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# **DPR12S2\1011**

## **Empowering and preparing Cayman's Sister Islands to tackle invasive mammals**

The future of the unique native biodiversity of Cayman's Sister Islands, including the Critically Endangered Sister Islands Rock Iguana, is seriously threatened by invasive non-native mammals, especially feral and domestic cats. This project will ensure that local agencies and the Sister Islands' community are prepared to collaboratively deliver long-term strategies to sustainably protect native biodiversity by enhancing responsible pet management, developing a feral cat eradication plan, and increasing on-island capacity to implement enhanced biosecurity and invasive mammal suppression, long term.



# DPR12S2\1011

Empowering and preparing Cayman's Sister Islands to tackle invasive mammals

## Section 1 - Contact Details

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### PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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Title	Mr
Name	Joe
Surname	Jeffcoate
Organisation	RSPB
Tel (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

### GMS ORGANISATION

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Type	Charity/ trusts
Name	RSPB
Phone (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

## Section 2 - Title & Summary

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### Q3. Title:


Empowering and preparing Cayman's Sister Islands to tackle invasive mammals


### What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DPR12S1\1123


DPR12S1\1012


Please attach a cover letter as a PDF document.

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 [RSPB Application Cover Letter JJeffcoate FINAL](#)

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## Q4. Summary of project

Please provide a brief non-technical summary of your project: the problem/need it is trying to address, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking.

Successful Darwin Plus Main projects 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 UKOTs to support the environment in the short- and long-term.

The future of the unique native biodiversity of Cayman's Sister Islands, including the Critically Endangered Sister Islands Rock Iguana, is seriously threatened by invasive non-native mammals, especially feral and domestic cats. This project will ensure that local agencies and the Sister Islands' community are prepared to collaboratively deliver long-term strategies to sustainably protect native biodiversity by enhancing responsible pet management, developing a feral cat eradication plan, and increasing on-island capacity to implement enhanced biosecurity and invasive mammal suppression, long term.

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

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### Q5. UKOT(s)

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

Cayman Islands

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

*No Response*

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

No

## Q6. Project dates

<b>Start date:</b>	<b>End date:</b>	<b>Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):</b>
01 April 2024	31 March 2027	3 years

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## Q7. Budget summary

Year:	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total request
Amount:	£166,308.11	£253,979.68	£179,015.18	£599,302.97

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## Q8. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

Yes

Please ensure you clearly outline your matched funding arrangement in the budget.

## Q9. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you will fund the project if you don't manage to secure this?

*No Response*

## Q10. Have you received, applied for or plan to apply for any other UK Government funding for the proposed project or similar?

No

## Section 4 - Problem statement

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### Q11. 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 the need for your project? Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem.

Invasive alien species have contributed solely/alongside other drivers to 60% of recorded global extinctions, with 90% of such extinctions attributed mainly to invasive alien species having occurred on islands [1]. Unfortunately, invasive non-native species are major drivers of biodiversity loss in the Cayman Islands, already causing five extinctions [2]. Invasive mammals threaten native species on Little Cayman and Cayman Brac, which are home

to the Territory's most internationally significant wildlife.

Feral cats/free-roaming domestic cats are among the primary threats to the endemic, Critically Endangered Sister Islands Rock Iguana (*Cyclura nubila caymanensis*) [3] with predation of hatchlings/juveniles the most direct threat to this species [4]. With <2,000 individuals [5], Little Cayman is the last remaining stronghold for the species whilst Cayman Brac's population is so low current methods are unable to establish a reliable population estimate.

Invasive mammals also threaten native seabirds, such as the Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) on Cayman Brac, which have seen a staggering 72% decline in breeding pairs between 1983-2019 [6]. The impacts of invasive rodents on tropical islands are well-understood and native populations are proven to recover following the removal of invasive mammals [7,8].

The number and impact of invasive species can be reduced through management of biological invasions [1] and suppression efforts in Cayman are proving successful [6]. Without continued suppression, predation will increase, threatening native species populations. This project therefore enhances invasive mammal control to protect/sustain threatened species until an eradication can begin.

Re/colonisation of invasives remains a pervasive threat. An inter-island biosecurity plan is in development, however resources to support feral cat surveillance and prevent/respond to invasive incursions is lacking, as is community biosecurity awareness/participation. Prevention and preparedness are the most cost-effective options and crucial for managing invasive species threats [1]. The project will enhance Sister Island's biosecurity via increased on-island capacity, surveillance and developing community awareness via bespoke training.

Both islands differ in the populations of feral/domestic cats and in attitudes towards invasive species control: Little Cayman's (ca.28 km<sup>2</sup>; human population = 160) feral cat population is thought to be no more than ca.200 individuals [9] and no more than 30 registered domestic cats. Cayman Brac's (ca.38 km<sup>2</sup>; human population 2,003) feral cat population is expected to be far greater. Both islands have limited access to vets and mostly allow free-roaming cats. 67% of respondents from both islands viewed feral cats as an issue [10].

Little Cayman is identified as one of the top 25 priority islands for invasive species eradication across over 2,000 islands in the 14 UK Overseas Territories [11] due to its unique reptile fauna. Little Cayman residents are overwhelmingly in favour of feral cat control, with >95% of residents writing to Government Ministers in 2018 requesting action and 72% of survey respondents reporting support for eradicating feral cats from Little Cayman [10]. The feral cat eradication feasibility study highlights the need for operational planning, and improved biosecurity and responsible pet management to ensure success [12]. This project responds to those recommendations and community feedback.

## Section 5 - Environmental Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

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### Q12. 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 UKOT 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.**

By preparing the Sister Islands to deliver long-term strategies to protect native biodiversity, via reducing the impact of invasive mammals, this project strongly aligns with local, national and international action plans, priorities and commitments to reduce the impact of invasive species and protect impacted native species.

### Cayman Islands Governmental Priorities

1. By working to reduce/eliminate the invasive mammal threat, this project contributes to implementing priorities in the Government's National Biodiversity Action Plan (2009) to reduce/eliminate invasive non-native species of the following native species: Brown Booby, White-tailed Tropicbird, Red-footed Booby, Sister Island Rock Iguana and the Little Cayman Green Anole. The relevant actions this project addresses are: "Enabling DoE Officers to implement legal eradication of invasive species, as necessary to ensure the survival of endangered native species", "Creating and enforcing a policy to ensure all new domestic cats arriving in Little Cayman are sterilized", "Feral cat control", "Implementing regular free domestic cat sterilization, micro-chipping and collaring sessions", "Maintaining and expanding local and international volunteer support", "Meeting with Thompson Shipping, Port Authority and Cayman Airways to determine measures to reduce accidental carriage of animals between islands", "Conducting pilot project towards eradication of feral cats in Little Cayman", "Investigating new technologies to augment cat control programme", "Raising public awareness regarding the humane, wildlife and pet health issues associated with feral cats", "Raising public awareness regarding invasive species including uncontrolled pets and feral animals (including humane, wildlife and pet health implications) and incidental introductions".

2. The project also delivers priorities under Cayman Islands' Environmental Charter (commitments 1,2,6,7,9,10, 11) to protect native biodiversity and control invasive species.

### Local Action Plans

By seeking to remove one of the primary threats (invasive mammal predation) of the Sister Islands Rock Iguana and local seabird colonies, this project will deliver key actions identified in local plans to protect these species:

1. The local Species Action Plan for the Sister Islands Rock Iguana, specifically Objective 1: "Reduce un-natural mortality rates sufficiently to halt population decline and assist recovery", Result 3.2: "Evaluate and enhance biosecurity in the Cayman Islands" and Result 5.1 "Invasive species awareness"
2. The Management Plans for the 'Booby Pond & Rookery' RAMSAR site and Cayman Brac's Brown Booby colony.

### International Agreements

- Convention on Biological Diversity Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target 6 to 'eliminate, minimize, reduce and or mitigate the impacts of invasives... especially in priority sites, such as islands'
- UN Sustainable Development Goal 15.8 to 'significantly reduce the impact of invasive species on land...'
- RAMSAR convention Resolution V.III.18 'Invasive Species & Wetlands' via reducing the impact of invasive species at the 'Booby Pond & Rookery'.

### UK National Priorities

- Strategic priority ii in DEFRA's UKOTs Biodiversity Strategy 2014 'Preventing the establishment of invasive alien species'
- 25-Year Environment Plan (2018) Target 3 '...prevent human-induced extinction or loss of known threatened species in... the Overseas Territories'

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

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### Q13. Methodology

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

- how you reflected on and incorporated **evidence and lessons learnt** from past and present similar activities and projects in the design of this project.

- the specific approach you are using, supported by **evidence** that it will be effective, and **justifying why you expect it will be successful** in this context.
- how you will undertake the work (activities, materials and methods).
- how the **main activities** will be and where these will take place.
- how you will **manage the work** (governance, roles and responsibilities, project management tools, risks etc.).

Led by the RSPB in partnership with Cayman Island's Government Department of Environment (DoE) and the National Trust for the Cayman Islands (NTCI), this project continues the strong partnership developed in DPLUS128: Safeguarding Cayman Sister Island's from invasive species. RSPB will assume overall project delivery responsibility, supporting and providing internal expertise to DoE and NTCI, leading on project delivery and engaging an expert consultant to produce a feral cat eradication plan.

The feral cat eradication feasibility study commissioned in DPLUS128 confirmed eradication as feasible, providing key recommendations are addressed. Lessons from DPLUS128 therefore form the core of this proposal, which builds on successful activities filling the final gaps necessary to enable the future feral cat eradication.

Output 1: DoE will develop a domestic cat management plan for Little Cayman informed by the community via public consultation, a key feasibility study recommendation. With National Conservation Council (NCC) endorsement, DoE will draft legislation in support of the agreed management plan and submit to Cabinet. NTCI will develop a responsible pet management awareness campaign aligned with local animal welfare groups. DoE will collaborate with partners, local vets and Department of Agriculture (DoA) to implement a programme of domestic cat registration events (microchipping, desexing) and distribute cat predation mitigation accessories to registered owners such as bird-scare collars. In response to DPLUS128 surveys in which 77% Little Cayman and 62% Cayman Brac residents indicated that they believe cats should be kept indoors/have their movement limited, NTCI will run indoor cat enclosure trials with at least 5 cat owners and develop guidelines/make supplies available to encourage further up-take of indoor enclosures post-project. This will be underpinned by increased NTCI capacity on Little Cayman via recruitment of a Community Engagement & Biosecurity Officer and supported by Community Engagement Officer on Cayman Brac.

Output 2: RSPB will tender for feral cat eradication expertise in Y1 to produce a Little Cayman feral cat eradication operational plan by end Y2, informed by the results of non-target impact trials (another key recommendation in the DPLUS128 feasibility report) and engaging the Little Cayman community to ensure social acceptability of measures. DoE will submit the plan to the NCC for endorsement by project end. RSPB and DoE will develop a biodiversity monitoring plan and establish a pre-eradication baseline by end Y3 and submit at least one funding bid by project end to enable the eradication. RSPB will coordinate and co-deliver a training programme for at least 8 in-territory staff to increase capacity/knowledge of feral cat control, island eradications and biosecurity, sharing lessons/best practise and including insights from projects such as RSPB-led DPLUS121, Strengthening biosecurity in the TCI Iguana Islands, and other Caribbean/UK eradications projects. At least 1 in-territory post will be secured (e.g., within DoE) to support alien species management in the Sister Islands, long-term.

Output 3: All enhanced biosecurity measures are informed by and directed towards implementing recommendations identified in the DPLUS128 feasibility study, Sister Islands' biosecurity assessment and inter-island biosecurity plan (in development). DoE and NTCI will collaborate to deliver biosecurity training and educational resources to hospitality, shipping & port staff on both islands and engaging schools on Cayman Brac. Informed by the successful approach in the DPLUS121 project in Turks and Caicos Islands, biosecurity resources (e.g., rodent traps) will be provided and installed on all 4 Thompson Shipping vessels (the only shipping company publicly servicing the islands) to reduce incursion risk. Biosecurity surveillance will be established on Little Cayman with volunteers engaged to support biosecurity monitoring. DoE will test real-time camera-based alert systems at high incursion risk site(s) on Little Cayman, supported by knowledge exchanges with Re: wild's project Harnessing AI to prevent biodiversity loss in Anguilla [DPLUS12S1/1037] via RSPB



Conservation Scientist, Louise Soanes. In consultation with Little Cayman residents, the project will develop a feral/domestic cat sighting reporting mechanism and associated incursion response plan.

Output 4: Building on suppression efforts established in DPLUS128, DoE will lead invasive mammal control at a minimum of 2 key sites of conservation concern, utilising enhanced systems such as trap trigger alerts systems from Y2 and monitoring Sister Islands Rock Iguana hatchlings and Brown Booby productivity annually. RSPB's Karen Varnham will guide enhanced rodent monitoring and develop a mesopredator release strategy to future-proof against any potential increase in rodent numbers and will be shared with the community to alleviate any concerns. Building on lessons from feral cat population surveys developed in DPLUS128, survey methodology and an estimate of feral cat population on Cayman Brac will be established supported by partners and Sister Island volunteers.

## Q14. Project Stakeholders

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

DoE has a positive working relationship with Department of Agriculture (DoA) and collaborate closely (e.g., feral cat control on the Sister Islands). DoA is supportive of partners' ambitions and will continue to collaborate.

Through extensive engagement during DPLUS128, the Sister Islands community are aware of ambitions to eradicate feral cats from Little Cayman, have indicated a desire for increased veterinary support and are supportive of limiting the movement of domestic cats. Two full-time positions on each island will ensure the community is meaningfully engaged. Both the Cayman Brac and Little Cayman National Trust District Committees have been approached to discuss the outcomes of this project and are supportive of the opportunities the increased capacity on the Sister Islands will bring.

In-territory partners are well linked with resort, shipping and port staff who will receive biosecurity training and have strong relationships with Sister Islands Tourism Association (SITA). These stakeholders have been receptive to engagement during DPLUS128, and their insights/challenges have informed the biosecurity audit that informs this project's design.

In-territory partners met with Cayman Islands Humane Society (CIHS) to inform them of the project's objectives. CIHS expressed interest in aligning resources and communications re: responsible pet management and partners will continue to encourage CIHS collaboration where possible.

RSPB is well-linked within the global island restoration community. Robinson Holdsworth Conservation Trust completed the feral cat eradication feasibility study which informs this project's design and have met with RSPB confirming their availability to apply for the tender and complete this work.

## Q15. Gender equality and social inclusion

**All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to promoting equality between persons of different gender and social characteristics. Explain your understanding of how individuals may be excluded from equal participation within the context of your project, and how you seek to address this. You should consider how your project will proactively contribute to ensuring individuals achieve equitable outcomes and how you will engage participants in a meaningful way.**

It is critical that community members are afforded equal opportunity to participate in the project as any future efforts to eradicate invasive non-native species will not succeed without full community support.

Individuals could be inadvertently excluded from participating if they are not aware of the project or feel uncomfortable providing input with other community members present. Multiple workshops/meetings will be held locally across a range of dates and times to suit all availability, and in-person engagement will be led by more than one person (and gender) so there is a diverse range of staff available to be a touchpoint for residents. Survey participants will have the option to have their data/response be anonymised due to the sensitive nature of themes of this project.

We will ensure the aims of the project are clear upon project launch with project communications shared via various media to ensure the community is informed regardless of their communication preferences and access levels (including internet/device access). The Sister Islands has a diverse ex-pat/immigrant and Caymanian population therefore, surveys and communications will be made available in additional languages (e.g., Spanish) where needed.

We believe extensive community engagement in DPLUS128 has already established trust and rapport between the community and project partners. By incorporating community feedback from DPLUS128 into this project, such as the need for vet support, we hope this shows residents that opinions are being valued and encourages further engagement.

The project will also fund Community Engagement Officer's on each island dedicated to ensuring the community are aware and engaged with the project if they choose to be. Individuals will be offered a wide range of engagement mediums, online and in-person, verbal and written, private and public, in attempt to reach as many residents as possible.

## Q16. 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). 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.**

The project will ensure in-territory partners and Sister Island community are fully prepared to protect the Sister Islands' globally significant biodiversity from invasive mammals, focusing particularly on the feral/domestic cats identified as the most urgent concern, and working towards the permanent removal of feral cats from Little Cayman via eradication - an ambition that will only be possible as a direct result of achieving the project Outcome.

Domestic cat management on the Sister Islands will be achieved through improved knowledge of responsible pet management reducing the number of free-roaming domestic cats that threaten native species. Indoor cat enclosures will be tested, and bespoke guidelines produced with materials made available to purchase. Registration and desexing of domestic cats and adoption of responsible pet behaviours/indoor cat enclosures will benefit owners of all genders and economic backgrounds as their pets will be at far less risk of contracting disease, receiving injuries, being lost/killed or having unwanted litters. The biodiversity of the island will be better protected thanks to a reduced number of free-roaming domestic cats preying on native species/supplementing the feral cat population. On Little Cayman, the development of the domestic cat management plan will ensure pets are protected in the long-term and kept safe during and post future eradication efforts.

In-territory staff will gain an increased knowledge and practical skills to enable the project's success, and in the long-term, support the future eradication through provision of training in feral cat control methods, island eradication and biosecurity. The Alien Species Control post will be secured to maintain invasive mammal suppression efforts on Cayman Brac and the Little Cayman feral cat eradication post-project.

Methods to achieve eradication that are socially acceptable and limit the impacts to non-target species will be identified and used to inform the eradication operational plan – to be implemented post project.

Sister Island's hospitality, shipping and port staff will receive biosecurity training to increase their knowledge of biosecurity issues and better understand their role in supporting biosecurity. Thompson Shipping will receive support in the form of rodent/feral cat traps to reduce incursions on the Sister Islands.

Biosecurity will be improved, and partners will establish a surveillance programme to reduce the number of invasive species arriving on Little Cayman including trialling real-time camera alert systems on Little Cayman, ensuring no new invasive non-native species are established and partners are prepared to deal with incursions accordingly long-term.

Populations of native species will begin to recover as the project enhances a programme of invasive mammal suppression at key sites of conservation concern.

Rodent populations will be monitored, and a strategy developed to prepare partners to deal with any increase in rodent numbers as a result of the future eradication (i.e., mesopredator release). Long-term, this will ensure partners are prepared to deal with any potential increase to rodent numbers as a result of suppression/control.

We will gain a better understanding of the feral cat and free-roaming cat populations on Cayman Brac which will help to inform any potential future island restoration efforts.

## Q17. 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, in the longer term, your expected Impact.**

All outputs contribute to the project Outcome of ensuring that local agencies and Sister Islands communities are fully prepared for future efforts to protect native biodiversity from invasive mammals, supporting the long-term Impact of sustainably removing invasive mammals from the Sister Islands and increasing native biodiversity. Community engagement is the key theme across all outputs, as community support will be essential for long-term success.

Output 1 To protect native species from domestic cat predation, responsible pet management must be improved. Alongside relevant veterinary measures, a community-endorsed responsible pet management plan will be developed and enacted, providing the community and political support needed to permanently remove this threat.

Output 2 Well-informed operational planning is needed to ensure future feral cat eradication success on Little Cayman. The project will produce an expertly developed and community-supported eradication plan that minimises impacts to non-target species, fully preparing local agencies to carry out the eradication post-project.

Outputs 3/4 Enhanced invasive species suppression is necessary to maintain manageable population levels within the short term, reducing impacts on native species and ensuring that full eradications remain feasible. Similarly, improved biosecurity is needed to prevent incursions bolstering existing invasive populations or introducing new threats.

## Q18. Sustainable benefits

**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? How will you ensure your data and evidence will be accessible to others?**

This project will deliver significant benefits post-funding by preparing in-territory partners to implement the Little Cayman feral cat eradication. Eradications are far more cost effective and sustainable in the long-term than ongoing control and this project works towards this goal by ensuring partners have the skills and knowledge to permanently remove feral cats, implementing both the operational and domestic cat management plans. We will have much heightened biosecurity in place to reduce likelihood of incursions which will secure the sustainability of the future eradication, with in-territory partners prepared to respond to sightings.

We will develop a fundraising plan for the eradication and submit at least 1 funding bid before project end to enable the eradication and aim to secure the Alien Species Control Officer post as a core role/funded position in-territory. In addition, NTCL has a growing programme and ambition in the Sister Islands and positions supported by this project will continue post-project end, either via core funding or via additional grant funding to continue community engagement.


Staff retention in DoE and NTCL is high thus trainings received will likely have lasting impact, but trainings will be recorded, and resources developed to ensure future staff can benefit from this. This approach will also be applied to recipients of biosecurity training on the Sister Islands, where staff turnover can be much higher (as is the nature of tourism industry).


A significant number of cats will be registered and permanently desexed and records will be available to partners and key stakeholders to ensure registered cats can continue to be identified and kept safe during control/eradication efforts. The database will bring together records from DoE, DoA and the Cayman Islands Humane Society with support of NTCL and be made available to these organisations in line with Cayman Islands Data Protection Regulations.


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

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 [Final List of References](#)

 02/10/2023

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## Section 7 - Risk Management

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### Q19. 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.**

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Inherent Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
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<b>Fiduciary (Financial)</b>	Downstream delivery partners use funds for purposes outside of project scope	Major	Unlikely	Major	Partners to be provided with financial templates/summary of budget in contracts with payments made on receipt of acceptable reports/paperwork aligned with project budget. Support provided by RSPB as to what is in scope of expenditure and partner coordinate with partner finance officers to ensure expenditure is appropriate.	Moderate
<b>Safeguarding</b>	Staff working on Sister Islands are subject to abuse/aggression from community members and put into uncomfortable positions where they feel unsafe/at risk	Moderate	Possible	Major	Ensure engagement with the community is done in public settings or completed collaboratively with at least 2 members of staff present. Project staff should notify managers of their whereabouts during fieldwork. Ensure the community is aware of fieldwork and gain necessary permissions from residents to access/work close to property.	Moderate
<b>Delivery Chain</b>	Relationship between in-territory partners breaks down and partners refuse to collaborate to achieve project outcomes, working independently of one another	Moderate	Unlikely	Moderate	Ensure regular coordination meetings are established between project lead and partners and encourage in-person meetings between partners in-territory where possible. Partners to raise any concerns with project lead who will provide support to ensure roles and responsibilities are clear and agreed with all partners.	Minor
<b>Risk 4</b>	No methods can be identified for eradication that reduce/eliminate impacts non target species or that are socially acceptable to the community.	Severe	Possible	Severe	Contract international expertise with experience in feral cat eradications and ensure various methods and mitigation techniques are trialled without relying on just one option. Ensure details of methods are shared with community, highlighting humaneness and benefits to native species, building on success of Green Iguana/feral cat suppressions operations.	Major

<b>Risk 5</b>	An expert consultant cannot be identified who is available to support partners with the project and develop operational plan.	Major	Unlikely	Major	Ensure sufficient budget is available to attract the best candidates for the job, ensuring tender is publicised widely to the right networks, e.g., the IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group “Aliens-L” mailing list and directly with contacts who have completed similar work in the past with RSPB.	Moderate
<b>Risk 6</b>	Animal welfare organisations do not agree with desired Outcome of the project and proactively attempt to prevent implementation.	Major	Likely	Severe	Engage proactively with animal welfare groups before project start up (completed Sept 2023) managing as a key priority stakeholder. Ensure responsible pet messaging is aligned with groups and invite groups to collaborate in activities/events as appropriate and ensure humanness of lethal control efforts is prioritised and communicated with groups.	Major

## Q20. Project sensitivities

**Please indicate whether there are sensitivities associated with this project that need to be considered if details are published (detailed species location data that would increase threats, political sensitivities, prosecutions for illegal activities, security of staff etc.). Please note your response to this question won't influence the outcome of your application.**

Yes

**Please provide brief details.**


Reporting of the feral cat control should be handled sensitively. We will provide updates on numbers of invasives removed but ask this not be broadly publicised. Community data should be managed sensitively in line with data protection regulations. Similarly, the domestic cat management plan/subsequent legislation should not be publicised until complete.


Partners engaged the Humane Society and although they have indicated their willingness to engage with the partnership, they requested that their support not be made public online yet due to political sensitivities. We will work with Darwin to manage this as not to jeopardise relations with this key stakeholder.


## Section 8 - Workplan


### Q21. Workplan

**Provide a project workplan that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the Word template as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project.**

 [Workplan Cayman SI 2023 FINAL](#)

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## **Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)**

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### **Q21. 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 (see Finance Guidance).**

M&E will be the responsibility of all partners but will be led by RSPB via the Project Lead supported by the Project Officer with overall accountability provided by the RSPB Head of UKOTs as Project Executive. A coordinator for each partner will be the main contact point for M&E and will work with the Project Lead. Project monitoring and administration is enabled by the RSPB's project management software, CORA.

Upon project start-up we will convene a launch meeting with partners which will include review of project outputs, activities, and indicators, with roles and responsibilities agreed for each partner and a responsible individual assigned for monitoring each of the logframe indicators.

RSPB will establish a SharePoint to maintain project materials, ensuring accessibility to all partners. This will include an M&E plan, which will capture the outcomes of the project launch meeting and will be reviewed at least bi-annually lead by the project lead and supported by the project officer in collaboration with project partners during online MS Teams meetings. The SharePoint system has proved effective during implementation of DPLUS128 and other Darwin Plus projects lead by RSPB in the Caribbean.

A project steering group will be formed, and a regular meeting schedule agreed (e.g., quarterly) to inform project delivery. Coordinated by the Project Officer, this will include at least one representative from DoE and NTCl as well as any specific workstream leads, consultants or stakeholders as appropriate. The meetings will monitor progress against project activities, project indicators and provide opportunity to review and manage project risks. At least annually a project coordination and update meeting will be convened in the Cayman Islands or remotely which will involve all project staff and senior management from both DoE and NTCl as well as RSPB Project Executive to review project progress and plan for future implementation.

Partners will provide bi-annual project progress reports including provision of deliverables and means of verification as well as financial reports to monitor project spend effectively. RSPB will establish both financial and technical reporting templates for partners to facilitate this and align with the grant reporting schedule.

There will be crossover between partners to support project monitoring however, broadly speaking, DoE will be responsible for monitoring biodiversity indicators within the project and leading on Outputs 2 and 4 and NTCl will be responsible for monitoring community engagement indicators, leading on Output 1. Partners will collaborate to monitor progress of Output 3. Partners will be supported by an RSPB's Senior Conservation

Scientist to inform biodiversity and community engagement survey design/monitoring.

A substantial proportion of the Project Lead and Project Officer's time spent will be allocated to M&E with additional support provided by partner staff. Not including match funding, a total of approximately 142 days will be spent on M&E and 1 RSPB in-territory visit per year in support of annual project meetings. This is approximately 10% of the project budget or ca. [REDACTED]. The majority of M&E is provided via match funding with an additional 396 project days or ca. [REDACTED]





<b>Total project budget for M&amp;E (£)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>(this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)</b>	
<b>Total project budget for M&amp;E (%)</b>	14
<b>Number of days planned for M&amp;E</b>	538

## Section 10 - Logical Framework

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### Q23. 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 will measure progress against these and how we can verify this.**

 [Stage 2 Cayman D+ Main 2023 logframe FINAL](#)  
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 pdf 212.24 KB

#### Impact:

The future of Cayman Sister Island's native species is secured through the removal of invasive species, improved biosecurity, legislative control and the support of the Sister Islands' community

#### Outcome:

Sister Island's community empowered and agencies are better prepared for future efforts to sustainably protect native biodiversity from invasive mammals via enhanced knowledge and awareness, in-territory capacity, biosecurity, and suppression.

#### Project Outputs

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##### Output 1:

Improved responsible pet management on Cayman's Sister Islands is informed, supported and enacted by the local communities

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##### Output 2:

Effective community-informed operational planning for Little Cayman feral cat eradication via enhanced knowledge and capacity amongst in-territory agencies.

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**Output 3:**

Enhanced Sister Islands post-border biosecurity via increased on-island capacity, community awareness and surveillance.

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**Output 4:**

Impacts of invasive feral cats and rodents to Cayman's Sister Islands biodiversity are reduced via implementation of improved suppression measures and monitoring

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**Output 5:**

*No Response*

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**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 NTCI advertise and recruit for Little Cayman Community Engagement & Biosecurity Officer by end Y1 Q2
- 1.2 NTCI develop project communications and outreach plan with support of RSPB, including community workshop/events plan and coordinate project launch meetings/comms
- 1.3 DoE, with support of partners and expert Consultant, draft Little Cayman domestic cat management plan, incorporating best practice and informed by initial Little Cayman community meetings, and shar for wider public consultation
- 1.4 DoE compiles public consultation results and uses to inform final domestic cat management plan and gains endorsement of National Conservation Council
- 1.5 DoE drafts legislation in support of agreed Little Cayman domestic cat management plan and submits to Cabinet to be enacted by end of project
- 1.6 RSPB supports partners to publish impacts of invasive species on Sister Islands biodiversity in a peer reviewed paper (drafted in DPLUS128) to support the responsible pet management awareness campaign
- 1.7 NTCI, supported by partners, develop and implement a targeted awareness campaign re: domestic cat management and impact of cats on native species and produces materials for use in campaign, community meetings and registration events
- 1.8 DoE, supported by NTCI and in collaboration with Department of Agriculture (DoA), local vets and animal welfare organisations, establishes a programme of cat registration & vet support events and distributes cat predation mitigation accessories (e.g., bird-scare collars, leashes) to registered owners on the Sister Islands
- 1.9 DoE convenes meeting with partners and stakeholders (e.g., DoA, animal welfare groups) and establishes Sister Islands domestic cat registration database, incorporating existing records and gaining consensus on data sharing between organisations
- 1.10 NTCI develop indoor enclosure trial & monitoring plan considering input from trial participants, animal welfare organisations and existing literature and develops guidelines for participants and draft participant agreement for review by partners
- 1.11 NTCI coordinate meeting/comms to identify domestic cat owners to take part in trials and volunteers to support enclosure construction and conducts trials by end Y2
- 1.12 NTCI hosts feedback workshop with trial participants, and includes feedback into final indoor cat enclosure trial report, sharing the results with key stakeholders and Sister Islands community

- 1.13 NTCI produces guidelines document for indoor cat enclosures, including materials/packing list, and makes resources available on the Sister Islands by end of project
- 1.14 NTCI, supported by RSPB, surveys registered cat owners re: adoption of responsible pet management behaviours/interest in indoor cat enclosures by end Y3
- 2.1 RSPB tenders for feral cat eradication expertise and contracts Consultant by end Y1 Q2
- 2.2 RSPB develops and implements training programme re: feral cat suppression, island eradication/biosecurity for in-territory staff utilising external Consultant and RSPB staff
- 2.3 DoE/RSPB/NTCI assess existing capacity to deliver the feral cat eradication operational plan and draft job descriptions for eradication by end Y3
- 2.4 DoE enhances human resources within Terrestrial Resource Unit by demonstrating value of Sister Islands Aliens Species Control Officer, resulting in new post(s) request to Cayman Islands Government by end of project
- 2.5 Consultant supports DoE to develop (non-lethal) non-target impact trial plan for feral cat eradication methods by end Y1, ensuring methods are both socially acceptable and legally/logistically possible implementing trials by end year 2 sharing results with Little Cayman Community
- 2.6 RSPB develops fundraising plan for Little Cayman feral cat eradication by end Y3 Q2 to support eradication and submits bid by end of project
- 2.7 RSPB in consultation with DoE/Consultant develops Little Cayman feral cat eradication biodiversity monitoring plan and establishes pre-eradication baselines by end Y3
- 2.8 Consultant, supported by partners, produces Little Cayman feral cat eradication operational plan by end Y2 and submits to National Conservation Council for comments/endorsement
- 2.9 NTCI, supported by RSPB, completes Little Cayman community awareness survey re: proposed eradication by end Y3
- 3.1 NTCI, supported by DoE and RSPB, develop biosecurity training programme and materials for Sister Island resorts, Thompson Shipping, port staff and working with Cayman Brac's schools
- 3.2 NTCI, supported by DoE, implement agreed biosecurity training programme in Y2
- 3.3 DoE/RSPB distribute biosecurity measures (e.g., cage traps, bait, snap traps) to vessels publicly servicing the Sister Islands, providing training in use as needed
- 3.4 DoE, supported by RSPB, trials real-time camera-based alert system on Little Cayman at high incursion risk site(s) (e.g., port/dock, Point of Sand) to support biosecurity monitoring and produces report of results
- 3.5 RSPB engages Anguilla National Trust and facilitates cross-territory learnings (e.g., via exchange visit) re: real-time camera-based alert system [pending funding being secured - (DPLUS12S1/1037 Harnessing AI to prevent biodiversity loss in Anguilla)]
- 3.6 DoE establishes feral cat biosecurity surveillance programme on Little Cayman by end Y2 using a variety of methods (e.g., in-person monitoring, camera traps) and incorporates learnings from real-time camera-based alert system trials by end of project
- 3.7 DoE and NTCI develop cat sighting reporting mechanism (e.g., hotline) and records database in consultation with Little Cayman community and use it to inform control efforts by end Y2
- 3.8 DoE, supported by RSPB, drafts feral cat incursion response plan by end Y2
- 4.1 DoE develops enhanced Sister Islands feral cat suppression strategy, building on DPLUS128, identifying key sites of conservation concern (e.g., Brown Booby colony [Cayman Brac], Preston Bay/Booby Pond [Little Cayman]) and procures enhanced systems (e.g., high interaction rate traps, trap trigger alert systems)
- 4.2 DoE implements annual feral cat suppression strategy on Sister Islands, utilising new systems from Y2
- 4.3 DoE, supported by RSPB, develops and agree enhanced rodent monitoring and suppression strategy at key sites (of feral cat control) and procure materials (e.g., traps, bait) to implement enhanced strategy from Y2
- 4.4 RSPB, in collaboration with partners, develops a mesopredator release plan for Little Cayman in preparation for Little Cayman feral cat eradication
- 4.5 NTCI and DoE communicate mesopredator release plan and results of rodent monitoring at key sites with key stakeholders (e.g., animal welfare groups) and Cayman Islands residents to minimise concerns re: rodent population increase as a potential result of future feral cat eradication

4.6 DoE, supported by RSPB, defines Cayman Brac feral cat population monitoring methodology and establishes population/relative abundance by end Y3 with support of community volunteers.

4.7 DoE completes annual population surveys of Sister Islands Rock Iguana (Little Cayman) and breeding success surveys of Brown Boobies (Cayman Brac) and communicates results with Cayman Islands residents





## Section 11 - Budget and Funding

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### Q24. Budget

**Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet which provides the Budget for this application and ensure the Summary page is fully completed. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.**

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 [BCF-Budget-over-100k-MASTER-Aug23 FINAL 02 102023](#)  
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### Q25. Alignment with other funding and activities

**This question aims to help us understand how familiar you are with other work in the geographic/thematic area, and how this proposed project will build on or align with this to avoid any risks of duplicating or conflicting activities.**

**Q25a. Is this new work or does it build on existing/past activities (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)?**

Development of existing work

**Please provide details:**

DoE have been responding to the threat of invasive species on the Sister Islands since 2007 whereby a pilot for Little Cayman feral cat eradication was conducted, successfully desexing/registering pet cats and removing a number of feral cats. The financial means for completing eradication were not available at the time and no further control was completed until 2018. The need to explore options for eradication were identified and led to the development of the partnership between DoE, RSPB and NTCl. This enabled control efforts to restart in 2022, and for the first on Cayman Brac, with feasibility of a feral cat eradication from Little Cayman established.

This project builds upon DPLUS128 and will implement recommendations identified in the eradication feasibility study. These include the development of a domestic cat management plan and identifying impacts to non-target species to inform the appropriate design of future humane eradication efforts and developing the operational plan.

We will continue invasive species control on both islands and increase community knowledge of native species, impacts of invasive species and the importance of biosecurity. We will support the implementation of key recommendations from Sister Islands' biosecurity assessment and support an inter-island biosecurity plan, currently in development.

**Q25b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for work in the geographic/thematic area to the proposed project?**

No

**Q26. Balance of budget spend**

**Defra are keen to see as much Darwin Plus funding as possible directly benefiting UKOT 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.**

69% of the budget is allocated to in-territory partners and will be spent in the Cayman Islands.

Partners will be supported via provision project staff time and travel & subsistence budget to enable implementation of field activities on the Sister Islands and in support 3 Sister Islands positions: a new Community Engagement & Biosecurity Officer on Little Cayman (NTCI), Community Engagement Officer, Cayman Brac (NTCI) and an Alien Species Control Officer (DoE).

31% is allocated to be spent outside of the Cayman Islands with only 8% of the budget allocated to RSPB in support of staff time, travel & subsistence, and 23% allocated to contract the feral cat eradication consultant. This work requires specialised expertise, currently unavailable in-territory, to be able to prepare for the future eradication of feral cats from Little Cayman.

The consultant contract will involve visits to the Cayman Islands and therefore mean a proportion of the consultancy budget will be spent in-territory. Similarly, a proportion of RSPB's budget will be spent in-territory on travel, accommodation, and subsistence etc. This is important to guide project delivery, provide expertise to in-territory partners and coordinate RSPB island eradication and biosecurity training.

**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.**

This project is focussed on the ambition of eradication, whilst maintaining invasive mammal control in the interim. Invasive species eradications are a significantly more cost-effective conservation strategy than ongoing control/suppression, but in order to achieve them international best practice for island eradications dictates significant and robust planning to ensure long-term success. This project will take a significant leap forward towards achieving this goal.

Improving biosecurity measures will be equally critical to protecting the Sister Islands from any new/re invasions, with preventative measures the most cost-effective of all.

Costs across the Cayman Islands are high, especially on the Sister Islands. Staff costs have been agreed in consultation with partners as a competitive rate reflective of island living costs and to attract and retain skilled candidates. The DoE is also providing significant support to the project via provision of housing on both Sister Islands to support project staff from both RSPB and NTCI. This project will benefit from substantial match-funding with staff time alone budgeted at more than [REDACTED] over three years. This includes technical project/

finance and administration staff and taking advantage of RSPB's internal technical expertise on island restorations, rodent suppression, and biosecurity and thus avoiding the need for external expertise.

Although we have had positive engagement with Robinson Holdsworth Conservation Trust, to align with the RSPB's procurement policy we will ensure best value for money via completion of a tender with value for money/cost forming a sizeable part of the weighting consideration when awarding the contract.

## Q28. 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 will be in support of feral cat/rodent suppressions efforts, which will include trap trigger alert systems and advanced traps such as high interaction rate traps. A laptop for the new position on Little Cayman will last beyond the life of the project. 5 indoor cat enclosures constructed in the trials will outlast the length of the project and a participant agreement drawn up outlining the return of materials to partners should they wish not would continue using indoor enclosures.

DoE items will be well looked after and maintained by DoE's operations team ensuring they last well beyond project end. Post-project, these items will remain with project partners, so they are available to support further suppression operations on Cayman Brac and will likely be used in the proposed feral cat eradication on Little Cayman.

The total cost of capital items represents approximately 2% of the project budget.

## Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

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### Q29. Safeguarding

**All projects funded under the Biodiversity Challenge Funds must ensure proactive action is taken to promote the welfare and protect all individuals involved in the project (staff, implementing partners, the public and beneficiaries) involved in the project from harm. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have specific procedures and policies in place.**

**Please upload the following required policies:**

- **Safeguarding Policy:** including a statement of commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse.
- **Whistleblowing Policy:** which details a clear process for dealing with concerns raised and protects whistle blowers from reprisals.
- **Code of Conduct:** which sets out clear expectations of behaviours – inside and outside the workplace – for all involved in the project and makes clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards.

**If any of these policies are integrated into a broader policy document or handbook, please upload just the relevant or equivalent sub-sections to the above policies, with (unofficial) English translations where needed.**

**Please outline how (a) beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff are made aware of your safeguarding commitment and how to confidentially raise a concern, (b) safeguarding issues are investigated, recorded and what disciplinary procedures are in place when allegations and complaints are**

**upheld, (c) you will ensure project partners uphold these policies.**

**If your approach is currently limited or in the early stages of development, please clearly set out your plans address this.**

All RSPB workforce and representatives and any organisation or individual working in partnership with the RSPB (whether formal or informal) is expected to follow the RSPB Safeguarding Policy.

The policy is publicly available on the RSPB website and all RSPB staff are familiarised with it during inductions and compulsory annual training. The policy and relevant training detail how to confidentially raise a concern.

Sub-contracts include our standard Annex, obliging partners to uphold safeguarding policies and outlining how they report, record and mitigate any incidents. All RSPB workforce and other representatives/project partners are obliged to report any safeguarding concerns following the required RSPB procedure.

Safeguarding issues are reported to a Safeguarding Adviser (SA) or a member of Safeguarding Team (ST) and recorded on the RSPB Incident Reporting System (PRIME). SA/ST determines the appropriate course of action, if necessary in consultation with Local Authority (LA) Safeguarding Team and/or Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) or Police.

Concerns are handled as a misconduct issue using RSPB complaints/disciplinary procedures as appropriate or by the appropriate authority. A disciplinary investigation is launched, and hearing held by RSPB if concerns remain, involving LADO, or investigated by LA/Police and supported by RSPB. The disciplinary process can be appealed.

## **Q30. Ethics**

**Outline your approach to meeting the key principles of good ethical practice, as outlined in the guidance.**

The project adheres to the legal/ethical requirements of all organisations and territories involved in the project.

The project has been co-developed with in-territory partners at all stages, with partners leading the project's on-the-ground delivery. Delivery by local staff sensitive to their territory's culture means they can effectively champion the wellbeing and safety of anyone directly or indirectly impacted by the project and can act as a visible contact point for anyone wishing to voice a concern.

A critical component of this project is community engagement, with Little Cayman's community due to be consulted on the domestic cat management plan and proposed Little Cayman feral cat eradication methods via meetings and public consultation. This will respect the rights of all residents to have their say, ensuring all residents are offered the opportunity to have their views heard and publicly responded to, with majority opinions also incorporated to inform the plans (with anonymous engagement always available).

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. The RSPB will ensure compliance by following its own policies and assumes responsibility of monitoring and upholding them across all partner activities.

## **Section 13 - Project Staff**

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### **Q31. 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.**

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Joe Jeffcoate	<b>Project Leader</b>	30	Checked
Wendy Cain	Senior International Finance Officer	8	Checked
Jack Whitelegg	Island Restoration Project Officer	10	Checked
Karen Varnham	Biosecurity & Invasive Species Expert	10	Checked


**Do you require more fields?**


Yes


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Louise Soanes	Senior Conservation Scientist	15	Checked
Fred Burton	Manager, Terrestrial Resources Unit	20	Checked
Jane Haakonsson	Research Officer II, Terrestrial Resources Unit	20	Checked
Nick Ebanks	Alien Species Control Officer, Terrestrial Resources Unit	100	Checked
Cathy Childs	Environmental Programmes Manager	10	Checked
AJ McGovern	Environmental Policy & Development Officer	10	Checked
Alex Flores	Community Engagement Officer, Cayman Brac	50	Checked
New position	Community Engagement & Biosecurity Officer, Little Cayman	70	Checked

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

 [Final CVs and Job Descriptions](#)

 02/10/2023

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 pdf 1.96 MB

**Have you attached all project staff CVs and job descriptions?**

Yes

## Section 14 - Project Partners

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### Q32. Project partners

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

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.

Lead partner name: Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

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Is the Lead Partner based in a UKOT where the project is working?  No

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Please explain why this project is led from outside the UKOT

RSPB has significant experience in delivering projects in the UKOTs, including DPLUS128 with DoE and NTCl. Partners have agreed to the continuation of this partnership. This enables partners to focus on delivery and benefit from RSPB's grant management experience and expertise, providing access to wide-reaching networks globally.

---

The UKOTs are a major strategic priority for the RSPB, with over 20 years' experience working closely with the OTs and a successful track record of Darwin projects.

Working closely with partners, RSPB will assume responsibility for delivery and overall financial management. The project will be led by Joe Jeffcoate with more than 6 years' experience coordinating projects at RSPB, including 2 years in the Cayman Islands.

Why is this organisation the Lead Partner, and what value to they bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

As the lead partner on DPLUS128, on which this project builds, the RSPB is experienced in the Sister Islands, including operating challenges with specific understanding of the threats posed by their invasive species and established relationships with key stakeholders.

RSPB will coordinate provision of trainings for partners, facilitated by staff with significant expertise and experience with island eradications and biosecurity. This will include support from Dr Karen Varnham, biosecurity & invasive species expert who will also support rodent monitoring/suppression programme and the development of the mesopredator release strategy.

Conservation Scientist, Dr Louise Soanes will support development of a biodiversity monitoring plan and establishing pre-eradication baselines, assist with feral cat population methodology on Cayman Brac and provide links between the Cayman Islands and Anguilla to trial biosecurity surveillance systems and knowledge exchange.

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**Allocated budget (proportion or value):** ██████████

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**Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)**  Yes

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**Have you included a Letter of Support from the Lead Partner?**  Yes

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

Yes

**1. Partner Name:** Cayman Island’s Government Department of Environment (DoE, Cayman Islands)

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**Website address:** <https://doe.ky/>

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**What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):**

DoE has a long track record of successful projects in the Sister Islands, working closely with communities.

Activities will be coordinated by Fred Burton, and Jane Haakonsson, who both have extensive experience with Sister Islands Rock Iguana conservation efforts, invasive species management and Darwin projects (e.g., DPL00026). They will be supported by 3 Research Officers and an Alien Species Control Officer, Cayman Brac - as has been the successful structure in DPLUS128.

DoE will develop the domestic cat management plan via public consultation, gaining endorsement from the National Conservation Council (NCC) and drafting legislation to enable it. Building on their strong relationship with the Department of Agriculture, DoE will assist NTCl with coordinating veterinary services to Sister Islands and providing responsible pet management resources.

DoE will work closely with the consultant to implement non-target impact trials and input into the operational plan. They will roll out invasive mammal biosecurity measures on commercial vessels and establish a robust biosecurity surveillance programme for Little Cayman, including trialling real-time camera alerts systems and a feral cat reporting mechanism and incursion response plan.

DoE will lead invasive mammal control, building on efforts established in DPLUS128 and monitoring native target species populations during the project.

---

**UKOT-based/other Partner**  UKOT-based

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**Allocated budget (proportion or value):** ██████████

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**Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)**  Yes

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

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**2. Partner Name:** National Trust for the Cayman Islands (NTCI, Cayman Islands)

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**Website address:** <https://nationaltrust.org.ky/>

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NTCI is a well-respected institution in the Cayman Islands with experience delivering Darwin projects (e.g., DPL00018). There are two district committees established on the Sister Islands and a growing presence on Cayman Brac supported by DPLUS128.

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

Activities will be coordinated by AJ McGovern and Cathy Childs, both with significant experience in community outreach projects and a positive relationship with the Cayman Islands Humane Society (CIHS) They will be supported by Alex Flores on Cayman Brac (DPLUS128 Community Engagement Officer) and by a new post recruited on Little Cayman to lead community engagement and biosecurity efforts.

NTCI will lead education and communications activities for the project including implementing a campaign re: responsible pet management – engaging with CIHS. Sister Island's posts will collaborate with DoE to deliver biosecurity training to hospitality business, shipping/port staff and schools on Cayman Brac and support overall community input into domestic cat management and operational plans. NTCI will lead community surveys, crucially assessing Little Cayman communities' knowledge and awareness of the proposed eradication.

NTCI will lead on the indoor cat enclosure trials, creating resource packs and making available on each island by end of project and support partners with regular campaigns of veterinary support for residents.

---

**UKOT-based/other Partner**  UKOT-based

---

**Allocated budget (proportion or value):** 

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**Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)**  Yes

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

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**3. Partner Name:** *No Response*

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**Website address:** *No Response*

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What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): *No Response*

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**UKOT-based/other Partner** £0.00

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**Allocated budget (proportion or value):**  UKOT-based  
 Other

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**Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)**  Yes  
 No

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

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**4. Partner Name:** *No Response*

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**Website address:** *No Response*

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What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): *No Response*

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**UKOT-based/other Partner**  UKOT-based  
 Other

---

**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

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**5. Partner Name:** *No Response*

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**Website address:** *No Response*

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What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): *No Response*

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**UKOT-based/other Partner**  UKOT-based  
 Other

---

---

**Allocated budget (proportion or value):** £0.00

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**Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)**  Yes  
 No

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

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**6. Partner Name:** *No Response*

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**Website address:** *No Response*

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What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): *No Response*

---

**UKOT-based/other Partner**  UKOT-based  
 Other

---

**Allocated budget (proportion or value):** £0.00

---

**Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)**  Yes  
 No

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


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**Please provide a combined PDF of all letters of support.**

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 [Letters of Support](#)

 02/10/2023

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## Section 15 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

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### Q33. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

**Has your organisation been awarded Biodiversity Challenge Funds (Darwin Plus, Darwin Initiative or Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund) funding before?**

Yes

**If yes, please provide details of the most recent awards (up to 6 examples).**

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
DPLUS196	Charlie Butt	Habitat restoration of Great and Little Tobago National Parks (BVI)
DPLUS191	Andy Schofield	Enabling invasive plant eradications and long-term management in Tristan
DPLUS181	Charlie Butt	East Caicos Wilderness Area: Protecting the Caribbean's largest uninhabited island
DPLUS178	Andy Schofield	Inhabited territory restoration: completing preparations for a rodent-free Pitcairn Islands
DPLUS128	Joe Jeffcoate	Safeguarding Cayman's Sister Islands from invasive species
DPLUS121	Joe Jeffcoate	Strengthening biosecurity to protect Turks and Caicos' Iguana Islands

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

Yes

## Section 16 - Certification

### Certification

**On behalf of the**

Company

**of**

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

**I apply for a grant of**

£599,302.97

**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 enclose CVs for key project personnel, a cover letter, letters of support, a budget, logframe, Safeguarding and associated policies, and project workplan.
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report (covering three years) are also enclosed.

Checked

**Name**

Joe Jeffcoate

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**Position in the organisation** Species Recovery Officer - UK Overseas Territories

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**Signature (please upload e-signature)**  JJ\_Sig  
 02/10/2023  
 18:12:48  
 png 14.15 KB





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**Date** 02 October 2023

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





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 [RSPB Audited Accounts 2022-23](#)  
 28/09/2023  
 13:22:14  
 pdf 807.22 KB

 [RSPB Audited Accounts 2021-22](#)  
 28/09/2023  
 13:22:05  
 pdf 697.12 KB

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

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 [RSPB Safeguarding Policy](#)  
 28/09/2023  
 13:13:41  
 pdf 956.91 KB

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## Section 17 - Submission Checklist

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### Checklist for submission

	Check
<b>I have read the Guidance, including the "Guidance Notes for Applicants", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Standard Indicator Guidance", "Risk Guidance", and "Finance Guidance".</b>	Checked
<b>I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.</b>	Checked
<b>I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.</b>	Checked
<b>I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.</b>	Checked
<b>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.</b>	Checked
<b>The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).</b>	Checked
<b>I have attached the below documents to my application:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant and referencing any potential conflicts of interest, as a single PDF.</b></li></ul>	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>my completed logframe as a PDF using the template provided and using "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance" and "Standard Indicator Guidance".</b></li></ul>	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>my budget (which meets the requirements above) using the template provided.</b></li></ul>	Checked

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Partner, or provided an explanation if not.</li> </ul>	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• my completed workplan as a PDF using the template provided</li> </ul>	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a copy of the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct (Question 28).</li> </ul>	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 page CV or job description for each of the Project Staff identified at Question 30, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not, combined into a single PDF.</li> </ul>	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a letter of support from the Lead Partner and partner(s) identified at Question 31 and relevant OT Governments, or an explanation of why not, combined into a single PDF.</li> </ul>	Checked
My additional supporting evidence is in line with the requested evidence, amounts to a maximum of 5 sides of A4, and is combined as a single PDF.	Checked
(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	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: Empowering and preparing Cayman’s Sister Islands to tackle invasive mammals

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (24/25)				Year 2 (25/26)				Year 3 (26/27)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Output 1</b>	<b>Improved responsible pet management on Cayman’s Sister Islands is informed, supported and enacted by the local communities</b>													
1.1	NTCI advertise and recruit for Little Cayman Community Engagement & Biosecurity Officer by end Y1 Q2	6												
1.2	NTCI develop project communications and outreach plan with support of RSPB, including community workshop/events plan and coordinate project launch meetings/comms	2												
1.3	DoE, with support of partners and expert Consultant, draft Little Cayman domestic cat management plan, incorporating best practice and informed by initial Little Cayman community meetings, and shar for wider public consultation	9												
1.4	DoE compiles public consultation results and uses to inform final domestic cat management plan and gains endorsement of National Conservation Council	6												
1.5	DoE drafts legislation in support of agreed Little Cayman domestic cat management plan and submits to Cabinet to be enacted by end of project	10												
1.6	RSPB supports partners to publish impacts of invasive species on Sister Islands biodiversity in a peer reviewed paper (drafted in DPLUS128) to support the responsible pet management awareness campaign	6												
1.7	NTCI, supported by partners, develop and implement a targeted awareness campaign re: domestic cat management and impact of cats on native species	30												



Project Title: Empowering and preparing Cayman’s Sister Islands to tackle invasive mammals

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (24/25)				Year 2 (25/26)				Year 3 (26/27)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	and produces materials for use in campaign, community meetings and registration events													
1.8	DoE, supported by NTCI and in collaboration with Department of Agriculture (DoA), local vets and animal welfare organisations, establishes a programme of cat registration & vet support events and distributes cat predation mitigation accessories (e.g., bird-scare collars, leashes) to registered owners on the Sister Islands	8												
1.9	DoE convenes meeting with partners and stakeholders (e.g., DoA, animal welfare groups) and establishes Sister Islands domestic cat registration database, incorporating existing records and gaining consensus on data sharing between organisations	1												
1.10	NTCI develop indoor enclosure trial & monitoring plan considering input from trial participants, animal welfare organisations and existing literature and develops guidelines for participants and draft participant agreement for review by partners	6												
1.11	NTCI coordinate meeting/comms to identify domestic cat owners to take part in trials and volunteers to support enclosure construction and conducts trials by end Y2	13												
1.12	NTCI hosts feedback workshop with trial participants, and includes feedback into final indoor cat enclosure trial report, sharing the results with key stakeholders and Sister Islands community	6												
1.13	NTCI produces guidelines document for indoor cat enclosures, including materials/packing list, and	9												

Project Title: Empowering and preparing Cayman’s Sister Islands to tackle invasive mammals

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (24/25)				Year 2 (25/26)				Year 3 (26/27)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	makes resources available on the Sister Islands by end of project													
1.14	NTCI, supported by RSPB, surveys registered cat owners re: adoption of responsible pet management behaviours/interest in indoor cat enclosures by end Y3	6												
<b>Output 2</b>	<b>Effective community informed operational planning for Little Cayman feral cat eradication via enhanced knowledge and capacity amongst in-territory agencies</b>													
2.1	RSPB tenders for feral cat eradication expertise and contracts Consultant by end Y1 Q2	4												
2.2	RSPB develops and implements training programme re: feral cat suppression, island eradication/biosecurity for in-territory staff utilising external Consultant and RSPB staff	5												
2.3	DoE/RSPB/NTCI assess existing capacity to deliver the feral cat eradication operational plan and draft job descriptions for eradication by end Y3	3												
2.4	DoE enhances human resources within Terrestrial Resource Unit by demonstrating value of Sister Islands Aliens Species Control Officer, resulting in new post(s) request to Cayman Islands Government by end of project	6												
2.5	Consultant supports DoE to develop (non-lethal) non-target impact trial plan for feral cat eradication methods by end Y1, ensuring methods are both socially acceptable and legally/logistically possible	12												

Project Title: Empowering and preparing Cayman’s Sister Islands to tackle invasive mammals

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (24/25)				Year 2 (25/26)				Year 3 (26/27)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	implementing trials by end year 2 sharing results with Little Cayman Community													
2.6	RSPB develops fundraising plan for Little Cayman feral cat eradication by end Y3 Q2 to support eradication and submits bid by end of project	12												
2.7	RSPB in consultation with DoE/Consultant develops Little Cayman feral cat eradication biodiversity monitoring plan and establishes pre-eradication baselines by end Y3	8												
2.8	Consultant, supported by partners, produces Little Cayman feral cat eradication operational plan by end Y2 and submits to National Conservation Council for comments/endorsement	3												
2.9	NTCI, supported by RSPB, completes Little Cayman community awareness survey re: proposed eradication by end Y3	6												
<b>Output 3</b>	<b>Enhanced Sister Islands post-border biosecurity via increased on-island capacity, community awareness and surveillance</b>													
3.1	NTCI, supported by DoE and RSPB, develop biosecurity training programme and materials for Sister Island resorts, Thompson Shipping, port staff and working with Cayman Brac’s schools	6												
3.2	NTCI, supported by DoE, implement agreed biosecurity training programme in Y2	6												
3.3	DoE/RSPB distribute biosecurity measures (e.g., cage traps, bait, snap traps) to vessels publicly servicing the Sister Islands, providing training in use as needed	4												

Project Title: Empowering and preparing Cayman’s Sister Islands to tackle invasive mammals

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (24/25)				Year 2 (25/26)				Year 3 (26/27)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
3.4	DoE, supported by RSPB, trials real-time camera-based alert system on Little Cayman at high incursion risk site(s) (e.g., port/dock, Point of Sand) to support biosecurity monitoring and produces report of results	6												
3.5	RSPB engages Anguilla National Trust and facilitates cross-territory learnings (e.g., via exchange visit) re: real-time camera-based alert system [pending funding being secured - (DPLUS12S1/1037 Harnessing AI to prevent biodiversity loss in Anguilla)]	1												
3.6	DoE establishes feral cat biosecurity surveillance programme on Little Cayman by end Y2 using a variety of methods (e.g., in-person monitoring, camera traps) and incorporates learnings from real-time camera-based alert system trials by end of project	14												
3.7	DoE and NTCI develop cat sighting reporting mechanism (e.g., hotline) and records database in consultation with Little Cayman community and use it to inform control efforts by end Y2	9												
3.8	DoE, supported by RSPB, drafts feral cat incursion response plan													
<b>Output 4</b>	<b>Impacts of invasive feral cats and rodents to Cayman’s Sister Islands biodiversity are reduced via implementation of improved control measures and monitoring</b>													
4.1	DoE develops enhanced Sister Islands feral cat suppression strategy, building on DPLUS128, identifying key sites of conservation concern (e.g., Brown Booby colony [Cayman Brac], Preston Bay/Booby Pond [Little Cayman]) and procures	4												

Project Title: Empowering and preparing Cayman’s Sister Islands to tackle invasive mammals

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (24/25)				Year 2 (25/26)				Year 3 (26/27)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	enhanced systems (e.g., high interaction rate traps, trap trigger alert systems)													
4.2	DoE implements annual feral cat suppression strategy on Sister Islands, utilising new systems from Y2	9												
4.3	DoE, supported by RSPB, develops and agree enhanced rodent monitoring and suppression strategy at key sites (of feral cat control) and procure materials (e.g., traps, bait) to implement enhanced strategy from Y2	9												
4.4	RSPB, in collaboration with partners, develops a mesopredator release plan for Little Cayman in preparation for Little Cayman feral cat eradication	8												
4.5	NTCI and DoE communicate mesopredator release plan and results of rodent monitoring at key sites with key stakeholders (e.g., animal welfare groups) and Cayman Islands residents to minimise concerns re: rodent population increase as a potential result of future feral cat eradication	4												
4.6	DoE, supported by RSPB, defines Cayman Brac feral cat population monitoring methodology and establishes population/relative abundance by end Y3 with support of community volunteers.	10												
4.7	DoE completes annual population surveys of Sister Islands Rock Iguana (Little Cayman) and breeding success surveys of Brown Boobies (Cayman Brac) and communicates results with Cayman Islands residents	9												

Project Title: Empowering and preparing Cayman’s Sister Islands to tackle invasive mammals

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p><b>Impact:</b> (Max 30 words) The future of Cayman Sister Island’s native species is secured through the removal of invasive species, improved biosecurity, legislative control and the support of the Sister Islands’ community</p>			
<p><b>Outcome:</b> (Max 30 words)</p> <p>Sister Island’s community empowered and agencies are better prepared for future efforts to sustainably protect native biodiversity from invasive mammals via enhanced knowledge and awareness, in-territory capacity, biosecurity, and suppression.</p>	<p>0.1 Community endorsed Little Cayman domestic cat legislation, informed by domestic cat management plan, developed and enacted by end of project</p> <p>0.2 By end of project, 50% reduction in number of domestic cats caught in traps or identified in feral cat population surveys on Sister Islands from 2022/23 baseline(s)</p> <p>0.3 <b>[DPLUS-B10]</b> 75% of registered cat owners report an increased awareness of the importance of responsible pet management and adopt at least one new responsible pet management behaviour by end of project</p> <p>0.4 <b>[DPLUS-B02]</b> A community-informed Little Cayman feral cat eradication operational plan is</p>	<p>0.1 Signed Little Cayman community letter, domestic cat management plan, legislation document</p> <p>0.2 Cayman Brac population assessment report and suppression operations field reports</p> <p>0.3 Domestic cat survey report, photos of responsible pet management measures in use/in enclosures</p> <p>0.4 Operational plan, NCC meeting minutes</p>	<p>Little Cayman community continue to be supportive of a feral cat eradication and supportive of developing and implementing a domestic cat management plan. <i>The Little Cayman community were surveyed during DPLUS128 with ca.80% of respondents agreeing they would be supportive of lethal control of feral cats and 72% supportive of an eradication. 77% of Little Cayman survey responders agreed that cats’ mobility should be restricted to indoors either permanently or at certain times, like at night. There is also a clear trend in the qualitative answers from survey respondents that many feel pets don’t belong on Little Cayman at all and if they are kept there, they should be strictly indoor pets. Building on DPLUS128 this project will continue to engage the local community to ensure long-term support</i></p> <p>The non-target impact trials find eradication method(s) that do not harm native biodiversity. <i>We will consult with world-leading feral cat eradication expertise to ensure eradication can be achieved with limited impact to native species. Trials will</i></p>

Project Title: Empowering and preparing Cayman’s Sister Islands to tackle invasive mammals

	<p>approved by the National Conservation Council by end of project</p> <p>0.5 <b>[DPLUS-A04]</b> At least 5 in-territory staff gain increased technical expertise and capacity enabling them to play an active role in feral cat eradication on Little Cayman</p> <p>0.6 At least 3 key recommendations from the Sister Islands biosecurity audit (2022) addressed by end of project</p> <p>0.7 <b>[DPLUS-D04]</b> Annual surveys of native species show (i) increase of at least 10% hatchling observations of Sister Islands Rock Iguana on Little Cayman from 2022 baseline and (ii) 25% increase in the productivity (i.e., number of fledglings) from the Brown Booby colony on Cayman Brac by end of project</p>	<p>0.5 Training attendance records, in-territory capacity assessment report</p> <p>0.6 Updated biosecurity audit report showing key recommendations addressed</p> <p>0.7 Annual population survey reports of Sister Island Rock Iguanas on Little Cayman and Brown Booby colony on Cayman Brac, final project survey report, database of Brown Booby fledgling count</p>	<p><i>use non-lethal baits to reduce risk of impact to non-target species during the trials and build on lessons learned from other eradications in similar environments, e.g., Christmas Island, to prepare for any challenges. Multiple methods (e.g., baiting and traps) will be tested and eventually employed to ensure there is a range of options available for the eradication to be successful.</i></p> <p><i>Feral cat suppression operations reduce impact on native species enough to contribute to increased native species populations. Preliminary results from DPLUS128 (e.g., Brown Booby colony) show feral cat and rodent suppression operations are having a direct positive impact on native species populations and there is significant global evidence of the impacts of feral cats on island species in particular. Methods to ensure efforts are effective have been refined throughout DPLUS128, with most Terrestrial staff involved in at least 1 suppression operation since it restarted in 2022. The methods were subject to a review from world-leading expertise, Robinson Holdsworth Conservation Trust, and where possible, advice taken on board and methods refined.</i></p> <p><i>Cayman Islands Government (CIG) can continue to implement existing regulations. The Alien Species Regulations were put in place by CIG in late 2022. Despite support</i></p>
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Project Title: Empowering and preparing Cayman’s Sister Islands to tackle invasive mammals

			<p><i>from several institutions, community members and the Premier, these regulations were met with opposition from areas of the Grand Cayman community, a Grand Cayman based animal welfare organisation and an international animal welfare organisation based in the US. The Cayman Islands Government responded swiftly in early 2023 with an outreach campaign to better communicate the details of the Regulations. We understand that CIG will continue to implement the Alien Species Regulations as planned based on communication with senior Government officials (including the Premier) and that the public push-back has now calmed down. The project will mitigate for further public push back by promoting transparent and clear communications that reflect the values of the local communities and will undertake communication planning which will consider all three of the Cayman Islands</i></p>
<p><b>Output 1</b> Improved responsible pet management on Cayman’s Sister Islands is informed, supported and enacted by the local communities</p>	<p>1.1 <b>[DPLUS-A01]</b> On-island community engagement capacity increased by Y1 Q3 via recruitment of NTCI Little Cayman Community Engagement &amp; Biosecurity Officer</p> <p>1.2 <b>[DPLUS-B03]</b> Community - informed Little Cayman domestic cat management plan endorsed by National Conservation Council by end Y2</p>	<p>1.1 CV, signed contract, workplan</p> <p>1.2 Public consultation report, community meeting attendance report(s), Little Cayman domestic cat</p>	<p>Community continues to be willing to engage and are receptive to receive support from the project. <i>We expect this to hold true as recent community engagement, completed as part of DPLUS128, identified that a large proportion of respondents on both islands agree with restricting mobility of pets, desexing pets and agree that pet cats should be registered in similar fashion to dogs.</i></p> <p>Participation in surveys/workshops is sufficient to inform project results. <i>Community engagement and participation in</i></p>



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	<p>1.3 100% of domestic cats on Little Cayman and 80% at East End of Cayman Brac (i.e., areas of feral cat control), registered, microchipped and desexed by end of project</p> <p>1.4 Five registered cat owners participate in indoor cat enclosure trials in Y2, and 10 additional Sister Island residents express interest in taking up indoor cat enclosures by end of project</p> <p>1.5 Indoor cat enclosure guidelines developed and supplies available at a minimum of 1 location on the Sister Islands by end of project</p>	<p>management plan, NCC meeting minutes</p> <p>1.3 Sister Islands domestic cat database, summary reports of registration events</p> <p>1.4 Trial plan, signed participant agreements, enclosure photos, feedback workshop/meeting report, domestic cat survey report</p> <p>1.5 Indoor cat enclosure guidelines including details of costs, photos of materials available on Sister Islands</p>	<p><i>previous DPLUS128 project was high (261 survey respondents and high attendance at events) and we expect this to be maintained during this project, supported by National Trust community engagement posts on both islands.</i></p> <p><i>Local residents willing to engage and receive veterinary support. We expect this to hold true as vet support has been specifically requested during the DPLUS128 community survey. There are clear views on both islands that there is an urgent lack of access to veterinary care with the burden of travel to Grand Cayman or having to align vet schedules with their own as the most limiting factor to registering, microchipping and desexing pets.</i></p> <p><i>Willingness of cat owners to participate in and continue indoor trials. We expect this to hold true as a large number of respondents to the DPLUS128 community survey agreed with restricting the mobility of pet cats. 62% Cayman Brac and 77% Little Cayman agreed that cats' mobility should be restricted to indoors either permanently or at certain times, like at night. We believe that it is a lack of knowledge as to how best to manage domestic cats that is the most limiting factor, rather than willingness to implement indoor cat measures. This project will provide a potential solution to cat owners as to how best to manage pet cats. As it is unproven on the Sister Islands, the project</i></p>
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Project Title: Empowering and preparing Cayman's Sister Islands to tackle invasive mammals

			<p><i>will take on the risk for residents and provide a viable solution for broader uptake.</i></p> <p><i>Trials do not result in negative impacts to domestic cats. There is significant evidence shown globally that cats can lead happy and often healthier and safer lives as indoor cats, encountering fewer physical risks such as disease/infection or injuries from fights with other cats.</i></p>
<p><b>Output 2</b> Effective community-informed operational planning for Little Cayman feral cat eradication via enhanced knowledge and capacity amongst in-territory agencies.</p>	<p>2.1 <b>[DPLUS-A03]</b> At least 8 in-territory staff attend one or more expert training/workshop re: (i) feral cat suppression, (ii) island eradications &amp; biosecurity</p> <p>2.2 Little Cayman feral cat eradication methods that minimise impacts to native biodiversity identified by end Y2</p> <p>2.3 Little Cayman feral cat eradication biodiversity monitoring plan developed by end Y2, and pre-eradication baselines established by end Y3</p> <p>2.4 By end Y3, at least 70% of Little Cayman residents agree that they are well-informed of the plans for (and implications of) the proposed feral cat eradication</p>	<p>2.1 Training materials, training report, feedback forms, training attendance records</p> <p>2.2 Trial plan, photos of trials, trial report with recommendations</p> <p>2.3 Biodiversity monitoring plan, Little Cayman pre-eradication biodiversity baseline report</p> <p>2.4 Community survey report</p>	<p>Staff retention remains high, and staff are willing and able to attend training and participate in fieldwork/project activities. <i>We expect this to hold true as partner staff have expressed interest in improving their skills/knowledge and are eager to play a leading role in future eradication(s). In addition, recruited staff will be supported by experienced local staff and the location is a highly desirable place to work/be based. Trainings will be recorded, and resources made available to partners to support new staff.</i></p> <p>Suitable expertise can be sourced to support development of eradication operational plan. <i>We expect this to hold true. RSPB has good links with multiple organisations/consultants globally, including existing contracts with world-leading expertise from Australia and New Zealand and is well linked-in with island eradication/invasive species groups. The authors of the feasibility study, Robinson Holdsworth Conservation Trust, have</i></p>

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	<p>2.5 At least 1 Sister Islands Alien Species Control Officer post secured as a core post within the Cayman Islands Government or elsewhere by end of project</p>	<p>2.5 Job description, budget allocation evidence</p>	<p><i>provided guidance to the initial project design and have expressed an interest in continuing the partnership.</i></p> <p><i>Alien species control positions can be secured long-term. We expect this to hold true as the results of just 1 year of control efforts on Cayman Brac have proven effective with increases to Brown Booby fledgling success already evident, we would therefore expect the value of this role to be clear after further control efforts on the Sister Islands and there will be sufficient time to make this case to fund this position prior to the Cayman Islands Government 2026 budget round. Alternative options can also be explored either through external funding or including the position in the Little Cayman feral cat eradication funding plan, ensuring the capacity is available in-territory.</i></p>
<p><b>Output 3</b> Enhanced Sister Islands post-border biosecurity via increased on-island capacity, community awareness and surveillance.</p>	<p>3.1 <b>[DPLUS-A01]</b> Biosecurity training delivered to at least 5 staff from 5 resorts/hospitality businesses in the Sister Islands and 20 staff from Thompson Shipping and other stakeholders by end of project</p> <p>3.2 At least 5 biosecurity measures in place on all 4 vessels publicly servicing the Sister Islands by end of project</p>	<p>3.1 Training materials, workshop attendance list, photos, feedback forms</p> <p>3.2 Photos of measures in use, signed agreements/standard operating procedures with operators</p>	<p><i>Sister Island business/residents are willing to engage in biosecurity training and apply learnings. Resorts and Thompson Shipping staff have been receptive to community engagement as part of DPLUS128, either attending events or participating in the survey or supporting the messaging in the community. Some high-level biosecurity training has already been provided and Thompson Shipping were included in the biosecurity audit as part of DPLUS128, receiving multiple visits and indicating a willingness to implement recommendations.</i></p>

Project Title: Empowering and preparing Cayman’s Sister Islands to tackle invasive mammals

	<p>3.3 Island-wide biosecurity surveillance programme, incorporating real-time camera-based alert systems established on Little Cayman by end Y3</p> <p>3.4 Domestic/feral cat reporting mechanism and incursion response plan active by end Y3 Q2</p> <p>3.5 15 Sister Islands residents volunteer their time to support biosecurity efforts and indicate an increased knowledge of biosecurity by end of project</p>	<p>3.3 trial report, photos of installation, biosecurity surveillance plan</p> <p>3.4 Community meeting minutes, cat sighting database, incursion response plan</p> <p>3.5 Volunteer reports, training feedback form</p>	<p>Enhanced surveillance does not cause tension between community and project partners. <i>We expect this to hold true as we will make sure considerable effort is made to communicate with the community as to the purpose and capability of surveillance systems. Signage will accompany cameras and they will be clearly marked during trials.</i></p> <p>Camera surveillance systems can be proven functional with limited cell phone coverage on Sister Islands. <i>If funded, we will benefit from engagement with Re: Wild and Anguilla National Trust as part of their proposed project “Harnessing AI to prevent biodiversity loss in Anguilla [DPLUS12S1/1037]” and lessons learned shared between the two territories. Contacts with the developer of these systems will be facilitated via Dr Louise Soanes to establish best ways to trial the systems. In addition, biosecurity surveillance will not rely entirely on these systems and a multi-pronged approach to monitoring high risk incursion sites developed (i.e., with support of community and establishing sighting/reporting mechanism)</i></p>
<p><b>Output 4</b> Impacts of invasive feral cats and rodents to Cayman’s Sister Islands biodiversity are reduced via implementation of improved suppression measures and monitoring</p>	<p>4.1 At least 2 feral cat suppression operations completed annually at key sites on Sister Islands utilising improved techniques (e.g., trap trigger alert systems) from Y2</p>	<p>4.1 Feral cat suppression strategy document, annual field reports</p>	<p>Animal rights organisations based on Grand Cayman (who are not directly involved on the Sister Islands) do not block project operations. <i>We believe this will prove to be the case through ongoing engagement between DoE and animal rights organisations, bolstered by community and stakeholder support for the feral cat</i></p>

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	<p>4.2 Enhanced rodent suppression operations implemented annually at a minimum of 2 key sites on Sister Islands in Y2 and Y3</p> <p>4.3 Little Cayman mesopredator release strategy communicated to Little Cayman community via at least 2 community meetings by end of project</p> <p>4.4 Cayman Brac feral cat population estimate and/or relative abundance established by end of project</p>	<p>4.2 Rodent suppression strategy, field reports</p> <p>4.3 Rodent monitoring plan, field reports, mesopredator release mitigation plan, photos of meeting, attendance records</p> <p>4.4 Field reports, final feral cat population report</p>	<p><i>suppression/eradication on Little Cayman. Both DoE and NTCI have met with the Humane Society prior to stage 2 submission to discuss this project and were received positively. On Cayman Brac the project is designed to ensure effective engagement with the community in YR1 and will only focus on priority sites with the most vulnerable flagship species (e.g., Brown Booby colony). Since the passing of the Alien Species Regulations in 2022, 4 successful operations have taken place on Little Cayman plus additional feral cat and rodent suppression operations started for the first time at the Brown Booby colony on Cayman Brac in the 2022/23 breeding season.</i></p> <p><i>Fieldwork is not hindered/prevented through hurricanes or other natural phenomena. We will aim to schedule most of the fieldwork and activities outside of hurricane season to mitigate the impact. DoE and NTCI are extremely experienced in managing this risk and adjusting workplans accordingly</i></p>
<p><b>Activities</b></p> <p><b>Output 1 Improved responsible pet management on Cayman’s Sister Islands is informed, supported and enacted by the local communities</b></p> <p>1.1 NTCI advertise and recruit for Little Cayman Community Engagement &amp; Biosecurity Officer by end Y1 Q2</p> <p>1.2 NTCI develop project communications and outreach plan with support of RSPB, including community workshop/events plan and coordinate project launch meetings/comms</p>			

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- 1.3 DoE, with support of partners and expert Consultant, draft Little Cayman domestic cat management plan, incorporating best practice and informed by initial Little Cayman community meetings, and shar for wider public consultation
  - 1.4 DoE compiles public consultation results and uses to inform final domestic cat management plan and gains endorsement of National Conservation Council
  - 1.5 DoE drafts legislation in support of agreed Little Cayman domestic cat management plan and submits to Cabinet to be enacted by end of project
  - 1.6 RSPB supports partners to publish impacts of invasive species on Sister Islands biodiversity in a peer reviewed paper (drafted in DPLUS128) to support the responsible pet management awareness campaign
  - 1.7 NTCI, supported by partners, develop and implement a targeted awareness campaign re: domestic cat management and impact of cats on native species and produces materials for use in campaign, community meetings and registration events
  - 1.8 DoE, supported by NTCI and in collaboration with Department of Agriculture (DoA), local vets and animal welfare organisations, establishes a programme of cat registration & vet support events and distributes cat predation mitigation accessories (e.g., bird-scare collars, leashes) to registered owners on the Sister Islands
  - 1.9 DoE convenes meeting with partners and stakeholders (e.g., DoA, animal welfare groups) and establishes Sister Islands domestic cat registration database, incorporating existing records and gaining consensus on data sharing between organisations
  - 1.10 NTCI develop indoor enclosure trial & monitoring plan considering input from trial participants, animal welfare organisations and existing literature and develops guidelines for participants and draft participant agreement for review by partners
  - 1.11 NTCI coordinate meeting/comms to identify domestic cat owners to take part in trials and volunteers to support enclosure construction and conducts trials by end Y2
  - 1.12 NTCI hosts feedback workshop with trial participants, and includes feedback into final indoor cat enclosure trial report, sharing the results with key stakeholders and Sister Islands community
  - 1.13 NTCI produces guidelines document for indoor cat enclosures, including materials/packing list, and makes resources available on the Sister Islands by end of project
  - 1.14 NTCI, supported by RSPB, surveys registered cat owners re: adoption of responsible pet management behaviours/interest in indoor cat enclosures by end Y3
- Output 2 Effective community informed operational planning for Little Cayman feral cat eradication via enhanced knowledge and capacity amongst in-territory agencies**
- 2.1 RSPB tenders for feral cat eradication expertise and contracts Consultant by end Y1 Q2
  - 2.2 RSPB develops and implements training programme re: feral cat suppression, island eradication/biosecurity for in-territory staff utilising external Consultant and RSPB staff

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- 2.3 DoE/RSPB/NTCI assess existing capacity to deliver the feral cat eradication operational plan and draft job descriptions for eradication by end Y3
- 2.4 DoE enhances human resources within Terrestrial Resource Unit by demonstrating value of Sister Islands Aliens Species Control Officer, resulting in new post(s) request to Cayman Islands Government by end of project
- 2.5 Consultant supports DoE to develop (non-lethal) non-target impact trial plan for feral cat eradication methods by end Y1, ensuring methods are both socially acceptable and legally/logistically possible implementing trials by end year 2 sharing results with Little Cayman Community
- 2.6 RSPB develops fundraising plan for Little Cayman feral cat eradication by end Y3 Q2 to support eradication and submits bid by end of project
- 2.7 RSPB in consultation with DoE/Consultant develops Little Cayman feral cat eradication biodiversity monitoring plan and establishes pre-eradication baselines by end Y3
- 2.8 Consultant, supported by partners, produces Little Cayman feral cat eradication operational plan by end Y2 and submits to National Conservation Council for comments/endorsement
- 2.9 NTCI, supported by RSPB, completes Little Cayman community awareness survey re: proposed eradication by end Y3

**Output 3 Enhanced Sister Islands post-border biosecurity via increased on-island capacity, community awareness and surveillance**

- 3.1 NTCI, supported by DoE and RSPB, develop biosecurity training programme and materials for Sister Island resorts, Thompson Shipping, port staff and working with Cayman Brac's schools
- 3.2 NTCI, supported by DoE, implement agreed biosecurity training programme in Y2
- 3.3 DoE/RSPB distribute biosecurity measures (e.g., cage traps, bait, snap traps) to vessels publicly servicing the Sister Islands, providing training in use as needed
- 3.4 DoE, supported by RSPB, trials real-time camera-based alert system on Little Cayman at high incursion risk site(s) (e.g., port/dock, Point of Sand) to support biosecurity monitoring and produces report of results
- 3.5 RSPB engages Anguilla National Trust and facilitates cross-territory learnings (e.g., via exchange visit) re: real-time camera-based alert system [pending funding being secured - (*DPLUS12S1/1037 Harnessing AI to prevent biodiversity loss in Anguilla*)
- 3.6 DoE establishes feral cat biosecurity surveillance programme on Little Cayman by end Y2 using a variety of methods (e.g., in-person monitoring, camera traps) and incorporates learnings from real-time camera-based alert system trials by end of project
- 3.7 DoE and NTCI develop cat sighting reporting mechanism (e.g., hotline) and records database in consultation with Little Cayman community and use it to inform control efforts by end Y2
- 3.8 DoE, supported by RSPB, drafts feral cat incursion response plan by end Y2

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**Output 4 Impacts of invasive feral cats and rodents to Cayman's Sister Islands biodiversity are reduced via implementation of improved control measures and monitoring**

- 4.1** DoE develops enhanced Sister Islands feral cat suppression strategy, building on DPLUS128, identifying key sites of conservation concern (e.g., Brown Booby colony [Cayman Brac], Preston Bay/Booby Pond [Little Cayman]) and procures enhanced systems (e.g., high interaction rate traps, trap trigger alert systems)
- 4.2** DoE implements annual feral cat suppression strategy on Sister Islands, utilising new systems from Y2
- 4.3** DoE, supported by RSPB, develops and agree enhanced rodent monitoring and suppression strategy at key sites (of feral cat control) and procure materials (e.g., traps, bait) to implement enhanced strategy from Y2
- 4.4** RSPB, in collaboration with partners, develops a mesopredator release plan for Little Cayman in preparation for Little Cayman feral cat eradication
- 4.5** NTCI and DoE communicate mesopredator release plan and results of rodent monitoring at key sites with key stakeholders (e.g., animal welfare groups) and Cayman Islands residents to minimise concerns re: rodent population increase as a potential result of future feral cat eradication
- 4.6** DoE, supported by RSPB, defines Cayman Brac feral cat population monitoring methodology and establishes population/relative abundance by end Y3 with support of community volunteers.
- 4.7** DoE completes annual population surveys of Sister Islands Rock Iguana (Little Cayman) and breeding success surveys of Brown Boobies (Cayman Brac) and communicates results with Cayman Islands residents