

Applicant: **Connor, Rhon**
Organisation: **Department of Natural Resources (Government of Anguilla)**
Funding Sought: **£49,750.00**

DPLR5\1063

Advancing Anguilla's invasive plant management through research, monitoring, and training

This project focuses on monitoring invasive plant species in Anguilla to support ongoing eradication efforts of the Tropical Bull Nettle (*Cnidoscolus urens*). It includes tracking populations of the targeted species and assessing the effectiveness of ongoing treatments. The project will also aim to conduct Weed Risk Assessments for all documented non-native plants in Anguilla. By evaluating potential threats and prioritizing management actions, the project aims to reduce the ecological and economic damage caused by invasive plants to native habitats.

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title	Mr
Name	Rhon
Surname	Connor
Organisation	Department of Natural Resources (Government of Anguilla)
Tel (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

DPLR5\1063

Advancing Anguilla’s invasive plant management through research, monitoring, and training

Section 1 - Project Title & Contact Details

Q1. Project Title

Advancing Anguilla’s invasive plant management through research, monitoring, and training

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	Mr
Name	Rhon
Surname	Connor
Organisation	Department of Natural Resources (Government of Anguilla)
Tel (Work)	[Redacted]
Email (Work)	[Redacted]
Address	[Redacted]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	Department of Natural Resources (Government of Anguilla)
Phone	[Redacted]
Email	[Redacted]
Address	[Redacted]

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?

☒ Anguilla

* 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)	Rhon Connor
Lead Organisation name: (if applying as an organisation; Guidance section 3.1)	Department of Natural Resources, Government of Anguilla
Lead Organisation Website (if applicable):	No Response
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:	The lead agency (Department of Natural Resources) will facilitate the outputs of the project.

Summary of roles and responsibilities of each partner in the project:	The Department of Natural Resources will manage and administer this project. This will include all aspects of managing the budget as well as the staff involved with the project. The agency will ensure that the tropical bull nettle is monitored and surveyed throughout Anguilla. The staff will also continue to apply chemical to all of the said species in an effort to achieve our primary goal of eradication of the tropical bull nettle Additionally, DNaR will recruit a consultant to facilitate training and work with key stakeholders for the weed risk assessment component of the project. The DNaR will also use various of media to educate and sensitize the general public of the project. The agency will also work with all stakeholders to facilitate seamless surveys as was done with the DPLUS125 invasive plant project. Reports will be share with DPlus administration on the success of the project.
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).

 [DPlus Local Cover Letter - Department of Natural Resources - November 2024](#)

 22/11/2024

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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.

This project focuses on monitoring invasive plant species in Anguilla to support ongoing eradication efforts of the Tropical Bull Nettle (*Cnidoscolus urens*). It includes tracking populations of the targeted species and assessing the effectiveness of ongoing treatments. The project will also aim to conduct Weed Risk Assessments for all documented non-native plants in Anguilla. By evaluating potential threats and prioritizing management actions, the project aims to reduce the ecological and economic damage caused by invasive plants to native habitats.

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?

Invasive non-native plants pose significant threats to ecosystems, agriculture, and biodiversity. They often outcompete native species for resources like water, light, and nutrients, leading to a decline in native plant populations. Invasive species can also alter soil composition, fire regimes, and hydrology, further destabilizing ecosystems. Additionally, they can reduce crop yields and increase management costs in agriculture, making them a serious economic concern.

Management of invasive plants requires in-depth information on the species' characteristics and distribution, but most of the non-native plants in Anguilla have not been formally evaluated. This project aims to evaluate the current list of flora in the country to determine which are likely to become invasive over time, to inform prioritization and management. This will be done using established methods for Weed Risk Assessment (WRA), aiming to assign a risk score to all non-native species documented for the country. The 2024 flora list has 257 confirmed non-native species and an additional 128 unconfirmed or cryptogenic species, all of which will be evaluated for potential impact. Furthermore, management efforts are limited by inadequate data and overambitious goals. This was realized in the current DPLUS125 project, which focused on 5 species of invasive plants and initially aimed to eradicate at least 3 species, whose full distribution was unknown and biology was not considered for the feasibility of eradication. Thus, the project had to be significantly scaled back to focus on a single species, the Tropical Bull Nettle (*Cnidocolus urens*). To prevent this and improve the likelihood of success of future management actions, this project aims to research and evaluate the risk of all non-native plants present in Anguilla, filling the abovementioned data gaps and allowing for future proposals to be based on more thorough and accurate species data.

Additionally, this project will continue the treatments towards eradication of the Tropical Bull Nettle, which was started under DPLUS125. The Tropical Bull Nettle is covered in small fine spikes on all areas of the plant, including the leaves, stems, and seeds, which can cause painful stings, rashes, and irritation that lasts for days or even weeks. Because of this and its limited distribution on Anguilla (at 4 sites), the species was prioritized for eradication during the previous project. The forecast time to eradication of the Tropical Bull Nettle, calculated in WeedSearch (Cacho & Pheloung 2007), is 5.8 to 6 years, indicating that continued treatment and monitoring is necessary after the end of DPLUS125 to prevent re-establishment of the species. This project will build on the previous efforts to make progress towards the complete removal of this species from the country.

Success of the project will be measured by comprehensive data and WRA scores for the full list of non-native plant species in Anguilla (~380 species), continued monitoring and reduction of the Tropical Bull Nettle populations, and improved databases for the future management of invasive plants in the country. These activities will contribute to the national invasive plant 5-year action plan, developed under DPLUS125 and hopefully implemented by early 2025.

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?

By the end of this project, the Department of Natural Resources, the implementing agency within the Government of Anguilla, will fully operationalize its invasive species program, to manage both invasive plants and animals in the territory. The local training workshop will further build capacity on invasive plant management, and existing Department staff will receive training through doing by participating in the ongoing monitoring and treatment efforts for the Tropical Bull Nettle.

(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:

 Preliminary Checklist of the Flora of Anguilla - excerpt	 TBN distribution September 2024 (excerpt from Species Distribution Report)
 22/11/2024	 22/11/2024
 19:16:19	 18:49:17
 pdf 877.6 KB	 pdf 543.08 KB

 Eradication feasibility of TBN 2024
 22/11/2024
 18:49:04
 pdf 274.85 KB

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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Checked	Environmental quality: improving the condition and protection of the natural environment
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Unchecked	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.

1. Completed Weed Risk Assessments (WRA): All non-native plant species in Anguilla (~380) will be assessed using WRA protocols, with risk scores assigned to each species to guide future management priorities.
2. Invasive species eradication progress: Successful continued treatment of Tropical Bull Nettle with documented reduction in its distribution.

3. Data availability: Creation of a comprehensive database on non-native plant species, enabling future projects to be based on accurate, evidence-based data for more effective management.
4. Stakeholder engagement: Collaboration with local stakeholders to incorporate the updated information into management plans and future proposals, ensuring long-term, sustainable invasive plant management strategies.

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

 [r5-dplus-local-Anguilla](#)

 22/11/2024

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Section 7 - Costs

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

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

Are you seeking any matched funding for this project? (Please note that this is optional and there is no requirement to seek matched funding for Darwin Plus Local projects).

☒ No

Budget line	Explanation	Cost in GBP
Staff costs:	1 full-time staff for Tropical Bull Nettle monitoring and treatment	

Consultancy costs:	1 external consultant to conduct species research and WRAs (120 days @ [REDACTED]/day)	[REDACTED]
Overhead costs:	N/A	
Travel & subsistence costs:	1 visit to Anguilla for [REDACTED] validation and local training workshop (roundtrip flights @ [REDACTED] 8 days @125/day)	
Operating costs:	Inputs for treatment (consumables); venue and refreshments for workshop	
Capital equipment:	N/A	
Other Costs	Public education and awareness	
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)

Cost of one full-time staff member (to be hired) for Tropical Bull Nettle monitoring and treatment over 12 months

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

No Response

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

Cost of one 8-day visit to Anguilla by the consultant for field validation and local training workshop, including flight costs, housing, and food

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

Cost of consumable inputs for treatment (herbicide dilutant, gloves, etc.); venue and refreshments for workshop participants

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

No Response

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

Cost of 1 external consultant with expertise in invasive plant management to conduct the species research and Weed Risk Assessments, as well as lead a local training workshop

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

No Response

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? 50

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

The project consultant will be contracted from outside of the territory, as the required expertise on invasive plant management and Weed Risk Assessments does not exist locally.

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 Government of Anguilla has committed to invasive species management through the DNaR Invasive Management Strategy (2007). Their support is further demonstrated with signing of the Organization of the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Council of Ministers on Environmental Sustainability (COMES) agreement to tackle invasive species in the Eastern Caribbean. The project will also contribute to the national invasive plant 5-year action plan, developed under DPLUS125 and hopefully implemented by early 2025.

On a global scale, the project also contributes to the Aichi Target 9 under the Convention of Biological Diversity, the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goal Target 15.8, Invasive Non-native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain Key Action 9.5, and the UK Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy 2009 Strategic Objective 2.

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.

 [Darwin Plus Local Application -Advancing Anguilla's Invasive Plant Management by Research, Monitoring, and Training 25 Nov 2024](#)

 25/11/2024

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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
Health and Safety Risks from Tropical Bull Nettle The toxic spikes of the Tropical Bull Nettle could cause injury to field workers or volunteers, hindering progress.	Comprehensive safety protocols will be put in place, including protective gear (gloves, clothing, etc.) for all personnel involved in fieldwork. First-aid training and supplies will be readily available.
Environmental and Ecological Changes Changes in climate or unexpected ecological shifts could affect the spread or behaviour of non-native plants, altering project timelines or effectiveness.	The project will incorporate flexibility into its design, allowing for adaptive management strategies. Monitoring environmental conditions and updating risk assessments will help adjust efforts to changing conditions.

Stakeholder Resistance or Lack of Engagement
Local stakeholders, including landowners and the agricultural sector, may resist invasive plant management efforts or fail to engage with the project.

Early and ongoing communication with stakeholders will be prioritized, explaining the long-term benefits of invasive species management for agriculture and biodiversity. The previous DPLUS125 project established good relationships with landowners, which will be maintained through this new project. Training and outreach will be provided to ensure stakeholder buy-in and participation.

Do you require more fields?

☒ Yes

Risk	Mitigation
Challenges in Monitoring Eradication Success Difficulty in monitoring the eradication progress of Tropical Bull Nettle may result in re-establishment of the species if not consistently tracked.	Regular monitoring schedules and post-eradication follow-ups will be implemented at key sites. Long-term monitoring strategies will be developed, including using technology (e.g., GIS mapping, drones) for more accurate tracking.
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:	Rhon Connor
Position in the organisation: (if applicable)	Director (Ag) - Natural Resources - Environment
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 Rhon Connor Signature2 (004)  22/11/2024  19:28:14  jpg 59.13 KB
Date:	22 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).