
DPR9S2\1008

Safeguarding Cayman's Sister Islands from Invasive Species

The largely undeveloped Sister Islands (Cayman Brac and Little Cayman) are Cayman's environmental flagships, home to the Territory's only RAMSAR site and its most internationally significant wildlife. Invasive Alien Vertebrates (IAV) pose a major yet largely unmanaged threat. Feral cat predation has resulted in catastrophic native species declines whilst invasive green iguanas are spreading from Grand Cayman. This project will strengthen Territory-wide biosecurity and implement IAV management with local communities, building knowledge, capacity and support for effective and sustainable action.

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title	Ms
Name	Sarah
Surname	Havery
Organisation	RSPB
Tel	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Charity/ trusts
Name	RSPB
Phone (Work)	01767 680551
Email (Work)	info@rsob.org.uk
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q3a. Project title

Safeguarding Cayman's Sister Islands from Invasive Species

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

DPR9S1\1055

Q4. UKOT(s)

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

Cayman Islands

* 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)?

No

Q5. Project dates

Start date:

01 July 2021

End date:

30 June 2024

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

3 years

Q6. Budget summary

Year:	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total request
Darwin funding request (Apr - Mar)	£115,756.00	£193,395.00	£146,536.00	£28,540.00	£ 484,227.00

Q6a. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

The Cayman Islands Government's Department of Environment (DoE) will provide match funding for staff time, accommodation & subsistence on the Sister Islands, and for the feral cat traps. The RSPB and the University of Aberdeen (UoA) will provide staff time, some travel costs and some overheads as match-funding.

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

Section 3 - Project Summary and Conventions

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.

The largely undeveloped Sister Islands (Cayman Brac and Little Cayman) are Cayman's environmental flagships, home to the Territory's only RAMSAR site and its most internationally significant wildlife. Invasive Alien Vertebrates (IAV) pose a major yet largely unmanaged threat. Feral cat predation has resulted in catastrophic native species declines whilst invasive green iguanas are spreading from Grand Cayman. This project will strengthen Territory-wide biosecurity and implement IAV management with local communities, building knowledge, capacity and support for effective and sustainable action.

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.

International Agreements:

CBD

The Cayman Islands are party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This project will support the UK and Cayman Islands' responsibilities under the CBD (Article 8(h) on alien species; Article 12 on research and training; and Article 13 on public education and awareness. It will also implement key actions in the Cayman National Biodiversity Action Plan (2009), as well as actions in 5 underlying Habitat Action Plans and 4 Species Action Plans.

RAMSAR Convention

The project will support implementation of UK & Cayman responsibilities under the RAMSAR convention (& specifically Resolution V.III.18 'Invasive Species & Wetlands') via reducing IAV impacts at 'Booby Pond & Rookery' RAMSAR site on Little Cayman.

SDGs

The project will also deliver against Sustainable Development Goals 15 (Life on Land) and 17 (Partnerships).

Territory Priorities:

Alongside implementing priorities in the Cayman Islands' National Biodiversity Action Plan and 9 underlying Species & Habitats Action Plans, the project will deliver priorities under the Cayman Islands' Environment Charter 2001 (specifically commitments 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 10 & 11).

It will enable further implementation of various legal requirements arising from the Cayman Islands' overarching National Conservation Law 2013 (NCL). This is the centrepiece of the Territory's environmental conservation legal framework, and is still in the process of being fully executed by the Cayman Islands Government. Specifically, it will deliver:

- Draft of invasive species regulations as provided for by the NCL, including a draft national biosecurity policy;
- Draft of domestic animals' regulations for Little Cayman under the Animal Law (2015);
- Fulfil the legal requirement to develop Species Conservation Plans for three Schedule 1 species (Cayman Brac Blind Snake *Cubatyphlops epactias*, Cayman Dwarf Boa (*Tropidophis parkeri* on Little Cayman, and *Tropidophis schwartzi* on Cayman Brac);

- Deliver actions under the Sister Islands Rock Iguana Species Conservation Plan and management plans for 'Booby Pond & Rookery' RAMSAR site and Cayman Brac's brown booby colony; and
- Deliver a plan for invasive green iguana eradication within existing action plans for the Sister Islands.

UK Government priorities

The project will also deliver against the 25-Year Environment Plan (2018) target "to prevent human induced extinction or loss of known threatened species in England and the Overseas Territories", and strategic priorities i (baseline data) and ii (invasive species) of the UK Government's UK Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy (2010).

Section 4 - Lead Organisation Summary

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
DPLUS121	Sarah Havery	Strengthening biosecurity to protect Turks & Caicos' Iguana Islands
DPLUS102	Andy Schofield	Saving Tristan's only native tree and its associated unique buntings
DPLUS098	Charlie Butt	Restoring and safeguarding wetlands of the Caribbean UKOTs
DPLUS095	Jonathan Hall	Strengthening biosecurity for remote Territory communities and their World Heritage
DPLUS076	Cleo Small	Reducing South Georgia albatross mortality in High Seas tuna fisheries
DPLUS062	Andy Schofield	Securing the future of the Tristan marine environment


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.

 [annual-review-2018-2019](#)


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 [rspb-annual-report-2020-interactive-pdf](#)

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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:

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Website address:

www.rspb.org.uk

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

The UK Overseas Territories (OTs) are a major strategic priority for the RSPB, and we have a track record of successful project delivery in the OTs under both Darwin and BEST. The RSPB has been working with the OTs for over 25 years. The underlying principle of our work is to establish enduring relationships with local partners in order to help support the development of sustainable and locally-lead conservation programmes. The Cayman Islands Department of Environment is a longstanding RSPB partner.

RSPB has strong capacity to engage and deliver the project. RSPB also brings its connections with worldwide experts in invasive species management in New Zealand and Australia, such as through the Gough Island Restoration Programme and the feral cat eradication in the Turks & Caicos Islands. Sarah Havery has over eight years of relevant experience working in the UK, UKOTs and Caribbean on invasive species management and project management, including DPLUS121 and DPLUS055.

RSPB will manage project administration, partnership facilitation, and provide / coordinate advice and training on invasive alien vertebrate control and community engagement.

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: Cayman Island's Government Department of Environment (DoE)

Website address: www.DOE.ky

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

The Mission of the Department of Environment is to facilitate responsible management and sustainable use of the natural environment and the natural resources of the Cayman Islands; through environmental protection and conservation, wise use, scientific research and public education.

The DoE has lead and partnered on multiple international grants of this size in the past and has strong capacity to deliver the project outcomes alongside the RSPB. DoE will lead operational activities on island, including surveys, IAV control measures, and on-site biosecurity efforts. Fred Burton and Jane Haakonsson have over 10 years of experience in conducting surveys, implementing localised biosecurity efforts, grant management and public engagement. The DoE will assist in project administration, provide in-kind support in the form of significant staff time, accommodation and on-island transportation and will facilitate local stakeholder participation.

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:

Cayman Island's Government Department of Agriculture (DoA)

Website address:

www.doa.gov.ky

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

The Department of Agriculture seeks to develop sustainable agricultural production in order to promote measures of self-sufficiency and food security (compatible with economic reality) for the Cayman Islands. To preserve and protect the state of health and well being of plants and animals and to indirectly promote the wellness of residents through dynamic planned development.

As part of its statutory role DoA controls import and export of living animals and plants, and conducts early warning monitoring for an array of agricultural pests.

DoA will partner with DoE providing veterinary support during IAV control operations, will collaborate in planning and implementing improved inter-island biosecurity measures within the Cayman Islands.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

3. Partner Name: University of Aberdeen School of Biological Sciences (UoA)

Website address: <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/people/thomas.bodey/>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): Dr Thomas Bodey, School of Biological Sciences, UoA
The School of Biological Sciences, UoA has a long-standing history in pioneering work on IAV management - developing relationships with governments and communities, and providing technical support on local, national, and international scales.

Dr Bodey is an experienced conservation biologist with a track-record of over 20 years' expertise conducting applied research and fieldwork for universities, government agencies and NGOs globally. He has published extensively on the impacts of IAV on islands - notably on seabirds and endemic species - and on management methods that aid effective restoration. He recently completed a prestigious Marie-Curie global fellowship examining management techniques for controlling established IAV in New Zealand, where his research is contributing to the goals of Predator Free NZ to completely remove a number of IAV from the country and aid ecological recovery.

UoA will provide an institutional research base, and Dr Bodey will provide scientific advice to ensure consistent, accurate and robust data collection by the partnership throughout the project. This will include assistance to DoE staff in survey design and implementation for IAV, and supervision of students studying at-risk cryptic endemic reptiles. He will also support project reporting and peer-reviewed paper publication.

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

4. 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

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.

 [RSPB cover-letter+Cayman FINAL-signed](#)


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 [Project Support Letters](#)

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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?
Sarah Havery	Project Leader	15	Checked
Fred Burton	Manager of Terrestrial Resources Unit	20	Checked
Jane Haakonson	Research Officer II	20	Checked
Dr Larry Caven	Senior Veterinary Officer	10	Checked


Do you require more fields?


Yes


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
New position	Biosecurity Officer	100	Checked
New position	Community Engagement Officer	100	Checked
3 Officers	Research Officers	15	Checked
Dr Karen Varnham	Biosecurity & invasive species expert	15	Checked
Jaclyn Pearson	Invasive species & community engagement expert	15	Checked
Dr Thomas Bodey	Research Fellow	5	Checked
New position	Project management support	50	Checked
<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.

 [Project team CVS](#)

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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).

IAV are a major driver of biodiversity loss and have already caused several extinctions in the Cayman Islands (three bird and two mammal species). Active management of IAV through control and/or eradication, coupled with biosecurity controls to prevent new arrivals, are the most effective tools available for reducing this threat.

On Cayman's Sister Islands, the Critically Endangered Sister Islands rock iguana is under severe threat from feral cat predation and green iguana hybridisation and competition. Three range restricted but poorly known endemic reptiles (two dwarf boa species and Cayman Brac blind snake), the Western Hemisphere's largest red-footed booby colony and several other nationally important seabird colonies are also all threatened by predation from feral cats and rats.

Invasive green iguanas are already established on Grand Cayman. The population skyrocketed to an estimated 1.6 million individuals, with such severe impacts that the Cayman Islands Government has to date spent over GBP£8.6million on their control. Unfortunately, the Cayman Islands lacks a coordinated multi-agency biosecurity policy and there are almost no effective inter-island biosecurity controls. This has led to the arrival of green iguanas to both Sister Islands, but their populations remain very low. Urgent control measures and eradication planning are needed to prevent population expansion in both islands, which would have severe impacts on native species and currently unmodified forest habitats. A combination of DoE and volunteer resources is currently proving insufficient to overcome this threat.

Detailed engagement indicates that >95% of the c.270-person population of Little Cayman are supportive of reducing the impacts of IAV on their native wildlife, with community members writing to Government Ministers requesting action. Technical and resource constraints are the main barrier. In Cayman Brac, with c.2,550 people, the need for biosecurity is recognised but further community collaboration is required to enable long-term IAV management.

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)

The project has been designed to the IAV contexts of each of the Sister Islands and represents Cayman's first cross-sector holistic approach to biosecurity. Little Cayman (82ha, human population c.270), has robust data on native iguanas, limited data on large seabird colonies and strong community support for both green iguana and feral cat control/eradication. Cayman Brac (3,527ha, human population c.2,547), has limited native iguana data, good data on a declining seabird colony and variable community support for IAV management, with strong support for green iguana control but limited support for feral cat control. The project will be achieved through five Outputs:

1. Enhanced capacity of in-Territory agencies: Using a partnership approach, partner skill-sharing will enable 10 staff to demonstrate improved skills in biosecurity/IAV control and the critical DoE capacity gap will be filled through recruitment of a Biosecurity Officer to coordinate efforts. The resulting Biosecurity Plan, drafted regulations and policies will provide a pathway for submission of >one funding application to Cayman Islands Government to maintain biosecurity/IAV control priorities post project.
2. Enhanced in-Territory community capacity: Previous community initiatives have succeeded in the Sister Islands but need renewed momentum. Using RSPB's island community engagement expert, who has led successful IAV engagement in the Scillies & Lord Howe Island, the project will focus on understanding the local opinions and values on Cayman Brac. Two priority behaviour changes will be targeted: (1) importance of neutering pets, (2) importance of not relocating feral cats to Little Cayman. Through a Community Engagement Officer, DoE's volunteer network will be strengthened with citizens volunteering, and the wider community will have increased awareness.
3. The baseline presence of IAVs and nationally significant wildlife is better understood: Demonstrating IAV impacts on native wildlife to inform local communities, and undertaking effective IAV management, requires robust data. Camera traps will identify residency levels and distribution, and 'hotspots' to focus trapping protocols. An assessment of priority rodent control sites will be completed. UoA student researchers supporting DoE will collect/analyse data to fill knowledge gaps on three cryptic Sister Island species and enable Species Conservation Plans to be produced. Baseline data will be improved for rock iguanas on Cayman Brac, and annual DoE iguana and seabird surveys will demonstrate population stabilisation and increased productivity respectively.
4. Effective IAV management: On Little Cayman feral cat control protocols will be developed and implemented (YR1) with a feasibility study to achieve eradication (YR2). On Cayman Brac we will ensure effective community engagement (YR1) and feral cat control efforts will prioritise sites with the most vulnerable species. We will enhance green iguana control and produce an eradication plan for both islands. A rodent control programme will be established in priority areas to mitigate for meso-predator release of rodents from feral cat control.
5. Project management: RSPB will be responsible for overall project management. A start-up meeting will be held, followed by quarterly core team meetings and annual wider team meetings. An internal review will be carried out mid-term, and an external evaluation at project end.

If necessary, please provide supporting documentation e.g. maps, diagrams, and references etc., as a

PDF using the File Upload below.

No Response

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.

DoE, RSPB and UoA co-created this proposal. DoA were consulted by the DoE for their input throughout the project development.

Cayman stakeholders include:

- The National Trust of the Cayman Islands (NTCI): The Trust has no full-time staff on the Sister Islands but support the project. DoE and RSPB have consulted with NTCI and a support letter is provided.
- Cayman Islands Ministry for Education, Youth, Agriculture and Lands is constructively engaged with DoA and DoE regarding invasive vertebrate policy.
- The Little Cayman community is supportive of this project proposal and have provided a support letter with over 70 signatures.
- Port Authority of the Cayman Islands & Thompson Shipping: The project will provide these stakeholders with biosecurity training and awareness materials, and these stakeholders will support the local authorities in minimising inter-island transportation of IAVs.
- Tourism Attraction Board & District Administration: The project will provide these stakeholders with biosecurity training and awareness materials, and these stakeholders will support the local authorities in minimising inter-island transportation of IAVs.

This project is result of a long-standing series of planning workshops (one in early 2014 and again in 2017) on the Sister Islands rock iguana, where stakeholders agreed the priority actions needed for iguana conservation efforts.

International project stakeholders include:

- GB Non-Native Species Secretariat (GBNNS): The project builds on the GBNNS 'OT Biosecurity Project' and we have liaised with GBNNS staff during project development.
- San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research is advising on cryptic reptile detection methods.

Q15. Institutional Capacity

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

RSPB has been supporting conservation in Cayman for over 10 years, primarily through the local National Trust. Over the last two years RSPB has been in ongoing dialogue with DoE to establish where RSPB can provide support to conservation efforts on the Sister Islands. RSPB will provide project management, technical support on invasive species management/biosecurity and site management. RSPB's staff bring >40 years of experience in managing IAV-related projects, IAV control/biosecurity, and engaging island communities and stakeholders. Lessons learnt from biosecurity, multi-island feral cat and rat eradications and community-based island restoration projects will be shared and world-leading agencies in feral cat control (in New Zealand/Australia) will be consulted.

DoE has pioneered large scale green iguana control on Grand Cayman and is well placed to develop optimal measures for enhanced control/eradication. DoE has a long-established track record of statistically robust rock iguana and seabird monitoring with an active work programme and team across the Sister Islands. DoE will lead in-Territory operational activities on island, including surveys, IAV control measures, and on-site biosecurity efforts.

DoA is responsible for plant and animal import/export controls to and from (and within) the Cayman Islands. They will provide technical support through veterinary expertise and logistical and policy support to facilitate the feral cat control and biosecurity activities.

UoA is a globally recognised research institution and Dr Bodey brings over 20 years' conservation expertise. UoA has several long-standing projects to understand IAV impacts on native species, developing effective IAV management strategies, and monitoring recovery and restoration.

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.

Cayman partners will benefit from collaborative learning, professional development and expanded expertise. Over 10 staff will develop improved skills in biosecurity and IAV control from biosecurity training courses. Key staff from DoE, DoA and Port Authority will develop leadership in biosecurity, leading to improved Caymanian capacity to lead a holistic approach to IAV, which will be assessed via repeated capacity assessment.

The Sister Island community will benefit from preventing the extinction of some of the iconic species upon which their eco-tourism industry depends and from the community-led approach. At least 75% of Little Cayman's citizens (c.203 people) and 25% of Cayman Brac's (c.882 people) will be engaged during the project, with increased awareness against YR1 baseline of the need for biosecurity in order to safeguard Sister Island species. There will also be a clearer understanding of the opinions and values of the Cayman Brac community to inform future conservation planning. Safeguarding these species will prevent reputational harm to Cayman, such as the loss of Cayman Brac's only brown booby colony and associated eco-tourism. The project will also reduce the health risk to dock workers from rodents and risk of inter-island spread of IAV with the associated economic cost of control/eradication.

Section 9 - Gender and Change Expected

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?

Our overall project team comprises 40% women, ranging from technical delivery of biosecurity and awareness raising to Director-level project steering support.

We will strictly adhere to 50:50 gender-balanced sampling in our community questionnaires. 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 partner organisations to ensure appropriateness and adjust

according to feedback.

The Cayman Islands Gender Equality Law 2011 seeks to eliminate discrimination in employment, training and recruiting on the basis of sex, marital status, pregnancy or gender and to promote the payment of equal remuneration to male and female employees who perform work of equal value. This will be adhered to at all times.

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.

The project will safeguard the Sister Islands from Invasive Alien Vertebrates (IAVs) through a series of measures to increase capacity, improve knowledge, and community engagement leading to locally-led biosecurity and IAV management.

A) Short-term

The project will significantly reduce IAV pressure on the iconic species of the Sister Islands by controlling existing IAV populations and reducing the likelihood of further arrivals. Knowledge gaps will be filled for cryptic species, allowing effective monitoring of IAV impacts and evidence of the results of IAV control/biosecurity. Government partners will benefit from increased capacity through recruitment of key positions and from additional expertise provided by the project partnership. Communities will be engaged in protecting their natural assets, playing an essential role through an enhanced volunteer network. Given the small human populations, these islands represent an excellent opportunity to effectively engage communities and build support for the necessary actions.

B) Long-term

By providing technical plans, improving knowledge and building local support for action; this project will build a platform for durable solutions towards long-term sustainability. The project will support Government partners and local communities to deliver effective and sustained biosecurity/IAV control through development of Government-endorsed Biosecurity Plans and drafting of Invasive Species Regulations and two key policies - a National Biosecurity Policy and Little Cayman Domestic Animals' Policy. Government departmental plans will detail post-project IAV control/biosecurity actions.

Cayman Brac has the highest elevation across the Territory, therefore is important for long-term climate resilience for nature amidst sea-level rise.

The longer-term, larger-scale impact towards which the project will contribute is that the unique biodiversity of the Sister Islands can thrive in the absence of invasive predators, safeguarded from further detrimental introductions and cherished by residents as a long-term community asset. Protecting the Sister Islands from the impacts of IAVs will support their resilience to climate-linked changes.

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 primary driver of biodiversity loss in Cayman's Sister Islands is through the multiple impacts of Invasive Alien Vertebrates (IAVs): predation by feral cats, hybridisation and competition from green iguanas, and

predation by invasive rats. Secondary drivers are habitat loss and road mortality.

To address the primary driver, we propose a package of conservation activities including establishing and implementing biosecurity and IAV management, biodiversity surveys to improve our knowledge of poorly understood species, building a knowledge base of IAV impacts to monitor the project's impact, and enhancing in-Territory capability within in-Territory partners and local communities.

The expected immediate results of these activities are reduced predation pressure on native wildlife, better controls for managing new arrivals of IAVs, improved understanding of native wildlife and IAV interactions, and increased capacity through community collaboration and national policies. Addressing the primary driver using a community-based approach will indirectly address the secondary drivers.

In summary, therefore, our Theory of Change statement is: IF biosecurity is implemented and IAVs are well managed, IF local communities are effectively engaged and involved, and IF local in-Territory capacity and knowledge is enhanced, THEN biodiversity can thrive in the Sister Islands, cherished as a long-term community asset.

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?

Biosecurity requires long-term commitment. By addressing capacity gaps identified over recent years by Cayman partners this project will facilitate the first holistic cross-organisational approach to biosecurity and IAV management in the Cayman Islands.

10 in-Territory staff will have advanced skills in biosecurity/IAV control by the end of the project through specific training led by the Biosecurity Officer. By piloting this position within Cayman Islands Government (CIG), DoE can demonstrate the value of such a post. At least one funding proposal will be submitted to CIG to support the delivery of the cross-department, stakeholder approved and costed Biosecurity Plan beyond the project, including continuation of the role. Having drafted Invasive Species Regulations, including biosecurity policies, will further set the in-Territory partners in the direction of long-term durable solutions to become institutionalised beyond the project.

Using a community-based approach, at least 10 local champions will be identified through effective community engagement, enhancing a volunteer network across the Sister Islands that protects their natural assets. A strengthened biosecurity culture will also ensure that local champions are able to effect community-wide change. The RSPB is meanwhile committed to long-term partnerships to help ensure sustainability and to advance eradication plans arising.

Section 10 - Funding and Budget

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.

 [CaymanSI Budget over 100K Jan2021 FINAL](#)

 01/02/2021

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 xlsx 69.26 KB

Q22. Funding

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

- Development of existing work

Please provide details:

DoE staff have been responding to reported IAV sightings on the Sister Islands since 2007, mainly those of feral cats and green iguanas.

In 2007 a pilot project for feral cat eradication was conducted on Little Cayman, successfully neutering and micro-chipping the pet cat population, with subsequent capture and euthanasia of 29 feral cats. The financial means for completing eradication were not available at the time and no further control was completed until February 2018, when 24 feral cats were euthanised by the DoE in collaboration with the DoA. This identified the need to further explore the options for eradication via this project.

Community initiatives to control green iguanas, including “Green Iguana Be Gonna” on Little Cayman and “Green Go” on Cayman Brac, have been supported by the DoE since 2013, however, key control efforts are now largely undertaken by DoE staff. With quarterly trips to Cayman Brac, the DoE targets reported green iguanas and keeps the local community engaged through public search and culling efforts. A DoE intern on Little Cayman provides rapid response to any reported sightings. These efforts have highlighted the need to properly control (and eradicate) the green iguana populations present in the Sister Islands.

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
Cayman Island Government's Department of Environment	██████	GBP	Staff salaries, national travel costs, cat traps
Cayman Island Government's Department of Agriculture	██████	GBP	Staff salaries
RSPB	██████	GBP	Staff salaries, overheads
University of Aberdeen	██████	GBP	Staff salaries, overheads

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?

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?

RSPB will manage the grant and has extensive experience of managing grant funding and of prioritising spending, a good track record with the management of Darwin Projects, and procedures which follow the highest standards of financial accountability and control. The RSPBs Project Development and Support Unit will oversee spending of the project funds and has overseen the financial management of multiple projects in the Territories over the past decade.

At Cayman Government suggestion, RSPB will manage the recruitment and administration of the Biosecurity Officer and Community Engagement Officer posts and the associated costs. RSPB will sub-grant to the DoE and the University of Aberdeen, who will produce quarterly financial reports for RSPB scrutiny. DoE will disseminate the project funds to DoA. Financial updates will also be a standing item on all project management and steering group meetings.

The project will be externally audited upon completion.

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.

The RSPB takes financial risk very seriously, especially in projects implemented outside the UK, and has established an International Financial Risk Management Working Group to deal with exactly this issue. For the project proposed here, though, we consider the risk to be low. RSPB has zero tolerance systems in place around bribery and conducts spot check financial audits of all our overseas partners to assess for fraud risk. There are three main reasons for this.

- (1) The amount of money involved, although substantial, is a sum similar to previous projects which have been successfully managed.
- (2) We have long-term partnerships and funding with all of our OT partners and they are stable, highly reputable, and well known to us.
- (3) Most of the grant will be spent by RSPB or one of these partners, rather than by subcontractors – permitting greater control and reducing risk.

All Cayman Islands Government officers have done mandatory training on prevention of fraud and bribery. CIG also has public agencies and police resources devoted to deterring and enforcing laws against fraud and bribery.

UoA has a robust institutional fraud policy and financial regulations to ensure full financial propriety.

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.

This project aims to create sustainable on-the-ground change for the Sister Islands. We estimate that 72% of the project funds will be spent directly in the Cayman Islands covering local staffing, equipment, in-Territory travel, accommodation and subsistence for Cayman-based project staff and for visiting experts. The project team has worked to maximise the project funds being spent in-Territory and are all contributing significant co-funding (GBP £301,960; accounting for 38% of the total project).

Around 28% of the project funds will be spent outside of the Cayman Islands to cover UK-based costs of RSPB and UoA including some salary, some project management support costs, overheads and international travel associated costs (including flights, national travel and Covid-19 tests). However, all of the non-local spend will be directed to delivering on-the-ground benefits locally. RSPB and UoA have been identified by the local in-Territory partners as good organisations to partner with given their IAV expertise and relevant track record, and these funds are allocated to enable them to play a supportive role in the delivery of this project.

The avoided costs to the Cayman Islands of long-term control and eradication of invasive non-native species will far outstrip the cost of the budget.

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.

Laptops will be purchased for the Biosecurity Officer and Community Engagement Officer for the duration of the project and will remain with DoE to use beyond the end of the project. GPS units and camera traps will be purchased to be used by the project team and will remain with the Cayman Islands partners to use for completing biosecurity checks beyond the end of the project. Tablets purchased for the field data collection will remain the property of DoE.

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.

Invasive non-native species cause species extinctions and incur significant public health and economic costs. Between 2014-2018, the Green Iguana population on Grand Cayman exploded from c.127,000 to c.1.6 million, equivalent to 6,000 individuals per square kilometre. In response, the Cayman Government introduced a bounty of £4.75 per iguana, costing £8.6 million to date. The true cost of the green iguana invasion is greater: from crop and garden destruction to damage to roads and power lines, as well as biodiversity impacts. Prevention is thus far cheaper than cure.

The budget does reflect the fact that the cost of living in Cayman is amongst the highest in the world. The average salary is £56,586 (compared to £31,461 in the UK (see ons.gov.uk)), whilst a loaf of white bread is on average £3.02 compared to £0.99p in the UK (<https://caymanresident.com/move/cost-of-living-in-cayman/>). However, the budget has been refined through a collaborative process to maximise value for

money and with major savings from in-kind salaries contributed by Cayman partners.

Significant value for money will be achieved through the tangible and holistic outputs. Detection rates of green iguanas will reduce by half on Cayman Brac / zero on Little Cayman. The feral cat population meanwhile will be reduced by >25% by the end of the project. Community-supported regulations and policies will then lock-in the gains made through practical interventions, securing several threatened species' survival, shoring up the tourism product and preventing further spiralling ongoing costs to the Territory. Community-backed eradication plans will then enable long-term solutions.

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.

Open access to data and the products of research is a general policy of RSPB. All data, reports, leaflets, training materials, photographs, films and other outputs from the project will be free access, and available in digital form where possible and appropriate on the Darwin, RSPB, and DoE websites. All data gathered and analysed during the project will be made available in digitised format.

All project reports will be made available on the Darwin website along with data collected during this project. Data collected on threatened species will be stored and made available for management applications within the DoE database framework.

All data will be stored on Government servers with backup on the central computer services network. All files will be accompanied by README files which will describe all field-codes and associated metadata. This will allow data to be understood by all project partners and also any future users.

Datasets that underpin publications and reports will be deposited in appropriate digital repositories e.g. figshare where datasets are publicly searchable and discoverable.

A minimum of one peer-reviewed paper is envisaged as part of the project outputs – all paper(s) will be available online either through green or gold open access routes dependent on the publishing location.

Section 12 - Safeguarding

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:

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

Checked





We have attached a copy of our safeguarding policy to this application	Checked
We keep a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with	Checked
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

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

The RSPB have clear safeguarding policies and procedures which apply to our international work and includes appropriate training for all our staff members working internationally. We have recently established an internal Global Safeguarding Subgroup to oversee and advise on our international safeguarding work. This group includes staff with extensive safeguarding experience as well as representation from staff posted overseas working with partners and local communities.

We have a strong commitment to work closely with all our partners to ensure they adhere to good safeguarding practices and any sub-grant will include our standard Annex outlining the obligations of partner to safeguarding and how they report, record and mitigate any incidents. We will work closely with partners on safeguarding issues and can provide safeguarding advice for partners and are currently in the process of developing a Safeguarding Good Practice Guide for our key international partners which will assist them in strengthening their current policies and procedures.

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

-  [RSPB Safeguarding Policy - December 2019](#)
-  30/01/2021
-  12:29:29
-  pdf 959.46 KB

Section 13 - Logical Framework


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.

 [SisterIsles Darwin logframe Stage2 V2.3 FINA](#)



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 pdf 153.62 KB

Impact:

The unique biodiversity of the Cayman Sister Islands can thrive in the absence of invasive predators, safeguarded from further detrimental introductions and cherished by residents as a long-term community asset.

Outcome:

Locally-led biosecurity and Invasive Alien Vertebrate (IAV) management in the Sister Islands is established and implemented effectively, via sustainably increased capacity, improved knowledge, and community engagement.

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Enhanced capacity of in-Territory agencies (DoE/DoA/Port Authority) to plan, manage, implement and monitor biosecurity and IAV control

Output 2:

Enhanced in-Territory community capacity to implement and monitor biosecurity and IAV control

Output 3:

The baseline presence of IAVs and nationally significant wildlife is better understood. Interactions and impacts of IAVs are determined and used to inform conservation management and community engagement.

Output 4:

Reduced impact of IAVs on globally threatened Sister Islands species through effective management.

Output 5:

Project managed and monitored effectively

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.

1.1 Project partners provide ongoing training to others within the project team to undertake the tasks

needed for successful implementation of biosecurity plans in each of the following areas: monitoring (native wildlife and IAVs), ongoing surveillance, minimising the risk of introducing IAVs through the transport of goods and people, and implementing incursion plans should new arrivals of IAVs be detected on Little Cayman or Cayman Brac.

1.2 Recruit an experienced Biosecurity Officer in YR1 Q2 to be seconded to DoE by end December 2021 for 2 years to coordinate biosecurity efforts, training, staff development support and project delivery.

1.3 Produce biosecurity training materials and resources by end YR1.

1.4 Develop a biosecurity training programme and schedule by integrating into existing staff induction/training programmes by end YR2.

1.5 Biosecurity signage developed and installed in key areas on Little Cayman and Cayman Brac by end YR2.

1.6 Complete a baseline questionnaire with project staff and key implementing agencies in YR1 to determine baseline biosecurity capacity.

1.7 Repeat biosecurity capacity questionnaire with project staff and key implementing agencies at the end of YR3.

1.8 Deliver a biosecurity planning workshop with key implementing agencies, stakeholders and local community representatives to produce a Biosecurity Plan for the Sister Islands by the end of YR3.

1.9 Implement biosecurity on Little Cayman and Cayman Brac through increased monitoring and deliver incursion responses, and building inter-agency collaboration throughout the project, to any detection of IAVs (i.e. green iguanas, feral cats/dogs).

1.10 Organise a cabinet level meeting in YR3 with key stakeholders to establish a plan for building human resources for biosecurity within key partners by demonstrating the value of the Biosecurity Officer role, resulting in a new post request to Cayman Islands Government.

1.11 In YR3 and beyond the project, deliver biosecurity training led by key DoE/DoA staff.

1.12 Draft domestic animals' Regulations for Little Cayman under the 'Animals law' (DoA) that ensures all new domestic cats arriving in the Little Cayman are neutered and microchipped by mid-YR3.

1.13 Draft a national Biosecurity Policy by the end of the project.

1.14 Write a draft cabinet paper for feedback on the drafted Little Cayman domestic animals' Regulations and national Biosecurity Policy by the end of the project.

2.1 Recruit a p/t Community Engagement Officer in YR1 Q2 to be seconded to DoE by end December 2021 for 2 years to coordinate volunteer programme, training, staff development support and project delivery.

2.2 In YR1 hold project launch community events on Little Cayman and Cayman Brac.

2.3 Carry out targeted ongoing outreach/communication on Cayman Brac to collect information on the opinions & values of the community around feral cat management, with the aim to increase awareness on (1) importance of neutering pets and (2) importance of not relocating feral cats to Little Cayman by the end of the project.

2.4 Complete a baseline questionnaire with volunteers and community members in YR1 to determine baseline biosecurity awareness.

2.5 Repeat biosecurity capacity questionnaire with volunteers and community members (end of project awareness survey) by the end of YR3.

2.6 Produce volunteer training materials and resources/publicity materials and project communication plan by end YR1.

2.7 Develop a volunteer work programme and schedule by end YR1.

2.8 Recruit at least 10 biosecurity volunteers by the end of the project.

2.9 Hold six monthly community events/volunteer 'get-together' days to increase project awareness and community participation.

2.10 Expand the invasive green iguana response network through training a volunteer 'rapid response' team by the end of YR2.

2.11 Complete ad-hoc feedback forms at meetings/workshops/events to monitor and evaluate community participation (including gender disaggregated data).

3.1 Complete survey of rodents in sites of conservation importance on Little Cayman and Cayman Brac in

YR1, using a variety of detection methods to establish residency/activity levels.

3.2 Survey of feral cat population on Little Cayman in YR1, using a variety of detection methods (including motion cameras), establish residency/activity levels.

3.3 Complete presence/absence surveys for Cayman Brac blind snake *Cubatyphlops epactias* on Little Cayman and Cayman Brac by end YR1.

3.4 Complete detailed surveys for Cayman ground boas (*Tropidophis parkeri* on Little Cayman, and *Tropidophis schwartzi* on Cayman Brac) by end YR2.

3.5 Complete annual population survey of Sister Isles rock iguanas on Little Cayman and Cayman Brac. [co-funding]

3.6 Complete annual breeding surveys of brown booby colony on Cayman Brac. [co-funding]

3.7 Analyse data to assess impacts of IAV's upon target species (reptiles and seabirds) by end of the project

3.8 Complete Species Conservation Plans for the species above by the end of the project.

3.9 Update IUCN Red List Assessments for Sister Isles' boas by the end of the project.

3.10 Draft at least one peer reviewed review paper on the distributions of IAV's and native species (reptiles and seabirds) by end of the project

4.1 Determine and implement an appropriate trapping schedule for a targeted feral cat control programme around priority sites on Little Cayman in YR1.

4.2 Complete a feasibility study for the eradication of feral cats from Little Cayman in YR2.

4.3 Determine and implement an appropriate trapping schedule for a targeted feral cat control programme around priority sites on Cayman Brac in YR2.

4.4 Develop and implement a rodent control programme in priority areas (identified in Action 3.6), building into Action Plan for Little Cayman by YR2.

4.5 Develop and implement a rodent control programme in priority areas (identified in Action 3.6) building into Action Plan for Cayman Brac by YR2.

4.6 Develop a plan for invasive green iguana eradication within Action Plan for Little Cayman in YR2.

4.7 Develop a plan for invasive green iguana eradication within Action Plan for Cayman Brac in YR2.

4.8 Enhance green iguana control on Little Cayman and Cayman Brac (with aim for future eradication) from YR2.

5.1 In YR1 Q1 develop and agree project monitoring plan and use it as a project management tool to monitor implementation progress.

5.2 Quarterly conference call for core project team to update on progress and plan forthcoming work schedule

5.3 Six monthly internal (project team) technical and financial reporting to RSPB

5.4 3x annual meeting of project team and management in Grand Cayman for planning and sharing of data between all project partners from subsequent years.

5.5 Mid-term evaluation with project team in YR2.





5.6 Final project evaluation with external consultant in YR3 Q4.

Section 14 - Implementation Timetable

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.

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.

 [Cayman SI R9 DPlus Implementation Timetabl
e V2](#)
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 xlsx 22 KB

Section 15 - Monitoring and Evaluation

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](#)).

Output 5 of the project, 'Project managed and monitored effectively', is to ensure effective monitoring and evaluation is integrated into the project. The coordination of project monitoring and evaluation of the project will be led by RSPB and will comprise internal evaluations as follows:

- Establishing responsibility for indicators:

At project start up, the project partners will go through the indicators in the logframe and establish who will be responsible for ensuring that the data for each indicator is collected and collated including (but not limited to); meeting minutes, datasets, reports, recommendations, stakeholder meeting reports. The responsibility for the indicator will rest with the individual leading that work but who may then delegate elements. The data will be brought together by the project manager in close collaboration with responsible individuals. The details of these decisions will result in a project monitoring plan.

- Regular project management meetings, quarterly project skypes/conference calls:

These will involve key operational personnel and the monitoring plan (above) will be assessed as progress against the log frame indicators is reported. Specific actions to address indicators that have not been achieved and the monitoring plan revised accordingly.

- Annual meetings:

The second and third annual project meetings will include an internal evaluation of the project covering technical and financial aspects as official mid-term reviews. Senior staff from participating organisations in the Cayman Islands will be invited. Not only will these individual be able to see progress, they will be able to assess the quality and efficacy of work undertaken to date and set it in the bigger picture of conservation priorities within the Cayman Islands and also help develop solutions to any challenges the project team might be facing.

Key monitoring areas and responsibilities:

1. Data collection across biosecurity monitoring and ecological impacts – DoE, DoA and UoA will all record biosecurity/biodiversity monitoring data, this will be collated by the DoE and will be stored centrally. At least one peer review paper will be produced to share results.
2. Capacity Building – Achieved through appointing new staff, embedding a biosecurity expert, training and learning by doing. Information will be collected and share by each partner on their own staff records and training plans and outcomes.
3. Awareness Raising – DoE with support of a Community Engagement Officer will lead the awareness raising work and manage relations with the community. This will include designing questionnaires and implementing and analysing the feedback to report to the management team.

Costs of Monitoring and evaluation:

40 days of project leader and project manager time = £ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] of RSPB travel and subsistence: £ [REDACTED]

Project team: [REDACTED] of overall time across project = £ [REDACTED]

Meeting costs: £ [REDACTED]

Number of days for M&E:

Quarterly project team meetings: 12 days

Annual in-Territory meetings: 4 days

Annual reporting: 24 days

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)	£ [REDACTED]
Number of days planned for M&E	40.00
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)	[REDACTED]

Section 16 - Certification

Certification

On behalf of the

trustees

of

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

I apply for a grant of

£484,227.00





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	Andy Evans
Position in the organisation	Head of Global Species Recovery
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 Andy Evans signature  30/01/2021  12:33:11  jpg 6.13 KB
Date	02 February 2021

Section 17 - 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 attached my completed logframe and timeline as a PDF using the templates provided.	Checked

I have included a 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.	Checked
I have included a letter of support from the Lead Organisation and main partner organisation(s) identified at Question 10, 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 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 Plus 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).