

Applicant: **Zimmermann, Alizee**  
Organisation: **Turks and Caicos Reef Fund**  
Funding Sought: **£49,434.67**

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# DPLR5\1077

## **Conservation Connections: Advocating for Responsible Usage of Marine Spaces**

The project "Conservation Connections" aims to promote sustainable usage of marine environments through community outreach and education. It includes installing informative signage, producing engaging educational videos, and hosting training sessions. These initiatives target residents, visitors, and marine resource users to raise awareness about responsible practices and foster a sense of stewardship. By equipping the community with knowledge and tools, the project seeks to enhance protection for marine ecosystems while encouraging active participation in conservation efforts.

**PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS**

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<b>Title</b>	Ms
<b>Name</b>	Alizee
<b>Surname</b>	Zimmermann
<b>Website (Work)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Tel (Work)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Email (Work)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Address</b>	[REDACTED]

# DPLR5\1077

Conservation Connections: Advocating for Responsible Usage of Marine Spaces

## Section 1 - Project Title & Contact Details

### Q1. Project Title

Conservation Connections: Advocating for Responsible Usage of Marine Spaces

### 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	Ms
Name	Alizee
Surname	Zimmermann
Website (Work)	Www.tcreef.org
Tel (Work)	
Email (Work)	
Address	

#### GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	Turks and Caicos Reef Fund
Phone	
Email (Work)	
Website (Work)	
Address	

## Section 2 - Overseas Territory(ies)

**Q3. Please state whether the same (or a similar) project proposal has previously been submitted (or you are planning to submit it) to the UK Government for funding. This includes through Darwin Plus Local, Defra's other Darwin Plus grant schemes or other UK Government funding mechanisms. Failure to share this information may result in the application being ineligible (see Guidance section 2.1.1).**

☒ No

#### **Q4. Overseas Territory (Guidance section 1.3):**

**Which UK Overseas Territory(ies) will your project be working in?**

☒ Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI)

**\* 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**

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#### **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.**

<b>Project Leader name: (Guidance section 3.1)</b>	Alizee Zimmermann
<b>Lead Organisation name: (if applying as an organisation; Guidance section 3.1)</b>	Turks and Caicos Reef Fund
<b>Lead Organisation Website (if applicable):</b>	www.TCReef.org
<b>Is the Lead Organisation based in a UKOT where the project is working? (Guidance section 3.1)</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
<b>List other partners involved and where are they based:</b>	N/A

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

Alizee Zimmermann - Turks and Caicos Reef Fund – Ms. Zimmermann is the lead partner and is responsible for all logistics as well as overseeing the project's reporting and accounting. She is the executive director of the Turks and Caicos Reef Fund. Alizee's hands-on experience in leading education and outreach projects and her connections within the local dive and watersports organizations will help her manage this particular project for a successful outcome. Alizee will contract the help of on-island videographers and our diverse team of volunteers to create an engaging outreach campaign for responsible marine usage. Thoughtfully curated videos, made with the watersports community as the main "characters" in the story, have the potential to help inspire and instil pride in the environment. Her team and her have successfully completed two Darwin Locals in Rounds 1 and 3. We hope to continue gratefully growing our capacity through the support of this grant.


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


Checked


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

 [Darwin Local D5 Conservation Connections Cover Letter](#)

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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.**

The project "Conservation Connections" aims to promote sustainable usage of marine environments through community outreach and education. It includes installing informative signage, producing engaging educational videos, and hosting training sessions. These initiatives target residents, visitors, and marine resource users to raise awareness about responsible practices and foster a sense of stewardship. By equipping the community with knowledge and tools, the project seeks to enhance protection for marine ecosystems while encouraging active participation in conservation efforts.

### 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 Conservation Connections project aims to improve community awareness and engagement in the sustainable use of our island's marine environments. Our goal is to promote a culture of environmental stewardship that encourages responsible interactions with marine ecosystems and the careful use of infrastructure like moorings. This initiative will benefit both the community and the diverse wildlife inhabiting our waters.

Our island's marine ecosystems face significant challenges from increased recreational activities, pollution, diseases, and climate change. Over the past two years, the number of water sports operators has surged, with many using large vessels for snorkeling and cruising. This rapid growth has led to the deterioration of mooring infrastructure along Leeward sites and an increase in harmful practices, such as fish feeding. Many moorings have been improperly used and have been pulled out, with only three of the 17 new moorings installed by the TC Reef Fund in 2023 remaining by March 2024.

The tourism industry's rapid expansion has created a disconnect between operators and the ocean, diminishing the traditional connection that tour guides once had with nature. Additionally, the modern tourism focus on instant gratification often translates into practices like fish feeding, further alienating visitors from environmental stewardship. This disconnect threatens the sustainability of marine resources and the livelihoods of local fishermen and tourism operators. Our project aims to directly address these issues through engaging and informative initiatives, collaborating with the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) to ensure accurate messaging.

The success of Conservation Connections will be evaluated through several measurable outcomes:

1. **Increased Awareness:** We aim to reach 80% of local residents and visitors through educational signage and video campaigns. We will conduct pre- and post-engagement surveys to assess improvements in knowledge regarding marine stewardship. Signage will also be installed at the airport's arrival hall.
2. **Community Engagement:** Collaborating with the Department of Tourism Regulations (DTR) and DECR, we will create unified messaging that promotes responsible marine space usage. Our digital content will be accessible to various sectors, and we will coordinate with the new Destination Management Organization, ExperienceTCI, to amplify our outreach and ensure consistent branding.
3. **Wildlife Protection:** We will enhance practices related to mooring and wildlife interactions, including fish feeding and encounters with dolphins and whales. We will consult with DECR and the TCI Whale Project to develop appropriate messaging.
4. **Educational Resource Reach:** Our educational videos will be shared across digital platforms, social media, and through various tourism and watersports sectors. Visitors will encounter information on marine protection from the moment they arrive, with signage at the airport and videos in participating hotels' in-room television systems and lobbies.

The project specifically addresses threats from improper mooring practices, habitat destruction, and a lack of community knowledge. Educational signage will provide clear guidelines for best mooring practices, while our video series will showcase responsible behaviours through real-life scenarios involving local experts. By incorporating community feedback, we ensure that our resources are relevant and impactful.

Conservation Connections represents a strategic effort to mitigate the threats facing our marine environments. Through education and community engagement, we will equip stakeholders with the knowledge and tools needed to protect our natural resources. With clear objectives and measurable outcomes, we are committed to fostering a culture of stewardship that benefits both the environment and the community's connection to its marine heritage. With your support, we can empower our community to actively safeguard our coastal ecosystems for future generations.

## **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 project will yield significant long-term benefits by fostering a culture of environmental stewardship within our community. Increased awareness of responsible mooring practices and safe interactions with marine mammals will lead to improved marine habitat health, benefiting biodiversity and supporting local fisheries and tourism.

To ensure sustainability beyond the 12-month funding period, we will establish partnerships with local organizations, such as the Watersports Association to continue promoting the messaging after the initial funding period. We will train community volunteers to serve as "marine ambassadors," who will maintain and update educational signage and facilitate ongoing trainings. Additionally, the digital resources created—including videos and online training modules—will remain accessible to the community, allowing for continual engagement and education. By embedding this information into local training protocols will ensure that new boaters and visitors are equipped with the knowledge needed to protect our marine environments and enjoy them responsibly. Ultimately, this project aims to cultivate a community that is not only informed but also actively engaged in conservation efforts, creating a lasting legacy of responsible marine stewardship that will benefit future generations.

**(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	<b>Biodiversity: improving and conserving biodiversity, and slowing or reversing biodiversity loss and degradation;</b>
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**Please tick which additional theme(s) of Darwin Plus your project contributes to (if relevant):**

Unchecked	<b>Climate change: responding to, mitigating and adapting to climate change and its effects on the natural environment and local communities;</b>
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Checked	<b>Environmental quality: improving the condition and protection of the natural environment</b>
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Checked	<b>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.</b>
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**Please justify your selection. Please use quantitative information where possible here.**

Biodiversity: A direct impact on biodiversity degradation through changed behaviour, i.e. stop feeding fish and dropping anchors.

Environmental quality: responsible use of marine space, especially moorings which protect coral reef benthic habitats.

Capability and capacity building: Through interactive learning, videos, presence at marine training courses, we can help foster a community of environmentally conscious and responsible marine space users.


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/how-to-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 April 2025 and be completed by 31 March 2026.**


Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 3 months):
02 April 2025	30 March 2026	12 months

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


[Conservation Connections R5 DPlus Local Implementation Timetable Template - FINAL](#)


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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? (Please note that this is optional and there is no requirement to seek matched funding for Darwin Plus Local projects).**



⦿ No

Budget line	Explanation	Cost in GBP
<b>Staff costs:</b>	Project lead staff time	
<b>Consultancy costs:</b>	Graphic Designer time – creation of signage Videographer time – creation of short media videos + training videos Project manager to liaison with	
<b>Overhead costs:</b>	N/A	
<b>Travel &amp; subsistence costs:</b>	N/A	
<b>Operating costs:</b>	Boat fuel for trainings and content creation	
<b>Capital equipment:</b>	Signage – 6 large (10x6ft) metal signs located at strategic meeting points in main marinas Outreach materials – pamphlets, digital media,	
<b>Other Costs</b>	N/A	
<b>Total:</b>		

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)**

TCRF staff will coordinate the project. [REDACTED] for administrative costs  
Eric Cardin – Captain rate [REDACTED] per day for 12 days [REDACTED]

All budgets are in USD but final calculations above provided in GBP.

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

[REDACTED] for boat Fuel and engine hours

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

The signage will cost around [REDACTED] per sign installed and we are looking to install 6 signs for a total of [REDACTED] this leaves us with [REDACTED] for informational pamphlets and outreach materials. The rest of our materials are digital and their creation is covered under consultancy.

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

Graphic Designer to create materials including signage and pamphlets - [REDACTED]

Videographer to create training and marketing video portfolio - [REDACTED]

Part time Project Manager to coordinate project and outreach activities – [REDACTED]

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

N/A

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**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	1 USD = 0.797103 GBP	<a href="https://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/convert/?Amount=17000&amp;From=USD&amp;To=GBP">https://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/convert/?Amount=17000&amp;From=USD&amp;To=GBP</a>	24 November 2024

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**Darwin Plus Local has been created to build capacity and contribute to local economies in-territory (Guidance section 2.1.1 and section 1.8.4 of the Finance Guidance).**

**In-territory spend is defined in Darwin Plus Local as including funding spent on:**

- Equipment purchased in-territory;
- Equipment that cannot be acquired in-territory and is therefore purchased abroad, but will remain and be used in-territory beyond the life of the proposed Darwin Plus Local project;
- Training or skills that cannot be acquired in-territory and are therefore purchased abroad, but will be used in-territory beyond the life of the proposed Darwin Plus Local project;
- Time for consultants or staff based in-territory.

**In-territory spend does not include:**

- Time for consultants or staff who are based abroad, even if they travel to the OT to undertake the work;
- Shipping and import costs for equipment purchased abroad;
- Travel and subsistence costs where they incur spend outside the OT.

What % of the total will be spent in-territory? 100

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**If less than 80% of the total project spend is to be spent in-territory, please explain why.**

N/A

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## Section 8 - Local and National Priorities

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### 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.**

This project aligns with the TCI's national environmental priorities, focusing on the sustainable use of natural resources and the preservation of National Parks. We collaborate with the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) on numerous projects and our missions align towards a desire to see empowered, informed, and involved community members, visitors and resource users. The TC Reef Fund (TCRF) is the territory's most active environmentally focused NGO and a signatory on the 2022 Climate Change Charter. Part of our commitment is based in fostering understanding of and appreciation for the coastal ecosystems, so integral to our culture, heritage and future resilience. A well-managed outreach project with tangible outcomes such as training videos and eye-catching information boards at busy locations has the potential to spark conversations about conservation and inspire people towards safeguarding our nation's marine spaces for the benefit of all. In this way, it supports the goals of the Turks and Caicos National Parks Ordinance, which mandates the sustainable use of marine areas.

### Will the project...

#### Take place on Government owned land or water?

☒ No


#### Involve biocontrol, invasive alien species control or eradication?


☒ No


#### Require permit(s) from Government departments for completion of activities?


☒ Yes

**If you have answered yes to any of the questions above, 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.**

 [Zimmerman TCRF Marine Spaces DECR Letter of Support DPLR6 22112024](#)

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## Section 9 - Project Risks

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### 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.

For example, you should consider the ratio of vulnerable people or children to adults, ensuring there are appropriate background checks of all staff, and informing vulnerable groups and children of their right to safety and protection.

Risk	Mitigation
Safeguarding Risk	All signage will be installed by knowledgeable and skilled volunteers. All training videos including divers will be conducted by trained volunteers under the supervision of professional divers and safety divers. All volunteers will sign waivers.
Resistance to Change Risk	Community resistance to change can be mitigated through early engagement of stakeholders in the process to gather input and address concerns. Highlight benefits through success stories and testimonials to foster buy-in.
No Response	No Response

Do you require more fields?

☒ No

## Section 10 - Terms & Conditions

### Q13. 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: <https://darwinplus.org.uk/how-to-apply/local-applications/> 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, is addressing invasive alien species or includes activities requiring a permit, a Letter of support from OT Government.
- Project Workplan in the template provided for Darwin Plus Local (available at: <https://darwinplus.org.uk/how-to-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:	Alizee Zimmermann
Position in the organisation: (if applicable)	Executive Director
Signature (please upload e-signature)	<div> <a href="#">Alizee Zimmermann esignature</a></div> <div> 24/11/2024</div> <div> 17:14:04</div> <div> pdf 22.82 KB</div>
Date:	24 November 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

<b>I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund (found at: <a href="https://darwinplus.org.uk/apply/local-applications/">https://darwinplus.org.uk/apply/local-applications/</a>) for this fund.</b>	Checked
<b>I have provided actual start and end dates for my project that fit this Round.</b>	Checked
<b>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.</b>	Checked
<b>I have uploaded my project workplan using the specific template provided (available at: <a href="https://darwinplus.org.uk/apply/local-applications/">https://darwinplus.org.uk/apply/local-applications/</a>).</b>	Checked
<b>I have uploaded all supplementary documents if I have any.</b>	Checked
<b>(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.</b>	Checked
<b>The application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).</b>	Checked
<b>I have checked the Darwin Plus website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.</b>	Checked
<b>I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Plus website.</b>	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).**