Applicant: Schultz, Isabelle Organisation: Central Caribbean Marine Institute

Funding Sought: £46,208.00

DPLR4\1050

Extending Cayman Youth Environmental Awareness Through Immersive Education

This project will respond to overwhelming demand from Cayman youth to participate in CCMI's immersive learning experiences, providing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to engage with nature and participate in active research, building capacity for science and conservation in Cayman. Unfortunately, these opportunities are financially unattainable for many Cayman households.

This project will again offer funded placements on a marine biology and conservation course, also combined with shorter workshops on Grand Cayman to reach a broader audience for greater community impact.

DPLR4\1050

Extending Cayman Youth Environmental Awareness Through Immersive Education

Section 1 - Project Title & Contact Details

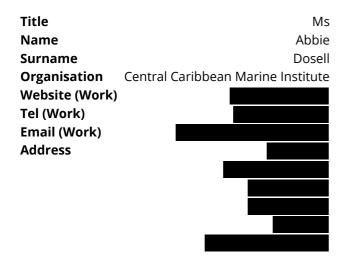
Q1. Project Title

Extending Cayman Youth Environmental Awareness Through Immersive Education

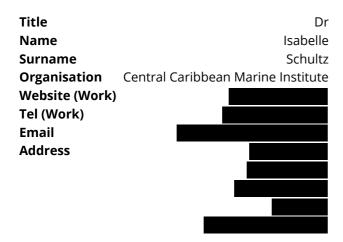
Q2. Please select whether you are applying as an organisation or as an individual (Guidance section 3 and Guidance Glossary)

Organisation

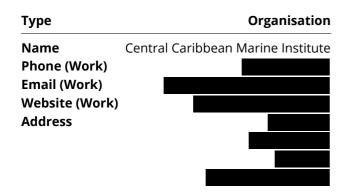
PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS



CONTACT DETAILS



GMS ORGANISATION



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.

Yes

Please provide details including the grant scheme applied for, round number, project and/or application number, whether your submission was successful and in case this is a resubmission, how you have addressed the feedback in your cover letter.

Last year, CCMI was successfully awarded a grant: DPLR2/1017: Increasing Cayman Youth Environmental Awareness Through Immersive Education. This project awarded full scholarships to 14 Caymanian youths to partake in CCMI's residential Caribbean Marine Ecology Camp (CMEC). This project was a great success with positive feedback from the participants and their families. However, over 45 applications were received, meaning that demand is high, and the current model of a week-long camp, although a powerful experience for participants, is insufficient to meet this demand in a timely manner. Cayman's marine environment is suffering following record-breaking temperatures and increased awareness is crucial to drive change. Due to the urgent need to engage as many youths as possible, this project builds upon the previous project's success, running

another camp alongside more widespread education workshops in Grand Cayman to overcome barriers to participation and engage as many students as possible.

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.

☑ 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)?

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):	Dr Isabelle Schultz		
Lead Organisation name (if applying as an organisation; Guidance section 3.1):	Central Caribbean Marine Institute		
Lead Organisation Website (if applicable):	reefresearch.org		
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		

CCMI will organize the Little Cayman field course, recruit participants, distribute awards, execute the field course, liaise with schools on Grand Cayman, organise school visits and education workshops, compile participant surveys, and write reports.

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

Isabelle Schultz will be responsible for project oversight, managing the financial aspects of the project, and report writing.

The CCMI education team will be responsible for planning, recruitment, and execution of the course with the help of an Education Assistant, Education Manager, and an intern. CCMI's communications team will be responsible for delivering all programme outreach and assisting with the final report.

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).

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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.

This project will respond to overwhelming demand from Cayman youth to participate in CCMI's immersive learning experiences, providing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to engage with nature and participate in active research, building capacity for science and conservation in Cayman. Unfortunately, these opportunities are financially unattainable for many Cayman households.

This project will again offer funded placements on a marine biology and conservation course, also combined with shorter workshops on Grand Cayman to reach a broader audience for greater community impact.

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?

Coral reefs have global ecological, structural, social, and economic importance that is disproportionately large relative to their real extent. Coral reefs are vital for small-island states, providing goods and services such as food provision, recreational activities, coastal protection, and cultural benefits and sustain one of the most important economic forces: tourism. Reefs are increasingly threatened by local and global impacts, including pollution, overfishing, and climate change, which became even more evident during 2023's mass coral bleaching event.

Small island states are at the forefront of climate change impacts, with the Cayman Islands experiencing ever-increasing extreme weather, from record-breaking heat to intense storms and flooding. The oceans and healthy marine systems are crucial to support disaster resilience, regulate climate, and mitigate climate change. The need for improved environmental awareness and stewardship is more urgent now than ever.

Despite ever-increasing vulnerability, a lack of awareness of ocean systems and coral reefs remains in many island nations, thus, local communities are often disconnected from one their most important natural resources. When communities understand the importance of their environment, they are more likely to foster of ownership and strive to protect it. Our goal is to expose and teach the next generation of Caymanian youth to the marine environment, thereby creating future ocean stewards that will protect the oceans and its biodiversity.

To achieve this goal and to maximise the education impact, we propose two courses of action:

- 1. Residential camp: host a week-long immersive educational programme for 14 local Caymanian youth aged 14 17 at CCMI's Little Cayman Research Centre.
- 2. Grand Cayman outreach: Hold half day workshops with 8 local primary schools on Grand Cayman, reaching circa 800 students.

The course and workshops will cover general background about the ocean, biodiversity, and threats, and the residential camp will include activities in the lab and ocean, such as snorkelling, fish and coral identification, beach clean ups and coral restoration. For many students, this is their first in-depth insight or interaction with the ocean, providing a life-changing experience.

The camp is traditionally run as a paid programme, offering a handful of scholarships. We have successfully run the camp for 10+ years, with excellent results and positive reviews. Unfortunately, the cost is often not financially feasible for many Caymanians. Last year, with Darwin+ funding, we were able to run a full-scholarship course, hosting 14 Caymanians. Although, we received 45 applications, showing a clear need and desire to participate in this programme.

The 2023 scholarship programme was a great success, with 92% of participants feeling more environmentally aware and inspired to take environmental action upon completion. Learning from last year and aiming to improve our programme for greater impact, this year, we propose to also host education workshops on Grand Cayman.

Some applicants last year were discouraged from the programme due to not wanting to be away from home, or parental concerns about the safety of the ocean and risks of shark attacks, for example. This conundrum itself highlights the need for improved connection to the ocean for some demographics of Caymanian society. These learnings, alongside the urgent need for increased environmental awareness due to increasing climate-change pressures, has resulted in the project development to include workshops on Grand Cayman. Through workshops with government schools, aiming to target a wider audience and begin to build connections with those most hesitant to the programme in an environment they are comfortable in, the overall programme will now reach over 800 students in Cayman.

Success of the project will be measured through number of applications, number of students reached through workshops, and pre and post education surveys.

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?

Although the programme is short, the benefits are long-lasting as they impact the mindset of the local youth. These youth may go on to become key decision makers or pillars in the community, and having learnt about the importance of the marine environment and how healthy marine systems impact their way of life will have a lasting impression.

The impact of CCMI's previous courses and internships is starting to become evident, as the network of alumni have progressed on to careers in science and environment, attending international conferences such as CoP28 and taking up positions in government. As a CCMI alumni, these previous students have the principles of conservation and environmental stewardship firmly embedded within their ways of working as they progress through their careers.

CCMI is actively developing sustainable funding avenues to increase scholarship support for our courses, including diversifying income to include earned revenue, private donations, corporate sponsorships and grantfunding, which will allow us to continue and increase CCMI's education offerings in the coming years. Completion of this project and creation of project communications materials, such as videos, will serve as evidence of the success and importance of these programmes and will be leveraged when seeking funding.

(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 <u>at least one of the</u> <u>themes of Darwin Plus with a clear focus on biodiversity and the natural environment</u>, 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.

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

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 main contribution of the project is through community engagement and improved awareness through direct interaction and teaching of local youth through government schools on Grand Cayman and at an immersive camp experience on Little Cayman. This will build environmental awareness throughout the community and foster advocacy, which is often passed on from children to their families. In turn, this supports the protection of biodiversity in both the short and long term, aiming to cultivate and inspire the next generation of ocean stewards, decision makers and voters in the Cayman Islands.

Section 6 - Workplan

Q9. Workplan (Guidance section 2.2)

<u>Please provide anticipated dates for the start and end of your planned project here</u>. Please use the <u>Darwin Plus Local Project Workplan</u> (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

- 🕹 Darwin Local CMECWorkplan FINAL
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- docx 31.47 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

Staff time for 3 CCMI staff members to oversee and implement project delivery, including course preparation and execution, selecting participants, organising logistics, project management, budget management and reporting.	
Consultancy costs: N/A	20.00
Overhead costs: Overhead is calculated at of the total direct project costs.	
Travel & subsistence costs include flights for the education intern, flights from Grand Cayman to Little Cayman for camp participants, accommodation and food for camp participants, and flights, accommodation and subsistence for 2 x CCMI staff for the Grand Cayman workshops.	
Operating costs include boat fees for the residential camp on Little Cayman (5 days) and printing and materials costs for the Grand Cayman education workshops.	
Capital equipment: N/A	20.00
Other costs are the communications and outreach costs to disseminate of camp details, run project PR, collaborate with communications partners (e.g. CI Government and Governor's Office), update CCMI website and social media, collect video content and create and distribute of final video product.	
Total:	16,208.00

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)

Dr Isabelle Schultz: salary support for 1 week time commitment towards project oversight and report submission (£

Ryan McLaughlin: salary support for 1.5 months to organize, recruit, and execute the course, and write the final report (£

Education intern (TBD): stipend support for 1 month to assist the education team (£



Details of overhead costs over £1,000 (if relevant):
Overhead is calculated at of the total direct project costs.
Details of travel and subsistence costs over £1,000 (if relevant):
One international flight for the education intern: £ Domestic flights for the intern and the 14 course participants from Grand Cayman to Little Cayman: £ Accommodation at CCMI for 14 course participants, including food: £ (\$ USD per person, per night) Housing at CCMI for the education intern: £
Domestic flights for project lead & intern to Grand Cayman: £ Accommodation for project lead & intern on Grand Cayman for 2 weeks: £ Car rental for 2 weeks: £ Subsistence at \$50 per person per day: £
Details of operating costs over £1,000 (if relevant):
Boat fees for 5 full days of boat use: £ Printing and materials for Grand Cayman workshops: £
Details of capital equipment costs over £1,000 (if relevant):
N/A
Details of consultancy costs over £1,000 (if relevant): N/A
Details of other costs over £1,000 (if relevant)
Communications and outreach costs to disseminate of camp details, update CCMI website and social media collect video content and create and distribute of final video product: £

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	0.8	xe.com	01 April 2024

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

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.

CCMI's education programmes align with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Ocean Literacy Principles and support key elements of both the Cayman Islands and UK National Science Curricula. The project activities and learning points also align with:

The Cayman Islands Chamber of Commerce Cayman CLEAN initiative, which focusses on the impact of litter on the environment and subsequent industries that depend on the environment. The project will include educational sessions on the various impacts of human activity, including littering, on the marine environment and the potential further consequences this can have on the ecosystem services provided by the environment. This is further supported in the residential camp through active conservation action in the form of beach cleans, giving participants a first-hand perspective of the issue.

The Cayman Islands Climate Change Policy, particularly the objective 'Integrate content on the value of natural systems for climate resiliency into public education campaigns.' This messaging will be at the forefront of all educational material both in the residential camp and the workshops on Grand Cayman. All materials will focus on the value on the environment to encourage environmental consciousness and stewardship.

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.

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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
Safeguarding risks with minors	CCMI has a comprehensive child protection and safeguarding policy that all staff are trained on and adhere to. This policy covers identifies and mitigates for risks to minors by mandating safety briefing, 24-hour adult supervision, respect for minors and comprehensive monitoring and reporting procedures. This policy can be provided upon request. Similarly, every group is accompanied by chaperones to further reduce this risk. In addition, CCMI's media and communications code of conduct follows UK best practice for communications and photography around minors, including mandating parental consent.
Boat safety risks	CCMI staff, interns, volunteers and visiting students adhere to comprehensive boat safety procedures at all times when operating or aboard vessels. The CCMI vessel is also maintained to high standards at all times and equipped with all legally required safety equipment, including life jackets, radio, flares and first aid equipment. A copy of CCMI's boat safety procedures can be provided upon request.
Not enough applicants apply for the residential programme	This risk is highly unlikely based upon the outcome of last year's project. 45 individuals applied and only 14 scholarships could be awarded through the project. Many applicants asked about the possibility for future scholarships. CCMI will contact all previous applicants who applied for the previous year to offer them the opportunity to apply this year. CCMI's communications team will also disseminate application information widely within the community, through engagement with teachers, social media and the local media to ensure awareness of the opportunity.

Do you require more fields?

Yes

Risk Mitigation

Grand Cayman schools do not engage with the programme	This risk is highly unlikely due to the existing relationship that CCMI has with both individual schools and teachers and the Cayman Islands Ministry of Education. However, to mitigate the risk, CCMI will engage early with connections at Grand Cayman schools to scope their interest and establish how the programme can be designed to best suit their needs. Early and continued engagement and consultation with the beneficiaries of the project will ensure this risk is minimised.
No Response	No Response

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: <u>Darwin Plus website</u> 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

<u>Supporting documents list (please have these ready to attach with application)</u>

- 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:	Abbie Dosell			
Position in the organisation: (if applicable)	Head of Fundraising and Engagement			
Signature (please upload e- signature)	 ♣ AD Signature ★ 21/06/2024 ♠ 17:07:08 ♠ png 18.18 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.	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 <u>Forms and Guidance Portal</u>.

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: Extending Cayman Youth Environmental Awareness Through Immersive Education

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.

		No. of	UK Financial Year 2024/25						
Activity #	tivity # Description (max 25 words)		Ca	Calendar Year 2024			Calendar Year 2025		
			Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	
1	Advertise CMEC opportunity – including engagement with government schools, press release, alumni engagement, social media.	1							
2	Review applications and confirm students	1							
3	Recruit education intern	1							
4	Engage with Grand Cayman schools	2							
5	Prepare for CMEC course	2							
6	Quarterly monitoring & evaluation	1							
7	Run CMEC course	1							
8	Project communications (newsletter, social media)	1							
9	Grand Cayman educational experiences	1							
10	End of project video & communications	2							
11	End of project reporting	1							