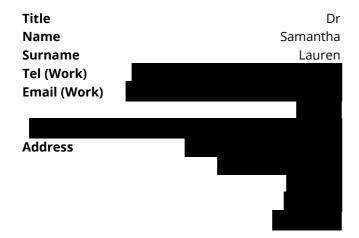
Applicant: Lauren, Samantha Organisation: Montserrat National Trust Funding Sought: £48,732.11

DPLR5\1058

Biodiversity Showcase Garden, National Museum of Montserrat

This project ensures a sustainable solar-power-irrigated Biodiversity & Well-being Garden at the National Museum is healthy, vibrant and resilient to local conditions. Montserrat Botanic Garden and Department of Environment experts will provide information on native and medicinal plants and suitable micro-habitats for insect pollinators. Local craftsmen will use local stone, iron, and mesh to create a resilient barrier protecting the Museum Garden's perimeter from invasive species. Local specialists will install a solar-powered irrigation system to ensure resilience during challenging conditions.

CONTACT DETAILS



DPLR5\1058

Biodiversity Showcase Garden, National Museum of Montserrat

Section 1 - Project Title & Contact Details

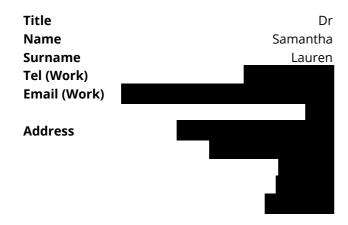
Q1. Project Title

Biodiversity Showcase Garden, National Museum of Montserrat

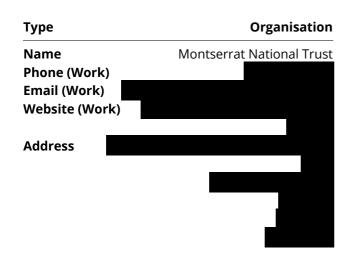
Q2. Please select whether you are applying as an organisation or as an individual (Guidance section 3 and Guidance Glossary)

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).

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)?

No

Section 3 - Project Partners

Q5. Project partners (Guidance section 3.2)

In this section, please give details of all the partners involved (including the Lead Organisation) and provide a summary of their roles.

Project Leader name: (Guidance section 3.1)	Sarita Francis
Lead Organisation name: (if applying as an organisation; Guidance section 3.1)	Montserrat National Trust
Lead Organisation Website (if applicable):	https://montserratnationaltrust.ms
Is the Lead Organisation based in a UKOT where the project is working? (Guidance section 3.1)	⊙ Yes
List other partners involved	Our project partner is the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (UKOTCF), United Kingdom.
and where are they based:	Additional stakeholders are the Government of Montserrat's Department of Environment and Physical Planning Unit.

The National Museum of Montserrat's curator, Dr Samantha Lauren, will oversee the project as coordinator. Responsibilities include liaising with the rest of the Montserrat National Trust (MNT) team, the Government of Montserrat's Physical Planning Unit, and contractors; financial management; keeping records of communications and correspondence; gathering information for reports; and overseeing garden works. MNT will also organise outreach activities to publicise the project, especially with Rotaract, Girl Guides, Cadets, Monty's Ambassadors, schools, and other local community groups expressing an interest.

The MNT's Conservation Officer and team will be responsible for the practical elements of project implementation. They will collaborate with the Department of Environment to provide technical expertise on suitable plants to attract other wildlife to the garden, provide plants to the Museum, and oversee the implementation of the garden design. They will also hold regular meetings with Sarita Francis and Samantha Lauren. MNT's Finance Officer will oversee the project's financial management. MNT Director Mrs Sarita Francis will supervise the overall project.

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

Partner:

UKOTCF will assist with communications during the project and ensure alignment with other MNT projects. Dr Samantha Lauren and Dr Rebecca Machin (DPLUS192 partner) will curate interpretation labels for the garden to match the Museum's style. Signage funding comes from MNT project funds.

Stakeholders:

The government's Department of Environment will provide additional advice on the suitability of plants and the sourcing and installation of infrastructure needed to ensure their care.

The Physical Planning Unit will provide advice on barrier layout and planning support.

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

Checked

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

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- pdf 100.99 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.

This project ensures a sustainable solar-power-irrigated Biodiversity & Well-being Garden at the National Museum is healthy, vibrant and resilient to local conditions. Montserrat Botanic Garden and Department of Environment experts will provide information on native and medicinal plants and suitable micro-habitats for insect pollinators. Local craftsmen will use local stone, iron, and mesh to create a resilient barrier protecting the Museum Garden's perimeter from invasive species. Local specialists will install a solar-powered irrigation system to ensure resilience during challenging conditions.

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?

Objective:

To establish a Biodiversity & Well-being Showcase Garden to demonstrate the role of green spaces in supporting biodiversity and enhancing community wellness. Situated in a rapidly urbanising area designated as the nation's new capital, the garden will showcase Montserrat's unique biodiversity, cultural heritage, and sustainable practices.

Aims:

Secure and protect the garden by installing a durable barrier to exclude invasive grazers, slow the spread of invasive Leucaena leucocephala plants, and foster native flora.

Establish a solar-powered drip irrigation system to ensure the garden's long-term resilience to changing weather patterns.

Preserve and transfer Montserrat's traditional and sustainable stone masonry skills. Apprenticeships and workshops will educate the next generation.

Install permanent educational signage to explain the value of biodiversity and the sustainable application of renewable energy and water conservation using solar-powered irrigation pumps and rainwater harvesting systems.

Promote community well-being by conserving an accessible green space that supports relaxation, education, and outdoor activities in a developing urban area.

Current Situation and Problem:

Feral goats pose a significant ecological threat, consuming native plants and disrupting local biodiversity. The spread of invasive Leucaena leucocephala further reduces available resources for native species. Drier

conditions on the island's north side limit plant growth. Sustainable stone masonry skills risk being lost. No outdoor education sites exist in this populous area.

The museum's Biodiversity Showcase Garden addresses these challenges by creating a protected space for native plants and pollinators, using sustainable, locally sourced materials to construct barriers, transferring traditional knowledge through hands-on training, and offering an inclusive space for community engagement and outdoor learning.

What Success Looks Like:

1. A secure, resilient and biodiverse garden

The garden will have a functional barrier made from sustainable materials and a solar-powered drip irrigation system. Informative labels will contextualise the project and its connection to the museum's cultural exhibits. The garden will supplement and complement the ongoing "Biodiversity Well-being Toolkit" project (DPLUS192) and promote its adoption. The medicinal garden will link to MNT's publication "Thirty Medicinal Plants from Montserrat."

Metrics:

Monthly goat intrusions recorded before and after barrier installation.

Citizen science tools (iNaturalist, OPAL and FIT counts) to monitor plant growth and pollinator activity.

2. Revitalised traditional skills

Two stone masons will train apprentices and lead public workshops on sustainable stone construction.

Metrics:

Number of workshop participants.

Feedback from participants.

Commissions for stone masonry projects received by masons post-workshops.

3. Community well-being

A peaceful, biodiverse green space inviting visitors to reconnect with nature and learn about local biodiversity and traditional plant uses.

Metrics:

Visitor numbers and feedback collected through surveys.

Participation in guided tours and workshops.

Observed well-being improvements reported by nearby workers and visitors.

4. Showcasing sustainability

Labelled rainwater harvesting and solar-powered irrigation systems will reduce dependence on fossil fuels and potable water.

Metrics:

Reduction in electricity and water usage compared to baseline measurements.

Public engagement with educational displays about renewable energy and water conservation.

Environmental threats addressed:

Overgrazing native ecosystems by feral goats.

The spread of invasive Leucaena leucocephala out-competing native plants.

The decline of native pollinators due to habitat loss and insufficient floral resources.

Climate variability affecting plant growth.

How we will demonstrate success:

A thriving, biodiverse garden protected from grazers.

Visible engagement with traditional skills, measured by workshop participation and new stone-building projects inspired by the initiative.

Increased community use and appreciation of the garden reflected in visitor feedback and educational program attendance.

Reduced environmental footprint through renewable energy and water conservation systems.

Quantifiable metrics uploaded to GBIF.

By addressing ecological, cultural, and social challenges, the Biodiversity & Well-being Showcase Garden will serve as a model for sustainable urban development while preserving Montserrat's rich heritage.

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 Biodiversity & Well-being Showcase Garden will provide lasting benefits by creating a protected, biodiverse space that inspires sustainable practices. Installing perimeter barriers will permanently safeguard the garden from invasive grazers, while solar-powered irrigation reduces maintenance, water usage, and reliance on dieselgenerated electricity.

Traditional stone-building techniques will promote biodiversity by creating habitats for vines, mosses, ferns, and pollinators like butterflies, moths, bees, and hoverflies. These techniques will be transferred to apprentices, builders, and gardeners through workshops and hands-on learning, ensuring widespread adoption.

This garden will complement the ongoing "Biodiversity Well-being Toolkit" (DPLUS192) project, promoting its principles through practical demonstration. The Trust will supply plants for the garden and perform regular maintenance to ensure it remains a vibrant community resource. Permanent educational labels will be designed and installed from MNT project funds.

Aligned with the Trust's mission to "preserve the past, protect the present, and enrich the future," the project will conserve and promote biodiversity and traditional knowledge while enhancing urban green space for public health and well-being. Permanent signage will educate visitors and the local community, fostering long-term awareness and action to protect Montserrat's natural and cultural heritage.

(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 attachments -Goats grazing current Museum lawn Garden plan 3D garden image Montser ratian stone wall with flora UKOTCF support let ter
- **ii** 22/11/2024
- () 01:04:04
- pdf 10.07 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> <u>themes of Darwin Plus with a clear focus on biodiversity and the natural environment</u>, either by the end of the project or soon after through a credible plan.

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

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

Checked 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

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.

Biodiversity: The perimeter barrier will protect an urban Biodiversity Showcase Garden (following "Biodiversity Toolkit" DPLUS 192 principles), enabling diverse native plant growth and habitats for pollinators, birds, and other species while preventing invasive goat damage and Leucaena leucocephala encroachment.

Climate Change: Solar-powered irrigation and rainwater harvesting demonstrate water conservation and renewable energy use, promoting climate resilience.

Environmental Quality: The project improves degraded land by fostering native plant life in an area dominated by invasive Leucaena leucocephala, goats, and threatened by urbanisation.

Capability Building: Apprenticeships, workshops, and educational signage will transfer sustainable practices and building skills and inspire concern for biodiversity.

Section 6 - Workplan

Q9. Workplan (Guidance section 2.2)

<u>Please provide anticipated dates for the start and end of your planned project here</u>. Please use the <u>Darwin Plus Local Project Workplan</u> (available at: https://darwinplus.org.uk/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). <u>Please note that your project must start after 1 April 2025 and be completed by 31 March 2026</u>.

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-templa</u>
 <u>te-final 241120</u>
- **ii** 21/11/2024
- © 23:45:44
- docx 35.98 KB

Section 7 - Costs

Q10. Costs (Guidance section 2.2 and please read the Finance Guidance)

Please provide a breakdown of costs to be funded through Darwin Plus Local (in GBP).

Are you seeking any matched funding for this project? (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
Staff costs:	Project Management & Coordination	
Consultancy costs:	N/A	£0.00

Total:		
Other Costs	N/A	£0.00
	Solar Materials and Labour -	
Capital equipment:	Irrigation Materials and Labour -	
	Building Materials (stonework, ironwork , fencing wire and concrete) and Labour -	
Operating costs:	Transportation of building materials to work site - Equipment hire -	
Travel & subsistence costs:	N/A	£0.00
Overhead costs:	To facilitate the purchase of materials for construction and other activities, processing and managing financials, project management stationery, printing, telephone and internet usage	

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)

Project Management and coordination—	—are required to ensure the work is delivered on time
and within budget. Arrangements may be required ou	itside the Museum's regular office hours to limit the
impact on visitors and income.	

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

These overhead costs - are required to ensure that items and support the Museum and Trust cannot access in their budgets are available during the project. They will facilitate the purchase of materials for construction and other activities, the processing and managing of financials, and provide project management stationery, printing, telephone and internet usage.

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

N/A

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

These operating costs are essential to deliver project activities as they are unavailable within the Museum and MNT budgets:

Transportation of building materials to work site -

Equipment hire (trucks and backhoe) -

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

Details of capital equipment costs over £1,000 (if relevant) (Max 100 words)

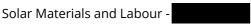
These items can be sourced locally, and the intention is to support local craftsmen and experts who can install and maintain irrigation and solar equipment.

Materials prices are subject to change, but our craftsmen currently estimate the following costs:

Building Materials(Stonework, ironwork, fencing wire and concrete) and Labour -



Irrigation Materials and Labour -



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

No Response

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

There are no costs in the "Other" category.

However, we want to highlight that based on 2024 estimates, we have provided accurate and affordable quotes for works in Montserrat during the 2025 and 2026 financial year. These estimates of costs have been provided with provisional timescales subject to the grant being awarded. Should the actual timescales differ due to circumstances outside our control, we will work closely with NIRAS/LTS to ensure the project is completed on mutually agreed timescales.

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:
XCD	3.40	Google	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.



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.

This project aligns with Montserrat's national environmental policies and the objectives of the Darwin Plus initiative by implementing measures to address biodiversity loss and enhance environmental quality. It supports the Government of Montserrat's efforts to mitigate the impacts of invasive species and promotes the conservation of native flora and fauna (as indicated in its Conservation and Management Act, 2014).

It contributes towards the following 2024 Government of Montserrat's Policy Agendas:

"2.4 Education provision improved to raise educational outcomes to be regionally and internationally competitive and equip people for sustainable livelihoods."

"To ensure that all young people in Montserrat develop and practice healthy lifestyles and benefit from optimum physical, emotional, and mental health."

It supports Montserrat's ambition to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (2030) in its current Sustainable Development plan through education, well-being, and life on land.

It follows the "Biodiversity & Well-being Toolkit" project (DPLUS192) by enabling the MNT and the project team to apply the "Toolkit" tenets in a public urban space. The proposed garden will serve as an outdoor museum exhibit, with before-and-after images and educational labels about the value of biodiversity, the "Toolkit" project, and how to successfully apply the "Toolkit" at home.

Will the project...

Take place on Government owned land or water?

Yes

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.

- R5 Darwin-Plus-Local-2024-Wall-GoM-Approval-Letter
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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
	We will buy a first aid kit and ensure it is always readily available. We will source and show a safety video to all participants.
Craftsmen and apprentices may be injured in the course of their work.	The project coordinator will develop the first response and risk mitigation sheets and ensure the information and protocols are distributed, understood, and followed.
	We will also ensure all work occurs when a person with a vehicle is on-site in case we need to transfer an injured person to the nearby hospital.
Heat stroke	This project entails outdoor work in a tropical zone. We will source a heat stroke video and show it to all participants. We will ensure water and shade is always available. In high temperatures, we will stop work during midday hours.

Storm and Hurricane Risk packed away securely and that the garden design is as sheltered as possible during these times. The	Storm and Hurricane Risk	MNT and Museum team is very experienced in this
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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

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

- Cover Letter of no more than two A4 pages. (Guidance section: 4.2 has information on what this cover letter should include).
- If the project takes place on public land or water, 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:	Samantha Lauren
Position in the organisation: (if applicable)	Curator, National Museum of Montserrat
Signature (please upload e- signature)	 ♣ SL signature ★ 22/11/2024 ◆ 16:39:06 ♣ jpg 2.11 MB
Date:	22 November 2024

Section 12 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

Local Finance Guidance". 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. 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). 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. I have provided actual start and end dates for my project that fit this Round. 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.	Check
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in GBP in the application form. I have uploaded my project workplan using the specific template provided (available at:	Checked
	Checked
	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).