

Applicant: **Wade, Veta**

Funding Sought: ██████████

Funding Awarded: **£0.00**

DPLR3\1073

Deep reef data collection for the Montserrat Marine Megafauna Project

Collecting biological diversity, distribution, and abundance data is fundamental for CITES & CMS reporting and establishing effective marine spatial plans, conservation measures, and efficient legislation. Non-invasive methods such as the deployment of baited remote underwater video systems (BRUVs) have been shown to be effective for the long-term monitoring of marine megafauna. This project will use low-cost tools to collect visual and environmental data using a deep sea camera and environmental.

CONTACT DETAILS

Name Veta

Surname Wade

Website [REDACTED]

Tel (Work) [REDACTED]

Email (Work) [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

DPLR3\1073

Deep reef data collection for the Montserrat Marine Megafauna Project

Section 1 - Project Title & Contact Details

Q1. Project Title

Deep reef data collection for the Montserrat Marine Megafauna Project

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

Individual*

CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Veta
Surname	Wade
Website	[REDACTED]
Tel (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

*If applying as an individual, you must open a separate project bank account used solely for your grant payment, if successful. This will be checked by the fund administrators. The maximum amount individuals can apply for from Darwin Plus Local is £20,000. Individual applicants will also be asked to provide: proof of identity, proof of solvency (e.g. bank statement), and a police check, if successful.

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.

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)?

Yes

Please list these below and describe how they will benefit:

There are key gaps relating to marine megafauna that are required for international agreement reporting and informing biodiversity management and conservation remain. Additionally, marine megafauna are not considered in the Marine Spatial Plan and the process for moving this forward has stalled. This project will use a continue the work that has been started by Veta and The Montserrat Marine Megafauna Project collecting visual and environmental datasets from commercially important deep reefs. This will help to fill data gaps and reinvigorate initiatives by native Montserratians for native Montserratians.

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): Veta Wade

Lead Partner name (if applying as an organisation; Guidance section 3.1): *No Response*

Lead Partner Website (if applicable): www.vetawade.com





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: Mr. Clarence Piper - Boat Captain/ Fisher
Mr. Jason Willett - Research Assistant / Fisher

Summary of roles and responsibilities of each partner in the project: The Boat Captain / Fisher will provide ecologically important local knowledge on commercially important deep reef fishing areas.
The research Assistant will be hands-on with data collection. Responsible for equipment deployment and maintenance. Jason was a fantastic asset to the team and has been working with the Maka Niu, deep sea imaging, and environmental sensors since testing with Fish 'N Fins Inc. in 2022.

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).

 [COMPLETED DARWIN LOCAL Covering 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.

Collecting biological diversity, distribution, and abundance data is fundamental for CITES & CMS reporting and establishing effective marine spatial plans, conservation measures, and efficient legislation. Non-invasive methods such as the deployment of baited remote underwater video systems (BRUVs) have been shown to be effective for the long-term monitoring of marine megafauna. This project will use low-cost tools to collect visual and environmental data using a deep sea camera and environmental.

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?

Objective

To resolve this lack of fundamental knowledge on Montserrat's marine megafauna, this project aims to assess the distribution, diversity, and abundance of marine megafauna in deep reefs in Montserrat's EEZ using a low-cost imaging and environmental sensor system called, Maka Niu.

The current Situation / Problem being addressed

The Project Leader has been involved in past projects that have provided valuable insights into Montserrat's marine environment and what needs to be done to manage and protect it. These include DPLUS079 Improving Sustainability of Marine Management in Montserrat (led by Cefas 2018 - 2022), DPLUS066 Climate Change

Adaptation in the Fisheries of Anguilla and Montserrat (led by CANARI 2017-2020), DPLUS108 Caribbean Overseas Territories Regional Natural Capital Accounting Programme (led by JNCC 2020-2022), the Waitt Institute's Blue Halo Montserrat (2015-2020)

While several of the recommendations from these projects have been successfully implemented, progress has stalled with other elements, notably the data required for CITES and CMS reporting in relation to marine megafauna and Marine Spatial Planning. Thus, this project has been designed to keep the momentum going and move this forward with black-led/ Montserratian-led community leadership and input geared toward building local science capacity and establishing community-led megafauna monitoring.

Measuring Success

Surveying ten (10) deep reef sites using baited underwater remote video systems (BRUVs) to assess marine megafauna species' relative abundance and distribution using innovating biodiversity monitoring technology - Maka Niu.

Engaging local fishers in data collection and scientific research by ensuring at least 2 participants in surveying ecologically important sites using deep sea imaging and environmental sensors (Maka Niu) to quantify megafauna abundance and diversity and map key habitats. An record of

Strengthening local knowledge and insights on Montserrat's artisanal fishery's impact on megafauna species. A record of fishers interest in participating in the program will be documented.

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?

In the long term, the establishment of a systematic marine megafauna monitoring program and enhancement of local capacity will provide the foundations for continuing marine megafauna monitoring in Montserrat. Montserrat Marine Megafauna Project would be formalized into a local NGO. New initiatives such as the "Marine Conservation Internship Programme" and citizen science monitoring program will provide new opportunities and experiences for local young people to increase their employability and prospects. Continued community participation throughout the project will also invigorate long-term interest and appreciation of marine biodiversity and megafauna among the Montserratian community and will increase supplemental income for fishers contributing to livelihoods.

(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:

No Response

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;
Unchecked	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. Please use quantitative information where possible here.

Montserrat's marine environment has been the focus of several conservation and sustainability initiatives in recent years, all led by international or UK-based scientists. For the first time in our history, a local woman and local team are leading progress towards conserving populations of threatened and economically important marine megafauna. However, knowledge of the diversity, distribution, and exploitation of marine megafauna still needs to be improved, which hinders the development of national plans/ policies. This project continues efforts in a program of megafauna data collection, capacity building, and public engagement to address these gaps while broadening local participation

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):
02 April 2024	31 March 2025	11 months

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

[Complete R3 DPlus Local Workplan Template](#)

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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?

No

Budget line	Explanation	Cost in GBP
Staff costs:	Compensation for local knowledge and approximately 60 hours of boat time. [REDACTED]	
	Pay to local research assistant Fieldwork assistant clocked 65 hours spent at sea, 60 hours daily prep and wrap up on Montserrat Marine Megafauna Project Part 1 - we expect the same. [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	Pay for a project communications assistant. [REDACTED]	
	Project leadership, design, and data analysis [REDACTED]	
Consultancy costs:	n/a	£0.00
Overhead costs:	Boat Fuel - [REDACTED]	
	data and mobile phone credit for crew - [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	Webspace - [REDACTED]	
	Mega cloud storage and data management - [REDACTED]	
Travel & subsistence costs:	Petrol and use of vehicle - [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Operating costs:	Buoys and lines - [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Capital equipment:	Winch- [REDACTED]	
	Garmin Marine GPS - [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	Deep Sea Light - [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	iPad - [REDACTED]	
Other Costs	Freight, 5% duty customs admin charge [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

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)

A local research assistant is expected to clock around 65 hours at sea, 60 hours daily prep, and wrap up during the fieldwork period.

Compensation for local fishermen's knowledge and approximately 60 hours of boat time including fuel.

The project leaders will be responsible for project design, and data analysis ██████████

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):

No Response

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

The boat captain needs an updated Garmin Marine GPS - the average amount of ██████████ will cover this cost and provide reliable support navigation. The Project Leader will have her handheld device.

Nautilus Deep Sea Light will act as a backup system - ██████████. We will receive 2 additional lighting systems specifically made for the Maka Niu devices at no additional cost except a 5% admin customs charge.

iPad ██████████ - this would be useful for data collection design of comms pieces for online channels, this would be available to the team with a waterproof case.

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

No Response

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

No Response

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:
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

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? 90

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.


The project will provide fundamental information to the Government of Monserrat to support the national Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) reporting commitments. This effort will enhance local capacity and people empowerment in marine conservation and research. It will pave the way towards successful black-led conservation in our community, benefiting the local people and their livelihoods.


By working with Fishers, the project also supports the Government of Montserrat's interest in exploring opportunities to diversify and supplement fishers' incomes in the face of our changing climate and future marine management decisions and policies.


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.

 [Letter of support Continuing deep reef data collection for the Montserrat Marine Megafauna Project](#)

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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
Deteriorating weather conditions at sea: large swell, strong winds. Risk of capsizing, man overboard and/or vessel damage.	Skipper and local partners to monitor weather conditions and local Met Office forecasts prior to departure and throughout time at sea. Vessel to monitor Montserrat's maritime radio (VHF Channel 16) while at sea for updates. Abort research operations if weather conditions deteriorate excessively and at the discretion of the skipper. All team members are competent swimmers and wear harnesses and life jackets provided at all times. See below for man-overboard control measures. Staff to be briefed on swell forecasts prior to departure. Sea sickness tablets to be made available on-board and taken prior to departure by sea sickness sufferers.
Seasickness	All staff wear suitable protective clothing (hat, sunglasses) when working on exposed deck areas. Adequate drinking water and sunscreen to be made available. Immediate response: provide first aid as appropriate. If you need medical advice, call Dr. Ingrid Buffongel at [REDACTED]. If further treatment is needed or medical concerns are raised, the vessel will return to Port Little Bay
Burns from ropes when deploying/hauling equipment	All staff/crew to wear suitable protective gloves when handling ropes or camera rigs.

Do you require more fields?

Yes

Risk	Mitigation
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Mechanical or structural failures with research vessel in remote locations.	Research vessel operated by experienced local skipper with knowledge of local hazards and sea conditions. Vessel fuel level checked prior to departure and extra fuel onboard. Use twin- engined vessel for offshore research for redundancy in case of mechanical failure. Vessel equipped with anchor, sea anchor and emergency patch up kit and carries VHF radio and backup Iridium satellite phone and VMS, for tracking/contacting emergency services. Adequate drinking water onboard in the event of mechanical failure. In the event of an at-sea emergency, research team to follow the skipper's instructions at all times.
Lifting and moving Maka Niu BRUVS rigs	Appropriate work gloves to be worn at all times during rope/winch handling.
Slips and trips while moving around vessels, particularly in rough sea conditions.	All staff/crew follow instructions from the captain and crew for maintaining a safe working environment at all times. Prior to departure all staff to be briefed on the importance of maintaining an uncluttered work environment (deck), keeping surfaces clean and oil free and maintaining three points of contact with vessels when moving around deck in rough conditions. All staff/crew wear appropriate footwear when working on deck.
Risk of contracting/transmitting COVID-19.	Local guidance on COVID-safe working practices and social distancing to be followed at all times. Team members with COVID symptoms do not participate in fieldwork unless negative test result obtained.
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

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: Veta Wade

Position in the organisation: Montserrat Marine Megafauna - Project Leader
(if applicable)

Signature (please upload e-signature)

 [Screenshot 2023-11-29 at 5.22.38 pm](#)
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Date: 29 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).