributors-ceh-science-public-interest> OR <https://www.ceh.ac.uk/contributors-ceh-science-funded-through-competitively-won-income>
- by asking one of the research team
- by sending an email to Prof. Helen Roy

What will happen to the results of this study?

Reports will be circulated to the participating stakeholders for review and will then be published on the Non-Native Species Secretariat website <https://www.nonnativespecies.org/>. The research results may also be published in a scientific journal. Your personal information will not be included in the reports and there is no way that you can be identified from these.

Who is organising and funding this study?

DarwinPlus is the funder of this research project; Prof. Helen Roy (UKCEH) is the overall project lead for the research sponsor and they have full responsibility for the project including the collection, storage and analysis of your data, and will act as the Data Controller for the study. This means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly.

Who has reviewed this study?

All research involving human participants is looked at by an independent group of people, called a Research Ethics Committee, to protect your interests. This study has been reviewed and given favourable opinion by the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology Human Research Ethics Committee (UKCEH-HREC).

Further information and contact details

Thank you for taking time to read this information sheet. If you think you will take part in the research please read and sign the consent form. For the questionnaire, your consent is taken in the first question.

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If you would like any further information, please contact Prof. Helen Roy who can answer any questions you may have about the study.

Contact details:

Name: Helen Roy

Work address: UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Maclean Building, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford OX10 8BB, UK

Email: hele@ceh.ac.uk

Telephone: +44 (1491) 692252

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