



ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE:	Plant Project Officer
TEAM:	Conservation
REPORTS TO:	Terrestrial Conservation Officer / Plant Team Leader
JOB PURPOSE:	To trial methods of reducing climate change impacts on Ascension's seven species of endemic plants, evaluating the methods and assisting with the production of a long-term climate adaptation plan that incorporates the most successful methods.

MAIN DUTIES:

- Deploy soil moisture probes at sites where *Euphorbia origanoides* is still present in the wild and at candidate restoration sites.
- Construct shade structures and passive irrigation system for *E. origanoides* and record the impact of these measures on plant health and survival.
- Assist research scientists with the measurement of cavitation rates in *E. origanoides*.
- Construct fog catchers and passive irrigation systems at two plant restoration sites in Green Mountain National Park and record the impact of these on plant health and survival.
- Assist the AIG Plant Conservation team with the cultivation of endemic plants in the nursery and the collection of seeds and spores from wild plants.
- Contribute to the Endemic Plant Restoration Plan.
- Assist with public outreach and education events.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Health and Safety:** Conduct all work in a safe and responsible manner, including fieldwork in hazardous and remote locations – ensure that a first aid kit and radio are carried at all times in the field. Only use machinery/ equipment for which a valid, in date, licence is held.
- **Continuous Development:** Continuous development of knowledge through study and involvement in scientific programmes.
- **Interaction with the Public:** To interact with all members of the public, both the island community and visitors, in a courteous manner and to promote conservation efforts on Ascension where appropriate.

PERSON SPECIFICATION: Knowledge, skills, experience and personal attributes

Essential

- BSc in Biology, Botany, Environmental Science or equivalent vocational experience
- A sound knowledge of plant conservation and biology.
- Project management experience, including set-up, maintenance and reporting.
- A full driving license.
- A good level of physical fitness.
- Numerate and computer literate, with a sound knowledge of Microsoft Office applications (Access, Excel, Word) and ideally GIS.
- Good interpersonal skills with a proven ability to work effectively in a small team.
- Experience of living and working on conservation issues in small and remote communities and/or on small islands and having an appreciation of how they run.
- The successful candidate will be self-motivated, happy working both independently and in a team setting, and willing to sometimes work extended hours (often at weekends) and on projects outside of core duties if required.

Desirable

- Experience of plant propagation and cultivation techniques.
- Qualifications in the use of brush cutters and pesticide application.

This Job Description indicates the main duties and responsibilities of the post. It is not intended as an exhaustive list.

The Ascension Island Government (AIG) reserves the right to amend this Job Description from time to time according to operational needs. Any changes will be discussed with you and confirmed in writing. Please note that you share with AIG the responsibility for making suggestions to alter the scope of your duties and improve the effectiveness of your post.

Updated: November 2020