

# **DPLR1\1068**

## **Establishing a Video Survey Library Program for Montserrat's Coral Reefs**

### Objective

Montserrat lacks comprehensive data on its coral reefs. Though surveys have been conducted previously, that data was collected by persons with an extremely varying level of marine habitat knowledge and dive abilities. There is currently no record of multiple reef sites that can be reassessed or used for comparison data for other surveys. This project will collect high-definition video records from a minimum of 10 reefs during both the summer and winter seasonal cycle. Those records will establish a visual baseline for comparative reef health and provide the Government of Montserrat (GoM) a database to assist other research and in habitat assessment. Additionally, this library will allow persons who are not divers to be able to see and understand the state of Montserrat reefs, including senior government members.

The project will also increase the capabilities and capacity of the GoM dive team which was formed through a JNCC funded program through training and participation in all aspects of this program

### Current Situation

As stated above, Montserrat lacks a thorough record of the island's coral reef. Although outside groups have used the Reef Check system for quantitative data, much of this was done by brand new divers and the accuracy must be questioned. By creating a video record that can be repeated Montserrat can develop a resource library that:

- can be reassessed to analyse additional aspects,
- can be compared over various time parameters,
- can be utilised by other researchers and,
- can aid non-divers to understand reef health and changes.

Furthermore, although the GoM dive team continues to gain experience, their knowledge of marine species is still limited. The dive team was created to support marine programs, but the skills this project will provide will increase their value and capabilities to continue the program in follow up surveys..

### Measure of Success

The project will deliver the following:

- 1) A minimum of 10 high-definition video surveys at reef locations at varying depths and areas around Montserrat, conducted during summer and winter months. This will establish a baseline library of 20 separate videos during the project. That data will be preserved on hard drives and cloud storage. It will be provided to the GoM.
- 2) A minimum of 4 divers from the GoM dive team and/or local youth dive persons will be trained on all aspects of this project. Dive and training sessions logs will be maintained. Participants who competently complete all aspects of the program will receive a certificate of achievement.
- 3) The project will develop an educational outreach program that will help the general public and youth understand more about Montserrat's coral reefs, particularly non-divers. A project video will be used in at least

1 public event, as well as, being made available through multiple online platforms. This aspect of the project will be supported by the project trainees.

**PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS**

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<b>Title</b>	Mr
<b>Name</b>	Andrew
<b>Surname</b>	Myers
<b>Organisation</b>	Island Solutions Inc.
<b>Website (Work)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Tel (Work)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Email (Work)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Address</b>	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]

# DPLR1\1068

Establishing a Video Survey Library Program for Montserrat's Coral Reefs

## Section 1 - Project Title & Contact Details

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### Q1. Project Title

Establishing a Video Survey Library Program for Montserrat's Coral Reefs

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

Organisation

#### PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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Title	Mr
Name	Andrew
Surname	Myers
Organisation	Island Solutions Inc.
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Tel (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

#### GMS ORGANISATION

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Type	Organisation
Name	Island Solutions Inc.
Phone (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

## Section 2 - Overseas Territory(ies)

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### 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.

Montserrat

\* 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

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### 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):** Andrew Myers

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

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**Lead Partner Website (if  
applicable):** www.islandsolutions.org

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

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**List other partners  
involved and where are  
they based (Guidance  
section 3.2):** Island Solutions will work with the Montserrat Departments of Agriculture and Environment on this project.

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Island Solutions will be responsible fully for the management and delivery of this project.

1. The project will engage extensively with the Government of Montserrat (GOM) to provide training for GoM dive team.
2. All communications will be lead by Island Solutions.
3. Training programs, including video transect procedures, camera usage and maintenance, data and data processing and analysis, will be lead by Island Solutions.
4. Outreach programs and educational material will be lead by our organisation but will engage the program dive team for delivery.
5. Financial management will fall to Island Solutions, however it will be maintained by the outside accounting firm that does our organisations audits.
6. Data processing and analysis will be done by Island Solutions and the program dive team. This data will be provided to the Government of Montserrat.

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

The Government will provide availability to the GoM dive team and support administrative efforts to engage with that personnel.





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

Checked

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

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## 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.**

Accurate assessments and baseline data of environmental habitats are crucial to making informed decisions on marine conservation and protection policies. In the case of marine habitats, access requires special skills and capabilities. This creates an issue if those who make conservation decisions cannot access those environments or do not have documentation that can be viewed. This project will establish Montserrat's baseline video survey library for coral reef assessment and train the government dive team on these techniques.

### 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?**

**Objective**

Montserrat lacks comprehensive data on its coral reefs. Though surveys have been conducted previously, that data was collected by persons with an extremely varying level of marine habitat knowledge and dive abilities. There is currently no record of multiple reef sites that can be reassessed or used for comparison data for other surveys. This project will collect high-definition video records from a minimum of 10 reefs during both the summer and winter seasonal cycle. Those records will establish a visual baseline for comparative reef health and provide the Government of Montserrat (GoM) a database to assist other research and in habitat assessment. Additionally, this library will allow persons who are not divers to be able to see and understand the state of Montserrat reefs, including senior government members.

The project will also increase the capabilities and capacity of the GoM dive team which was formed through a JNCC funded program through training and participation in all aspects of this program

**Current Situation**

As stated above, Montserrat lacks a thorough record of the island's coral reef. Although outside groups have used the Reef Check system for quantitative data, much of this was done by brand new divers and the accuracy must be questioned. By creating a video record that can be repeated Montserrat can develop a resource library that:

- can be reassessed to analyse additional aspects,
- can be compared over various time parameters,
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- can aid non-divers to understand reef health and changes.

Furthermore, although the GoM dive team continues to gain experience, their knowledge of marine species is still limited. The dive team was created to support marine programs, but the skills this project will provide will increase their value and capabilities to continue the program in follow up surveys..

**Measure of Success**

The project will deliver the following:

- 1) A minimum of 10 high-definition video surveys at reef locations at varying depths and areas around Montserrat, conducted during summer and winter months. This will establish a baseline library of 20 separate videos during the project. That data will be preserved on hard drives and cloud storage. It will be provided to the GoM.
- 2) A minimum of 4 divers from the GoM dive team and/or local youth dive persons will be trained on all aspects of this project. Dive and training sessions logs will be maintained. Participants who competently complete all aspects of the program will receive a certificate of achievement.
- 3) The project will develop an educational outreach program that will help the general public and youth understand more about Montserrat's coral reefs, particularly non-divers. A project video will be used in at least 1 public event, as well as, being made available through multiple online platforms. This aspect of the

project will be supported by the project trainees.

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

*No Response*

## Section 5 - Project Outcome(s)

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### 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;**

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

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

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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.**

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**Please justify your selection.**

This project will provide a valuable record that can be assessed to establish Montserrat's reefs current health, identify issues, and provide a baseline comparison for future biodiversity assessments.

Data collected will include water temperature which when augmented by known regional weather patterns can be assessed for climate change driven changing reef health.

The video transects will provide a record of new impacts and recovery on the reef.

The project will increase the dive skills of the local dive team and provide valuable data to the government databases.

## Section 6 - Project Timeline

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### 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 May 2023	31 March 2024	11 months

Please upload the completed Darwin Plus Local Project Implementation Timetable template with your proposed project activities below.

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## 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).

Yes

How much matched funding are you seeking and where from?

Island Solutions is providing reduced rates for management, training, and equipment usage. Additionally we will cover all overhead costs during the project.

The total amount for in-kind and covered expenses is approximately [REDACTED] GBP.

Budget line	Explanation	Cost in GBP
<b>Staff costs:</b>	Covers project management, outreach and data management, Lead trainer fees, support divers, and trainee funds.	[REDACTED]
<b>Overhead costs:</b>	Covered by Island Solutions	[REDACTED]
<b>Travel &amp; subsistence costs:</b>	No T&S	[REDACTED]

Includes costs associated with in field operations - fuel, equipment, incidentals, training sessions, shipping, taxes and related fees.

**Operating costs:**

Also including fees that would fall under "Other" and are key to operations: Purchase of underwater cameras, outreach costs, and educational/promotional items

**Capital equipment:**

No capital purchases

**Consultancy costs:**

Includes remote training support, data analysis/report generation, and M&E

**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)**

Andrew Myers, Project manager, 2 days per month, 10 month - [REDACTED] GBP  
Emmy Aston, Data/programs manager, 2 days per month, 10 month - [REDACTED] GBP  
Lead divers/program trainers, Andrew Myers & Emmy Aston, 25-30 dives - [REDACTED] GBP  
Support divers, Shane Caesar and Chase Buffonge, 25-30 dives - [REDACTED] GBP  
Trainee divers, multiple persons - [REDACTED] GBP

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

*No Response*

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

*No Response*

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

Boat Hire -10 days - [REDACTED] GBP  
Scuba tanks - usage and fills - [REDACTED] GBP

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

*No Response*

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

Ben/Gemma Cresswell - training program support - [REDACTED] GBP  
Ben/Gemma Cresswell - data analysis - 200 hours - [REDACTED] GBP  
Ben/Gemma Cresswell - M&E - 8 evaluation sessions - [REDACTED] GBP

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

2 underwater video camera systems - [REDACTED] GBP

**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	0.8225	xe.com	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.**

*No Response*

## 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.**

This project aligns with international, regional and local priorities:

International agreements that are relevant to this project include:

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – educating Montserrat public on the interactive relationship of habitats, species, and impacts that make up biodiversity.

UN SDP Goals 13,14 - Climate action and life below water

Regional agreements via the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) include:

~St. George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability - 2007 - Achieve the Long-term protection and Sustained 13 Productivity of the Region's Natural Resource Base and Ecosystem Service it Provides

Nationally:


Montserrat Environment Charter - 2001 - protection of Montserrat species and habitats


Conservation and Environmental Management Act (CEMA) - 2019 - protection of Montserrat species and habitats


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


Yes


**Please attach evidence that you have Government support i.e. Letter of Support.**


 [Surveys, Treatments and Monitoring of SCTL D and also the establishment of a nursery plot f or critically endangered Corals](#)


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## Section 9 - Project Risks

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### 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
Field operations (diving) risks	To reduce risk the following will be done: 1) All divers must be assessed for competence, provide proof of certification, 2) All divers must have dive insurance, 3) Island Solutions has an Emergency Action Plan for dive operations. This plan will be discussed. 4). All participants must agree to abide by safety procedures, 5). A minimum of 2 professional level divers with first aid train will be on each dive. 6) Dive safety equipment will be provided during every dive operation. 7) A policy will allow any diver to stop operations if the conditions are deemed unsafe
Weather and extreme weather impacts	1) Prior to any dive operation sea conditions will be assessed and during operations will be reassessed if changes occur, 2) Coral nurseries will use systems proven to be able to deal with extreme weather events known to occur within the region, 3) In the case of an expected extreme weather event nursery sites will be fortified or adjusted as required
Safeguarding risks	1) A policy to report inappropriate behaviour will be implemented that has multiple persons to report to including the M&E persons not in Montserrat, 2) Public outreach event will offer a feedback option that will allow for anonymous complaints

**Do you require more fields?**

No

## Section 10 - Terms & Conditions

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### 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

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### 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.**





Unchecked

**Name:** Andrew Myers

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**Position in the organisation: (if applicable)** President/project manager

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**Signature (please upload e-signature)**  [SIGNATURE](#)  
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**Date:** 14 February 2023

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## Section 12 - Submission Checklist

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### Checklist for submission

	<b>Check</b>
<b>I have read the Guidance documents, including the “Darwin Plus Local Guidance” and the “Darwin Plus Local Finance Guidance”.</b>	Checked
<b>If my proposed project takes place on public lands or water, I have uploaded a Letter of Support from Government.</b>	Checked
<b>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).</b>	Checked
<b>I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.</b>	Checked
<b>I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.</b>	Checked
<b>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.</b>	Checked
<b>I have uploaded my project implementation timetable using the specific template provided.</b>	Checked
<b>(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.</b>	Checked
<b>The application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).</b>	Checked
<b>I have checked the Darwin Plus website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.</b>	Checked
<b>I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Plus website.</b>	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: Establishing a Video Survey Library Program for Montserrat's Coral Reefs

### 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	Order video survey equipment and support items	0.25												
2	Conduct 2 separate training sessions that include land-based practice, in water implementation, and data processing	0.5												
3	Summer data collection sessions – 5 dive days – production of 10 high quality videos – JUL-SEP	3												
4	Data analysis of session 1. Data analysis training.	2												
5	Winter data collection sessions – 5 dive days – transect replication from the 10 sites – DEC-FEB	3												
6	Data analysis of session 2. Data analysis training.	2												
7	Outreach – Development of educational videos, social media posts and 1-2 events (dates TBD)	9												



Project Title: Establishing a Video Survey Library Program for Montserrat's Coral Reefs

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
	<b>WORKPLAN COLOUR CODE</b>													
	LAND BASED OPERATIONS													
	IN WATER OPERATIONS													