

DPLR1\1092

Conservation Fieldwork Mobility Support for North and Middle Caicos

Reliable and functional vehicular transportation is vital to conservation fieldwork and applied environmental management, including that with the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources supplies both as part of its recurrent work toward its remit, and its efforts towards the management of projects. DECR's field vehicle for North and Middle Caicos, the two largest and most biodiverse islands in TCI, stopped functioning in January 2023 but had already been condemned due to its deteriorating condition. DECR is requesting funding to supply a suitable field vehicle for its conservation projects on North and Middle Caicos (NCOMC), including two Darwin Plus projects based on these islands (DPLUS114 and DPLUS129). It has become increasingly difficult to source vehicles through the Government procurement system and DECR has been waiting several years for the replacement of its field vehicle. The vehicle was 19 years old vehicle and in use by DECR for 13 years having been sourced in an OTEP grant in 2008; but was proposed for decommission by the Road Safety Department due to its age and condition in December 2022. In January 2023 the vehicle became permanently inoperable. DECR desperately requires a field vehicle to continue project and conservation work on these islands, including work towards the Darwin Plus projects 114 and 129, which require frequent fieldwork over wide areas. Further, whilst large-scale development has been largely restricted to Providenciales over the last 30 years, the last five years have seen new interest in developments on North and Middle Caicos. Some of these developments have included incursions into Protected Areas, which are under DECR's remit. DECR is seeing increasing occurrences of indiscriminate land clearance for development, causing significant impact to the biodiversity of North and Middle Caicos. A vehicle is required to carry out enforcement on these areas. Further, in support of other partners including the Turks and Caicos National Trust and Department of Fisheries and Marine Resource Management, both of which also locally and jointly manage Darwin Plus projects (153, 164, 181), DECR has always made its vehicle available for work towards those collaborative projects.

The former vehicle, a light pickup truck, was nearly ideal; but as the team has increased on NCOMC, there is a need for more room in the vehicle cab for safety. There has also been a need for a more reliable vehicle to carry out work vital to the projects.

The grant request is simple but will permit DECR to continue its vital work and project management. The success of this application will be demonstrated by the on-schedule delivery of other project outputs and the data records from recurrent and seasonal monitoring efforts.

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title Mr
Name Bryan
Surname Manco

Website (Work) [REDACTED]

Tel (Work) [REDACTED]

Email (Work) [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

DPLR1\1092

Conservation Fieldwork Mobility Support for North and Middle Caicos

Section 1 - Project Title & Contact Details

Q1. Project Title

Conservation Fieldwork Mobility Support for North and Middle Caicos

Q2. Please select whether you are applying as an organisation or as an individual (Guidance section 3 and Guidance Glossary)

Organisation

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title	Mr
Name	Bryan
Surname	Manco
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Tel (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	Department of Environment and Coastal Resources
Phone (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Website	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

Section 2 - Overseas Territory(ies)

Q3. Overseas Territory (Guidance section 1.3):

Which UK Overseas Territory(ies) will your project be working in? Please note that in case of a non-permanent resident population you need to demonstrate a clear, meaningful, long-term link to the territory.

Turks & Caicos Islands (TCI)

* if you have indicated a territory group with an asterisk, please give detail on which territories you are working on here:

No Response

In addition to the UKOT(s) you have indicated, will your project directly benefit any other UK OT(s) or country(ies)?

No

Section 3 - Project Partners

Q4. Project partners (Guidance section 3.2)

In this section, please give details of all the partners involved (including the Lead Partner) and provide a summary of their roles.

**Project Leader name
(Guidance section 3.1):**

Bryan Manco

**Lead Partner name (if
applying as an
organisation; Guidance
section 3.1):**

Department of Environment and Coastal Resources

**Lead Partner Website (if
applicable):**

<https://www.gov.tc/decr/>

**Is the Lead Partner based
in a UKOT where the
project is working
(Guidance section 3.1)?**

Yes

**List other partners
involved and where are
they based (Guidance
section 3.2):**

No other partners





Summary of roles and responsibilities of each partner in the project:

The Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) is mandated to ensure the sustainable use of the natural resources of the Turks and Caicos Islands and to protect and promote biodiversity and economic prosperity through sustainable livelihoods, environmentally sustainable development, a Protected Areas system and improved Climate Change resilience. The DECR has the responsibility of sustainably managing 34 Protected Areas in the Turks and Caicos Islands. The Department is further mandated to preserve and improve the quality of the environment, wildlife, and Climate Change affairs of the territory. Towards achieving this goal, all activities and policies are developed without compromising the integrity and the well-being of humankind and environment.

I confirm that all listed partners are aware of this application and have indicated support:

Checked

Attach a Cover Letter for your application (Guidance section 4.2).

-  [DPLR1-1092 DECR MobilityNCOMC CoverLetter14022023](#)
-  15/02/2023
-  00:03:39
-  pdf 291.93 KB

Section 4 - Project Summary & Description

Q5. Project Summary (Guidance section 3.8)

Please provide a brief summary of your project. This may be used in communication activities and/or published online, if your application is successful.

The Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) carries out several conservation projects on North and Middle Caicos, TCI's largest islands. DECR is managing two Darwin Plus projects based on these islands: DPLUS114 and DPLUS129; wildlife and sargassum monitoring, and protected areas management these islands. DECR was dependent on a 19-year-old vehicle for 13 years; as of January 2023 the vehicle is permanently inoperable. DECR desperately requires a field vehicle to continue project and conservation work on these islands.

Q6. Description (Guidance section 2.1)

Please provide a description of your project, including:

- the overall objective
- the current situation and the problem the project is trying to address
- what success will look like and how you will measure it





Please be as specific as possible when describing the project, using quantified data and evidence where available. You may wish to consider: what are the specific threats to the environment that the project will attempt to address, and what should we know about these threats? What does your successful project look like? And how will you demonstrate whether and how your project has been successful?

Reliable and functional vehicular transportation is vital to conservation fieldwork and applied environmental management, including that with the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources supplies both as part of its recurrent work toward its remit, and its efforts towards the management of projects. DECR's field vehicle for North and Middle Caicos, the two largest and most biodiverse islands in TCI, stopped functioning in January 2023 but had already been condemned due to its deteriorating condition. DECR is requesting funding to supply a suitable field vehicle for its conservation projects on North and Middle Caicos (NCOMC), including two Darwin Plus projects based on these islands (DPLUS114 and DPLUS129). It has become increasingly difficult to source vehicles through the Government procurement system and DECR has been waiting several years for the replacement of its field vehicle. The vehicle was 19 years old vehicle and in use by DECR for 13 years having been sourced in an OTEP grant in 2008; but was proposed for decommission by the Road Safety Department due to its age and condition in December 2022. In January 2023 the vehicle became permanently inoperable. DECR desperately requires a field vehicle to continue project and conservation work on these islands, including work towards the Darwin Plus projects 114 and 129, which require frequent fieldwork over wide areas. Further, whilst large-scale development has been largely restricted to Providenciales over the last 30 years, the last five years have seen new interest in developments on North and Middle Caicos. Some of these developments have included incursions into Protected Areas, which are under DECR's remit. DECR is seeing increasing occurrences of indiscriminate land clearance for development, causing significant impact to the biodiversity of North and Middle Caicos. A vehicle is required to carry out enforcement on these areas. Further, in support of other partners including the Turks and Caicos National Trust and Department of Fisheries and Marine Resource Management, both of which also locally and jointly manage Darwin Pus projects (153, 164, 181), DECR has always made its vehicle available for work towards those collaborative projects.

The former vehicle, a light pickup truck, was nearly ideal; but as the team has increased on NCOMC, there is a need for more room in the vehicle cab for safety. There has also been a need for a more reliable vehicle to carry out work vital to the projects.

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(Optional) Please upload any additional and supporting materials or files (such as maps of project sites, etc) below. Maximum of 5 pages:

-  [DPLR1-1092 DECR MobilityNCOMC SupportLetter14022023](#)
-  15/02/2023
-  00:05:15
-  pdf 284.96 KB

Section 5 - Project Outcome(s)

Q7. Project Outcome(s) (Guidance section 1.2)

Successful Darwin Plus Local projects must demonstrate measurable outcomes in at least one of the themes of Darwin Plus, either by the end of the project or soon after through a credible plan.

Please tick which theme(s) of Darwin Plus your project underpins:

Checked **Biodiversity: improving and conserving biodiversity, and slowing or reversing biodiversity loss and degradation;**

Checked **Climate change: responding to, mitigating and adapting to climate change and its effects on the natural environment and local communities;**

Checked **Environmental quality: improving the condition and protection of the natural environment**

Checked **Capability and capacity building: enhancing the capacity within OTs, including through community engagement and awareness, to support the environment in the short- and long-term.**

Please justify your selection.

Biodiversity; and Environmental Quality: The vehicle will allow for timely achievement of activities in the Darwin Plus 114 and 129 projects, as well as regular policing of Protected Areas and reporting of infringements to other enforcement bodies.

Climate Change: DECR is the lead Government Department for climate change resilience, and through the upcoming Blue Belt work, we will need to access the communities of North and Middle Caicos for work related to Climate Change Resilience.

Capability and Capacity Building: DECR engages in outreach programmes in schools and communities, and our Outreach team and partners visit North and Middle Caicos.

Section 6 - Project Timeline

Q8. Project timeline (Guidance section 2.2)

Please provide anticipated dates for the start and end of your planned project here. Please use the Darwin Plus Local Project Implementation Timetable Template (which can be downloaded below) to provide a list of the individual activities you have planned for this project, a brief description of what each activity entails, and the months in which the activities will be carried out. If the project involves only one activity (e.g. a purchase), please still provide project start and end dates (noting estimated times for procurement). Please note that your project will need to be completed by 31 March 2024.

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 3 months):
01 April 2023	31 July 2023	4 months

Please upload the completed Darwin Plus Local Project Implementation Timetable template with

your proposed project activities below.

- [R1-DPlus-Local-Implementation-Timetable-DE](#)
CR Mobility NCMC FINAL
- 14/02/2023
- 23:40:20
- docx 36.97 KB

Section 7 - Costs

Q9. Costs (Guidance section 2.2 and please read the Finance Guidance)

Please provide a breakdown of costs to be funded through Darwin Plus Local (in GBP).

Are you seeking any matched funding for this project? (Please note that this is optional and there is no requirement to seek matched funding for Darwin Plus Local projects).

No

Budget line	Explanation	Cost in GBP
Staff costs:	N/A	████
Overhead costs:	Shipping/ transport and fees	████████
Travel & subsistence costs:	TCI Ferry transport between North and Middle Caicos for purchasing and arrangements with relevant departments	██████
Operating costs:	N/A	████
Capital equipment:	Purchase of suitable new vehicle: Light pickup truck with extended cab (5 seat capacity), basic options only	██████████
Consultancy costs:	N/A	████
Total:		████████

This section provides more information on the budget to help evaluators understand how you will use the funds you are requesting. You do not need to list all costs, but please list and detail costs of more than £1,000 per item below, under the appropriate budget line.

Details of staff costs over £1,000 (if relevant)

N/A

Details of overhead costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

In the case of a locally-purchased vehicle, this cost would be incorporated into the market price. However if importing, these costs cover shipping fees from Miami, United States of America (likely source) and locally between Providenciales and North Caicos, along with Customs processing fee mandatory on all conveyances including duty-exempt items for Government use.

Details of travel and subsistence costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

N/A

Details of operating costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

N/A

Details of capital equipment costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

Purchase of suitable new vehicle: Light pickup truck with extended cab (5 seat capacity), basic options only to keep costs lower. Vehicle must be new as per TCIG policy, TCIG will no longer purchase used vehicles and vehicles over ten years old are barred from import.

Details of consultancy costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

N/A

Details of other costs over £1,000 (if relevant)

N/A

If your project budget was prepared in another currency and converted to GBP, please provide the exchange rate, its source, and the date it was accessed:

Other currency:	Exchange rate:	Source of this exchange rate:	Date exchange rate accessed:
USD	0.82	Google	14 February 2023

Darwin Plus Local has been created to build capacity and contribute to local economies in-territory.

What % of the total will be spent in the OTs?

If less than 80% of the total project spend is to be spent within the OT(s), please explain why.

DECR will do its best to source a vehicle locally and spend all of the funds within the Territory. However, due to TCI Government policy, and the vehicle type required for fieldwork, it is possible that local vendors will be unable to supply the vehicle.

Section 8 - Local and National Priorities

Q10. Local and national priorities

Please explain how this project aligns with local and national priorities? You may wish to consider

the project in the context of national environmental laws, objectives, strategies, territory specific agreements, action plans or policies.

The securing of a vehicle strongly supports all DECR initiatives, projects, and programmes across the two largest inhabited islands in TCI. DECR is increasingly monitoring North and Middle Caicos as regulatory bodies such as Planning Department do not yet have a presence and so vegetation clearance often goes unchecked as development pressures increase.

Will the project take place on Government owned land or water?

No

Section 9 - Project Risks

Q11. Project Risks

Please demonstrate your consideration of any risks involved in this project and how you intend to manage them. Depending on your project, you may wish to consider:

- Biosecurity risks – particularly for projects involving external equipment.
- Safeguarding risks – particularly for projects involving vulnerable groups such as children, older people or people with disabilities.

Risk	Mitigation
Biosecurity risk for imported vehicle (low)	Imported conveyances are inspected at port of entry and vehicles are required to be shipped clean. When conveying vehicle from Providenciales to North Caicos, it will be washed prior and will not be used for fieldwork of on unpaved surfaces until it arrives on North Caicos. On North Caicos it will be inspected again and cleared of any suspected biosecurity threats.
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

Do you require more fields?

No

Section 10 - Terms & Conditions

Q12. Terms and conditions (Guidance section 3.10)

By applying for Darwin Plus Local you are adhering in full to the grant Terms and Conditions in full (available at: <https://dplus.darwininitiative.org.uk/apply> and as referenced in the Guidance at section 3.10). For information, the Terms and Conditions include requirements for all applicants to (amongst

other requirements as per the full Terms and Conditions):

- Uphold a zero tolerance for inaction approach to tackling sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment.
- Where appropriate, make all reasonable and adequate efforts to address gender inequality and other power imbalances.
- Notify all cases of fraud and theft (whether proven or suspected) relating to the project to the Grant Administrator as soon as they identified.

Please indicate you have read, and understood, and will adhere to the Terms and Conditions.

Checked

If your application is successful: If your project application is successful, the Fund Administrator (NIRAS) will ask you to provide some financial evidence for due diligence checks before you receive your project grant. (Please see section 3.3 of the Darwin Plus Local Finance Guidance). Please be ready to provide this evidence promptly.

Financial evidence for organisations: Year-end financial statements, the latest management accounts or audited accounts (if you have these).

Financial evidence for individuals: Proof of identity such as a passport, ID card or driving licence and solvency (such as bank statements) and a police check.

Section 11 - Certification

Certification

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the statements made in this application are true and the information provided is correct.

Checked

I have the authority to submit an application on behalf of my organisation.

Checked

Name: Bryan Manco

**Position in the organisation:
(if applicable)** Assistant Director of Research and Development

Signature (please upload e-signature)  [BNMsignatureDECR](#)
 14/02/2023
 23:51:29
 jpg 41.26 KB

Date: 14 February 2023

Section 12 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance documents, including the “Darwin Plus Local Guidance” and the “Darwin Plus Local Finance Guidance”.	Checked
If my proposed project takes place on public lands or water, I have uploaded a Letter of Support from Government.	Checked
I have uploaded a cover letter that details the information requested in the guidance (Guidance section 4.2 has information on what this cover letter should include).	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.	Checked
I have provided my summary budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP in the application form.	Checked
I have uploaded my project implementation timetable using the specific template provided.	Checked
(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	Checked
The application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have checked the Darwin Plus website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Plus website.	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant (Flexi-Grant Account Holder) and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current application rounds under Darwin Plus. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share project news. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in the application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the **Privacy Notice**, available from the [Forms and Guidance Portal](#).

This **Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals** whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising Darwin Plus including project details (usually title,

lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).

Project Title: Conservation Fieldwork Mobility Support for North and Middle Caicos

Darwin Plus Local

Provide a **Project Implementation Timetable** that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the following table as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project. Projects are based on UK Financial Years (**1 April – 31 March** - therefore starts April 2023).

Please add/remove columns to reflect the length of your project. For each activity (add/remove rows as appropriate) indicate the number of months it will last, and shade only the months in which an activity will be carried out. The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

Activity #	Description (max 25 words)	No. of months	UK Financial Year 2023/24												
			Calendar Year 2023									Calendar Year 2024			
			Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	
1	Seek at least three options for new suitable vehicles locally within Turks and Caicos Islands and abroad.	1	X												
2	Select best value for money option within budget	0.5		X											
3	Purchase and transfer funds to seller	0.5		X											
4	Identify best value shipper	0.25			X										
5	Import/ ship vehicle if buying from overseas.	0.25			X										
6	Clear from Customs	0.5			X										
7	Identify Interisland shipper (simultaneous with item 6)	0.5			X										
8	Transport vehicle to North Caicos	0.5				X									
	Licence and insure vehicle as TCIG requires	0.5				X									