

Applicant: **Simpson, Tiffany**
Organisation: **Ascension Island Government**
Funding Sought: **£50,000.00**

DPLR4\1076

Driving Community Conservation on Ascension Island

The Ascension Island Government Conservation and Fisheries Directorate (AIGCFD) urgently needs a dedicated outreach vehicle to support community engagement and conservation projects. All current vehicles are used for essential fieldwork, leaving none for outreach. This vehicle will enable AIGCFD to conduct public talks, school visits, and community events, vital for effective conservation education on an island with limited transport options.

DPLR4\1076

Driving Community Conservation on Ascension Island

Section 1 - Project Title & Contact Details

Q1. Project Title

Driving Community Conservation on Ascension Island

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

Organisation

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title	Dr
Name	Tiffany
Surname	Simpson
Tel (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	Ascension Island Government
Phone (Work)	+ [REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

Section 2 - Overseas Territory(ies)

Q3. Please state whether the same (or similar) project proposal has previously been submitted to the UK Government for funding, including through Darwin Plus Local, Defra's other Darwin Plus grant schemes or other UK Government funding mechanisms. Failure to do so may result in the application being ineligible.

No

Q4. 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.

St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha*

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

Ascension Island

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

Q5. Project partners (Guidance section 3.2)

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

Project Leader name (Guidance section 3.1): Cuen Muller

Lead Organisation name (if applying as an organisation; Guidance section 3.1): Ascension Island Government Conservation and Fisheries Directorate

Lead Organisation Website (if applicable): *No Response*


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

List other partners involved and where are they based: None


Summary of roles and responsibilities of each partner in the project:	Oversee procurement and shipping of the vehicle to Ascension Island. Ascension Island Government will draft a vehicle service plan and maintenance schedule.
---	--


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).

 [DarwinLocal vehicle Cover letter](#)

 24/06/2024

 18:31:43

 pdf 165.75 KB

Section 4 - Project Summary & Description

Q6. Project Summary (Guidance section 3.8)

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

The Ascension Island Government Conservation and Fisheries Directorate (AIGCFD) urgently needs a dedicated outreach vehicle to support community engagement and conservation projects. All current vehicles are used for essential fieldwork, leaving none for outreach. This vehicle will enable AIGCFD to conduct public talks, school visits, and community events, vital for effective conservation education on an island with limited transport options.

Q7a. 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?

The objective

The goal of this project is to secure a dedicated outreach vehicle for AIGCFD. Currently, AIGCFD lacks a vehicle specifically for outreach, severely limiting community engagement efforts. This vehicle will facilitate public talks, school visits, and community events, crucial for raising awareness about conservation and promoting community involvement. Additionally, it will support five ongoing Darwin projects (DPLUS159, DPLUS165, DPLUS161, DPLUS195, and DPLR3) by transporting volunteers and materials, thereby enhancing project

efficiency and impact.

The current situation and the problem

The AIGCFD acknowledges the critical need for regular and reliable outreach opportunities. To address this, AIGCFD has employed a Marine Protected Area (MPA) Engagement and Development Officer, a role funded by the UK Government's Blue Belt Programme and the Blue Marine Foundation. This officer's primary responsibility is to raise awareness of the Ascension Island MPA and engage with the local community. However, the lack of a dedicated vehicle severely hampers these efforts.

Currently, AIGCFD conducts bimonthly sessions for the Marine Protected Area Youth Committee, a group of 9 to 13 children dedicated to learning about ocean conservation. These sessions, which ideally involve outdoor activities like rock pooling, beach cleans, and wildlife tours, are essential for fostering ocean literacy, nature connection, and active environmental stewardship. Without these sessions, many children miss the opportunity to experience Ascension's rich marine environment and its mental health benefits, such as reduced depression and anxiety. However, the size of the group is constrained by the limited vehicle seating.

All existing AIGCFD vehicles are in constant use for critical daily operations. The two most frequently used vehicles for outreach, due to their 9-seat capacity, are allocated to seabird monitoring, Mexican thorn removal, and green turtle productivity tracking. These vehicles are often unavailable for outreach due to conflicting schedules with essential fieldwork. Additionally, both vehicles are over 8 years old and prone to frequent breakdowns, with four breakdowns in the last six months alone. This unreliability poses a safety risk, especially for transporting children.

Therefore, a dedicated outreach vehicle is urgently needed to ensure the effective delivery of community engagement activities. It would enable the MPA Engagement and Development Officer to operate independently and significantly enhance the impact and reach of AIGCFD's conservation efforts.

What success will look like and how it will be measured

The ideal vehicle for this project is a Land Rover Defender, renowned for its durability and ability to navigate Ascension's rugged terrain. With a seating capacity of up to 9 people, including the driver, it is perfect for transporting volunteers and the Marine Protected Area Youth Committee (MPAYC). Since production ceased in 2016, spare parts for the Land Rover Defender are now limited. Therefore, we seek a similar model that AIGCFD's mechanics are confident in maintaining.

This grant request is straightforward but pivotal, enabling AIGCFD to prioritize outreach for the MPA and other Darwin-funded projects, thus eliminating conflicts with time-sensitive fieldwork. Success will be measured by the increase in community engagement hours, particularly with the MPAYC. AIGCFD plans to offer weekly sessions and day trips on weekends or during school holidays. Additionally, if funded, we aim to divide the MPAYC into two groups—lower and upper years—on alternate weeks, allowing more children to explore Ascension's natural environment. Currently, age restrictions limit the group size. This vehicle will also open up new opportunities for innovative outreach initiatives within AIGCFD.

Q7b. 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?

Outreach and education are fundamental to the long-term success of conservation initiatives, as people's decisions and actions significantly impact wildlife. A new outreach vehicle will enable the AIGCFD team to maintain regular and reliable engagement opportunities, raising awareness among local residents about our conservation efforts and their importance. The primary long-term benefit of this project will be enhanced community attitudes towards AIGCFD, nature conservation, and environmental policies, leading to positive

behavioral changes that support environmental sustainability.

The vehicle's maintenance and fuel costs will be sustained by the Ascension Island Government, the UK Government's Blue Belt Programme, and other individual research project grants where applicable. This ensures the vehicle remains operational and effective in supporting outreach activities for the foreseeable future, thereby securing ongoing community engagement and education efforts.

(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)

Q8. 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 note: Any proposals including research or monitoring are required to demonstrate a clear link to tangible outcomes for conservation of biodiversity and the natural environment. Please explain how any new research will be applied to drive environmental outcomes on the ground.

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;**

Please tick which additional theme(s) of Darwin Plus your project contributes to (if relevant):

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

Unchecked **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.

The vehicle will allow AIGCFD to deliver regular and reliable community outreach programmes to local islanders, from educational sessions with the school, clubs and at public talks to active participation in the management of Ascension's MPA and natural environment. The vehicle will complement the work of the "MPA Engagement and Development Officer," helping to prioritize AIGCFD's engagement strategies.





Section 6 - Workplan

Q9. 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: <https://darwinplus.org.uk/apply/local-applications/>) 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 October 2024 and be completed by 31 March 2025.

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 3 months):
01 October 2024	31 March 2025	6 months

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

-  [R4 DPlus Local Implementation Timetable Template FINAL](#)
-  24/06/2024
-  18:42:19
-  pdf 112.72 KB

Section 7 - Costs

Q10. 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:	None	£0.00
Consultancy costs:	None	£0.00
Overhead costs:	Shipping of vehicle >5m customs delivery	£ [REDACTED]
Travel & subsistence costs:	None	£0.00

Operating costs:	None	£0.00
Capital equipment:	Second hand vehicle	£ [REDACTED]
Other Costs	Spares, tyres	£ [REDACTED]
Total:		50,000.00

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)

No Response

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

Shipping of vehicle greater than 5m, customs and delivery chargers

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):

Purchase of second-hand vehicle. Land Rover defender (9 seater) or similar.

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

No Response

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

procurement of any spares suggested following servicing

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:
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response

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? [REDACTED]

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

A vehicle and spare parts will be purchased from the UK, which is [REDACTED] of the budget, the remaining [REDACTED] will be spent on transporting and shipping the vehicle to Ascension

Section 8 - Local and National Priorities

Q11. 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 acquisition of an outreach vehicle directly supports key strategic objectives at both local and national levels, reinforcing our commitment to conservation and community engagement.

Ascension MPA Management Plan:

- Strategic Objective 3: Promote scientific research and share knowledge about Ascension's marine biodiversity to foster local and international support for marine conservation.
- Operational Objective 4c: Ensure effective community engagement in MPA governance and equitable sharing of management decision benefits and impacts.

Draft UK Overseas Territory Biodiversity Strategy:

- Goal 5: Reconnect people to nature, fostering deeper understanding and appreciation of natural environments.

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan:

- Strategic Objective 8: Share knowledge and value of Ascension's biodiversity with local and global community.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Targets:


- Target 21: Ensure accessible data, information, and knowledge for decision makers, practitioners, and the public to guide effective and equitable governance, integrated and participatory biodiversity management, and strengthen communication, awareness, education, monitoring, research, and knowledge management.


By aligning with these priorities, the outreach vehicle will enhance our ability to engage the local community, promote biodiversity knowledge, and support the equitable and inclusive governance of natural resources, thereby contributing to the long-term sustainability of Ascension Island's unique environment.


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.

 [20240621 AIG Letter of support - Darwin Local R
4 - Driving Community Conservation on Ascensio
n Island](#)

 24/06/2024

 18:59:07

 pdf 141.31 KB

Section 9 - Project Risks

Q12. 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 risk for imported vehicle	The vehicle will be cleaned before shipping and a document will be provided to AIG and the shipping company as proof. The vehicle will also be inspected at port of entry and inspected again when it arrives to AIGCFD as per Biosecurity Ordinance, 2020.
Safeguarding risks for outreach work	All Conservation staff have up to date Safeguard training
Vehicle safety on the roads	Drivers are trained, licensed and drive to the conditions Vehicle is regularly maintained Follow AIG Vehicle Policy

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: <https://darwinplus.org.uk/apply/local-applications/>).
- 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: Cuen Muller

Position in the organisation: (if applicable) Marine Team Leader

Signature (please upload e-signature)

-  [Muller Signature](#)
-  24/06/2024
-  19:01:15
-  jpg 51.17 KB

Date: 24 June 2024

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 (found at: https://darwinplus.org.uk/apply/local-applications/) 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 (available at: https://darwinplus.org.uk/apply/local-applications/).	Checked
I have uploaded all supplementary documents if I have any.	Unchecked
(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.

Unchecked

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: Driving Community Conservation on Ascension Island

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. Round 4 is for a **maximum of 6 months** with activities starting from 1 October 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		
			Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
1	Selection of vehicle	1						
2	UK inspection and procurement	2						
3	UK service	1						
4	Shipping	3						
5	Drafting of service plan and maintenance schedule	1						