

# DPLR1\1072

Darwin Plus Local - Final Report (1)

Officer: Jessica Magnus

## Section 1 - Darwin Plus Local Project Information (Essential)

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### Project Reference Number

DPL00025

### Q1. Project Title

*No Response*

### Overseas Territory(ies)

Falkland Islands (FI)

### Lead Organisation or Individual

Dr. Andrew Stanworth, Falklands Conservation

### Partner Organisation(s)

Katrina Durham, Falkland Islands Government, Department of Agriculture

### Value of Darwin Plus Local Grant Award

£23,729.00

### Project Start Date

01 May 2023

### Project End Date

29 March 2024

### Project Leader Name

Dr Andrew Stanworth

### Project Website/Twitter/Blog etc.

<http://www.falklandsconservation.com/> <https://www.facebook.com/FalklandsConservation/>

### Report Author(s)

## Report Date

30 April 2024

## Project Summary

*No Response*

## Project Outcomes

Unchecked	<b>Biodiversity: improving and conserving biodiversity, and slowing or reversing biodiversity loss and degradation;</b>
Unchecked	<b>Climate Change: responding to, mitigating and adapting to climate change and its effects on the natural environment and local communities;</b>
Unchecked	<b>Environmental quality: improving the condition and protection of the natural environment;</b>
Checked	<b>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.</b>

## Section 2 - Project Outcomes (Essential)

On a scale of 1 (high – outcome substantially exceeded ) to 5 (low – outcome substantially did not meet expectation ), how successful do you think your project has been?

3 - Outcome met expectation

### Project outcomes and justification for rating above

Outcomes met expectations = 3 ( or perhaps even moderately exceeded expectations =2)

The only directly measurable outcome was in capacity building, however the knowledge and capacity delivered through the workshops and materials will moving forward provide improvement across all themes (biodiversity, climate change, and environmental quality) as the knowledge is applied, the Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) adopted, and land management and monitoring applied in an action & response feedback loop. Since native habitats will only change slowly in response to land management and stocking density these further gains in habitat quality and climate change resilience are not measurable within the timespan of a one-year project but will yield results in the long-term.

Training Output 1: 6 Target "Training Workshops attended by 36 farmers".

The project scoping workshop was attended by circa. 60 farmers at "Farmers Week".

5 One-day Training Workshops were held attended by 32 people. This was complimented by personal visits to a further 15 farms and 2 environmental consultancies/contractors. This provides a total workshop outreach of 34 farmers, 5 FI Government officers, 5 NGO employees and 6 community members. The landowners of 13 (out of

17) internationally recognised Important Plant Areas have been accessed by the outreach training. The workshop allowed open interchange between farmers and conservationists, following one workshop the manager of the largest private farm requested that his staff also undertake the course.

Whilst out with the reporting period a further 2 workshops are scheduled to occur with Falkland Islands Landholdings and in July during Farmers Week 2024 (occurring outside the peak farming period when they attend the equivalent of a “trade show”) – it is estimated this should access a further 20 farms at least.

In addition, 2 scoping presentations and a 2-hour monitoring workshop given during “Farmers Week 2023” were attended by approximately 80 unique attendees the majority of whom were farmers or agricultural businesses (only total attendance was logged by the Rural Business Association, giving a cumulative total of c. 200 attendees over the 3 sessions).

Furthermore, all materials and written guidance has been circulated to all farmers and rural businesses on the FIG Department of Agriculture email list, a circulation of 126 recipients.

#### Material Outputs


Habitat Monitoring Field Key: A two-sided laminated weatherproof habitat scoring and monitoring card was provided to all workshop attendees (100 hard copies) and electronically distributed to all farmers by pdf (126 recipients). This output was produced in synergy with “DPLUS110: Driving sound stewardship of Falklands peat wetlands” utilising that projects data condensed down to easily recognisable indicator species. Not only has provided a useful tool to farmers but even experienced conservationists have commented it is a useful tool for quick opportunistic surveys. The laminated card provides practical field instructions and plant identification guide with photographs for identification of all scored plant and bird species.


Falkland-specific Farm Biodiversity Management & Monitoring Plan. Both a full instructional booklet and a FBMP working example were introduced to workshop attendees and distributed to farmers on the DoA circulation list.


## Supporting Evidence - file(s) upload

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 [HabitatMonitoringField Key FC V3](#)


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 pdf 13.62 MB

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 [Project DPL00025 Media Output Summary](#)


 30/04/2024


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 pdf 4.79 MB

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 [Farmers Week 2023 Monitoring FC-Presentation](#)


 30/04/2024


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 [FI-FarmBMP-RWS-Guidance-FC-Final](#)


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 [RWS Monitoring Information\(FIG\)](#)


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 [Pasture&FI-HabitatScoringSheets-FC-Final](#)


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 [FI-FarmBMP-RWS-WorkedExample-FC-Final](#)

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## Supporting Evidence - links to published document/online materials

Habitat Assessment Field Key Survey Card for RWS

<https://falklandsconservation.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Field-Key-V3-Compressed.pdf>

Habitat Assessment Scoring Sheets for RWS

<https://falklandsconservation.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Habitat-Scoring-Sheet.xlsx>

AGM Talk covering sustainable land-use. Not wholly specific to the project but covering land use and mainstreaming issues to achieve landscape scale conservation in the Falkland Islands. Several slides dealt specifically with the Darwin project.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQ2VWI-CvWw>

## Project Challenges

As anticipated stakeholder attendance was problematic due to the seasonal timing of the project. Habitat monitoring requires the scoring of annual & seasonal flowering perennial plants and can only be accurately conducted in summer. However, summer is also the busiest time of year for farmers with shearing and stock movements which are continually being changed due to weather which makes scheduling more than a couple of days in advance difficult.

This was the case and we had to change the date and location of workshops on a number of occasions and reschedule individual attendees between workshops. Nevertheless, there were still last-minute cancellations by attendees and one workshop was indefinitely postponed. Workshops also changed from a planned central location to on-farm location to reduce journeys.

To compensate for reduced workshop attendance numbers, the opportunity was taken to provide individual instruction when either visiting a farm for other reasons or if in the vicinity. It was therefore possible to boost training numbers by this individual approach and target numbers were achieved.

Furthermore, materials are now established (some slight changes were made after beta-testing and feedback at the workshops) to allow ongoing training at minimal cost and additional workshops will be provided during Farmers Week. Whilst Farmers Week is in winter and the habitat scoring will not be accurate (due to the absence of some flowering plants) it will still provide instruction and demonstrate the process when farmers are congregated within Stanley for annual meetings. Attendance at "Farmers Week" often exceeds 80 attendees/session.

## Lessons Learned

The process worked well with scoping of farmers' needs during Farmers Week 2023 and draft materials completed over the remainder of the winter. This allowed materials and practical instruction to be provided over the summer flowering season. The direct contact with farmers when practically working through a scoring exercise in the field allowed officers/instructors to see where there were any ambiguities or misunderstandings. This was the equivalent of accompanied beta-testing and changes to both the materials and delivered training occurred over the course of the workshops. The final materials now provide a proven, simple and understandable scoring system that can be conducted by anyone by following the accompanying instructions. Initially many had been overwhelmed by the need to monitor "biodiversity" as it was not a task that was familiar to them and they had little idea where to start. It was gratifying to see many take the first step and realise it did not need to be a difficult or onerous task. Subsequent feedback has shown some are now doing monitoring in excess of the RWS defined minimum and one farm has extended it to their employees and not just the manager. Whilst higher attendance at the workshops had been hoped for the small group sizes did allow more direct interaction between everybody without any self-consciousness when learning a new task. It may be positively adopted in future projects. More information was exchanged by both sides in the informal interchange and avoided situations where the loudest in a group prevails.

## Section 3 - Project Finance (Essential)

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### Project Expenditure

Project Spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2023/24 Grant (£)	2023/24 Total actual Darwin Plus Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
<b>Staff Costs</b>				
<b>Consultancy Costs</b>				
<b>Overhead Costs</b>				
<b>Travel and Subsistence</b>				
<b>Operating Costs</b>				
<b>Capital Items</b>				
<b>Others</b>				
<b>Total</b>	23,729.00	19,185.00	-(19)	

## Please provide a short narrative summary on project finances.

Due to changes in delivery format the project came in under-budget.

Consultancy costs were initially included to cover the Department of Agriculture RWS Independent Internal Control Systems (ICS) Auditor to be contracted to attend and assist in the workshops. However, upon further consideration the Director of Agriculture decided that it would be a conflict of interest and jeopardise perceived future independence / impartiality of the compliance auditor if they were seen to be delivering training and dictating monitoring formats. The exact form of monitoring is not specified by RWS and neutrality could be lost if the adjudicator only aligned with the recommendations of this project. The ICS Auditor's attendance was therefore cancelled and no consultancy costs incurred.

Travel and Subsistence originally incorporated costs for workshop venue hire and catering. However rather than larger workshops held in the main settlements with associated venue hire of the settlement hall, the smaller workshops smaller were undertaken on-farm with attendees bringing their own sandwiches and thermos. This was to minimise any journey times for farmers and to avoid any unnecessary hosting or catering obligations for farmers at a very busy time of year. Car-share was also operated between DoA and FC saving the costs of 1 vehicle.

A full "Field Guide to the Plants of the Falkland Islands" was provided to each workshop attendee at cost.

## Section 4 - Contribution of Project to Darwin Plus Programme Objectives

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Please select up to **one** indicator that applies within **each group/indicator list (A, B, C, D)** and report your results for that indicator in the text box underneath. If you do not have relevant results to report for any of the indicators in a particular group, you can leave them blank.

Please also submit some form of evidence (above) to demonstrate any results you list below, where possible.

### Group A: Capability and Capacity - Core Darwin Plus Standard Indicators (select one)

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Checked   | <b>DPLUS-A01: Number of people from key national and local stakeholder groups completing structured and relevant training.</b>                 |
| Unchecked | <b>DPLUS-A02: Number of secondments or placements completed by individuals of key local and national stakeholders.</b>                         |
| Unchecked | <b>DPLUS-A03: Number of local/national organisations with improved capability and capacity as a result of project.</b>                         |
| Unchecked | <b>DPLUS-A04: Number of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training.</b> |
| Unchecked | <b>DPLUS-A05: Number of trainers trained reporting to have delivered further training by the end of the project.</b>                           |
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### Group A Indicator Results

Training provided to 50 people including 34 farmers, 5 FI Government officers, 5 NGO employees (from 2 organisations), 3 community members and 3 environmental consultancy staff (undertaking survey and restoration delivery). Furthermore, a recent agricultural graduate gained valuable experience in project management and conservation, building departmental and individual skill capacity.

### Group B: Policies, Practices and Management- Core Darwin Plus Standard Indicators (select one)

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Checked   | <b>DPLUS-B01: Number of new/improved habitat management plans available and endorsed.</b> |
| Unchecked | <b>DPLUS-B02: Number of new/improved species management plans available and endorsed.</b> |
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Unchecked	<b>DPLUS-B03: Number of new/improved community management plans available and endorsed.</b>
Unchecked	<b>DPLUS-B04: Number of new/improved sustainable enterprises/ community benefits management plans available and endorsed.</b>
Unchecked	<b>DPLUS-B05: Number of people with increased participation in local communities / local management organisations (i.e., participation in Governance/citizen engagement).</b>
Unchecked	<b>DPLUS-B06: Number of Local Stakeholders and Local Communities (people) with strengthened (recognised/clarified) tenure and/or rights.</b>

## Group B Indicator Results

Zero. A Farm Biodiversity Management Plan is a requirement of the RWS. No new FBMPs have been endorsed but the project has provided Falkland-specific materials to assist drafting. As new RWS members join and the 5-year plans of current members are renewed there should be an improvement in FBMP standards.

## Group C: Evidence and Best Practices - Core Darwin Plus Standard Indicators (select one)

Checked	<b>DPLUS-C01: Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed.</b>
Unchecked	<b>DPLUS-C02: Number of new conservation or species stock assessments published.</b>
Unchecked	<b>DPLUS-C03: New assessments of habitat conservation action needs published.</b>
Unchecked	<b>DPLUS-C04: New assessments of community use of biodiversity resources published.</b>
Unchecked	<b>DPLUS-C05: Number of projects contributing data, insights, and case studies to national Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) related reporting processes and calls for evidence.</b>

## Group C Indicator Results

4 Guidance documents and monitoring protocols published and distributed to farming and conservation community (126 recipients on Department of Agriculture circulation list) Farm Biodiversity Management Plan Guidance Farm Biodiversity Management Plan Working Example Habitat Assessment Field Guide Protocol + Scoring Sheet Pasture Assessment Protocol + Scoring Sheet

## Group D: Sustainable Benefits to People, Biodiversity and Climate - Core Darwin Plus Standard Indicators (select one)

Checked	<b>DPLUS-D01 Hectares of habitat under sustainable management practices.</b>
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Unchecked **DPLUS-D02: Number of people whose disaster/climate resilience has been improved.**

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Unchecked **DPLUS-D03: Number of policies with biodiversity provisions that have been enacted or amended.**

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## Group D Indicator Results

Non-measurable. Training has improved land managers ability to monitor and sustainably manage native habitats. Healthy and diverse native habitats will in-turn improve climate resilience. Biodiversity management plans will set management objectives. 92% of the Falklands is grazed but it is too early to define land-area of habitat improvement from attendees.

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## Section 5 - Project Partnerships, Wider Impacts and Contributions

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### Project Partnerships

Falklands Conservation and the FI Government Department of Agriculture were equal partners in the project from conception, to application and subsequent project management. The aims for the project were aligned with only a slight variance in emphasis between the two organisations. Whilst conservation and agriculture may initially seem disparate, healthy productive native pasture, managed through monitoring feedback, benefits conservation value, agricultural production and water management in a drying climate.

All draft outputs and articles were circulated to both parties for comment and this ensured messaging was unified and any audience sensitivities were addressed before circulation. As the target audience were land-managers the project primarily utilised the DoAs outreach mechanisms with their rural sector e-mail lists and departmental "Wool Press" magazine.

Workshops were jointly arranged and run with staff instructors from both organisations. Other aspects such as Faecal Egg Counts (indicator of grazing pressure and animal health) were also incorporated into the workshops to achieve a holistic approach and provide more interest to the sector beyond the dual biodiversity aims.

The utility of the simple monitoring protocols were recognised at an early stage (and could form a national dataset if everyone were to collect data in the same format). Guidance was therefore extended to research organisations and people working in the environmental survey and restoration sectors. Guidance was taken from these stakeholders, with extensive local expertise, to ensure the scoring matrix was also suitable for opportunistic surveys of islands and outlying areas where time and weather can limit fuller survey.

### Wider Impacts and Decision Making

Adoption of the international Responsible Wool Standard certification (similar to MSC and FSC schemes) is a policy initiative of the FIG DoA. Wool market access will increasingly require RWS compliance as consumers and producers demand ethical and sustainable practices. The project by entering the dialogue early and providing fit-for-purpose protocols ensured that appropriate Falkland-specific guidelines were embedded into the scheme at the outset and distributed to members and applicants. As the scheme moves forward, the project's monitoring protocols, and biodiversity management plan guidelines will become increasingly adopted giving conservation gains at a landscape scale.

Project genesis was that following first-year independent review many scheme members were not fully compliant in biodiversity management planning and pasture/habitat monitoring. The project has provided the materials and skills training to assist compliance and ensure that sustainability and biodiversity priorities are embedded and prioritised on a par with animal husbandry issues. This mainstreams biodiversity into wool production as a dual parallel consideration.

The project has assisted 34 farmers to date (with materials and guidance now incorporated for continued further use). The repeat annual independent review of participants, to be conducted later this year, should now show



improved metrics for monitoring and biodiversity management across Falkland farmland at a landscape scale. Land area under Farm Biodiversity Management Plans is not currently available but can be calculated at a later date across participating farms with an active management plan, though success metrics will depend upon review of improvement in biodiversity scores obtained through the monitoring.

## **Sustainability and Legacy**

As detailed above the material outputs are now imbedded in the Falklands' RWS scheme resources for future use and will have increasing benefit as they are adopted by members and future applicants. Farm Biodiversity Management Plans of current members have a 5-year validity such that all members should be using the new guidance within 5-years as plans are renewed.

The materials have been collated and databased both at FC and FIG DoA.

All partner staff involved are employed within organisational core staff and the experience and expertise will be retained within the territory's organisations. Informal outreach and training will continue to occur utilising the outputs.

The FIG DoA monitoring components and outreach were conducted by a recent local graduate and early-career officer. The knowledge that the confidence, expertise and capacity building gained through the project will be maintained is especially gratifying.

Participatory rates in the training were 40% female and will contribute to reducing gender disparity in the traditionally perceived male-dominated agricultural sector.

## **Section 6 - Communications & Publicity**

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### **Exceptional Outcomes and Achievements**

The Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) is an international scheme to certify ethical and sustainable practises amongst the wool industry's farm producers. It incorporates a number of environmental safeguards including the requirement for land-managers to have an active Farm Biodiversity Management Plan and to conduct annual environmental and habitat monitoring. Since approximately 92% of the Falkland's land area is under farm management the scheme provides a valuable opportunity to improve the quality of native pastures and habitats at a landscape scale.

The Darwin Local project "Building farm biodiversity planning and monitoring capacity for sustainable management" provided land-managers with the tools to comply with the scheme standards with practical Falkland-specific guidance and training. Simple habitat monitoring protocols were established, with a durable weatherproof scoring card for use in the field, alongside the necessary guidance and data to establish a farm biodiversity management plan. These materials were presented, and practical training provided across a series of on-farm workshops.





In total training was provided to 50 people (including 34 farmers, 5 Government officers, 5 NGO/charity employees, 3 community members and 3 environmental consultancy staff) and materials were distributed to 126 rural-sector land managers on the Falkland Islands Department of Agriculture's circulation list.

The Darwin Plus project was an example of bringing agricultural land management and conservation sectors together to find common ground and tackle issues of mutual concern. Healthy native habitats are not just essential to biodiversity and climate resilience but are also the backbone of sheep farming and wool production in the Falklands. By working together, pasture productivity and moisture management in a drying climate can be tackled at a landscape scale rather than just within small reserves for the benefit of both conservationists and agricultural land-managers.





**Photo, video or graphic to be used for publicity and communications.**

**Please upload at least one relevant and engaging image, video or graphic that you consent to be used alongside the above text in Defra, JNCC or NIRAS communications material.**





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

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## Photo, video, and/or graphic captions and credits.

DPL00025-R1-FI-Photo1. [Falklands Conservation]. Undertaking a practical demonstration of the Habitat Monitoring Field Key at Hill Cove during the Darwin Local supported Responsible Wool Standard workshops held across the Falkland Islands with farmers and land-managers. The workshops have provided the tools and confidence to establish their own monitoring plots with the aim to better manage native habitats and pastures for both wool production and biodiversity. The small groups, that facilitated open discussion and individually focused help, were hosted by the local farm managers at a busy time of year.

DPL00025-R1-FI-Photo2. [Photo Credit: Falklands Conservation]. Undertaking a practical demonstration of the Habitat Monitoring Field Key with instructions in hand at Stoney Ridge during the Darwin Local supported Responsible Wool Standard workshops held across the Falkland Islands with farmers and land-managers. Participants undertook the scoring procedure to give them the confidence to return to their farm and set up their own monitoring plots.

DPL00025-R1-FI-Photo3. [Falklands Conservation]. Extensive sheep farming extends across 92% of the Falklands and can change the composition of native pastures through selective grazing. The Darwin Local project aimed to provide the tools to farmers to allow them to better monitor their native pastures and habitats in a sustainable manner, comply with the requirements of the Responsible Wool Standard scheme, and to mitigate the deleterious impacts of climate change. A practical demonstration of the Habitat Monitoring Field Key was undertaken at Purvis, Port Howard Farm, during workshops held on West Falkland.

DPL00025-R1-FI-Photo4. [Falklands Conservation]. Practical demonstration of the Habitat Monitoring Field Key was undertaken at Purvis, Port Howard Farm, during the Darwin Local supported Responsible Wool Standard workshops held across the Falkland Islands with farmers and land-managers. Participants undertook the scoring procedure to give them the confidence to set up their own monitoring plots to comply with the requirements of the Responsible Wool Standard scheme and to better manage native habitats and pastures for both wool production and biodiversity.

DPL00025-R1-FI-Photo5. [Falklands Conservation]. The Habitat Monitoring Field Key is printed on waterproof laminated card and can be folded into three so that it can conveniently live in the vehicle or jacket pocket and always be available when the land manager is in the field. The survey scoring instructions are provided on the front side (shown here), whilst on the reverse side the scoring selection of indicator plant species are detailed

with photographs of each species for easy identification in the field.

DPL00025-R1-FI-Photo6. [Falklands Conservation]. The Habitat Monitoring Field Key is printed on waterproof laminated card and can be folded into three so that it can conveniently live in the vehicle or jacket pocket and always be available when the land manager is in the field. The survey scoring instructions are provided on the front side, whilst on the reverse side (shown here) the scoring selection of indicator plant species are detailed with photographs of each species for easy identification in the field.

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds Secretariat, Administrator, and/or JNCC to publish the content of this section.

Yes, I agree for the BCFs Secretariat and/or JNCC to publish the content of this section.

Please list any accounts that you would like tagged in online posts here. This can include project pages, partners' pages or individuals' accounts for any of the following platforms: LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.

It is not essential to tag posts but Falklands Conservation is active on the following social media.

<https://www.facebook.com/FalklandsConservation/>  
[https://twitter.com/Fl\\_Conservation](https://twitter.com/Fl_Conservation)  
<https://www.instagram.com/falklandsconservation/>



## Section 7 - Darwin Plus Contacts

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Please tick here to confirm that you have read and acknowledge the BCF's Privacy Notice on how contact details will be used and stored and that you have sought agreement from anyone that you are sharing personal details with us on their behalf.

I confirm I have read the Privacy Notice and have consent to share the following contact details

### Project Contact Details

Project Contact Name	Dr. Andrew Stanworth
Role within Darwin Plus Project	Project Oversight
Email	
Phone	
Do you need further sections to provide additional contact details?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes

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### Additional Project Contact Details

Project Contact Name	Grant Munro
Role within Darwin Project	Project Manager

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Email

Phone



**Do you need further sections to provide additional contact details?**

No