
DPR9S2\1030

Anguilla Shark Conservation: social acceptance, spatial protection and legislative reform.

Anguilla Shark Conservation (ASC) is a multidisciplinary project that will increase knowledge of Anguilla's shark populations, their habitats and conservation needs, while developing local ownership of conservation interventions through comprehensive community engagement. ASC will conduct Anguilla's first ecological baseline assessment of sharks; integrate fisher knowledge; take account of community perceptions, and use all of the above to inform a national shark Species Action Plan (SAP) that considers community values, co-existence, new legislation, and spatial protection of sharks and their habitats.

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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

GMS ORGANISATION

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

Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q3a. Project title

Anguilla Shark Conservation: social acceptance, spatial protection and legislative reform.

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

DPR9S1\1063

Q4. UKOT(s)

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

Anguilla

* 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)	£133,851.00	£121,321.00	£89,195.00	£26,637.00	£ 371,004.00

Q6a. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

Anguilla National Trust (ANT), Marine Conservation Society (MCS) and Fisheries and Marine Resources Unit – Department of Natural Resources (FMRU–DNR) will provide some in-kind staff time; ANT, MCS, FMRU-DNR and the University of Exeter (UoE) will provide some in-kind overheads, and ANT, MCS and FMRU-DNR will provide some in-kind capital and operating costs. UoE will provide access to sub-surface infra-red camera systems.

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.

Anguilla Shark Conservation (ASC) is a multidisciplinary project that will increase knowledge of Anguilla's shark populations, their habitats and conservation needs, while developing local ownership of conservation interventions through comprehensive community engagement. ASC will conduct Anguilla's first ecological baseline assessment of sharks; integrate fisher knowledge; take account of community perceptions, and use all of the above to inform a national shark Species Action Plan (SAP) that considers community values, co-existence, new legislation, and spatial protection of sharks and their habitats.

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.

Priorities

- Implementing National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP), National Environmental Strategy (NEMS): gathering data on “activities that have significant adverse impact on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity” and strengthening “the legal, regulatory, and management framework for biodiversity conservation” (Anguilla NBAP), while creating frameworks and opportunities “that allow for the effective participation of relevant public, private, non-governmental, and community-based organisations in environmental management” and promoting environmental awareness and understanding (Anguilla NEMS).
- Supporting the Biodiversity and Heritage Conservation Act, Anguilla Fisheries Development Plan: developing evidence-based actions for both threatened and exploited shark species.
- Implementing the UN Convention on Migratory Species: conserving “habitats or species that are of importance in removing the species from danger of extinction”, preventing, removing, or reducing “adverse effects of activities or obstacles that seriously impede or prevent the migration of the species,” and preventing, reducing, or controlling factors that endanger the species (Article III).
- Implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals: improving food security (Goal 2); empowering women and girls in conservation and sustainable livelihoods (Goal 5); ensuring sustainable consumption (Goal 12); conserving and sustainably using oceans, seas, and marine resources (Goal 14); and strengthening the means of implementation and revitalising global partnerships for sustainable development through collaborative initiatives amongst national stakeholders, international non-governmental agencies, and academia (Goal 17).
- Meeting Aichi Targets: raising awareness of the value of biodiversity and meaningful participation in conservation (Target 1); developing and implementing sustainable production and consumption plans to keep the use of natural resources within safe ecological limits (Target 4); sustainably managing and applying ecosystem-based approaches to marine resources and biodiversity (Target 6); preventing the extinction and conserving at-risk species (Target 12); taking into account traditional/local knowledge in developing and implementing conservation management strategies (Target 18); and using science and technology to better understand, develop, and implement conservation interventions (Target 19).
- Implementing the Food and Agriculture Organisation's International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks: conducting assessments of shark stocks, identifying and assessing threats to shark populations, involving stakeholders in research, management, and education initiatives, and creating and implementing a national plan of action for shark conservation. This project also supports the FAO Plan

of Action by incorporating regional collaboration in shark research, data collection and sharing, capacity building while also supporting enforcement and monitoring and increasing public awareness.

This project applies a multidisciplinary, practical approach for designing and implementing effective shark conservation action. Drawing on project-partner expertise, scientific data collected using widely-tested tools and approaches (e.g. Baited Remote Underwater Video Stations [BRUVs], fish catch landing data) coupled with local knowledge collected using the Community Voice Method (CVM) will inform a Species Action Plan (SAP) that will follow established IUCN guidelines (IUCN/SSC. 2008). Tangible and pragmatic actions will be implemented to reduce threats to sharks and build resilience (e.g. workshop held to discuss and pilot best practice by-catch reduction and humane release methods, formal protection of species, and identification of key habitats that may require additional protection).

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
14007	Dr Liz Wood	Community action for sustainable-use/conservation of coral reefs Malaysia
EIDCF017	Dr Peter Richardson	Developing multi-sector strategies for marine resource use, management and conservation
DPLUS032	Dr Peter Richardson	Luc Clerveaux Fellowship
DPLUS111	Dr Peter Richardson	Building Resilient, Participatory Management of Marine Biodiversity in Hurricane-Prone BVI.
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

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

Yes

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

 [2018-19 MCS Annual Impact Report and Accounts signed](#)
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 [Annual Impact Report 2019-20 B&W no images](#)
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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:

Marine Conservation Society (MCS)

Website address:

www.mcsuk.org

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

Project Co-Leader – Dr Peter Richardson
Dr Richardson will manage the project and coordinate the monitoring and evaluation (M&E); organise quarterly Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings (chaired by MCS Director of Programmes, Dr Chris Tuckett); take responsibility for project budgeting, accounting and reporting; support the drafting of project outputs; and support delivery of the CVM. Peter has been managing marine conservation projects for 30 years and delivering CVM since 2010.

Project Officer - Amdeep Sanghera
Mr Sanghera will be responsible for coordinating partner communications and team meetings; supporting social science field work, analysis and reporting (including LEK surveys and CVM). He will also support project reporting, drafting of project outputs and project publicity. Amdeep was Field Officer for the TCI Turtle Project and is now our MCS UKOT Conservation Officer.

CVM Coordinator - Susan Ranger
Mrs Ranger will coordinate the CVM, including leading on questionnaire design, stakeholder mapping, video analysis, CVM film production, workshop design and overseeing CVM reporting. Sue will also support the social science activity, project reporting and drafting of project outputs. Sue has extensive expertise in participatory process design, having worked in collaborative marine conservation for almost 30 years, and coordinating CVM projects for MCS since 2010.

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: Anguilla National Trust (ANT)

Website address: www.axanationaltrust.com

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

ANT is Anguilla's only environmental non-governmental organisation and has five main programme areas: wetlands and terrestrial habitat and species conservation; marine and coastal habitat and species conservation; protected areas management; cultural heritage promotion and preservation; and education and stewardship.

ANT has more than 30 years' experience in natural resources conservation, with strong partnerships with Government of Anguilla Ministries and Departments as well as INGOs including MCS, FFI, RSPB, and other UKOT National Trusts and regional environmental agencies.

ANT will co-lead the project with MCS and will provide on-the-ground capacity to implement project activities.

ANT will be responsible for field project management, data analysis, coordinating public awareness surveys, supporting CVM design and delivery, leading public outreach, and leading species action planning. ANT will employ a Project Manager to work closely with MCS, UoE, FMRU-DNR, and other stakeholders to ensure project success. ANT will sit on the Project Steering Committee, involved in project monitoring and evaluation. With eight staff, including management and in-field officers (experienced in biodiversity data collection and analysis, action planning, and stakeholder engagement), ANT has capacity to support and a strong track record of successfully implementing projects as lead (DPLUS013) and as a partner (DPLUS007, 060, 086, 091, 097).

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: Fisheries and Marine Resources Unit – Department of Natural Resources (FMRU-DNR) (Government of Anguilla)

Website address: <http://www.gov.ai/department.php?id=3&dept=14>

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

FMRU-DNR is responsible for managing and regulating the use of Anguilla's fisheries and marine resources. FMRU-DNR undertakes programmes to support Anguilla's economic, ecological, and scientific interests in oceans surrounding Anguilla and its nearshore waters, while providing for the conservation, development, and sustained economic development of fisheries resources. Main areas of work include fisheries, coastal resources, and marine parks management. With a team of nine, all field staff have been trained in various disciplines including fish catch data collection, coastal ecosystem habitat monitoring, and community engagement.

FMRU-DNR will be responsible for fishery landing recording, supporting project fieldwork, supporting fisher liaison and CVM logistics, and developing and presenting legislative and project recommendations (including the SAP) to the Minister responsible for natural resources. FMRU-DNR will be a Project Steering Committee member, assisting with project monitoring and evaluation. FMRU-DNR has a track record of successfully implementing projects both as a lead (DPLUS 060) and as a partner (DPLUS 066, 067).

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

3. Partner Name:

University of Exeter (UoE)

Website address:

www.exeter.ac.uk/

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

UoE has extensive expertise in marine spatial ecology, elasmobranch conservation and marine biodiversity survey. They routinely use BRUVs methods to support research into species, habitats and human disturbance. UoE has been involved in numerous Darwin projects, both as lead, as co-applicants and as partners in several Caribbean UKOTs, Central Africa (Gabon 17-005 and Congo 20-009) and in southeast Asia (Myanmar 23-024).

UoE will provide scientific and technical support to the project regarding BRUV survey site selection and marine GIS, BRUV deployments and maintenance, and resulting ecological and behavioural analysis and data interpretation. UoE will be a Project Steering Committee member and will advise in a more general capacity concerning elasmobranch ecology, conservation and management.

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.


 [Darwin cover letter final](#)

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 [DPLUS-Sharks-Letters of Support-Complete](#)

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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?
Dr Peter Richardson	Project Leader	7	Checked
Amdeep Sanghera	Project Officer/ social scientist	12	Checked
Susan Ranger	Community Voice Method coordinator	4	Checked
Dr Chris Tuckett	Monitoring and Evaluation	3	Checked

Do you require more fields?

Yes


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Dr Matthew Witt	Scientific advisor	5	Checked
Farah Mukhida	Anguilla Project Co-lead	20	Checked
Dr Louise Soanes	Project Manager	46	Checked
Marlene Hosford	Conservation Coordinator	50	Checked
Devon Carter	Research Assistant	50	Checked
Aaron Richardson	Conservation Officer	100	Checked
Kafi Gumbs	Director FMRU-DNR – fisheries liaison	15	Checked
Randall Richardson	Fisheries field officer	70	Checked

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.

 [ASC CVs Collated](#)

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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).

The IUCN reports that 25% of all shark species are threatened with extinction (Dulvy et al. 2014). Threats include recreational and commercial fishing (including by-catch and IUU) and habitat degradation. In the Caribbean region, home to at least 40 shark species, there's increasing recognition of the severe decline in populations and the importance of shark protection (FAO. 2018).

In Anguilla, little is known about which shark species are present, their distribution or status. Anguilla's National Fisheries Development Plan highlights the need to fill this knowledge gap. While the Government of Anguilla's Biodiversity and Heritage Conservation Act provides for the protection of endangered species, as well as the development and implementation of species action plans, no sharks species are currently protected under this Act.

Despite data-deficiency and poor understanding of Anguilla's shark populations, they continue to face local pressure through commercial and subsistence fishing. Societal fear of sharks leads to targeted killing, resulting in mortality of pregnant females caught close to shore as they seek shallow, sheltered areas for pupping and nursery habitat. There is a clear need to better understand the extent of this fishery, while engaging wider Anguillan society in open discussion about sharks and their ecological value.

This project uses a multi-disciplinary approach with inclusive stakeholder-engagement to inform the development and implementation of a SAP with targeted conservation interventions to protect shark populations within Anguilla's waters, while considering the viability of creating a shark sanctuary marine protected area in Anguilla's Exclusive Economic Zone.

As apex predators, sharks play a critical role in marine ecosystem recovery and resilience. Through enhanced shark and habitat management, and increased awareness about Anguilla's sharks leading to national policy and public acceptance, this project will support the recovery of Anguilla's shark populations, as well as the coastal and marine ecosystems upon which they depend.

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)

St. Barths' Agence Territoriale de l'Environnement (ATE) has run similar research since 2018, and the ASC partnership has liaised with ATE to develop this project.

(1) Local Ecological Knowledge (LEK) interviews with stakeholders to record dependence on/ knowledge of sharks (e.g. landings, species presence/absence, species-specific spatial and seasonal distributions, key habitats) and known threats. Public Knowledge-Attitudes-Performance (KAP) surveys will run in parallel with LEK surveys, with repeat surveys at project end. Findings will inform (2)-(3). Lead: ANT, support: FRMU-DNR & MCS.

(2) Baseline ecological monitoring of shark species diversity, abundance, age and sex structure, achieved through a combination of complimentary methods: (i) fisheries landings surveys at three main fishing villages; (ii) baited remote underwater cameras (BRUVs) deployed using a stratified random sampling regime (habitat-dependent) at sixteen locations in the nearshore area of Anguilla and in eight locations at three offshore cays (see supplementary material for map). Adopting peer-reviewed methods (Bicknell et al. 2016, 2019), BRUVs will be deployed for 45min monthly at each deployment site (May-September when seas are calm/optimum visibility; see supplementary material for GANTT chart); (iii) Infra Red-enabled (IR) video cameras deployed in areas supporting high relative abundance of sharks (identified following BRUVs surveys). IR cameras can be deployed for five-day periods in eight locations, this technology can measure shark length and operate continuously day and night, contributing vital data on population composition (e.g. proportion of juveniles vs. adults) and behaviour; (iv) Citizen-science. Dive operators will opportunistically gather video data of sharks, supporting individual identification, improving knowledge on site fidelity, local movements and seasonality. Ecological data will be collected for at least two years to capture seasonal variability. Findings will inform the shark SAP and (4). Lead: ANT, support: UoE & FRMU-DNR.

(3) Community Voice Method (CVM) engagement with stakeholders. A gender-balanced sample of stakeholders will be interviewed on camera about values and perceptions associated with sharks and their conservation using a structured questionnaire. Footage will be edited into an engaging 30-minute





documentary screened across Anguilla, followed by structured workshops encouraging participants to discuss views about sharks and deliberate potential conservation interventions (see Cumming et al. 2021). CVM outputs will inform the SAP and (6). Lead: MCS; support: ANT & FRMU-DNR.





(4) Conservation action planning workshops with stakeholders to test and finalise the draft shark SAP and legislative recommendations in context of the National Fisheries Development Plan and the Biodiversity and Heritage Conservation Act. Lead: ANT; support: FRMU-DNR.

(5) Priority conservation interventions, informed by (1)-(4), will be recommended, including (but not limited to) the legal protection of threatened shark species; training in shark by-catch reduction measures and humane release; identification of key habitats for spatial protection through designation of shark sanctuary MPA. Lead: ANT with partner support.

(6) Public awareness and capacity-building through a tailored outreach programme that engages Anguillan society on the ecosystem function of sharks, and strategic meetings with government leaders on conservation interventions. On-the-job training of local partners in species action planning, applied conservation and monitoring will raise national capacity. Lead: ANT with partner support.

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

 [FAO. 2018](#)
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 [DPLUS - Supporting Documents - Sharks](#)
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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.

The Government of Anguilla's (GOA) Minister responsible for natural resources has been involved in discussions to develop this proposal. FMRU-DNR officials at all levels will be engaged through action planning, training, field implementation, and dissemination. FMRU-DNR is a project partner and directly assisted with the development of the proposal.

The Anguilla Fisherfolk Association (AFFA) recognises the need for sustainable fisheries mechanisms, including frameworks to support sustainable fisheries development. With long-standing relationships with both ANT and FMRU-DNR, AFFA has a history of working in collaboration with our agencies including on projects related to fisheries data collection (DPLUS 066) and marine park management (DPLUS 060). Fishers will be engaged throughout this project, providing fisheries landing data and being involved in LEK surveys, CVM, species action planning, and by-catch mitigation training.

The Marine Park Management Planning Committee, established under DPLUS 060, has discussed actions to reduce fishing pressures within marine parks and the critical need for sustainable fisheries outside of marine park boundaries. The Committee, whose members include dive operators and charter boat operators (in addition to ANT, FMRU-DNR, AFFA), will continue to be engaged through meetings, species

action planning, CVM, and citizen science opportunities.

Increased public understanding of sharks and their relationship to healthy marine ecosystems is essential. We will engage the public through KAP surveys and CVM to better understand public perceptions and concerns. We will use findings to tailor a public awareness campaign and stewardship programme, raising awareness while also providing opportunities for direct participation in research and conservation interventions.

Q15. Institutional Capacity

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

MCS is a growing, thriving organisation with excellent technical skills and capacity to lead this project, which will be supported by our finance, communications and fundraising teams. We have expanded from 62 staff in 2017 to 80 in 2021, largely as a result of our track record as an impactful, expert, evidence-based organisation. We attract increased investment from donors and the public.

This project will be led from our Programmes Directorate, whose staff have advanced policy and technical skills on fisheries and aquaculture, pollution/marine litter as well as marine conservation. Dr Richardson leads the Ocean Recovery team, which draws together expertise in MPAs (UK and overseas) as well as species protection/monitoring. Dr Richardson's time to lead this project will be ring-fenced, with dedicated capacity for day-to-day coordination from MCS's UKOT Conservation Officer Amdeep Sanghera, leveraging substantial experience from the Turks and Caicos Islands and other Caribbean UKOTs.

ANT has a staff complement of eight, over 100 members, and 25 active volunteers. With a track record in successfully developing and executing impactful projects, ANT has been recognised for contributions to Anguilla's sustainable development. Ms Mukhida has managed/co-managed over two dozen projects (including DPLUS013, 060, 086) and three European Commission projects while assisting eight government and nongovernment agencies to develop organisational strategic and business plans

UoE is in the top 15 UK Russell Group of Universities. Dr Witt has extensive experience in marine ecological research, having published 115 papers and successfully delivered six large-scale marine research projects valued over £ [REDACTED]

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.

Government of Anguilla (GOA) will benefit from capacity-building, increased knowledge and resource to manage their marine environment, and improved capacity to conduct meaningful public consultation. GOA will benefit from an improved evidence base and a SAP detailing clear actions to guide shark conservation. This project supports GOA national and international obligations (Biodiversity and Heritage Conservation Act, Anguilla National Fisheries Development Plan, Convention on Migratory Species).

Anguillan Fishers will benefit from equitable and considered consultation on shark fishery management, meaningful involvement in species conservation action planning, and, in the long-term, improved livelihoods from healthier and more productive marine ecosystems.

Local communities, tourism providers, and island visitors will benefit from increased, meaningful engagement with complex conservation decision-making; richer understanding and awareness about Anguilla's marine environment; reduced perceptions of fear towards Anguilla's sharks, and less anxiety about Anguilla's marine environment; better understanding of sustainable marine resource management to help to create richer and more resilient habitats that support tourism, food security and the economy.

Project partners will benefit from shared learning, professional development, expanded expertise in Anguilla, and evidence-based, collaboratively-created and stakeholder-supported frameworks for conservation of predator species.

The scientific community will benefit from novel publications on the ecology of Anguilla's shark populations.

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?

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

Our initial community liaison will identify women involved in relevant sectors, who we'll seek to engage through our LEK surveys. We will strictly adhere to gender-balanced sampling in our CVM stakeholder engagement, and seek gender representation in the CVM workshops. We will ensure schedules are flexible enough to accommodate times, locations, meeting structures, language and facilitation-styles in order to overcome gendered-barriers to participation, as well as group composition appropriate for gender-representative participation. We'll test project methodologies with female staff within local partner organisations to ensure appropriateness, and adjust according to feedback.

We will also use gender-disaggregated data in all our monitoring and have included gender metrics in our logframe indicators. GoA's Gender Affairs Unit have been contacted and are willing to liaise on gendered aspects of the project.

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.

ASC will deliver an evidence-based shark SAP for Anguilla with recommendations for specific conservation interventions, including legislative reform, which will significantly contribute to the recovery of shark populations in Anguilla and the region. In time, recovered shark populations will make a direct contribution

to the health of regional ecosystems and the people that depend on them.

In the short-term, this project will benefit Anguillan society by facilitating a better understanding of their local shark populations, their status, threats, and the role sharks play within Anguilla's nearshore and marine ecosystems. ASC will discuss and explore community concerns about sharks, and this will increase awareness of and foster a change in societal perspectives on the importance of sharks and support for locally-tailored and acceptable conservation intervention.

In the medium-term, ASC will benefit Anguillan society, and particularly fishers, through subsidised support with conservation interventions such as facilitating training workshops focusing on reducing shark bycatch and humane release methods. In addition, through equitable project consultation, participants will enjoy ownership of the evidence-based outputs including conservation legislation, the SAP and associated conservation interventions. The Government of Anguilla will benefit from an updated Biodiversity and Heritage Conservation Act, with endangered and threatened shark species included in the appendices for the first time, and through reform of national fisheries legislation, which will meet requirements of international treaties and also support UK Government's obligations.

In the long-term, this work will lead to: improvements in national shark populations; more resilient nearshore and marine ecosystems; broader societal support for shark conservation; and positive contributions to regional shark stock recoveries. These outcomes will benefit Anguillans and others in the region by enhancing the ecosystem services delivered by shark populations and their key habitats, improving national food security, and other blue economies such as dive tourism to strengthen the overall Anguillan economy.

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.

ASC will deliver an ecological baseline assessment of shark species present in Anguilla's waters, their relative local status, preferred habitats and threats, through the collection of BRUV data, supported by LEK surveys and citizen science programme.

CVM will record and deliberate community values and perceptions regarding sharks and their habitats and account for associated local concerns.

Engagement workshops and events will increase awareness of the ecological value of sharks and the importance of conservation interventions.

Ecological and LEK survey data combined with CVM outputs will inform a shark species action plan recommending specific interventions and legislative change to encourage the recovery of local shark populations. The recommendations will be influenced and supported by the local community and endorsed by the Government of Anguilla's Executive Council.

Implementation of project recommendations by the Government and people of Anguilla will contribute to recovery of local shark populations, and support the recovery of regional populations.

Recovery of shark populations will directly contribute to healthier regional marine ecosystems and improved ecosystem services, which will support local and regional livelihoods dependent on a healthy ocean, including fishing and tourism, leading to enhanced food security and greater environmental and

social resilience of Anguilla to climate change.

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?

This project takes an evidence-based approach to developing conservation interventions, using scientific research to better understand shark ecology, and social science and comprehensive engagement to identify and address public concerns and misconceptions. Anguilla project partners have the mandate and authority to implement the SAP and it is expected that the majority of interventions outlined within the plan will be mainstreamed into ANT and FMRU-DNR workplans.

Post-project, FMRU-DNR will continue to monitor shark landings and use learning to develop other SAPs to support the Anguilla National Fisheries Development Plan. BRUVS and other equipment will be used to collect information on other data-deficient species; training in BRUV data analysis and marine spatial planning will continue. As multiple ANT and FMRU-DNR staff will receive training, institutional (in addition to individual) capacity will be built, limiting risk of losing knowledge and skill sets should individuals leave either agency.

Where additional funding is required post-project (e.g. to support research on shark movements within and amongst territorial waters and to support increased cross-island collaboration), MCS and ANT will continue to approach funders while UoE is committed to support additional applied research initiatives.

Engaging regional agencies also involved in shark research will open opportunities for future collaboration.

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.

 [AXA darwin-plus-round9-budget - Stage 2 V2](#)

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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:

Although this is a new initiative for Anguilla, it builds on Anguilla's established programmes of work which have led to the development and implementation of other SAPs including: a sub-regional action plan for Lesser Antillean iguanas (2018, funded by the European Commission); a sub-regional action plan for sea turtles and an Anguilla Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan (2019, funded by the European Commission); and a Conservation Action Plan for Anguilla's terrestrial endangered species (2020, DPLUS 086). This project also builds on the successes of other UK Government and Darwin Plus initiatives both in Anguilla and the region, including: habitat mapping (DPLUS 045); participatory approaches to conservation action planning (DPLUS 060, 086); and community engagement through CVM (DPLUS 106, 111).

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

Yes

If yes, please give details explaining similarities and differences, and explaining how your work will be additional and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and learn lessons from such work for mutual benefits.

ASC builds on established regional work. St. Barths' Agence Territoriale de l'Environnement (ATE) has run similar research since 2018. This ASC partnership has used its established links with ATE to develop this project.

BRUVs were successfully deployed to study reef shark distribution/abundance within the waters of the TCI, as part of an international project using BRUVs on 371 reefs in 58 nations (including Caribbean UKOTs). Cayman Island's Government (CIG) are also proposing to use BRUVs as part of a shark research bid for this funding round, with potential for project cross-learning through Amdeep's existing network of Caribbean UKOT marine managers including CIG.

MCS has successfully deployed CVM in multiple projects. In the TCI, it has been successfully used to revise fisheries regulations and, in the UK, CVM has been used with regulators and stakeholders to support the development of MPA management. MCS is using CVM for projects in the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat. ANT will use its experience of consulting with Anguillan communities on environmental issues to employ CVM nationally.

Our partnership has an established network of relevant regional and international expertise and will draw on a broad knowledge base to further build national capacity and support impactful delivery.

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
MCS	██████	Sterling	In-kind staff time and some equipment.
Anguilla National Trust	██████	Sterling	In-kind staff time, boat charter and equipment.
University of Exeter	██████	Sterling	In-kind overheads
FMR- DNR	██████	Sterling	In-kind staff time

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?

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

Nicola Spencer is Director of Finance and MCS Company Secretary, a qualified Accountant who has led finance operations for charities over 19 years.

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

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

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.

We have considered a range of risks during inception and development, due to the nature of this project as an international partnership. To mitigate these risks, we will prioritise rigorous preventative procedures and a structure of regular, transparent communications between all partners. As project lead, MCS will assume responsibility for the project budget and our team of finance and accounting experts will work with Dr Richardson to manage finances, ensure robust internal controls are operated at all times and remain vigilant to any fraudulent activity.

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

MCS is fully GDPR compliant, with an up to date GDPR policy and staff trained in the GDPR obligations.

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.

Our budget was built through in-depth consultation with partners, with careful consideration of costs and in-kind support. This project invests significantly in local partners to ensure capacity building and legacy, and secures the UK partners' extensive multi-disciplinary expertise for the duration of the project. The budget allocated to UK partner staff time represents 37% of that allocated to local partner staff time.

Our funding model incorporates 33% confirmed match funding and in-kind support towards total project costs, with generous contributions from all partners, and with local partner commitments to the project outcomes beyond the life of this funding.

Approximately 82% of the budget will be spent either locally (local partner costs, UK partner travel and subsistence), or on capital items that will remain with local partners. The remaining 18% of the budget will be spent on UK partner's international expertise in cutting-edge biological research, social science and participatory democracy.

Community Voice Method has not been implemented in Anguilla, and therefore spending on this element will bring new skills to local partners. Similarly, the BRUVs technology and associated research has not been deployed in Anguilla and therefore the investment in Dr Witt's expertise will bring new knowledge to the island.

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.

All large capital items purchased through this project (BRUVs and IT equipment) will remain with the Anguilla National Trust (ANT) for future use on marine conservation and research work. This project will ensure that ANT staff and other project partners will have the knowledge and skills to use the BRUV equipment, equipment and associated analysis software.

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.

This project budget represents excellent value for money and brings together a dynamic consortium of interested individuals and groups, including GOA, ANT, INGOs, research institutes, fishers, and marine recreational stakeholders, to work together to address shark conservation in Anguilla. By combining resources and expertise, this innovative project will leverage substantial in-kind support to make ASC successful, incorporating almost [REDACTED] confirmed match funding and in-kind support towards total project costs, including GBP [REDACTED] worth of underwater monitoring equipment from UoE to supplement the lower-cost BRUVs.

The project will allow for multiplier effects: equipment, methods, and skills procured and developed by this project will be applied to advance planning and management of other data-deficient fish stocks, as required

under the Anguilla National Fisheries Development Plan.

Considerable cost savings will be made by project partners using their areas of expertise and working in collaboration to implement different project components, thereby allowing concurrent activity implementation and maximising local expertise. By using previous experiences within the region and building on already-established relationships (locally and regionally), we put ourselves in a position to maximise both financial investments and results. This project utilises an ANT vessel constructed with funds from the Prince of Wales Charitable Fund which eliminates expensive vessel rental costs.

Travel by UK partners will be minimized. Communication costs will be efficient, using online communication (Zoom, WhatsApp). UK team members will minimise travel to Anguilla while coordinating multiple project events and activities during trips to maximise value for money on transport, accommodation, and subsistence costs.

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.

This project will take advantage of partners' existing relationships with media and stakeholders, both nationally and internationally to disseminate project outputs.

The SAP developed by local stakeholders as well as regional colleagues, along with the knowledge-attitudes-performance report, will be made publicly available through MCS, ANT, and other partner websites, with outputs highlighted in MCS's quarterly magazine 'Marine Conservation,' and shared through partner information distribution lists.

Project outputs will be promoted on partners' social media platforms (e.g. Facebook, MCS – 162K followers; ANT – 2K followers, mostly local) with links to resources posted on partner websites. In addition, outputs will be promoted through relevant regional networks (e.g. Caribbean Marine Protected Area Management Network).

Within Anguilla, awareness-raising materials (presentations, press releases, project updates) will be shared publicly, with viewings of the CVM documentary held with stakeholder groups and the wider Anguillan public. Major project news will be disseminated internationally through joint media releases coordinated by MCS. We will also use platforms that facilitate the sharing of technical reports/publications (e.g. ResearchGate).

The costs associated with sharing of outputs are minimal. Darwin Plus funds are being requested only to facilitate the sharing of the CVM documentary within focus groups and with the general public.

A peer-reviewed paper will be submitted by the end of the project detailing the project's methods, results and findings and budget has been allocated for publication in an open access journal. The project will be presented at at least one international meeting during the course of the project .

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.


MCS and ANT have comprehensive policies committed to safeguarding, including zero-tolerance on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse, and protection of whistle-blowers, as well as codes of conduct that clearly establish expectations of staff behaviour.

MCS will draw up a partnership agreement at the project outset that will require, for the duration of the project, partner commitments to abide by MCS policies, which will be circulated to senior staff of project partner organisations. MCS online safeguarding and E&D training modules will be made available to partner organisations.


Safeguarding will be a standing agenda item at project steering committee meetings. Any issues arising from this project will be handled initially by Dr Chris Tuckett as chair of the committee, and MCS Senior Management Team (SMT) supported by the MCS HR department following MCS procedure. Where necessary, MCS SMT will liaise with the governing bodies of partner organisation to address and resolve any concerns through a clearly defined process established by the project steering committee at the start of the project.


Where there are any concerns about safe-guarding between project partners, MCS will reserve the right to withhold any payments to partners for project works until such cases are resolved.

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

 [DPLUS - Safeguarding - Sharks](#)

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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.

 [St2 Logical Framework - AXA Sharks](#)

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Impact:

Enhanced health and resilience of Anguilla's marine ecosystems established through science, stakeholder engagement and action, exemplary conservation highlighted as a model for marine management by other islands in the region.

Outcome:

National and regional recovery of Anguilla's apex predators (sharks) through comprehensive conservation policies and actions, strong management competencies and more supportive civil society.

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Development of first ecological and social science baselines regarding sharks in Anguilla

Output 2:

Evidence-based shark SAP and supporting legislative amendment recommendations are produced through a participatory process

Output 3:

At least two priority interventions prescribed by the shark Species Action Plan are implemented and monitored.

Output 4:

Enhanced national capacity to plan, manage, implement and monitor shark conservation action, supported by improved technical skills and greater public awareness and cooperation.

Output 5:

No Response

Do you require more Output fields?

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

No

Activities

Each activity is numbered according to the Output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1.

1. Development of first ecological and social science baselines regarding sharks in Anguilla
 - 1.1 Implement at least 3 stakeholder engagement meetings in key fishing centres of Anguilla (Sandy Ground, Island Harbour and Cove), introducing project need, aims and participatory engagement to key stakeholders
 - 1.1.1 Identify and approach key stakeholders for activity 1.3
 - 1.2 Develop baseline LEK survey
 - 1.2.1 Pilot baseline LEK survey with community members to ensure locally appropriate.
 - 1.3 Complete baseline LEK surveys with at least 50 Anguillian fishers/community members to record knowledge and understanding of shark ecology (including species presence/absence, species-specific spatial/temporal distributions, key habitats, and fish catch).
 - 1.4 Complete detailed analysis of LEK surveys, including historical, current, and future threats against sharks.
 - 1.5 FMRU-DNR staff members trained in fish catch landing protocol to monitor landed sharks through bespoke workshop and in-situ.
 - 1.5.1 Commence fish catch landing data collection at 3 main fishing villages (Sandy Ground, Island Harbour and Cove).
 - 1.6 Finalise methodology for shark citizen-science programme, and initiate with Anguillian dive operators.
 - 1.7 Complete literature review of shark-related scientific studies from within the Caribbean Basin and particularly within the Caribbean sub-region.
 - 1.8 Develop and formalise BRUVs protocol for baseline data collection.
 - 1.9 Collect baseline scientific data of shark species through the deployment of BRUVs at at least 24 sites within Anguilla's waters over two years.
 - 1.10 Analyse BRUVs footage to determine shark presence and diversity.
 - 1.11 Use BRUVs data to inform the placement of IR-enabled long-term video cameras (8 deployments).
 - 1.12 Analyse the IR-enabled camera data to determine shark presence, diversity and use shark measurements to understand population composition (percentage of adults and juveniles in the population).
 - 1.13 Develop interview questionnaire and interviewee list for CVM filmed interviews (aided by Activity 1.3).
 - 1.14 Carry out at least 30 CVM filmed interviews ensuring gender balance.
 - 1.15 Transcribe and analyse filmed interview data, write analysis summary report, and produce CVM film output.
 - 1.16 Hold at least three CVM film screenings and stakeholder workshops to present and discuss biological and social science findings from Output 1 and, using a participatory process, identify conservation action

priorities for Anguilla's sharks.

1.17 Finalise draft shark SAP in preparation for consultation at participatory action planning workshop (Activity 2.2) (aided by Activities 1.4, 1.10, 1.12, 1.15, 1.16).

1.18 Write draft manuscript for submission and peer-review.

1.19 Present project results at one international conference.

2. Evidence-based shark SAP and supporting legislative amendment recommendations are produced through a participatory process

2.1 Complete literature review of national policies, legislation, and regulations for sharks.

2.2 Plan and implement participatory action planning workshop to develop Anguilla Shark SAP.

2.3 Write up, peer-review, and publish evidence-based Anguilla Shark SAP.

2.4 Draft policy brief on status of Anguilla's sharks, requesting inclusion of relevant species on Schedule 1 of the Biodiversity and Heritage Conservation Act (Threatened and Endangered Species of Anguilla).

3. At least two priority interventions prescribed by the action plan are implemented and monitored

3.1 Hold a workshop to train local fishers on shark-bycatch reduction methods (e.g. appropriate types of fishing gear, humane release)

3.2 Identify areas that are important for foraging and/or breeding sharks within Anguilla's territorial and/or cross-territorial waters to help inform marine spatial planning and the designation of marine protected areas (using results of Output 1).

3.3 Draft proposal outlining potential sites for shark sanctuary marine protected area.

4. Enhanced national capacity to plan, manage, implement and monitor shark conservation action, supported by improved technical skills and greater public awareness and cooperation

4.1 Implement first project steering committee meeting,

4.1.1 Partners sign-off Terms of Reference.

4.2. ANT staff and other participating national partners complete self-assessment competencies questionnaire to identify training needs (repeated at project end to measure impact on capacity).

4.3 Develop and finalise draft communications and public awareness plan for project, guided by the findings of LEK and CVM.

4.3.1 Create and disseminate communication, outreach and advocacy outputs including newspaper articles, press releases, blogs, docuseries, and social media posts throughout project life-cycle.

4.4 Implement Knowledge-Attitudes-Performance (KAP) surveys with at least 50 community members in parallel with Activity 1.3 (ensuring gender balance and repeated at project end to evaluate project impact).

4.5 Plan and undertake training and on-the-job mentoring of ANT staff and other nationals in applied conservation management.

4.5.1 Design and implement two separate workshops focusing on CVM and BRUVs (monitoring and data analysis, acoustic monitoring, data/statistical analysis, Advanced Open Water Diving).

4.6 Implement training with stakeholders to support continuation of citizen science programme to support SAP monitoring efforts (see Activity 1.6).

4.7 Publicise and report on project progress, results, and lessons learned through national and international media and directly to national groups, cross-territory stakeholders, international scientific community, and the Government of Anguilla Executive Council.

Other project management activities:

X.1 Establish Project Steering Committee and meet every quarter (remote members to participate by Zoom).

X.2 Project inception meeting

X.3 Project biannual reports/donor technical and financial reports

X.4 Monthly financial accounts

X.5 End of project audit





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.

[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.

 [ASC imp-timetable V1](#)
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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](#)).

The partnership will utilise a formal M&E framework to ensure that the project remains on track, hitting milestones and delivering on key outcomes and impact. Our work will be delivered by a team of professionals with extensive experience of collaborative working and project management, who both understand the importance of M&E and have practical experience in building this into projects from the start.

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

MCS will be responsible for overall management of the M&E process with input from local Co-Leader ANT, and other partners for specific outputs and associated indicators. Continuous M&E will be carried out on a monthly basis through face-to-face project meetings between Anguilla partners led by ANT, with a Zoom connection to Amdeep Sanghera. Decisions on operational issues agreed in these meetings will be relayed

to project staff to ensure agreed output indicators are achieved.

The MCS Director of Programmes will chair quarterly project team meetings with all partners as part of the project steering committee to review progress and facilitate planning for adaptive management if and when necessary. These meetings will review the workplan and progress against the logframe, and agree any necessary changes to planned project activities, scheduling and indicators. The quarterly meetings will also address any matters and mitigate any conflicts arising. Decisions and actions from these meetings will be minuted and reported. All documents, photography and other means of verification for M&E will be sent to the Project Leader and stored securely within MCS.

Quarterly project meetings will prepare for, and sign off, the annual and half year reports to the Darwin Initiative, which will report M&E assessments against the project logframe and workplan. These meetings will also report the 6 month budget reviews completed by the Project Lead and MCS Director of Finance.

University of Exeter staff time and travel will be initially used to build local partner capacity in research methodology and analysis, and then to monitor, evaluate and advise local partners' data collection, management and analysis.

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

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

In addition to these internal processes, the Community Voice Method engagement tool, and subsequent project consultation processes will incorporate stakeholder feedback surveys. These will be used to assess project progress against plan, and participant perceptions of the project partnership performance and its activities.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)	£ [REDACTED]
Number of days planned for M&E	136.00
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)	[REDACTED]

Section 16 - Certification

Certification

On behalf of the

trustees

of

Marine Conservation Society

I apply for a grant of





£371,004.00

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	E. Nicola Spencer
Position in the organisation	Company Secretary and Director of Finance and Resources
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 Certification page  02/02/2021  14:52:39  pdf 71 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).