DPLUS018

Darwin Plus: Overseas Territories Environment and Climate Fund
Project Application Form

Submit by Monday 23 September 2013

Please read the Guidance Notes before completing this form

Information to be extracted to the database and made public is highlighted in blue

Basic Data

1. Project Title (max 10 words)	**Taxonomic and conservation status of *Oceanodroma* storm petrels in the South Atlantic**
2. UK OT(s) involved	St Helena and Ascension Island, South Atlantic
3. Start Date:	1st April 2014
4. End Date:	31st March 2015
5. Duration of project (no longer than 24 months)	12 months

Summary of Costs	**2014/15**	**2015/16**	**Total**
6. Budget requested from Darwin	£43,430	£0	£43,430
7. Total value of Co-funding	£10,170	£0	£10,170
8. Total Project Budget (all funders)	£53,600	£0	£53,600
9. Names of Co-funders	Environmental Management Division (St Helena), Ascension Island Government, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Queens University, Ontario, Canada.		

10. Lead applicant organisation (responsible for delivering outputs, reporting and managing funds)	Environmental Management Division, St Helena Government, Essex House, Main Street, Jamestown, St Helena Island, STHL 1ZZ
11. Project Leader name	Dr Judith Brown
12. Email address	Judith-brown@enrd.gov.sh
13. Postal address	As above
14. Contact details: Phone/Fax/Skype	

15. Type of organisation of Lead applicant. Place an x in the relevant box.													
OT GOVT	X	UK GOVT		UK NGO		Local NGO		International NGO		Commercial Company		Other (e.g. Academic)	

16. Principals in project. Please identify and provide a one page CV for each of these named individuals. You may copy and paste this table if you need to provide details of more personnel or more than one main, or other, project partner.

Details	Project Leader	Project Partner 1	Project Partner 2
Surname		**Bolton**	**Weber**
Forename(s)		**Mark**	**Nicola**
Post held		**Principal Conservation Scientist**	**Acting Conservation Officer**
Institution (if different to above)	**As Above**	**Royal Society for the Protection of Birds**	**Ascension Island Government**
Department	**Marine Section**	**Conservation Science Department**	**Ascension Island Conservation Department**
Telephone/Skype			
Email			

Details		Project Partner 3	
Surname		**Friesen**	**Hillman**
Forename(s)		**Vicki**	**Chris**
Post held		**Professor of Biology**	**Director**
Institution (if different to above)		**Queens University, Ontario, Canada**	**St Helena National Trust**
Department		**Department of Biology**	**N/A**
Telephone/Skype			
Email			

17. Has your organisation been awarded a Darwin Initiative award before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count**)? If so, please provide details of the most recent awards (up to 6 examples).**

Reference No	Project Leader	Title

18. If your answer to Q17 was No, provide details of 3 contracts previously held by your institution that demonstrate your credibility as an implementing organisation. These contacts should have been held in the last 5 years and be of a similar size to the grant requested in this application. (If your answer to Q17 was Yes, you may delete these boxes, but please leave Q18)

Contract 1 Title	Solid Waste Management Project – Operational Management Support Link
Contract Value	£96,580
Contract Duration	16th April 2012 to 31st March 2014
Role of institution in project	Manage the Link
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the contract.	St Helena's Solid Waste Management Project includes procurement of specialist vehicles and plant, landfill bird proof netting and the redevelopment of the islands Landfill Site. Primarily, the project delivery, standard and reduction of bird strike risk, is tied to the certification of the islands first airport. The redevelopment project includes many technical aspects including a waste reception building, the excavation of waste cells, the installation of specialist bird netting to cover waste cells, a civic amenity re-cycling facility, methods of preventing groundwater contamination, means for monitoring landfill gas, surface water drainage systems, and improvements to the internal roads to ensure all weather access. SLR – the Operational Management Support Link provided technical support, design, contract cost assurance and ad hoc advice in relation to the Solid Waste Management Project including providing tender documents and bill of quantities, site drawings and draft contract.
Client reference contact details (Name, e-mail, address, phone number).	Originally Head of EMD, Tara Pelembe Tel: + (290) 2270 Contact person now Isabel Peters, Acting Head

Contract 2 Title	Supporting Critical Species Recovery and Horticultural Needs on St Helena
Contract Value	£87, 288
Contract Duration	May 2008 – April 2010
Role of institution in project	Managed and delivered on project
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the contract.	The aim of the project was to reduce the threats to St Helena's critically endangered plant species and habitats enabling ANRD to effectively implement species recovery action plans. The outcomes of the project included a capacity audit, staff training and development an established seed collection programme with upgraded seed banking facilities and protocols for species propagation.
Client reference contact details (Name, e-mail, address, phone number)	Darren Duncan, (Then) Chief Agriculture and Natural Resources Officer Tel: + (290) 4724 Email: darren-duncan@enrd.gov.sh

Contract 3 Title	Restoration of a Functioning Bastard Gumwood population on St Helena
Contract Value	£52,950
Contract Duration	April 2011 – March 2014
Role of institution in project	Manage and deliver on project
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the contract.	The project aimed to restore a self sustaining bastard gumwood (a unique endemic) population on St Helena, through restoration and management of two key sites.
Client reference contact details (Name, e-mail, address, phone number).	Darren Duncan, (Then) Chief Agriculture and Natural Resources Officer Tel: + (290) 4724 Email: darren-duncan@enrd.gov.sh

Project Details

19. Project Outcome Statement: Describe what the project aims to achieve and what will change as a result. (50 words max)

This project will clarify whether the storm-petrels nesting on St Helena and Ascension are the same species that occurs elsewhere in the Atlantic (*Oceanodroma castro*) or whether they constitute one or more species new to science. The project will survey all known colonies and re-assess their IUCN conservation status accordingly.

20. Background: (What is the current situation and the problem that the project will address? How will it address this problem? What key OT Government priorities and themes will it address? (200 words max)

The storm-petrels are the least well-known species of the seabird assemblage of St Helena and Ascension, and have traditionally been viewed as conspecific with *Oceanodroma castro* which is widespread throughout the North Atlantic and Pacific. They are consequently classified as IUCN Red List status “Least Concern”. However, recent work by two of the project partners on the *Oceanodroma castro* complex of the North Atlantic has revealed the presence of several “cryptic” species, new to science, that breed on the same islands as *O. castro* but at different times of year. Published work by St Helena Government and RSPB has revealed similar seasonal breeding populations on St Helena: the South Atlantic populations differ in morphology and vocalisations from those breeding in the North Atlantic. It is therefore probable that endemic, but as yet un-described, storm petrel species exist on St Helena and Ascension. In order to rigorously assess their taxonomic, and hence conservation status this project will make genetic comparisons with existing data from North Atlantic and Pacific populations, and employ new techniques to survey the seasonal populations on both St Helena and Ascension thus establishing a baseline for longer-term monitoring and informing the development of conservation and management plans.

21. Methodology: Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended outcomes and impact. Provide information on how you will undertake the work (materials and methods) and how you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools etc). Give details of any innovative techniques or methods. (500 words max)

Genetic analysis

Clarifying storm-petrel taxonomy requires genetic comparison of local birds, from each breeding season within each island, to birds from the rest of the breeding range. We propose using standard laboratory protocols to extract, amplify and sequence mtDNA and microsatellites in 30 samples from each breeding season from Ascension and St Helena for comparison with the existing archive dataset (n=680 samples) for other North Atlantic and Pacific colonies held at Queen's University. These molecular markers have been found to be sufficiently sensitive to estimate gene flow and phylogenetic relationships among colonies of *Oceanodroma* storm-petrels. Molecular assignments will be performed on the entire dataset using the programs STRUCTURE and BAYESASS to estimate levels of gene flow and reproductive isolation among colonies and the phylogenetic program *BEAST used to determine the relationship of the Ascension and St Helena populations both to each other and to other populations of storm-petrels in the complex.

Assessment of colony locations and colony size

We will employ solar-powered automatic acoustic detection stations (built by RSPB's electronics workshop) at multiple locations around the coastline and on offshore stacks to determine whether previously undiscovered colonies exist on both St Helena and Ascension. The detection stations will automatically record the nocturnal vocalisations of storm petrels which will provide information on the existence of colonies, the timing of breeding, and provide an indication of local nesting density. In addition, the largest known colonies on both St Helena and Ascension will be systematically censused for the first time. On St Helena we will apply spatially-explicit mark-recapture methods to mist-net capture data, and on Ascension, where the presence of very large nocturnally-active seabirds prevents the use of mist nets, we will use diurnal response to playback to assess colony size.

Managing the work

Environmental Management Division: The Project Manager will be responsible for monitoring progress against the logframe within this application, and also against a more detailed Gantt chart. She will procure research equipment and organise fieldwork on St Helena, lead on the collection of field data, data management and analysis.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds: Will provide sound recording devices, advise on fieldwork design and timing, infrastructure for data management, and training for all analytical procedures. They will also provide scientific expertise in the interpretation of genetic analysis and reassessment of storm-petrel conservation status

Ascension Island Conservation: The Seabird Officer will be responsible for liaising with local contractors on Ascension to ensure access to the offshore breeding colony is secured. She will also ensure appropriate allocation of AIG staff resource to ensure the work programme is executed according to schedule. The Seabird Officer will report to the Project Manager on St Helena.

St Helena National Trust: The Trust will provide a team of trained local volunteers to assist with fieldwork on offshore islands and remote coastal areas on St Helena. This team has been developed and supported by the Trust over several years, and has a history of assisting EMD and RSPB in seabird conservation actions on St Helena.

22. How does this project:
a) Deliver against the priority issues identified in the assessment criteria
b) Demonstrate technical excellence in its delivery
c) Demonstrate a clear pathway to impact in the OT(s)
(500 words max)

Delivery against priority issues

This project will provide St Helena and Ascension with a rigorous assessment of the conservation status of the storm petrel populations in the Territories, which has been neglected hitherto. This assessment will be based on a comprehensive and authoritative analysis of whether these populations represent one or more species new to science, and the number, location and size of their colonies. This will result in a updated IUCN Red List classification. Clarification of the conservation status of these populations, together with the first baseline information about colony size will help both OTs to meet their obligations under Articles 7 and 8 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and under Aichi Targets 11, 12 and 19. The project will contribute towards the delivery of Commitments 2, 6, and 7 of St Helena's Environment Charter (2001) and Objective D of its National Environmental Management Plan (2012).

Technical excellence

This proposal brings together partners with a proven track-record in the management and delivery of science-based biodiversity conservation projects. The RSPB scientists involved in the project have worked with Professor Friesen's genetics laboratory over many years and together they have produced authoritative scientific papers on the taxonomy of the *Oceanodroma* storm-petrel complex, which has resulted in the recognition of two storm petrel species new to science (Monteiro's Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma monteiroi* and Cape Verde Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma jabajabe*). This team represents the leading global authority on taxonomy of this group. The delivery of an updated and authoritative assessment of the conservation status of storm-petrels in the islands will enable well-founded future decision-making on seabird conservation priorities in these OTs.

Pathway to Impact

The leadership of the project by the St Helena Government and involvement of the St Helena National Trust and the Ascension Island Government confers the highest degree of local ownership of this project and, coupled with the technical expertise of Queen's University and the RSPB, ensures the institutional capacity to deliver the project. The involvement of RSPB scientists to advise on seabird monitoring techniques will build capacity on both Ascension and St Helena, which will provide the human resource necessary for future survey and monitoring work to establish storm-petrel population trends. The involvement of SHNT staff in the field will further develop local environmental management skills and co-operation. AIG staff will visit St Helena and St Helena Government staff will visit Ascension, for each to learn from, and to benefit the other in sharing experience and expertise. This cross territory partnership will also help to build capacity and provide a legacy beyond the lifetime of the project.

23. Who are the **stakeholders** for this project and how have they been consulted (include local or host government support/engagement where relevant)? Briefly describe what support they will provide and how the project will engage with them. (250 words max)

The major stakeholders are the five project partners St Helena Government (SHG), Ascension Island Government (AIG), the St Helena National Trust (SHNT), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and Queens University. There have been extensive discussions by email and telephone in the development of this project proposal, which, as a result, is well-balanced in bringing together the local conservation needs of SHG and AIG, the support of local volunteers in the SHNT, the global conservation expertise of RSPB, and the technical scientific excellence of Queen's University. The outputs of the project will result in an updated conservation assessment of the storm-petrel populations of St Helena and Ascension, which may involve the naming of new species and consequent involvement of international taxonomy authorities and IUCN, as stakeholders. RSPB scientists have been extensively involved in these processes in the past, over the naming of Monteiro's storm-petrel as a species new to science. Should this project similarly result in the naming of one or more new species, RSPB will engage with the necessary authorities to ensure international recognition of the new taxon/taxa, and associated Red List status. The leadership of this project by EMD and the active involvement of AIG and SHNT throughout will ensure that any revision of the taxonomic and conservation status of the islands' storm petrels will be 'owned' by both the local authorities and local people.

24. Institutional Capacity: Describe the implementing organisation's capacity (and that of partner organisations where relevant) to deliver the project.
(500 words max)

Environmental Management Division
EMD leads SHG's efforts to conserve the biodiversity of St Helena, and consequently has unrivalled knowledge of the islands biodiversity and very extensive experience of its monitoring and management. EMD's work with regards to seabirds is carried out by its Marine Section, who will be responsible for this project.

Staff in the Marine Section have eight years' experience of seabird monitoring, including British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) ringing licenses, and thorough training in the capture and handling of wild birds. Staff also have a wealth of knowledge and on the ground practical experience with all local seabird species.

Ascension Island Conservation is the department of the Ascension Island Government responsible for seabird monitoring. The department has collaborated with RSPB over many years to establish an ongoing seabird monitoring programme, which in recent years has also involved participation of staff from St Helena Government for training in seabird monitoring methods, including bird ringing. The project proposed here provides an opportunity to further develop the inter-territory partnership and capacity building.

RSPB
The RSPB has extensive experience in seabird conservation projects, including all the techniques that will be used on both Overseas Territories. RSPB scientists have captured and ringed storm petrels on St Helena, and have used capture/recapture methods to assess storm petrel densities on islands in the Azores and Scotland. RSPB scientists have used sound recording devices to monitor nocturnal burrow-nesting seabirds on several islands in Portugal and Wales to determine the distribution of species and to monitor calling activity over time. Through these projects the RSPB has acquired familiarity with the risks and pitfalls involved in automated processing of large quantities of sound recording data, and necessary precautions will be taken to avoid these. The RSPB also has collaborated on seabird taxonomy with Professor Friesen's genetics laboratory at Queen's University for more than a decade.

Queen's University
Professor Friesen's genetics laboratory at Queen's University is held in the highest regard by the international scientific community, and Professor Friesen is renowned as a world expert in the field of seabird genetics.

St Helena National Trust
The St Helena National Trust is the leading environmental NGO on St Helena. The Trust has been involved in environmental research and management on St Helena over the past decade and has inherited the legacy of earlier researchers of the island's avifauna. The three-person Wirebird team along with senior management staff have been involved in a number of initiatives over the past three years, including working with Madeiran storm petrel research alongside EMD staff. Senior management expertise also includes past involvement with a number of bird species and research techniques, sound recording, ringing, mist netting, census and surveys.

25. Expected Outputs			
Output (*what will be achieved e.g. capacity building, action plan produced, alien species controlled)*	Indicators of success *(how we will know if its been achieved e.g. number of people trained/ trees planted)*	Status before project/baseline data *(what is the situation before the project starts?)*	Source of information *(where will you obtain the information to demonstrate if the indicator has been achieved?)*
Clarify taxonomic status of seasonal populations of storm-petrels on St Helena and Ascension	Authoritative scientific paper published, and findings accepted by international conservation community	Uncertainty over whether South Atlantic *Oceanodroma* storm-petrels are the same species as those occurring in North Atlantic and Pacific, and resulting uncertainty whether low conservation status is justified	Queen's University and RSPB will inform whether scientific paper has been published and findings accepted by wider conservation community (e.g. IUCN)
Estimate made of storm petrel breeding population size on Egg Island (St Helena) and Boatswain Bird Island (Ascension)	Population estimates with acceptably narrow confidence intervals obtained from analysis of mark-recapture models and responses to diurnal playback	Preliminary data suggest the Egg Island population could exceed 4000 birds. The estimate of 3000 individuals for Boatswain Bird Island dates from work conducted in 1958	Analysis of data collected by project partners, which will be published in appropriate literature.
Other areas where storm-petrels breed identified using sound recordings	Successful deployment of automatic acoustic detection stations, and analysis of resulting data to confirm presence/absence at potential breeding sites elsewhere on St Helena and Ascension	Storm-petrels only known to breed on Egg and Peaked Islands (St Helena) and Boatswain Bird Island (Ascension). Possible breeding on other offshore islets/stacks and mainland cliffs on both OTs has not been investigated.	Database of sound recordings, map of nocturnal seabird breeding areas produced for both OT's

26. Expected Outcomes: How will each of the outputs contribute to the overall outcome of the project? (100 words max)

The overall project outcome is to clarify the conservation status the two seasonal populations of storm petrels on Ascension and St Helena. The outputs form necessary and complementary components of that outcome. Firstly, to establish whether these populations represent one or more undescribed species, and whether these species occur anywhere else in the Atlantic or Pacific. Secondly the number, location and size of colonies need to be determined, in order to apply the IUCN criteria of numerical abundance and area of distribution, to determine the risk of extinction and thus Red List status.

27. Main Activities	
	Activities or tasks to be done to deliver the outputs. Include activities on open access information sharing and collaboration with other OTs
Output 1	**Clarify taxonomic status**
1.1	Analysis of mitochondrial and microsatellite DNA from feather samples already obtained by EMD and RSPB from hot- and cool-season storm-petrel populations on St Helena and Ascension

1.2	Comparison of DNA sequences of storm-petrels from Ascension and St Helena with existing database held at Queen's University of all studied populations in the Atlantic (Azores, Selvage Islands, Desertas, Canaries, Berlenga, Cape Verde) and Pacific (Galapagos, Hawaii, Japan)
1.3	Determination of phylogenetic relationships within seasonal storm-petrel populations on St Helena and Ascension and among all other studied populations elsewhere in the Atlantic and Pacific
1.4	Conclusions regarding the taxonomy of seasonal populations of storm-petrels on St Helena and Ascension – whether they represent one or more new species
1.5	Write-up and publication of findings of genetic analysis in authoritative scientific journal
Output 2;	**Assess population size at known colonies**
2.1	Nocturnal mist-netting at Egg Island (St Helena). In each breeding season (hot-season and cool-season) 10 nocturnal expeditions to Egg island to mist-net storm-petrels at multiple locations across the island. This activity will provide opportunity for exchange with staff from Ascension Island Government Conservation Dept, so they may be trained in mist-netting methods. All captured storm petrels will be ringed with a uniquely numbered ring. All captures will record the time, date, mist net location and identity of the captured bird (either newly marked or re-captured).
2.2	Analysis of mist-netting capture-recapture data using a spatially-explicit capture-recapture model. These models will be fit in software R using the library 'secr', based on existing scripts developed for storm petrel colonies on other islands. The models will yield an estimate of density, which will be multiplied by the surface area of Egg Island that is available for nesting storm petrels to arrive at a population estimate for each breeding season.
2.3	Daytime playback survey on Boatswain Bird Island. Up to 4 daytime expeditions will be made to Boatswain Bird Island, Ascension, in both hot and cool breeding seasons to map and count the number of occupied nest sites using playback methods. The proportion of birds which respond to a tape of pre-recorded calls from breeding individuals will be calculated from the empirical response rate obtained from nests known to be occupied (following standard methods). The number of responses obtained will be corrected by the reciprocal of the response rate. Since not all areas of the island are safely accessible, a correction will be applied to account for the proportion of suitable habitat not surveyed. This activity will provide opportunity for exchange with staff from St Helena Government Environment Dept, so they may be trained in survey playback methods.
2.4	Write up of survey results from Egg Island and Boatswain Bird Island for publication in an appropriate journal.
Output 3	**Search for new breeding colonies on St Helena and Ascension**
3.1	Deploy automated sound recorders at six key sites on St Helena and six on Ascension, for two months during both the hot and the cold breeding seasons. Recorders will be powered by external solar panels or wind generators, and data will be retrieved on average every three weeks to avoid data loss when the internal storage capacity of the recorders (8GB) is exceeded. Sound recorders will be programmed to record continuously between 8 and 10pm, the peak calling time for storm petrels on St Helena and Ascension.

3.2	Definition of storm-petrel song templates. Clear and high-quality storm petrel vocalisations will be obtained from Egg Island. At least 50 of these template vocalisations will be used in the software SoundID to create a reference distribution of the power level and frequency spectrograms that can be found in storm petrel vocalisations. SoundID will then scan a specified two-hour recording file and calculate the geometric distance of any detected sound to the most similar reference syllable provided. After initial manual calibration a cut-off for the geometric distance will be defined that ensures that all storm petrel vocalisations are detected, while the number of false positive detections (e.g. vocalisations of other birds) is minimised. The settings for the geometric distance and the power levels will be saved and used for batch processing of all recording files. The accuracy of these settings will be assessed manually by counting the storm petrel vocalisations detected by a human observer in a random recording file, and compared to the number detected by the SoundID software.
3.3	Analysis of digital sound recordings. All 360 2hour recordings from a given site and season will be scanned using the settings specified for the acoustic recogniser. All automatically identified positive detections will be manually validated to ensure that there is no external noise that is inaccurately identified as storm petrel calls. The number of storm petrel vocalisations will then be summarised to yield an average calling rate (number of vocalisations per two-hour recording) for each site and breeding season. If this calling rate is consistently non-zero then storm petrels are considered to be present at a site in a given season.
3.4	Mapping of all locations where storm petrels were consistently found to be present in each season, on St Helena and Ascension and preliminary assessment of local density from level of vocal activity recorded.
3.5	Recommendations for future monitoring. On the basis of the recommendations for any revision of the IUCN Red List classification of storm-petrels on St Helena and/or Ascension, recommendations will be made about the frequency and type of future monitoring of these populations, to ensure appropriate surveillance of their future population trends, commensurate with their conservation priority.

28. Risks

Description of the risk	Likelihood the event will happen (H/M/L)	Impact of the event on the project (H/M/L)	Steps the project will take to reduce or manage the risk
Data loss/failure to obtain data due to sound recording failure.	M	M	All equipment will be tested, and visits will be regular enough to ensure retrieval of items.
Weather conditions are too bad for scheduled data retrieval at offshore sites.	H	L	All boat trips and land-based deployments will be scheduled to retrieve data at least one week before memory or power becomes a limiting factor, in order to accommodate possible weather delays.
Insufficient captures and re-captures of marked birds for robust estimate of abundance on Egg Island.	L	L	Increase mist-netting effort to maximise number of birds caught. Use alternative approaches for abundance estimation if insufficient spatial recaptures exist.

Description of the risk	Likelihood the event will happen (H/M/L)	Impact of the event on the project (H/M/L)	Steps the project will take to reduce or manage the risk
Failure to amplify DNA from feather samples	M	L	Professor Friesen has extensive experience with tissue samples with low DNA yield. More samples are being collected than are needed for the genetic analyses so that DNA can be obtained from a sufficient number of birds for robust taxonomic conclusions.

29. Sustainability: How will the project ensure benefits are sustained after the project has come to a close? If the project requires ongoing maintenance or monitoring, who will do this? (200 words max)

This project will remove current uncertainty regarding the taxonomic and conservation status of storm petrels breeding on St Helena and Ascension, which will permit accurate assessment of long term biodiversity conservation priorities in these UKOTs. The project will also produce baseline data on storm petrel abundance and distribution that will be used to assess future population changes. The project will also provide a basis for the establishment of a long-term monitoring programme for nocturnal seabirds on St Helena and Ascension. Training of a group of staff in the Environmental Management Division of St Helena Government, the St Helena National Trust, and Ascension Island Conservation will minimise the risk of skills-loss through staff changes. Utilising novel technology such as the sound recorders for remote monitoring will reduce future survey costs if the technique is successful, and will facilitate future monitoring work. SHG and AIC already have over eight years of seabird monitoring experience, and plan to add monitoring of storm petrels to their work programmes in future years.

30. Monitoring & Evaluation: How will the project be monitored and who will be responsible? Will there be any independent assessment of progress and impact? When will this take place, and by whom? (250 words max)

A member of the Marine Section of SHG, Annalea Beard, will be designated as Project Manager (PM), and will be responsible for implementing, monitoring and reporting according to Darwin's requirements. The PM will be responsible for coordination of local St Helena staff (EMD and SHNT), delegating work and liaising with project partners. She will also be responsible for ensuring the quality of outputs and ensuring that they are delivered on time, through a range of techniques including testing, on-the-ground monitoring, inspections and collating feedback.

The PM will be expected to undertake any research needed to ensure that purchases during the project represent good value for money. She will also take charge of collating receipts and budget control. She will be responsible for resolving issues whenever possible, raising issues with the Project Leader when necessary, co-ordinating meetings, circulating project documents, communicating with other stakeholders, and complying with Darwin reporting requirements.

The Project Leader will have overall responsibility for monitoring all aspects of the project. She will manage the PM, track progress, and oversee all financial and legal aspects.

A wider stakeholder group will be established at the start of the project and will meet every three months. This group will raise awareness of the project and will give stakeholders the opportunity to provide input and request information. It will be particularly useful in gauging how the project is perceived by the wider public and between territories.

The project completion report is after the project is over and is linked to the final payment.

31. Financial controls: Please demonstrate your capacity to manage the level of funds you are requesting. (Who is responsible for managing the funds? What experience do they have? What arrangements are in place for auditing expenditure?)

All project funding will be routed through the EMD accounts section where all of the necessary accounting procedures are in place. All monies will be placed into a designated account and will have a designated financial officer to manage them. The Project Manager will also have an overview and will regularly monitor the budget and ensure value for monies for purchased goods. An independent auditor will audit expenditure.

Please complete the separate Excel spreadsheet which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.

NB: Please state all costs by financial year (1 April to 31 March) and in GBP. **Budgets submitted in other currencies will not be accepted.** Use current prices – and include anticipated inflation, as appropriate, up to 3% per annum. The Darwin Initiative cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.

33. Value for Money

Please explain how you worked out your budget and how you will provide value for money through managing a cost effective and efficient project. You should also discuss any significant assumptions you have made when working out your budget.

(200 words max)

This project provides good value for money as all personnel of all five partners are already in post, eliminating recruitment expenses. The costs of all staff are being met by the partners themselves as in-kind funding for the project (avoiding any institutional overheads).

A pilot study of the proposed automated recording techniques enabled the team to assess and adjust the methodologies to maximise success. The use of automated recording devices means that data can be simultaneously collected from multiple locations in a cost-effective manner without the requirement to deploy numerous fieldworkers. The use of computer algorithms to batch process the resulting sound files according to a song template greatly speeds up the time, and hence costs of processing the sound files.

Equipment will be procured in South Africa, wherever this represents best value. The project will be managed to the highest financial standards and monitored closely through financial procedures that reflect Darwin contractual obligations. A separate budget line for the project will be established by SHG. Monthly financial reports will be supplied. Quarterly financial reports (with transactions lists) will be submitted by the project partners and the Project Leader.

Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the following table as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project (Q1 starting April 2014)

	Activity	No of Months	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1	**Clarify taxonomic status**													
1.1	Analysis of mitochondrial and microsatellite DNA	3	■											
1.2	Comparison of DNA sequences with existing database	3		■										
1.3	Determination of phylogenetic relationships	3		■										
1.4	Conclusions regarding the taxonomy	3		■										
1.5	Write-up and publication of findings	6			■	■								
Output 2	**Assess population size at known colonies**													
2.1	Nocturnal mist-netting at Egg Island (St Helena).	2	■		■									
2.2	Analysis of mist-netting capture-recapture data	2		■		■								
2.3	Daytime playback survey on Boatswain Bird Island	2	■		■									
2.4	Write-up of survey results					■								
Output 3	**Search for new breeding colonies**													
3.1	Deploy automated sound recorders	2	■		■									
3.2	Definition of storm-petrel song templates.	3	■											
3.3	Analysis of digital sound recordings.	6		■		■								
3.4	Mapping of locations of any new colonies	1				■								
3.5	Recommendations for future monitoring and conservation	3				■								

CERTIFICATION

On behalf of the Environmental Management Division of St Helena Government

(*delete as appropriate)

I apply for a grant of £43,430 in respect of **all expenditure** to be incurred during the lifetime of this project based on the activities and dates specified in the above application.

I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the project schedule should this application be successful. (*This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the lead institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)*

I enclose CVs for project principals and letters of support. Our most recent audited/independently verified accounts and annual report are also enclosed/can be found at (delete as appropriate):

Name (block capitals)	DR JUDITH BROWN
Position in the organisation	MARINE SECTION MANAGER

Signed JBrown **Date:** 23/09/13

Application Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you **read the Guidance Notes**?	✓
Have you **checked the Darwin Plus website** immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	✓
Have you provided **actual start and end dates** for your project?	✓
Have you provided your **budget based on UK government financial years** i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP?	✓
Have you checked that your **budget is complete**, correctly adds up and that you have included the correct final total on the top page of the application?	✓
Has your application been **signed by a suitably authorised individual**? (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable in the email)	✓
Have you included a **1 page CV for all the principals**?	✓
Have you included a **letter of support from the main partner(s) organisations**?	✓
Have you included a **copy of the last 2 years' annual report and accounts** for the lead organisation? An electronic link to a website is acceptable.	✓

Once you have answered the questions above, please submit the application, not later than midnight GMT at the end of Monday 23 September 2013 to Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk using the first few words of the project title **as the subject of your email**. If you are e-mailing supporting documentation separately please include in the subject line an indication of the number of e-mails you are sending (e.g. whether the e-mail is 1 of 2, 2 of 3 etc). You are not required to send a hard copy.

DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998: Applicants for grant funding must agree to any disclosure or exchange of information supplied on the application form (including the content of a declaration or undertaking) which the Department considers necessary for the administration, evaluation, monitoring and publicising of Darwin Plus. Application form data will also be held by contractors dealing with Darwin Plus monitoring and evaluation. It is the responsibility of applicants to ensure that personal data can be supplied to the Department for the uses described in this paragraph. A completed application form will be taken as an agreement by the applicant and the grant/award recipient also to the following:- putting certain details (i.e. name, contact details and location of project work) on the Darwin Initiative and Defra/FCO/DFID websites (details relating to financial awards will not be put on the websites if requested in writing by the grant/award recipient); using personal data for the Darwin Initiative postal circulation list; and sending data to Governor's Offices outside the UK, including posts outside the European Economic Area. Confidential information relating to the project or its results and any personal data may be released on request, including under the Environmental Information Regulations, the code of Practice on Access to Government Information and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.