



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office



Department
for International
Development



DPLUS053

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)	Project Pinnamin: conserving northern rockhopper penguins on Tristan da Cunha		
2. UK OT(s) involved	Tristan da Cunha	Letter of support from OT government attached?	Yes
3. Start Date:	April 2016		
4. End Date:	March 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	£126,122	£72,946	£199,069
7. Total value of matched funding	£56,474	£24,874	£81,348
8. Total Project Budget (all funders)	£182,596	£97,820	£280,416
9. Names of Co-funders	BAS, RZSS, DEA		

10. Name, address and contact details of lead applicant organisation (responsible for delivering outputs, reporting and managing funds)*	RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds, SG19 2DL.
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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	UK GOVT	UK NGO	x	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 1	Project Partner 2
Surname	Bond	Glass	Ratcliffe
Forename(s)	Alexander	Trevor	Norman
Post held	Senior Conservation Scientist	Head of Environmental Conservation	Seabird Ecologist
Institution (if different to above)	RSPB	Tristan da Cunha Government	BAS
Department	Conservation Science	Environmental Conservation Department (Tristan Conservation;TC)	Ecosystems Division
Telephone/Skype			
Email			

Details	Project Partner 3	Project Partner 4	Project Partner 5
Surname	Steinfurth	Robinson	Crawford
Forename(s)	Antje	Sarah	Rob
Post held	PDRA	Head of Conservation Programmes	Scientist Specialist
Institution (if different to above)	RSPB	Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS)	Government of South Africa
Department	Ecosystems Division	Conservation Programmes	Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)
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
22-015	Dr Paul Donald	Sustainable management of an Ethiopian rangeland for biodiversity and pastoralists
DPLUS028	Clare Stringer	Assessing the conservation status of the Atlantic yellow-nosed albatross, Tristan da Cunha
DPLUS005	Clare Stringer	Sustainable management of the marine environment and resources of Tristan da Cunha
2031	Nicolas Tubbs	Enhancing habitat connectivity through sustainable development around the Gola Rainforest.
19-011	Ian Barber	Conserving the critically endangered Bengal Florican - a Terai flagship species
19-012	Dr Rob Sheldon	Saving the critically endangered spoon-billed sandpiper from global extinction

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?
Alex Bond	Project Leader	RSPB	10%	Yes
Trevor Glass	Project Partner 1	Tristan Conservation	35%	Yes
Norman Ratcliffe	Project Partner 2	BAS	10%	Yes
Antje Steinfurth	Project Partner 3	RSPB	100%	Yes
Sarah Robinson	Project Partner 4	RZSS	5%	Yes
Rob Crawford	Project Partner 5	DEA	5%	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.

The project will investigate causes of **current rapid declines** in northern rockhopper penguin numbers on Tristan, recognise important marine areas, design sustainable egg harvests and recommend future conservation actions.

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)

Northern rockhopper penguins *Eudyptes moseleyi* are globally Endangered due to historic population declines. **Monitoring shows that after a period of stability numbers have started to decline rapidly again. Around 80% of the world population breed on the UKOT of Tristan da Cunha (local species name; "Pinnamin").** The causes of decline and factors limiting population size are poorly understood, although factors operating in the marine environment (including climate change, oil pollution and bycatch) are suspected causes. However, knowledge of marine distribution and habitat requirements are inadequate to identify limiting factors or recognise areas requiring protection. As a precautionary measure, traditional harvests of their eggs by the islanders have been suspended, creating tension between conservation and cultural interests. This project aims to: (1) initiate low-effort monitoring of population dynamics and their drivers which will diagnose declines and inform conservation action; (2) test methods of sustainable egg harvesting that may allow continuation of cultural traditions; (3) track birds to quantify marine habitat preference and recognise marine Important Bird Areas (mIBAs); (4) strengthen capacity for research, monitoring and data management on Tristan; (5) produce a new species action plan that will identify key conservation measures required to protect northern rockhopper penguins globally.

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)

Project Pinnamin will focus on northern rockhopper penguins at Nightingale Island (NI; 40km SW of mainland Tristan) where a large but declining colony is easily accessible. It will:

- (1) *Initiate low-effort monitoring.* Demographic studies of crested penguins show that survival rates are an important driver of population trends. Adult penguins and fledglings will be fitted with PIT tags that will be detected by sensors each time they commute along their traditional routes to their colonies. Their presence or absence during successive years can be used to estimate survival, while breeding success can be derived from the timing and frequency of sensor crossings within years. The ability of the system to log attendance accurately will be tested using trail cameras trained on nests where both members of the pair are PIT tagged. This will be repeated annually during and beyond the Darwin project.
- (2) *Test designs for a sustainable egg harvest.* Rockhopper penguins lay two eggs but usually only the second produces a fledgling. We shall therefore trial a method involving collection of only the first egg. This may still reduce success owing to disturbance and because the first egg no longer insures against loss of the second. We will remove first eggs from nests and compare success to that of control nests to estimate effects on breeding success. Results will be used to draw up guidance for sustainable harvest under supervision of TC, or to justify continued closure.
- (3) *Recognise marine habitats and mIBAs.* Tracking data were collected in 2012 and 2013, but gaps must be filled before a comprehensive network of mIBAs can be recognised. We will use Sirtrack/Pathtrack GPS tags to track birds during relatively short incubation and chick-rearing and MigrateTech GLS tags to track longer pre-moult and winter trips. We will also track birds from the large Inaccessible Island colony (20km NNW of NI) during chick-rearing as their foraging areas probably differ from NI's during this time. Devices will be recovered and redeployed to produce sample sizes adequate to fill gaps. Both new and previous data will be analysed to quantify habitat preference and recognise key foraging areas. These will be subjected to BirdLife criteria to identify a mIBA network.
- (4) *Strengthen local capacity.* We will provide training in novel fieldwork methods and data management to TC staff so they can continue the work independently after the Darwin funding ends. This will strengthen local capacity in scientific research, practical conservation and decision-making. Data will also be shared globally via BirdLife International's online databases.
- (5) *Produce a species action plan.* The 2008 action plan for all rockhopper species globally is out of date and a specific action plan for northern rockhopper penguins is urgently required. We will host a workshop that will bring together stakeholders, including French researchers who study the species at their only other colonies in the Indian Ocean. We will use data gathered during our project and previously, from both oceans, to identify the most important threats to northern rockhopper penguins and recommend conservation actions.

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) Project Pinnamin will contribute to "*developing data systems on biodiversity*" by collecting novel "*baseline survey and subsequent monitoring data*" for northern rockhopper penguins as well as tracking datasets describing their marine distribution. These will be contributed to BirdLife International's online databases to be shared globally. Narrow bandwidth means such databases are not easily accessible from Tristan, so we will develop user-friendly Access and GIS systems on the island that will help to inform local decision-making. Our project will contribute to the "*sustainable use of the terrestrial and marine environments*" by attempting to design sustainable egg harvests that allow continuation of cultural traditions. The tracking data will lead to recognition of mIBAs which will assist in "*improving conservation protection or management of the marine environment around the UK OTs*". Our project also addresses Articles 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 17 and 18 of the Convention on Biodiversity and several actions in the 2008 International Rockhopper Penguin Action Plan.
- b) We have assembled an excellent team to deliver this project to the very highest standard. We have enormous combined skills and experience of researching seabirds on remote islands, including Tristan. In combination, our expertise encompasses all aspects of the work plan (see CVs and Institutional Capacity). All project partners have productive and cordial relations through

previous collaborations. The approaches we plan to use are innovative and will allow high quality data to be collected for low effort: essential for long-term monitoring given the remote nature of the islands and other commitments of TC staff. Our team has excellent data management and analytical skills and outstanding track records in publishing findings and applying them to conservation problems.

- c) Project Pinnamin has the full support and involvement of both the government and people of Tristan da Cunha. The findings will contribute to conservation aspirations described in local conservation management plans (Gough and Inaccessible World Heritage Site Management Plans, Tristan Environmental Charter and Tristan Biodiversity Action Plan). Our work may facilitate resumption of traditional harvesting of penguin eggs, which would provide positive links between science, management and the local community. Legacy of the project will be ensured through training, investment in equipment and creation of user-friendly data management systems on Tristan. The tracking component will allow identification of mIBAs that have potential to become MPAs if the Island Council supports their designation. The work will help to strengthen relationships between Tristan and the other institutions: this will ensure this project continues to deliver beyond its two years of funding and will facilitate the development of new conservation initiatives in the future. We have planned an exciting programme of scientific and public dissemination for the project and its outputs which will raise the UK profile of Tristan and the Darwin Initiative. The Species Action Plan will provide a roadmap to guide the management of the species and assist with its conservation. We will develop work to address these actions on Tristan and on Amsterdam in collaboration with our French co-workers.

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)

The main stakeholders are the government and people of Tristan da Cunha: Project Pinnamin is eponymous of the study species' Tristanian name to inspire a sense of local ownership. The Island Council and Administrator have been consulted by TC and are fully supportive of the initiative.

TC's support is fundamental to the project's success: they will provide transport, accommodation and assistance during fieldwork. After training, they will ensure the legacy of the project. Islanders will be invited to assist with fieldwork to involve them in the project. Whilst on Tristan, scientists will meet officials, engage with islanders and give talks at the school and village hall.

Project Pinnamin will expand the international profile of Tristan through presentations at conferences and publishing journal articles. These products and the sharing of data via BirdLife online databases will engage the international conservation and scientific community. The planned workshop will allow us to collaborate with scientists and decision makers in the French Overseas Territories to develop a global species action plan for northern rockhopper penguins. We will also develop synergies with other crested penguin projects around the world to exchange ideas and develop comparative analyses.

We will engage with the UK public via press releases, social media and information at RZSS zoos (800,000 visitors pa). RZSS will also encourage linkages between schools in Edinburgh, Scotland, and Edinburgh of the Seven Seas, Tristan, via the "Pole to Pole" campaign: (<http://www.poletopolecampaign.org/>). The media programme and the workshop are entirely funded by a contribution from RZSS.

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

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is Europe's largest conservation NGO and has successfully delivered many Darwin and OTEP projects that have provided high quality scientific information on conservation issues, as well as direct conservation action. It has a long history of leading the development of bird monitoring methods both in the UK and internationally. Dr Bond (Senior Conservation Scientist) has 10 years' experience of studying population and foraging ecology of a

variety of seabirds. His most relevant project is a 10-year study of diet and demography of Alaskan seabirds in relation to climate and introduced predators. Dr Steinfurth has ten years' experience of studying penguin foraging ecology and demography. Her most relevant studies are those of crested penguins on the Prince Edward and Tristan archipelagos during a post-doctoral study at the Percy Fitz Patrick Institute of African Ornithology.

Tristan Conservation (TC) is headed by Trevor Glass and employs three other staff. It was established in 2007 and is responsible for all conservation issues within the Tristan archipelago, including management and monitoring of seabird colonies. TC staff have been resident on the islands all of their lives and have detailed knowledge of the study sites and species. This includes previous involvement in monitoring and tracking penguins during a partnership with RSPB and Percy Fitzpatrick Institute. Trevor has considerable experience of managing projects, including those funded by the Darwin Initiative.

British Antarctic Survey (BAS) is a component of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). Based in Cambridge, it has undertaken the majority of Britain's Antarctic research over the past 60 years. An important component of their work has been studies of seabird demography and foraging ecology. Dr Ratcliffe has studied seabirds for 25 years. The most relevant of his current projects concern macaroni penguins (an EU BEST project to identify mIBAs from tracking data and supervising a PhD studentship studying their population ecology). Previously, he assisted in designing sustainable harvests of seabird eggs in Greenland.

The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) is a conservation charity founded in 1909. It has two zoological collections and facilitates species conservation internationally. RZSS contributes actively to conservation in the UKOT's, including Tristan. RZSS has an outstanding track record of communicating science to the public, developing educational resources and directing Conservation Action Plans for a variety of species (including the 2008 one for rockhopper penguins). Sarah Robinson (Head of Conservation Programmes) has worked for RZSS for six years and currently manages a diverse portfolio of conservation and sustainability projects.

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) is responsible for the conservation of South Africa's marine biodiversity. It operates a weather station at Gough Island and its research ship *SA Agulhas II* undertakes annual voyages to the Tristan archipelago. Professor Robert Crawford has worked for DEA since 1982, primarily conducting research towards the conservation of South Africa's marine ecosystems and seabirds. His most relevant study is the long-term monitoring programme of crested penguins on the Prince Edward Islands.

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

22. Expected Outputs			
Output (<i>what will be achieved e.g. capacity building, action plan produced, alien species controlled</i>)	Indicators of success (<i>how we will know if its been achieved e.g. number of people trained/ trees planted</i>)	Status before project/baseline data (<i>what is the situation before the project starts?</i>)	Source of information (<i>where will you obtain the information to demonstrate if the indicator has been achieved?</i>)

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

24. Main Activities

25. Risks

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: Northern rockhopper penguin population declines are halted then reversed in response to evidence-based management of limiting factors both at their colonies and at sea whilst allowing sustainable harvesting of eggs</p> <p>(Max 30 words)</p>			
<p>Outcome:</p> <p>(Max 30 words)</p> <p>Diagnosis of limiting factors upon populations and recognition of important foraging areas at sea will inform future management actions. Design of sustainable egg harvests will allow continuation of cultural tradition.</p>	<p>0.1 Limiting factors on population size are recognised and mitigating measures are recommended within next 10 years</p> <p>0.2 Important foraging areas at sea are recognised and afforded appropriate protection within the next 5 years</p> <p>0.3 Population decline is halted then reversed within the next 20 years</p> <p>0.4 Sustainable egg harvests are opened allowing islanders to continue traditional practice within the next two years</p>	<p>0.1 Publication of population model that diagnoses population declines and tests mitigation measures in an applied journal</p> <p>0.2 mIBAs for northern rockhoppers recognised by BirdLife. Tristan administration recognises these as MPAs with appropriate management prescriptions</p> <p>0.3 Annual monitoring of numbers detects a halt in the population decline followed by a steady recovery to previous levels</p> <p>0.4 Islanders are able to harvest eggs sustainably and have an evidence-base to justify this to concerned conservationists</p>	<p>Limiting factors identified are amenable to management and marine protection is effective and enforceable</p> <p>Egg harvests can be carried out sustainably</p>
<p>Outputs:</p> <p>1. Implementation of annual automated monitoring of penguin survival and breeding success</p>	<p>1.1 PIT sensor equipment installed on the two main penguin highways. Birds PIT tagged and attendance/survival logged annually</p>	<p>1.1 Equipment installed and maintained on Nightingale. 200 birds tagged in first year and c. 40 tagged annually afterwards to maintain sample size in face of mortality. Attendance data collected from PIT sensor annually.</p>	<p>PIT tag equipment will reliably record bird attendance to allow survival to be estimated and breeding success to be inferred. PIT tag studies of penguins elsewhere have been successful, but nonetheless time-lapse cameras will be</p>

			used to test this assumption independently in the first year of study.
2. Opening of a sustainable egg harvest	<p>2.1 Islanders are allowed to take rockhopper eggs according to management regulations</p> <p>2.2 No adverse effects of these harvests on productivity or breeding success are detectable</p>	<p>2.1 Annual record of number of eggs taken maintained by TC</p> <p>2.2. Annual monitoring shows no changes in breeding success or trends that could be ascribed to egg collecting. If so harvest closed or altered adaptively.</p>	This assumes that the research finds an approach to harvesting that is sustainable. If not, TC will have evidence to explain to islanders why egg harvests cannot be re-opened.
3. Marine Important Bird Areas and habitat preference identified	<p>3.1. Data collected to fill all significant gaps in current knowledge</p> <p>3.2. Data analyses and complete maps of at-sea distribution are produced</p> <p>3.3. Distribution maps are subject to mIBA criteria and mIBAs are delineated for Northern Rockhoppers to replace their current provisional mIBA that is based on a generic foraging radius of 40km. Discussions about MPA management of these initiated with Tristan authorities.</p>	<p>3.1. An updated and complete tracking database</p> <p>3.2 Processed and mapped tracking data</p> <p>3.3 mIBAs for northern rockhopper penguins are identified and added to the BirdLife mIBA gazetteer.</p>	Recovery rates of equipped birds are sufficient to provide data needed. Access to Inaccessible Island possible given sea conditions. We have budgeted for a large number of loggers to allow for anticipated losses, and have a large time-window to await suitable conditions for landings on Inaccessible.
4. Capacity of TC in fieldwork and data management strengthened; data shared globally	<p>4.1. TC staff trained in use of PIT tagging, use and maintenance of PIT sensor units and deployment of tracking devices</p> <p>4.2 TC staff trained in data management and mapping so local databases can be updated and used for conservation</p> <p>4.3. Data are shared globally though BirdLife, RSPB and BAS online databases.</p>	<p>4.1 TC staff can use equipment and carry out field procedures without supervision</p> <p>4.2 TC staff competent in coding, archiving and retrieving information from on-island databases.</p> <p>4.3 Data are available to conservationists and researchers around the world via websites</p>	None
5. Formulation and dissemination of key project findings to scientific,	5.1 Workshop held at Edinburgh Zoo attended by stakeholders and experts involved with northern rockhopper	5.1 Workshop held and attended by key people	Key people will attend workshop. We will pay expenses and give ample advance

conservation and public audiences	<p>research and conservation</p> <p>5.2 Species action plan written, approved by all workshop attendees and published online.</p> <p>5.3 Two scientific papers written and published open access</p> <p>5.4. Findings promoted to general public via RZSS publicity programme and BAS/RSPB press releases</p>	<p>5.2 Species action plan written, approved and published</p> <p>5.3 Two scientific papers published in reputable journals with open access and on NERC Open Research Archive</p> <p>5.4 Press releases made, exhibits at Edinburgh Zoo created and educational materials provided to schools, talks and meetings on Tristan</p>	<p>notice to maximise attendance</p> <p>Data are of sufficient quality and interest to merit publication. Based on experience this assumption is likely to be met.</p> <p>Press releases and education materials are of sufficient interest to be used by the media and schools. Uptake by the media can be unpredictable depending on competing global news stories.</p>
<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>1.1 Organise fieldwork logistics (order equipment, ship it to Tristan, organise field team T&S etc.)</p> <p>1.2 Initiate and maintain annual survival and productivity monitoring programme</p> <p>2.1 Experimentally remove eggs from nests and monitor success of these and control nests</p> <p>2.2 Analyse data and use simulation models to determine methods and levels of harvesting that minimise impact on breeding success</p> <p>2.3 Draw up guidance for an open harvest under supervision of TC, with continued monitoring to adapt design</p> <p>3.1 Collect further tracking data to fill key season/site gaps in the current datasets</p> <p>3.2 Model new and existing tracking data to determine distribution and habitat preference</p> <p>3.3 Subject marine distribution data to BirdLife International criteria to identify mIBAs</p> <p>4.1 Provide training to TC staff in novel fieldwork methods</p> <p>4.2 Collate all data and share among partners,</p> <p>4.3. Develop user-friendly data systems on Tristan and train TC in their use</p> <p>4.4 Upload data to BirdLife, BAS and RSPB online databases</p> <p>5.1 Host workshop at RZSS to agree action plan with stakeholders</p> <p>5.2 Write action plan based on workshop proceedings: publish and circulate</p> <p>5.3 Publish scientific papers and develop policy, management, outreach and educational materials</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)

Project Pinnamin will empower TC to further develop penguin conservation projects in the future. The skills and knowledge they acquire can also be applied to other threatened biodiversity in their archipelago.

The provision of equipment and training will allow TC to continue collecting demographic and tracking data beyond the term of the Darwin project. Our partnership is committed to supporting this work into the future.

The harvesting experiment may allow the continuation of the traditional egg harvest. Sustainability will come with scientific accreditation, showing that islanders take an ecologically responsible approach to harvesting of their natural resources. If the harvest proves to be unsustainable, TC will have a scientific rationale for continued closure that can be presented to the islanders.

The tracking work will result in recognition of mIBAs that will be registered on the BirdLife International gazetteer. Within the Tristan EEZ, these sites have the potential to be recognised and managed as Marine Protected Areas, subject to designation by the Tristan Island Council.

The northern rockhopper action plan will be a roadmap for the conservation of the species in the future by informing further monitoring, research and management. We will actively pursue these actions to deliver conservation outcomes.

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)

All tracking data from the project will be contributed to the penguin node of BirdLife International's Tracking Ocean Wanderer's database. This makes the data available to seabird researchers and conservationists globally. This has had an enormous impact upon the understanding and conservation of petrels and albatrosses at sea, and the new node promises to do the same for penguins. Both tracking data and the demographic data will be held in the BAS Polar Data Centre which is also open to public use.

The report emerging from the northern rockhopper workshop will be published online and open access so it can inform conservation and research work in the future. The 2008 rockhopper workshop report has been highly influential in guiding work on Eudyptids in the past and we anticipate our report will have a similar high impact.

We will publish our scientific papers in open access journals or by paying open access page fees in conventional journals. Pre-publication versions of papers will be made freely accessible on the NERC Open Research Archive (NORA).

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)

Project Pinnamin will be managed by Dr Bond who is experienced in running consortia of this type. He will oversee monitoring and evaluating its progress against the key aims and outputs. He will be assisted by a steering committee comprising all the named investigators. Clare Stringer and Dr Juliet Vickery from RSPB will join the panel to provide wider expertise. We have also engaged a panel of experts to allow independent review of the project's progress: Dr Charly Bost from CNRS, France (who studies the species in the Indian Ocean); Ben Lascelles from BirdLife International (who heads their seabird monitoring database and mIBA work); Sarah Crofts from Falklands Conservation (who studies southern rockhopper penguins on the Falklands and has recently written an action plan for them) and Dr Peter Ryan from Cape Town University (who has detailed knowledge of Tristan seabirds).

The committee will meet at the start of the project and every six months afterwards. We will minimise travel costs by using teleconferencing facilities or by hosting meetings at conferences that most members are attending anyway. M&E costs accrue from allocation of staff time from salaries charged to Darwin or in-kind contributions from CoIs and Steering Group members. These total to £10,000 or 2.6% of the total project value. The values for M&E in the budget form only relate to T&S costs for Steering Group meetings.

Scientific outputs of the project will be peer reviewed independently according to the standard procedures of target journals and conferences.

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?)

Dr Bond will be responsible for the financial management of the project. He will be ably assisted by Dr Guy Anderson, the RSPB International Programmes office and the RSPB Finance Division. They have extensive experience of managing external projects and budgets, including those associated with Darwin grants. The project will be given a dedicated budget line so that expenditure and balances are easy to track. Finances will be reported at the biannual steering group meetings and in our progress reports to Darwin. They will be independently audited at the end of the project.

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)

Project Pinnamin is ambitious in its aims. It will use advanced technological solutions to develop multi-disciplinary studies at two remote islands and has assembled a world-class team to achieve this. It is therefore expensive, but nonetheless represents excellent value for money given the benefits for conservation and capacity-building on Tristan.

Matching funding is close to 30% of the total project value. This includes contributions from RZSS for popular dissemination and the workshop and from DEA for staff time and logistic support. The Darwin level of overheads do not meet the audited costs of scientific support at BAS and we contribute the shortfall as matched funds.

BAS trialled the Pathtrack GPS tags on Falkland rockhoppers in 2014 (in preparation for project Pinnamin) and showed they produced excellent tracks, which justifies the extra expense compared to cheaper IGOTU tags that perform poorly on penguins. DEA and BAS will contribute an extra 25 GPS tags from stocks, plus ten trail cameras for trialling the PIT equipment.

Tracking and monitoring data collected prior to this project will be made available to the project *gratis*: their value is difficult to estimate but probably cost at least three times the value of this bid to collect.

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																										
1.1	Organise fieldwork logistics		■	■	■	■	■																			
1.2	Initiate and maintain monitoring programme							■	■	■	■	■							■							
Output 2																										
2.1	Egg harvesting experiment fieldwork							■	■	■	■															
2.2	Data analysis and simulations											■	■	■	■	■	■	■								
2.3	Design of sustainable harvest																	■	■							
Output 3																										
3.2	Collection of tracking data							■	■	■	■															
3.3	Analysis of tracking data											■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■							
3.5	mIBA recognition																		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Output 4																										
4.1	Train TC staff in new fieldwork methods							■	■	■	■															
4.2	Data collation and sharing among partners										■											■				
4.3	Develop data systems on Tristan and train staff										■											■	■	■		
4.4	Data sharing globally online																						■	■		
Output 5																										
5.1	Host species action plan workshop																					■				
5.2	Write and circulate action plan																						■	■	■	
5.3	Scientific, applied and popular dissemination																			■	■	■	■	■	■	

CERTIFICATION

On behalf of the trustees/~~company~~* of RSPB

(*delete as appropriate)

I apply for a grant of £280,416 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)	Dr David Gibbons
Position in the organisation	Head of RSPB Conservation Science Department

Signed

PDF

Date:

18/09/2015

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?	✓

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.