
DPR10S2\1035

Exploring the drivers of human-shark conflict at Ascension Island

This project will explore the drivers and solutions for an emerging human-wildlife conflict at Ascension Island, caused by increasingly regular incursions of large, Galapagos sharks into shallow, coastal waters. The project will seek to understand both the human and ecological dimensions of the problem through a combination of stakeholder interviews and applied research into the factors influencing shark distribution and behaviour. Results will be used to recommend possible mitigation strategies, informed by field trials of several non-lethal conflict reduction measures.

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title Dr
Name Sam
Surname Weber
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
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Address [REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	University of Exeter
Phone (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q3. Project title

Exploring the drivers of human-shark conflict at Ascension Island

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DPR10S1\1123

DPRS10S1\1059

Q4. UKOT(s)

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

St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha*

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

Ascension Island

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 June 2022

End date:

31 May 2024

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

2 Years

Q6. Budget summary

Year:	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total request
Darwin funding request (Apr - Mar)	£163,194.00	£105,696.00	£16,525.00	£285,415.00

Q6a. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

Project partners have committed in excess of [REDACTED] of new and existing capital equipment to support the project, representing [REDACTED] of the total capital spend. Much of this equipment will remain on-island following the project to enable longer-term studies of shark populations on Ascension Island. More than [REDACTED] in staff salaries have also been contributed in-kind, representing approximately [REDACTED] of the total salary budget, along with some [REDACTED] in shark tracking devices that will be deployed during the project. All on-island accommodation for overseas project partners will be provided in-kind by AIG (excluding utilities) at a nominal cost of [REDACTED].

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

Q6c. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you fund the project if you don't manage to secure this?

All matched funding has been confirmed (see attached Letters of Support)

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 wording may be used by Defra in communications.

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

This project will explore the drivers and solutions for an emerging human-wildlife conflict at Ascension Island, caused by increasingly regular incursions of large, Galapagos sharks into shallow, coastal waters. The project will seek to understand both the human and ecological dimensions of the problem through a combination of stakeholder interviews and applied research into the factors influencing shark distribution and behaviour. Results will be used to recommend possible mitigation strategies, informed by field trials of several non-lethal conflict reduction measures.

Q8. Environmental 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 and how? You should refer to Articles or Programmes of Work here. You should also consider local, territory specific agreements and action plans here.

Letters of support from UKOT Government partners/stakeholders should also make clear reference to the agreements/action plans your project is contributing towards.

The project focuses on building the evidence base required to inform solutions for an emerging human-wildlife conflict in the recently designated Ascension Island Marine Protected Area (MPA). It is therefore directly relevant to Strategic Objectives 1 and 2 of the Ascension Island MPA Management Plan (“Conserving Ascension Island’s marine biodiversity...” and “Supporting the sustainable development of social and economic activities”); and addresses Aichi targets 1 and 14, relating to valuing biodiversity and access to ecosystem services for well-being, respectively. In the draft Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, this translates to Target 4 (managing human-wildlife conflict), Target 9 (ensuring livelihoods of local communities), and Target 14 (integrating biodiversity values). The project also supports the recently adopted IUCN Resolution relating to human-wildlife conflict, which recognises the challenges of balancing public safety and wildlife’s needs, and calls for holistic responses “...supported by the best-available information and systematically collected and credible evidence;” which is core to the proposed project.

Section 4 - Project Partners

Q9. Project Partners

Please list all the partners involved (including the Lead Partner) 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 partner 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 and all letters of support.

Lead Partner name: University of Exeter (UoE)

Website address: <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/research/marine/>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): The University of Exeter has a long history of supporting marine research and conservation on Ascension Island dating back to the 1990’s. Project leader, Dr Sam Weber, is a marine ecologist who has been working on Ascension for the past 15 years, including five years spent employed as a conservation scientist within AIGCFD. He has previously led or managed seven Darwin Initiative funded projects on Ascension Island, focussing on topics such as sustainable fisheries, MPA planning and Galapagos shark ecology. Dr Weber will have overall responsibility for project coordination, budget management and M&E, including research planning and data synthesis. Along with the rest of the international team, Dr Weber will participate in research expeditions and provide academic supervision and mentorship for the local Project Officer (and other AIGCFD marine scientists) to help build capacity on-island for shark research.

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: Ascension Island Government Conservation and Fisheries Directorate (AIGCFD)

Website address: <https://www.ascension.gov.ac/>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): AIGCFD initially identified the need for this project and have been involved at all stages of project planning and development (see attached Letter of Support). AIGCFD will employ a local Project Officer who will be responsible for routine fieldwork, data analysis and reporting. The Project Officer will report to the AIGCFD Marine Team Leader on an operational basis, with academic supervision and support from other project partners. All members of the AIGCFD Marine Team will participate in fieldwork and have committed their time in kind to support the project. AIGCFD will provide access to vessels and laboratory facilities needed to undertake fieldwork, will lead on community engagement activities, and will oversee the development of locally appropriate mitigation strategies for addressing human-shark conflicts.

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

2. Partner Name: Zoological Society of London (ZSL)

Website address: <https://www.zsl.org/>

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

ZSL is an international conservation science charity, working in the UK and in over 50 countries around the world. Drawing on our global centre of excellence in science (Institute of Zoology), field conservation programmes and two world-leading zoos, we work with communities, environmental NGOs, the private sector, and governments, to research and promote species recovery, human-wildlife coexistence, and wild animal health.

ZSL has significant expertise in aquatic conservation science and extensive global experience of monitoring the effectiveness of marine protected areas, species-based research, and placing these disciplines in the context of human use and need. ZSL has worked with sharks in the UKOTs having carried out research on movements, impacts of fisheries and diet for several species in the British Indian Ocean Territory over the past decade. ZSL were also involved in the first shark tagging study to be carried out in Ascension Island waters. We have specific social-science expertise relating to socio-ecological issues relating to marine systems.

ZSL will support the technical design and implementation of the shark tagging work, and lead the social science elements of the project, including building capacity on-island to collect, analyse and report related data.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

3. Partner Name:

University of Windsor (UoW)

Website address:

<https://www.husseylab.com/>

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

The University of Windsor's Marine and Trophic Ecology Lab, headed by Dr Nigel Hussey, is an internationally renowned research group specialising in elasmobranch ecology and conservation. Dr Hussey has an ongoing involvement in applied marine research on Ascension and brings considerable expertise in shark biology and marine biotelemetry. Alongside the ZSL team, Dr Hussey will support the technical design and implementation of the shark behavioural research, including planning and participating in fieldwork, contributing to data analysis and interpretation, and preparing technical reports and publications. Dr Hussey will also help to train the local Project Officer (and other members of the AIGCFD Marine Team) to build capacity on-island for shark research.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

4. Partner Name:

University of Plymouth (UoP)

Website address: <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/staff/philip-hosegood>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): University of Plymouth principal investigator, Dr Phil Hosegood is a physical oceanographer with > 20 years' experience collecting and interpreting measurements from a diverse range of marine environments. Dr Hosegood will provide the specialist knowledge, skills and equipment needed to understand how Ascension's abiotic environment affects shark behaviour. This will include participating in expeditions to deploy and retrieve oceanographic equipment, leading the analysis and interpretation of physical data, and contributing to the authoring of technical reports and scientific publications. Along with the rest of the project team, Dr Hosegood will also be responsible for training and supervising the local Project Officer to ensure the smooth day-to-day running of the project.

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

5. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

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

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

6. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

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

No Response

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


Yes


No

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

No Response


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

 [DPR10S2_1035 Letters of Support](#)

 10/01/2022

 23:26:46

 pdf 1.52 MB

 [DPR10S2_1035 Response Letter](#)

 10/01/2022

 23:25:18

 pdf 204.26 KB

Section 5 - Project Staff

Q10. Project Staff

Please identify the key 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 key project 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 key project 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	Organisation	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Sam Weber	Project Leader	University of Exeter	10	Checked
Project Officer	Project Manager (see Job Description)	AIG	100	Checked
Matthew Gollock	Shark ecologist	ZSL	10	Checked

David Curnick	Shark ecologist	ZSL	15	Checked
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Do you require more fields?


Yes


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	Organisation	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Nigel Hussey	Shark ecologist	University of Windsor	10	Checked
Phil Hosegood	Oceanographer	University of Plymouth	10	Checked
Surshti Patel	Social Scientist	ZSL	17	Checked
Diane Baum	AIGCFD Director (local lead)	AIG	5	Checked
Tiffany Simpson	AIGCFD Marine Team Leader (line management of Project Officer)	AIG	10	Checked
Daniel Sadd	AIGCFD Marine Scientist (fieldwork support)	AIG	10	Unchecked
Darcy Philpott	AIGCFD Marine Scientist (fieldwork support)	AIG	10	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<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.

 [DPR10S2_1035 CVs](#)

 10/01/2022

 23:27:47

 pdf 1.66 MB

Have you attached all Project staff CVs?

No

If you cannot provide a CV or job description, please explain why not.

We are unable to attach CVs for two marine scientists within the AIGCFD who are providing their time in kind to support fieldwork activities. The involvement of these employees was confirmed at a late stage and, with competing deadlines affecting AIGCFD, there was insufficient time to obtain the necessary documents. CVs from both of the individuals in question can be supplied on request.

Section 6 - Background & Methodology

Q11. Problems the project is trying to address

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

For example, what are the specific threats to the environment that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems? How will your proposed project help?

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).

Ascension Island is surrounded by one of the world's largest marine protected areas (MPAs), which aims to conserve biodiversity while simultaneously contributing to the social and economic wellbeing of the Island's human population. Recently, however, increasing numbers of large, Galapagos sharks in shallow coastal waters have created significant conflicts with ocean users, including fishers, swimmers, and divers. Fishers have reported struggling to land catches due to large numbers of surface-active sharks, while aggressive encounters have led to safety concerns associated with diving, swimming, and other forms of ocean recreation (Annex 1). The disruption caused, along with the perceived threat to life, has led to calls for a limited cull to control the shark population. However, culls are controversial and have had varied success, especially when non-lethal options may be available. Moreover, Galapagos sharks are currently protected by local law and play vital ecological roles as the top predator in Ascension Island's inshore ecosystem. Human-shark conflicts therefore present a major dilemma for Ascension's recently designated MPA and its dual objectives of "Conserving Ascension Island's marine biodiversity..." and "Supporting the sustainable development of social and economic activities...".

Human-shark conflicts are a common problem globally and several non-lethal mitigation measures are available. However, further work is needed to inform their viability at Ascension Island. Physical shark barriers are expensive to install and maintain, particularly at remote locations like Ascension, and any benefits only accrue to specific marine users (e.g., bathers). They may also have wider ecological impacts (e.g., preventing sea turtle access to nesting beaches). Their use therefore needs to be carefully justified in terms of financial sustainability and the likely persistence of the problem. A range of low-cost electronic shark 'deterrents' are also available, but their efficacy in reducing negative interactions with recreational fisheries is unclear.

A major barrier to developing appropriate responses to Ascension's "shark problem" is that the underlying drivers are completely unknown. Anecdotally, significant incursions of large sharks into inshore waters were first observed in 2017 and have become progressively more frequent and sustained. However, whether this shift represents a short-term anomaly or a longer-term trend, and if this can be attributed to a few, 'problematic' individuals or a more systematic change in behaviour, requires investigation. Several alternative theories have been proposed, including that climate change, prey shortages and attraction to fishery discards are drawing sharks into shallow water and, hence, into conflict with people. However, these have yet to be tested, which prevents action to address underlying causes.

This project aims to provide reliable evidence to Government and stakeholders by undertaking a rigorous, scientific investigation into the socio-ecological drivers of human-shark conflict at Ascension Island. The project will characterise the nature and extent of human-shark interactions; explore underlying ecological drivers; and conduct experimental trials and feasibility studies of conflict reduction measures. Results will be shared with the community to foster a deeper understanding of shark ecology and will feed into ongoing public consultations led by AIG to find evidence-based solutions for resolving human-shark conflicts.

Q12. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and contribute towards your 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.)





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

The project will undertake four main activities that, collectively, will enable evidence-based solutions to be found for human-shark conflicts on Ascension Island:

1. Characterising human dimensions. To ensure the social context is fully understood and incorporated into project planning and implementation, a combination of semi-structured stakeholder interviews and online questionnaires will be used to gather data on public interactions with, and attitudes towards, sharks (positive and negative), perceived causes of recent increases in inshore activity, and socially-desirable responses. Interviews will be gender-balanced and consider intersectionality with other locally relevant aspects of social inclusion to ensure an approach that represents the views of Ascension's diverse community. Interviews and questionnaires will be conducted at the start of the project to establish a baseline and repeated in Year 2 to assess how perceptions have changed as a result of project activities.
2. Studying shark behaviour. Evidence of increased shark activity in nearshore waters around Ascension is currently anecdotal. To rectify this, fixed-point, time-lapse stereo cameras ('shark cams') will be installed to continuously monitor relative abundance and size of sharks at sensitive coastal locations (e.g. the Pier). Images will be uploaded to online citizen science platforms (e.g. www.zooniverse.org) enabling a crowd-based approach to image annotation and analysis. In parallel, passive acoustic telemetry will be used to track the locations and depth-use of individual Galapagos sharks over annual timescales. Telemetry data will help to establish how Galapagos sharks are distributed around the Island during periods of high/low inshore activity, and whether individuals frequenting these areas are behaving distinctively. The tracking array design will be informed by satellite tagging studies carried out during a previous Darwin Initiative-funded project (DPLUS046) to maximize coverage of potential shark habitat, including sensitive inshore locations (e.g., swimming/dive sites, Pier). This previous tracking work took place prior to recent increases in Galapagos shark activity and will therefore provide a baseline for comparing current behaviours.
3. Exploring drivers of inshore shark activity. By comparing shark activity and habitat use with a variety of ecological covariates, we will then test several theories proposed to explain recent inshore movements. These include:
 - a) Climatic/oceanographic factors. A desk-based analysis of recent oceanographic trends at Ascension will be combined with moored sensor (current and temperature) arrays and temperature-transmitting acoustic tags to explore how oceanographic conditions (e.g. current dynamics, water column structure, marine heatwaves) influence Galapagos shark behaviour. Results will be combined with local climate change projections being developed as part of another Darwin Initiative-funded project (DPLUS113) to assess whether conditions associated with increased inshore activity are becoming more frequent.
 - b) Reduced prey availability. To test the 'hungry shark hypothesis', morphological measurements (e.g. girth), ultrasound (e.g. liver size) and blood biochemistry (e.g. triglycerides, ketone bodies) will be used to compare the body condition of sharks captured in inshore/offshore areas, and during periods of high/low inshore activity. Areas in which sharks are feeding will also be identified using activity-sensing accelerometer tags.
 - c) Reproduction. To determine whether aggregations of adult sharks in inshore waters are related to mating/pupping, blood sex steroid concentrations and ultrasound assessments will be used to investigate breeding seasonality and compare the reproductive status of sharks in inshore/offshore areas.
 - d) Attraction to fishing vessels/discards. Distributional data from acoustic telemetry will help us to understand whether sharks disproportionately congregate in areas with high fishing effort and/or discards, while vessel-mounted hydrophones will allow us to directly explore interactions between tagged sharks and fishing boats.
4. Developing management recommendations. By combining data from activities 1-3 with feasibility studies and field trials of non-lethal conflict reduction measures, evidence-based recommendations will be produced to guide the development of locally-appropriate management actions. Recommendations will draw on experiences resolving aquatic human-wildlife conflict elsewhere and will consider options for both addressing underlying causes as well as reducing the likelihood of negative shark encounters. Specifically, the project will engage with manufacturers of innovative shark barrier systems to secure quotes for installation and maintenance at key bathing beaches, and undertake experimental trials of a range of electronic 'deterrent devices' aimed at reducing shark interactions with fishing vessels (e.g. SharkShield: <https://ocean-guardian.com/>; SharkGuard: <https://www.fishtekmarine.com/prevent-shark-bycatch/>). Trials will be carried out in collaboration with local fishers to compare rates of catch depredation using different devices and control treatments. Ultimately, simple changes in public attitudes may be key to diffusing human-shark conflicts, which often begins with a deeper understanding of sharks themselves. To facilitate this, project findings will be continuously shared and discussed with the Ascension community through public meetings, online and print media, helping to promote an informed public

debate.

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

 [Annex 1](#)
 10/01/2022
 21:32:48
 pdf 357.29 KB

Section 7 - Stakeholders and Beneficiaries

Q13. Project Stakeholders

Who are the stakeholders for this project and how have they been consulted (include local or host government support/engagement where relevant)? Briefly describe what support they will provide and how the project will engage with them.

The principal stakeholders in the project are the Ascension Island Government (AIG), the Island Council and local marine users; a diverse group which encompasses a substantial proportion of the Island population.

The AIG Conservation & Fisheries Directorate (AIGCFD) are on the front line in responding to challenges created by human-shark conflicts and are under pressure to provide answers and solutions. AIGCFD first identified the need for the project and have contributed to all stages of project development. A fulltime project officer will be based within the AIGCFD marine team for the duration of the project, ensuring that the work is fully embedded within the Government's wider conservation and outreach programmes.

Marine users on Ascension Island (e.g., fishers, divers, bathers) have been most directly affected by recent increases in shark activity and will be engaged throughout via a combination of stakeholder interviews, public information activities and opportunities for involvement in participatory research. Semi-structured interviews carried out at the start and end of the project will ensure that local knowledge and views are integrated into project planning and implementation. The local community will also be invited to contribute directly to project activities, including analysing 'shark cam' footage and participating in trials of vessel-mounted shark deterrents.

The elected Island Council is the main democratic institution on Ascension Island, which is responsible for making policy recommendations to the Governor. Councillors have been closely monitoring the shark situation and will be kept informed of project developments via regular briefings and Q&A sessions at council meetings.

Q14. Institutional Capacity

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

The UoE is a Russell Group research institute and a centre-of-excellence in marine conservation science. Project Leader, Dr Sam Weber, has a strong record of delivering interdisciplinary conservation and research projects on Ascension Island, where he was based for 5 years in the AIGCFD. Dr Weber has previously led Darwin-funded projects on Galapagos sharks and on building the evidence base for the Ascension MPA and is therefore well-placed to provide overall project oversight.

AIGCFD is the government body responsible for developing and implementing biodiversity policy on Ascension Island. It employs 13 staff members with expertise in marine and terrestrial biology who carry out almost all conservation activity undertaken on the island. AIGCFD have access to the facilities, local knowledge and community relationships that are essential to the success of the project.

ZSL has worked on marine conservation in the UKOTs since 2005, including in the British Indian Ocean Territory, and through the Great British Oceans coalition. Specific to this project, ZSL brings expertise on shark biology, social and behavioural science, human data collection, and human-wildlife conflict mitigation.

Dr Nigel Hussey (UoW), is an internationally renowned researcher specialising on elasmobranch ecology and conservation.

Dr Hussey has an ongoing involvement in marine research on Ascension and brings considerable expertise in shark biology and marine biotelemetry.

Dr Phil Hosegood (UoP) is an experienced physical oceanographer with a background working in tropical, oceanic systems. Dr Hosegood will contribute the specialist knowledge and equipment needed to understand how Ascension's abiotic environment influences shark behaviour.

Q15. Project beneficiaries

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

The principal beneficiaries of the work will be the Ascension Island Government (AIG) and local marine users on Ascension Island. In the short term, AIG will be able to demonstrate that public concerns regarding sharks are being taken seriously and that efforts to find solutions are underway, which will help to placate immediate calls for a cull. Social research will help to establish where the majority of public opinion lies on managing human-shark conflicts (see Q16), while ecological research will help to lift some of the uncertainty and speculation surrounding underlying drivers. Together, these outputs will help to diffuse current tensions and enable a more informed and inclusive debate on how to respond, to the benefit of all stakeholders. In the longer term, trials of non-lethal mitigation measures and improved knowledge of Galapagos shark ecology will be used to inform evidence-based management measures that allow AIG to meet its marine conservation commitments while reducing the negative impacts of sharks on local ocean users. Experiences gained during the project will also contribute to the wider field of practice on resolving human-shark conflicts, thus extending the benefits of the work beyond the local context.

Section 8 - Gender and Change Expected

Q16. Gender (optional)

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

The project does not have any specific implications for gender inequality on Ascension Island. However, there are known gender biases in interactions with the marine environment - with most fishing being carried out by men - which may affect attitudes towards sharks. The population of Ascension Island is also ethnically and culturally diverse, comprising primarily of Saint Helenian nationals, many of whom have longstanding ties to the Island, along with contracted workers and military personnel from North America and Europe who are typically present on a shorter-term basis. These different cultural backgrounds and investments in the Island have often resulted in differing attitudes towards marine conservation which are highly relevant to the current project. To ensure that the project is inclusive and that public opinion on sharks is not monopolised by specific groups, stakeholder interviews will be carefully targeted to ensure equal gender representation and inclusion of a range of nationalities, ages, and occupations.

Q17. Change expected

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

This project aims to remove the uncertainty surrounding recent increases in inshore shark activity at Ascension Island by undertaking a detailed, scientific investigation into the underlying causes and available solutions. In the short term, the local community will feel that the problem is being acknowledged and addressed in a systematic way, that their concerns and ideas are being listened to and that they are directly involved in the process. Improved knowledge of Galapagos shark distributions and behaviour will be used to test unconfirmed theories that have sometimes attributed blame to specific marine users (e.g. fishers, conservationists), resulting in a more informed and balanced debate on appropriate mitigation and management strategies. While it is possible that the (potentially complex) ecological drivers of recent shark activity will

not be fully elucidated during the lifetime of the project, at a minimum, we will be able reject unsubstantiated hypotheses and appraise a range of non-lethal mitigation options that will help to diffuse immediate calls for a cull. In the longer term, this evidence will assist AIGCFD and other stakeholders in finding solutions for human-shark conflicts that are both publicly acceptable and compatible with Ascension's highly protected marine status. While a relatively new phenomenon on Ascension during recent years, many communities worldwide have had to adjust to living alongside top predators such as sharks. Through implementing a structured scientific programme and recommending potential management options, the project will both draw from these experiences and contribute to the growing field of practice on resolving human-wildlife conflicts, thus extending the benefits of the work beyond the local context.

Q18. Pathway to change

Detail the expected changes this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who will benefit a) in the 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 approach adopted by the project can be broadly divided into four steps: define the problem; identify underlying causes; test mitigation options; recommend possible solutions. In Output 1 we first characterise the nature and extent of human-shark conflicts by establishing quantitative monitoring of inshore shark activity and fishery interactions, and combine this with public attitude surveys to assess local perceptions of the problem and its causes. In Output 2, a range of scientific methods are then used to investigate Galapagos shark distributions and behaviour and relate these to environmental and ecological drivers that have been hypothesised to explain recent inshore movements. In Output 3, non-lethal mitigation options are trialled and appraised for suitability on Ascension Island. In Output 4, the results of Outputs 1-3 are presented to stakeholders to inform debate and recommend management options that draw on experiences of resolving similar human-wildlife conflicts elsewhere. At the end of the project, a second set of attitude surveys will then be undertaken to assess how public perceptions of the problem and its solutions have changed. Collectively, these outputs aim to support the development of evidence-based solutions that allow people and sharks to coexist in one of the world's largest MPAs

Q19. 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?

The project will leave a legacy of significantly improved knowledge on the ecology of Galapagos sharks and drivers of recent inshore movements, clear advice on the efficacy and feasibility of available non-lethal mitigation measures, and concrete recommendations for taking these forward. This information (and supporting datasets) will be presented to Government in reports, non-technical summaries and/or peer-reviewed papers and will be available in perpetuity to support future management decisions. Many of the research and monitoring activities initiated during the project are also expected to be sustained in the longer term. All of the international partners involved have a long history of supporting marine conservation in the UKOTs and view the current project as a launch pad for a long-term shark research programme in the Ascension MPA, as evidenced by the large amount of capital equipment that has been committed (see Letters of Support and Q26). The methodology proposed for monitoring inshore shark activity, based on low-cost cameras and crowd-based image analysis, has also been deliberately designed to be achievable within AIG's core MPA monitoring programme. Thus, the research infrastructure established during the project and capacity building undertaken should continue to supply management- and policy-relevant information for years

Q20. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting Darwin's key principles for ethics as outlined in the guidance note. Additionally, are there any human rights and/or international humanitarian law risks in relation to your project? If there are, have you carried out an assessment of the impact of those risks, and of measures that may be taken in order to mitigate them?

As lead partner the UoE operates a strict ethics policy that seeks to promote the highest standards of scientific, scholarly and professional integrity and to give due consideration to the ethical, social and environmental issues arising from activities involving human participants and wildlife. All methodologies proposed in the project involving people and wildlife

will be subject to independent, ethical review by the UoE's Ethics Committee and conducted with appropriate permissions and research permits from Ascension Island Government, as required by law. Project partners will give due consideration to the rights, privacy and safety of individuals engaged in stakeholder interviews and follow established guidelines stipulating that researchers must secure free, prior informed consent from participants. Results of social research will be presented in summarised and anonymised forms that do not allow responses to be linked to individual participants. All invasive procedures involving live sharks will be conducted by or under the supervision of experienced researchers and with full regard to the principle of the '3Rs' (Replace, Reduce, Refine) adopted by the UK Home Office and Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour. Specifically, such procedures will only be carried out where strictly necessary to achieve goals of the project; will involve the minimum number of individuals possible to obtain robust and repeatable results, including by maximising the amount of information collected per animal; and will conform to internationally-accepted welfare standards established through decades of shark research, and refined during the project as necessary.

Section 9 - Budget, Risk Management & Funding

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 budget templates for grant requests under £100,000 and over £100,000.

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

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

Please ensure you include any co-financing figures in the Budget spreadsheet to clarify the full budget required to deliver this project.

NB: 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.

 [DPR10S11059 budget](#)
 10/01/2022
 21:12:53
 xlsx 79.8 KB

Q22. Financial Risk Management

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, bribery or corruption, but may also include the risk of fluctuating foreign exchange, delays in procurement or recruitment and internal financial processes such as storage of financial data.

All financial processes, including ensuring that funds are appropriately and verifiably spent and the resulting financial data safely stored, will be overseen by UoE's dedicated grant finance team, in compliance with relevant laws and regulations. The UoE carries out rigorous due diligence checks on all non-UK partner organisations prior to the disbursement funds, which are intended to identify and manage risks that could impact successful project delivery. In the case of the current project, the principle overseas beneficiary, AIG, is known to both UoE and the Darwin Initiative, having held numerous previous awards. Risks associated with bribery, corruption and fraud are therefore minimal. Foreign currency exchange rates are always an uncertain factor. However, the majority of costs in the current project are in GBP and are therefore unaffected. Those that are not, including consumables and capital items sourced from Canada and the USA, are based on recent quotes (January 2022) and do not represent a significant risk within the bounds of exchange rate fluctuations over

the past year. Procurement delays are a risk given Ascension's remote location and have been planned for by incorporating a minimum three month lead in period between the project start and the commencement of fieldwork.

Q23. Funding

Q23a. Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source)?

New initiative

Please provide details:

This is a new initiative that builds on previous research on Galapagos sharks at Ascension Island led by the project team. Due to the pressing need to find solutions for human-shark conflicts, Ascension Island Government have already begun exploring non-lethal mitigation options, including sourcing electronic deterrents with funding from the Blue Marine Foundation. However, these are at an early (procurement) stage and experimental trials will primarily be conducted during the project, led by the local project officer. Existing funding from Blue Marine has therefore been included as an in-kind matched contribution in the current bid.

Q23b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work?

No

Section 10 - Finance

Q24. Financial Controls

Please demonstrate your capacity to manage the level of funds you are requesting. Who is responsible for managing the funds? What experience do they have? What arrangements are in place for auditing expenditure?

The University of Exeter has a well-established Research Project Management team, systems and accounting procedures in place to manage a significant portfolio of Research grants. Darwin projects have been a consistent part of the University's Research portfolio for many years and we have staff members in the Research Finance Team who are experts in managing Darwin awards. In terms of project management, the University implement separate account codes to capture the direct project costs on a new cloud based bespoke research accounting and finance system – Technology One. All Research Projects are managed through this system, which provides budget monitoring capabilities and access to a clear audit trail to evidence defrayal of project costs. The Research teams also have significant experience of managing the external audits required of Darwin projects.

Q25. Balance of budget spend

Defra are keen to see as much Darwin Plus funding as possible directly benefiting OT communities and economies. While it is appreciated that this is not always possible every effort should be made for funds to remain in territory.

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

One of the primary motivations for this project is to provide Ascension Island Government with the additional capacity and technical expertise needed to carry out a rigorous investigation into the drivers of and potential solutions to a pressing marine conservation issue. This has necessarily involved the inclusion of salary contributions and travel budgets for international partners with access to specific technical skills and specialist equipment that are not available locally. However, these salary costs are more than offset by the value of new and existing capital equipment that has been committed by international partners to support project delivery (see Q6). International partners will also train and supervise a fulltime project officer employed within Ascension Government, ensuring that ~47 % of the total staff budget is spent locally. With the exception of some service charges (e.g. audit, shipping and open-access publishing), all other Darwin funds will either be spent on Ascension (e.g. subsistence and operating costs) or on the procurement of equipment and

consumables that will remain on-island once the project has concluded (see Q26). Overall, therefore, we estimate that 54% of Darwin contributions will be spent locally or on capital items that will become the property of the AIG.

Q26. 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.

As detailed in Q6, the bulk of the capital equipment required for this project is being contributed in-kind by AIG and international project partners. As such capital spend represents only [REDACTED] of the Darwin Plus budget, compared to [REDACTED] of the total project cost. All capital items that are purchased directly using Darwin funds will become the property of AIGCFD, helping to foster a legacy of long-term marine research and monitoring capabilities.

Q27. 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.

Several steps have been, or will be, taken to ensure value for money:

1. A substantial amount of matched funding and in-kind contributions have already been secured, amounting to almost half of the total project cost.
2. In addition to the rationale set out in Q13 and Q25, the decision to employ the Project Officer locally on Ascension Island (rather than through the Lead Partner) was in part taken to ensure lower staff costs, while continuing to benefit from the same level of international academic supervision and support. Salary for the Project Officer has been calculated based on normal AIG pay scales and is commensurate with the level of experience required.
3. Other salary contributions for international partners have been set at the minimum level necessary to obtain permission from their employing organisations to participate in the project. These costs have been more than offset by the ca. [REDACTED] of capital equipment and consumables committed by these organisations.
4. Except for highly specialised items, all capital equipment purchased using Darwin funds will be subject to at least three quotes from different suppliers, in accordance with normal UoE and AIG procurement policies.
5. T&S budgets are currently high due to international travel disruptions caused by ongoing repairs to the Island's runway and exacerbated by the COVID pandemic, which have significantly increased the cost of civilian flights to Ascension. The travel situation is expected to normalise in coming years and, if this occurs, any unspent funds will be surrendered to Darwin.

Q28. Outputs of the project and Open Access

All outputs from Darwin Plus projects should be made available on-line and free to users whenever possible. Please outline how you will achieve this and detail any specific costs you are seeking from Darwin Plus to fund this.

All raw datasets, reports and scientific publications generated by the project will be archived with the AIGCFD, in accordance with AIG's Research Permitting scheme and data sharing and management policy (<https://www.ascension.gov.ac/public-document/ascension-island-research-permit-application>). Project reports will also be available to download via the AIG website. To ensure that peer-reviewed research outputs are accessible to the international community, a specific budget for Open Access publishing has been costed into the application and all datasets linked to these publications will be made freely available on request, in accordance with journal data sharing policies. Published manuscripts will also be deposited in institutional open access repositories (e.g. <https://ore.exeter.ac.uk/repository/>) where they will be freely available in perpetuity.

Section 11 - Safeguarding

Q29. 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:

Please upload the lead partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF on the certification page.

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 project leader will be responsible for ensuring that processes are in place to recognise and respond to any safeguarding issues that arise during the project. As detailed in the attached policy document, the University of Exeter has a clear process and designated point of contact for raising safeguarding issues and all employees are required to undertake regular, mandatory training on their responsibilities and expected standards of behaviour on issues associated with safeguarding, diversity and inclusivity. In accordance with Ascension Island immigration and employment policy, all international partners and staff directly employed on the project will be required to complete a full criminal record (DBS) check before being granted a visa to travel to the Island. As local lead, AIG also operate their own rigorous child safeguarding policy and laws which will apply to the local Project Officer and all visiting researchers during periods of fieldwork on Ascension Island. AIG and UoE safeguarding policies will be circulated to all project partners prior to travelling to the Island.

Section 12 - Logical Framework





Q30. 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 – **please do not edit the template structure other than adding additional Outputs if needed as a logframe submitted in a different format may make your application ineligible**. 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.

-  [DPR10S2_1035 LOGFRAME](#)
-  10/01/2022
-  23:29:20
-  pdf 128.41 KB

Impact:

Evidence-based solutions are identified for an emerging human-wildlife conflict in one of the world's largest marine protected areas.

Outcome:

The underlying socio-ecological drivers of, and potential solutions to, human-shark conflict on Ascension Island are better understood and form the basis of evidence-based management recommendations.

Project Outputs

Output 1:

The social context of human-shark conflict on Ascension Island is characterised through a process of inclusive stakeholder engagement, ensuring that local knowledge and views are duly represented in project design and implementation.

Output 2:

Knowledge of the behaviour and distribution of Galapagos sharks on Ascension Island is significantly enhanced and is used to evaluate a range of hypotheses proposed to explain recent increases in inshore activity.

Output 3:

Field trials and fully costed feasibility studies of non-lethal conflict reduction measures are undertaken to assess their viability on Ascension Island.

Output 4:

The results of social and ecological research are openly shared and discussed with the Ascension Island community, and are used to assess the suitability of a range of mitigation options for ameliorating human-shark conflicts.

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.

- 1.1 Design and deliver semi-structured interviews with representative stakeholder groups to better understand the human dimensions of conflicts.
- 1.2 Develop and promote a simplified online questionnaire to enable broader community participation in social research.
- 1.3 Analyse interview and questionnaire data to inform project design and produce attitudinal baselines for future comparisons.

- 1.4 Gather data on catch depredation rates working in collaboration with local recreational and sports fishers.

- 2.1 Install fixed-point, time-lapse camera assemblies for monitoring shark activity at key coastal locations.
- 2.2 Analyse time-lapse imagery to quantify relative shark abundance and validate results generated from online citizen science platforms.
- 2.3 Deploy passive acoustic telemetry array and oceanographic moorings.
- 2.4 Deploy acoustic telemetry tags on Galapagos sharks.
- 2.5 Carry out monthly physiological, morphological and reproductive assessments of Galapagos sharks to assess spatiotemporal variation in body condition and breeding status.
- 2.6 Analyse ecological and oceanographic data to explain any observed variation in inshore shark activity (2.2) and rates of catch depredation (1.4).
- 2.7 Report and publish the findings of applied shark research.

- 3.1 Conduct baited camera trials of electronic deterrent devices to assess their effectiveness in repelling Galapagos sharks.
- 3.2 Deploy electronic deterrent devices on fishing vessels to establish their effectiveness at reducing catch depredation relative to experimental controls.
- 3.3 Produce fully-costed designs and associated environmental impact assessments for shark barriers at bathing beaches, engaging with manufacturers and local marine users.
- 3.4. Analyse and report the results of field trials of shark deterrents.

- 4.1 Hold public meetings on Ascension Island to present and discuss project plans and findings.
- 4.2 Disseminate and promote project activities and outputs through a range of online and print media.
- 4.3 Carry out follow-up interviews and questionnaires to assess how public attitudes and perceptions have changed relative to baselines established in (1.3).
- 4.4 Produce a non-technical report summarising project findings and setting out recommendations for mitigating human-shark conflicts.

Section 13 - Implementation Timetable

Q31. 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 Word template as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project, and upload as a PDF.


[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.

 [DPR10S2_1035 IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE](#)

 10/01/2022

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 pdf 165.06 KB

Section 14 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q32. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

Describe, referring to the Indicators, 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](#)).

Project M&E will be led by the Project Leader (50% of time) and Project Officer (10% of time) and will be carried out with reference to the specific, measurable and time-bound indicators set out in the logframe.

Progress in characterising the social context of human shark conflicts on Ascension Island (Output 1) will be assessed through numbers (and demographic representativeness) of participants in stakeholder interviews; numbers of people reached and responding to online questionnaires; and numbers of fishers engaged in participatory research. If engagement is low, public messaging and project visibility will be reviewed and refined to more effectively convey the benefits of participating. Results from social research will also be used to adapt other project activities, as required (e.g. to ensure local knowledge and priorities are adequately reflected).

Progress in furthering our understanding of Galapagos shark ecology (Output 2) will be assessed through the number of inshore monitoring sites and oceanographic moorings established; numbers of sharks tagged and sampled; number of new databases established; and the duration over which this monitoring and sampling occurs. Methodologies used in shark research will be continuously evaluated and adapted to ensure they have no significant animal welfare implications and that they are returning useable data. If any methods prove to be inappropriate, insufficient sharks are captured, or key equipment fails, all project partners will work together to find solutions that allow the project to deliver its intended outcome.

Progress in testing non-lethal solutions to human-shark conflicts (Output 3) will be assessed through the number of mitigation options successfully trialled and/or feasibility studies successfully completed. If local fishers cannot be engaged in trials of shark deterrent devices, we will explore opportunities for baited trials using vessels and equipment at AIG's disposal.

Progress in communicating project outcomes to stakeholders (Output 4) will be monitored through the number of public meetings organised, the number and variety of dissemination products created, and the completion of interim and final reports. Follow-up interviews and questionnaires will be used to evaluate whether, and how, public attitudes and perceptions have changed relative to baselines established in Y1.

The success of the project in achieving its overall Outcome will be evaluated through feedback received on reports and non-technical manuscripts submitted to local stakeholders (AIG, Island Council), subject matter specialists (IUCN Human-Wildlife Conflict Task Force and Shark Specialist Group) and peer-reviewed journals. Feedback will be used to adapt and improve end products to ensure that they meet with local needs and expectations, are scientifically robust, and are consistent with the latest international best practice. The project will therefore benefit from significant external evaluation in addition to that carried out by the project team.

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

██████████

Number of days planned for M&E

█

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

█

Section 15 - Lead Partner Track Record

Q33. Lead Partner track record

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
DPLUS133	S. Weber	Streamlining Ascension Island's marine turtle monitoring programme for long-term sustainability
26-014	K. Metcalfe / B.J. Godley	Empowering Ivorian coastal communities to conserve biodiversity and secure livelihoods
23-012	A.C. Broderick / A. Nuno	Improving marine biodiversity and livelihoods of coastal communities in Principe
23-011	B.J. Godley / K. Metcalfe	Transforming marine resource management in the Republic of Congo
No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts?

If yes, please upload these on the certification page. Note that this is not required from Government Agencies.

Yes

Section 16 - Certification

Certification

On behalf of the

company

of

University of Exeter

I apply for a grant of





██████████

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	Sam Weber
Position in the organisation	Lecturer in Marine Biology
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 signature  10/01/2022  17:06:24  jpg 2.33 KB
Date	10 January 2022

Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF.

 [UoE Safeguarding framework](#)
 10/01/2022
 17:06:49
 pdf 113.53 KB

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

 UoE Accounts 2019 2020  10/01/2022  21:08:16  pdf 1.93 MB	 UoE Accounts 2020 2021  10/01/2022  21:08:16  pdf 1.6 MB
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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 Partner 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 Partner, 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 Partner, 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 the Darwin Plus website.	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 partner, 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).