

DPLR4\1075

Creating the first birdwatching facilities at Tortola's best birding pond

Construction and launch of the first publicly accessible birdwatching lookout platform at Josiah's Bay pond, which is Tortola's most diverse birding pond. The lookout platform will be used to raise awareness of wetland bird species, mangrove habitats and the connection between domestic animals and threats to biodiversity as this will be situated on the new Animal Shelter grounds.

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Section 1 - Project Title & Contact Details

Q1. Project Title

Creating the first birdwatching facilities at Tortola's best birding pond

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	Nancy
Surname	Pascoe
Website (Other)	[REDACTED]
Tel (Fax)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	BVI Humane Society
Phone (Fax)	[REDACTED]
Email (Other)	[REDACTED]
Website	[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.

British Virgin Islands (BVI)

*** 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): Nancy Pascoe

Lead Organisation name (if applying as an organisation; Guidance section 3.1): BVI Humane Society

Lead Organisation Website (if applicable): <http://www.bvihumanesociety.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: No other partners

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

The Project leader will source the birdwatching equipment, hire the contractor to construct the birding platform (this will be the same contractor who is currently building the new Animal Shelter), design the interpretation, coordinate birding tours at new bird lookout with two other Tortola based bird experts (Clive Petrovic and Susan Zaluski) who are already regular volunteers with the annual Territorial bird counts.


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


Unchecked

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

 [Cover.letter.THS](#)

 24/06/2024

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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.

Construction and launch of the first publicly accessible birdwatching lookout platform at Josiah's Bay pond, which is Tortola's most diverse birding pond. The lookout platform will be used to raise awareness of wetland bird species, mangrove habitats and the connection between domestic animals and threats to biodiversity as this will be situated on the new Animal Shelter grounds.

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?

Josiah's Bay pond, at approximately 10 hectares, is the best birding pond on Tortola and attracts a wide diversity of wetland species, including Caribbean flamingos (*Phoenicopterus ruber*), Blue winged teals (*Spatula discors*), Caribbean coots (*Fulica americana*), Lesser scaups (*Aythya affinis*) and Ruddy ducks (*Oxyura jamaicensis*), but viewing the pond is very difficult at present due to limited access as the pond is surrounded by private property. The project leader is a member of the BVI Humane Society Board but is also the Deputy Director of the National

Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands and has coordinated the annual Christmas Bird Count in the BVI for over twenty five years with resident ornithologist Clive Petrovic, with the birdlife at Josiahs Bay being monitored annually with the limited access available.

As the BVI Humane Society is in the final phase of constructing a new Animal Shelter on one acre of land at Josiah's Bay that is directly adjacent to the pond, we have an excellent opportunity to build a small lookout platform that is in-keeping with the habitat and will not disturb the wetland birds. The creation of a birdwatching lookout platform will attract tourists and residents to the site, and we can conduct educational tours that will help to raise awareness of the BVI's biodiversity, whilst bringing people to the Animal Shelter, exposing them to what we do, teach them about the impacts that pet cats and dogs can cause to birdlife and what they can do to mitigate this.

This lookout would allow the BVI Humane Society to add birdwatching to its educational activities, as the Animal Shelter is visited by a very diverse cross-section of the BVI community, and this may expose a new section of the community to birdwatching. It will allow scientists from the National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands, and its partners, unobstructed viewing access to the pond so that more accurate bird surveys can take place.

Success would be a completed lookout that has wetland bird interpretation in place, fixed mount binoculars for public use and community awareness about the lookout's existence and its hours of opening to the public, as it will be within the perimeter of the Animal Shelter grounds.


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?


This is an excellent opportunity to educate people on the threats to birdlife from domestic cats and dogs, with interpretation panels at the lookout platform and inside the Animal Shelter. To promote use of the bird lookout platform we will conduct at least two birdwatching tours within the six month period, inviting school children, tour operators, local wildlife photographers and the general public.

There are no anticipated long-term running costs expected but a small fee could be charged to tour operators who want to bring tourists to the lookout, as birding is a growing ecotourism activity in the British Virgin Islands. Upkeep of the lookout platform will be part of the Animal Shelter maintenance.


(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:


 [Josiahs.Bay.map](#)


 24/06/2024


 14:08:04

 pdf 604.83 KB

 [Lookout designs](#)

 24/06/2024

 14:02:30

 pdf 250.39 KB

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;**

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.

The creation of the bird lookout platform will immediately remove the public access issue for bird surveys at this very biodiversity rich salt pond on Tortola.

The interpretation materials will educate visitors about the importance of mangrove wetlands as biodiversity habitats and increase awareness about the diversity of wetland birds found in the BVI. The birding tours will demonstrate opportunities for schools, tour operators and the general public to learn about mangrove wetlands, birdwatching and to take part in citizen science activities such as bird monitoring as this will be an easy to access location.





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):
02 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 BVI THS](#)
-  24/06/2024
-  14:14:09
-  docx 27.69 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:	N/A	£0.00
Consultancy costs:	N/A	£0.00
Overhead costs:	N/A	£0.00
Travel & subsistence costs:	Transportation of approximately 20 students from two schools to bird lookout at Josiah's Bay for bird tour and light refreshments for students, tour operators and the public during launch of lookout platform.	£ [REDACTED]
Operating costs:	N/A	£0.00
Capital equipment:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construction of lookout platform.• Bird observation equipment – fixed mount binoculars	£ [REDACTED]
Other Costs	Three interpretation panels will be produced to illustrate the diversity of birdlife seen at Josiah's Bay pond, with pictures of bird species, in addition to information on how domestic animals can be a threat to birdlife and what pet owners can do to mitigate these impacts.	£ [REDACTED]
Total:		26,887.05

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):

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 bird lookout tower will be constructed from wood, dimensions 15ft x 5ft with a shade roof and elevated height to see over the mangroves. The contractor who built the new Animal Shelter will be hired to construct this facility and has already seen the designs and provided feedback. £ [REDACTED]

Fixed mount binoculars will be purchased to provide free viewing of the birdlife on the pond, to be sourced from a supplier in the USA that has previously provided equipment to an existing bird lookout in the BVI. £ [REDACTED]

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

No Response

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

£ [REDACTED] These interpretation panels will be designed by the project leader but produced in the USA by a known company who has supplied signage that can withstand the sun and outdoor elements.

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:
US dollars	1 USD = 0.790823 GBP	https://www.xe.com/	21 June 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? [REDACTED]

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

The interpretation panels and the fixed mount binoculars must be purchased in the USA as they are not available within the BVI.

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 loss of mangrove wetlands is a national issue that is due to a combination of extreme hurricane events and destruction by landowners who want to fill in these areas to develop their land. The National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands (NPTVI) has been monitoring wetlands and birdlife across the BVI for over 25 years and the protection of the wetlands at Josiah's Bay has always been an issue as the land surrounding it is all privately owned and it is outside of the national park network of proposed protected areas. This project creates an excellent opportunity for the BVI Humane Society as a private landowner to undertake a conservation action on its land that will benefit both organisations.

There is a need for more public awareness on the threats that pet cats and dogs play in killing biodiversity, eg. On Anegada in the BVI feral cats are one of the main predators of the critically endangered Anegada Rock Iguana (*Cyclura pinguis*) and Caribbean flamingos (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) and this has been photographed and documented by NPTVI. Spaying and neutering pets would be simple activities that pet owners can do to reduce the stray population.

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

No

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
Bad weather delays construction	Allow sufficient time for construction and avoid the hurricane season. This 6 month project will begin at the end of the 2024 hurricane season so disruption is expected to be minimal.

Delays in acquiring fixed mount binoculars from overseas	Identify supplier now and order as soon as funds are received to allow sufficient time for shipping. A supplier has been identified already and an estimate received so that purchasing can take place immediately, followed by sea freight shipping.
Birds are disturbed by people using the lookout	Design the lookout to conceal people and set it back far enough from the salt pond and high enough to avoid disturbance to wetland birds. The lookout designs that were selected have taken this into consideration.

Do you require more fields?

Yes

Risk	Mitigation
Bird tours will involve students including children	Ensure school groups are supervised by their teachers or school designated persons; tours will be held during school hours and not early morning/late evening.
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<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: <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: Nancy K Pascoe

Position in the organisation: (if applicable) Board Director, BVI Humane Society

Signature (please upload e-signature)  [BRNB422004D4258_014694](#)
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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.	Unchecked
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 [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: Creating the first birdwatching facilities at Tortola’s best birding pond

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	Order fixed mount bird binoculars	3						
2	Construct bird lookout platform	5						
3	Design and produce interpretation signs	3						
4	Conduct two bird tours	1						