

Applicant: **Hubbard, Gonny**
Organisation: **SHAPE**
Funding Sought: **£48,036.52**

DPLR5\1095

Reversing Biodiversity Loss Through Integrating Natural Capital Into Business Practices

SHAPE aspires to become 'The Leading Organisation in Organic Farming Methods on St Helena' by realising an organic garden on their grounds, providing fresh produce to Mantis, tailored to their demand, adapting to the 'Farm-to-Fork Strategy', delivered by adults with disabilities. A successful project will see reduction in the use and risk of non-organic pesticides and fertilizers, increased biodiversity in soil meaning more fertile soil, better crop production, greater economic empowerment among farmers and subsequent food and nutrition security.

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title	Mrs
Name	Gonny
Surname	Hubbard
Organisation	SHAPE
Website (Work)	
Tel (Work)	
Email (Work)	
Address	

DPLR5\1095

Reversing Biodiversity Loss Through Integrating Natural Capital Into Business Practices

Section 1 - Project Title & Contact Details

Q1. Project Title

Reversing Biodiversity Loss Through Integrating Natural Capital Into Business Practices

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

☒ Organisation

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title	Mrs
Name	Gonny
Surname	Hubbard
Organisation	SHAPE
Website (Work)	
Tel (Work)	
Email (Work)	
Address	

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	SHAPE
Phone	
Email (Work)	shape@he
Website (Work)	
Address	

Section 2 - Overseas Territory(ies)

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

☒ No

Q4. Overseas Territory (Guidance section 1.3):

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

☒ St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha*

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

St Helena

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)

Gonny Hubbard

Lead Organisation name: (if applying as an organisation; Guidance section 3.1)	SHAPE - St Helena's Active Participation in Enterprise
Lead Organisation Website (if applicable):	www.shapecharity.com
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:	• St Helena Government, Agriculture & Natural Resources Division (ANRD) – Scotland's Offices, St Paul's – St Helena • Edward Whitton – Swindon, United Kingdom • The Mantis Boutique Hotel (Mantis) – Jamestown – St Helena
Summary of roles and responsibilities of each partner in the project:	For this project, SHAPE is the lead organisation, responsible for developing an organic garden that will produce fresh fruits and vegetables throughout the year. They will also operate a fully functional fruit and vegetable processing area, which is expected to generate revenue into their organisation. ANRD is a division within the Environment and Natural Resources and Planning Directorate (ENRP) that aims to contribute to the quality of life on St Helena through the implementation of agricultural, forestry, fisheries, and natural resources programs and services. ANRD will be supporting SHAPE's organic farming initiative by providing site visits to the garden grounds and sharing their expertise in organic agriculture. Edward Whitton will also be supporting SHAPE's project by offering his expertise in organic agriculture. Whitton, a farmer himself, grew up on a farm in the UK, where he graduated with an agriculture degree from Reading University. Whitton has previously worked as an Agronomist in St Helena from 2019 to 2021. He now farms an organic arable and beef farm near Swindon, UK. Mantis is a 30-bedroom boutique hotel, which will be the primary customer for SHAPE's organic produce. Mantis will provide guidance in setting goals and expectations for production, making it market-driven. They will also offer advice and training in food safety for SHAPE's fruit and vegetable processing area.
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).

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.

SHAPE aspires to become 'The Leading Organisation in Organic Farming Methods on St Helena' by realising an organic garden on their grounds, providing fresh produce to Mantis, tailored to their demand, adapting to the 'Farm-to-Fork Strategy', delivered by adults with disabilities. A successful project will see reduction in the use and risk of non-organic pesticides and fertilizers, increased biodiversity in soil meaning more fertile soil, better crop production, greater economic empowerment among farmers and subsequent food and nutrition security.

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?

Our project aims to create a food system with a neutral or positive impact on our environment, reversing biodiversity loss, helping to mitigate climate change, ensuring food security and public health and maintaining the affordability of food while also providing fair economic returns for producers.

St. Helena is a unique location, claiming one third of the total endemic biodiversity recorded for all mainland UK and her Overseas Territories. The cloud forest of the Peaks National Park alone supports 17% of this total, the boundary of which is within 50 meters of SHAPE'S garden. St Helena's diverse ecosystem meets with a range of environmental challenges, including pest and disease pressure and the effects of climate change. 'Local knowledge and skills in dealing with and adapting to these risks are in short supply, and there is limited co-ordination of actions to reduce the risks involved', (SHG – Growing Forward, Our National Agriculture Policy and Implementation Strategy 2014-2020). 'St Helena growers typically use eradicant pesticides when pests and diseases are encountered, rather than a programme including preventative approaches', (St Helena Agriculture: Development and Training Needs, October 2018). This situation is still relevant according to ANRD. Organic farming practices avoid the use of synthetic pesticides and herbicides that can harm the environment and local ecosystems, while promoting healthy soil that supports biodiversity. This type of farming has been shown to have positive impacts on soil fertility, water quality, and biodiversity, making it an excellent choice for a place like St. Helena.

Another critical aspect of our project is the Farm-to-Fork Strategy, which aims to improve the sustainability of food systems and promote the consumption of healthy and sustainable food. The strategy seeks to reduce food waste and carbon footprints associated with food production and distribution while increasing the availability of local and organic food by matching production to demand. The need for this strategy, derives from the fact that

'the Saint population involved in some form of agriculture activity keeps decreasing. Local merchants continue to look to South African imports for reliable supplies of a wide range of agricultural products to meet the demand for fresh produce, and these imports are capturing an increasing market share. The agricultural sector is not organised commercially and depends heavily on smallholder production which lacks scale, and has low productivity and an inconsistent supply stream' (SHG – Growing Forward, Our National Agriculture Policy and Implementation Strategy 2014-2020).

Through our project's implementation, we aim to deliver multiple outcomes that will contribute to biodiversity, climate change, environmental quality, and the island's capability and capacity. By growing crops organically, we will protect the natural environment by conserving biodiversity and minimizing any negative impact on the island's natural capital. By integrating solar power, we can provide clean energy for our agriculture, reducing reliance on non-renewable energy sources and enable us to produce and store our energy independently.

We want to demonstrate that sustainable farming can enhance biodiversity and increase food production while also promoting healthy soil that supports natural biodiversity.

To measure the impact of our project, we plan to conduct biodiversity surveys comparing SHAPE's garden with farmland in Longwood, establishing a base line by insect trapping and identification, and plant surveys. We also plan to compare the volume of local produce collected by Mantis for the years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 to demonstrate the effect of a sustainable, local food supply.

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?

SHAPE will have a fully operational organic garden that produces fresh produce throughout the year and a fruit and vegetable processing area. This will provide a sustainable and reliable source of locally grown produce, reducing St Helena's reliance on imported food. The money earned from the sale of produce will be reinvested in the garden area and used to employ young gardeners. This will contribute to capacity building and skills development among the young people on the island.

SHAPE will also be able to establish itself as an agricultural training centre, inspiring and empowering future generations of growers and farmers. This will lead to a broader understanding of sustainable agriculture and the responsibility for the preservation of the unique biodiversity on St Helena.

Adopting the Farm-to-Fork strategy island-wide will further enhance the long-term benefits of this project. By reducing imported goods and promoting the consumption of local, organic food, St Helena will be more self-sufficient, there will be a decline in the carbon footprint associated with shipping food to the island, making it a more environmentally sustainable place to live.

(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:

 [SHAPE - Maps](#)

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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):

Checked	Climate change: responding to, mitigating and adapting to climate change and its effects on the natural environment and local communities;
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Checked	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.

Our project's primary focus is to promote biodiversity by growing crops using 100% organic farming practices. In addition to protecting the environment and conserving natural resources, it will also contribute to mitigating climate change by reducing carbon emissions associated with the use of synthetic pesticides and herbicides. Furthermore, the implementation of sustainable and regenerative agricultural practices will improve soil health and overall environmental quality. Finally, our project will enhance the capability and capacity of the community to adopt sustainable and climate-smart agriculture practices.

Section 6 - Workplan

Q9. Workplan (Guidance section 2.2)

Please provide anticipated dates for the start and end of your planned project here. Please use the Darwin Plus Local Project Workplan (available at: <https://darwinplus.org.uk/how-to-apply/local-applications/>) to provide a list of the individual activities you have planned for this project, a brief description of what each activity entails, and the months in which the activities will be carried out. If the project involves only one activity (e.g. a purchase), please still provide project start and end dates (noting estimated times for procurement). Please note that your project must start after 1 April 2025 and be completed by 31 March 2026.

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 3 months):
02 April 2025	31 March 2026	12 months

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

 [SHAPE - Workplan](#)

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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
Staff costs:	-The Project Leader will invest approximately 30% of their working hours on the project in order to ensure that the project runs smoothly and reaches its objectives. -To ensure the successful development and preparation of the garden area, an additional staff member will be required.	
Consultancy costs:	-The project site will need a professional design to set realistic expectations, manage our budget effectively and collaborate efficiently with our contractors. We have not approached a designer yet, therefore we used of the budget as a reasonable estimation. -The project partners, such as ANRD and Edward Whitton, will provide their expertise and support free of charge. This will help to minimise project costs while allowing SHAPE to benefit from specialist knowledge and guidance.	
Overhead costs:	-Efficient water management techniques will be implemented, e.g. making use of rain water, to ensure that water is not wasted and costs are kept to a minimum. -Electricity will be provided by our new solar system.	
Travel & subsistence costs:	As the support for the project is in-territory and provided online, there will be no travel or subsistence costs associated with this project.	
Operating costs:	A cleaning contract will be set up with a professional cleaning company, for maintaining the standards of cleanliness at SHAPE required for food production.	

Capital equipment:	-To prepare and maintain our garden, a wide range of tools is needed, of which a tiller will be the greatest investment. -To ensure that the produce is handled in a safe and hygienic manner, a walk-in cooler, cooling unit and two produce cleaning areas will be installed. -Additionally, solar panels will be installed to power the cooler. The system will be scalable, enabling future expansion to allow the SHAPE to be 100% powered by renewable energy, facilitating the sustainability of the project in the long term. -An irrigation system incorporating rainwater harvesting, will ensure production throughout the year.	[REDACTED]
Other Costs	-The site will be prepared by a contractor to remove roots and stones and have the garden ready for growing. -Tools and safety gear for our staff and trainees will be purchased to allow them to work efficiently and safely. -Delivery, handling and shipping costs coming with overseas procurement.	[REDACTED]
Total:		[REDACTED]

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)

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- Extra gardener, for preparing, developing and maintaining garden [REDACTED]
- Gonny Hubbard, Project Manager, time for 12 hours per week to manage the delivery of the project [REDACTED]

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

Estimate of consultancy costs for project design, [REDACTED] of total project cost [REDACTED]

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

No Response

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

- Cleaning contract for 2 cleaners, for 2 hours, twice per week [REDACTED]

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

Capital equipment, worth over £1000:

- Solar system [REDACTED]
- Cooler and 4.2 kW Cool Unit [REDACTED]
- Inside cleaning and packaging area [REDACTED]
- Outside produce washing station [REDACTED]
- Tiller [REDACTED]
- Concrete plinths for water tanks (estimate) [REDACTED]
- Wash water reclamation tanks [REDACTED]

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

Estimate of consultancy costs for project design, [REDACTED] of total project cost [REDACTED]

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

-Soil preparation tools, planting and seeding tools, harvesting tools, sprayers, traps, essential tools for basic repairs (estimate) [REDACTED]

-Delivery, handling and shipping costs for overseas procurement [REDACTED]

-Island contractor, clearing 1000 m2 from roots and stones (estimate) [REDACTED]

-Safety equipment (estimate, depending on workforce) [REDACTED]
(gloves, goggles, masks, ear protection, protective clothing, safety boots)

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:
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response

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? [REDACTED]

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.

Our project aligns with the St Helena Government (SHG) ENRP's Strategic Plan Objectives (2022-2025) of protecting the natural environment, managing natural resources sustainably and implementing effective land planning for sustainable development. Organic farming methods minimize negative impacts on St Helena's natural capital and conserve biodiversity.

SHAPE's Farm-to-Fork strategy aligns with the objective of managing natural resources sustainably to increase food production. This approach promotes sustainable food systems, reduces food waste, carbon footprints associated with food production and distribution, and increases the availability of local and organic food. It helps to improve the sustainability of food systems, promote healthy and sustainable food consumption and reduce the overall environmental impact of food production and consumption.

Integrating solar power for our cooler, aligns with the objective of implementing effective land planning and building control systems. It promotes the use of sustainable energy sources in support of sustainable development and economic growth. These three initiatives offer practical solutions to ensuring the long-term sustainability of St Helena's unique natural capital, ecosystem and biodiversity.

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.

 [SHAPE - SHG Letter of Support](#)

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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
Importing plant material and seeds risks introducing invasive species, pests, pathogens, or GMOs, threatening agriculture, ecosystems, and biodiversity. Contaminated imports may devastate crops, disrupt food chains, or cause genetic contamination. These issues harm food security, productivity, and native habitats, emphasizing the need for stringent bio-security measures.	Preventative measures in St. Helena include strict quarantine regulations with inspections, fumigation, and heat treatments; import permits allowing only certified materials; and post-import monitoring systems to detect and respond to pests or disease outbreaks swiftly. These steps ensure bio-security and protect agriculture and ecosystems.
Airborne pesticide drift from neighboring farms can contaminate organic gardens, compromising organic certification, crop quality, and consumer trust.	Consult neighbors and engage in discussions about spray schedules and drift reduction. Install buffer zones, windbreaks, or physical barriers when needed.
Mistakes in food handling during the farm-to-fork journey can cause contamination, spoilage, and foodborne illnesses from pathogens or poor storage.	Enforce hygiene standards, proper temperature controls, and worker training at all stages—farm, processing, transport, and retail.

Do you require more fields?

☒ Yes

Risk	Mitigation
Inaccessible facilities or inadequate accommodations may exclude disabled workers from participating in this project, limiting exclusivity and workforce diversity.	Design accessible infrastructure, provide adaptive tools, and offer tailored training. Foster an inclusive environment by consulting with disability advocates and ensuring compliance with accessibility standards.
No Response	No Response
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: Gonny Hubbard (BEd MA)

**Position in the organisation:
(if applicable)** SHAPE Finance & Business Officer

Signature (please upload e-signature)

 Signature Gonny.
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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).