



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office



Department
for International
Development



DPLUS044

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

Submit by **2359 GMT Monday 21 September 2015**

Please read the Guidance Notes before completing this form.

Information to be extracted to the database is highlighted blue. Blank cells may render your application ineligible

Basic Data

1. Project Title (max 10 words)	Assessment, protection and actions for important seabird populations in the Cayman Islands		
2. UK OT(s) involved	Cayman Islands	Letter of support from OT government attached?	Yes
3. Start Date:	01/04/2016		
4. End Date:	31/03/2018		
5. Duration of project (no longer than 24 months)	24 months		

Summary of Costs	2016/17	2017/18	Total
6. Budget requested from Darwin	£103,137	£98,848	£201,985
7. Total value of matched funding	£93,181	£96,176	£189,357
8. Total Project Budget (all funders)	£196,318	£195,024	£391,342
9. Names of Co-funders	Department of Environment, Cayman Islands Government; University of Liverpool; University of Exeter; National trust of the Cayman Islands		

10. Name, address and contact details of lead applicant organisation (responsible for delivering outputs, reporting and managing funds)*	Gina Ebanks-Petrie (Director) Department of Environment, Cayman Islands Government (DoE) P.O Box 10202 Grand Cayman KY1-1002, Cayman Islands
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* Notification of results will be by email to the Project Leader named in Question 12

11. 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)		

12. Partners in project. Please provide details of the partners in this project and provide a CV for the individuals listed. You may copy and paste this table if necessary

Details	Project Leader	Project Partner	Project Partner	Project Partner	Project Partner
Surname	Ebanks-Petrie	Patricia	Meier	Green	Votier
Forename(s)	Gina	Bradley	Rhiannon	Jonathan Andrew	Stephen
Post held	Director of DoE	National Trust of the Cayman Islands Council Member	Postdoctoral researcher	Senior Lecturer in Marine Biology	Senior Lecturer Natural Environment
Institution (if different to above)	Cayman Islands Government	National Trust of the Cayman Islands (NTCI)	University of Liverpool	University of Liverpool	University of Exeter
Department	Department of Environment (DoE)			School of Environmental Sciences	Environment and Sustainability Institute
Telephone/Skype					
Email					

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

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
DPLUD019	Dr Janice Blumenthal	Socioeconomic aspects of turtle conservation in the Cayman Islands (£149,904) (<i>DoE was the project leader and host country coordinator</i>)

14. If your answer to Q13 was No, provide details of 3 contracts previously held by your institution that demonstrate your credibility as an implementing organisation. These contracts 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 Q13 was Yes, you may delete these boxes, but please leave Q14)

15. Key Project personnel

Please identify the key project personnel on this project, their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project. Please provide 1 page CVs for these staff, or a 1 page job description or Terms of Reference for roles yet to be filled. Please include more rows where necessary.

Name (First name, surname)	Role	Organisation	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Gina Ebanks-Petrie	Project Leader	DoE	5	Yes
Rhiannon Meier	Postdoctoral Researcher/ Project Organiser	University of Liverpool	100	Yes
Jon Green	Seabird Researcher/ Advisor	University of Liverpool	7.5	Yes

Stephen Votier	Seabird Researcher/ Advisor	University of Exeter	7.5	Yes
Jane Haakonsson	Research Officer	DoE	30	Yes
Jessica Harvey	Research Officer	DoE	30	Yes
Timothy Austin	Deputy Director Research	DoE	5	Yes
Jeremy Olynik	GIS Officer	DoE	10	Yes
Patricia Bradley	Council Member/ Seabird Expert	NTCI	4	Yes

Project Details

16. Project Outcome Statement: Describe what the project aims to achieve and what will change as a result. (30 words max). You can copy and paste from Q26.

Determine the at-sea movements and status of important seabird populations, allowing identification of Important Bird Areas, establishment of sustainable monitoring programmes and development of informed marine and coastal conservation strategies.

17. 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)

Seabirds are vulnerable to a range of threats both at sea and on land. In order to promote their role as marine indicators and establish effective conservation strategies for these highly mobile vertebrates, a thorough understanding of how and when they use the marine environment is required. The Cayman Islands are experiencing rapid, unsustainable in-land and coastal development. Key species and habitats are in urgent need of robust monitoring approaches and conservation strategies.

The Cayman Islands support multiple breeding seabird species, including globally and regionally important populations of red-footed boobies (RFB; *Sula sula*) and brown boobies (BB; *S. leucogaster*). Despite efforts to establish the status and trends of RFB and BB populations in this UKOT, knowledge of resident seabird colonies is insufficient. Data are scarce and incomplete, lacking continuity and a solid methodological framework. Little is known about existing colony sizes, threats, rates of adult survival or breeding success; routine monitoring is non-existent and the at-sea movements of seabirds in Caymanian waters are largely unknown.

This project aims to address gaps in knowledge, significantly improving the ability of local stakeholders to make informed decisions about marine spatial planning, and further ensuring the establishment of appropriate management actions for important resident seabirds.

18. 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)

At-sea and coastal habitat use: Important at-sea and coastal areas for foraging seabirds from important colonies on the Cayman Islands (see table) will be identified using miniaturised bird-borne GPS data loggers. To allow detection of inter-annual variability in movements, birds will be tracked over a two-year period. Breeding adults will be removed from the nest and fitted with GPS devices following established procedures to minimize impact. Core areas of use will be identified using statistical methods and maps produced for target species (Table 1). Tracking data will be used to identify marine Important Bird Areas in need of management, allow managers to estimate the potential impact of future coastal developments (such as coastal airport infrastructure on Little Cayman), and will guide the development of species conservation plans under new environmental legislation. For RFBs, use of two types of data logger will allow evaluation of habitat use at the full range of temporal and spatial scales.

Species	Colony site	Estimated population size	Birdlife International significance status	No. birds tracked per year	Tracking device	Study year
Red-footed booby (RFB; <i>Sula sula</i>)	Booby Pond, Little Cayman	4,849 pairs (1997)	Globally	40	Remote GPS loggers (x20) i-gotU GT-120 (x20)	1 & 2
Brown booby (BB; <i>Sula leucogaster</i>)	The Bluff, Cayman Brac	80-110 pairs (2007)	Regionally	20	i-gotU GT-120	1 & 2

Commuting routes and times: The main overland flyways and peak commuting times of RFBs will be identified using a combination of tracking techniques and visual surveys at the colony. Effort-based visual counts of commuting seabirds will be undertaken and outbound/inbound bearings recorded to allow an assessment of the likely impact of nearby airport development. Maps of flyways and time-activity budgets will be supplied to the OT government and fed directly into EIA processes.

Population biology: Essential data on population biology will be gathered for the seabird colonies to provide information on diet (from opportunistic regurgitates), breeding success and phenology (from regular colony visits) and predation (from camera traps), using established protocols from the team's previous experiences. Following establishment of site-dependent protocols, colony surveys will be undertaken to gain data on current population sizes. All outputs will be evaluated to recommend and establish an ongoing seabird monitoring programme for each population. Magnificent Frigatebirds (*Fregata magnificens*) breeding within the RFB colony will also be monitored as they represent a potential pressure to RFBs through kleptoparasitic interactions. Baseline population data for other poorly studied seabird species will be opportunistically collected.

Training: Local staff from partner organisations and local communities will be trained in seabird monitoring and tracking techniques, data maintenance and analytical methods to allow long-term implementation of monitoring programmes. A seabird monitoring field guide will be produced and workshops run to promote routine monitoring of colonies.

Action plans: Species conservation plans for both booby populations will be produced by DoE towards the end of the project, as a legal requirement under the Cayman Islands' National Conservation Law, 2013 (NCL). A focused workshop based on discussions of project outputs will aid this process.

19. 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)

a) Priority issues

This project will **improve the conservation, protection and management of deep water marine habitats** in this OT by providing robust data that will facilitate the **development of policies and management plans** for important seabird populations and the wider marine environment. By establishing **sustainable population monitoring programmes**, and through local capacity building and stakeholder engagement, this project will aid development of **data systems on biodiversity**, that can be maintained during **subsequent monitoring** following project completion **by local OT partners**.

DoE follow an **ecosystem-based** approach to the management of the Cayman Islands' marine environment, which has **sustainability** at its core. Inclusion of seabirds into this framework, which play important roles in marine ecosystems and represent valuable indicators of marine ecosystem health, will **promote the sustainable use of marine environments** and further **develop ecosystem-based initiatives for conservation**.

This project fits tightly with local **management needs and priorities**, thereby helping the Cayman Islands to meet obligations under the NCL and MEAs like the CBD.

b) Technical excellence

This project was developed jointly by DoE, NTCI and seabird ecologists from the Universities of Liverpool and Exeter, UK, bringing together collaborative institutions with a proven track record in conservation science, marine policy and capacity building. This project has been **well-planned** to directly facilitate specific management objectives of local partners, and builds on solid working relationships between DoE and UK partners. The DoE has a **demonstrated capacity** to complete ambitious research and management projects, with a committed and highly trained local staff experienced in research, policy development, and public consultation. The department has extensive experience adhering to deadlines and meeting or exceeding requirements for deliverables in international grants. Together, UK partners bring technical expertise from world-class research groups. Their experience from similar projects around the world, including a project in the Caribbean OTs (DPLUS007), will allow activities to be executed efficiently yet be responsive to on-the-ground conditions.

Technical excellence will be delivered using state-of-the-art tracking technologies and analytical methods. A steering group, including representatives from relevant organisations, will oversee the project and periodically **measure** progress against the defined Indicators of Success. The project offers excellent **value for money** owing to existing local capacity, commitments made by project partners (e.g. financial contributions) and local community support.

c) Impact:

Project outputs will ensure that measureable priority actions for species protection are identified and implemented in response to commitments made under local and international environmental conventions. In the long-term, healthy seabird populations will benefit local people by contributing to eco-tourism, the economy, and to healthy ecosystems.

Technical support and local stakeholder training will be provided by UK seabird experts to ensure that appropriate and comprehensive data are collected, and that monitoring and data management can be sustained in the long-term by OT partners. Project partners will work closely to **build capacity** through development of local-driven monitoring programmes that are both site- and species-specific.

20. 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)

Government of the Cayman Islands: The Department of Environment (DoE) are the government agency responsible for the management and conservation of the environment and natural resources on the Cayman Islands. DoE are currently engaged in the development of Species Conservation Plans as stipulated by the National Conservation Law of the Cayman Islands, and have identified key knowledge and skill gaps which will be filled through the proposed project. Thus DoE have led the development of this project proposal making use of strong existing working relationship with members of the UK research team.

National Trust of the Cayman Islands (NTCI): The NTCI owns the Booby Pond Nature Reserve, Little Cayman and has significant local expertise on bird species of the Cayman Islands. NTCI have also been involved from the earliest stages of this proposal and their practical conservation efforts on the ground will benefit greatly from the outputs of this project.

National Conservation Council (NCC): The NCC is required to formulate and adopt a conservation plan for each protected species whose range includes the Islands. RFBs and BBs are both included on Part 1 of the protected species schedule of the NCL and as such are priority species for the adoption of the requisite conservation plans. The NCC has delegated the function of producing species conservation plans to the DoE for its consideration and approval.

Letters of support from all stakeholders indicate widespread support for this project from a suite of relevant and concerned organisations (RSPB, CI Civil Aviation Authority, NTCl).

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

The DoE will be the lead partner in the Cayman Islands. As the main agency responsible for biodiversity and conservation, DoE works to facilitate responsible management and sustainable use of the natural environment through environmental protection and conservation programmes and strategies. DoE has a proven track record of delivering successful Darwin+ projects within the Cayman Islands, and has a strong background in marine conservation science, maintaining active research programmes and producing high-quality scientific publications. DoE also has an excellent record of community involvement and outreach, including working with key stakeholder groups such as fishermen, traditional users, and coastal property owners and residents. This includes consultations, public talks, press releases, and an active and dynamic volunteer base. DoE staff listed in the current project have experience working on Darwin+ projects and other conservation programmes in Cayman Islands, and contribute expertise of the local natural environment to the project.

The National Trust of the Cayman Islands protects 9 Nature Reserves spanning over 3,300 acres of dry forest and mangrove wetlands. The Trust is a membership-based organization with over 800 members and has the capacity to educate local and international communities through all media outlets, school presentations and fundraising events. The Trust's educational objective is to increase public awareness and support for the Environmental and Historic Programmes to empower people of all ages to get involved in preserving the natural environment and places of historic significance for the present and future generations of the Cayman Islands.

The University of Liverpool has a history of delivering high-profile projects in applied biological and environmental research. It has close links to the National Oceanography Centre, making it one of the leading centres for research into marine sciences in Europe. The 'Ecology & Marine Biology' group has extensive expertise in translating marine science into policy in areas such as fisheries, marine protected areas and ecosystem-based marine management and colleagues are well placed to support the proposed project. Dr Green has an established research group focusing on the behaviour, ecology and physiology of seabirds and has experience of similar projects working in the Caribbean OTs (DPLUS007). Rhiannon Meier is a seabird researcher with skills in bio-logging, conservation science and statistical modelling and relevant experience coordinating and running multi-year field campaigns involving international collaborators.

The University of Exeter's Penryn campus has one of the highest densities of whole-organismal biologists currently working in the UK. The Environmental and Sustainability Institute and Centre for Ecology & Conservation support a rapidly expanding centre for international and multidisciplinary excellence in research. The Centre supports world-class researchers with particular expertise in movement ecology, marine ecology and conservation biology. These disciplines underpin the work of Dr Votier who has expertise in studying the behaviour and distribution of marine predators and their prey. While he has not worked in the Caribbean before, he has forged strong links with Rhiannon Meier (having co-supervised her PhD) and is keen to foster links with both the DoE and NTCl.

APPLICANTS SEEKING £100,000 OR OVER SHOULD PROCEED TO QUESTION 26

22. Expected Outputs N/A

23. Expected change: How will each of the outputs contribute to the overall outcome of the project?
(100 words max) **N/A**

24. Main Activities N/A	
Output 1	Activities or tasks to be done to deliver the outputs. Include activities on open access information sharing and collaboration with other OTs

25. Risks N/A			
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

APPLICANTS SEEKING LESS THAN £100,000 YOU MAY SKIP QUESTION 26

26. LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Darwin Plus projects will be required to report against their progress towards their expected outputs and outcome if funded. This section sets out the expected outputs and outcome of your project, how you expect to measure progress against these and how we can verify this.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: (Max 30 words)</p> <p>This project will improve the ability of local stakeholders to manage marine ecosystems and implement sustainable long-term monitoring that will allow detection of population responses to anthropogenic- and environmental-driven change.</p>			
<p>Outcome: (Max 30 words)</p> <p>Determine the at-sea movements and status of important seabird populations, allowing identification of Important Bird Areas, establishment of sustainable monitoring programmes and development of informed marine and coastal conservation strategies.</p>	<p>0.1. New Marine Important Bird Areas identified using Birdlife International criteria protocols and criteria</p> <p>0.2. Impact of proposed airport development on RFB colony assessed</p> <p>0.3. Locally-run self-sustaining seabird monitoring programme established</p> <p>0.4. Conservation plans developed for globally and regionally important seabird populations identifying threats to seabirds, objectives and framework for action</p>	<p>0.1. Marine IBAs listed on Birdlife International online database</p> <p>0.2. Impact assessment report produced and uploaded to government and project websites</p> <p>0.3. Reports on stakeholder activity, documentation of techniques, databases and results</p> <p>0.4. Species Conservation Plans produced, held in government records and uploaded to project website</p>	<p>Sufficient data collected to run Birdlife International procedures.</p> <p>Local organisations and volunteers retain capacity and enthusiasm to operate continuing programmes</p>
<p>Outputs:</p> <p>1. Key at-sea habitats of globally and regionally important seabird populations identified</p>	<p>1.1. Species distribution maps and GIS layers highlighting core foraging and rafting areas created</p> <p>1.2. Peer-reviewed scientific publications produced</p>	<p>1.1. Link to data uploaded to Birdlife seabird tracking database and /or www.movebank.org</p> <p>1.2. Link to project website</p> <p>1.3. Peer-reviewed scientific publications</p>	<p>Breeding seabirds will be present at colonies during scheduled tracking work (mitigation: flexible fieldwork periods incorporated into project workplan).</p> <p>Environmental conditions will be favourable for tracking work (mitigation: flexible fieldwork periods incorporated into project workplan).</p> <p>Tracking devices will operate effectively</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
			to collect intended data (mitigation: use of multiple tried and tested devices and built-in allowance for some device losses).
<p>2. Commuting routes and times of seabirds identified in light of proposed airport development on Little Cayman</p>	<p>2.1. Species-specific maps and GIS layers of flyways produced</p> <p>2.2. Species-specific time-activity budgets produced</p>	<p>2.1. Link to data uploaded to Birdlife seabird tracking database and /or www.movebank.org</p> <p>2.2. Link to project website</p> <p>2.3. Peer-reviewed scientific publications</p>	<p>Breeding seabirds will be present at colonies during scheduled tracking work (mitigation: flexible fieldwork periods incorporated into project workplan).</p> <p>Environmental conditions will be favourable for observation and tracking work (mitigation: flexible fieldwork periods incorporated into project workplan).</p> <p>Tracking devices will operate effectively to collect intended data (mitigation: use of tried and tested devices and built-in allowance for some device losses).</p>
<p>3. Understanding of population size, breeding biology, phenology, diet and predation of globally and regionally important seabird populations is greatly improved, allowing identification of threats and production of conservation strategies.</p>	<p>3.1. Production of annual reports containing colony monitoring data</p> <p>3.2. Establish a population database for key resident seabirds</p> <p>3.3. Report on predation rates at colonies produced</p>	<p>3.1. Link to birds Caribbean database</p> <p>3.2. Peer-reviewed scientific publications</p> <p>3.3. Guide to use and maintenance of database</p> <p>3.4. Copy of predation report</p>	<p>Suitable sub-sections of colonies amenable to regular monitoring.</p> <p>Techniques for census not affected by variability in environmental conditions (mitigation: flexible fieldwork periods incorporated into project plan; project research officer stationed continuously in-territory).</p>
<p>4. Local Government staff, NGOs and community partners operate self-sustaining seabird census and monitoring programmes</p>	<p>4.1. Training of two members of staff from DoE and one-two from NTCl in census and monitoring methods</p> <p>4.2. Two DoE staff trained in maintenance of the population database</p>	<p>4.1. Notes and presentations from training sessions</p> <p>4.2. Copy of field guide</p>	<p>Funds and staffing are available for sustained seabird monitoring.</p> <p>Islander volunteers will show interest in project and workshops (mitigation: hold talks to activity engage islanders in</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	for key resident seabirds 4.3. 10-20 Islander volunteers recruited and trained in seabird census techniques 4.4. Seabird monitoring field guide produced		project and gain support for conservation efforts).
5. Development of Species Conservation Plans	5.1. Production of conservation plans for RFBs and BBs for approval by National Conservation Council and Cabinet.	5.1. Copies of conservation plans uploaded to government and project websites	Sufficient data collected to inform species conservation plans. Conservation plans will be adopted by the National Conservation Council and approved by Cabinet after positive public consultation
<p>Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)</p> <p>Output 1: At-sea habitat use</p> <p>1.1 GPS track RFBs from the globally important colony in the Booby Pond Important Bird Area on Little Cayman</p> <p>1.2 GPS track BBs from the regionally important colony on Cayman Brac</p> <p>1.3 Identify key at-sea habitats that are important for the two booby populations. Produce GIS layers and assess presence of marine IBAs</p> <p>Output 2: Commuting routes and times</p> <p>2.1 Produce fine-scale maps of commuting routes and time-activity budgets based on GPS tracking data from RFBs</p> <p>2.2 Visually identify arrival and departure routes and timings of commuting birds</p> <p>Output 3: Population biology</p> <p>3.1 Monitor productivity (breeding success) and phenology of both booby populations via regular colony visits</p> <p>3.2 Assess census methods (aerial photography, ground surveys; year 1:) and conduct census of RFB population (year 2)</p> <p>3.3 Conduct census of BB population</p> <p>3.4 Create population monitoring database and associated guide</p> <p>3.5 Undertake baseline assessment of booby diet from spontaneous and opportunistic regurgitate samples, focusing on tracked individuals</p> <p>3.6 Assess predation rates at booby colonies using camera traps. Observations of kleptoparasitism by magnificent frigatebirds at RFB colony</p> <p>Output 4: Training</p>			

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>4.1 Train local NGO, government and volunteer staff to conduct and implement seabird monitoring and research techniques</p> <p>4.2 Produce seabird monitoring field guide to aid staff and volunteers in the field</p> <p>4.3 Workshops, school visits and publicity to engage and train local volunteers in seabird identification, monitoring and protection</p> <p>Output 5: Species conservation plans</p> <p>5.1 Produce conservation plans for RFB and BB in accordance with the NCL Section 17</p> <p>5.2 Carry out public consultation in accordance with Section 17(4) of the NCL</p>			

27. 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)

The DoE are using an ecosystem-based approach for the management of the marine environment of the Cayman Islands and this approach has sustainability at its core. Our project will make a lasting and major contribution to this ongoing process, as seabirds (as marine top predators) represent important components of marine ecosystems, and require consideration within ecosystem-based frameworks. Furthermore, seabirds can be effective indicators of change in marine systems with the potential to aid monitoring of ecosystem health and assessment of management strategies.

UK partners will train local partners in seabird monitoring and research methods, and together partners will design and implement a seabird-monitoring programme. This programme will be essential to evaluate the effectiveness of marine planning decisions. To aid this, we will produce a seabird monitoring field guide. Design of the programmes will consider survey frequency, use of volunteers and site accessibility to minimise future monitoring costs.

DoE and NTCI will take responsibility for the seabird monitoring as part of their on-going work programmes. The Universities of Liverpool and Exeter will continue to provide advice and oversight to monitoring programmes as part of the Universities' portfolios of knowledge exchange.

28. Open access: All outputs from Darwin Plus projects should be made available on-line and free to users whenever possible. Please outline how you will achieve this. (200 words max)

Project outputs will be made publically available on contributing partner websites (e.g. www.doe.ky and www.nationaltrust.org.ky) in the form of reports and articles. Tracking data and project results will also be publicised regularly on an existing website developed for a similar project (www.caribbeanseabirds.org.uk), and through existing websites (operated by project partners) and dedicated project-specific social media (i.e. Twitter and Facebook) identities.

Data will be uploaded to online databases for animal tracking data such as the BirdLife International Seabird Tracking database (www.seabirdtracking.org) and movebank (www.movebank.org), and will be further published in the form of peer-reviewed journal articles. We request funds to cover Open Access publication to facilitate the wide-scale dissemination of the outputs of the project of relevance to conservation. Should these funds be insufficient, we will submit to a lower tier Open Access journal with no publication charges (such as the journal *Marine Ornithology*).

29. 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)

The project will be led and managed by the Cayman Islands' Department of Environment. DoE will assume overall responsibility for monitoring the project's progress against the outputs described in this proposal. Rhiannon Meier will be employed by the project and be responsible for daily project organization and fieldwork, with support from DoE and NTCI field staff, and will lead on the production of outputs.

The project will be overseen by a Project Steering Group that will comprise the principles from each project partner. We will also invite representation from JNCC as the UK government technical advisor with responsibility for environmental policy in the UKOTs and other relevant organisations (see letters of support). The steering group will meet at the start of the project and every six months in the Cayman Islands, with UK project partners participating remotely (e.g. via Skype). A meeting report will follow each Steering Group meeting. The independent members of the Project Steering Group will include independent members who will be objective in assessing and evaluating the progress of the project in relation to the specified output indicators, timelines and budget.

Scientific outputs of the project will be rigorously assessed through the peer-review process during publication. Conservation plans will be assessed independently by the steering group and/or other external experts and will be subject to a 28-day period of public review and consultation as per NCL Part 17 (4).

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

30. 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?)

DoE Administrative and Financial staff manage the annual Departmental budget and administer external and internal grants, including an existing Darwin Plus grant. As an OT Government Department, DoE expenditure falls under the Ministry of Financial Services, Commerce, and Environment, and auditing is conducted by the Cayman Islands Office of the Auditor General. However, for the purposes of the Darwin Plus, an independent audit of project expenditure would be arranged.

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. If you are requesting over £100,000 from Darwin Plus, you must complete the full spreadsheet.

31. 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)

Marine ecosystems of the Cayman Islands contribute significantly to local livelihoods and the economy, and maintaining their health is a high management priority. Seabirds are good indicators of marine ecosystem health, thereby representing a cost-effective monitoring tool. This project will aid the development of sustainable cost-effective seabird monitoring programmes, providing local stakeholders with capacity to efficiently monitor the long-term health of local populations.

DoE maintain regular staff presence on Little Cayman and Cayman Brac, and have established efficient cost-effective methods of working in local communities and environments, including use of local volunteers. DoE are providing in-kind project contributions in the form of field support, subsidized accommodation, vehicle access and office space.

The small research team at DoE has wide responsibilities for environmental research and management. Therefore, a Darwin Project Officer will manage and run the project with support from DoE. The UK academic team are best placed to manage and support the academic career development of this role which will be at post-doctoral level. They are contributing to the project by waiving all overheads associated with this post and other staff time. Project Officer, Rhiannon Meier will be based in the Cayman Islands to maximize capacity building and data collection.

32. 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

	Activity	No of Months	Year 1												Year 2											
			A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
Output 1	At-sea habitat use																									
1.1	GPS track red-footed boobies	6	X	X	X	X						X	X	X	X	X	X									
1.2	GPS track brown boobies	5	X	X	X	X						X	X	X	X	X	X									
1.3	Identify key at-sea habitats and associated threats	6						X	X	X								X	X	X	X	X	X			
Output 2	Commuting route and times																									
2.1	Identify commuting routes of red-footed boobies	3					X	X	X									X	X	X						
2.2	Identify timings and directions of commuting flights	3					X	X	X									X	X	X						
Output 3	Population biology																									
3.1	Monitor productivity and phenology of both booby colonies	6	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X			
3.2	Assess census methods and conduct census of red-footed booby colony	6			X	X								X	X	X	X	X								
3.3	Conduct census of brown boobies	1												X	X	X	X	X	X							
3.4	Create population monitoring database and associated guide	1																	X							
3.5	Undertake baseline assessment of booby diet	2	X	X	X	X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X								
3.6	Assess predation rates at booby colonies	6			X	X								X	X	X	X	X	X							
Output 4	Training																									
4.1	Train local staff in seabird monitoring techniques	2	X	X	X							X	X	X												
4.2	Produce seabird monitoring field guide	2						X	X																	
4.3	Conduct workshops to train local volunteers in seabird identification	1			X	X	X								X	X	X									
---	Final reports, plans and dissemination of outputs	2																						X	X	
Output 5	Conservation Plans																									
5.1	Produce conservation plans for RFBs & BBs	4																		X	X	X	X			
5.2	Public consultation	1																							x	

CERTIFICATION

On behalf of the Cayman Islands Department of Environment
(*delete as appropriate)

I apply for a grant of £201,985 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 key project personnel and letters of support.
- I enclose the most recent 2 years of signed and audited/independently verified accounts.

Name (block capitals)	GINA C. EBANKS-PETRIE
Position in the organisation	DIRECTOR

Signed **Date:**

If this section is incomplete the entire application will be rejected. You must provide a real (not typed) signature. You may include a pdf of the signature page for security reasons if you wish. Please write PDF in the signature section above if you do so.

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 key project personnel ?	√
Have you included a letter of support from the applicant organisation, main partner(s) organisations and the relevant OT Government ?	√
Have you included a copy of the last 2 years' annual report and accounts for the lead organisation?	n/a

Once you have answered the questions above, please submit the application, not later than midnight **2359 GMT Monday 21 September 2015** 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.