Applicant: **Baum, Diane**
Organisation: **Ascension Island Government Conservation and Fisheries Directorate**
Funding Sought: **£273,579.00**

DPR11S2\1017

Protecting Seabirds Across Borders

Ascension’s Marine Protected Area covers 445,000km2, but many seabirds range much further. Understanding year-round seabird distribution and their interaction with fisheries beyond the MPA boundaries would help integrate the MPA within the wider seascape and improve protections. This project will build on existing data and conduct additional seabird tracking work to fill key data gaps. The results will be used to advocate for targeted regulation of the Atlantic tuna fishery and refocus Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing surveillance efforts.

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name	Diane
Surname	Baum
Website	[redacted]
Tel (Work)	[redacted]
Email (Work)	[redacted]
Address	[redacted]

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name	Diane
Surname	Baum
Website	[redacted]
Tel (Work)	[redacted]
Email (Work)	[redacted]
Address	[redacted]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	**Organisation**
Name	Ascension Island Government Conservation and Fisheries Directorate
Phone (Work)	[redacted]
Email (Work)	[redacted]
Website	[redacted]
Address	[redacted]

Section 2 - Title & Summary

Q3. Project Title:

Protecting Seabirds Across Borders

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DPR11S1\1123

DPR11S1\1040

Q4. Summary of project

Please provide a brief summary of your project: the problem it is trying to address, its aims, and the key activities you plan to undertake.

Successful Darwin Plus Main projects in Round 11 must demonstrate substantial measurable outcomes in at least one of the themes of Darwin Plus either by the end of the project's implementation or via evidenced mechanisms for post-project delivery.

Preference will be given to discrete projects implementing existing identified environmental solutions on the ground.

The broad themes of Darwin Plus Main are:

- **Biodiversity:** improving and conserving biodiversity, and slowing or reversing biodiversity loss and degradation;
- **Climate change:** responding to, mitigating and adapting to climate change and its effects on the natural environment and local communities;
- **Environmental quality:** improving the condition and protection of the natural environment;

- **Capability and capacity building:** enhancing the capacity within OTs to support the environment in the short- and long-term.

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

Ascension's Marine Protected Area covers 445,000km2, but many seabirds range much further. Understanding year-round seabird distribution and their interaction with fisheries beyond the MPA boundaries would help integrate the MPA within the wider seascape and improve protections. This project will build on existing data and conduct additional seabird tracking work to fill key data gaps. The results will be used to advocate for targeted regulation of the Atlantic tuna fishery and refocus Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing surveillance efforts.

Section 3 - UKOT(s), Dates & Budget Summary

Q5. UKOT(s)

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

☑ St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha*

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

Ascension Island

In addition to the UKOTs you have indicated, will your project directly benefit any other Territories or country(ies)?

⦿ Yes

Please list below.

St Helena

Q6. Project dates

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):
01 July 2023	31 March 2026	2 years, 9 months

Q7. Budget summary

Year:	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total request
Amount:	£91,456.00	£118,963.00	£63,160.00	**£** 273,579.00

Q8. Proportion of Darwin Plus budget expected to be expended in UKOTs (%) [redacted]

Q9a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

⦿ Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

Ascension Island Government (AIG) in kind staff time - [redacted]
Cefas staff in time - [redacted]

Blue Belt Programme - [redacted]

Q9b. Total confirmed & unconfirmed matched funding (£) [redacted]

Q9c. 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?

If the Blue Belt Programme is unable to provide an additional [redacted] for satellite tags, then the project will go ahead and either seek to crowd fund tags or continue with a smaller sample size of tagged seabirds.

Section 4 - Problem statement

Q10. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in the UKOTs, relating to at least one of the themes of Darwin Plus.

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).

Eleven seabird species breed on Ascension Island, including the endemic and Vulnerable Ascension frigatebird, the globally declining masked booby and the sooty tern. Following the eradication of cats in 2004, masked boobies and Ascension frigatebirds began breeding again on the mainland and have been intensively monitored since. Frigatebird productivity has remained fairly stable over the last five years, but the initial rapid increase in nesting attempts plateaued in 2018. Masked booby nesting attempts have not increased since 2016, and productivity seems to have declined. Habitat conditions or rodent predation in breeding areas has not changed appreciably, but historical accounts and guano distribution suggest breeding seabirds were once much more numerous on Ascension. Poor diet is suggested as the main factor limiting breeding success in sooty terns (Reynolds et al. 2019). The absence of significant pressures in the nesting areas and evidence of poor foraging success point to prey availability being the main limitation on population growth.

At least three Ascension seabirds (sooty tern, masked booby and brown booby) are known to engage in facilitated foraging, where they benefit from predatory fish, such as tuna, driving prey fish closer to the surface (Ashmole & Ashmole 1967). This association makes seabirds vulnerable to the impact of tuna fisheries both directly through the risk of incidental capture (bycatch) and indirectly because of over-fishing. Indeed, the close correspondence between historical shifts in the diet and population status of sooty terns and the expansion of industrial fisheries into the areas where they forage, indicates that prey availability changed partly due to global declines of large predatory fishes (Reynolds et al., 2019).

The Ascension Island Marine Protected Area (MPA) covers the entire 445,000km2 of the island's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and no large-scale commercial fishing is permitted within it. During breeding, seabirds are constrained by returning to the nest and most seabird species studied tended to forage within the MPA. However, even during the breeding period, Ascension frigatebirds frequently range beyond the MPA boundaries into the high seas where protection is more challenging. During their non-breeding season and immediately after fledging, all seabird species tend to travel much further, but the migrations of Ascension seabirds outside of the breeding season are currently not well understood.

Commercial fishing for tuna occurs on the boundaries of the Ascension Island MPA and beyond in the high seas under the remit of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). In addition to registered vessels operating legally, IUU fishing for tuna also occurs in the Tropical Atlantic and vessels exhibiting behaviour consistent with IUU fishing have been detected close to the MPA boundary each year since 2019.To protect wide-ranging species across their lifecycle, a network of MPAs integrated within conservation measures across the wider Atlantic is needed. This will require robust data on the distribution of seabirds and their interaction with vessels to influence international stakeholders such as ICCAT, guide policy and target IUU surveillance. At present, these data are not available for Ascension's seabirds.

Section 5 - Environmental Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q11. Environmental Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Please detail how your project will contribute to the aims of the national and/or international agreement(s) your project is targeting. What key OT Government priorities and themes will it address and how? 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.

Note: No additional significance will be ascribed for projects that report contributions to more than one agreement.

The Convention on Biological Diversity has been extended to Ascension. This project would contribute to Ascension meeting Target 1, 3 and 5 of the draft Global Biodiversity Framework by: enabling integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning; ensuring that the Ascension MPA is effectively and equitably managed and integrated into the wider seascape; and providing an evidence-base for the sustainable harvesting of tuna in the Atlantic.

The knowledge gained through this project will contribute to meeting Objective 1a of the Ascension Island MPA Management Plan ('No loss of species or reduction in species abundance or ecosystem complexity in offshore areas'). The urgent need for further study in this area is acknowledged by the inclusion of 'movements of seabirds outwith the nesting season' as a high priority for research in the Ascension MPA Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Strategy and the Ascension Island Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

The UK Government is a global leader in marine conservation and championing the expansion of MPAs through its membership of the 30 by 30 Initiative and Global Ocean Alliance and its support for the creation of high seas MPAs during the development of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdictions (BBNJ) Agreement. This project is aligned with these aims as it demonstrates the type of information collection and stakeholder engagement that would be required to integrate existing national MPAs into management of the wider seascape and consider the designation of high seas areas.

Section 6 - Method, Project Stakeholders, Gender, Change Expected, Pathway to Change & Exit Strategy

Q12. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and contribute towards your Impact. Provide information on:

- **How have you reflected on and incorporated evidence and lessons learnt from past and present activities and projects in the design of this project?**
- **The need for this work and a justification of your proposed approach.**
- **How you will undertake the work (materials and methods).**
- **How you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools, etc.).**

Lessons learnt
This project aims to collect data to describe the vulnerability to fishing activity of seabirds that engage in facilitated foraging, as outlined in Maxwell & Morgan (2013).

Four seabird species have already been tracked on Ascension and additional tracking data will be sourced from St Helena. The practical tagging experience gained will be used to carry out the tracking work during this project.

Project partners BirdLife International and Global Fishing Watch have extensive experience in analysing tracking data and fishing activity, and a proven track record of advocating for appropriate protections at policy fora. Cefas and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) provide scientific advice to the UK delegation at ICCAT and have learnt from the

successes of past submissions to their committees.

This project will integrate the analysis of Ascension seabird productivity and tracking data alongside oceanographic data collected remotely in the mid-Atlantic that has been analysed as part of DPLUS113.

Justification and outline of approach
At present, Ascension's seabirds receive little protection when they are beyond the boundaries of the MPA. Robust evidence will be needed to engage the international stakeholders who are able to increase protection. This project will provide that evidence and help better to target conservation management. This directly addresses the Darwin Plus Round 11 objectives of biodiversity conservation and capability and capacity building by giving AIG the information and tools needed to plan and advocate for improved seabird protection.

The project will carry out satellite tracking of Ascension frigatebirds and masked boobies outside of the breeding period and collate existing seabird tracking data from Ascension and St Helena. The resulting comprehensive picture of seabird distribution will be compared to the spatial activity of the Atlantic tuna fleets using Automatic Identification System (AIS) positioning and catch data.

We will establish a framework for integrating information on seabird movement across their life cycle and the distribution of fishing activity to manage this interaction. Such data will provide an evidence base to guide discussions on appropriate management measures for areas beyond national jurisdictions (Dias et al. 2017; Oppel et al. 2018). Specifically, evidence-based management recommendations will be developed and presented to the ICCAT Ecosystem Group to inform future management of the fleets. The outputs will also improve the targeting of IUU fishing surveillance already undertaken through the Blue Belt Programme by directing coverage towards any sensitive areas of high seabird activity identified beyond the MPA boundary.

Methods
The specific actions to be undertaken during the project are listed below:
- Collate existing seabird tracking data from Ascension Island and St Helena.
- Deploy satellite tags on a total 35 Ascension frigatebirds (18 adults, 17 fledglings) and 35 masked boobies (18 adults,17 fledglings) at the end of the 2023 and 2024 breeding seasons to fill knowledge gaps outside of the nesting period.
- Collate AIS data from fishing vessels in the Atlantic for the period of seabird tracking data.
- Obtain publicly available catch data (at a resolution of up to 1° by 1°) from ICCAT.
- Analyse tracking, AIS and catch data to look at the degree of interaction between seabirds and the fishing fleet at the population and individual level. Any spatial or temporal hotspots of interaction will be highlighted.
- Prepare a report and peer reviewed publication of results and management recommendations and deliver it to the ICCAT Ecosystem Group.
- Upload the results of the tracking work to the Global Fishing Watch Marine Manager Portal allowing public access to the data, and the BirdLife International Seabird Tracking Database.
- MMO and AIG will review existing satellite surveillance activity and amend coverage as necessary to include areas of high risk for foraging seabirds.
- Publicise the results of the project through social media, partner websites and public engagement on Ascension.

Roles and responsibilities
The project will be led by AIG ensuring there is local ownership of the work and significant influence to translate the outputs into policy and management changes at ICCAT. Each project partner has a clearly-defined role in the project:

- BirdLife International will conduct the data analysis.
- Global Fishing Watch will provide AIS fisheries data and publish the project results on the Global Fishing Watch Marine Manager Portal.
- Cefas will provide advice on fisheries data analysis and preparation of presentations for ICCAT.
- MMO will provide AIS fisheries data and advice on IUU surveillance planning.

In addition, all project partners will be represented on the project Steering Group, which will meet quarterly to provide oversight of project progress.

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.

AIG are leading this project and are fully supportive of its aims. The St Helena Government have also been consulted on the development of this project. Whilst they did not have the capacity to become project partners, they were keen that their data were included and the results shared with them since they share the challenge of protecting wide-ranging seabirds.

The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs are responsible for representing the UK (and UKOT) at ICCAT. Cefas and MMO support the UK (and UKOT) ICCAT delegation with data reporting, scientific advice and compliance and enforcement. Cefas and MMO have been included as project partners to ensure the outputs are tailored to the ICCAT audience and recommendations are in line with UK Government Policy.

ICCAT manage the Atlantic high seas tuna fishery and so their engagement will be vital to the success of this project. We have made them aware of this project bid and, if it goes ahead, we will keep them informed of progress ahead of the planned presentation to their Ecosystem Group.

This project would have wider relevance to other UK Overseas Territories, islands with large MPAs and marine conservation NGOs. It will demonstrate a framework for whole life-cycle protection of highly migratory species and give an example of the early stages of what is required to develop high seas MPAs, an issue that is likely to gain greater prominence on the signing of the BBNJ Agreement.

Q14. Gender equality

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain how your understanding of gender equality within the context your project, and how is it reflected in your plans. Please summarise how your project will contribute to reducing gender inequality. Applicants should, at a minimum, ensure proposals will not increase inequality and are encouraged to design interventions that proactively contribute to increased gender equality.

Women and non-binary people are underrepresented in conservation and science decision-making, including marine conservation. At early career stages, groups of conservationists and scientists are quite balanced in gender but both groups become biased towards men in leadership positions. Studies indicate improved research quality, readability, and conservation outcomes from gender-balanced teams. This project will be led on Ascension by two female conservationists providing an example of women in leadership roles. The analytical team will be mixed gender, with a female scientist leading the scientific paper writing. We will inclusively credit those contributing to the project and give all fieldworkers and technicians opportunity to be involved in writing the scientific manuscript to be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal, so that they gain experience in the more areas of the scientific process.

Q15. Change expected

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) and the potential to scale the approach. Please describe the changes for the environment and, where relevant, for people in the OTs, and how they are linked.

When talking about how people will benefit, please remember to give details of who will benefit, differences in benefits by gender or other layers of diversity within stakeholders, and the number of beneficiaries expected. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used.

In the short term, this project will fill an important data gap for non-breeding seabirds and provide an evidence base for greater controls of fishing activity in the Tropical Atlantic by illustrating the level of vulnerability experienced by Ascension and St Helena's seabirds to fishing beyond their MPAs. This evidence will be presented to the Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch and will also provide justification for extending IUU surveillance provided by the Blue Belt Programme beyond the boundaries of the Ascension MPA and allow surveillance to be targeted at any hotspots of seabird activity.

In the longer term, this project will bring about increased protection for Ascension's seabirds by managing the threats they

experience throughout their lifecycle. It will ensure the ecosystem impacts of the Atlantic tuna fishery are presented and factored into management decisions and sustainability assessments. The spatial data collected through this project will also be incorporated into work being led by AIG to predict the impacts of climate change on the distribution and vulnerability Ascension's protected species. This forms part of a wider collaboration with academics and MPA managers to adapt paradigms of area-based conservation to meet the challenges of a changing climate.

Publicising the results of this study to the scientific and conservation communities as well as the general public could result in pressure from retailers and consumers on ICCAT or the vessel owners to reduce their biodiversity impacts. The communication outputs of this project are designed to be accessible in order to engage a wide audience and harness this potential route for change.

The results of this project will have impact at a global scale. It will provide Ascension and the UK Government with a strong platform to argue for integrated ocean management across national EEZs and areas beyond national jurisdictions by providing a tangible example of where area-based protection is biologically meaningful and reflects the distribution of threatened species. It will also provide an example to other oceanic MPAs of how to target surveillance beyond their boundaries. Project partners Global Fishing Watch and BirdLife International work on other large remote MPAs, so they are in a good position to learn from the outputs of this project and apply the framework beyond Ascension.

Q16. Pathway to change

Please outline your project's expected pathway to change. This should be an overview of the overall project logic and outline why and how you expect your Outputs to contribute towards your overall Outcome and, longer term, your expected Impact.

To influence management and policy decisions beyond its borders, Ascension requires strong evidence that its protected species are ranging beyond the MPA and are vulnerable to human activity on the high seas. This project will provide evidence-based management recommendations to integrate the MPA within the wider seascape and benefit seabirds. This will provide an exemplar for other large-scale MPAs that protect wide-ranging species, which could be translated to other sites under the forthcoming BBNJ Agreement.

As a member of the UKOT delegation to ICCAT (St Helena includes Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha), AIG is well-placed to present the project findings and argue strongly for greater consideration of ecosystem impacts when setting management measures. Small Islands can have a disproportionate influence; data from Ascension have recently had a significant impact on the ICCAT yellowfin tuna assessment.

Extending IUU surveillance beyond the Ascension MPA is a decision for AIG and MMO, partners to this project who are committed to implementing its findings.

AIG is committed to supporting UK Government efforts to increase biodiversity protection in the high seas and will use its platform at international meetings and conferences to showcase this project's results and its implications for protection beyond MPA boundaries.

Q17. Exit Strategy

How will the project reach a sustainable point and continue to deliver benefits post-funding? Will the activities require funding and support from other sources, or will they be mainstreamed in to "business as usual"? How will the required knowledge and skills remain available to sustain the benefits? If relevant, how will your approach be scaled?

This is a discrete project that will provide an evidence base to guide future policy and management measures. Within the duration of this project, two seasons of additional seabird tracking data will be collected and combined with existing data, filling data gaps for non-breeding juveniles and adults that were previously non represented in the Ascension seabird tracking dataset. This will be sufficient to identify any spatial and temporal patterns in seabird movement that can underpin changes in management and policy.

Satellite surveillance for IUU fishing around Ascension's MPA and the UK delegation to ICCAT are already resourced through existing UK Government funding streams. This provides continued opportunities to use the data collected through this project to influence policy and management.

The results of this project will be made available through the Global Fishing Watch Marine Manager portal. The portal is

sustainably funded through philanthropy and government funding ensuring the portal is maintained and the data from this project are publicly accessible beyond the length of the grant. The seabird tracking data will be uploaded to the BirdLife International Seabird Tracking Database, where it can feed in to regional and global scale seabird conservation research, such as identifying important areas for seabirds, migratory connectivity and exposure to marine threats.

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

- Darwin R11 Protecting seabirds across borders - References
- 15/10/2022
- 16:27:38
- pdf 110.33 KB

Section 7 - Risk Management

Q18. Risk Management

Please outline the 6 key risks to achievement of your Project Outcome and how these risks will be managed and mitigated, referring to the Risk Guidance. This should include at least one Fiduciary, one Safeguarding, and one Delivery Chain Risk.

Projects should also draft their initial risk register using the Risk Register Template provided, and be prepared to submit this when requested if they are recommended for funding. Do not attach this to your application.

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Inherent Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Fiduciary (Financial) Purchased tags purchased are lost in transit to Ascension.	Major	Possible	Moderate	Use established shipping agent. Insure tags.	Minor
Safeguarding AIG staff are injured tagging seabirds in a remote location.	Major	Unlikely	Minor	Full risk assessment carried out and mitigations put in place. Staff first aid trained. Remote working procedures followed.	Minor
Delivery Chain The presentation to ICCAT summarising the project analysis fails to influence policy.	Moderate	Possible	Moderate	Cefas will provide advice based on their experience of presenting at ICCAT. Presentation will come from AIG so it carries greater weight.	Moderate
Risk 4 Tracking data fail to show seabird foraging is concentrated in particular locations or associated with fishing activity making application to policy or management difficult.	Major	Possible	Moderate	Sample size is as large as a reasonable budget will allow to maximise the chance of detecting any foraging hotspots.	Moderate

Risk 5 A large proportion of the satellite tags malfunction or are dislodged by the birds shortly after they are attached preventing the collection of data beyond the breeding season.	Major	Unlikely	Minor	Tags will be tested before shipping and on arrival. Deployment will be carried out by experienced seabird scientist.	Minor
Risk 6 ICCAT fail to provide catch data within the required timeframe for it to be incorporated into the analysis.	Severe	Unlikely	Moderate	Requests to ICCAT will submitted as early as possible to allow sufficient time to process. ICCAT have an open data policy so will be prepared to provide the data.	Minor

Section 8 - Implementation Timetable

Q19. 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.

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.

Darwin R11 - Ascension seabird-Implementation-Timetable Final.docx
15/10/2022
16:43:44
pdf 171.08 KB

Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Q20. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan

Describe how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, making reference to who is responsible for the project's M&E.

Darwin Plus projects will need 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. For more information, see Finance Guidance**.**

The creation of an M&E framework will be a high priority at the beginning of the project. The framework will be tied to the indicators and verification methods set out in the logframe and the timetable included in this application. The Ascension Island Government Conservation and Fisheries Directorate (AIGCFD) project lead will be responsible for drawing up this framework and overall management of the M&E process with input from project partners on specific work packages.

M&E of project progress will be carried out quarterly through a meeting with all project partners to assess progress in delivering the activities shown in the project timetable and achieving outputs according to the logframe indicators. Where important milestones are missed, all relevant project partners will agree actions to regain the original timetable and prevent other outputs being delayed as a consequence.

An adaptive approach will be taken whereby actions that are failing to produce the required outputs and outcomes will be reviewed and revised during virtual meetings of the project partners.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)	[redacted]
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)	[redacted]
Number of days planned for M&E	15

Section 10 - Logical Framework

Q21. Logical Framework (logframe)

Darwin Plus projects will be required to monitor and report against their progress towards their 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

The **logframe template** (N.B. there is a different template for Stage 1 and Stage 2) needs to be downloaded from Flexi-Grant, completed and uploaded as a PDF within your Flexi-Grant application – **please do not edit the logframe template structure (other than adding additional Outputs if needed) as this may make your application ineligible.** On the application form, you will be asked to copy the Impact, Outcome and Output statements and activities - these should be the same as in your uploaded logframe.

Please upload your logframe as a PDF document.

- Darwin R11 ASI Seabirds logframe Final
- 15/10/2022
- 16:51:35
- pdf 107.58 KB

Impact:

Ascension's seabirds are protected from major threats throughout their lifecycle, providing an exemplar of integrated protection that goes beyond political borders and reflects the actual distribution of species.

Outcome:

Management of the Atlantic tuna fishery and surveillance of IUU fishing activity incorporates robust knowledge of the year-round distribution and vulnerability of Ascension's seabird populations.

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Existing data on the movements of Ascension and St Helena's seabird species are collated and new tracking work undertaken to fill gaps in knowledge for species outside of the breeding season.

Output 2:

AIS data is collated to show the location of fishing vessels in the tropical Atlantic throughout the seabird tracking period. Catch data for the period are obtained from ICCAT.

Output 3:

Results of data analysis answer the following key questions:

-Do Ascension and St Helena seabirds range beyond the MPA boundaries?

-How much time is spent beyond the MPAs and how does this vary between species, age groups and time of year?

-Are there particular hotspot areas of seabird activity?

-Is seabird activity correlated with the presence of fishing vessels and the level of catch?

-Is there species/age/individual variation in any correlation with fishing activity?

Output 4:

Project Outputs are presented to ICCAT Ecosystem Group and the public to influence management decisions and are used to target IUU fishing surveillance activity outside of the Ascension MPA.

Output 5:

No Response

Do you require more Output fields?

It is advised to have fewer 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, 1.3 are contributing to Output 1.

1.1 Collate previous seabird tracking data from Ascension and St Helena and create database uploaded onto the GFW Marine Manager Portal.
1.2 Deploy satellite tags on 35 Ascension frigatebirds and 35 masked boobies.
1.3 Download and store data from satellite tags.
2.1 Compile database of AIS data from the Atlantic covering seabird tracking periods.
2.2 Submit catch data requests to ICCAT for Atlantic tuna fisheries overlapping in time and space with seabirds.
2.3 Compile database of ICCAT catch data.
3.1 Undertake interim analysis of existing seabird and fishing data and first year of new tracking data.
3.2 Undertake final analysis of all seabird tracking and fishing data.
3.3 Produce final report summarising analysis
3.4 Prepare manuscript and submit to a peer-reviewed journal.
4.1 Prepare presentation based on project results for ICCAT.
4.2 Presentation to ICCAT Ecosystem Group.
4.3 Publicise project through accessible social media output and public events on Ascension.
4.4 Undertake review of Blue Belt Programme IUU fisheries surveillance coverage.
4.5 Adopt new IUU fisheries surveillance plan.

Section 11 - Budget and Funding

Q22. Budget

Please complete the template below which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.

Budget form for projects over £100k

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.

Please upload the Lead Partner's financial accounts at the certification page at the end of the application form.

Please upload your completed Darwin Plus Budget Form Excel spreadsheet using the field below.

Darwin R11 Seabird budget
15/10/2022
16:59:28
xlsx 94.85 KB

Q23. Funding

Q23a. Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work?

⦿ New Initiative

Please provide details:

Previous seabird tracking work has been conducted, but the focus on high seas distribution and management is a new initiative.

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

⦿ No

Q24. 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.

The largest cost of the project will be seabird tags and associated satellite costs. This is a fundamental part of the project and it is AIG staff based on Ascension who will be purchasing and deploying tags. This makes use of the existing expertise on Ascension and allows other Ascension-based staff to gain experience of tag deployment and managing satellite contracts.

The second largest cost in the budget is staff time for data analysis. The type of analysis required is very specialised.

Ascension does not have the capacity to analyse the data and limited internet connections and server capacity mean it is not feasible to process large datasets on the island. AIG will lead on the scope of analysis and define the outputs required for to them to influence policy and refine management, but the analysis needs to be done by an external partner.

Q25. 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.

Capital items account for [redacted] of the overall budget cost. This is primarily the cost of the satellite tags. The project relies on obtaining tracking data from a good sample size of seabirds. There are no other ways to obtain these data and a strong evidence base is required to influence policy. High capital costs are unavoidable if the project is to succeed.

Q26. 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.

Working at this scale requires significant resources. However, this is the only way to achieve large impacts and provide meaningful protection for wide-ranging species.

AIG Conservation and Fisheries Directorate (AIGCFD) has used its previous experience of managing projects on the island to ensure that costs are realistic. Efforts have been made to reduce costs as far as possible:
- Quotes were obtained from three satellite tag companies and the model chosen represented the best value for money in terms of the data collection and battery life per unit cost.
- All work on Ascension will be conducted by AIG staff based there, avoiding the need for high travel and subsistence costs.
- Analysis will be conducted by project partners with costs based on staff time and allowable overheads. Staff costs based on standard organisational pay-scales. This is significantly cheaper than engaging a consultant or academic institution.
- There are large in-kind contributions of staff time from project partners.
- This project benefits greatly from existing tracking data collected in multiple previous field campaigns.

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q27. 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.

AIGCFD already operates an open access data management policy and will ensure that all outputs are made accessible online through the GFW Marine Manager Portal, the AIGCFD website and publicised through AIGCFD social media. AIGCFD is also part of a SAERI-hosted information network where data from the South Atlantic OTs can be easily discovered and accessed online by external users (http://www.south-atlantic-research.org/ims-gis). All data from this project will be documented within this online metadata system. Project partners will provide additional support to widen accessibility and will publish information on their own websites when appropriate. This includes uploading data to BirdLife International's Seabird Tracking Database (seabirdtracking.org), which is the world's largest collection of seabird tracking and regularly facilitates large collaborative seabird conservation projects. Papers submitted to working groups will be open access if permissible. Papers published in scientific journals will be open access.

Q28. 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 Partner has the following policies in place and that these can be 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 (file upload on certification page)	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 all 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 for staff and volunteers that sets out clear expectations of behaviours - inside and outside 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 safeguarding policies in practice and ensure that all partners apply the same standards as the Lead Partner.

All members of AIGCFD and partner organisation staff working on the project will be required to read AIG's Safeguarding Policy and state they are aware of procedures for raising issues or making a complaint. All AIGCFD staff members complete Safeguarding training. A clause will be included in all partner agreements requiring them to have their own safeguarding policy, Code of Conduct and register.

Q29. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the key ethical principles, as outlined in the guidance. 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? Any risk assessment and mitigation of human rights and/or international humanitarian law risks should be included in the Question 18 on Risk Management.

This project will meet the relevant ethical requirements set out in the Darwin Plus guidance.

The project will be conducted in accordance with Ascension law. The project activities will be added as an extension to the existing research permit held by the AIGCFD and approved by the Administrator. This includes a data sharing requirement with AIG, though in this instance that is redundant given AIGCFD is part of the island government.

AIG has an established health and safety policy that gives absolute primacy to the safety of people. This will be applied to all project activities and people working on the project.

All the project partners operate to the highest standards of academic integrity. The results and evidence collected through this project will be robust, accurately reported and freely shared.

BirdLife staff will adhere to the BirdLife Code of Practice on Ethical Standards in Scientific Research. The project component to be completed by BirdLife staff (analysis only) does not meet the criteria for requiring formal ethical approval.

Section 13 - Project Staff

Q30. Project staff

Please identify the core staff (identified in the budget), their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project.

Please provide 1-page CVs or job description, further information on who is considered core staff can be found in the Finance Guidance**.**

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Diane Baum	**Project Leader**	5	Checked
Laura Shearer	Seabird Scientist	25	Checked
Sophie Tuppen	Conservation Fieldworker	15	Unchecked
Bethany Clark	Seabird analyst	50	Checked

Do you require more fields?

◉ Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Ana Carneiro	Seabird Adviser	5	Checked
Serena Wright	Fisheries Adviser	5	Checked
Enrique Tuya	Technical engineer	5	Checked
No Response	*No Response*	0	Unchecked
No Response	*No Response*	0	Unchecked
No Response	*No Response*	0	Unchecked
No Response	*No Response*	0	Unchecked
No Response	*No Response*	0	Unchecked

Please provide 1 page CVs (or job description if yet to be recruited) for the project staff listed above as a combined PDF.

Ensure the file is named clearly, consistent with the named individual and role above.

Protecting Seabirds Across Borders - CVs combined
15/10/2022
17:30:20
pdf 416.54 KB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

⦿ No

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

Sophie Tuppen was unable to provide a CV within the application period due to leave and fieldwork commitments. Sophie has worked for AIGCFD for over four years and has considerable experience assisting with seabird monitoring and tagging work on the island, which will be her role in this project.

Section 14 - Project Partners

Q31. Project partners

Please list all the Project Partners (including the Lead Partner – i.e. the partner who will administer the grant and coordinate the delivery of the project), clearly setting out their roles and responsibilities in the project including the extent of their engagement so far and planned.

This section should demonstrate the capability and capacity of the Project Partners to successfully deliver the project. Please provide Letters of Support for all project partners or explain why this has not been included.

The partners listed here should correspond to the Delivery Chain Risk Map (within the Risk Register template) which you will be asked to submit if your project is recommended for funding.

Lead partner name:	Ascension Island Government Conservation and Fisheries Directorate
Is the Lead Partner based in a UKOT where the project is working?	⦿ Yes
Website address:	ascension-island.gov.ac
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	The Ascension Island Government Conservation and Fisheries Directorate (AIGCFD) is the only organisation undertaking biodiversity protection on the island and is responsible for ensuring Ascension's obligations under multinational environmental Agreements are met. It is the management authority for Ascension's protected areas, including the Ascension Island MPA, and enforces legislation on species and habitat protection. The Directorate conducts long-term monitoring and research activities to aid in the management of biodiversity and biosecurity threats in both marine and terrestrial ecosystems. AIGCFD is the lead partner in this project and will be responsible for project and financial management and reporting, project coordination, oversight of the project coordinator, collation of existing tracking data from Ascension seabirds, satellite tagging of seabirds on Ascension, project publicity and M&E.

Allocated budget (proportion or value):	[redacted]
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	⦿ Yes
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:	BirdLife International
Website address:	birdlife.org
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	BirdLife International has a long history of working to reduce seabird bycatch in fisheries worldwide. As well as direct engagement with crews, BirdLife works with fishery managers at national, regional and international levels by influencing the development of agreements and measures to reduce seabird bycatch. These include the Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, FAO and Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP). BirdLife also hosts the Seabird Tracking Database (STD), which has been crucial for efficient spatial targeting of conservation efforts. BirdLife will provide a Seabird Adviser and Seabird Analyst, who will both contribute to the project Steering Group. The named BirdLife staff have the capacity and capability to carry out the work. The Seabird Adviser will provide expertise on seabird ecology and behaviour, seabird-fishery interactions, tagging technology and methods, and analysis of tracking data and vessel distribution. The Seabird Analyst will provide advice on seabird tracking, collate and process new and existing seabird tracking data, combine the seabird and vessel location datasets, develop the analytical method, carry out the main analysis, produce results, maps and graphics, upload the seabird tracking data to the Seabird Tracking Database, and lead writing a manuscript for submission to a peer-reviewed scientific journal.
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	[redacted]
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	⦿ Yes

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

2. Partner Name:	Global Fishing Watch
Website address:	globalfishingwatch.org
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	Global Fishing Watch are an international NGO using satellite technology, machine learning and data visualization to build an accurate picture of human activity at sea through free and open data and tools. Global Fishing Watch have applied machine learning algorithms to AIS data to map the global footprint of fishing activity in near real time. To support this project, Global Fishing Watch will provide aggregated AIS data of fishing activity throughout the range of seabirds tagged on Ascension Island. By using a combination of satellite and terrestrial received AIS transmissions, we can identify fishing activity that overlaps with seabirds, regardless of where they fly. Global Fishing Watch will provide technical advice on the interpretation and analysis of AIS fishing data. Additionally, Global Fishing Watch will publish the tracks of the tagged seabirds on the public-facing Global Fishing Watch Marine Manager portal to highlight the potential overlap between tagged seabirds and fishing activity.
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	[redacted]
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	⦿ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⦿ Yes

3. Partner Name:	Cefas
Website address:	Cefas.co.uk
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) are a UK government agency of Defra (the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs). Cefas provide scientific support to UK Government and partners around the World. For this project, Cefas will focus on supporting with the processing of fisheries data and producing reports and presentations that align with ICCAT reporting requirements which will be presented at the Subcommittee of Ecosystems and Bycatch. Cefas will also contribute to the project Steering Group.
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	[redacted]

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	⦿ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⦿ Yes

4. Partner Name:	Marine Management Organisation
Website address:	https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/marine-management-organisation/about
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) are a non-departmental UK Government body of DEFRA charged with managing England's marine environment. MMO's remit has been expanded to include the UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs), including Ascension Island, and it now provides fisheries intelligence and surveillance capability to the UKOTs through the Blue Belt and Blue Shield Programmes. As part of this project MMO will provide AIS data from the tropical Atlantic and oversight of their use in the fishery data analysis. They will work with AIG to incorporate recommendations from the results of this project into the design of Ascension's IUU fishing surveillance programme. MMO will also sit on the project Steering Group.
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	[redacted]
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	⦿ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⦿ Yes

5. Partner Name:	*No Response*
Website address:	*No Response*
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	*No Response*
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	£0.00

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	○ Yes ○ No
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*
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	£0.00
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	○ Yes ○ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	○ Yes ○ No

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

No Response

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

Darwin Plus 11 - Ascension Seabirds-Letter responding to Stage 1 feedback
15/10/2022
17:42:45
pdf 294.67 KB

Section 15 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q32. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Has your organisation been awarded Darwin Plus, Darwin Initiative or Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund funding 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
DPLUS165	Dr Diane Baum/Dr Tiffany Simpson	Barcoding an island – expanding genetic biomonitoring on Ascension
DPLUS159	Dr Diane Baum	Growing Hope – a blueprint for saving Ascension's endemic plants
DPLUS135	Dr Diane Baum	From pseudoscorpions to crickets: securing Ascensions Island's unique invertebrates
DPLUS134	Dr Diane Baum	Repelling the invader: turning the tide on Ascension's Mexican thorn
DPLUS113	Dr Diane Baum	Climate Resilience and Conservation of Ascension Biodiversity
DPLUS096	Dr Diane Baum	Building Ascension's Biosecurity Capacity

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.

⦿ No

If no, please provide details.

Not required for a Government Agency.

Section 16 - Certification

Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

Ascension Island Government Conservation and Fisheries Directorate

I apply for a grant of

[redacted]

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, a cover letter, letters of support, a budget, logframe, Safeguarding Policy and project implementation timetable.**
- **Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report are also enclosed.**

Checked

Name	Diane Elizabeth Baum
Position in the organisation	Director of Conservation and Fisheries
Signature (please upload e-signature)	Dee signature 15/10/2022 17:47:48 jpg 7.12 KB
Date	17 October 2022

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

No Response

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

AI Child Protection procedures 2015 final (June 2015)
15/10/2022
17:48:40
pdf 220 KB

Section 17 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including the "Darwin Plus Guidance**", "**Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance**", "**Risk Guidance**" and "**Financial 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 the project.	Checked
I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application 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 30, 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), including relevant OT Governments, identified at Question 31, or an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant.	Checked
I have included a copy of the Lead Partner's safeguarding policy, which covers the criteria listed in Question 28.	Checked
I have included a signed copy of the last 2 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 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 the application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the **Privacy Notice**, available from the Forms and Guidance Portal.

This **Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals** whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).

Project Title: DPRS11/1017 Protecting Seabirds Across Borders

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1	Existing data on the movements of Ascension and St Helena's seabird species are collated and new tracking work undertaken to fill gaps in knowledge for species outside of the breeding season.																					
1.1	Collate previous seabird tracking data from Ascension and St Helena and create database uploaded onto the GFW Marine Manager Portal.	5																				
1.2	Deploy satellite tags on 35 Ascension frigatebirds and 35 masked boobies.	4																				
1.3	Download and store data from satellite tags.	21																				
Output 2	AIS data is collated to show the location of fishing vessels in the tropical Atlantic throughout the seabird tracking period. Catch data for the period are obtained from ICCAT.																					
2.1	Compile database of AIS data from the Atlantic covering seabird tracking periods.	12																				
2.2	Submit catch data requests to ICCAT for Atlantic tuna fisheries overlapping in time and space with seabirds.	3																				

Project Title: DPRS11/1017 Protecting Seabirds Across Borders

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2.3	Compile database of ICCAT catch data.	2																				
Output 3	Results of data analysis answer the following key research questions.																					
3.1	Undertake interim analysis of existing seabird and fishing data and first year of new tracking data.	10																				
3.2	Undertake final analysis of all seabird tracking and fishing data.	9																				
3.3	Produce final report summarising analysis	3																				
3.4	Prepare manuscript and submit to a peer-reviewed journal.	3																				
Output 4	Project Outputs are presented to ICCAT Ecosystem Group and public to influence management decisions and used to target IUU fishing surveillance activity outside of the Ascension MPA.																					
4.1	Prepare presentation based on project results for ICCAT.	4																				
4.2	Presentation to ICCAT Ecosystem Group.	1																				
4.3	Publicise project through accessible social media output and public events on Ascension.																					

Project Title: DPRS11/1017 Protecting Seabirds Across Borders

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (23/24)				Year 2 (24/25)				Year 3 (25/26)				Year 4 (26/27)				Year 5 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
4.4	Undertake review of Blue Belt programme IUU fisheries surveillance coverage.	2																				
4.5	Adopt new IUU fisheries surveillance plan.	1																				

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Ascension's seabirds are protected from major threats throughout their lifecycle, providing an exemplar of integrated protection that goes beyond political borders and reflects the actual distribution of species. (Max 30 words)			
Outcome: (Max 30 words) Management of the Atlantic tuna fishery and surveillance of IUU fishing activity incorporates robust knowledge of the year-round distribution and vulnerability of Ascension's seabird populations.	0.1 Data on seabird movements and fishing vessel activity in the tropical Atlantic collated by Y3Q1. 0.2 Analysis of seabird distribution and interaction with fishing vessels completed by Y3Q2. 0.3 Results of the analysis incorporated into ICCAT ecosystem impact assessments and used to plan target areas for IUU fishing surveillance by Y3Q4.	0.1 Screenshots of databases and photographs of new tag deployment. 0.2 Final summary report of analysis results. 0.3 Copies of presentation to ICCAT and surveillance plan.	Analysis of the data provides evidence of an interaction that is sufficiently robust to influence fisheries management policy. Mitigation: Data collection has been and will be carried out to high standards that have been peer-reviewed in past projects. Project partners have a strong track record in conducting and disseminating similar work. AIG is committed to using the influence it has at an international level to change policy and, along with MMO, is able to implement changes to surveillance activity.
Outputs: **1**. Existing data on the movements of Ascension and St Helena's seabird species are collated and new tracking work undertaken to fill gaps in knowledge for species outside of the breeding season.	1.1 Single database of all seabird tracking data created and uploaded onto the publicly available online GFW Marine Manager Portal by Y2 Q1. 1.2 Satellite tags deployed on 35 Ascension frigatebirds and 35 masked boobies at the end of the 2023 and 2024 breeding seasons. All tags deployed by Y2Q4.	1.1 Screenshot of database and link to online portal. 1.2 Records of tags deployed and photographs of tag deployment. 1.3 Screenshot of database. 1.4 Screenshot and link to online portal.	All owners of existing data allow them to be used. Mitigation: Research permits issued by AIG require researchers to make their data available for AIG use. Individual studies have already been published by original researchers so further use should not be controversial.

	1.3 Data from the satellite tags is downloaded between Y1Q4 and Y3Q2. 1.4 Seabird tracking data displayed on the GFW Marine Manager Portal.		Sufficient seabirds can be caught and tagged. Mitigation: based on monitoring carried out in previous years, there should be more than enough breeding birds on Ascension to provide the number required for tagging. Tag operation and retention is good. Mitigation: BirdLife and AIG have extensive experience of tagging and will use tags and attachment methods that have a proven track record.
2. AIS data is collated to show the location of fishing vessels in the tropical Atlantic throughout the seabird tracking period. Catch data for the period are obtained from ICCAT.	2.1 AIS data sources identified by Y1Q4. Database of AIS data covering tracking period created by Y3Q1. 2.2 First catch data request submitted to ICCAT by Y2Q2. Database of catch data created by Y3Q1.	2.1 Screenshot of database. 2.2 Screenshot of database.	AIS data for the tracking period is available. Mitigation: GFW and MMO have access to AIS providers and experience in evaluating the data. ICCAT are willing to provide catch data. Mitigation: ICCAT are committed to public provision of data. Previous AIG requests to ICCAT have been successful. It can take time for data to become

			available so repeated requests will be made through the project to build up data and allow analysis over time.
3. Results of data analysis answer the following key questions: -Do Ascension and St Helena seabirds range beyond the MPA boundaries? -How much time is spent beyond the MPAs and how does this vary between species, age groups and time of year? -Are there particular hotspot areas of seabird activity? -Is seabird activity correlated with the presence of fishing vessels and the level of catch? -Is there species/age/individual variation in any correlation with fishing activity?	3.1 Interim analysis on existing data and first year of new tracking completed by Y2Q4. 3.2 Final report summarising analysis completed by Y3Q3. 3.3 Analysis submitted for publication by a peer-reviewed journal by Y3Q4. 3.4 Data uploaded to the Seabird Tracking Database	3.1 Copy of interim report. 3.2 Copy of final report. 3.3 Copy of manuscript and evidence of submission. 3.4 Dataset ID, URL and screenshot of database portal.	Sufficient data will be available to undertake the analysis. Mitigation: Existing seabird tracking and available AIS data provide a strong foundation for the analysis. Past experience of tagging work provides confidence that new data will be collected during the project period.
4. Project Outputs are presented to ICCAT Ecosystem Group and public to influence management decisions and used to target IUU fishing surveillance activity outside of the Ascension MPA.	4.1 Results and recommendations of project presented at ICCAT by Y3Q4. 4.2 Four social media posts and two events on Ascension raise public awareness of the project.	4.1 Copy of the presentation. Photographs/screenshot of presentation being delivered. 4.2 Copies of social media posts. Photographs of events and number of attendees.	ICCAT are willing to accept the submission. Mitigation: AIG are a member of ICCAT and Cefas have experience of the submission process.

	4.3 Review of Blue Belt Programme fisheries surveillance coverage undertaken by Y3Q4. New surveillance plan including areas outside of the MPA implemented by Y3Q4.	4.3 Copy of surveillance plan and map of new satellite coverage area.	The Blue Belt Programme continues to fund satellite surveillance and there is sufficient resource to allow coverage of areas outside of the MPA. Mitigation: The UK Government has made a strong commitment to the Blue Belt Programme and fisheries compliance in particular. AIG and MMO decide on the allocation of surveillance resource and are both keen to make changes reflecting the outputs of this project.