

Applicant: **Butt, Charlie**
Organisation: **RSPB**
Funding Sought: **£548,482.00**

DPR10S2\1018

East Caicos Wilderness Area: Protecting the Caribbean's largest uninhabited island

East Caicos is the last, large-scale wilderness area in the British West Indies. Its scale, mosaic of terrestrial and coastal habitats and relative intactness supports rare, threatened, endemic species. Only 18% of the island is protected. The project will create a locally driven participatory resource management plan for East Caicos, develop local livelihood opportunities, and strengthen local capacity for the island's effective management. This will provide an alternate management model to insensitive development, protecting the island's ecological and cultural heritage.

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title Mr
Name Charlie
Surname Butt
Website (Work) [REDACTED]
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
Email (Work) [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	RSPB
Phone (Mobile)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q3. Project title

East Caicos Wilderness Area: Protecting the Caribbean's largest uninhabited island

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

DPR10S1\1032

Q4. UKOT(s)

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

Turks & Caicos Islands (TCI)

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

No Response

Q4b. In addition to the UKOTs you have indicated, will your project directly benefit any other Territories or

country(ies)?

No

Q5. Project dates

Start date:

01 July 2022

End date:

31 March 2025

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

2 years, 8 months

Q6. Budget summary

Year:	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total request
Darwin funding request (Apr - Mar)	£114,414.00	£275,625.00	£158,443.00	£548,482.00

Q6a. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

██████ of match funding will be made available with a further ██████ expected. Match is comprised of RSPB staff time (story map and GIS specialists, Caribbean team support, site safeguard team advice), some MCS contractor costs and MCS equipment (various technical equipment). The Turks and Caicos Reef Fund will also contribute staff time to the SCLTD surveys. RSPB will also cover some travel and subsistence costs. TCNT are contributing staff time, office space and associated expenses (at ██████ annual operating cost). SWA environmental consultancy are generously offering a reduced rate together with some pro bono technical expertise.

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?

Match funding is largely via staff time and committed equipment, this is not anticipated to be an issue. ██████ for the video production funds will be sourced via the RSPB Caribbean Conservation programme. Discussions between TCNT and TV personality Mario Rigby indicate that it is highly likely at least half of the proposed ██████ set aside as his 'fee' would be waived. RSPB and MCS will work together in Yr1 to ensure the unsecured match is secured; both organisations are adept at and have a strong track record with securing sums of this amount in good time.

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.

East Caicos is the last, large-scale wilderness area in the British West Indies. Its scale, mosaic of terrestrial and coastal habitats and relative intactness supports rare, threatened, endemic species. Only 18% of the island is protected. The project will create a locally driven participatory resource management plan for East Caicos, develop local livelihood opportunities, and strengthen local capacity for the island's effective management. This will provide an alternate management model to insensitive development, protecting the island's ecological and cultural heritage.

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 eastern portion of the North, Middle & East Caicos Islands Ramsar (493) covers around 18% of East Caicos; the Ramsar wetlands are contiguous with the rest of the island. The project will deliver against recent Ramsar Resolutions, particularly XIII.15 of the 13th COP to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Parties were encouraged to "...seek mechanisms that allow the conservation and transmission of traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities including in the sustainable use of natural resources, with scientific advice." (23) This aligns closely with the project goals. Furthermore, Contracting Parties were encouraged "to continue to promote cultural diversity and traditional knowledge systems and practices within wetlands as part of holistic approaches to planning..." (24) matching our proposed approach with the project.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): This project will contribute to the post-2020 framework ambition of '30x30', as it will add a substantial area of high conservation value to TCI's PA network. As TCI already has circa 26% of land protected, and given East Caicos alone makes up 5% of TCI's land area, this project could achieve the 30x30 target for TCI, five years ahead of target.

The project will contribute to UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- (1) No poverty, by creating and developing viable and long-term economic opportunities for local communities. Whilst there are no readily available statistics, anecdotal evidence from local partners indicates that the South Caicos community does not receive the same economic benefits as communities of Providenciales. This project seeks to change that.
- (8) Decent work and economic growth, particularly target 8.9 (implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products) by developing sensitive eco-tourism opportunities and local businesses selling traditional products.
- (11) Sustainable communities, particularly target 11.4 (strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage) by improving public understanding, appreciation, and willingness to steward the cultural, historic and environmental heritage values of East Caicos.
- (14) Life below water and (15) life on land, by increasing knowledge of island biodiversity to inform effective management, and protecting loss of habitat from insensitive development through the creation of a Community Conservation Area.

CMS Article III: The project's nesting turtle monitoring will contribute to conserving "habitats or species that are of importance in removing the species from danger of extinction".

The project will contribute to TCI Government's Vision 2040 policy 'NC3.1 Good ecosystems, marine and aquatic resource management', (role of Protected Areas in the management of ecosystems) and contribute to the 2001 TCI Environment Charter (points 2 [protection of key habitats] 7 [update baseline data] 9 and 10 [education]). It will also meet Goal 15 of the People's Plan for Empowerment and Inclusive Growth (TCIG Green Paper) is to "Protect the Land and her Bounty" ... particularly the 40+ terrestrial habitats identified in the Turks and Caicos Islands, which range from dry forests to wetlands.

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: RSPB

Website address: www.rspb.org.uk

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): The RSPB is a UK-based membership-based organisation with over a million members. It is the largest conservation NGO in the UK and has a considerable track record of successful high profile projects, many funded by the Darwin initiative. The RSPB has supported long-term conservation initiatives in the Caribbean most recently through the current project 'Restoring and Safeguarding wetlands of the Caribbean UKOTs' (DPLUS098), which covers the Turks and Caicos, Anguilla and Montserrat. The RSPB Caribbean Territories Programme Manager will have strategic oversight of and accountability for the overall project, with the Caribbean UKOTs Officer taking a lead role on M&E and provide partner support. RSPB will take responsibility for all aspects of project administration. An East Caicos project manager will be recruited to the RSPB and based in the Turks and Caicos. They will have responsibility for project implementation, facilitation of all activities and delivery of outcomes. An experienced social scientist from RSPB Centre for Conservation Science RSPB will provide close support to the TCNT community engagement officer and help to analyse workshop findings. The RSPB has strong capacity to engage and deliver the project.

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: MCS

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

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

MCS will lead on the Community Voice Method (CVM) engagement and turtle habitat survey aspects of the project, providing meaningful stakeholder input and turtle habitat data to inform the development of project recommendations. MCS will engage with an existing network of stakeholders and work with TCINTs to identify other key community members that can participate in semi-structured interviews to record knowledges, opinions and values associated with East Caicos and its future.

MCS will lead on all CVM aspects including participant filming, footage transcription and data analysis, film editing and screening of the CVM output at workshops across the island. MCS will facilitate these workshop discussions, and record and analyse participants' responses to future conservation, management and use of East Caicos ecosystems. These analyses will be integrated into the wider project social science output.

In addition, MCS will build on existing work and lead on documenting key turtle habitat in East Caicos, focusing on surveying turtle foraging and nesting habitats during the project period.

All of the MCS team have extensive experience of working in the Turks and Caicos Islands and running CVM projects, and are currently deploying the method in three other Darwin Plus projects DPLUS 106, 111 and 136.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

2. Partner Name: Turks and Caicos National Trust

Website address: <https://www.nationaltrust.tc/>

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

The Turks and Caicos National Trust is the local membership, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the natural, historical and cultural heritage of the Turks and Caicos Islands. The Trust has earned the trust of the citizens of the TCI since its creation in 1992 and as such will play a crucial role in hosting key positions as relates to project implementation. The project will bring much-needed additional capacity to the Trust in the form of two new key positions, and a supporting position of project manager, hosted by RSPB but working / seconded to TCNT. The first new position is a Community Outreach and Engagement Officer. This person will lead on the engagement and facilitation of North, Middle and South Caicos community members in the conservation planning process. The Heritage Sites Support Officer will assist in survey work and collation of information generated in the workshops. The Trust has considerable experience and a successful track record in partnership working including previous Darwin-funded projects. As the only non-governmental body managing protected land in TCI the Trust is placed to have a major role in the conservation management of East Caicos in future.

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

3. 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

4. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

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

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

5. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

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

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

6. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*





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





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

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

No Response

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

 [Letters of Support all](#)
 10/01/2022
 17:09:28
 pdf 1.28 MB

 [RSPB Letter to Darwin Reviewers clean](#)
 10/01/2022
 16:17:43
 pdf 328.18 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?
Charles Butt	Project Leader	RSPB	15	Checked
Natasha Constant	Social Scientist	RSPB	15	Checked
Wendy Cain	Senior Finance Officer	RSPB	10	Checked
Jen Dunster	GIS Analyst	RSPB	5	Checked





Do you require more fields?

Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	Organisation	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Sue Ranger	Community Voice Method advisor	Marine Conservation Society	10	Checked
Peter Richardson	CVM Fieldwork, support,	Marine Conservation Society	13	Checked
Amdeep Sanghera	Project Support Officer	Marine Conservation Society	9	Checked
To be recruited	Community Engagement Officer	TCNT	100	Checked
To be recruited	Heritage Sites Support Manager	TCNT	100	Checked
Judy Deane	Conservation Projects Support Manager	TCNT	5	Unchecked
Della Higgs	Community Engagement Manager	TCNT	10	Checked
Winema Sanders Penn	TCNT Director	TCNT	5	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.

 [All CVs](#)
 10/01/2022
 17:18:58
 pdf 1.98 MB

Have you attached all Project staff CVs?

No

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

We received the CV for Judy Deane after RSPB's admin support team were available to combine it with the other PDFs. In its place, a ToR for her role has been submitted. We would be happy to share it separately / 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).

At 47 square kilometres, East Caicos is the largest uninhabited island in the Caribbean and represents the best example of landscape-level un-fragmented ecosystem mosaics in the region. From ridge to reef, habitats range from wetlands, tropical dry forest to coral reefs and the island supports a wealth of globally threatened endemic flora and fauna. A key challenge to management, identified by on-island partners, is the absence of community direction, ownership, documented traditional knowledge and up-to-date wildlife data, which has prevented a successful locally-led management planning process. Living costs in the Turks and Caicos are high and the two-hour boat trip to East Caicos from South Caicos costs circa. USD1000 per trip; why the island has been under evaluated by NGOs, scientists and civil society and remains unprotected.

East Caicos' remoteness and inaccessibility have thus far protected it from major development schemes, but development pressures are increasing due to a perceived need for physical infrastructure to address local economic needs. Indeed, there are two parcels of land on the northern side of East Caicos that have been promoted by Sotheby's as 'the crown jewel of TCI - 1,407 acres on East Caicos', marketed as having significant development potential < <http://www.thefinestcollection.com/EastCaicos.pdf>>. Occasionally plans surface to convert parts of East Caicos. Whilst these plans lie dormant, they occasionally resurface as they did in 2015 with plans to create a deepwater marina, triggering RSPB to support a rapid assessment of East Caicos underpinning advocacy and site safeguard efforts.

The appetite and perceived potential for development means that buy-in for traditional government- and legislation backed Protected Area status for the entirety of East Caicos is politically hard to achieve. The DECR's continued efforts to secure legal protection for East Caicos are highly commendable and we encourage them. However, unfortunately, the DECR was recently heavily restructured severely hampering its ability to take forward such efforts. Furthermore, the initiative to advance the terrestrial protected area agenda in TCI is now a decade old, with no action having been taken since the 2012 National Parks Ordinance Review Committee having been taken nor since the 2015-2017 consultation on proposed extensions to the PA system.

Our project, with the groundswell of civil society backing it will generate, will make the ambition to legally protect the whole of East Caicos more likely to become reality. With the political challenges in mind, the project aims to establish a Community Conservation Area, a type of 'other effective area-based conservation measures' (CBD OECM definition is attached). To achieve this, the project will support a locally-driven process to capture key biodiversity and other heritage values through the documentary film-based Community Voice Method. This enables local voices to democratically shape conservation outcomes, supported by on-island led field surveys, coupled with capacity to build and support management. The project will show vital proof-of-concept that alternative economic opportunities can be created without high density development, strengthening community-ties to and protection for the irreplaceable natural, cultural and historic heritage values of East Caicos.

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)

A number of pieces of work have created a partial baseline for the issue this project intends to address. The Darwin Initiative Project 8164 (1999-2002) initiated efforts to build an ecological profile of Middle Caicos - part of the East Caicos Ramsar site - but did not include terrestrial field surveys of East Caicos. The OTEP-funded Biodiversity Management Project by Turks and Caicos National Trust 2003-2005 led several biodiversity field excursions to East Caicos. RSPB supported a rapid field-based assessment of East Caicos by Kathleen Wood (June 2015); the results formed part of her Masters thesis (available on request - too large to attach). More recently, EU BEST funded the project 'Understanding East Caicos KBAs Corals and Coast (1636)' (2017) which had a coastal and near-shore focus on mapping ecological assets with a view to recommending conservation zones. A new project DPLUS129, uses remote-sensing based techniques to improve technical understanding of East Caicos wetland areas particularly in terms of climate resilience, but will not include community-led

management planning efforts nor quantitative terrestrial field surveys of birds and plants. Regular coordination with DPLUS129 is anticipated. These projects and reports will be reviewed in depth and taken into account through the desk-based analysis that informs Output 3.

The collection of ecological data through field survey and monitoring will update the ecological picture, that priori work partially addressed. Adding significantly to this a locally led participatory management planning process for East Caicos will combine this ecological data with cultural perspectives. Other initiatives will train individuals and build the capacity of local stakeholders, particularly communities of the adjacent islands, to contribute to, participate in and benefit from the future sustainable use of East Caicos.

The participatory, resource management plan will be co-developed and then delivered by representatives from relevant local communities, supported by the project team. Project partners will collaborate on a desk-based assessment to identify knowledge gaps. A mixed-method approach led by RSPB Centre for Conservation Science will inform the baseline and management plan for East Caicos, whilst interview outputs and workshop maps will be digitised and hosted online. The Community Voice Method (CVM) will capture existing knowledge about East Caicos. A group of young people (16 – 35) will be equipped to self-capture what natural places in TCI mean to them and chart a future for TCI's natural environment. Content will be analysed, with results edited into an engaging documentary to encourage community conversations about preferred future management scenarios.

Supporting this approach, Turks and Caicos National Trust (TCNT) will support stakeholders to sell traditional local products and services derived sustainably from or inspired by East Caicos natural resources. Birds Caribbean (BC) will carry out bird guide training workshops and engage hoteliers to raise awareness about nature-based tourism opportunities. TCNT will promote an eco-tour experience out of East Caicos and lead on the engagement of young people.

TCNT and community members will be trained in bird and plant survey techniques and ID skills, supported by BC and SWA to enable their participation in data collation and analysis. Terrestrial surveys will also account for the presence and abundance of non-native species.

MCS will oversee local turtle nesting survey work and strengthen local capacity around turtle monitoring and oversee work to investigate the extent of Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease.

TCNT will lead the effort to elevate the awareness of the values of East Caicos. It will involve podcasts, radio shows, press releases and a film about East Caicos, to be screened in TCI.

When produced the East Caicos Management Plan (Output 1) will benefit from an international support network and recognition via registration as a Community Conservation Area and from benchmarking against the IUCN Green List themes of good governance, sound design and planning, effective management, and positive conservation outcomes.

The project and its legacy require strengthened capacity in TCI for effective management. To achieve this, the positions of Community Engagement Officer and Heritage Sites Support Manager will be recruited to TCNT to deliver the project led by the East Caicos Project Manager. All elements of the project will continue to build capacity within TCNT particularly listening to community voices and building support and the participatory management planning process will form a template for the development of other protected areas managed by the Trust.

Finally, a funding bid to the Environmental Funders Network will be made to build directly on to this project and in particular secure a higher level of protected area and conservation management capacity within TCI.

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

No Response

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 residents and communities of South, Middle and North Caicos are the primary stakeholders in this project. A fundamental assumption of this project is that these communities have not, to date, been adequately consulted about the values they ascribe to East Caicos, how they view its future and what benefits they would like to see. The value of East Caicos and thus its potential future will, through this project, be calculated and created with their input. This project aims to address this fully, effectively and deeply by capturing their values and their hopes for the future of East Caicos.

The mission of Turks and Caicos National Trust (TCNT) is to preserve the natural and heritage assets of TCI "for everyone, forever". Against a background of rapid and in many places unsustainable development, TCNT represents a significant but perhaps under-listened to voice in Turks and Caicos. This will change with the strengthening of TCNT Capacity. TCNT has participated in all stages of the project's development.

Consultation carried out to date with the various branches of Turks and Caicos Islands Government has been led by TCNT. Closest relations and thus most conversations about this project have been with Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR), who will license many of the activities taking place, and TCI Tourism. The latter is supportive of the mission of the Trust and has indicated support for this project's goals. Additionally, the South Caicos District Commissioner has been approached and has expressed early support.

Q14. Institutional Capacity

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

The RSPB is the largest conservation organisation in Europe and demonstrates decades of conservation delivery in the UKOTs supported by trusts, foundations and granting bodies such as Darwin. Charlie Butt, the project lead and accountable, and Lyndon John, Project Support Officer, are well versed in supporting long-term conservation initiatives in the Caribbean, most recently leading DPLUS098. RSPB funded 'spin-off' projects associated with DPLUS098; Anguilla National Trust created high-impact videos and media to support the conservation of Road Salt Pond IBA.

RSPB is established in the Turks and Caicos Islands. A successful EU BEST II project followed by two Darwin projects (DPLUS055 and DPLUS121) have given RSPB a long-term presence and deepened our relationship with local actors. RSPB now has unique insight into the challenges and needs of our partners.

RSPB Senior Conservation Scientist Dr Natasha Constant has 7 years postdoctoral experience matching project needs, having worked internationally across the human dimensions of natural resource management in particular, the role of indigenous and local knowledge systems and customary management of natural resources for biodiversity conservation and ecological restoration. A grounding aspect of her research is the integration of participatory social science methodologies using participatory action research, narrative, storytelling and participatory GIS mapping for engaging communities and stakeholders in a process of inclusive knowledge sharing and coproduction. Her experience and knowledge is an ideal match to the needs of this project.

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 primary beneficiaries of the project will be Middle Caicos community members and South Caicos fisherfolk. 5 fisherfolk will be trained by Birds Caribbean as Bird Guides. A further 5 individuals from Middle Caicos will benefit from support developing sustainable tourism-based business plans - which will benefit the wider community - based on established community relationships and partnerships (e.g. Tour operators).

With a tourism industry dependent upon a healthy environment, tourism stakeholders and industry partners (e.g. Turks and Caicos Tourist Board) will be engaged through meetings, workshops and presentations. The tourism sector will benefit from a greater offering. TCNT will also benefit from significant added capacity with two key positions, a Community Engagement Officer and Heritage Sites Support Officer. TCNT staff more widely will benefit from training and 'learning by doing' opportunities such as the field surveys.

Young people will be engaged in activities focused on building appreciation for the ecological, cultural and historic values

of East Caicos. Experiences will be shared publicly through social media and other platforms.

TCI government (e.g. DECR, tourism related agencies) benefits from data compiled on biodiversity related to East Caicos enabling effective natural resource monitoring and management (e.g. STCLD).

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 leading TCNT team (Director and Community Engagement Manager) plus likely two supporting field staff are all women. The outcome of the recruitment process for the two new TCNT positions (Community Engagement and Outreach Officer and Heritage Sites Support Officer) is to be determined, but the process will be fair and based on merit.

We will take an approach of 50:50 gender-balanced sampling in our community engagement and if this isn't achievable, we will explain and justify why this hasn't happened. We will ensure schedules are flexible to accommodate times, locations, meeting structures, language and facilitation-styles, as well as group composition appropriate for gender-representative participation.

In terms of the South Caicos fishing community, women and men have different roles – both crucial to island life. Men tend to be at sea catching fish whilst women support the men at the fish factory; they gut and clean fish for sale. Understanding the different but intersecting roles that men and women fisherfolk play in South Caicos society will factor into our planning, preparation and execution of community workshops and participatory management planning.

Q17. Change expected

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

The project will result in East Caicos being protected from harmful and inappropriate development by creating local ownership and management of the island underpinned by effective local governance, supported by a strengthened Turks and Caicos National Trust. Short-term: - Communities will be meaningfully and equitably engaged and empowered to manage East Caicos and further benefit from the natural resources that can contribute to sustainable livelihoods - Improved public understanding, appreciation, and willingness to steward the significant cultural, historic and environmental heritage values of East Caicos - Significantly strengthened site management and conservation capacity within TCNT will be achieved through recruitment and training - Novel perspectives on TCI natural resource consultation and management that can potentially benefit management of similar ridge-to-reef complexes in TCI and wider Caribbean. - Gaps around abundance and extent of rare, priority bird, nesting turtle and threatened and endemic plant species populations will be filled through robust, well-designed baseline field surveys - East Caicos is established as best practice for low-impact tourism in an uninhabited Caribbean wilderness area and a model for how communities, NGOs, the private sector and government can work together through sustainable utilisation of natural resources by community-led nature and heritage tourism. Long-term - A community-led internationally-recognised Community Conservation Area will be established with wide representation from relevant communities - Protected status will be achieved and criteria met for international recognition through IUCN Green List PA benchmarking - Plans to adversely develop parts of East Caicos will be shelved considering the outputs and outcome of this project, and consequently the greater recognition of East Caicos as a globally significant site of immense heritage value - Populations of rare, threatened and endemic species are self-sustaining and protected. Ultimately, these outcomes will benefit government, local communities, the private sector and visitors entering TCI.

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.

Under appreciation of the immense value of the cultural, historic and environmental heritage of East Caicos and under exploitation of nature-based tourism are the main reasons why inappropriate development threats loom. The absence of a locally owned management plan, primarily informed by traditional knowledge, further hinders arguments for protection. These challenges will be addressed by Output 1 with the formulation of a locally-driven participatory resource management plan. Qualified bird guide and nature tour training will help to create economic opportunities (Output 2), whilst traditional knowledge coupled with field studies focussed on IBA trigger species, endemic plants and turtles, will help define the heritage baseline (Output 3) while informing Output 1. Outreach and education efforts (Output 4), aimed at Turks and Caicos Islanders will increase recognition of East Caicos values. Finally, stronger partners and upskilled local people will enable the formulation of a Community Conservation Area (a form of active area-based conservation management, recognised by the CBD) (Output 5). With the participatory management plan in place leading to better conservation outcomes for East Caicos, combined with DECR tabling plans for formal legal protection, we anticipate that the prospects for safeguarding East Caicos unique heritage values will be significantly improved.

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?

Aiming to indefinitely protect East Caicos from insensitive development, this project is designed with long-term sustainability in mind by focusing on capacity building, training, and tying stakeholder interests into the participatory management plan's success.

The plan will continue to direct management of East Caicos after the project's termination, with the international recognition of a Community Conservation Area status encouraging long-term expectation, guidance, and support for its success. Grounded in local expertise and implemented by those who helped design it and are invested in its success, the plan is intended to meet the long-term, post-project needs of local communities.

Recruitment of two additional TCNT positions and wildlife surveys and training for TCI communities will strengthen local capacity and knowledge, ensuring sustained effective island management. Training and surveys will be led by local partners, and so can be continued post-project as needed. Businesses will be designed with sustainability and longevity in mind.

Community, TCI citizens, private sector, government and tourist awareness and appreciation of the natural, cultural, and historic heritage values of East Caicos will be sustained by the message a successful management plan sends. With all stakeholders benefitting from the management plan, it incentivises long-term support to sensitively protect the area.

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?

TCNT is familiar with the legal and ethical obligations of TCI, in particular Employment Ordinance (2009). TCNT has ensured compliance through its staff health and safety guidelines and therefore will assume responsibility of monitoring and upholding them across all partner activities on the project. The health and safety of all project staff is a priority and will be informed by the relevant employing partner's health and safety guidelines.

Local and community knowledge, traditions and perspectives form the core of the project. Free, Prior Informed Consent was secured through the previous work led by MCS. FPIC principles will be adhered to for this project and given MCS prior experience we have every confidence renewed FPIC will be secured at project initiation.

Following FPIC, local communities will co-develop and deliver the participatory resource management plan, with local actions implemented by TCNT and BC who are well established in the community. This will ensure the rights, privacy, and safety of those impacted by the project are protected in its planning and delivery, by those who best understand and respect the potential impacts.

TCNT will lead on bird and wildlife surveys, supported by SWA technical expertise (local environment consultancy), and internationally renowned MCS will lead on turtle nest surveys; research credibility having already been demonstrated via publications listed in the RSPB's response letter.

There are project's human rights and/or international humanitarian law risks are deemed to be low. The TCI Human Rights Commission holds responsibility for the maintenance of human rights in the islands.

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.

 [EAST CAICOS Budget-over-100k-Dec21-MASTER](#)
 10/01/2022
 20:44:50
 xlsx 78.31 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.

The RSPB takes financial risk very seriously, especially in projects implemented outside the UK, and has established an International Financial Risk Management Working Group to deal with exactly this issue. For the project proposed here, though, we consider the risk to be low. There are three main reasons for this. (1) The amount of money involved, although substantial, is a sum similar to previous Darwin and Darwin Plus projects which have been successfully managed and delivered. (2) We have long-term partnerships and funding with all of our OT partners and they are stable, highly reputable, and well known to us. (3) Most of the grant will be spent by RSPB or one of these partners, rather than by subcontractors – permitting greater control and reducing risk.

Q23. Funding

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

New initiative

Please provide details:

We are aware of the current project DPLUS129, which we believe will be complimentary to our project. DPLUS129, uses remote-sensing to improve understanding of East Caicos wetland areas in terms of climate resilience, but unlike our proposal, will not include community-led management planning efforts nor quantitative terrestrial field surveys of birds and plants. Regular coordination with DPLUS129 is anticipated.

Our project would be a new initiative, building on many years of prior conservation efforts led by the RSPB, DECR, SWA, MCS, TCRF and others. All of these organisations are either project partners or key stakeholders.

The OTEP-funded Biodiversity Management Project by Turks and Caicos National Trust 2003-2005 led several biodiversity field excursions to East Caicos, which have helped to inform the biodiversity baseline and informed the IBA assessment.

RSPB supported a rapid field-based assessment of East Caicos by Kathleen Wood of SWA (June 2015); the results formed part of her Masters thesis (available on request). More recently, EU BEST funded the project 'Understanding East Caicos KBAs Corals and Coast (1636)' (2017) which had a coastal and near-shore focus on mapping ecological assets with a view to recommending conservation zones.

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 RSPB receives grants worth more than ██████████ per year, and therefore has significant experience of managing such funding. Lead responsibility for managing this grant will rest with the Project Leader, in line with good project management practice. However, this person will be advised and supported by the Project Development and Support team within the RSPB's Global Conservation Directorate, which has played a similar role in numerous previous Darwin projects as well as many much larger projects funded by donors such as DFID, the EU and the Danish and German governments. For Audits we use a local accountancy firm (George Hay of Biggleswade) that has provided this service many times in the past.

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.

This project aims to create sustainable, long-term impact for East Caicos. We estimate that ██████████ of the project funds will be spent directly in the Turks and Caicos covering local staffing, equipment, in-Territory travel, accommodation and subsistence for TCI-based project staff and for visiting experts. The project team has worked to maximise the project funds being spent in-Territory and are all contributing significant co-funding (██████████; accounting for ██████████ of the total project). Around ██████████ of the project funds will be spent outside of the Turks and Caicos Islands to cover UK-based costs of RSPB and MCS including some salary, some project management support costs, overheads and international travel associated costs (including flights, national travel and Covid-19 tests). However, all of the non-local spend will be directed to delivering on-the-ground benefits locally. RSPB and MCS have been identified by the local in-Territory partners as good organisations to partner with given their relevant expertise and track record, and these funds are allocated to enable them to play a supportive role in the delivery of this project.

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.

Optics for bird monitoring including binoculars and scopes will be purchased for TCNT staff and local community training candidates under the nature and cultural heritage tour capacity training components. These items are to be retained by participants. Laptops purchased for TCNT staff are for the duration of the project and will remain with TCNT to use beyond the end of the project. GPS units and camera traps will be purchased to be used by the project team and will remain with TCNT to enable sustained ecological monitoring on East Caicos and other key IBA/KBA locations in TCI post project. Tablets and phones purchased for the field data collection will remain the property of TCNT.

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 investment will translate to protection of arguably the biggest and most important undeveloped island in the British West Indies and could single-handedly enable TCI to increase its protected area coverage from 26% to 31%, thereby achieving the developing global goal of '30by30'. The project requires a large budget due to the comparatively higher costs of Caribbean working, the sheer scale of East Caicos, its inaccessibility and total lack of infrastructure. There is however a significant [REDACTED] in-kind contribution from RSPB and partners. International travel and in-Territory accommodation costs have been kept as low as possible by channelling funds towards local recruitment.

A key goal of the project is to support the development and implementation of small nature-based business plans. We anticipate this element to be a success and thus Darwin's investment would leverage further income that will be derived locally.

Having a locally owned and led management plan that meets the IUCN-recognised Community Conservation Area (CCA) Traditional Management Plan standard, will, we believe, be a first for the Overseas Territories writ large. It will also demonstrate the 'art of the possible' in terms of achieving a high degree of protection through non-statutory means, of significant relevance to the many Territories which have very little publicly-owned land.

The participatory planning approach is designed, from the outset, to be long-lasting – well beyond the 3 year project life cycle. This means that the funding is going far beyond what is measured and monitored through the traditional project monitoring and evaluation progress.

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.

The RSPB encourages open access to data and research. All project data, reports, photographs and other outputs from the project will be available and accessible via RSPB, TCNT, MCS and Darwin websites.

A key project output is the production of a cloud-based story map, this will detail ecosystem services heritage and values of East Caicos by end of Year 2 to be co-created then shared with communities and stakeholder groups. This will be a key resource for TCI citizens, people across the Caribbean and wider world to learn about the project.

All data, reports and outputs will be held locally. TCNT will keep products on files and key information will also be shared with the DECR to inform their management planning.

At least one report on East Caicos heritage values will be produced and if not submitted for peer-review, will be hosted on Research Gate or an equivalent website.

A major output that will be far-reaching in terms of exposing East Caicos incredible heritage values will be a high quality film with excerpts and 'video shorts' presented by Turks and Caicos Islander Mario Rigby. Mario Rigby has accomplished

phenomenal feats, most recently traversing the Turks and Caicos by human-powered propulsion only (swimming, cycling, kayaking and hiking). The video production and presenter fee budgeted is £40,000. Mario Rigby is in touch with TCNT as regards presenting the East Caicos video. Mario is very well known within TCI and so his involvement is expected to add immense value, meriting the expenditure.

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

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

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.

 [R10_EC~1](#)
 10/01/2022
 01:45:40
 pdf 110.02 KB

Impact:

East Caicos, the last remaining wilderness area of the British West Indies is protected and managed for generations by Turks and Caicos Islanders as a treasured, irreplaceable ridge-to-reef complex.

Outcome:

Participatory natural resource management, sustainable livelihoods, awareness and local capacity helps establish the future protection of the unique cultural, historic and natural heritage values of East Caicos

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Participatory resource management plan for East Caicos produced via facilitation incorporating local knowledge of priority cultural, historic and ecological heritage values

Output 2:

Sustainable, long-term, locally-owned and designed small business and nature-based tourism plans developed for East Caicos.

Output 3:

Ecological, cultural and historic baseline established and presence of non-native species determined and used to inform conservation management and community empowerment.

Output 4:

Awareness and appreciation of the cultural, historic and ecological value of East Caicos is increased amongst communities, TCI citizens, the private sector and government stakeholders leading to strengthened support for protected status for

Output 5:

Strengthened capacity of national project partners, TCI citizens and local communities to effectively manage and protect East Caicos wilderness

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 Desktop research to compile available information
 - 1.2 Provide equipment and IT to support daily operations between Middle Caicos and South Caicos. (Vehicle, boat, tablet, external hard drive, tablet, stationary, etc.)
 - 1.3 Conduct in-house training with current conservation staff in Middle Caicos and new conservation staff in South Caicos that will be recruited on island
 - 1.4 Develop interviewee list of stakeholders for CVM filmed interviews
 - 1.5 Develop interview questionnaire and consent form
 - 1.6 Pilot interview questionnaire with community members in South and Middle Caicos, including women and girls, to ensure gender-appropriate.
 - 1.7 Finalise list of participants for filming across 4 inhabited islands and arrange filmed interviews
 - 1.8 Carry out filmed interviews across Providenciales North, Middle and South Caicos ensuring gender balance
 - 1.9 Organise 4 excursions to East Caicos to conduct field walks and oral history interviews with selected knowledgeable elders and youth from the 4 inhabited islands. Field walks and oral history interviews with knowledgeable community members and youth from each of the 4 workshops on East Caicos to visit and fix the location of as many of the mapped sites as using hand-held GPS units. Interviews will document key traditional cultural knowledge about the different biologically and culturally significant sites, including the ethnohistory, traditional stories and songs, placenames, and the resource-use and management strategies associated with each area and its resources
 - 1.10 Digitisation of ecosystem services and habitats offering nature-based solutions to climate change into GIS maps, analysis of ecosystem service hotspots, and qualitative transcripts from workshops and field excursions
 - 1.11 Work with RSPB Data Management Unit to collate mapping outputs into a story map about East Caicos
 - 1.12 Transcribe and analyse filmed interview data and write analysis summary report
 - 1.13 Produce CVM film output
 - 1.14 Arrange and promote CVM film screening/workshops across four inhabited islands
 - 1.15 Hold and facilitate 4 participatory workshops and CVM screenings targeting communities across the 4 inhabited islands to map ecosystem services associated with East Caicos, and visioning exercises for the future management of East Caicos by the end of Year 2, Q 1.
 - 1.16 Input and analyse CVM workshop proceedings to produce report and recommended draft management plan (see 5.3)
 - 1.17 Carry out consultations with selected stakeholders to gain feedback on recommended draft management plan (see 5.3)
 - 1.18 Community-led production of East Caicos management plan
- Output 2.

- 2.1 Invite Invest TCI and CED to facilitate workshops aimed to assist small business owners with grants (financial support)
- 2.2 Support cross-marketing of services/products including authentication stamp authorized by Dept. of Culture, Tourist Board, National Trust, DECR, and Dept of Agriculture) to be displayed by small business. (TCI Assured Authentication)
- 2.3 Promotion of local products/services on social media/websites – MoU with Tourist Board, TCNT, and other agencies which can support brand growth.
- 2.4 Engage Fishing Co-op (Mr. Talbot), and DECR to identify fisherman that have set skills and knowledge of historical trails, dive site, turtle watching, etc.
- 2.5 Draft and implement short curriculum to ensure fisherfolk provide accurate information to tour guests.
- 2.6 Birds Caribbean-led 5-day Caribbean Birding Trail (CBT) Interpretive Bird Guide Training Workshop for current and prospective guides from Providenciales, Grand Turk, Salt Cay and North, Middle and South Caicos. The Workshop will be carried out with support from local partners including the Turks and Caicos National Trust and SWA Environmental Consulting who will carry out activity 3.1 (see below).
- 2.7 Birds Caribbean to hold a half-day workshop for hoteliers to inform them about how they can benefit from and cater to avi-tourists, including understanding the birding market, what birders need, how to get general adventure/ nature tourists into birding, and how to create bird-friendly gardens and hotel grounds through landscaping with native plants.
- 2.8 Set group monthly meetings to follow-up on training and aptitude testing.
- 2.9 Provide hotel concierge and villas with service package as marketing tool to book tours.
- 2.10 Establish an MoU with the Tourist Board, TCNT, and TCHTA to promote service package to tourists wanting an eco-tour experience.
- 2.11 Monitor website visitations and collect numbers from partners. (Data collection)
- 2.12 Utilize Heritage & Discovery Clubs in the secondary schools (private & public) for students to be engaged and join educational activities
- 2.13 Youth/Students to join quarterly expeditions to East Caicos and report on findings through the Youth Reports of the

Environment initiative.

Output 3

- 3.1 Carry out desk-based research and review of existing studies and grey literature
- 3.2 1-day training of TCNT staff and North, South and Middle Caicos community members to identify bird and floral species of interest led by SWA
- 3.3 Field studies to get updated estimates of IBA trigger species (covering summer and winter migration) and map key areas for plants (Nov-January after rainy season to ensure priority species are visible) and identify potential problem invasive non-native species
- 3.4 Identification of index nesting sites using existing TCITP nesting data and published literature
- 3.5 Standardised sea turtle nesting protocol developed using existing TCI Turtle Project (TCITP) sampling protocols
- 3.6 Capacity-building workshop for partners and key stakeholders such as DECR on sea turtle nesting monitoring
- 3.7 Implementation of sea turtle nesting surveys in Yr1 nesting season, repeated in Yr2 and Yr3.
- 3.8 Analysis and reporting of nesting data
- 3.9 Dive expeditions led by MCS to assess extent of Stony Coral Loss Disease
- 3.10 RSPB-led analysis of field survey results and traditional knowledge to inform KBA assessment of East Caicos

Output 4

- 4.1 Engage hosts from Uncut, Our TCI, TB Radio Show, Heritage Matters, and other local podcast/radio to promote (TCI populations – 35,000)
- 4.2 Collate and submit WHSRN official nomination information to WHSRN
- 4.3 Synthesis of project progress against key indicators: Sound Design and Planning, Effective Management, Good Governance and Successful Conservation
- 4.4 Preparation and release of media press release with TC Weekly News, Sun News, PTV, and TCI E News
- 4.5 Updates provided through Head of Department meetings (monthly) and progress reports to Cabinet (Governor/Ministers) quarterly.

Output 5

- 5.1 Advertise and recruit for a qualified individual (Heritage Sites Support Officer and Community Engagement Officer) building the technical skill capacity. TCNT to source employee internally at TCI level to interview for proposed positions.
- 5.2 Establish an internal management and stewardship structure so staff understand their roles in relation to in relation to decision processes and the strategic plan. Create a workplan to link operational activities over the course of the project to meet strategic objectives for the establishment of the CCA.
- 5.3 TCNT based Community Engagement Officer will lead on the preparation and facilitation of a governance framework detailing how decisions will be made, existing community governance bodies and processes to support the CCA, identify and document traditional and natural resource management laws to support the CCA.
- 5.4 Develop a traditional land use management plan rooted in traditional laws and informed by science to guide resource use decisions.
- 5.5 Prepare and submit EfN funding bid

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.

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](#)).

A Steering Group (SG) will be established by the RSPB Caribbean UKOTs Officer comprising project partners, focussed on assessing progress against logframe indicators. The committee will meet at the onset of the project and Q4 of Year 1, and twice yearly in years 2 and 3. Project management communications will include emails and meetings with project partners.

Once the project begins, project leads will go through the indicators in the logframe and establish who will be responsible for ensuring that the data for each indicator is collected and collated including (but not limited to); meeting minutes, datasets, reports, recommendations, stakeholder meeting reports. The resulting data and reports will be presented to the SG. The responsibility for the indicator will rest with the individual leading that work, delegating as necessary. The data will be compiled by the project manager in close collaboration with responsible individuals. The details of these decisions will result in a project monitoring plan.

The second and third annual project meetings will include an internal evaluation of the project covering technical and financial aspects. Senior staff from participating organisations will be invited to assess project progress including Charlie Butt (RSPB), Winema Penn (TCNT), Lormeka Williams (Deputy Director, DECR), Peter Richardson, (MCS), Kathleen McNary Wood (SWA) and Lisa Sorenson (Executive Director, BirdsCaribbean).

Key monitoring areas and responsibilities:

Output 1. TCNT Community Engagement Officer (CEO) will lead, supported locally by the East Caicos Project Manager with technical support from the RSPB Social Scientist, who will be responsible for data collection, storage and analysis, working closely with and guiding the CEO. The MCS project support officer will lead on collection of data for the community voice method and mapping outputs.

Output 2. TCNT and Birds Caribbean will be the driving force behind monitoring this output. The TCNT Community Engagement Officer will lead on ensuring business plans are prepared, supported by TCNT Executive Director. TCNT will lead on liaison with hotels and eco-lodges and tour operators as well as engagement of young people. Birds Caribbean will track progress with guide training and certification.

Output 3. Data collection across ecosystems – TCNT Heritage Sites Support Officer and Conservation Officers will record biodiversity monitoring data with support of SWA. Data will be collated on tablets and laptops, stored centrally in TCI and backed up to the cloud with support from the RSPB. Field reports will be made public via Research Gate to share results. MCS project officer will lead on sea turtle data collection with TCRF leading on the SCTLTD work.

Output 4. RSPB East Caicos Project Manager will lead on monitoring and evaluating the international standards and recognition work (WHSRN and CCA). TCNT will monitor the communications metrics (podcasts, radio and video views)

Output 5. TCNT will self-monitor their elevation in capacity. RSPB East Caicos Project Manager and will lead the IUCN CCA benchmarking supported by RSPB Senior Conservation Scientist, who will take a lead on monitoring and supporting the TCNT community outreach officer to establish a sound governance system.

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

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

If 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

RSPB

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	Jonathan Hall
Position in the organisation	Head of UKOTs
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 Jonathan signature  10/01/2022  10:51:27  jpg 22.93 KB
Date	10 January 2022

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

 [RSPB Safeguarding Policy - December 2019](#)
 10/01/2022
 00:45:11
 pdf 959.46 KB

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

 RSPB accounts 2020-21  10/01/2022  00:45:19  pdf 881.89 KB	 RSPB accounts 2019-20  10/01/2022  00:45:19  pdf 499.89 KB
--	--

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).