Applicant: **Jimenez, Carlos** Organisation: **Enalia Physis Environmental Research Centre**

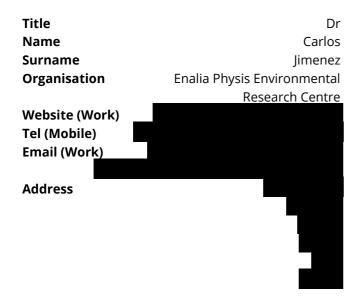
Funding Sought: £50,000.00

DPLR5\1080

Completing the biodiversity puzzle of the Jubilee Shoals (SBA Akrotiri)

The project will tackle the lack of information about the marine biodiversity and habitats of the western and central sectors of the Jubilee Shoals (SBAA Akrotiri), areas not surveyed yet. This missing ecological information of EU relevant habitats (seagrass beds, rocky reefs, submerged caves, coralligenous) is needed for a holistic, ecosystem-based management approach. With the participation of stakeholder in the surveys, the project will raise awareness, build capacity, and provide evidence-based tools for the sustained management of the shoals.

CONTACT DETAILS



DPLR5\1080

Completing the biodiversity puzzle of the Jubilee Shoals (SBA Akrotiri)

Section 1 - Project Title & Contact Details

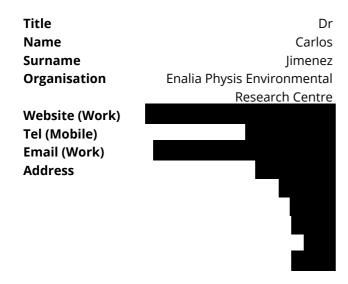
Q1. Project Title

Completing the biodiversity puzzle of the Jubilee Shoals (SBA Akrotiri)

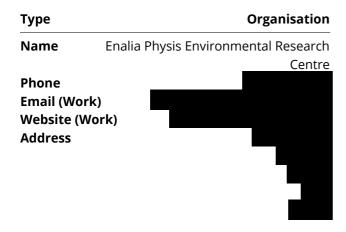
Q2. Please select whether you are applying as an organisation or as an individual (Guidance section 3 and Guidance Glossary)

Organisation

CONTACT DETAILS



GMS ORGANISATION



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).

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.

Darwin Plus Local Round 1

DPL00041: Assessing and protecting marine biodiversity (Jubilee Shoals, SBAA Akrotiri, Cyprus). Submission accepted; project completed (31/03/2024).

Darwin Plus Local Round 3

DPL00082: Chasing Ghosts: Managing abandoned fishing gear in SBA Akrotiri, Cyprus.

Submission accepted; on-going project to be completed (31/03/2025).

Please see SUPPORTING MATERIAL for additional details and location at the shoals of the investigated areas corresponding to the two DPL projects.

Q4. Overseas Territory (Guidance section 1.3):

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

☑ Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia (on Cyprus)

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

No Response

In addition to the UKOT(s) you have indicated, will your project directly benefit any other UK OT(s) or country(ies)?

Yes

Please list these here and describe how they will benefit:

The methods utilized in the project can be replicated to achieve similar outcomes in the Sovereign Base Areas of Dhekelia (on Cyprus). In the SBA Dhekelia, there are marine caves, seagrass meadows, rocky reefs, and coralligenous habitats with biodiversity that needs to be systematically surveyed for a holistic, ecosystem-based management approach. Comprehensive knowledge of the spatial distribution of habitats and species is crucial for the spatial prioritization of conservation goals and managerial actions (e.g., Marine Spatial Planning) of the SBAA Dhekelia's marine habitats.

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)	Carlos Jimenez
Lead Organisation name: (if applying as an organisation; Guidance section 3.1)	Enalia Physis Environmental Research Centre
Lead Organisation Website (if applicable):	https://enaliaphysis.org.cy/
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 partner.
Summary of roles and responsibilities of each partner in the project:	No other partner.
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).

- & R5-DPlus-Cover letter-24.11.2024
- () 22:43:49
- pdf 147.78 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 project will tackle the lack of information about the marine biodiversity and habitats of the western and central sectors of the Jubilee Shoals (SBAA Akrotiri), areas not surveyed yet. This missing ecological information of EU relevant habitats (seagrass beds, rocky reefs, submerged caves, coralligenous) is needed for a holistic, ecosystem-based management approach. With the participation of stakeholder in the surveys, the project will raise awareness, build capacity, and provide evidence-based tools for the sustained management of the shoals.

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?

OVERALL OBIECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

The general objective of the project "Completing the biodiversity puzzle of the Jubilee Shoals (SBAA Akrotiri)" is to produce the missing information that is needed for a holistic, ecosystem-based management approach of the shoals' remarkable habitats.

CURRENT SITUATION AND THE PROBLEM THE PROJECT ADDRESSES

In order to achieve sustainable management and conservation of the world's ocean ecosystems, basic but fundamental information, such as knowledge of species and habitats' spatial distribution is need. This information is mostly produced from exploration and evaluation surveys. However, given the current state of the on-going biodiversity crisis, more often than not, we are late generating knowledge for the understanding and conservation of those habitats. While it is clear that producing such knowledge requires significant resources in terms of costs and time, it is also certain that it contributes to the elaboration of more realistic and consequential management actions and plans. Under particular circumstances, managerial actions can still be elaborated and enforced based on incomplete ecological knowledge ("lack of complete data is not an excuse for inaction", Giakoumi et al., 2012). If that course of action is taken, it implies that environmental managers must take into account uncertainties and biases risking to underestimate or overestimate environmental and ecological factors. In consequence, there are efforts in the Mediterranean and in Cyprus, to promote and continue filling the gaps of knowledge with the exploration and the systematic evaluation of the marine habitats and their biodiversity. The project addresses the incompleteness of the ecological knowledge (biodiversity and habitats) of a particular site in Cyprus where the SBA Environment Department is pursuing the management and protection of the Jubilee Shoals' ecosystem. The project will provide those last pieces of information needed for a holistic, ecosystem-based management approach in order to decrease degradation of the shoals' habitats.

AVAILABLE QUANTIFIED DATA AND EVIDENCE

The Jubilee Shoals (SBA Akrotiri) is a remarkable rocky outcrop of geological and ecological features that all made of the site unique in Cyprus, and possibly, in the Levantine region as well (supp. material). With the support of the Darwin Plus Local (DPL) program, the first systematic evaluation of the biodiversity and habitats of the shoals was made at the eastern most section (see supporting material). It is during the second DPL project that the

central and western sectors of the shoals were visited, producing a glimpse of the ecological and geomorphological characteristics of these areas (supp. mat.). As a result of the new but limited information, it is clear that for a comprehensive management of the shoals, it is not optimal to elaborate plans and actions based only on information derived from about one third of the shoals' total area (supp. mat.). Even though a series of recommendations were provided in the first DPL project utilizing the spatially-limited information (note: the real extent of the shoals' ecosystems was not known at that time), it is necessary a complete account of the biodiversity of the entire area of the Jubilee Shoals to make a reliable holistic ecosystem-based management plan (supp. mat.). The results from the first DPL project are, however, a solid starting platform to proceed with further evaluations of the other two-thirds of the shoals' area (supp. mat.).

CAPABILITY AND CAPACITY LOCAL PARTNERS

With the participation of graduate students, the project contributes with education and training (e.g., methods, data analysis, sharing of results) that is not usually offered in environmental study programs. Engagement of local stakeholders with the project started with the first two DPL projects and there is an enthusiastic willingness from their part to continue.

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?

The short to long term benefits of the project will go beyond its life span. This is because we have been always in communication with the SBAA Environment Department since the inception of the first DPL project and we have incorporated their feedback and needs into the projects' goals and deliverables. The results are of relevance for the on-going efforts to make a holistic ecosystem-based management of the shoals. We provided and will continue doing it the knowledge (e.g., databases, maps of species distribution, recommendations for management) that can be used in the short to long term and not kept in a report filed in a drawer. The increase of awareness and engagement of local stakeholders that started with the initial DPL project, continues as we write this proposal and it is a key element for the sustainability of the project goals.

(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:

- & R5-DPlus-SuppMat-JubileeShoals-24.11.2024
- **= 24/11/2024**
- © 22:56:03
- pdf 1.24 MB

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> 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.

<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):

Checked	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 project addresses these themes by (i) tackling the lack of completeness of the ecological and biodiversity information and health status of the shoals' habitats; (ii) by contributing to improve environmental quality with the (iii) facilitation of conservation and management actions necessary to (iv) respond and mitigate the negative effects of Climate change by increasing habitat's resilience (e.g., lessen anthropogenic impacts); (vi) training and education of graduate students and teachers as well.

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 <u>Darwin Plus Local Project Workplan</u> (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):
01 April 2025	31 March 2026	12 months

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

- <u>R5-DPlus-local-implementation-timetable-templ</u> <u>ate-final</u>
- **= 24/11/2024**
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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
	-Project Leader with long experience (40yrs) in research and conservation of marine habitats, who developed the concept, strategy and goals of the project and who will be responsible for the successful completion of activities and performance of participants.	
Staff costs:	-Research Assistant qualified in Technical & Rebreather diving research methods and safety, will participate in all activities of the project and will use selected data from the database for research thesis.	
	-Project Assistant with experience in photo analysis of benthic organisms.	
	-Project manager with years of experience in managerial and administrative activities of ENALIA's research projects.	
Consultancy costs:	-Since diving at the Shoals requires high-skilled divers, resources are requested to cover the fees of certified experienced Rebreather and Technical divers. The former will work at depths more than 40m (max. dive time of 3hrs) and the latter on shallower habitats (decompression diving).	
	-For the access to the Jubilee Shoals it is necessary to charter a boat suitable for the dive team (4 divers).	
Overhead costs:	It is a standard practice of the Leading Partner Organization to add overhead costs.	
Travel & subsistence costs:	During the first seven months (May-Nov 2025), the project requires local travels from the capital to the study site, car fuel, per diem and accommodation for the participants.	

	-The diving activities will follow stringent rules for safety and decompression procedures. It is necessary to rent/refill scuba tanks with NITROX, Oxygen, as well the purchase of Sofnolime.
Operating costs:	-Production of two videos (5-7 min long) to be used for dissemination & educational purposes.
	-Production of 3D and 2D models of a marine cave that has not been surveyed yet.
Capital equipment:	-For safety purposes, an Oxygen kit will be purchased to be available for all surveys.
	-Temperature & irradiance data loggers will be acquired for monitoring purposes necessary for adaptive management actions
Other Costs	Catering for the meeting and workshop at the beginning and end of the project, respectively.
Total:	

This section provides more information on the budget to help evaluators understand how you will use the funds you are requesting. You do not need to list all costs, but please list and detail costs of more than £1,000 per item below, under the appropriate budget line.

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

- -Carlos Jimenez (Male), Project Leader, time 91 days (for management, participate in surveys, advise on data management and analysis, writing reports.
- -Maria-Victoria Tsangara (Female), Project Assistant, time 66 days (for data analysis (photoquadrats), organize meetings, workshops.
- -Vasilis Resaikos (Male), graduate student, Research Assistant, time 104 days (to organize and participate in surveys, meetings, workshops, managing and analysis of data, writing reports.
- -Marios Papageorgiou (Male), Project Administration, time 15 days (for project management, financial reporting.
- -No funds are required for Magdalene Papatheodoulou (Female) statistics; Christiana Tourapi (Female) manager assistant; Marianna Charalampous (Female) communication and dissemination.

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

It is a standard 7% of the overall cost for administrative use (



-Transportation cost (fuel) for the surveys to the study site: 10 round trips (£0.25/km).	culated as each
-Per diem fieldwork: 32 times (, calculated as the official rate of	y.
-Accommodation: studio 4 persons during field work: 18 nights (calculated as	s night.
Details of operating costs over £1,000 (if relevant):	
- Dive equipment rentals/refills (NITROX, Oxygen, Air) for tech divers: 64 sets (16 dives x set.	calculated as 4 divers x
- Dive equipment rentals (Sofnolime, Oxygen, Air) for rebreather divers: 8 sets (8 dives x set.	calculated as 2 divers x
- Regulators service: 4 sets (£125/set.	
- Videos: (two videos (5-7 minutes) in English and Greek.	
- 3D and 2D models of a cave:	
Details of capital equipment costs over £1,000 (if relevant):	
- Emergency Oxygen kit (Rescue Pack extended Care), 1 kit	
- Data loggers for environmental information: 16 units (calculated as	it.
Details of consultancy costs over £1,000 (if relevant):	
- Rebreather divers >40m depth areas: 4 dives (calculated as 2 divers x 1 dive	es x dive.
-Technical divers <40m depth areas: 8 dives (calculated as 4 divers x 1 dives :	dive.
-Safety diver: 4 dives (dive.	
-Diving scooters mobilize underwater: 4 rentals (calculated as 2 scooters x 4 di	ives x rental.
-Underwater video cameras: 16 rentals (calculated as 16 dives x rental.	
-Boat charters Rebreather Divers: 5 charters (calculated as	f a day).
-Boat charters Technical Divers: 8 charters (calculated as onboard).	a day, plus 1 extra hand
Details of other costs over £1,000 (if relevant)	
Costs below	

accessed:

Euros 1.20	EUR/GBP	https://www.exchangerates.org.uk/Pounds- to-Euros-currency-conversion-page.html	18 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	96
in-territory?	

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

The project will comply/follow national and EU targets for the marine environment. To begin with, the important habitats found at the Jubilee Shoals -rocky reefs, coralligenous bioconstructions, submarine caves, and seagrass (Posidonia) beds- are relevant for the European Union (Habitat Directive 92/43 EEC) and the Barcelona Convention (UNEP-MAP-RAC/SPA 2008, 2015). Following that, an important outcome of the project is to produce the missing ecological information needed for Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) that is essential for a holistic, ecosystem-based management approach of the entire shoals' area. All Mediterranean Member States and non-EU countries are encouraged by the Barcelona Convention to implement MSP (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.6/7, 1995). Under the Framework Directive on MSP 2014/89/EC (MSPD, EU, 2014a) Member States are implementing MSP to achieve goals of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD, EC, 2008) and the Blue Growth Strategy (EC, 2012), for the application of ecosystem-based management.

Will the project...

Take place on Government owned land or water?

Yes

Involve biocontrol, invasive alien species control or eradication?

No

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

No

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.

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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.

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.

Mitigation
Use of available weather forecast tools (e.g., Windy.com, Kithasweather.com) and consultation to locals in order to select the best possible dates for the activities.
Serviced diving gear; spare parts; strict safety measures and protocols for diving; direct communication with hyperbaric chamber facilities.
Replacement personnel available to accomplish the work plan in the field and at the office.

Do you require more fields?

Yes

Risk	Mitigation
Low participation of stakeholders in the presentation and discussion of the project's outcomes during the first and final meetings.	Frequent communication with individuals and organizations will increase motivation and engagement.
No Response	No Response

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:	Carlos Jimenez	
Position in the organisation: (if applicable)	Research Director	
Signature (please upload e- signature)	 ♣ Signature BW ★ 24/11/2024 ◆ 23:45:08 ♣ jpg 63.71 KB 	
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
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).