



## ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT

### JOB DESCRIPTION

**JOB TITLE:** Mexican Thorn Control Project Officer

**TEAM:** Conservation & Fisheries

**REPORTS TO:** Director of Conservation and Fisheries

**JOB PURPOSE:**

- Trial methods for improved control of Mexican thorn on Ascension
  - Produce an integrated control strategy for Mexican thorn on Ascension in collaboration with external experts and local stakeholders
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**MAIN DUTIES:**

- Coordinate mapping of the current distribution of Mexican thorn with Conservation Team colleagues and volunteers
- Provide assistance to the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) in sourcing specimens of plant species similar to Ascension endemics for host range testing a biocontrol agent
- Provide assistance to the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) in developing a risk assessment for the use of a biocontrol agent on Ascension
- Assist with the culturing, release and monitoring of a biocontrol agent if this is recommended
- Organise the visit to Ascension of a Mexican thorn specialist to evaluate chemical and mechanical control methods
- Design and conduct trials of recommended chemical and mechanical methods for controlling Mexican thorn
- Organise training courses for staff and volunteers on Ascension in chemical and mechanical control methods
- Produce an integrated Mexican thorn control plan with input from Conservation Team colleagues and external experts
- Design and deliver public outreach and education events
- Produce project reports and updates for project partners and funders

**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
- Experience of non-native plant removal
- 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
- Self-motivated with the ability to work both independently and in a team setting

### **Desirable**

- Qualification in the safe application of pesticides
- Qualifications in the use of brush cutters
- 4x4 off road driving experience
- First aid qualification

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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: July 2021**