

Applicant: **Carmichael, Melanie**
Organisation: **Sustainable Cayman**
Funding Sought: **£50,013.72**
Funding Awarded: **£0.00**

DPLR3\1024

Pirate Cove Shoreline Park | Restoring natural processes and habitat

Our mission is to promote environmental sustainability and conservation in the Cayman Islands and this shoreside park rejuvenation project aims to create a community seascape by restoring an eroded beach ridge located along the southern shore of South Sound in Grand Cayman.

This project will restore a healthy living shoreline that will provide multiple benefits such as:

- create a community space with sea view
- restore the natural environment
- provide natural coastal defense
- establish biodiverse habitat

#ProtectWhatYouLove #CaymanIslands

CONTACT DETAILS

Title Mrs
Name Melanie
Surname Carmichael
Organisation Sustainable Cayman
Website (Work) [REDACTED]
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
Email (Work) [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Pirate Cove Shoreline Park | Restoring natural processes and habitat

Section 1 - Project Title & Contact Details

Q1. Project Title

Pirate Cove Shoreline Park | Restoring natural processes and habitat

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

Organisation

CONTACT DETAILS

Title	Mrs
Name	Melanie
Surname	Carmichael
Organisation	Sustainable Cayman
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Tel (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	Sustainable Cayman
Phone (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Website (Work)	[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.

Cayman Islands

*** 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)?

Yes

Please list these below and describe how they will benefit:

If the pilot for a natural vegetative shoreline restoration park is successful the template can be transferred to other Caribbean territories as well as UKOT(s) such as the British Virgin Islands and Turks & Caicos Islands.

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): Melanie Carmichael

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

Lead Partner Website (if applicable): www.sustainablecayman.org

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: Stakeholders include a book keeper, insurance broker, Paradise Landscaping, Caribbean Blooms, Cayman Islands Public Lands Commission, Cayman Islands Department of Environment ("DOE"), Pirate Cove Estates Residents' Association ("PCERA") as well as In kind collaborations with advocacy ambassadors and volunteers (all based in Grand Cayman).

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

The Bookkeeper will have budget management responsibilities for expenses and managing the currency exchange. Indemnity insurance will be sought for the project specifically the Lead Applicant. Paradise Landscaping and associated landscape designer will supply labour, equipment and materials for the shoreline park as well as design planning.

Caribbean Blooms is the botanical consultant and as an important stakeholder, Joanne Mercille will be submitting her own application to grow native plant species for the shoreline project, which will include a specific host plant for the endemic pygmy butterfly.

In kind stakeholders who support community projects will provide volunteers together with Ambassadors from the Lead Applicant. The Public Lands Commission have overall responsibility to regulate the use and enjoyment of public land by members of the public and to protect the right of access to and use of public land by members of the public and have provided a letter of recommendation for the project. Any shoreline works will need to be reviewed and approved by the DoE who are supportive of natural solutions that improve the environment.


The Lead Applicant will coordinate the project as well as do public engagement to seek private funding to expand the project to create a complete community nature park and install additional plants and features. The project leader is a member and director of Pirate Cove Estates Residents' Association who have agreed to donate a parcel of land for the park project and will have overall responsibility to liaise with government agencies.


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).

 [SC Darwin Local Applc Letter](#)

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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.

Our mission is to promote environmental sustainability and conservation in the Cayman Islands and this shoreside park rejuvenation project aims to create a community seascape by restoring an eroded beach ridge

located along the southern shore of South Sound in Grand Cayman.

This project will restore a healthy living shoreline that will provide multiple benefits such as:

- create a community space with sea view
- restore the natural environment
- provide natural coastal defense
- establish biodiverse habitat

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Q6a. Description (Guidance section 2.1 and 6)

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?

During the Covid19 pandemic, outdoor exercise became an important component of wellbeing. Many people in the community would choose to walk, jog or cycle along South Sound Road which is a growing urban residential community on the south shore of Grand Cayman. Many reconnected with nature during this time and the experience highlighted the lack of accessibility to outdoor communal areas, not just for exercise but also for mental well-being.

The Pirate Cove Shoreline Park is planned as part of a larger park area which aims to restore an abandoned public beach access and parking lot of approximately 0.3152 acres of stony beach ridge. By partnering with the local authorities and the residents' association, Sustainable Cayman aims to create a nature park that supports biodiversity as an urban nature park, incorporating native species and sustainable outcomes.

There is a broad consensus that climate change will have significant impacts on local communities, and that preparation must be made to adapt to these impacts. Local impacts of climate change in the region will include extreme weather patterns such as increased storm intensity and severe drought conditions. Sea level rise combined with high tides and storm events increase the risk of coastal flooding. Built seawalls have had a detrimental effect along the shoreline and the small shoreline park incorporates an alternative concept to restore and protect the beach using planted coir embankments which is expected to improve the condition of the beach, replenish lost sand from erosion as well as provide protection of the nature scape using locally grown beach natives.

The project will also incorporate a small mangrove restoration area to encourage the repopulation of a variety of wildlife on the seashore such as juvenile fish, herons, crabs, butterflies etc. as well as to improve the condition and reestablishment of turtle grass. There is no historical data that sea turtles may have nested on this section of the south coast but there is current evidence further along the coast where the beach is deeper and more vegetated. The zoning of the beach is considered scenic coastal for the enjoyment of the public.

Specifically, the Pirate Cove Shoreline Project aims to achieve the following three goals:

Goal 1 – Expanding the public area to increase the resiliency of the shoreline through grading of the beach, increasing car park setback and establishing foredune habitat : This project will restore a healthy living shoreline that will provide multiple ecosystem benefits, like habitat for shorebirds and native flowering plants, and shoreline stabilisation to protect the beach.

Goal 2 – Implement nature-based protection measures against sea level rise and coastal storms : Specialised plants will grow and begin trapping sand transported by the wind and pushed ashore by waves. As vegetation begins to grow, so will the sand collection. Sargassum seaweed will be maintained to form part of the replenishment concept. Dunes can provide a natural defence against sea level rise and coastal storms.

Goal 3 – Increase wellness of the community through an enhanced beach access with seated viewing, outreach, and education : In addition to reducing coastal hazards and providing habitat for wildlife, this project will encourage nature-based solutions and increase community awareness of living shorelines while still allowing all other existing recreational uses of the beach to continue as well as being enhanced.

The relative low cost of such a beautification project compared to built infrastructure aligns with the draft Cayman Islands Climate Change Policy and the Bioregional One Planet Living Principles of sustainability which we hope will inspire similar projects across urban neighbourhoods as a holistic approach to environmental health and biodiversity.

Q6b. Long-term sustainability (Guidance section 2.1 and 6)

Please describe the long-term benefits of the project and the change it will bring about. How will the outcomes of the project be sustained after the funding is finished?

Beaches are a desirable place for people and tourism– and although conditions can sometimes be challenging, they bring with them the opportunity to restore natural vegetation where visitors can explore our unique ecosystems.


Our famous Seven Mile Beach has experienced serious beach erosion and as the country grapples with potential solutions to this, the Pirate Cove shoreline restoration project aims to provide an example of sustainable nature based beach restoration methods. In a fragile island community, getting back to basics with a restorative self-sustaining nature park is an affordable solution compared to an unsustainable built environment.


As a One Planet Living Community (“OPL”) partner we hope to create an example of the OPL Framework that provide a set of principles that can be applied to any project/company to ensure that action is taken to achieve outcomes which correlate with positive impact on the interconnected aspects of our planet including health, economy, climate, communities and the natural world.


By creating a living template of what solutions can be achieved and supported, it is hoped that similar nature parks will be created across the island in support of policy where families and nature can thrive together in natural surroundings.

(Optional) Please upload any additional and supporting materials or files (such as maps of project sites, etc) below. Maximum of 5 sides of A4, and is combined as a single PDF:

 [Pirate Cove Shoreline Project Upload.pgs](#)

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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 with a clear focus on biodiversity and the natural environment, either by the end of the project or soon after through a credible plan.

Please confirm that your project has a clear focus on biodiversity and the natural environment.

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
Unchecked	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. Please use quantitative information where possible here.

We aim to restore an abandoned shoreline with a resilient beach ridge using natural products and endemic species to reintroduce biodiversity and improve the health and condition of the seascape. Piloting a small mangrove habitat area on the shore using 30 red mangrove saplings, 40 coir rolls to anchor and provide a protective barrier, at least 3 types of native shrubs and grasses and a scientific trial to establish the host plant for the Pygmy Blue butterfly which are endemic only to Grand Cayman. The existing sandy beach will be left untouched with a designated public access to the shore.

Section 6 - Workplan

Q8. Workplan (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 Workplan (available at: [Darwin Plus website](#)) 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 must start after 1 April 2024 and be completed by 31 March 2025.


Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 3 months):
01 April 2024	31 January 2025	10 months


Please upload the completed Darwin Plus Local Project Workplan with your proposed project activities here

 [R3-DPlus-Local-Workplan-Template-FINAL.docx](#)

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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?

Yes

How much matched funding are you seeking and where from?

We will source an additional K██████████ from local public authority/residents/corporate sponsorship to pay for fixed assets such as park benches, solar lighting, bike stands and native and endemic raised plant beds.

Budget line	Explanation	Cost in GBP
Staff costs:	Lead Project Manager 40 hrs p.m. (addtl time spent in kind services)	██████████
Consultancy costs:	(3) primary consultants + a bookkeeper	██████████
Overhead costs:	Liability insurance + office costs	██████████
Travel & subsistence costs:	Outreach meetings/hospitality	██████████
Operating costs:	Installation + temporary irrigation	██████████
Capital equipment:	Fixtures and fittings	██████████
Other Costs	Shipping and customs	██████████
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)

Project leader, time for 10 months to manage the delivery of on island activities, writing and execution of project proposal, monitoring success outcomes.

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

Liability insurance is required for management and site visits by the lead applicant.

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

N/A

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

Installation includes all labour, materials and equipment. Temporary irrigation is required to establish plants.

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

Erosion shore logs (40), Native and endemic trees/shrubs, Picnic Tables (3), Recycling waste receptacle. Endemic and/or native plants will make up 25% of the installation.

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

Consultancy costs will be split between a Landscape Designer, to design layout and provide any planning advice, a Botanist to grow and advise on endemic species plantings and a Landscape Architect to plan and execute the ground prep works and beach shoring activity. A bookkeeper contract will be sought for budget monitoring and governance.

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

Shipping and import duty for the coir erosion logs is budgeted at 25% of the purchase price.

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:
Cayman Islands Dollars	0.97	Google Finance	18 November 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? 100

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

N/A

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.

In 2013 the country passed the National Conservation Act which includes a schedule of protected and critically endangered plants as well as a list of endemic species, a selection of which will be included and identified in the proposed nature park in consultation with the botanist. The 2009 National Biodiversity Action Plan is in the process of being updated with a key focus on prioritising biodiversity in the Overseas Territories.





In June 2023 the Ministry of Sustainability and Climate Resiliency produced a draft Climate Change Policy. The policy focuses on strategies to urgently reduce further contributions to climate change focusing on mitigation and adaptation to ensure a resilient future. By piloting a beach habitat which provides self-restoring properties and protection, this aligns with the proposed policy strategy to support harmony with nature.

The project also aligns with the UK Defra 25 Year Plan to take action to recover threatened, iconic or economically important species of animals, plants and fungi, and where possible to prevent human-induced extinction or loss of known threatened species in England and the Overseas Territories by incorporating 2 protected plant species and protective safe habitat for 2 threatened species.

Will the project take place on Government owned land or water or involve biocontrol, invasive alien species control or eradication?

Yes

Please attach evidence that you have Government support for this project i.e. a Letter of Support. Applications which indicate that they do not take place on Government land or water, but which propose work that appears to the reviewers would be difficult/impossible to carry out without working on government land or waters may be ineligible if no Letter of Support is provided.

-  [2022.12.28 - Letter to Sustainable Cayman re Pir
ate Cove Shoreline Community Rejuvenation Pro
ject\(2\)](#)
-  19/11/2023
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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. Please note the importance of health and safety and environmental risk assessment in the design of your project. If there is any possibility that your project may have negative impacts on the environment or human health, it is important that you provide a comprehensive analysis of potential environmental and human health risks, and the prevention measures you will take to ensure the work does not cause harm.

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 from imported plants	Anticipate that the majority, if not all plants will be sourced and grown locally
Importation of coir rolls unable to be sourced or quarantined (we will work with the relevant agencies for pre-approval)	We will adapt to use landscaping coir and produce an adapted system locally if we are unable to source or obtain licence to use. Any surplus funds will be put towards enhancing the parkscape.
Storm damage risk	Temporary destabilisation is anticipated with rough seas and the use of anchors for coir rolls allows these to be restored back in situ. As plants are grown and sourced locally these are readily available to reestablish.

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: [Darwin Plus website](#) 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

Supporting documents list (please have these ready to attach with application)

- Cover Letter of no more than two A4 pages. (Guidance section: 4.2 has information on what this cover letter should include).
- If the project takes place on public land or water or is addressing invasive alien species, a Letter of support from OT Government.
- Project Workplan in the template provided for Darwin Plus Local (available at: [Darwin Plus website](#)).
- Map and additional information (optional) maximum five additional pages.

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:	Melanie Carmichael
Position in the organisation: (if applicable)	Controller
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 mac signature  19/11/2023  20:45:32  jpg 203.76 KB
Date:	25 November 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 or is addressing alien invasive species, 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 my project that fit this Round.	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 workplan using the specific template provided.	Checked
I have uploaded all supplementary documents if I have any.	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:

Darwin Plus Local

Provide a **Workplan** that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the following table as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project. Round 3 is for a **maximum of 12 months** with activities starting from 1 April 2024. All activities must be completed by 31 March 2025.

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 2024/25									
			Calendar Year 2024									Calendar Year 2025
			Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
1	Arrange contract engagement and deposits with partners, review and finalise design features, apply for site approvals, obtain liability insurance, setup site signage	2										
2	Source coir rolls and place order	1										
3	Liaise with plant consultant for final plant selection, propagation and site setup	4										
4	Review design & build options for picnic tables order/ plan install	3										
5	Review design & build funding options for fixtures and fittings incl solar (<i>matched funding</i>)	2										
6	Commence groundworks and coastal upgrades with coir rolls	4										
7	Liaise w Garden Club and other in kind stakeholders such as the Mangrove Rangers for installation of garden	3										

Project Title:

Activity #	Description (max 25 words)	No. of months	UK Financial Year 2024/25									
			Calendar Year 2024									Calendar Year 2025
			Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
8	Install coastal habitat plants	3										
9	Mobile plant irrigation/ monitoring	8										
10	Liaise with landscape planner for Installation of native park trees, monitor and irrigate	4										
11	Liaise on plans for bush medicine & blue iguana plant food gardens (<i>in kind</i>)	2										
12	Botanical report on biodiversity improvements, findings and outcomes of shoreside restoration (<i>matched grant</i>)	2										
13	Design/install of educational shoreside flora/fauna signage (<i>matched funding</i>)	3										
13	Other plant installations (<i>matched funding</i>)	2										
14	Install fixtures ie parking, bike stand, receptacles (<i>matched funding</i>)	2										
15	Park Opening (<i>matched funding</i>)	1										
16	Site monitoring	8										
17	Budget reviews, finalise expense report	3										