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# **DPR9S2\1015**

## **Improving reef resilience through sustainable fishery management on Diego Garcia**

Significant concerns exist over the sustainability of Diego Garcia's (DG) reef fisheries. We will conduct an urgent impact assessment of DG's two fisheries, quantify their true nature and extent, develop biological reference points and elucidate spawning seasons for vulnerable reef predators. We will also determine the societal drivers of fishing, the current understanding of existing fishery regulations, and stakeholder perceptions of management options. We will produce feasible, effective management recommendations and engage stakeholders to ensure long-term sustainable fisheries management.

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## Section 1 - Contact Details

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### PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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Title	Dr
Name	David
Surname	Curnick
Tel (Work)	[REDACTED]
Tel (Mobile)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

### GMS ORGANISATION

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Type	Organisation
Name	Zoological Society of London
Phone	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Website	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

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## Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

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### Q3a. Project title

Improving reef resilience through sustainable fishery management on Diego Garcia

### Q3b. What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DPR9S1\10008

DPR9S1\1039

### Q4. UKOT(s)

Which eligible UK Overseas Territory(ies) will your project be working in?

British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT)

\* if you have indicated a territory group with an asterisk, please give detail on which territories you are

working on here:

No Response

**Q4b. In addition to the UKOTs you have indicated, will your project directly benefit any other Territories or country(ies)?**

Yes

Please list below.

West Indian Ocean

## Q5. Project dates

**Start date:**

01 August 2021

**End date:**

30 June 2024

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

2 year, 11 months

## Q6. Budget summary

Year:	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total request
Darwin funding request (Apr - Mar)	£107,739.62	£107,503.25	£82,107.71	£16,668.84	£314,019.42

**Q6a. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?**

Yes

**What matched funding arrangements are proposed?**

David Curnick's salary contribution is fully funded up until and including February 2022 (£██████████ through a grant from the Bertarelli Programme in Marine Science (BPMS). BPMS funded science and diving equipment will also be used here amounting to £██████████ Two MSc/MRes student projects will be offered, each equivalent to approximately £██████████ (based on an entry level post-graduate research assistant salary pro-rata). A total of £██████████ for the provision of research equipment and access to analysis facilities of Bangor University and £██████████ in indirect costs from Bangor University. Brett Taylor contributes ~£██████████ worth of specialist laboratory equipment from his private laboratory (e.g. dissecting scope, compound scope, microbalance) and ~£██████████ of diving equipment.

Total matched funding = £██████████

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

24%

## Section 3 - Project Summary and Conventions

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### 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.**

Significant concerns exist over the sustainability of Diego Garcia's (DG) reef fisheries. We will conduct an urgent impact assessment of DG's two fisheries, quantify their true nature and extent, develop biological reference points and elucidate spawning seasons for vulnerable reef predators. We will also determine the societal drivers of fishing, the current understanding of existing fishery regulations, and stakeholder perceptions of management options. We will produce feasible, effective management recommendations and engage stakeholders to ensure long-term sustainable fisheries management.

### Q8. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

**Please detail how your project will contribute to the aims of the agreement(s) your project is targeting. What key OT Government priorities and themes will it address? You should refer to Articles or Programmes of Work here. You should also consider local, territory specific agreements and action plans here.**

This project will directly address a key conservation management concern in BIOT – the poorly understood fisheries on DG and their impact on this important Ramsar site (1077) – and will contribute significantly to the BIOT Administration's conservation priorities (<https://biot.gov.io/environment/>). Specifically, it directly contributes to the key objectives; "...to sustainably manage recreational fishing activities..." and "...ensure that permitted human activities within the Territory are undertaken to the highest possible environmental standards". Further, by engaging island personnel and international stakeholders, we will also contribute to the objectives to "...communicate widely the unique value of the Territory..." and "...encourage and support high quality scientific work...". Our integrated approach will incorporate island stakeholders and the social importance of the fishery within the decision making process. The project will determine the support and acceptability for potential management options, allowing BIOTA to make informed management decisions. It will also facilitate a shift in behaviour and attitude towards more sustainable fishing practices and improved environmental awareness by engaging island personnel in project activities. The project will therefore provide the ecological and social baselines needed to develop evidence-based and implementable guidelines to improve management of the fisheries on DG.

The project also directly addresses the BIOT Biodiversity Action Plan for shallow coral reefs. It identifies a pressing need for assessment of the DG recreational fishery and suggests a precautionary approach to management in the absence of existing data, and maintaining or increasing current fishery restrictions.

The West Indian Ocean (WIO) region suffers from a lack of capacity and data for managing small-scale fisheries. Long-term fisheries monitoring systems are largely absent or poorly designed, therefore alternative approaches, such as fisheries independent surveys, are required for management advice. The unique situation of DG means the management options adopted are not directly transferable to many reef fisheries across the WIO. However, this project will generate key biological reference indicators (which are challenging to obtain in the WIO context, e.g. spawning seasons and age/length-at-maturity) for ecologically significant reef predators that can support the development of regional fisheries management plans. In the

global context, the project addresses the global Sustainable Development Goal 14 of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) (<https://www.icriforum.org/post2020/>). Within the current draft framework, this project contributes towards targets: (1) by strengthening marine spatial planning; (4) by ensuring sustainable harvesting levels; (8, 12) by ensuring well-being benefits through sustainable management; (15) by reducing unsustainable consumption; and (20) through ensuring equitable participation of local communities.

## Section 4 - Lead Organisation Summary

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### Q9. 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
DPLUS090	Rachel Jones	Reducing the impacts of plastic on the BIOT natural environment
25-024	Jeremy Huet	Securing marine biodiversity and fishers' income through sustainable fisheries, Mozambique
25-012	Gitanjali Bhattacharya	Steppe-up: Community-led recovery of Mongolia's iconic species and forest-steppe ecosystem
24-015	Gitanjali Bhattacharya	Community conservation of Chitwan National Park's freshwater ecosystems and Gharials
24-027	Heather Koldewey	Applying business models to sustain socio-ecological resilience in coastal Philippines
24-016	Matthew Gollock	Sustainable community-based stewardship of freshwater resources in the Northern Philippines

**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.**

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 [DPR9S2 1015 ZSL Annual Accounts 2019-20](#)

 02/02/2021


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 pdf 5.38 MB

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 [DPR9S2 1015 ZSL Annual Accounts 2018-19](#)

 02/02/2021

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## Section 5 - Project Partners

### Q10. 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:** Zoological Society London

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**Website address:** [www.zsl.org](http://www.zsl.org)

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

ZSL (Dr Curnick) has led the overall project design and will oversee its management, delivery and scientific outputs. ZSL will also lead the fishery analyses (Dr Curnick) and social science (Ms Collins) aspects of the project.

ZSL delivers a diverse portfolio of collaborative conservation projects across >50 countries. Within ZSL, the Institute of Zoology (IOZ) is a world-renowned research centre working at the cutting edge of conservation science. ZSL's Marine and Freshwater Programme has extensive global experience of securing and improving marine biodiversity and livelihoods through community-based management of marine protected areas (MPAs) and species conservation. This is achieved through working with communities, government, the private sector to identify threats, design management plans, increase capacity, and improve livelihoods with outcomes underpinned by sound science.

ZSL has worked in the UKOTs for over 20 years and has helped deliver two Darwin projects in BIOT (19-027) and Pitcairn Islands (20-006). ZSL also has one on-going Darwin+ project in BIOT (DPLUS090).

ZSL leads and coordinates a programme of science in BIOT (Bertarelli Programme in Marine Science - BPMS). The BPMS comprises >100 scientists across 25 institutions from six countries with an interdisciplinary programme of work on conservation science in BIOT (<https://www.marine.science>).

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

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

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**Do you have partners involved in the Project?**

Yes

**1. Partner Name:** Bangor University

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**Website address:** [www.bangor.ac.uk](http://www.bangor.ac.uk)

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

The School of Ocean Sciences at Bangor University is a research led institution and one of the largest multidisciplinary Marine Science departments in Europe, currently with 32 academic faculty. The School of Ocean Sciences has an established track record of working with diverse stakeholders and partner organizations on Darwin Initiative projects (i.e. BIOT: 19027, Cayman Islands: 18016 and EIDPO045).

The School of Ocean Sciences has particular expertise in the design and implementation of coral reef surveys for the assessment of effectiveness and impact of marine protected areas. The planned reef surveys quantifying the potential impacts of differing fishing protection regimes on biodiversity and ecology metrics around Diego Garcia will be carried out by Dr Roche.

This will build on previous experience of the challenges of carrying out coral reef surveys across the wider Chagos Archipelago by Dr Roche, gained in expeditions since 2013. Outputs will include compilation, analysis of data and collaboration in reports, publications and management recommendations.

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

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

Yes

**2. Partner Name:** Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS)

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**Website address:** <https://www.aims.gov.au/>

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

Dr Brett Taylor will lead the fish sampling and associated training, analyses of the otolith and gonad samples and generating the important biological reference points. Dr Taylor will also be responsible, alongside Dr Roche, for the stereo-DOV surveys and their analyses. Dr Taylor has vast experience in this field, leading fish monitoring and life-history research projects across the Indo-Pacific region for over a decade, delivering quality science output to stakeholders and generating >45 publications. His previous research in reef fish monitoring and life-history applications in BIOT has led to a range of intuitive and impactful publications.

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**Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?**  No

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**If no, please provide details**

We have not provided a letter of support from AIMS as Dr Taylor is potentially about to move institutions (he is currently under contract negotiations with two universities). However, all institutions (including his current one) have stated that they would fully support Dr Taylor's project involvement. Resolution expected by 08/02/2021.

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**3. Partner Name:** *No Response*

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**Website address:** *No Response*

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**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):** *No Response*

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**Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?**  Yes  
 No

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**4. Partner Name:** *No Response*

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**Website address:** *No Response*

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**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):** *No Response*

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**Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?**  Yes  
 No

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**5. Partner Name:** *No Response*

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**Website address:** *No Response*

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**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):** *No Response*

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**Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?**  Yes  
 No

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**6. Partner Name:** *No Response*

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**Website address:** *No Response*

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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.

 [DPR9S2 1015 Letter of Support Bangor](#)


 02/02/2021

 14:07:30

 pdf 1.45 MB

 [DPR9S2 1015 Stage 2 Cover Letter](#)


 02/02/2021


 14:07:01

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 [DPR9S2 1015 Letter of Support ZSL](#)

 02/02/2021

 14:06:36

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## Section 6 - Project Staff

### Q11. Project Staff

Please identify the core staff on this project, their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project. Further information on who should be classified as core staff can be found in the guidance.

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?
David Curnick	Project Leader	30	Checked
Claire Collins	Social science lead	30	Checked


Ronan Roche	Reef impact lead	10	Checked
Brett Taylor	Fish ecology and life-history specialist	16	Checked

### Do you require more fields?

No

**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.**

 DPR9S2 1015 Project Team CVs

 02/02/2021

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 pdf 155.09 KB

**Have you attached all Project staff CVs?**

Yes

## Section 7 - Background & Methodology

### Q12. 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?**

**Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem (references can be listed in your additional attached PDF document which can be uploaded at the bottom of the page).**

Coral reefs are threatened by localised fishing pressure, pollution and disease, in addition to global climatic change. Effective management of local threats has been shown to significantly improve reef resilience to climate change impacts.

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department (MWR) of the US Military provides daily fishing opportunities to personnel on DG, targeting ecologically important and vulnerable coastal predators, such as groupers, and removing over 20t of fish annually. The fishery is poorly documented, and its impact on reef health is unknown, as is the sustainability of current extraction rates. Furthermore, current fishing guidelines lack clarity and are too complicated to be effectively enforced (Spalding 2018). In addition, there is a larger shore-based (creel) fishery primarily undertaken by the ~2,000 support staff. This fishery remains poorly understood and unregulated. Stakeholders across both fisheries are generally disengaged with conservation and science work in the territory. It is imperative that both fisheries are conducted sustainably, recognising the ecological importance and rarity of BIOT's near-pristine reefs; whilst providing

opportunities for the DG community to engage and become active stakeholders in reef conservation.

This project will: systematically review the impact of the fisheries on DG's reefs; identify spatial and temporal hotspots for biodiversity across the atoll (e.g. spawning behaviour); and ascertain the understanding of existing fisheries regulations and marine conservation amongst island personnel. It will also determine the societal importance of both fisheries, and how the social benefits differ between stakeholder groups. This project will therefore provide the ecological and social baselines needed to develop implementable guidelines to improve fishery management. These will benefit all island personnel as a more sustainable fishery model safeguards long-term fishery persistence and the provision of social benefits, whilst minimising impacts to local marine biodiversity.

## Q13. 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)**

We will bring together existing data and collect new data across 3 expeditions to achieve our project goals (Fig.1):

02/22 – SCUBA surveys, pilot focus groups, attitude and awareness surveys, logbook training, fish sampling training, and initial participatory mapping.

11/22 – SCUBA surveys, attitude and awareness surveys, management scenario focus groups and participatory mapping.

01/24 – Project dissemination, final attitude and awareness surveys.

Fishery impact

To quantify the fishing pressure exerted upon DG's reefs, we will combine historical MWR fishing records, unpublished creel survey data (from BIOTA), and data gathered through participatory mapping interviews. Historical and current MWR data will be analysed for spatial and temporal trends in effort and catch rates for target species. Participatory mapping will capture information about present and past shore-based fishing, including spatial and temporal effort distributions. We will also review and refine existing logbook protocols to improve data resolution, especially for vulnerable (e.g. *Plectropomus laevis*) and commonly landed species (e.g. *Lutjanus bohar*).

To determine impact, we will assess reef community dynamics across a fishing pressure gradient. Using a space-for-time substitution, we will conduct SCUBA surveys at 24 sites across this gradient (Fig.2) in two postulated spawning seasons (November/February). Key metrics (e.g. diversity and spawning biomass) will be estimated, using a stereo-video system, paired with benthic photo surveys along a timed transect at each site (6–12m). To account for possible confounding environmental factors, we will quantify reef

structural and biotic properties from benthic photo quadrants. Six sites surveyed semi-regularly since 2006 will serve as important reference points for long-term time-series analyses (Fig.2).

#### Key biological parameters

From MWR capture rates and participatory mapping, we will deduce spatio-temporal fish distributions and identify likely aggregation areas. We will train MWR marina staff working at the fileting station to identify and intercept focal species and collect simple morphometric data (weight, fork length), biological samples (otoliths, gonads) and photographs. Samples will be processed ex-situ following Taylor et al. (2018) to determine age and sexual maturation stage for each specimen. A gonadosomatic index will be developed to determine periods of spawning activity. Size-at-age and maturity-at-size/age data will be calculated, and growth profiles and maturation schedules for each species derived.


#### Evaluating management options

To assess the social importance of fisheries and the perceptions of existing regulations, we will conduct focus groups and attitude and awareness surveys with both subsets of fishers during the first expedition. During the second expedition, we will conduct participatory mapping and follow-up focus groups to review possible management options and identify social-ecological goals. We will then, using a risk-based mitigation framework, conduct technical and feasibility assessments of the options. These comprehensive processes will yield the implementable management options that will be presented to BIOTA.

To ensure sustainability, we will engage >500 stakeholders through focus groups, presentations, and training. These will enhance ecoliteracy and buy-in for management options. Attitude and awareness surveys on each expedition will measure changes in fishing behaviours, management perceptions and ecoliteracy.

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

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 [DPR9S2 1015 Reference List](#)

 02/02/2021

 14:13:51

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 [DPR9S2 1015 Supporting Figures](#)

 02/02/2021

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## Section 8 - Stakeholders and Beneficiaries

### Q14. 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.**

BIOT administration (BIOTA)

BIOTA has been consulted from project inception and are in full support of the project. Further, the proposal has been shared with and reviewed by the Chief Science Advisor and BIOT Environment Officers (EO). All groups believe the proposed project would be of great benefit to the territory and would provide existing officials who are limited by time and technical capacity with essential data required to critically evaluate and review DG's fisheries. BIOTA have provided a letter outlining their support and encouragement of the project in more detail (see attached).

Military and contractors

The British Representative and the US Commander on DG have both been consulted in the preparation of this application as their support is a prerequisite of achieving project aims.

Throughout the project, we will ensure that all personnel on BIOT are given opportunities to engage with the project, highlighting positive ways their efforts can make a difference to the environment in which they live. Engagement includes presentations (across multiple venues), focus groups, questionnaires, and project t-shirts for key personnel.

Other researchers

This project has been co-developed to be highly complementary to the broader research activities being undertaken across BIOT by the Bertarelli Programme in Marine Science (BPMS). For example, this project could facilitate the collaborative collection of other samples (e.g. genetic or stable isotope samples), without the need for expensive and destructive sampling elsewhere in BIOT. The BPMS management team based at ZSL will also provide logistical and administrative support to the project.

## Q15. Institutional Capacity

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

ZSL delivers practical conservation projects around the world. Within ZSL, the IOZ is a world-renowned research centre working at the cutting edge of conservation science. The REF2014 judged 85% of IOZ's research outputs as 'internationally excellent' or 'world leading'. Within the IOZ alone, there are more than 20 marine researchers, and the proposed project is seen as a key part of its core work.

Dr Curnick, Ms. Collins, Dr Roche and Dr Taylor are all researchers within the BPMS, a programme of research in BIOT coordinated by ZSL and delivered by a team of 100 scientists, that aims to inform and improve management efforts in the MPA. They contribute to a complex annual programme of expeditions and other fieldwork activities in the territory. Between them, the project team have taken part in more than a dozen science expeditions to BIOT, with Dr Curnick leading 3 expeditions to DG.

The School of Ocean Sciences at Bangor University has specific capacity in conducting ecological coral reef community surveys from expeditions to BIOT starting in 2006, which will be utilised to inform and develop project outputs.

Dr Taylor is a fish ecology and life history specialist with over 40 papers published in this field. Currently based at AIMS, he is due to move institutions soon. However, Dr Taylor operates his own private laboratory facility with the specialist equipment needed to support this project (see matched funding for details).

## Q16. 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.**

The project will provide the ecological and social baselines needed to develop evidence-based, implementable guidelines to improve fisheries management on DG. These will benefit all on DG, as a more sustainable fishery model safeguards the long-term persistence of the fishery and its social benefits. MWR staff and fishery officials will receive bespoke training in transferable sampling, survey and analytical skills. Island personnel (>500) will also benefit from engagement activities and an increase in their understanding of the surrounding environment. Finally, a UK-based MSc/MRes student will develop key social science skills and receive valuable field experience on DG as part of an interdisciplinary research project.

Reefs provide a suite of important ecosystem services. Healthy, resilient reefs are more likely to continue to provide these services in the face of climate change and sea level rise. This is highly relevant to DG, where a majority of land is <1m above sea level. Due to the prevailing currents patterns in the Indian Ocean, BIOT is also a source of biological diversity and biomass for over-exploited sites along the East African coast. A well-managed reef system on DG could therefore provide direct 'downstream' benefits and a sustainable recreational fishery model for other UKOTs.

## Section 9 - Gender and Change Expected

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### Q17. 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?**

All partners are committed to providing equal opportunities in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). This will be particularly considered when recruiting students and providing training opportunities.

We are aware of several aspects of DGs social structures that may impact on participant representativeness and the accuracy of data collected. As a military base, the hierarchical system in place affects all elements of inhabitants' work and social lives. We will adopt strategies to ensure that participation is not restricted by rank or gender. For example, we will use both formal and informal channels (e.g. snowball sampling between contractors) to recruit participants. Second, for all methods, we will consider the potential inclusion of bias driven by these social structures. For example, we will conduct focus groups with participants from similar military ranks, with facilitators trained in recognising issues arising from power imbalances, e.g. the halo effect (Nyumba et al. 2018). We will also ensure that tools and study locations are suited to participants. For example, engagement activities will be held within local community villages (e.g. FilMau community room).

The team will regularly evaluate the methods and outputs and actively work to ensure no harm arises from either.

### Q18. 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.**

In the short term, the project will:

1. Contribute directly to BIOTA's current conservation priorities (<https://biot.gov.io/environment/>) and provide key biological reference points for vulnerable species and sociologically feasible management scenarios.
2. Create a shift in behaviour and attitude towards more sustainable fishing practices and improve environmental awareness and understanding by engaging island personnel in practical scientific research

and project activities.

3. Strengthen relationships among and between government officials, scientists, military personnel, and support staff by working together to achieve the project goals. This is particularly important for the support staff community who are currently disengaged with ongoing science and conservation activities.
4. Build capacity amongst marina staff (from the support staff community) in scientific sampling techniques and transferable skills.
5. Advance our scientific understanding of the impact of small-scale fisheries on reef health.

Over the longer term, the project will:

1. Achieve a more sustainable fishing model through the implementation of evidence-based socio-ecological fisheries regulations by BIOTA and the MWR department (such as minimum landing sizes and temporal closures of areas during spawning seasons). This will be to the benefit of both the fishers, by facilitating the fishery's longevity, and the atoll, as key ecological processes will be maintained and resilience enhanced.
2. Raise the profile of BIOT as a key reference site for global conservation, providing increased understanding of the effects of fishing pressure and protection measures in the Indian Ocean, and an example of effective sustainable inshore fisheries management and marine conservation.

## Q19. 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.**

The outcome of this project will be a much needed improvement in the management of DG's fisheries, with key biological reference points incorporated and critical buy-in and support from island stakeholders.

To achieve this outcome, the project will deliver four key outputs. First, we will assess the impact of current extraction rates on reef ecosystem health. Second, we will identify key areas and seasons for vulnerable species around DG and define the essential biological reference points needed for sustainable fisheries management. Third, we will use both social and ecological data to set goals for management, and increase awareness, understanding and compliance with regulations. Finally, we will improve long-term sustainability of the fisheries by engaging local stakeholders with our work and marine conservation, ensuring that our findings and data are accessible to as many people as possible.

By developing and implementing simple, effective management in partnership with local stakeholders, we hope to cause a long-term change towards more sustainable interactions with the natural environment. Thus, the project's impact will be the long-term persistence of the fishery and its societal benefits and a healthier reef ecosystem with enhanced resilience.

## Q20. Exit strategy

**State how the project will reach a stable and sustainable end point, and explain how the outcomes will be sustained, either through a continuation of activities, funding and support from other sources or**



**because the activities will be mainstreamed in to “business as usual”. Where individuals receive advanced training, for example, what will happen should that individual leave?**

Sustainability will be ensured by our project design. We will ultimately present recommendations that have been co-developed with project stakeholders and assessed for feasibility using data collected throughout the project. By co-developing these management options and ensuring they are rigorously assessed, we greatly enhance the likelihood of successful implementation.

In terms of ensuring compliance, we anticipate that BIOT’s military structure will be beneficial. We anticipate that project recommendations will be ultimately adopted and form the basis of a revised DG fishery ordinance. Enforcing these rules will then be the duty of BIOTA (Military police, Senior Fisheries Protection Officers and EO) and MWR beyond the project.

In terms of continued stakeholder engagement, a challenge is the high turnover rate of military staff on DG. However, there are a core of long-serving contractors who remain on the island for decades. We will engage with these individuals as the project’s lasting ambassadors and promoters of community compliance.

BIOT has been the consistent focus of world-leading scientific research by project partners for over two decades. This is likely to continue and will include the monitoring of reef health at a subset of our sites that will act as long-term indicators of fishing impacts.

## **Section 10 - Funding and Budget**

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### **Q21. 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.**





- [R9 D+ Budget form for projects under £100,000](#)
- [R9 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.**

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 [DPR9S2 1015 Final Budget Submitted](#)  
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## Q22. Funding

### Q22a. Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source)?

New initiative

#### Please provide details:

This is a new initiative, but is being built on a foundation from a number of previous projects and in-territory experience.

In 2020, ZSL supervised a desk-based MSc project evaluating and analysing the available MWR data. This preliminary assessment informed the scientific strategy of this proposal.

A pilot survey of the creel fishery was conducted by the EOs. However, these data have not been published as reporting has been hindered by a lack of specialist skills and the volume of other administrative tasks. This project will review the existing data and build upon them within our planned participatory mapping activities.

Dr Curnick has led three expeditions to DG, funded by the BPMS. These projects focussed on tagging sharks and tuna, but utilised the MWR boats and demonstrated the ability to collaborate with this fishery, building the required relationships with key stakeholders.

Researchers, including co-investigators, have surveyed 6 sites in the north of DG semi-regularly since 2006. Past surveys have been funded by multiple sources, including Darwin and the BPMS.

Dr Taylor has led multiple projects funded by BPMS within the BIOT MPA focused on age-based demographics of coral reef fishes, as well as elsewhere in the region.

### Q22b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work?

No

## Q23. Co-financing

### Are you proposing co-financing?

Yes

#### Q23a. 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
--------------------	--------	---------------	----------

Bertarelli Foundation	██████	£	The Bertarelli Foundation has committed to funding the staff costs for Dr Curnick up to and including February 2022.
Zoological Society of London	██████	£	Through a series of previous projects, ZSL has accumulated considerable amounts of key kit and hardware (such as dive equipment and receivers) that will be re-used in this project.
Bangor University	██████	£	Indirect funds not claimed within this grant (£██████ and SCUBA, safety and fieldwork equipment secured through previous grants (£██████
Brett Taylor	██████	£	Specialist equipment from his private laboratory including Olympus SZ71 dissecting scope, Olympus DP22 imaging system, Olympus CX21 compound scope, GEMMASTA GFL8 variable speed lapping machine and Nimbus Analytical microbalance.

### Q23b. 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?**

No

## Section 11 - Finance

### Q24. 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?**

The ZSL project team, supported by centralised Finance and Operations teams, will oversee management of project funds. ZSL maintains financial records on an accrual basis in accordance with International Accounting Standards. ZSL maintains separate general ledger sub-accounts to identify revenue for grants received and to track expenses. ZSL is audited annually with financial statements publicly available. Finance teams provide regular monitoring reports, reviewed and approved by project managers and relevant administrators. In addition to this, reporting to Directors occurs on a monthly basis.

### Q25. Financial Management Risk

**This question considers the financial risks to the project. Explain how you have considered the risks and threats that may be relevant to the successful financial delivery of this project. This includes risks such as fraud or bribery, but may also include the risk of fluctuating foreign exchange and internal financial processes such as storage of financial data.**

ZSL maintains a Fraud, Corruption and Anti-Bribery Policy (2015), and is committed to instilling a strong anti-corruption culture and to upholding all laws relevant to countering fraud, corruption and bribery, including, but not limited to, the UK Bribery Act 2010. The Society has a zero-tolerance position on all fraud, corruption and bribery.

We have factored reasonable exchange rate fluctuations into our budget estimations.

There are risks inherent in working in a remote territory like BIOT, particularly in regard to getting staff on and off DG. Flights delays are common and may be severe in times of military activity or due to COVID-19. These have been considered and mitigation measures put in place. For example, by visiting in “winter” each year, we are targeting the calmest period for wind and thus minimising weather induced delays.

COVID-19 has impacted all fieldwork to BIOT since March 2020. However, procedures are now in place and researchers can visit and undertake their work if they quarantine for 2 weeks on DG prior to integrating with the wider DG community. We have incorporated quarantine costs into our first expedition (Feb 2022)

to account for this eventuality.

## Q26. Balance of budget spend

**Explain the thinking behind your budget in terms of where funds will be spent. What benefits will the Territory see from your budget? What level of the award to you expect will be spent locally? Please explain the decisions behind any funding that will not be spent locally and how those costs are important for the project.**

Using our experience of DG, we have put together a very cost-effective and equitable budget relevant to working in the territory. Staff time equates to ~████ of the total project budget across three organisations. Given DG is a military base, all research and conservation staff are international and must travel to BIOT. Therefore, █████ of the budget is allocated to commercial and military flights chartered by Air Mobility Command (AMC). Approximately █████ of the proposed budget will be spent on Diego Garcia (accommodation, subsistence and boat hire). Roughly █████ of the requested budget is allocated to institutional overheads. We have requested ~████ of the budget towards equipment and consumable items required to collect the data proposed and the remaining ~████ will be spent on meetings and community engagement activities on DG (note that venue hire etc on DG is free of charge). £████ is ring-fenced for auditing.

## Q27. Capital Items

**If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin Plus funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end. If you are requesting more than 10% capital costs, please provide your justification here.**

We have requested ~████ capital costs, with no single item exceeding £████. The majority of these items are specialist survey equipment (e.g. stereo-DOV units and Go Pros) that will be added to the pooled science store on DG and made available for future researchers to use. We have also included a freezer for the storage of samples on DG. We envisage that this freezer will continue to be used by researchers and trained MWR staff will continue to collect samples beyond the lifetime of the project.

## Q28. Value for Money

**Please describe why you consider your application to be good value for money including justification of why the measures you will adopt will secure value for money.**

Having worked in BIOT for many years, we have found cost efficiencies wherever possible and are therefore confident in our budget being well-informed and efficient to deliver the project.

All team meetings and project reviews will be conducted over Teams/Skype to save costs and minimise carbon emissions.

To maximise the value of all the data collected, all data will be readily available to other BPMS and UKOT researchers, and the wider science community at the end of the project (with the exception of those deemed politically sensitive).

Researchers being based on DG for prolonged periods will represent a unique opportunity for scientists to collect additional data for other projects, such as tissue samples of other species or analyses (e.g. stable isotope analysis or population genetics). We would therefore be able to contribute directly to other projects and papers, thus maximising the value of this financial investment.

## Q29. 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.**

Reports and recommendations will be made available on the websites of ZSL, biot.io, and the BPMS website (<https://www.marine.science>), after approval and clearance by BIOTA.

All peer-reviewed publications from the project will be made Green Open Access by ZSL through the UCL library research repository. Data will also be published, preserved and made available through Dryad (or similar), when data are not published within the journal platform itself.

All data collected by the project will be made freely available upon completion of the project, subject to BIOTA approval and in line with GDPR regulations. Some data may need to be restricted under access limitations (i.e. military or government only). Reef survey and biological reference data will be disseminated and actively shared through the Marine Spatial Atlas for the Western Indian Ocean data sharing platform ([www.maspawio.net](http://www.maspawio.net)). Tissue samples will be shared through Otlet (<https://otlet.io/>).

## Section 12 - Safeguarding

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### Q30. 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:**

<b>We have a safeguarding policy, which includes a statement of our commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse</b>	Checked
<b>We have attached a copy of our safeguarding policy to this application</b>	Checked
<b>We keep a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with</b>	Checked
<b>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</b>	Checked
<b>We share our safeguarding policy with downstream partners</b>	Checked
<b>We have a whistle-blowing policy which protects whistle-blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised</b>	Checked
<b>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</b>	Checked

**Please outline how you will implement your policies in practice and ensure that downstream partners apply the same standards as the lead organisation.**


All partner organisations that work with ZSL are required either to have their own safeguarding policy, incorporating response and reporting procedures of a similar standard to those of ZSL; or to sign up to ZSL's Global Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and demonstrate compliance with these as a contractual requirement. Due diligence processes will be in place to ensure the appropriate level of compliance and these will form part of ZSL's partner monitoring arrangements.


ZSL will ensure that partners have sufficient safeguarding training to develop and implement safeguarding policy and procedures within their agencies and organisations, and this will be covered in agreements with partners.

**Please upload the Lead Organisation's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF**

 [DPR9S2 1015 ZSL Safeguarding Policy](#)

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## Section 13 - Logical Framework

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### Q31. Logical Framework

Darwin Plus projects will be required to monitor (and report against) their progress towards their expected Outputs and Outcome. 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.


- [Stage 2 Logframe Template](#)

Please complete your full logframe in the separate Word template and upload as a PDF using the file upload below. Copy your Impact, Outcome and Output statements and your activities below - these should be the same as in your uploaded logframe.

**Please upload your logframe as a PDF document.**

 [DPR9S2 1015 Logframe](#)

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**Impact:**

Fishery management regulations on Diego Garcia are revised to a more sustainable model supporting a healthier coral reef ecosystem, with increased fish biomass, and enhanced ecosystem resilience to climate change.

**Outcome:**

Improved socio-ecological understanding of Diego Garcia's reef fisheries to inform sustainable fishery management, supported by island stakeholders.

## Project Outputs

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### Output 1:

The ecological impact of the DG fisheries under the current regulations is quantified and an improved logbook collection methodology established.

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### Output 2:

Key biological reference points derived for vulnerable reef fish to inform sustainable management options.

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### Output 3:

The best sustainable fishing regulation options agreed through a risk-based mitigation framework.

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### Output 4:

Raised awareness, understanding and appreciation of marine biodiversity and conservation amongst the DG community.

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### Output 5:

*No Response*

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## 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: Characterisation of the ecological impact of the two fisheries on DG.

- 1.1 Review and analyse existing MWR logbook data and protocols.
- 1.2 Update and co-develop logbook data entry protocols with key MWR fishery and marina staff.
- 1.3 Train MWR staff and boat captains in new logbook reporting protocols (establish in year 1 and undertake reviews in year 2 and 3).
- 1.4 Review, analyse, and report on existing creel survey data.
- 1.5 Participatory mapping approach designed, trialled and implemented for each fishery.
- 1.6 Conduct stereo-DOV and benthic transects across 24 sites around DG across two postulated spawning seasons for target fish species.
- 1.7 Recruit MSc/MRes student to support analysis of stereo-DOV footage.
- 1.8 Analysis of stereo-DOV imagery for all sites.
- 1.9 Analysis of benthic photo transects for all sites.
- 1.10 Preparation and submission of two scientific papers to peer-reviewed journals.

Output 2: Classification of ecologically significant periods and locations for vulnerable reef fish

- 2.1 Combine MWR and participatory mapping data to estimate spatial and temporal distributions of vulnerable reef fish across DG.
- 2.2 Design fish sampling protocols for MWR and marina staff.
- 2.3 Train MWR/marina staff to collect and store samples and morphometric data from landed focal species.
- 2.4 Analysis of morphometric, gonad and otolith samples ex-situ.



- 2.5 Calculation of age, growth rate, spawning season and size at maturity for target species.
- 2.6 Preparation and submission of two scientific papers to peer-reviewed journals.

Output 3: Recommendations of best management options made available through application of a risk-based mitigation framework

- 3.1 Recruit MSc/MRes student to support the social science survey delivery and analysis.
- 3.2 Develop and conduct focus group sessions to assess awareness and perceptions of existing regulations, and relevant behaviours.
- 3.3 Develop and conduct follow-up sessions to review possible management options and identify social-ecological goals for the fisheries.
- 3.4 Conduct technical and feasibility assessments of the possible management options.
- 3.5 Gauge stakeholder support of management options through final focus group discussions and attitude and awareness surveys.
- 3.6 Preparation of management recommendation report and presentation of options to BIOTA and DG officials.
- 3.7 Submission of one scientific paper to a peer-reviewed journal.

Output 4: Raised awareness, understanding and appreciation of marine biodiversity and conservation among the DG community.

- 4.1 Baseline ecological awareness and understanding survey carried out on the first expedition.
- 4.2 Deliver project presentations on DG to base personnel in accessible venues across the DG society on each expedition (i.e. in the cinema, church and contractor community centre).
- 4.3 Print project t-shirts and/or caps for island personnel who actively engage in the project and contribute data.
- 4.4 Produce target species identification key cards and give a copy to each MWR fishing vessel and to the tackle shop.
- 4.5 Design and deliver species ID assessment to 100 people before and after they use MWR fishing facilities.
- 4.6 Repeat attitudes and awareness survey on the second and final expeditions to assess change in knowledge and behaviour.

## Section 14 - Implementation Timetable

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### **Q32. 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.**

[Implementation Timetable Template](#)

**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.**

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## Section 15 - Monitoring and Evaluation

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### Q33. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

**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](#)).**

#### Overall project management

We will constantly monitor and evaluate our progress throughout the project, with the project lead having overall responsibility for monitoring project progress, milestones and outputs. Approximately 20% of the PL's overall project time is directly attributable to monitoring and evaluation activities. ZSL's internal reporting requires updates are recorded on a monthly basis on the online Zoological Projects Database, which will be used as the basis for recording project progress. The M&E plan will be reviewed regularly by the project management team through reports and ongoing communications and monthly team meetings via Microsoft Teams. This will enable work plans to be revised as required and the logframe to be used as a 'living' management tool and adapted accordingly.

#### Project indicators

Reef health surveys will be assessed initially in Year 1 and then again in Year 2. Dr Roche (10% of project time) and Dr Taylor (10%) will support the project lead on monitoring reef health during this period, and placing it within a longer-term context. It should be noted that we do not expect significant changes during this period due to the biological parameters involved. However, building this baseline is a crucial step towards future assessments on our management guidelines and any other interventions that are put in place.

Dr Curnick will lead the review of existing logbook protocols and co-develop new protocols with MWR to improve the quality and usefulness of the data being recorded. MWR staff will be trained in the new logbook format, with pre- and post-training assessments conducted. Annual logbook records will then be monitored in Y2 and Y3. We will aim for >75% of records to contain all the relevant data by the Y3 expedition, but will assess progress in Y2 and re-run training and/or adapt the protocols if required (i.e. based on feedback from MWR staff). A similar approach will be applied to fish sampling and will be led by Dr Taylor.

Changes in ecoliteracy and awareness will be monitored through an attitude and awareness survey. We expect approximately 20% of Ms Collin's project time will be directly attributable to monitoring and evaluation of our social survey activities. These will include the attitude and awareness surveys to establish a baseline that measures perception (MPA and fishery regulation awareness), knowledge of marine biodiversity and personal engagement with the fishery. Follow up surveys in Y2 and Y3 (to reflect rapid

turnover of military personnel) will measure the change observed. In Y2, if we are not tracking towards our intended changes (i.e. a 25% improvement in the understanding of reef ecology, with the aim of 50% improvement by end of project), we will review current interventions and adapt our strategy accordingly.

Communication outputs will be monitored for reach and impact in coordination with ZSL's Marketing and Communications Team, with communication targets (e.g. number of blogs or papers) agreed with the project team during annual planning and mid-year review meetings and approved by BIOTA.

<b>Total project budget for M&amp;E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)</b>	£ [REDACTED]
<b>Number of days planned for M&amp;E</b>	38.00
<b>Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&amp;E (%)</b>	[REDACTED]

## Section 16 - Certification

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### Certification

**On behalf of the**

company

**of**

Zoological Society of London

**I apply for a grant of**

£314,019.42

**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** David Curnick


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**Position in the organisation** Postdoctoral Research Associate

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Signature (please  
upload e-signature)

 [Curnick signature](#)

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Date

02 February 2021

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## Section 17 - Submission Checklist

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### Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the <b>Guidance documents, including the "Guidance Notes for Applicants" and "Finance Guidance"</b> .	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the <b>current Terms and Conditions for this fund.</b>	Checked
I have provided <b>actual start and end dates for this proposed project.</b>	Checked
I have provided a budget based on <b>UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.</b>	Checked
I have checked that the budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the <b>correct final total at the start of the application.</b>	Checked
The application has been signed by a <b>suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).</b>	Checked
I have attached my completed <b>logframe and timeline as a PDF using the templates provided.</b>	Checked
I have included a <b>1 page CV or job description for all the Project staff identified at Question 11, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.</b>	Checked
I have included a letter of support from the <b>Lead Organisation and main partner organisation(s) identified at Question 10, or an explanation of why not.</b>	Checked
I have included a <b>cover letter from the Lead Organisation, outlining how any feedback at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant.</b>	Checked
I have included a <b>signed copy of the last 2 years annual report and accounts for the Lead Organisation, or provided an explanation if not.</b>	Checked
I have checked the <b>Darwin Plus website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.</b>	Checked
I have read and understood the <b>Privacy Notice on GOV.UK.</b>	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).