

Applicant: **Ryan, Kaysie**
Organisation: **Montserrat National Trust**
Funding Sought: **£47,439.00**

DPLR5\1057

Optimising breeding success for Critically Endangered Mountain Chicken in Montserrat.

A tiny population of around 30 wild mountain chicken frogs have been found to be potentially resilient to the invasive amphibian fungal disease chytridiomycosis, which decimated the last remaining populations on the Caribbean islands of Montserrat and Dominica. It is critical we learn to breed these animals to aid recovery through repopulation of both islands. We will explore a unique opportunity to develop skills necessary to successfully breed the species for the first time in a semi-wild enclosure on Montserrat.

CONTACT DETAILS

Title Miss
Name Kaysie
Surname Ryan
Organisation Montserrat National Trust
Tel (Mobile) [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]

CONTACT DETAILS

Title Mrs
Name Faaiza
Surname Needham
Organisation Montserrat National Trust
Website (Work) [REDACTED]
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Email (Work) [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]

DPLR5\1057

Optimising breeding success for Critically Endangered Mountain Chicken in Montserrat.

Section 1 - Project Title & Contact Details

Q1. Project Title

Optimising breeding success for Critically Endangered Mountain Chicken in Montserrat.

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

☒ Organisation

CONTACT DETAILS

Title	Miss
Name	Kaysie
Surname	Ryan
Organisation	Montserrat National Trust
Tel (Mobile)	
Email	
Address	

CONTACT DETAILS

Title	Mrs
Name	Faaiza
Surname	Needham
Organisation	Montserrat National Trust
Website (Work)	
Tel (Work)	
Email (Work)	
Address	

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	Montserrat National Trust
Phone	
Email (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?

☒ Montserrat

*** 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:

We will work closely with our counterparts in the Dominica Forestry Department who will visit the semi-wild enclosure on Montserrat as part of this project and spend time with our staff and with international staff from Norden's Ark over a three week period. They will learn and experience first-hand the staff time, skill and resources required to run such a facility as part of the preparations for us to expand this model to Dominica and initiate a head-starting programme for the genetically valuable frogs found there.

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)	Kaysie Ryan
Lead Organisation name: (if applying as an organisation; Guidance section 3.1)	Montserrat National Trust
Lead Organisation Website (if applicable):	www.montserratnationaltrust.ms
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:	Department of Environment, Montserrat Norden's Ark, Sweden Dominica Forestry Department, Dominica Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Jersey UK
Summary of roles and responsibilities of each partner in the project:	Montserrat National Trust: The role of the trust is to lead the project on island in Montserrat. Kaysie Ryan, MCRP Project Coordinator (and Project Lead), and Alecia Allison, Junior Project Officer, are responsible for maintaining the insect breeding facility and the 6 mountain chicken frogs which are remaining in the semi-wild enclosure. Kaysie will arrange all in-country accommodation needs for visiting partners as well as lead on the other island activities including collecting data on background environmental levels of Bd through tree frog surveys and coordinate the historical species transects with DOE partners. Kaysie and the Director of MNT (Sarita Francis) will work together to provide robust project financial management and collate and disseminate project reports. Montserrat Department of Environment: Provide experienced staff members to assist in the management of the semi-wild enclosure and health checks and historical transect surveys. Norden's Ark: Lead training for implementation and establish monitoring of the nest box sites within the semi wild enclosure on Montserrat. Provide follow-up support to the team remotely. Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust: Provide technical knowledge of the monitoring systems and molecular diagnostics required to understand infection levels in mountain chickens in the semi-wild captive facility. Provide mentoring and training opportunities and personal development to MNT staff. Dominica Forestry Department: Provide staff to visit the semi-wild enclosure and learn about the requirements for running a facility in preparation for setting up a head-starting facility for mountain chickens in Dominica
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).

 [2024 MNT DPLUS Local Application 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.

A tiny population of around 30 wild mountain chicken frogs have been found to be potentially resilient to the invasive amphibian fungal disease chytridiomycosis, which decimated the last remaining populations on the Caribbean islands of Montserrat and Dominica. It is critical we learn to breed these animals to aid recovery through repopulation of both islands. We will explore a unique opportunity to develop skills necessary to successfully breed the species for the first time in a semi-wild enclosure on Montserrat.

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?

Once widespread across the Caribbean, the Critically Endangered *Leptodactylus fallax* is now isolated to Montserrat and Dominica. Arrival of the invasive amphibian fungal disease Bd has decimated wild populations on both islands, with an estimated 30 adults remaining in Dominica, and six surviving within a protected, semi-wild enclosure on Montserrat. The impact of Bd remains the greatest threat to survival. Studies have identified a cluster of five genes coding for genetic resilience, increasing survival rates in a small, isolated subset of the Dominican population. The next steps to secure the species is to amplify the presence of these genes within the wild populations on both islands through a protective breeding, head starting, and release programme.

In 2019 we repatriated a small population of mountain chickens from Europe to Montserrat and released them into a semi-wild enclosure. We then developed intensive techniques capable of facilitating wild survival by modifying the habitat, recreating conditions unfavourable for fungus survival. However, breeding success for the species both in captivity and the wild has historically been very low (~7%) presenting a barrier to any further recovery of this species. Optimising breeding success is crucial to capturing the genetic resilience identified in high value individuals on Dominica and ensuring the long-term survival of frogs in the wild. The semi-wild enclosure on Montserrat, along with the incumbent skills that exist within local staff, present a unique opportunity to develop the techniques and skillsets to provide and monitor optimum nesting sites to successfully breed this species in situ for the first time.

The 25 x 25 m semi-wild enclosure has already been established and populated historically with mountain chickens from the bio secure European population. Cared for by local staff using the highest standards of husbandry care, together with the habitat modifications successful in reducing the impacts of Bd fungus, the

frogs have survived for several years. However, these frogs now fall outside of optimum breeding age and condition. Expert herpetologist Kristofer Försäter from Nordens Ark, Sweden (members of the Mountain Chicken Recovery Programme), holds an ex situ bio-secure safety-net population on behalf of the Montserratian Government. In recent years he has developed and installed a new system of artificial nest boxes, trialling and perfecting optimum conditions in the nesting sites (humidity, temperature, light levels etc.), which are monitored and maintained carefully using dataloggers and cameras. This has resulted in unprecedented breeding success.

Through this project Kristofer will accompany ~20 young healthy biosecure mountain chickens from Norden's Ark to Montserrat for release into the semi-wild facility. He will train local staff and visiting staff from Dominica in installing and monitoring optimal nesting sites for the frogs. Video cameras and data loggers will be installed to gather data on humidity, temperature, rainfall and barometrics and a data set will be developed documenting nesting success at different stages and conditions at each stage of success. Dominica staff will also spend time (minimum 3 weeks) with Kaysie and Alecia to learn more about the resources, skills and techniques required to establish insect breeding facilities and to maintain and conduct health checks on the captive frogs. The results and lessons learned from trying to establish successful breeding in a semi-wild population exposed to Bd will be published in a scientific paper and, if successful, a mountain chicken nesting protocol will be created. The knowledge, skills and techniques developed through this project will be critical to refine plans and methodologies ahead of establishing a similar facility in Dominica to secure the genetic variation in the wild frogs which could hold the key to the future of the species battle against Bd.

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 most critical long-term benefit and change resulting from this project will be to prevent the extinction of the culturally and ecologically important mountain chicken on both Montserrat and Dominica. Training in breeding techniques will be delivered by international partners in-person, on island so that techniques can be adapted for local conditions. Follow up training and support will then be provided remotely. Further training and skills development in captive husbandry techniques and facility management will be imparted from the MNT team to the Dominica Forestry staff during their visit to Montserrat. By developing these regional knowledge sharing and training opportunities, connections and support between islands will be strengthened enhancing future collaboration efforts. This will be crucial for future conservation actions including setting up a similar facility in Dominica. Our MNT team have shown that the skills and commitment required for intensive species recovery are present among local staff. Focusing on building this capacity is the most sustainable way for ensuring these skills remain within the region and are readily available to adapt to rapidly changing conditions as well as provide local on the ground support with the continued benefit of support and training from our international partnership.

(Optional) Please upload any additional and supporting materials or files (such as maps of project sites, etc) below. Maximum of 5 sides of A4, and is combined as a single PDF:

No Response

Section 5 - Project Outcome(s)

Q8. Project Outcome(s) (Guidance section 1.2)

Successful Darwin Plus Local projects must demonstrate measurable outcomes in at least one of the themes of Darwin Plus with a clear focus on biodiversity and the natural environment, either by the end of the project or soon after through a credible plan.

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

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

Checked	Biodiversity: improving and conserving biodiversity, and slowing or reversing biodiversity loss and degradation;
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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;
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Unchecked	Environmental quality: improving the condition and protection of the natural environment
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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.
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Please justify your selection. Please use quantitative information where possible here.

The project will progress next steps critical to restoring the Critically Endangered mountain chicken frog on both Montserrat and Dominica. The largest frog in the Caribbean, the species is culturally iconic, historically being a staple food source as well as an apex predator.

We will provide training for staff and interns in endangered species management, as well as training to Dominican forestry staff on insect husbandry, mountain chicken husbandry and health checks. Training from international partners will be delivered to develop skills in captive breeding and state of the art monitoring techniques as well as data gathering and reporting.

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):
01 April 2025	31 March 2026	12 months

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

 [2024 MNT-r5-dplus-local-implementation-timetable-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).

☒ Yes

How much matched funding are you seeking and where from?

- 1) Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust: contribution to Montserrat National Trusts Wildlife Conservation
- 2) Norden's Ark: staff time and flight costs from Sweden to Montserrat
- 3) MCRP contribution transportation costs of Mountain Chicken from Sweden to Montserrat
- 4) Department of Environment: time of two officers x2 days per week for 12 months

Budget line	Explanation	Cost in GBP
Staff costs:	of salaries and benefits for Project Lead and Junior Project Officer of MNT on Montserrat	
Consultancy costs:	None	£0.00
Overhead costs:	of overall project costs; contribution towards annual running costs for MNT headquarters in Montserrat.	
Travel & subsistence costs:	Fuel and maintenance costs for MCRP vehicle on Montserrat for travel to and from mountain chicken facility; return flight costs from Dominica to Montserrat; accommodation and subsistence for Norden's Ark and Dominica staff on Montserrat.	
Operating costs:	Running costs for semi-wild enclosure and insect breeding facility; field equipment; IT equipment costs and Project Lead mobile costs	
Capital equipment:	None	£0.00
Other Costs	Materials for constructing and installing nesting sites; partner workshop and postage and shipping for swabs and samples	
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)

Kaysie Ryan, MCRP Project Coordinator, [REDACTED] contribution to annual salary and benefits costs to manage delivery of activities on island, manage and deliver training to Dominica Forestry staff in running of semi-wild enclosure and insect breeding facility; take part in training of installation and monitoring of optimum nest sites [REDACTED]

Alecia Allison, Junior Project Officer, [REDACTED] contribution to annual salary and benefits costs to assist with delivery of activities on island including daily maintenance of insect breeding facility and semi-wild enclosure; take part in training of installation and monitoring of optimum nest sites [REDACTED]

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

Contribution of annual running costs of MNT headquarters where project staff are based and towards admin and finance fees to processes project accounts; [REDACTED] of the grant value to take into account the usual [REDACTED] contribution plus an extra [REDACTED] to cover cost increases.

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

MCRP vehicle license and insurance costs [REDACTED]; fuel ([REDACTED]) and annual maintenance ([REDACTED]) for travel round the island between MNT and the mountain chicken facility; accommodation and subsistence for visiting Norden's Ark staff for three weeks ([REDACTED]); flights, accommodation and subsistence for Dominica Forestry Staff ([REDACTED]).

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

Enclosure running costs and consumables including swabs, gloves, electricity bills, itraconazole (£[REDACTED]); insect breeding facility running costs including vegetables, cat food, Vaseline, insect bins (storage containers), chicken feed, (£[REDACTED]); field equipment including first aid kits; headtorches; uniforms, boots (£[REDACTED]); annual mobile communications costs for Project Lead (£[REDACTED]); IT equipment including printer and I-pad for printing of protocols, training and workshop materials, and data collection and management (£[REDACTED])

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

No Response

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

No Response

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

Equipment and materials for nest boxes [data loggers x10 ([REDACTED]); weather station ([REDACTED]); cameras DS-2CD2183G2-IU 4K 8MP IP Camera 2.8mm PoE Vandal Dome Camera Built in Microphone IR IP67 IK10 x 8 ([REDACTED]); video recorder 4K 8-Channel PoE Network Video Recorder NVR, Embedded Plug & Play DS-7608NI-I2/8P ([REDACTED]); 2 x 4TB Storage card ([REDACTED]); materials for PVC inspection wells ([REDACTED]); Electrical cables ([REDACTED]); Large pump sprayer x2 ([REDACTED]); Clay for nest boxes 100lbs ([REDACTED]); postage and shipping of swabs out of Montserrat ([REDACTED]), partner workshop ([REDACTED]).

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:
Eastern Caribbean Dollars (XCD)	0.29	https://www.xe.com/en-gb/currencycharts/?from=XCD&to=GBP	21 November 2024

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?



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 mountain chicken frog holds significant cultural as well as ecological importance to Montserrat. The activities in this project have been highlighted as high priority in the Mountain Chicken Long Term Recovery Plan which was developed and endorsed by the MCRP partnership, of which the governments of Montserrat and Dominica are key members. The government of Montserrat have confirmed that our proposed project aligns closely with their commitment to biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of Montserrat's fauna. They also state that the project contributes positively to the National Conservation and Environmental Management Act (revised Jan 2019) where the mountain chicken is listed under Schedule 2 Protected Species and therefore protected from hunting, disturbance, possession or trafficking or removing samples without permission by law. This project also contributes to Montserrat's Sustainable Development plan Strategic Goal 3: Environmental Management and Disaster Mitigation which states a 10% growth in the population of endangered/protected species as a target. Our established education and engagement strategy also supports the Ministry of Education's national curriculum in schools which focuses on four key areas: environment, climate change,

sustainability and cultural identity by enhancing environmental and scientific understanding and sensitivity and knowledge of the local environment among students.

Will the project...

Take place on Government owned land or water?

☒ No

Involve biocontrol, invasive alien species control or eradication?

☒ Yes

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.

 [DOE Endorsement of Mountain Chicken Recovery Programme](#)

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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.

Risk	Mitigation
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Frog mortality during transport from Sweden to Montserrat	The partnership is experienced in transferring frogs from overseas to Montserrat as this has been conducted five times previously. We will apply lessons learned from each transfer. Data loggers will be used to track temperature in the crates during transport. We will transport the frogs during the European summer months to avoid low temperatures during travel. Kristofer will accompany the frogs to ensure care between airport transfers. All necessary paperwork and permits will be pre-prepared so there are no delays. Frogs will be treated with a rehydration bath upon arrival and veterinary checks will be conducted.
Staff with critical husbandry skills are not retained within the project.	Continued coaching and mentoring will be provided by Durrell staff to the MNT conservation team with extra training support from the Durrell Training Academy where needed. The two MNT conservation staff involved with this project were recruited through an internship programme and are keen to remain within the conservation sector. Another graduate of this programme who is experienced in mountain chicken husbandry is currently being recruited into Department of Environment Forestry staff. Other DOE staff members are also experienced and skilled in mountain chicken and insect husbandry.
Techniques are unsuccessful in enabling the mountain chickens to breed successfully in the facility	We plan to implement the same equipment and set-up matching those used successfully in ex situ. Implementation will be overseen in-person by our expert from Norden's Ark who developed these techniques. He will continue to support staff remotely and review data collected throughout the breeding season. Comprehensive monitoring systems are being put in place to try and track conditions which we can then alter if required. Nest boxes will be designed to last for several breeding seasons so multiple attempts can be made.

Do you require more fields?

☒ Yes

Risk	Mitigation
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Increase in volcanic activity results in evacuation of frogs from semi-wild facility	There has been no significant activity from the Soufriere Hills volcano since the last eruption in 2010. Regular communication with the Montserrat Volcano Observatory scientists keep the Project Lead and wider partnership informed of the risk level posed by the volcano. A project risk assessment has been developed with support from Durrell's Global Risk and Safety Manager which includes information on actions to take at each stage of escalation of volcanic activity, including potential evacuation of the frogs to the quarantine facilities established at the MNT headquarters.
A significant outbreak of Chytridiomycosis in the facility impacts the condition of the frogs effecting breeding success.	The MNT team who care for the frogs have extensive experience in detecting and treating outbreaks of infection at the facility. The habitat modifications do allow the frogs to self-treat and some have successfully cleared themselves of infection. However, occasionally more intense treatment may be required. Quarantine and treatment protocols are well established and the team are supported by Durrell's international vet team based in Jersey. The frogs that are being brought from Sweden are also younger and therefore more resilient than the current residents in Montserrat to give maximum chance for breeding success.
No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response
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:	Kaysie Ryan
Position in the organisation: (if applicable)	MCRP Project Coordinator
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 Kaysie Ryan Signature  25/11/2024  17:24:45  jpg 403.8 KB
Date:	25 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 [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).