

Applicant: **Richardson, Peter**
Organisation: **Marine Conservation Society**
Funding Sought: **£241,553.00**
Funding Awarded: **£241,553.00**

DPR8S2\1017

DPLUS111 Building Resilient, Participatory Management of Marine Biodiversity in Hurricane-prone BVI.

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name Peter
Surname Richardson
Organisation Marine Conservation Society
Website [REDACTED]
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
Tel [REDACTED]
Email (Work) [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Charity/ trusts
Name	Marine Conservation Society
Phone	+ [REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Website	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q3a. Project title

DPLUS111 Building Resilient, Participatory Management of Marine Biodiversity in Hurricane-prone BVI.

Q3b. What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DPR8S1\10008

DPR8S1\1072

Q4. UKOT(s)

Which UK Overseas Territory(ies) will your project be working in? You may select more than one UKOT from the options below.

British Virgin Islands (BVI)

Q4b. In addition to the UKOTs you have indicated, will your project directly benefit any

other Territories or country(ies)?

No

Q5. Project dates

Start date:

01 April 2020

End date:

31 March 2023

Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):

3 years

Q6. Budget summary

Year:	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Total request
Darwin funding request (Apr - Mar)	██████████	██████████	██████████	£ 241,553.00

Q6a. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

Match funding is provided by MCS through an existing grant from the John Ellerman Foundation that will cover the costs of all of Amdeep Sanghera’s time spent on this project in years 1 and 2. In addition, in-kind contributions have come from all project partners in the form of staff time, overheads, venues and field operational costs.

Q6b. Proposed (confirmed & unconfirmed) matched funding as % of total project cost (total cost is the Darwin request plus other funding required to run the project). 33%

Section 3 - Lead Organisation Summary

Q7. Summary of Project

Please provide a brief summary of your project, its aims, and the key activities you plan to undertake. Please note that if you are successful, this working may be used by Defra in communications e.g. as a short description of the project on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

No Response

Q8. Lead organisation summary

Has your organisation been awarded a Darwin Initiative award before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)?

Yes


If yes, please provide details of the most recent awards (up to 6 examples).


Reference No	Project Leader	Title
14007	Dr Liz Wood	Community action for sustainable use and conservation of coral reefs
EIDCF017	Dr Peter Richardson	Developing multi-sector strategies for marine resource use, management and conservation
DPLUS032	Dr Peter Richardson	Luc Clerveaux Fellowship
No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts? If you select "yes" you will be able to upload these. Note that this is not required from Government Agencies.


Yes

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

 [2018-19 MCS Annual Impact Report and Accounts signed](#)

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Section 4 - Project Partners

Q9. Project Partners

Please list all the partners involved (including the Lead Organisation) and explain their roles and responsibilities in the project. Describe the extent of their involvement at all stages, including project development.

This section should illustrate the capacity of partners to be involved in the project. Please provide Letters of Support for the Lead Organisation and each partner or explain why this has not been included.

N.B: There is a file upload button at the bottom of this page for the upload of a cover letter (if applicable) and all letters of support.

Lead Organisation name:	MARINE CONSERVATION SOCIETY
Website address:	www.mcsuk.org
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	<p>Project Leader: Dr Peter Richardson will manage the project and coordinate the monitoring and evaluation (M&E); organise quarterly M&E meetings; lead on project budgeting, accounting and reporting; support the drafting of project outputs; and support delivery of the Community Voice Method (CVM). Peter has been managing turtle conservation projects for almost 30 years and delivering CVM since 2010.</p> <p>Project Officer: Amdeep Sanghera responsible for coordinating partner communications and team meetings; lead on social science research, analysis and reporting; and CVM field work. He will also support project reporting, drafting of project outputs and project publicity.</p> <p>CVM Coordinator: Sue Ranger will coordinate the CVM, including leading on questionnaire design, stakeholder mapping, video analysis, CVM film production, workshop design and overseeing CVM reporting. Sue will also support the social science activity, project reporting and drafting of project outputs. Sue has extensive expertise in participatory process design, having worked in collaborative marine conservation for almost 30 years, coordinating CVM projects for MCS since 2010.</p> <p>MCS Director of Programmes, Dr Christine Tuckett, oversees the Ocean Recovery team, including line management of the project manager, Dr Peter Richardson. Chris will also chair and report the quarterly project Monitoring and Evaluation meetings.</p>

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

Have you provided a cover letter to address your Stage 1 feedback? Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

1. Partner Name: Association of Reef Keepers

Website address: <http://www.bviark.org/>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

Co-Project Leader: Dr Shannon Gore will leading the project field work and revision of the BVI Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan (STRAP). In particular, she will lead on habitat monitoring and turtle flipper-tagging; biological data analysis and reporting; monthly on-island M&E meetings, support of quarterly M&E meetings; revisions to the Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan; provision of logistical support to MCS social science and stakeholder engagement programmes, including Community Voice Method interviews and workshops; support of the development and management of the national turtle database; support of turtle fishery monitoring activity; and assistance with project reporting and draft legislation preparation.

Dr. Gore has extensive relevant experience in the BVI, co-managing the Sea Turtle Programme while working as a Conservation Officer for the BVI Government Conservation and Fisheries Department from 2001-2013. She is also the BVI Coordinator for the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Network (WIDECASST). In 2014 she became Managing Director of the local non-profit ARK and restructured the organisation, spearheading innovative new programmes to improve community participation in BVI marine resource conservation. ARK works closely with the BVI Government on the BVI Sea Turtle Programme and Dr. Gore is redirecting capacity within ARK to contribute to this project.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

Do you have more than one partner involved in the Project?

Yes

2. Partner Name: Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DoAF), Government of the Virgin Islands (GoVI)

Website address: <http://www.bvi.gov.vg/departments/department-agriculture-0>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): DoAF are the lead Government partner and their established networks and expertise in local fisher community liaison will be essential to successful project engagement with stakeholders, e.g. current turtle fishers, vendors and turtle meat consumers.

DoAF will lead on turtle fishery monitoring and data collection as a vital part of turtle fishery assessment. They will be custodians of the national turtle database, responsible for its maintenance and management. DoAF will manage legislative reform processes and ensure recommendations are presented to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth Affairs, Fisheries and Agriculture. They will support the CVM stakeholder engagement exercise by facilitating engagement with participants and organising and publicising CVM screenings and workshops.

DoAF are committing two staff members for this project:

1. Ms Abbi E. Christopher, Senior Fisheries and Environment Specialist. DoAF's most senior fisheries personnel with over 15 years with the Department, Ms Christopher has extensive experience in project management; collecting, managing and analysing data; and development of policy drafts and stakeholder consultations.
2. Mr Ken Pemberton, Fishery Assistant Officer. Mr Pemberton has extensive community liaison experience and excellent knowledge of, and connections with, BVI's fishing communities. He understands traditional fishing practices and social factors influencing the turtle fishery.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

3. Partner Name: Ministry of Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration (MNRLI), Government of the Virgin Islands (GoVI)

Website address: <http://www.bvi.gov.vg/content/ministry-natural-resources-and-labour>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

MNRLI are a key local governmental partner and will play an important project role through supporting ARK in boat-based turtle flipper tagging surveys at foraging sites, aerial monitoring at index turtle nesting sites and habitat monitoring of coral reefs and seagrass beds.

MNRLI will also provide input into revising the BVI STRAP and drafting recommended amends to the Virgin Islands Fisheries Regulations and the Endangered Animals and Plants Ordinance. MNRLI will support DoAF in ensuring the draft amends are presented to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth Affairs, Fisheries and Agriculture for review and enactment. MNRLI will provide local knowledge and advice to inform all project activities and support M&E reporting.

MNRLI have two dedicated staff members for this project:

1. Ms Argel Horton. MNRLI's Marine Biologist, Ms Horton has significant experience in marine turtle monitoring (in-water flipper tagging and nesting), habitat monitoring (coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangroves), environmental impact assessments and environmental education.
2. Austin Freeman. An Assistant Conservation Officer, Mr Freeman has a strong track record of impactful turtle research across the BVI along with the diligent enforcement for BVI's environmental legislation, regulations and policies. He is well-networked with a variety of marine stakeholders.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

4. Partner Name:

University of Exeter Centre for Ecology and Conservation (UoE)

Website address:

https://biosciences.exeter.ac.uk/staff/profile/index.php?web_id=brendan_godley

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

Professor Brendan Godley, University of Exeter, Scientific Advisor

Prof. Godley is a prolific conservation biologist with a track-record of 25 years in the sector. His work has been published extensively in peer-reviewed papers on marine turtle ecology and conservation, and he was a critical member of the team that delivered the revised turtle fishery legislation recommendations in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Prof. Godley will provide scientific advice to the partnership and undertake annual evaluations of fieldwork to ensure that data collection is accurate, consistent and robust. He will also support project reporting, Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan revision, drafting of recommended legislative amends, peer-reviewed paper publication and assist with publicity, leveraging his sizeable social media audience.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

5. Partner Name:

No Response

Website address:

No Response

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

No Response

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes
 No

6. Partner Name:

No Response

Website address:

No Response

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

No Response

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?


Yes
 No


If you require more space to enter details regarding Partners involved in the Project, please use the text field below.

No Response


Please provide a cover letter responding to feedback received at Stage 1 if applicable and a combined PDF of all Letters of Support.

 [Darwin cover letter Final letterhead 26.11.19](#)


 26/11/2019


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 [Darwin Letters of Support 4 \(1\)](#)

 26/11/2019

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Section 5 - Project Staff

Q10. Project Staff

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. These should match the names and roles in the budget spreadsheet. If your team is larger than 12 people please review if they are core staff, or whether you can merge roles (e.g. 'admin and finance support') below, but provide a full table based on this template in the pdf of CVs you provide.

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Peter Richardson	Project Leader	13	Checked
Shannon Gore	Co-Leader	25	Checked
Amdeep Sanghera	Project Officer/ Social scientist	20	Checked
Susan Ranger	Community Voice Method Coordinator	8	Checked

Do you require more fields?


Yes


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
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Chris Tuckett	Monitoring and evaluation	3	Checked
Brendan Godley	Science advisor	5	Checked
Abbi Christopher	Government lead (DoAF)	5	Checked
Ken Pemberton	Field Officer (DoAF)	26	Checked
Argel Horton	Marine biologist (MNRLI)	18	Checked
Austin Freeman	Field officer (MNRLI)	18	Checked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked

Please provide 1 page CVs (or job description if yet to be recruited) for the Project staff listed above as a combined PDF.

Ensure the file is named clearly, consistent with the named individual and role above.

 [Darwin BVI CVs](#)

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Have you attached all Project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 6 - Background & Methodology

Q11. Problems the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of environment and climate issues in the UKOTs.

For example, what are the specific threats to the environment that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems? How will your proposed project help? What key OT Government priorities and themes will it address?

Although regional populations are recovering, BVI's turtle populations are believed to have declined due to historical take and beach, coral reef and seagrass meadow destruction, compounded by 2017's catastrophic hurricane events, which devastated local infrastructure and economies.

BVI turtles and their habitats need conservation intervention. The BVI Fisheries Act offers inadequate protection, encourages take of sub-adult and adult turtles, and doesn't protect adult turtles during the North Caribbean hawksbill nesting season. The Endangered Animals and Plants Ordinance directly contravenes BVI and UK obligations under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). An existing BVI Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan (STRAP, 1992) requires significant update.

A small fleet of approximately 200 fishers depends on BVI's marine biodiversity, primarily targeting shellfish and finfish. Some fishers catch green and hawksbill turtles. Little is known about the extent, nature, value or current sustainability of the turtle fishery. Centuries old, the fishery is the focus of growing social division and tension, and subject to a public campaign to ban it outright. Although of reduced economic importance, the fishery still has social and cultural importance and criminalizing it without understanding its economic, social and cultural value is inequitable and unethical.

Law enforcement in Caribbean UKOTs is challenging, and responsible Government agencies are often under-resourced. Developing cultures of compliance for fishery management amongst marine resource-users is paramount for sustainability.

BVI Government invited our partnership to work with the turtle fishery as a flagship to engage marine resource-users in the development of resilient and participatory fishery management, and highlight the need for marine habitat conservation to mitigate the impacts of extreme weather events.

The project will fulfil the Biodiversity Action Plan for Anegada; the British Virgin Islands Environment Charter; the BVI STRAP; and significantly contribute to BVI's obligations under the Convention of Migratory Species and CITES.

Q12. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and Impact. Provide information on:

- How you have analysed historical and existing initiatives and are building on or taking work already done into account in project design. Please cite evidence where appropriate.
- The rationale for carrying out this work and a justification of your proposed methodology.
- How you will undertake the work (materials and methods).
- How you will manage the work (role and responsibilities, project management tools etc.)

Please make sure you read the [Guidance Notes](#) before answering this question.

(This may be a repeat from Stage 1 but you may update or refine as necessary)

The team will meet regularly via remote communications and on-island visits, guided by the project logframe, reviewed in quarterly team meetings. Confidence in our methodology is underpinned by learning and expertise gained from successful delivery of similar work in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI).

Biological monitoring

ARK/DoAF-led supported by UoE/MNRLI - years 1 and 2. Existing turtle data will be collated into a national database held by DoAF and reviewed to inform delivery of boat-based and aerial monitoring at index turtle nesting and foraging sites. DoAF officers will then be trained in standard turtle biometrics recording with photography to record turtle landings at selected sites. Data will be collected by ARK/ MNRLI/DoAF, managed by DoAF, with UoE supporting analysis and reporting and M&E of methodology.

Socio-economic assessment of the fishery

MCS-led supported by DoAF/ARK/UoE - year 1. Using DoAF's networks and fisher liaison expertise, current turtle fishers and consumers will be approached to take part in a gender-balanced and structured

questionnaire survey to explore the fishery's extent, nature and holistic value. MCS will collect and manage the data with UoE supporting analysis and reporting. Data will inform Community Voice Method engagement.

Community Voice Method (CVM) stakeholder engagement

MCS-led supported by ARK/DoAF - year 2. MCS has successfully engaged stakeholders in conservation solutions through CVM in the TCI and the UK since 2010. Fishers, turtle consumers and other stakeholders, including turtle fishery opponents, will constitute a gender-balanced sample interviewed on camera using a questionnaire guide. Footage will be transcribed, coded and analysed, with results (i.e. most expressed opinions) edited into an engaging 30-minute documentary (see <https://vimeo.com/150885111> for CVM Explained). The documentary will be screened around the islands, with some screenings followed by structured workshops involving stakeholder participants, to discuss and agree potential fishery management measures and STRAP amendments. These discussions will be recorded and reported along with the CVM film analysis, to inform draft recommendations. CVM will also support M&E through participant perception surveys.

Legislative reform and the Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan (STRAP)

DoAF/MNRLI-led with ARK support - year 3. Based on analysis of the biological monitoring, socio-economic data and the CVM process, the team will revise the STRAP and draft recommended amendments to the Virgin Islands Fisheries Regulations and the Endangered Animals and Plants Ordinance. Recommendations will be subject to a further round of fisher consultation before submission to a formal consultative process under the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth Affairs, Fisheries and Agriculture.


Outreach


ARK/DoAF will lead on project publicity through BVI's broadcast, press and online media. Press releases will be issued strategically to introduce the project, promote participation and documentary screenings, and share outcomes. In year 3, MCS and DoAF will lead on publication and dissemination of a fisheries management consultation best-practice guide based on the CVM experience.


Publication


ARK/DoAF-led with support from MCS/UoE/MNRLI - year 3. Agreed project findings will be submitted for publication in at least one peer-reviewed scientific journal, and presented at an international conference to disseminate learning to the international conservation community.


If necessary, please provide supporting documentation e.g. maps, diagrams, and references etc., as pdf using the File Upload below.

 [Christie et al published](#)


 26/11/2019


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 [StringellTB 2015 BiodiversityConserv](#)

 26/11/2019

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Section 7 - Stakeholders and Beneficiaries

Q13. Project Stakeholders

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.

This project was initiated after extensive consultation with and invitation by the Government of the Virgin Islands. Amdeep Sanghera visited BVI in June 2019, meeting with Honourable Vincent Wheatley (Minister of Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration for MNRLI), ARK, DoAF, local fishers and HM Governor's Office. Discussions highlighted mutual concern for environmental resilience, turtles and their habitats, and community conflict around the fishery.

Government agency partners have committed extensive resource and expertise to support the project. MNRLI's Mervin Hastings has committed staff to work with ARK on the fieldwork. DoAF's Director Theodore James is providing capacity for management of a national turtle database; turtle fishery monitoring; and supporting project outputs. The project is also benefiting from DoAF's fisher liaison expertise, with former director Tessa Smith-Claxton having facilitated meetings between Mr Sanghera and fifteen turtle fishers in Tortola and Anegada in June. All fishers consulted expressed interest in participating and were encouraged by the project's inclusive approach.

Project Co-Leader Dr Shannon Gore (ARK) maintains an extensive network of marine stakeholders/sea-users, and our methodology, aims and objectives have been guided by her experience of working with local stakeholders. Dr Gore's networks include local tourism stakeholders, who want to participate as 'eyes on the ground' to report turtle sightings, habitat impacts, illegal activity and turtle nesting activity.

During his visit in June 2019 Mr Sanghera also met with local NGO BVI Unite, who oppose the fishery. They are eager to participate in the project's stakeholder engagement to ensure their opinions are considered.

Q14. Institutional Capacity

Describe the lead organisation's capacity (and that of partner organisations where relevant) to deliver the project.

MCS is a growing, thriving organisation with excellent technical skills and capacity to lead this project, which will be supported by our finance, communications and fundraising teams. We have expanded from 62 staff in 2017 to 73 in 2019, largely as a result of our track record as an impactful, expert, evidence-based organisation. We attract increased investment from donors and the public.

This project will be led from our Programmes Directorate, whose staff have advanced policy and technical skills on fisheries and aquaculture, pollution and marine litter as well as marine conservation. Dr Peter Richardson leads the Ocean Recovery team, which draws together expertise in Marine Protected Areas (UK and overseas) as well as species protection and monitoring.

Dr Richardson's time to lead this project will be ring-fenced, with dedicated capacity for day-to-day coordination from Mr Sanghera. Mr Sanghera will manage activities between UK and BVI partners and communities, leveraging substantial experience from the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Dr Shannon Gore of ARK will support MCS with project leadership in the field, and will bring excellent working relations with BVI sea-user communities, businesses and policy-makers. Dr Gore has 18 years of experience in working across the BVI on a broad range of complex marine resource management initiatives. ARK has a dedicated office and works with 43 volunteers, currently running a number of projects including multi-stakeholder collaboration on mitigation of the impacts of storm-water run-off on marine habitats; sea turtle flipper tagging and habitat monitoring; coral reef restoration; and tourism education.

Q15. Project beneficiaries

Who will your project benefit? You should consider the direct benefits as a result of your project as well as the broader indirect benefits which may come about as a result of your project achieving its Outputs and Outcome. The measurement of any benefits should be included in your project logframe.

Licensed BVI fishers

BVI fishers will benefit from considered, equitable and non-confrontational consultation on the management of the traditional fishery; acknowledgement and action on illegal fishing activity in BVI waters; and eventual sustainable management of the fishery and conservation of important productive habitats.

BVI society

Local communities and island visitors will benefit from increased understanding and awareness of sustainable and equitable marine resource management; improved protection of habitats that support tourism and the economy, and environmental and economic resilience in the face of more frequent extreme weather events.

BVI Government

Government partners will benefit from training, increased knowledge and resource to monitor and manage marine resources and enhanced capacity to conduct equitable and meaningful fishery consultation. Government will benefit from an improved evidence base and reformed legislation, which will increase capacity to carry out statutory duties, and an updated STRAP to guide species and habitat conservation. Project outputs will support Government obligations to domestic commitments (e.g. BVI Environment Charter), and obligations to multi-lateral environmental agreements (e.g. CITES and CMS).

Project partners

Project partners will benefit from collaborative learning, professional development, expanded expertise in the BVI, and the further development of our reputations as ethical, authoritative and effective conservation organisations.

Section 8 - Gender and Change Expected

Q16. Gender (optional)

How is your project working to reduce inequality between persons of different gender? At the very least, you should be able to provide reassurance that your proposed work is not increasing inequality. Have you analysed the context in which you are working to see how gender and other aspects of social inclusion might interact with the work you are proposing?

While BVI society may be described as predominantly patriarchal, there are prominent women in Government and the environmental sector, including the Project Co-Leader and lead staff in both Government agency partners. Nevertheless, women in some BVI communities face barriers in voicing opinion on environmental issues. While fishing is male-dominated, women are involved in the purchasing, processing, cooking, commercial sale and consumption of fishery products - including turtle - and consideration of their voices is essential.

Our initial community liaison will identify women involved in the turtle-product supply chain, including immigrant labour, who we will seek to engage through our socio-economic survey. We will strictly adhere to 50:50 gender-balanced sampling in our social science and CVM engagement, and seek fair gender representation in the CVM workshops. We will ensure schedules are flexible to accommodate times, locations, meeting structures, language and facilitation-styles, as well as group composition appropriate for gender-representative participation. We will test project methodologies with female staff within BVI partner

organisations to ensure appropriateness, and adjust according to feedback.

As recommended in The Virgin Islands National Policy for Gender Equity and Equality, we will use gender-disaggregated data in all our monitoring and have included gender metrics in our logframe indicators.

Q17. Change expected

Detail the expected changed this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who will benefit a) in short-term (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended). Please describe the changes for the environment and, where relevant, for people in the OTs, and how they are linked.

SHORT TERM

Improved public understanding of turtle fishery – novel insights into the holistic value, nature and extent of the fishery. These will inform future fishery management discussions and mitigate social conflict through public debate.

Better scientific and public understanding of turtle and habitat status – the project will present an up-to-date status report of turtle populations using BVI waters, including assessment of key nesting, coral reef and seagrass meadow foraging sites.

Improved fishery legislation – the work will lead to amendment of legislation that regulates turtle conservation and use in BVI. These changes will allow BVI to robustly justify a bespoke and biologically sustainable approach to turtle conservation and management, and bring BVI legislation in line with obligations under international treaties.

Improved Sea Turtle Recovery Programme (STRAP) and associated conservation interventions – revision of the 27-year-old BVI STRAP, making it more relevant to contemporary issues, including impacts of climate change, and prioritise key turtle and habitat conservation interventions to foster recovery of BVI marine biodiversity.

New perspectives on fisheries management consultation – the work will introduce ‘game-changing’ perspectives on BVI marine resource consultation and management that can potentially benefit management of other fisheries and marine planning in BVI.

LONG TERM

Sustainable fishery with fisher compliance – this work will lead to a more sustainable turtle fishery, with fishers having a greater sense of ownership of, and compliance with, fishery management, which will be better understood by island visitors.

Increase in BVI turtle populations – ultimately this project will contribute to increase in turtle populations and recovery of habitats in BVI waters through the implementation of sustainable fishery management and informed conservation interventions prioritised in the STRAP.

These outcomes will benefit government, local fishing communities and others dependent on BVI's turtles and habitats for their livelihoods (e.g. dive tourism sector).

Q18. Pathway to change

Please outline your project's expected pathway to change. This should be an overview of the overall project logic and outline how you expect your Outputs to contribute towards you overall Outcome, and, longer term, your expected Impact.

Biological monitoring and socio-economic assessments will inform project decisions regarding status and conservation needs of turtle populations using BVI waters, and social needs of turtle fishers and consumers.

Community Voice Method (CVM) will explore and record local knowledge, views and perspectives regarding the fishery. In the context of the project's research findings, contemporary fishery management measures will be assessed by participants to determine likely efficacy, equitability, relevance and practicality, and shape draft recommendations that will be subject to further consultation.

Proposed amendments to legislation will be presented to Government for formal consultation, and a revised STRAP will be presented to DoAF and MNRLI for endorsement. The STRAP will provide guidance to prioritise future turtle and habitat conservation interventions, while the fisheries management consultation guide will inform future fishery consultations.

This interdisciplinary approach provides ample justification for Government approval of project recommendations, and proved successful for MCS/UoE in reforming turtle fishery management with the Turks and Caicos Islands Government (see Stringell et al. 2015; Christie et al. 2014).

Implementation of the new legislation will radically reform BVI's turtle fishery management. Prioritised STRAP conservation interventions and a properly-managed fishery will contribute to recovery of regional turtle populations and key habitats in BVI.

Q19. Sustainability

How will the project ensure benefits are sustained after the project have come to a close? If the project requires ongoing maintenance or monitoring, who will do this and how will it be funded?

BVI Government project partners carry the statutory duties to ensure project legislative recommendations are presented for formal consultation, STRAP recommendations are followed and new legislation is enforced.

ARK and MNRLI have collaborated extensively on turtle flipper tagging and habitat monitoring, undertaken on a regular, albeit infrequent, basis. Post-project, DoAF and ARK will continue this work using the project equipment, with project-trained DoAF officers continuing the monitoring of turtle landings and contributing to the national database. DoAF will be responsible for overall database maintenance and management.

Dr Gore is BVI Coordinator for WIDECAST, thus responsible for advocating the STRAP guidance and recommendations, while BVI is within the North-Eastern Caribbean Sea Turtle Recovery Zone, which opens up more potential to secure additional resource for regional conservation commitments.

MCS has a strong track record for securing additional resources for priority work, and will continue to approach funders to support project partners in the BVI. For example, after the reformed legislation was enacted in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI), MCS worked with local partners to ensure research and outreach continued through additional funding. For example, MCS has secured support from the People's Trust for Endangered Species to evaluate fisher compliance with TCI regulations.

Section 9 - Funding and Budget

Q20. Budget





Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet, which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet. Note that there are different templates for projects requesting over and under £100,000 from the Darwin Plus budget.

- [R8 D+ Budget form for projects under £100,000](#)
- [R8 D+ Budget form for projects over £100,000](#)

Please refer to the [Finance Guidance for Darwin/IWT](#) for more information.

N.B: Please state all costs by financial year (1 April to 31 March) and in GBP. Darwin Plus cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.

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.

 [Copy of Copy of darwin-plus-round8-budget-B VI Stage 2 v.4](#)
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Q21. Co-financing

Are you proposing co-financing?

Yes

Q21a. Secured

Provide details of all funding successfully levered (and identified in the Budget) towards the costs of the project, including any income from other public bodies, private sponsorship, donations, trusts, fees or trading activity, as well as any your own organisation(s) will be committing.

(See [Finance for Darwin/IWT](#) and [Guidance Notes](#))

Donor organisation	Amount	Currency code	Comments
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Marine Conservation Society



UK Sterling

£[REDACTED] derives from a £[REDACTED] grant secured from the John Ellerman Foundation. This value represents Mr Sanghera's time and overheads spent on the project in years one and two (2020-21 and 2021-22). The remainder consists of existing capital items used as in-kind contributions to this project.

ARK



£0.00

This amount represents in-kind contributions in time, ground transport and boat charter costs.

University of Exeter



UK Sterling

This represents 60% of annual overheads associated with Prof Godley which have been waived by the University as an in-kind contribution.

DoAF/MNRLI



UK Sterling

Consists of in-kind contributions in staff time, overheads, equipment and venue costs.

Q21b. Unsecured

Provide details of any matched funding where an application has been submitted, or that you intend applying for during the course of the project. This could include matched funding from the private sector, charitable organisations or other public sector schemes. This should also include any additional funds required where a donor has not yet been identified.

Date applied for	Donor organisation	Amount	Currency code	Comments
No Response	No Response	0	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	0	No Response	No Response

No Response	No Response	0	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	0	No Response	No Response

Do you require more fields?

- Yes
- No

Section 10 - Finance

Q22. 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?

MCS will manage project finances, a task that will be closely monitored by project leads alongside our finance team. Our finance team consists of a Director of Finance & Resources, Finance Manager and Accounts Officer; individuals with significant experience of managing complex, multi-year budgets for donor-funded projects.

Nicola Spencer is Director of Finance and MCS Company Secretary, a qualified Accountant who has led finance operations for charities over 18 years.

Dr Peter Richardson, leading our project team and the MCS Ocean Recovery programme, has over 20 years of experience managing large grants for conservation projects and also manages internal budgeting for Ocean Recovery.

Our team will use rigorous financial management procedures, accounting for spend separately within the UKOT programme. We will undertake regular reconciliations of spend against budget, re-forecasting appropriately. This will be overseen by our Finance Committee, and we are externally audited each year.

Q23. Financial Management Risk

Explain how you have considered the risks and threats that may be relevant to the success of this project, including the risks of fraud or bribery.

Risk management is at the core of MCS financial management processes. We believe the likelihood of fraudulent activity is negligible in this case, and our financial control and IT systems safeguard against any risk.

As project lead, MCS will assume responsibility for the project budget and our team of finance and accounting experts will work with Dr Richardson to manage finances, ensure robust internal controls are operated at all times. The project M&E processes will evaluate any risks on an ongoing basis, and plan remedial action and mitigation.

MCS has an excellent reputation and takes a zero-tolerance approach to bribery and corruption, adhering

to all UK laws including the Bribery Act 2010. We have an Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy, which outlines the definition of bribery and corruption and the legislation that all staff, at all levels and grades, understand. It articulates procedures that staff must follow regarding whistle-blowing, approval and reporting of gifts and record-keeping relating to business contracts. We are committed to acting with integrity in all external activities and relationships, and only collaborate with organisations that share our zero-tolerance approach. MCS is fully GDPR compliant, with an up-to-date GDPR policy and staff trained in the GDPR obligations.

Q24. 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.

Our budget was built through in-depth consultation with partners, with careful consideration of costs as well as in-kind support.

Our funding model incorporates 33% confirmed match funding and in-kind support towards total project costs. This includes generous contributions from Government partners and the Project Co-Leader, with commitments to the project outcomes well beyond the life of this funding.

The project's BVI partners bring locally relevant skills, decades of experience and strong social networks. Their local knowledge of the near-shore environment as well as their relationships with industry, government and the fishing community will increase efficiencies on the ground, likely enabling us to access further in-kind support from community members

Our project will also represent good value for money on account of the extensive technical expertise of our project team. Dr Peter Richardson has led similar projects in the field for 20 years and Mr Sanghera has coordinated successful stakeholder-led conservation in the Turks and Caicos Islands. MCS staff salary rates are competitive, with Mr Sanghera's time contributed as in-kind in YR1 and YR2. Our team is experienced in efficient project budget management, and delivering successful outcomes on limited budgets.

This project also benefits from the expertise of Prof. Godley, and generous waiving of 60% of his overheads.

Our communications will be efficient, largely employing online communications (e.g. Skype, Whatsapp). UK team members have minimised travel to the BVI, with emphasis on coordinating multiple project events and activities during trips to maximise value for money on transport, accommodation and subsistence costs.

Q25. Capital Items

If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin Funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end.

Project partners are contributing use of some existing capital items as in-kind contributions to this project, where possible. The project will purchase necessary equipment to complete biological field work, including compact cameras, GPS units, standard turtle biometric measuring equipment, Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tag readers and PIT tags, flipper tags and flipper tagging equipment. This equipment will remain in the ownership of BVI project partners to support legacy work after project completion. In addition, MCS will buy a video camera and projector to support the Community Voice Method process. This

equipment will remain with MCS after project completion.

Q26. Outputs of the project and 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 and detail any specific costs you are seeking from Darwin Plus to fund this.

All media publicity (e.g. magazine articles), press releases, project updates, reports, videos, blogs and selected photography will be made available on the partners' websites (e.g. www.mcsuk.org), and specifically on ARK's dedicated project pages within the existing BVI Sea Turtle Programme section (<http://www.bviark.org/turtle-encounters-project.html>).

ARK and MCS maintain several social media outlets (e.g. Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) and we will regularly feature posts from the project across these platforms which will link to online project outputs and resources. These will be promoted by DoAF, MNRLI and by Prof Godley's sizeable social media following on Facebook and Twitter.

Articles about this project will be published in the MCS quarterly magazine, 'Marine Conservation' during and immediately after the project. In addition, we will also contribute to the Darwin Initiative newsletter with project updates and summaries and to other relevant publications (e.g. Marine Turtle Newsletter).

The partnership, under express permission of Government partners, will prepare manuscripts for publication in Open Access peer-reviewed journals and have allocated budget to accommodate this. All papers resulting from this project and co-authored by Prof Godley will be contributed to the University of Exeter's Open Research Exeter (ORE) publication repository.

As BVI coordinator for WIDECAST, Dr Gore will disseminate project findings through the WIDECAST network and at the annual network meetings. Project partners will present the work at relevant national meetings, conferences and symposia, and the budget accommodates presentation of the project findings at one international conference in the final year of the project (e.g. International Sea Turtle Symposium).

Section 11 - Safeguarding

Q27. Safeguarding

Projects funded through Darwin Plus must fully protect vulnerable people all of the time, wherever they work. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have appropriate safeguarding policies in place. Please confirm the lead organisation has the following policies in place and that these are available on request:

We have a safeguarding policy, which includes a statement of your commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse	Checked
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------

We keep a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with	Checked
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We have clear investigation and disciplinary procedures to use when allegations and complaints are made, and have clear processes in place for when a disclosure is made Checked

We share our safeguarding policy with downstream partners Checked

We have a whistle-blowing policy which protects whistle-blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised Checked

We have a Code of Conduct in place for staff and volunteers that sets out clear expectations of behaviors - inside and outside of the work place - and make clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards Checked

Section 12 - Logical Framework

Q28. 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.

Impact:

BVI's marine turtles and their habitats are actively managed and monitored with conservation interventions underpinned by sound science, appropriate and effective legislation, which is valued by local communities and visitors.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
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Outcome:

Agreed recommendations for amendments to Virgin Islands Fisheries Regulations and Endangered Animals and Plants Ordinance, and revised and published Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan (STRAP).

0.1 Revised STRAP endorsed by DoAF and MNRLI by March 2023
0.2 Final recommendations for legislative amends signed off by DoAF and MNRLI by March 2023.
0.3 Between Y1 – Y3, at least 3 DoAF staff members show at least 40% improvement in capacity to effectively monitor landed turtles using approved scoring assessment method.
0.4 Between Y1 – Y3, at least 2 MNRLI staff members show at least 30% improvement in capacity to effectively monitor foraging turtles and nesting activity using approved scoring assessment method.

0.1 Published STRAP.
0.2 Project report detailing recommended legislative amends signed off by DoAF and MNRLI.
0.3 Scoring assessment sheets used via bi-annual reinforcement /evaluation exercises; training reports; field notes; evaluation interviews with DoAF staff.
0.4. See 0.3. ARK training and evaluation reports.

0.1 – 0.4 BVI Government have confirmed their desire to amend the Virgin Islands Fisheries Regulations, the Endangered Animals and Plants Ordinance, and update the STRAP, and have committed dedicated staff to aid in targeting this outcome. In June 2019, MCS’s UKOT Conservation Officer Amdeep Sanghera visited BVI to meet with the Minister and Deputy Secretary of MNRLI, along with senior DoAF staff. All expressed a keen willingness to update the legislation through this project. Extreme weather events, particularly hurricanes and tropical storms, will not impact project partners to the extent that they cannot complete the project. ARK was operating within three weeks of two catastrophic category 5 hurricanes that hit BVI in 2017. We will have a carefully planned a mitigation strategy to minimise disruption to project progress in the event of extreme weather impacts. We are also in contact with the Department of Disaster Management (GoBVI) on preparedness best practice.

Output 1:

Assessment of the status, nature and extent of the traditional turtle fishery.

1.1 Y1Q1 – Detailed final project workplan and MoU, incorporating data sharing agreement, developed and signed off by all partner organisations.

1.2 Y1Q1 - At least 3 DoAF staff members trained in sampling protocol to monitor landed turtles through bespoke workshop and in-situ.

1.3 Y1Q2 - Socio-economic questionnaire survey carried out with at least 50 fishers, vendors and consumers across the four main inhabited islands ensuring gender balance.

1.4 Y1Q2-Y3Q4 – Daily biological monitoring (e.g. biometric measuring, species ID, sexing, location data) of landed turtles by DoAF officers in the 4 main inhabited islands.

1.5 Y3Q2-Q4 – Analyses, reporting and amalgamation of results from socio-economic questionnaire survey and biological monitoring of landed turtles into project report for Output 1.

1.1 Endorsed project workplan and MoU.

1.2 Sampling protocol, Protocol training workshop report, creation of BVI Turtle landings database

1.3 Audio transcriptions, socio-economic assessment report, signed informed consent forms,

1.4 Sampling protocol, photos of landed turtles, creation and management of BVI Turtle landings database,

1.5 Project report (see Output 1). At least one manuscript prepared for peer-reviewed publication and at least one presentation at an international conference.

1.1 Project partners are able to collectively finalise workplan and MoU. This proposal has had extensive collaborative input and endorsement from all partners, including on respective roles and responsibilities, so detailed workplan and MoU will be achieved.

1.2 DoAF are willing to provide staff for monitoring of landed turtles. DoAF have expressed keen interest in leading the turtle fishery monitoring aspect of the project and have dedicated two capable staff members for this. The project will benefit from MCS/UoE's extensive expertise of training Caribbean UKOT governments to effectively monitor turtle landings.

Output 2:

. Development and management of national BVI Sea Turtle Database, including updated assessment of turtle populations and habitats at key index sites.

2.1 Y1Q1 - Collate all historical and existing data into functioning national database and review to inform monitoring and turtle flipper tagging programme.

2.2 Y1Q1-Y3Q4 - Monthly boat-based turtle flipper-tagging surveys at 6 index foraging sites – all visited at least twice in one year.

2.3 Y1Q1-Y3Q1 Collect baseline data on benthic habitat monitoring using established protocols and repeat on an annual basis.

2.4 Y1Q1-Y2Q4 - Quarterly aerial surveys and ground-truthing of 5 index nesting sites.

2.5 Y1Q1 - At least 2 DoAF and 3 MNRLI staff members trained in marine turtle flipper tag-recapture and nesting survey protocols through workshop and ARK mentoring.

2.6 Y3Q4 – At least one manuscript prepared for peer-reviewed publication, and at least one presentation at an international conference.

2.1 Functioning national database and monitoring plan.

2.2 Collected data, monitoring and sampling protocols, flipper-tag recapture database set-up and populated, social media posts of sampling trips.

2.3 Habitat database, survey sheets, habitat imagery, agreed protocols.

2.4 See 2.1. Turtle nesting database set-up and populated. Completed flight logs, data sheets and survey photography.

2.5 Workshop registration and report, social media posts.

2.6 Finalised manuscript, PowerPoint presentation, social media posts, conference proceedings.

2.1 Data holders submit turtle data. ARK has been at the centre of BVI turtle research for several decades and holds strong and progressive relationships with the stakeholders we are targeting.

2.2 Project partners are committed to collect field data. ARK, in collaboration with MNRLI, were running an ongoing turtle-tagging project collecting scientific data before hurricanes Irma and Maria destroyed the research vessels. This component will also benefit from UoE's expert advice and experience.

2.3 Habitat survey methodology is suitable. Dr Shannon Gore has been undertaking monitoring surveys of BVI habitats through established protocols. Liaison with existing habitat mapping initiatives in the BVI (e.g. Darwin Plus project DP\100052) will ensure sharing of methodologies and data to maximise overall efforts.

2.4 Aerial survey methodology is appropriate for this purpose. Aerial surveys proved successful during a previous project. ARK has been

engaging with local airlines to use the same method while also establishing a sustainable financing mechanism to continue nesting monitoring beyond the life of the project.

2.5 DoAF and MNRLI staff will participate in flipper tag-recapture/nesting surveys. MNRLI have been working with ARK for several years in collecting flipper-tag recapture data before hurricanes Irma and Maria destroyed vessels used by ARK. MNRLI committed to provide staff for this research.
2.6 – see 1.5

Output 3:

Recommended amendments to Virgin Islands Fisheries Regulations and Endangered Animals and Plants Ordinance, and revised STRAP.

3.1 Y2Q1 - At least 30 filmed CVM stakeholder interviews across four inhabited islands with representative gender sampling.
3.2 Y2Q2 - Analysis of filmed interviews and one CVM documentary film output.
3.3 Y2Q3 - At least 20 CVM film screenings across four inhabited islands involving at least 100 participants, including at least 5 mixed-gender workshops in Tortola and Virgin Gorda.
3.4 Y2Q4 - Completed report on workshops discussions and draft legislative recommendations.
3.5 Y3Q1 - Face to face consultation with at least 30 selected stakeholders across four inhabited islands on recommended draft legislation amendments.
3.6 Y3Q4 - Final recommended draft amendments presented to Government for formal consultation process.
3.7 Y3Q3-Q4 - Revisions to STRAP completed, based on project findings and presented to Government for endorsement.

3.1 Digital footage of all interviews, consent forms
3.2 Interview transcriptions, qualitative database, analysis document and completed CVM documentary film.
3.3 Audio, photographic and written recordings of each workshop, participant registration sheet, social media posts.
3.4 CVM film and workshops report.
3.5 Audio record of consultation interviews, completed consultation questionnaire forms.
3.6 Project report, with appendix detailing recommended legislative amendments prepared for presentation to Government.
3.7 Revised and endorsed STRAP.

Stakeholders have agreed to participate in the CVM project. Amdeep Sanghera consulted with a range of fishers and other stakeholders about the project in June 2019, explaining CVM methodology and showing our documentary film output on CVM from the Turks and Caicos Islands. All individuals expressed their support for this inclusive form of engagement. Our experience in the Turks and Caicos Islands also underpins the effectiveness of this method. Government accepts legislative amendments for formal consultation and endorses revised STRAP – this is expected given the involvement of the key Government partners.

Output 4:

4. Disseminate project findings to national, regional and international audiences

4.1 Y1Q1-Y3Q4 - At least three press releases issued strategically in years 1, 2 and 3 to announce the project and solicit participation; encourage participation in the CVM; and announce the results.
 4.2 Y1Q1-Y3Q4 - Creation of posts for partners social media accounts, producing at least 1 post per month.
 4.3 Y2Q3 - Posting of CVM film and short extracts online.
 4.4 Y3Q4 - CVM report for presentation.
 4.5 Y3Q4 - Presentation of project findings to at least one international conference.
 4.6 Y3Q4 - Production and dissemination of a fisheries consultation best-practice guide to at least 30 people at end-of-project workshop in Tortola.
 4.7 Y1-Y3 - At least 20 Project presentations in 10 local mixed gender schools targeting at least 300 school children.

4.1 Press releases and resulting articles in BVI print, broadcast and online media channels.
 4.2 Online record of posts on partner organisations' channels, as well as public response.
 4.3 CVM film and short extracts embedded on partners' websites, social media posts.
 4.4 CVM report, PowerPoint presentation.
 4.5 PowerPoint presentation and conference proceedings.
 4.6 Fisheries consultation best-practice guide document, end-of-project workshop proceedings, participant register.
 4.7 Teacher and student feedback forms on project presentations to schools, social media posts,

Press channels will publish the story; peer-reviewed journals will accept the article; and project team speaker's abstract will be accepted for presentation. MCS, ARK and UoE have ample experience in writing press releases for take-up by local, national and international media. The team have a strong history of their research paper publication, including those focused on turtle conservation, and have presented compelling abstracts and presentations at many scientific conferences.

Output 5:

No Response

No Response

No Response

No Response

Do you require more Output fields?

It is advised to have less than 6 Outputs since this level of detail can be provided at the Activity level.

No

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.

Output 1: Assessment of the status, nature and extent of the traditional turtle fishery

- 1.1 Prepare project workplan and MoU, incorporating data sharing agreement, developed and facilitate sign-off by all partner organisations
- 1.2 Monthly face to face meetings between BVI partners led by ARK with Skype connection to MCS.
- 1.3 Quarterly team meetings with all partners either on-island or through Skype connection.
- 1.4 Implement stakeholder engagement exercise in inhabited islands of Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada, and Jost Van Dyke, introducing project need, aims and participatory mechanisms to turtle fishers, vendors, consumers and other relevant stakeholders
 - 1.4.1 Organise and implement at least 1 community meeting in each inhabited island
 - 1.4.2 Gather, assess and incorporate (where possible) stakeholder feedback on project design
 - 1.4.3 Identify and approach key stakeholders for activity 1.6
- 1.5 Develop socio-economic questionnaire survey
 - 1.5.1 Pilot survey with community members to ensure locally appropriate
- 1.6 Carry out socio-economic questionnaire survey with at least 50 fishers, vendors and consumers from the four inhabited islands ensuring fair gender representation
 - 1.6.1 Analyse data and write report
- 1.7 Develop sampling protocol for biological monitoring of landed turtles
- 1.8 Training workshop for at least 3 DoAF staff members to be trained in sampling protocol to monitor landed turtles through bespoke workshop and in-situ.
 - 1.8.1 Evaluate and reinforce DoAF monitoring capacity of landed turtles every 6 months in-situ
- 1.9 Commence biological monitoring of landed turtles in the four main fishing centres
 - 1.9.1 Analyse data (24 months) and write report
- 1.10 Write overall assessment report for Output 1 factoring in analyses from Activities 1.6.1 & 1.9.1

Output 2: Development and management of national BVI Sea Turtle Database, including updated assessment of turtle populations and habitats at key index sites

- 2.1 Organise initial project-partner meeting to develop and endorse overall work plan for Output 2 allocating tasks to key project personnel.
- 2.2 Review and collate all historical documents, existing data sets and identify feasible database format
 - 2.2.1. Enter all datasets into the new database
 - 2.2.2. Development of a user guide for the new database
- 2.3 Review and updating of existing marine turtle flipper tag-recapture and nesting survey protocols
 - 2.3.1. Monitoring Protocol Training Session with DoAF & MNRLI
 - 2.3.2. Produce report on Training Session
- 2.4. Identify appropriate benthic habitat monitoring protocol with MNRLI & DoAF
- 2.5 Collect baseline data on benthic habitat monitoring using established protocols and repeat on an annual basis.
- 2.6 Carry out monthly boat-based turtle flipper-tagging surveys at 6 index foraging sites – all visited at least twice in one year.
 - 2.6.1. Entry of tagging/recapture data into database
- 2.7. Carry out quarterly aerial surveys with ground-truthing of 5 index nesting sites
 - 2.7.1. Enter nesting data into database
- 2.8. Analysis and presentation of national turtle database
 - 2.8.1 Write draft manuscript for submission and peer-review
 - 2.8.2. Present project results at one international conference
- 2.9. Ongoing maintenance and stewardship of national database by DoAF

Output 3. Proposed turtle fishery amendments to Virgin Islands Fisheries Regulations and Endangered Animals and Plants Act

- 3.1 Develop interviewee list of stakeholders for CVM filmed interviews (aided by Activity 1.6)
- 3.2 Develop interview questionnaire and consent form (aided by Activity 1.6.1)
 - 3.2.1 Pilot interview questionnaire with community members, including women, to ensure gender-

appropriate.

3.3 Finalise list of participants for filming and arrange filmed interviews

3.4 Carry out filmed interviews across Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada, and Jost Van Dyke ensuring gender balance

3.5 Transcribe and analyse filmed interview data and write analysis summary report.

3.6 Produce CVM film output

3.7 Arrange and promote CVM film screening/workshops via outreach strategy across four inhabited islands (see Activity 4.5)

3.8 Hold CVM screenings/workshops across the four inhabited islands

3.9 Input and analyse CVM workshop proceedings to produce report and recommended draft turtle fishery legislation amendments

3.10 Carry out consultations with selected stakeholders to gain feedback on recommended draft turtle fishery legislation amendments

3.11 Draft STRAP revisions based on project findings.

3.12 Finalise recommended draft turtle fishery amendments and revised STRAP and secure full endorsement from project partners

3.13 Present finalised recommended amendments for formal consultation process, and revised STRAP for Government endorsement.

Output 4. Disseminate project findings to national, regional and international audiences

4.1 Develop and finalise draft communication and outreach strategy for project and get endorsement from all partners

4.2 Create and disseminate outreach materials including broadcast, press releases and online media to introduce project

4.3 Create project-specific social media posts and promote via partner's digital channels.

4.4 Develop and implement project presentations in 10 mixed-gender schools across the four inhabited islands (repeat annually)

4.5 Create bespoke outreach strategy to promote and encourage participation in CVM film screening/workshops (with Activity 3.7)

4.6 Post CVM film and short extracts on partners' web platforms and social media channels

4.7 Write CVM report including film analysis and summary of workshop discussions.

4.8 Presentation of project findings at international conference

4.9 Create outreach materials including broadcast, press releases and online media to disseminate results of the project

4.10 Develop and finalise a fisheries consultation best-practice guide (using M&E/outputs from Activities 1.10 and 3.9)


4.11 Deliver end-of-project partners and stakeholders workshop highlighting project learning, presenting revised STRAP and legislation recommendations, with future planning for BVI partners.


Section 13 - Implementation Timetable


Q29. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities


Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the Excel spreadsheet template as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project.

Please add/remove columns to reflect the length of your project. For each activity (add/remove rows as appropriate) indicate the number of months it will last, and fill/shade only the quarters in which an activity will be carried out. The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

 [Implementation Timetable 26112019 v.2](#)

 26/11/2019

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 xlsx 17.75 KB

Section 14 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q30. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan

Describe, referring to the Indicators above, how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, making reference to who is responsible for the project's M&E.

Darwin Initiative projects are expected to be adaptive and you should detail how the monitoring and evaluation will feed into the delivery of the project including its management. M&E is expected to be built into the project and not an 'add' on. It is as important to measure for negative impacts as it is for positive impact. Additionally, please indicate an approximate budget and level of effort (person days) to be spent on M&E (see [Finance Guidance for Darwin/IWT](#)).

At the outset the team will agree a final detailed workplan based on this logframe, and formal M&E framework, with resultant evaluation and adaptive management based on assessment of project progress against the logframe indicators. Where M&E assessments show targets are not being met, appropriate remedial measures will be agreed at the quarterly M&E meetings.

Our work will be delivered by a team of professionals with extensive experience of collaborative working and project management, who understand the importance of monitoring and evaluation.

MCS and UoE have a strong track record of working in close partnership with UKOT partners and have developed a highly adaptive M&E process, which includes project staff being in constant contact through email and WhatsApp to support active operational decision-making.

MCS will be responsible for overall management of the M&E process, with input from BVI Co-Leader ARK and other partners focused on specific outputs and associated indicators. Continuous M&E will be carried out on a monthly basis through monthly face-to-face project meetings between BVI partners, led by the Co-Leader with a Skype connection to Amdeep Sanghera. Decisions on operational issues agreed in meetings will be relayed to project staff to ensure agreed output indicators are achieved.

The MCS Director of Programmes will chair quarterly project team meetings with all partners to review progress and facilitate planning for any adaptive management necessary. Specifically, in these meetings we will:

- Review the workplan and progress against the logframe, agreeing any necessary changes to planned project activities, scheduling and indicators
- Address and mitigate any conflicts arising

- Prepare and sign off six-month and annual reports to Darwin Plus, which will report M&E assessments against the project logframe and workplan
- Report and discuss 6-month budget reviews completed by the Project Lead and MCS Director of Finance

Decisions and actions from the meetings will be minuted and reported. All documents, photography and other means of verification for M&E will be sent to the Project Leader and stored securely within MCS.

MCS staff performance with respect to this project will be reviewed as part of the established MCS staff performance appraisal process, including 360 degree feedback, while project partners will apply their own processes to their staff.

Overall budgeting and financial forecasting for this project will fall within the established MCS budget monitoring processes and will be monitored by the Project Leader and the MCS Director of Finance as described in Q22. MCS will outsource an independent audit of the project finances and expenditure at the end of Yr3.

In addition to these internal processes, our Community Voice Method activity and subsequent project consultation processes will incorporate stakeholder feedback surveys. The surveys will assess participant perceptions of the project partnership performance and its activities, with the results will be explored and discussed at an end-of-project partner workshop.

All partner staff capacity building with respect biological monitoring and fishery assessment data collection will incorporate built-in M&E assessments of staff performance and refresher training where necessary.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs) £ [REDACTED]

Number of days planned for M&E 156.00

Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%) 6.00

Section 15 - Certification

Q31. Certification

On behalf of the

trustees

of

MARINE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

I apply for a grant of



£241,553.00

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 applicant institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)

- I have enclosed CVs for project key project personnel, letters of support, budget and project implementation timetable (uploaded at appropriate points in application).
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report are also enclosed.

Checked

Name	Sandy Luk
Position in the organisation	Chief Executive Officer
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 Certification sheet - signed Sandy Luk  26/11/2019  17:11:31  pdf 51.34 KB
Date	26 November 2019

Section 16 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance documents, including the "Guidance Notes for Applicants" and "Finance Guidance".	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for this proposed project.	Checked
I have provided a budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April - 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that the budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have included a 1 page CV or job description for all the Project staff identified at Question 14, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a letter of support from the Lead Organisation and main partner organisation(s) identified at Question 13, or an explanation of why not.	Checked

I have included a cover letter from the Lead Organisation, outlining how any feedback at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant.	Checked
I have been in contact with the FCO in the project country(ies) and have included any evidence of this. if not, I have provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a signed copy of the last 2 years annual report and accounts for the Lead Organisation, or provided an explanation if not.	Checked
I have checked the Darwin website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on GOV.UK.	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant (Flexi-Grant Account Holder) and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current application rounds under the Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus and our sister grant scheme, the IWT Challenge Fund. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share our quarterly project newsletter. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in this application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the latest copy of the Privacy Notice for Darwin, Darwin Plus and the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund available [here](#). This Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information, but not personal data, may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead organisation, location, and total grant value) on the GOV.UK and other websites.

Information relating to the project or its results may also be released on request, including under the 2004 Environmental Information Regulations and the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However, Defra will not permit any unwarranted breach of confidentiality nor will we act in contravention of our obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679).