# PhD placement/PIPS: Compiling and analysing plant diversity data in the UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs)

## Placement supervisor:

Sara Barrios (s.barrios@kew.org) and Anna Haigh (a.haigh@kew.org)
[name and email address]

## Placement department:

Science. Research (P1) and Collections (P0)

## Placement overview and objectives:

The sixteen UKOTs are mostly islands or groups of islands distributed across the world's oceans. Occupying many different climatic zones from tropical through temperate to Antarctic, they support considerable plant diversity. The UKOTs' natural habitats are under intense pressure, largely because of unsustainable land-use and/ or land use change and uncontrolled development causing fragmentation, modification or degradation. Increasing threats come from climate shifts, leading to rising sea levels and severe weather events, and from invasive plants, animals and microbes. To help address these conservation issues, Kew has assembled a UKOTs dataset which comprises botanical collections and species information for all UKOTs. However, no complete systematic analysis of the status of the UKOTs flora has been made (Clubbe et al. 2020). Together with the Science Collections Department, this project aims to add new specimens and species to the database by dealing with the collections backlog, apply checks to taxonomic and specimen level data and help review the dataset.

## Tasks to be undertaken/possible projects:

- Review specimen level data (ID, correct nomenclature, etc).
- Update Brahms Database with correct identification and specimen level details (Barcode, collector, etc)
- Prepare specimens for mounting.

## Required skills and experience:

- Degree in biosciences, bioinformatics or related subjects.
- interest in biodiversity and plant conservation.
- A working knowledge of word processing and spreadsheets
- Experience of collecting and analysing data.

## Skills and areas of knowledge that can be developed:

- Botanical research skills: plant nomenclature and naming.
- Curation and Botanical Databases: how to work and populate BRAHMS (database software for managing natural history collections) and organise herbarium collections

## Location of work:

Kew, with a possibility of hybrid days.

**Length of placement:**
3 months

**Provisional start date:** N/A

**Deadline for applications:** N/A