

# **DPR10S2\1003**

## **Turning the Tide on Plastic Pollution: Ascension and St Helena**

This project will replicate and scale an effective intervention to tackle systemic drivers of plastic pollution in St Helena and Ascension, contributing to environmental conservation, particularly benefitting the ocean and key wildlife species by 2025.

This project will:

- Research the impact of plastic pollution on wildlife, and develop, implement, test and evaluate appropriate mitigation strategies.
- Trial innovative solutions and interventions; and create conditions for island stakeholders to reduce single-use plastic (SUP) use.
- Improve associated waste management efficiency.

## PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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Title Ms  
Name Monica  
Surname Wrobel  
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]  
Email (Work) [REDACTED]  
Address [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## CONTACT DETAILS

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Name Fiona  
Surname Llewellyn  
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]  
Email [REDACTED]  
Address [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
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## Section 1 - Contact Details

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### PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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Title Ms  
Name Monica  
Surname Wrobel  
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]  
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### CONTACT DETAILS

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Name Fiona  
Surname Llewellyn  
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]  
Email [REDACTED]  
Address [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### GMS ORGANISATION

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

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## Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

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### Q3. Project title

Turning the Tide on Plastic Pollution: Ascension and St Helena

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

DPR10S1\1014

### 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 and St Helena

**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 May 2022

**End date:**

31 March 2025

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

2 years, 11 months

**Q6. Budget summary**

Year:	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total request
Darwin funding request (Apr - Mar)	£162,026.00	£167,267.00	£169,941.00	£ 499,234.00

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

Yes

**What matched funding arrangements are proposed?**

The total secured matched funding is [REDACTED]. ZSL and Ascension Island Government (AIG) secured [REDACTED] from the John Ellerman Foundation for project staff (UK and Ascension) and research in Ascension to complement this project (2022-2023). ZSL secured matched funding of [REDACTED] from the Bertarelli Foundation [1], for technical input from complementary research in the Indian Ocean. Project partners have pledged in-kind staff contributions: AIG [REDACTED]; St Helena Government [REDACTED]; University of Cape Town [REDACTED]; and St Helena National Trust [REDACTED] Blue Marine Foundation [REDACTED] AIG will part-cover accommodation costs [REDACTED]; University of Cape Town will cover travel/subsistence costs [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?**

There is only [REDACTED] of unconfirmed matched funding for refillable bottle sponsorship.

**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 replicate and scale an effective intervention to tackle systemic drivers of plastic pollution in St Helena and Ascension, contributing to environmental conservation, particularly benefitting the ocean and key wildlife species by 2025.

This project will:

- Research the impact of plastic pollution on wildlife, and develop, implement, test and evaluate appropriate mitigation strategies.
- Trial innovative solutions and interventions; and create conditions for island stakeholders to reduce single-use plastic (SUP) use.
- Improve associated waste management efficiency.

## 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.**

Through the activities, outputs and outcomes detailed in this application, this project contributes to numerous local, national, and international conventions, treaties, and agreements.

The Ascension Marine Protected Area (MPA) management plan [1] identifies litter as a significant threat to MPA natural features. Operational objective 1d states ‘...monitoring, regulation and management regime effectively tackles all known threats to inshore ecosystems’. Monitoring plastic pollution is included in the Ascension MPA Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Strategy, [2] and litter clearance is a priority management action in the MPA management plan.

AIG's Business Plan includes the goal of ‘...continued implementation of the Waste Management Strategy and introduction of a ban on certain SUPs, including adoption of appropriate legislation’ (Director of Conservation, AIG). This project will deliver the primary aims of the Ascension Waste Management Strategy, by reducing waste on-island and protecting the environment from its impacts, prioritising education and engagement of the local community.

Similarly in St Helena it will directly contribute to the Goal, ‘Altogether Greener’ that focuses on ‘...the preservation of land wildlife, marine and built heritage, and strives to utilise renewable power and technology to deliver greener social economic outcomes including better management of waste’ [3]. The St Helena Sustainable Economic Development Plan 2018 – 2028 (SEDP) [4] prioritises a circular economy approach to optimise use of island resources, also reflected in the St Helena Waste Management Implementation Plan [5].

At the broader level, the UKOT 2014 Joint Ministerial Council communiqué [6] encourages and supports Territories to develop waste management strategies. This project will also contribute to the UK government's Blue Belt programme, which works with UKOTs to enhance protection and management of their marine environments, including managing human impacts and improving scientific understanding [7].

The UK's 25 Year Environment Plan [8] aims to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste by 2042, and significantly reduce and prevent all marine plastic pollution.

Internationally, the project contributes to:

- CBD; first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework [9] includes ‘eliminating the discharge of plastic waste’.
- SDG14.1: ‘By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds (land-based activities and marine debris

pollution).

- Convention on Migratory Species; Resolution on Marine Debris [10]: ‘...concerted effort needs to be made in upstream locations and estuaries and other systems where marine debris can enter the marine and coastal environment and impact upon migratory species listed under the Convention’. Specifically, a decision at CoP13 – 13.70 notes a Hawksbill Action Plan should be developed by CoP14 [11].
- International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) [12]: ‘prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships from operational or accidental causes’.
- London Convention and Protocol [13]; promotes the effective control of all sources of marine pollution.
- Proposed global treaty on plastics [14]; a priority for the UN in 2022 and is tabled for discussion at the Environment Assembly in February 2022.
- Agreements at CoP26 (Glasgow, 2021) integrated the ocean, and action to tackle plastic pollution, into the workings of UNFCCC.

## Section 4 - Project Partners

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### 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:** Zoological Society of London

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

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

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) is an international conservation science charity, working in the UK and in over 50 countries around the world for a future where wildlife can thrive.

ZSL’s Marine and Freshwater Programme has extensive global experience of securing and improving marine biodiversity and livelihoods through community-based interventions and management of marine protected areas (MPAs), species conservation, and taking a systems change approach to plastic pollution. This is achieved through collaborative working to identify threats, design locally relevant management plans, increase implementation capacity, and improve livelihoods, with outcomes underpinned by sound science. ZSL has worked in the UKOTs for over 20 years and has helped to deliver four Darwin Plus projects (BIOT 19-027, Pitcairn 20-006, Ascension DPLUS046, BIOT DPLUS090 (current) Spikey Yellow Woodlouse (DPLUS025) ZSL partnered with SHNT in 2014 to 2017). ZSL also manages the Bertarelli Programme in Marine Science in BIOT [15].

ZSL will oversee the design, management, and delivery of this project, coordinating communications between project partners, providing technical and scientific direction, particularly focusing on the systems change approach, policy development, community engagement, and plastic pollution expertise.

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

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

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

Yes

**1. Partner Name:** St. Helena National Trust (SHNT)

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**Website address:** <http://www.trust.org.sh/>

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**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):** The St Helena National Trust (SHNT) was founded in 2002 to conserve and protect the unique and internationally significant built, cultural, and natural heritage of St Helena. Through evidence based pro-active management, strategic partnerships, and collaboration, SHNT is the leading conservation organisation in St Helena. SHNT is a membership-based charity that is regulated by Ordinance and governed by a board of trustees.

SHNT's marine conservation programme was established in 2018 in partnership with the Blue Marine Foundation. The Trust recently adopted its new 5-year strategy [16] with priority areas including whale shark monitoring, advocating for sustainable use of marine resources, and ensuring our Marine Protected Area makes genuine conservation gains.

SHNT is currently a delivery partner for large-scale projects with Blue Marine Foundation, John Ellerman Foundation, and RSPB, and has delivered several Darwin Plus projects: DPLUS107 and DPLUS104 (active), DPLUS040, DPLUS025, community forests.

SHNT will be responsible for in-territory project design, management, and delivery, including research, fieldwork and community engagement and outreach; working closely with ZSL.

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

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**2. Partner Name:** St. Helena Government

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**Website address:** <https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/>

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**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):** (Max 200 words) 134

The Environmental Management Division (EMD) forms part of the Environment, Natural Resources and Planning Portfolio (ENRP) within the St Helena Government (SHG). EMD is responsible for the creation, implementation and monitoring of environmental policy and regulation, and provides advisory services. Day to day activities include fieldwork, laboratory work, data analysis, report writing and awareness raising on all aspects of environmental management to feed into wider island decision making.

EMD is also responsible for all waste management operations on the island and is pro-actively seeking ways in which to deliver sustainable solutions for waste minimisation and landfill reduction.

EMD's role in the project will mainly include facilitating in-territory policy direction, and guidelines for reduction in the use of SUP.

SHG is currently delivering DPLUS099, DPLUS103 and has previously successfully managed DPLUS059 (marine, terrestrial conservation, environmental protection).

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

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**3. Partner Name:** Ascension Island Government

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

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

The Ascension Island Government (AIG) is the only organisation undertaking biodiversity protection on the island. Its Conservation and Fisheries Directorate (CFD) employs a team of 21 people and is responsible for managing the island's protected areas and species. AIG is also responsible for the management of all civilian waste on the island and would lead on drafting any new legislation or policy relating to the sale or disposal of plastic.

AIG's role in this project will be to provide in-territory project direction including coordination of engagement and outreach work in Ascension and input into Government policy-making process. AIG will host MSc students and assist with the collation of existing data on plastic pollution impacts and collection of new data through fieldwork and attitude surveys.

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

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**4. Partner Name:** Exeter University

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

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**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):** The Centre for Ecology and Conservation is a world-leading department within the University of Exeter. The department is a centre of excellence for studying conservation and environmental management related topics, with a number of academics being UK-based OT experts and globally renowned within the field of marine plastics and conservation.

Dr Nicola Weber within the Education and Scholarship team will recruit and supervise 2 x MSc students in Y1 and Y2 of the project from the very well subscribed MSc programmes MSc Marine Vertebrate Ecology and Conservation/MSc Conservation Science and Policy. Dr Weber was formerly Head of Conservation for AIG and worked closely with colleagues in St Helena so will provide research and logistical support more widely through these projects as well as direct supervision of the students. The students will be part of Dr Nicola Weber and Dr Sam Weber's Research Group, who is also heavily involved in current research on Ascension Island. The students will also benefit from the guidance of Dr Brendan Godley and Dr Sarah Nelms, marine plastics experts, through their membership of the University's Marine Vertebrate Research Group which meets every 2 weeks.

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

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**5. Partner Name:** Plymouth University

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**Website address:** <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/research/marine-biology-and-ecology-research-centre/plastics-in-the-marine-environment>

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

The mission of the International Marine Litter Unit at the University of Plymouth is to further our understanding of the impacts of litter on the environment and society, and to identify the solutions and the pathways necessary to achieve them. The team stand at the forefront of research in this area, with a diverse range of expertise ranging from ecotoxicology to chemistry, to psychology and social science. In 2004 our team was the first to reveal the widespread occurrence of microscopic particles of plastic debris at the sea surface and on shorelines – pieces which we described as microplastics. We have published numerous scientific papers and reports on this topic, have advised governments and international organisations worldwide and we continue to research not only the extent of the problem, but also the solutions.

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

Yes

**6. Partner Name:**

University of Cape Town

**Website address:**

<https://www.uct.ac.za/>

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

The University of Cape Town (UCT) is the leading university in Africa. The FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology is a research and post-graduate education institution housed within UCT's Department of Biological Sciences. Its mission is to undertake scientific studies involving birds that contribute to maintaining biological diversity and the sustained use of biological resources. The Institute was identified as a national Centre of Excellence by the Department of Science and Technology and the National Research Foundation in 2004. It has an enviable reputation for the quality of its research, placing UCT as joint third for ornithology in the inaugural subject rankings by the Centre for World University Rankings in 2017.

UCT will be represented in this project by Prof. Peter Ryan, who has a long-standing interest in marine plastics. He has been monitoring plastics in seabirds around southern Africa since conducting his MSc on the topic in the 1980s. He will collaborate with Dr Maelle Connan from Nelson Mandela University. Since 2017, they have worked together to study plastic-wildlife interactions and to infer the origins of marine litter in the region. The work planned within this project will complement and expand the outcomes of this research.

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

Yes

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

Partner: Nelson Mandela University

Web address: <https://www.mandela.ac.za/>

Details: Nelson Mandela University is a dynamic South African university offering professional and vocational courses in various fields. The inauguration of the Ocean Sciences Campus in September 2017 highlights the commitment of the university to strengthen training and research on marine and coastal ecosystems to ensure sustainable development of

the Blue Economy in South Africa and further afield.

Nelson Mandela University will be involved in this project through the involvement of Research Fellow Dr Maelle Connan. She co-led, together with Prof. Peter Ryan (University of Cape Town), a South African National Antarctic Programme (2018-2020) looking at the interactions of plastics with wildlife and origins of marine plastic litter at various sites of the Southern Ocean including at the Tristan da Cunha islands. This led to various on-going plastic related research projects on the South African coast. The work planned within the Darwin Plus project will complement and expand the outcomes of their SANAP project. Dr Connan will bring her expertise in marine predators and plastic research.

Letter of support attached.

Partner: BLUE Marine Foundation

website: [www.bluemarinefoundation.com](http://www.bluemarinefoundation.com)


Details: The Blue Marine Foundation (BLUE) has funded the Marine Team of SHNT for a number of years, and we are committed to continuing this agreement for some time into the future. Through this arrangement we will look to assist the aspiration of SHNT to bring the issue of marine plastic pollution to the forefront of the public consciousness in St Helena and support the Marine Team in the efforts to clean the beaches and prevent further impacts. The impact of plastic pollution on the marine environment via 'ghost gear', lost or abandoned fishing aggregating devices, or any human and land-based source is a key concern of BLUE.


Our role in the project will be to bring the considerable experience we have from working in Ascension and St Helena, through our staff who have both extensive knowledge and experience of the locations as well as marine plastic pollution through numerous years of work and study. Our team that will work on this project have published papers and books regarding Ascension Island and also marine plastic pollution. Our input will be provided through participation in the project steering group, providing proactive expertise and advice as and when needed, UK influence, our links to wider UKOT networks, as well as on-island interaction.

Letter of support attached.


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


 [ZSL submission cover letter](#)

 10/01/2022

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 pdf 273.26 KB

 [ZSL letters of support combined](#)

 10/01/2022

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 pdf 2.6 MB

## 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?
Fiona Llewellyn	Project Leader	ZSL	50	Checked
Shauna Jordan	Project manager in UK	ZSL	50	Checked

Surshti Patel	Community-led conservation specialist	ZSL	50	Checked
Heather Koldewey	Marine Specialist	ZSL	5	Checked

**Do you require more fields?**


Yes


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	Organisation	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Helena Bennett	Director of SHNT	St Helena National Trust	5	Checked
To be hired	Head of Marine Conservation, SHNT	SHNT	25	Checked
To be hired	Project manager in St Helena	SHNT	100	Checked
To be hired	Project support officer in St Helena	SHNT	100	Checked
Darcy Philpott	Project Manager in Ascension	AIG	20	Checked
Terri Clingham	Environment Officer – Risk Management	SHG	5	Checked
Peter Ryan	Marine plastic specialist	University of Cape Town	5	Checked
Maelle Connan	Marine predator specialist, plastic analyses and origins	Nelson Mandela University	20	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.**

 [CVs and JDs combined - reduced file size](#)

 10/01/2022

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 pdf 5.45 MB

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

Yes

## Section 6 - Background & Methodology

### Q11. Problems the project is trying to address

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

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

**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).**

This project will co-deliver a targeted programme to address the impacts of plastic pollution on the biodiversity of St Helena and Ascension and protect key species. Interventions will benefit and empower communities to take action to protect their environment. Findings will be embedded in Territory policy and practices.

St Helena and Ascension are custodians of vast ocean estates. The 889,916 km<sup>2</sup> of combined MPAs teem with wildlife, including endangered whale sharks, critically endangered hammerheads, seabirds, turtle nesting populations, and endemic plants and invertebrates found nowhere else on earth.

Plastic pollution is widely recognised as one of the biggest threats to the ocean [17] - over 700 marine species are negatively impacted [18], including some present in Ascension and St Helena. This project will tackle both extrinsic plastic arriving on their shores; and that leaking into the environment from the islands.

The marine and coastal environments of St Helena and Ascension suffer pervasive impacts of plastic pollution, affecting their recreational value. St Helena fell victim to the 2017 Durban nurdle spill, contaminating beaches and threatening wildlife, including whale sharks and devil rays – key species for local ecotourism. By monitoring, analysing and characterising sources of plastic pollution and its threats to wildlife using existing methodologies [19, 20], we will mitigate these through targeted interventions and cleaning strategies.

AIG, SHG and SHNT have surveyed and cleaned their beaches, however, restricted capacity and resource have prevented strategic and regular monitoring, resulting in limited understanding of environmental, economic, and social impacts of plastic pollution.

With limited infrastructure, both islands face significant waste management challenges. SUP has been identified as a particular challenge as they must presently import most food and drink packaged in SUP. While tap water is potable, other barriers, e.g. taste, drive islanders towards bottled water. Most plastic is buried in landfill in St Helena, while in Ascension it is burnt. Both practices negatively impact natural environments, with some common items being littered, contributing to the issue of pollution.

Socioeconomics is known by the local partners to be a big driver of SUP use on the islands. Plastic is often cheaper, easily available, and convenient to use. With high living costs, wages low, and people struggling to meet daily needs, retailers and consumers cannot currently afford higher-cost non-plastic alternatives.

Tackling plastic pollution sits at the intersection of environmental health and social justice, requiring sustainable, locally-appropriate, community-based approaches. Previous Darwin funding has progressed simple waste management and recycling, but systemic intervention is needed to drive sustainable change. A system diagnosis of both islands will be carried out and we will pilot tailored interventions in St Helena, while laying foundations for future action in Ascension.

This project aligns with Round 10 Darwin Plus priorities:

- Design/implementation of waste management strategies, focusing on plastics.
- Increasing effectiveness/condition of protected areas through the reduction and mitigation of marine plastic pollution.

It has strong buy-in and collaboration with Territory governments. Practical conservation work will deliver real benefits on the ground, enhancing in-territory capability to deliver environmental projects.

## **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)**

ZSL is currently leading #OneLess [21], a collaborative, systems change initiative to eliminate SUP bottled water in London, using a values-based approach to communication [27]. ZSL is also leading a project to reduce the impacts of plastic on the natural environment of BIOT (2018 – 2022; DPLUS090). Interventions across both projects have targeted drinking water infrastructure, negative perceptions of tap water, sustainable packaging alternatives, and introduced best-practice guidelines for beach/river cleans.

This project will build on these initiatives, using a solid evidence base, alongside proven tools and methodologies. It will also build on previous work in the Territories, including the SHG/SHNT DEFRA-funded project to address the management of plastic waste in St Helena and reduce marine debris [22]; the BLUE #morefishlessplastic initiative (2016/2017) in St Helena; AIG's systematic beach clean survey (2017-2019); and AIG's project to develop a waste management strategy for Ascension (ref: DPLUS047), which considered options for improved waste management and recycling (concluded that due to difficulties of recycling plastic at small scales, the best option was burning), but did not consider upstream measures to reduce plastic imports.

Project partners Exeter and Plymouth Universities have world leading plastic pollution and wildlife research centres; and Cape Town and Nelson Mandela Universities have led parallel and regionally important work in Tristan da Cunha [23,24,25,26].

The learnings from all the above have been fed into the development of this proposal and will form a crucial part of the baseline data, systems diagnosis, and project approach.

There is no single solution to plastic pollution; but systems change approaches hold promise for real and long-lasting change; shifting communities to more sustainable practices [27]. As demonstrated by existing ZSL initiatives, this is both practical and achievable.

A systems change approach will provide an understanding of the SUP situation on both islands, leading to evidence-based opportunities for intervention and action that can be trialled and integrated into long-term policy and procedure. Systems change methodologies have both immediate and longer-term benefits, addressing causes as well as symptoms: working to prevent future plastic pollution, while recognising and mitigating the immediate threat to biodiversity. The project will be underpinned by a values-led ocean narrative that seeks to connect people to the ocean and better communicate its value; an approach that has proved effective in London (#OneLess) and BIOT.

Co-development and local ownership will be key, building in long-term viability of interventions/solutions. The interventions identified by the system diagnosis will be trialled in St Helena as part of this project, while laying the foundations for future work in Ascension.

Encompassing both Territories will allow for more rapid progress, cross-pollination of ideas, and shared learnings. While expertise and experience sit within the project team, creation of a UKOTs Plastics Steering Group will facilitate knowledge sharing and drive replication and scaling of approaches and solutions for tackling plastic pollution in other UKOTs.





This project will develop a systemic understanding of marine plastic pollution (composition and pathways) affecting biodiversity; build a holistic understanding of land-based plastic to reduce SUP imports and usage; and identify and implement opportunities and solutions for change that include mitigation measures for wildlife, as well as alternative policies, practices and behaviours to reduce and tackle the impact of plastic pollution in the communities and environments of St Helena and Ascension.

Our collaborative approach will combine local knowledge and expertise from SHNT, SHG and AIG, with technical direction, coaching, and overall project delivery led by ZSL. There will be a strong focus on knowledge-sharing, capacity building, and skills transfer, e.g. in systems diagnosis techniques, both to achieve project objectives, and for the development of in-territory partner organisations. SHNT, AIG and SHG will be crucial in managing in-territory coordination and laying foundations for sustainable impact on both islands.

In summary, responsibilities will be;

- Academic partners to recruit/supervise MSc students and collect/analyse reliable data in a way that is sensitive to the needs of the Territories, leaving copies of all databases in the Territories.
- In-territory partners to lead community outreach, shoreline and biodiversity monitoring, stakeholder engagement;workshop facilitation with support from ZSL.
- ZSL to lead systems change approach, including diagnosis and mapping methodologies, incorporating tools, e.g. Iceberg Model and Multi-level Perspective Framework [28].
- Pilot interventions to be co-delivered and evaluated by ZSL with in-territory partners.
- ZSL to co-develop mitigation strategy for wildlife in collaboration with all partners and work to embed recommendations into policy and legislative change.
- SHG and AIG to lead on development, consultation and implementation of new policy/legislation with direction/input from ZSL and SHNT.

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

- 
-  [References](#)
  -  10/01/2022
  -  19:46:29
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## Section 7 - Stakeholders and Beneficiaries

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### 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.**

Both SHG's Director of ENRP and Environmental Risk Manager (responsible for Waste Management Services) were engaged throughout project design to ensure goals are aligned and sustainable. SHNT and ZSL have also consulted SHG's Marine and Fisheries Conservation Section (responsible for managing a healthy marine environment and implementing relevant policy and guidelines), Sustainable Development and Environmental Health Sections, and SHG's Social Policy Planner. In addition, other SHG stakeholders involved in the project will include St Helena's Ministers (responsible for approval of policy and reform of legislation) and the Education Directorate for support with school outreach.

AIG has consulted with and secured support of the AIG Administrator, Policy Officer (current lead on reducing SUP on island) and Crown Counsel – all of whom are required in drafting and consulting on policy or legislative changes. Additional stakeholders will include Ascension Island Council, whose elected members must recommend any policy or legislative change, and AIG Director of Operations and Waste Team Manager, who will be key to implementing changes in management of plastic waste.

We will also engage the following stakeholders once the project has commenced:

- Communities of St Helena and Ascension during the system diagnosis process.
- CONNECT - St Helena's water supplier - to ensure maintenance of public fountains.
- Local importers/retailers of SUPs.
- SHAPE, a local charity that partnered with SHNT on a DEFRA plastics project due to an interest in recycling and reusing plastic materials.
- St Helena Research Institute for research permits.
- Blue Belt programme representatives.

### Q14. Institutional Capacity

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

The team is overseen by Matt Gollock (experienced in species conservation and policy) with technical input from Heather

Koldewey, a world leader in plastics, and Surshti Patel (social and behavioural technical specialist). ZSL's global portfolio of marine conservation work includes innovative and award-winning initiatives to tackle the impacts of plastic waste e.g. Net-Works [29] (Philippines, Cameroon), Project Ocean [30] and #OneLess [20].

Project Lead, Fiona Llewellyn, co-founded #OneLess in 2016, is experienced in systems change approaches to conservation challenges, and oversees marine conservation projects as Senior Project Manager. Fiona leads ZSL's input to the Great British Oceans Coalition [31], including the Blue Belt Programme, and is a member of the Marine CoLABoration [32]. Project Manager, Shauna Jordan, manages #OneLess and brings a wealth of knowledge in waste management, systems change approaches, and project management techniques.

They have co-delivered #OneLess; a highly collaborative conservation project, partnering with universities, local government, retailers, popular public spaces, and innovators to tackle plastic pollution. #OneLess has eliminated 9 million SUP items; dispensed 900,000 refills from new drinking fountains; and removed 135,000 bottles from the River Thames. Their experience and knowledge will directly inform this project and be adapted to context in St Helena and Ascension.

Island-based partners, SHNT, SHG, and AIG, hold an excellent understanding of island logistics, politics, and communities, with proven effective in-territory stakeholder management and a strong remit for terrestrial and marine conservation. They will engage all relevant personnel and support with the incorporation of project results into sustainable conservation management in-territory.

## 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.**

Wildlife species that are most vulnerable to negative impacts of plastic pollution will benefit from the implementation of a mitigation strategy and recommendations embedded within island policy.

Local communities will benefit economically from cheaper alternatives to drinking bottled water, e.g. public refill stations, and from the introduction of an innovative sustainable business model. This will empower islanders to make informed consumer choices, providing opportunities to make an active, positive impact on the environment without being hampered by socioeconomical constraints. School children will also be supplied free refillable water bottles and educated about the impacts of plastic pollution on wildlife.

Local governments will experience reduced pressure on waste management systems and limited landfill capacity.

A reduction in plastic litter will improve the environment, and enhance the experience of engaging with nature, benefiting tourists and the tourism sector alike (in-line with St Helena's SEPD and Waste Management Plan).

Through a UKOTs Plastic Steering Group established by this project, other UKOTs will learn from and gain exposure to tried and tested interventions for tackling plastic pollution. This will create opportunities for replication and scaling of successful approaches, benefiting wildlife, marine ecosystems, and local communities across the UKOTs.

## Section 8 - Gender and Change Expected

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### 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?**

Contributing to reducing gender imbalance in research, this project team is predominantly female, including early-mid career female scientists, technical and coordination/management staff.

49% of St Helena's 4,439 residents are female [33].



We will:

- Consider intersectionality throughout.
- Ensure participation is not restricted by gender/social characteristics - e.g., use formal and informal channels (e.g. snowball sampling) to recruit participants; work with local facilitators to reduce desirability bias.
- Consider and address potential bias from social structures - e.g., recruiting focus groups, engaging facilitators trained in recognising power imbalance issues, e.g. halo effect [34].
- Ensure tools and study locations suited to participants - e.g., hold engagement activities in locally appropriate, accessible locations.
- Request optional information on gender and other social characteristics within surveys.
- Regularly monitor/evaluate methods and outputs, and actively work to ensure no harm arises - e.g., track/control participants' gender distribution throughout project activities to ensure equitable opportunity for participation.

We are aware of St Helena social structures that may affect participant representativeness and data accuracy; this project will expand that knowledge. E.g. St Helena's old age dependency ratio (41%) is the world's second-highest; 26% of the population is 65+presenting significant challenges to delivering public services.

## 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 will identify, manage, and reduce the impact of plastic on the marine environments of St Helena and Ascension.

Marine litter data will inform a pilot mitigation plan to alleviate plastic impacts on key species. The results will inform a long-term strategy for both islands, contributing to their MPA management plans.

In the short-term, transitioning from SUP water bottles, and other 'problem items', towards refilling/reusing behaviours will reduce reliance on imports, waste, and stress on the management systems. Community engagement in island sustainability will be increased through participation in beach surveys/clean-ups, and by co-developing interventions.

Establishing sustainable business models that utilise local resources and reduce SUP will boost St Helena's economy through innovative income models for nationals. Cost-effective and sustainable alternatives to SUP will avoid high importation tax and enable islanders and tourists to make informed consumer choices such that imports of this plastic are reduced by 30%. This will also reduce stress on the environment.

We aim to catalyse governments (UKOTs and FCDO) to invest in more sustainable approaches/practices with associated policies and legislation that support improved use and disposal of SUP. This will result in the increased lifespan of landfills and the reduction of land-based plastic leakage into the marine environment, boosting ocean health and mitigating risk of entanglement and ingestion by wildlife.

This project provides an exciting opportunity to implement scaling and replication, built on evidence, to address plastic pollution. With these Territories adding to the portfolio of how to tackle the issue of plastic pollution, we will seek to expediate the scaling and replication of solutions and approaches that are appropriate to small island nations, with a particular focus on the UKOTs and their unique challenges, enabling change by building conservation capacity and catalysing scaling of impact.

## 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.**

This project will improve efficiency in plastic waste management in St Helena and Ascension, and contribute to the elimination of harmful impacts of marine plastic on local wildlife, increasing ocean resilience, and driving broader impact across other UKOTs.

The application of a collaborative systems change approach, will enable us to address marine plastic pollution in St Helena and Ascension holistically; identifying the barriers to change and opportunities for action (Output 1), and trialling tailored interventions and embedding new policies that will support island stakeholders to drive change (Output 2).

We will build an understanding of the volume, composition, and accumulation rates of plastic pollution on their shores through one annual cycle. These baseline data will enable informed mitigation activities to reduce negative impacts on marine wildlife (Output 3), and will be submitted to the global, open access Marine Debris Tracker database, contributing to standardised monitoring efforts, global knowledge, and policy development.

Output 4 will specifically look to amplify the results of the project in the international setting and establish a framework where information and learnings can be shared in a way that empowers other UKOTs to address these issues.

## 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?**

We draw on experience from the strategic closure of #OneLess in London, which embedded systemic change through policy change, infrastructure, business engagement and resurfacing ocean values. This, and a suite of resources, including a roadmap for London, will inform this project.

Project outputs will be embedded into island operations, resulting in a sustained reduction in the impact of plastic on wildlife and communities. This will provide a model for procurement decisions and economic activity, offering the possibility of island-scale change in SUP use.

This project aligns with SHG's Waste Management Implementation Plan (2020-2027) [4], the Island 10 Year Plan [3], and Waste Management Policy [35]; and findings/outcomes will be embedded in future action where appropriate/possible. It will also contribute to AIG's MPA management plan.

The sustainable business model will help overcome opportunity costs and build social capital within communities.

Project findings/outcomes will support implementation of SHNT's strategy 2021-2026 [15], which advocates the proactive management of threats to St Helena's built, cultural and natural heritage. The sustainable management of plastic waste will remain a priority for SHNT.

Embedding project findings/outcomes into these existing strategies and plans will help to ensure the long-term sustainability and value of this project.

## 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?**

From the design phase, this project involved all key stakeholders, including representatives of AIG, SHG, and SHNT. Throughout the project we will ensure equal access to information, benefit-sharing, and participation in decisions, valuing traditional knowledge and local culture. Data-sharing will also happen in securing relevant research, and biological sample permits, and academic partners will secure Animal Ethics clearance for biological samples.

Project activities will begin by introducing the project and its ethical principles, to be further reflected in an MOU with the partners. All research will require Free, Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) from the target communities and will explain the project's aims and data confidentiality. Respondents and participants will have the opportunity to opt-out of surveys and workshops. All staff will receive ethical data collection training prior to the fieldwork, ensuring there are no adverse effects on any community members and project interventions are equitable and gender-sensitive.

ZSL has rigorous in-house protocols for ethical approval, adhering to international commitments for human rights and biodiversity, and an excellent track record for meeting the legal and ethical obligations of the UK government. The project will have a full risk assessment (with AIG and SHNT's help in incorporating local conditions) to ensure any risks and negative impacts on communities or biodiversity are mitigated and reported.

SHNT, SHG and ZSL all have robust governance frameworks, including annual performance and financial reports (ZSL to the Charity Commission, SHNT and SHG to the Legislative Council and Public Accounts Committee) and external audits.

## Section 9 - Budget, Risk Management & Funding

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### Q21. Budget

**Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet, which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet. Note that there are different 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.**

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 [ZSL submitted budget stage 2](#)  
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### 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.**

ZSL has long-term experience implementing projects in UKOTs, including managing financial risks. ZSL follows strict segregation of duties policies; regularly reviews bank and cash reconciliations; and monitors expenditure with unique grant codes.

ZSL has a Fraud, Corruption, and Anti-Bribery Policy and a Global Whistleblowing Policy, binding on all staff and partners, reviewed regularly, and available for partners to implement or adapt. Training on these is mandatory and accessible online.

ZSL undertakes due diligence on prospective partners' financial policies and procedures. Training and support are available where needed.

SHNT has financial policies in place and a dedicated, experienced finance officer. SHNT uses SAGE accounting software and unique grant codes.

All funds will be transferred to and between partners through a traceable banking system.

Any risk of recruitment delays will be addressed by advertising widely and seeking internal opportunities for staff promotion. Risk of procurement delays will be addressed by building in long lead times that allow for changes/cancellation in freight schedules.

Covid risks are addressed through budgeting current travel requirements for testing and quarantine in Year 1, with anticipated reductions in Years 2-3. We will apply alternative, tested project delivery strategies, such as online training/mentoring or fewer, longer field visits.

## Q23. Funding

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

New initiative

#### Please provide details:

This project builds on previous work in these Territories using proven methodologies/approaches:-

SHNT:

- Assessing microplastics in whale shark feeding grounds (ref available via SHNT).
- Business opportunities that have been explored/under consideration - SHG Waste Management Services [36], Precious Plastics machinery [37], WAW Handplanes [38].

SHG:

- ECM52615 (with SHNT) – Sustainably managing plastic waste in St Helena to reduce marine debris (DEFRA funded).
- FCDO 5212 – Develop a materials recycling facility project (CSSF funded).

AIG:

- Litter accumulation rates study by AIGCFD at four beaches (2017-2019).
- Annual community beach cleans organised by AIGCFD.
- Developing a waste management strategy for Ascension (DPLUS047 with input from SHG).

ZSL:

- Reducing the impacts of plastic on the natural environment of BIOT (DPLUS090).
- #OneLess project in London (secured >£1.4M in funding).
- Applying business models to sustain socio-ecological resilience in coastal Philippines (Darwin 24-027).
- National Geographic Sea to Source [28] - provided first empirical baseline data on source, quantities, and flow of plastic pollution along the Ganges River system.

International:

- Seabird plastics research in Tristan da Cunha (South African National Antarctic Programme - ref: 110738).
- Atlantico EU funded project to map oceanic plastic flow [40].

### Q23b. 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.

This project has been co-created with island governments to ensure it is complementary to existing in-Territory work and we have consulted the Great British Oceans coalition to avoid competition with other projects.

ZSL and AIG have been awarded £[REDACTED] funding by JEF (beginning April/May 2022) to reduce the impacts of plastic pollution on the marine environment on Ascension Island, which will contribute to this project. Funding includes provision

for a full-time, Ascension-based, project coordinator who will supervise MSc projects included in this application and work alongside SHNT members of staff to align objectives across both projects.

JEF funds will enhance/enable;

- Characterisation of sources of plastic pollution and threats to wildlife in Ascension.
- A holistic understanding of land-based plastic litter pathways and input in Ascension.
- Implementation and evaluation of mitigation in Ascension.
- Amplified impact across Ascension and St Helena; accelerating learning, communication, and scaling and replication of solutions.

This project will complement SHNT's marine debris and plastics work to date, especially microplastics in whale shark breeding areas. SHNT will cross-coordinate both workstreams, sharing data to enhance understanding.

As detailed in our cover letter, there are synergies with the current FCDO5212 (CSSF funded) project, funded to March 2022.

## Section 10 - Finance

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### 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?**

ZSL has extensive experience managing funds of this size; we currently manage nine Darwin Plus, Darwin, and IWT Challenge Fund grants. Financial controls include:

- SUN accounting systems in the UK and QuickBooks in country offices.
- Financial monitoring reports
- Financial statements audited annually by an independent auditor; we retain invoices, vouchers and personal activity reports of all payments made from grant funds.
- Unique grant codes to identify individual awards on the accounting system.
- Operating budgets controlling project funds, each separately identified, monitored, and reported using the finance system.
- Programme managers reviewing budgets versus actual reports monthly to ensure activities remain within budget. All field staff, consultants, and sub-grantees must report monthly expenses and cash balances and stay within their allocated budget.
- Close communication between project and finance teams, with fortnightly meetings to review expenditure and quarterly forecasting meetings.

### 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.**

Total project budget = [REDACTED]

Of this, [REDACTED] is going directly to in-territory partners (SHG, SHNT, AIG) [REDACTED]

Darwin Plus project budget (excluding matched funds) = [REDACTED]

Of this, [REDACTED] is going directly to in-territory partners (SHG, SHNT, AIG) [REDACTED]

Justification for

- Some lead partner costs are for items that will go directly to / be delivered in the Territories (e.g. drinking fountains, reusable bottles, campaign materials). For ease of procurement/accounting, it has been agreed that this should go through

the lead partner.

- The expertise and skillsets required to deliver many of the technical aspects of the project are not currently present within the Territories; external input is needed.
- Resource is required for the lead partner to provide training and capacity-building – both to deliver the project and to enhance on-island expertise, which will extend beyond the project life by being embedded into local partner practices and policies.
- Compared to the UK, wages are much lower in Ascension and St Helena (average wage = ██████ per year [41]). The Darwin Plus budget accounts for 3x ZSL staff each at 50% fulltime; 2x SHNT staff at 100% fulltime and 1x 25% fulltime; 1x SHG at 20% fulltime.

## 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.**

Two drinking water refill stations have been budgeted for, to be installed in publicly accessible places in St Helena (£5,000 total). These will be installed and maintained past the life of the project by SHG and 'Connect St Helena'. It is anticipated that the refill stations will remain in place, being maintained, promoted, and used for the duration of their lifespan, after the project closes.

## 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.**

The project follows the key value for money principles: economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and equity. Due to Ascension and St Helena's remote locations, undertaking work is costly so our budgets are based on experience and local knowledge of costs.

### Economy

The project combines the local expertise of partners with ZSL-facilitated project training/technical assistance, and communication expertise, to maximise efficacy. Having worked in the UKOTs for many years, we have found cost efficiencies wherever possible and confident our budget is well-informed and economic. Any consultancy fees (for expertise unavailable within ZSL/partners) will not exceed market average and be negotiated where possible. MSc students at Exeter and Plymouth Universities provide cost savings for project implementation.

### Efficient output delivery

Efficiency will be measured adaptively through an annual workplan with budget delivery targets; donor reports; monthly budget briefs; and annual/mid-year staff performance reviews.

### Effective outcome delivery

Building a trusted collaborative team that respects and uses the diverse and complementary skills of partners, with clearly allocated roles and responsibilities, will enable outcome delivery. Biannual review meetings that focus on progress against the outcome (i.e. not just activities) help both M&E and adaptive management to ensure effective delivery.

### Equity

The project is designed to be inclusive, and any benefits (i.e., improved income derived from a business model) will be fairly distributed / reach relevant socially excluded groups (e.g., poor, rural, women, and other marginalised groups). This will be adaptively monitored and evaluated throughout to ensure that risk is managed adequately.

## 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.**

There will be multiple key project outputs, with varied purposes and audiences, including:

- Systems map of SUP usage with recommended waste reduction strategy.

- Mitigation strategy for wildlife informed by a biodiversity threat assessment.
- Best-practise guidelines and robust sampling strategy for beach litter.
- Guidelines for plastic free tourism across the UKOTs.
- Recommendations for policy change.

The project will follow FAIR data principles wherever possible [42]. Open access data tools will be integrated into methodologies e.g. Marine Debris Tracker, and open access fees have been budgeted for. Tissue samples will be shared through Otlet [43] and reports given ISBN numbers and downloadable online. Peer-reviewed publications will be made Green Open Access by ZSL through the UCL library research repository and metadata made available on SAERI IMS-GIS [44]. Will we monitor for open access ocean databases being developed in conjunction with the UN Decade of Ocean Science.

Outputs will be shared via UKOTs Plastic Steering Group, Blue Belt programme, and made available on websites/social media platforms of all project partners. ZSL has 326,000 unique monthly webpage users, 91,713 social media followers and 22,000 digital library users. Territory partners have access to two local newspapers, local radio, and international media via SHG's Press Office. Content will be provided to Darwin Initiative's press units for inclusion in newsletters and press releases.

To overcome barriers such as digital access or varying levels of digital literacy, we have budgeted to provide hard copies of outputs and communicate content verbally through workshops.

## Section 11 - Safeguarding

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### 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.**

<b>We have a safeguarding policy, which includes a statement of our commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse</b>	Checked
<b>We have attached a copy of our safeguarding policy to this application</b>	Checked
<b>We keep a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with</b>	Checked
<b>We have clear investigation and disciplinary procedures to use when allegations and complaints are made, and have clear processes in place for when a disclosure is made</b>	Checked
<b>We share our safeguarding policy with downstream partners</b>	Checked
<b>We have a whistle-blowing policy which protects whistle-blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised</b>	Checked
<b>We have a Code of Conduct in place for staff and volunteers that sets out clear expectations of behaviors - inside and outside of the work place - and make clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards</b>	Checked

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

All partner organisations that work with ZSL are required either to have to have their own safeguarding policy,

incorporating response and reporting procedures of a similar standard to those of ZSL; or to sign up to ZSL's Global Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and demonstrate compliance with these as a contractual requirement.

Due diligence processes will be in place to ensure the appropriate level of compliance, and these will form part of ZSL's partner monitoring arrangements such as MOUs and TORs. ZSL will ensure that partners have sufficient safeguarding training to develop and implement safeguarding policy and procedures within their agencies and organisations, and this will be covered in agreements with partners.

In addition, AIG has a child safeguarding policy and AIGCFD staff have undergone safeguarding training with the island social worker.

During the course of cooperation, financial and procurement rules and procedures will be introduced and explained as necessary to officers of partner organisations and community members for maintaining ethical standards while maximising value for money. The project will look to develop independent monitoring tools based on experiences from other community projects, to enable critical views from the community members on the project implementation and decisions.

## Section 12 - Logical Framework

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### 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.**

 [R10 DPlus St2 Logical Framework ZSL final](#)  
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#### Impact:

Improved efficiency in plastic waste management in St Helena and Ascension enabling community action to near-zero SUP use, eliminating the impact of marine plastic pollution on wildlife, increasing ocean resilience

#### Outcome:

Island stakeholders drive a decline in SUP, improving waste management efficiency in St Helena and Ascension, contributing to ocean conservation, benefitting the marine environment and key wildlife species by 2025.

### Project Outputs

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#### Output 1:

Systems for quantifying and reducing plastic waste are consolidated with a proposed strategy to trial interventions for SUP reduction in St Helena and Ascension.

#### Output 2:

Pilot interventions to reduce most problematic/prevalent SUP items and switch to sustainable alternatives are completed, monitored and evaluated with new policy in place for SUP reduction in St Helena.

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**Output 3:**

Characteristics and sources of plastic waste pollution and associated threats to wildlife on St Helena and Ascension shores are understood, with appropriate mitigation measures developed and implemented.

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**Output 4:**

Opportunities for international action and scaling for reducing marine plastic pollution are explored and developed with other UKOTs.

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**Output 5:**

*No Response*

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**Do you require more Output fields?**

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

No

**Activities**

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

Output 1: Systems for quantifying and reducing plastic waste are consolidated with a proposed strategy to trial interventions for SUP reduction in St Helena and Ascension.

1.1 Existing system diagnosis and social insight tools are reviewed, then tailored to context Q2 Yr1 (ZSL/SHNT/AIG)

1.2 MSc study to audit SUP usage, consolidating existing strategic reports, materials, and other sources by Q4 Yr1 (ZSL/SHNT/AIG/Plymouth)

1.3 Using tailored tools, identify and map out stakeholders (retailers, members of the public and waste management sector) and conduct interviews, surveys, and workshops to analyse procurement, supply, and sale of SUP, and understand contextual, social, and behavioural insights behind the use of and solutions to SUP by Q4 Yr1 (ZSL/SHNT/AIG)

1.4 Produce system map of SUP usage in St Helena and Ascension by Q1 Yr2 (ZSL/SHNT/AIG/Plymouth)

1.5 Facilitate inclusive workshops with communities to assess the social acceptability of the system map findings and feed in their response to opportunities for action/intervention Q1 Yr2 (ZSL/SHNT)

1.6 Use workshop outcomes and system diagnosis to select three interventions that complement St Helena's SEDP (including one focusing on SUP water bottles) by Q1 Yr2. Assess feasibility of the three interventions and review with stakeholders through workshops by Q2 Yr2 (ZSL/SHNT)

Output 2: Pilot interventions to reduce most problematic/prevalent SUP items and switch to sustainable alternatives are completed, monitored and evaluated with new policy in place for SUP reduction in St Helena.

2.1 Develop campaign materials and run a campaign for SUP water bottle reduction in St Helena, targeting schools, existing community-based organisations and other early adopters identified from the community. Run smaller campaign in Ascension to target school children only (Q2 – Q4) Yr2 (ZSL/SHNT)

2.2 Work with CONNECT to install 2 new public refill stations in St Helena Q2 Yr2. Collect data on water refills until Q4 yr 3 (ZSL/SHNT)

2.3 Distribute refillable water bottles to all school children in St Helena and Ascension Q2 Yr2 (ZSL/SHNT/AIG/SHG)

2.4 Collaborate with stakeholders to pilot 2 other interventions for reducing SUP, aligned with St Helena's SEDP as identified in output 1 (ZSL/SHNT/SHG)

2.5 Conduct before and after behaviour change surveys and analyse waste management reports to monitor change Q2 Yr2 and Q3 Yr4 (ZSL/SHNT/SHG/AIG)

2.6 Identify and launch 1 sustainable business model with local community. Provide training session (Q1 yr2) and monthly monitoring

2.7 Monitor and evaluate all interventions in St Helena and SUPWB intervention in Ascension. Consolidate final recommendations made for a plastic waste reduction strategy in St Helena by Q4 Yr4 (ZSL/SHNT/SHG).

2.8 Develop and consult on policy for reducing SUP in St Helena (SHG/SHNT/ZSL) Q2 yr2 to Q4 yr3

Output 3: Characteristics and sources of plastic waste pollution and associated threats to wildlife on St Helena and

Ascension shores are understood, with appropriate mitigation measures developed and implemented.

3.1 Building on recognised methodologies, and previous beach litter monitoring efforts and data, design a robust sampling strategy for shore litter (Q4 yr1)

3.2 MSc study to conduct biodiversity threat assessment through an analysis of secondary data to establish the vulnerability of wildlife to plastic pollution. Produce prioritised vulnerability list of species with associated priority list of most damaging plastic type and interaction by Q4 Yr1 (ZSL/Exeter/SHNT)

3.3 Implement robust sampling strategy for shore litter in St Helena (monthly), and use to characterise litter composition and identify plastic hotspot sites (SHNT/ZSL)

3.4 Implement robust sampling strategy for shore litter in Ascension (bimonthly for 3 months in Yr2 and Yr3), and use to characterise litter composition and identify plastic hotspot sites (Exeter MSc student/AIG/ZSL)

3.5 Based on threat assessment and current wildlife monitoring protocols, conduct wildlife-plastic interaction monitoring of priority species (identified in 3.1) at plastic hotspot sites (SHNT/AIG/Exeter MSc student/ZSL)

3.6 Quantify plastics in bird nests, stomachs of opportunistically collected seabird and turtle carcasses, game fish guts and hermit crab entrapment using comparable methods to Tristan da Cunha, Pitcairn and BIOT. Publish report Q4 Yr3 (Uni of Cape Town/Nelson Mandela Uni) and MSc thesis (hermit crabs, Exeter)

3.7 Use established identification methods to document origins of SUP bottles/lids to determine source countries and routes of shore litter (ZSL/SHNT/Uni of Cape Town/Nelson Mandela Uni) by Q4 yr 2

3.8 Create (ZSL/SHNT/AIG) and begin using beach clean best-practise guidelines for organised beach cleans with SHNT and AIG staff and local volunteers (SHNT/SHG/AIG)

3.9 Develop and implement a mitigation strategy for wildlife, based on outcomes of threat assessment, and working with relevant authorities and NGOs integrate into Conservation Management Plans (SHNT/ZSL/AIG)

Output 4: Opportunities for international action and scaling for reducing marine plastic pollution are explored and developed with other UKOTs.

4.1 Identify stakeholders in the UK and other UKOTs and establish a UKOTs Plastic Pollution Steering Group that meets virtually at least 2x per year (first workshop in Q1 Yr1)

4.2 Review and consolidate existing information (grey literature and peer-reviewed) about best practise plastic-free tourism globally and consolidate into short briefing document (ZSL)

4.3 Hold workshop with Steering Group and relevant stakeholders to review plastic free tourism briefing/information and produce workshop report with recommendations Q4 Yr2

4.4 Develop guidelines for UKOTs plastic-free tourism. Create communication materials and distribute across Ascension and St Helena (govts and airports). Share with the UKOTs Plastic Pollution Steering Group by Q3 Yr3

## Section 13 - Implementation Timetable

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### 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.**

 [ZSL implementation timetable](#)

 10/01/2022

 19:23:32

 pdf 209.22 KB

## Section 14 - Monitoring and Evaluation

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### 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](#)).**

(Max 500 words) 498

ZSL recognises that M&E needs to be an integral part of our projects from inception to exit, in order to achieve success. Thus M&E will be embedded throughout the workplan and project, and not end-loaded. The project will follow an action-learning process (in which we are experienced) that involves taking action and reflecting on the learning and the results. Action-learning improves the problem-solving process, as well as the solutions developed [45] and is highly pertinent for the project as we are dealing with a challenge that does not have one straightforward, silver-bullet solution.

The ZSL team will establish a dedicated Teams/OneDrive GDPR compliant channel to store all project files, data, and updates, ensuring access and confidentiality to all project partners and to simplify M&E. This will be adapted if limited by internet access.

The project lead will have overall responsibility for monitoring project progress, milestones, and outputs, supported by ZSL's community-led conservation and M&E specialist who will provide technical direction, advise, and input throughout the project lifecycle. Each element of this project has its own technical specialist either as part of the project team or on a consultancy basis and the timeline will be managed to identify dependencies and milestones for each of these specialists to report against.

All partners will make up a project steering group, which will meet twice a year, at a) the start of Q1 to agree the annual workplan and reporting milestones, and to review performance indicators against which to evaluate progress to enable action-learning; and b) at the start of Q3 to conduct a mid-year review, and planning for the second 6 months.

The project management team (ZSL, SHNT, AIG) will meet on a fortnightly basis throughout the duration of the project, with progress reviews taking place as part of the mid-year and annual Darwin reporting. The M&E plan will be reviewed regularly by this team through reports, ongoing communications, and regular meetings, and the logframe will be a living document for all project members to work from.

Within SHNT, the project delivery team will meet weekly to discuss all aspects of project. The project manager is responsible for project tracking to ensure activities are on schedule and to high quality. Slippage or efficiencies will be noted, and schedule adjusted. The Head of Marine will evaluate progress with project manager in fortnightly meetings. Progress is also reported to senior management team and Director in monthly senior management meetings. Progress notes, including schedule and budget are made available to board of trustees by the Director at bi-monthly trustee meetings.

Communication outputs will be monitored for reach and impact, with communication targets (e.g. number of blogs, press releases, social media posts) agreed at the annual planning and mid-year review meetings by the steering group.

The M&E plan will be reviewed regularly through reports, ongoing communications, and regular meetings. This will enable workplans to be revised as required and the logframe to be used as a 'living' management tool and adapted accordingly.

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

██████████

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**Number of days planned for M&E**

██

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

██

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## Section 15 - Lead Partner Track Record

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### 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
28-006	Monica Wrobel	Protecting Mongolia's Gobi Desert for wild camels and herder communities
DPLUS127	David Curnick	Improving reef resilience through sustainable fishery management on Diego Garcia
DPLUS090	Rachel Jones	Reducing the impacts of plastic on the BIOT natural environment
26-012	Hem Baral	Ghodaghodi's Guardians: Communities restoring a Ramsar wetland at watershed scale
26-006	Zeke Davidson	Conserving Tsavo's wildlife by building community resilience and fostering coexistence
25-024	Jeremy Huet	Securing marine biodiversity and fishers' income through sustainable fisheries, Mozambique

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

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### Certification

On behalf of the

trustees

of

Zoological Society of London

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

<b>Name</b>	Dr Andrew Terry
<b>Position in the organisation</b>	Director of Conservation & Policy
<b>Signature (please upload e-signature)</b>	 <a href="#">Andrew Terry signature</a>  10/01/2022  19:28:59  png 15.98 KB
<b>Date</b>	10 January 2022

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

 [ZSL Global Safeguarding Policy](#)  
 07/01/2022  
 14:50:05  
 pdf 4.68 MB

**Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.**

 <a href="#">ZSL Annual Report 2019-20</a>  10/01/2022  19:32:41  pdf 5.38 MB	 <a href="#">ZSL Annual Report and Accounts 2020-21</a>  07/01/2022  14:51:52  pdf 5.03 MB
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## Section 17 - Submission Checklist

### Checklist for submission

	<b>Check</b>
<b>I have read the Guidance documents, including the “Guidance Notes for Applicants” and “Finance Guidance”.</b>	Checked
<b>I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.</b>	Checked
<b>I have provided actual start and end dates for this proposed project.</b>	Checked
<b>I have provided a budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.</b>	Checked
<b>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.</b>	Checked
<b>The application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).</b>	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).