

---

# **DPR12S2\1012**

## **Conserving cetacean biodiversity in the Falkland Islands**

The Falkland Islands are rich in cetacean biodiversity. However, approaches to managing and protecting that biodiversity could benefit considerably from recent advances in knowledge. This project will translate the diverse cetacean datasets acquired over the recent decade, together with novel data elements, into a series of key outputs that will enhance the capacity of Falkland Islands Government and local stakeholders to conserve cetaceans, outline best practice mitigation options for industry, and to deliver effective cetacean stranding response within the Islands.

## CONTACT DETAILS

---

**Title** Dr  
**Name** Caroline  
**Surname** Weir  
**Organisation** Falklands Conservation  
**Website (Work)** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Tel (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Email (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Address** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## CONTACT DETAILS

---

**Title** Dr  
**Name** Andrew  
**Surname** Stanworth  
**Organisation** Falklands Conservation  
**Website (Work)** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Tel (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Email (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Address** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

# DPR12S2\1012

Conserving cetacean biodiversity in the Falkland Islands

## Section 1 - Contact Details

---

### CONTACT DETAILS

---

**Title** Dr  
**Name** Caroline  
**Surname** Weir  
**Organisation** Falklands Conservation  
**Website (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Tel (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Email (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Address** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### CONTACT DETAILS

---

**Title** Dr  
**Name** Andrew  
**Surname** Stanworth  
**Organisation** Falklands Conservation  
**Website (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Tel (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Email (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Address** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### GMS ORGANISATION

---

Type	Organisation
Name	Falklands Conservation
Phone (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

## Section 2 - Title & Summary

---

### Q3. Title:


Conserving cetacean biodiversity in the Falkland Islands


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


DPR12S1\1019

Please attach a cover letter as a PDF document.

 [DPR12S2 1012 Cetaceans Cover Letter](#)

 29/09/2023

 15:34:45

 pdf 264.46 KB

### 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 Falkland Islands are rich in cetacean biodiversity. However, approaches to managing and protecting that biodiversity could benefit considerably from recent advances in knowledge. This project will translate the diverse cetacean datasets acquired over the recent decade, together with novel data elements, into a series of key outputs that will enhance the capacity of Falkland Islands Government and local stakeholders to conserve

cetaceans, outline best practice mitigation options for industry, and to deliver effective cetacean stranding response within the Islands.

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

---

### Q5. UKOT(s)

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

Falkland Islands (FI)

\* 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

**Start date:**

01 July 2024

**End date:**

31 March 2027

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

2 years, 9 months

---

### Q7. Budget summary

Year:	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total request
Amount:	£76,752.00	£100,835.00	£80,829.00	£ 258,416.00

---

### 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

---

#### 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.**

Targeted cetacean research in the Falklands only commenced during the last decade, significantly increasing knowledge of coastal cetacean biodiversity over a short timeframe (EU BEST 1172, DPLUS042, DPLUS082, DPLUS126, References in PDF). However, legislative and management approaches to protecting cetacean biodiversity have not kept pace with the improving evidence-base. For example, the 2008 Species Action Plan for Cetaceans expired in 2018 and has not been renewed or revised to incorporate recent research. If guidelines and policies don't reflect the growing global significance of Falklands' cetacean populations (e.g., KBA and IMMA designations: References in PDF), threats to species will remain unmanaged and organisations will be unable to best target action.

Marine industry projects including aquaculture, hydrocarbon exploration, and harbour development, continue to be proposed, and pose potential threats to coastal cetaceans including entanglements in mooring gear and anti-predator nets, displacement from critical feeding and breeding habitats, and injury/death from loud impulsive sound sources (Richardson et al., 1995; Nowacek et al., 2007; Bath et al., 2023). However, the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) produced for such projects often lack sound understanding of local cetacean biodiversity and associated risks. Moreover, the mitigation approaches proposed to protect cetaceans during projects have been debated and interpreted differently by various stakeholders with regard to their perceived effectiveness and adherence to global best practice.

Over the last few years, the number of dead stranded baleen whales in the Falklands has steadily increased, peaking with 13 animals reported to date in 2023 (FC, unpublished data). A lack of necropsy expertise and equipment in the Islands has limited detailed investigation of cause of death and resulted in missed opportunities to further identify and manage threats. Additionally, strandings of live cetaceans including mass strandings of pilot whales occur in the Falklands, and there is currently no prepared multi-organisational guidance for responding to these events. The ability to assess and refloat live cetaceans, or to decide to euthanise, requires training and expertise (Boys et al., 2022), which is lacking in the Islands.

This project aims to translate the large and diverse cetacean datasets that have been acquired in coastal waters over the last decade, along with the collection of novel data including UAV data on the health and threats to sei whales and a year of data on the seasonal occurrence of dolphins in Stanley Harbour, into a series of evidence-based outputs that will support FIG and stakeholders in protecting and managing cetacean biodiversity and informing policy debate. These outputs include a National Red List, Action Plans, best practice options for piling and seismic mitigation, and a Technical Report containing updated information on the seasonality and distribution of cetacean species in the Berkeley Sound–Stanley Harbour area (the region of highest human activity in the Falklands) that can be used during future EIAs.

The project will also increase capacity in the Falklands to manage cetacean strandings, thereby increasing knowledge of species occurrence, furthering the collection of samples relevant to conservation, and identifying causes of death that can feed into management planning.

## Section 5 - Environmental Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

---

### 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.**

DEFRA's 25 Year Environment Plan - Species Action Plans (SAPs), IWC stock assessment data and mitigation guidelines will direct 'action to recover threatened, iconic animals and preventing human induced extinction or loss of known threatened species in Overseas Territories.'

UKOTs Biodiversity Strategy 2014 - Up-to-date technical information and mitigation guidelines will advance 'delivering Strategic Priorities (i) informing policy and management plans.'

Falkland Islands Environment Strategy 2021-2040 : Oceans and Coasts:

- to have healthy, functioning and robust marine and coastal ecosystems in the Falkland Islands through protections and management
- sustainably managing human activities which impact our oceans and coasts
- cross-boundary management of marine ecosystems in the South West Atlantic

Production of SAPs and operating guidance will aid delivery of Falkland Islands Biodiversity framework 2016-2030 where 'the conservation status of known threatened species has been improved and sustained. Targets include: (1) produce and implement Action Plans for 'Priority Species'; (2) implement legal and policy mechanisms to reduce threat levels to 'Priority species'

In addition, the project will contribute to several international themes:

The sei whale is listed as globally Endangered on the IUCN Red List, and its status in the southern hemisphere is particularly unclear and considered a research priority. While the southern right whale is listed as globally Least Concern, a Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) exists for the south-west Atlantic population which has experienced high calf mortalities in recent years. The CMP does not currently include the Falkland Islands, and this project will provide additional impetus for including the region.

The sei whale, humpback whale and the southern right whale are included on Appendix I (endangered migratory species) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention, 1979), requiring Range States to strictly protect them and conserve their habitats. The sei whale, orca, Peale's dolphin and the Commerson's dolphin are also included on CMS Appendix II, as species whose conservation status would benefit from international agreements for their conservation and management. This project would provide data and relevant management outputs to protect cetacean species and help meet the obligations of CMS range states.

The waters around the Falkland Islands have been recognised as an IUCN Key Biodiversity Area for sei whales, and three IUCN Important Marine Mammal Areas were also recently designated for cetaceans including under Criterion D2 relating to diversity of species. The international recognition of Falklands' cetacean biodiversity by these tools provides good justification for the need for the management outputs proposed by this project.

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

---

### 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.).

This project design builds upon organisational experience derived from fieldwork and stakeholder engagement activities from two previous whale related Darwin Plus projects (DPLUS082 and DPLUS126). It has been formulated to meet specific demands already identified through involvement in discussions or consultations regarding safeguarding cetacean biodiversity in the Falklands. The combined conservation management and mitigation outputs produced during the project will have direct input from primary project partner Falkland Islands Government, thus maximising opportunity for the results to inform policy debate.

Output 1: Cetacean biodiversity assessments and conservation management plans.

Existing data will be compiled and evaluated to produce the first national Red List for cetaceans in the Falklands, thus highlighting the priority species most in need of conservation action. Southern right whale data obtained during DPLUS082 and DPLUS126 will be assessed to produce a draft Species Action Plan (SAP). The SAP produced for endangered sei whales during DPLUS082 will be updated with the results of a novel photogrammetry study using Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) in Berkeley Sound during summer 2025. That study will measure the body parameters of sei whales (with p.p. Christiansen), clarifying the importance of Falklands' waters for building body condition over the feeding season, and will also identify specific anthropogenic impacts via scarring on the body which will help pinpoint currently-unknown threats. The Red List and SAPs will be developed alongside Falkland Islands Government (FIG) to optimise their usefulness in informing policy. Tissue samples from seven seasons of strandings and biopsying will undergo genetic analysis (with p.p. Jackson) to document population structure and size, with the results submitted to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to inform stock management.

Output 2: Mitigation tools.

A lack of sound knowledge of coastal cetaceans has led to debate and different interpretations of risk, threat and mitigations in Environmental Impact Assessments. This output addresses that shortcoming by compiling and analysing data from multiple projects to produce a comprehensive Technical Report on cetacean occurrence in the area of highest marine activity in the Falklands (Stanley Harbour, Port William and Berkeley Sound) that can inform future EIAs. An important novel component will be acoustic monitoring in Stanley Harbour for a full year to document the seasonal pattern of dolphin occurrence. Previous dolphin acoustic monitoring elsewhere in the Falklands (DPLUS042) has proven the applicability of that technique. Protocols will be developed to provide best practice options for mitigating the impacts of loud activities (piling, seismic) on the cetacean sensitivities specific to the Falklands. A 5-yr review of the Cetacean Code of Conduct (for minimising the likelihood of vessel strike on cetaceans) will be completed. All mitigation tools will be developed alongside relevant FIG departments to maximise buy-in and applicability.



Output 3: Increased stranding response capacity.

Although increasing numbers of stranded cetaceans are being reported, there is currently no Falklands-specific guidance in place to guide decision-making for responding to live strandings or to optimise the sampling of dead animals in order to better understand threats. Output 3 will address this deficit and increase capacity by providing: (1) intensive training of the project leader in necropsy techniques (with the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme); (2) training of key stakeholders and community members in basic sampling of dead cetaceans (via Falklands-based courses with the project leader) and in live animal response training (during a visit by British Divers Marine Life Rescue staff); (3) basic sampling kits to willing community members located in some stranding hotspots; and (4) decision-making protocols developed with SMASS and BDMLR to guide future stranding responses.

Output 4: Outreach.

FC has for many years carried out successful community engagement. Outreach will be led by the Project Leader as per the project logframe, with the outputs focussed on: (1) improving cetacean awareness amongst the local Falklands community; (2) sharing and acquiring feedback on project outputs with key stakeholders; and (3) highlighting the importance of the Falklands' cetacean biodiversity in a global context with international scientists.

The project will be managed by the Project Leader, together with other FC staff and the named project partners. Their combined expertise covers all project components except for the live stranding capacity which will be provided by a visit from specialists BDMLR. The project will use existing datasets alongside proven novel techniques to achieve the Outputs, ensuring good likelihood of achievement. Bi-monthly meetings with FIG will ensure that the project stays on track and optimise buy-in to Outputs 1 to 3.

## 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**

Falkland Islands Government Environment Department (FIG-ED) are a project partner and support the aims of this project (see Q. 32 for their input). Several other FIG departments will comprise relevant stakeholders, including Planning and Building Services (relevant to harbour construction projects), Maritime (relevant to harbour operations), Mineral Resources (relevant to mitigation protocols), and the Veterinary Service section of the Department of Agriculture (relevant to strandings). The project will engage each of these departments in their area of expertise via meetings and email discussions to ensure that outputs of the project can be developed alongside FIG to best optimise their usefulness. Copies of the mitigation protocols and other outputs will be distributed to these key stakeholders for their awareness, comment, and review, and follow-up meetings held where feedback suggests they are needed.

Additionally, marine users in the Falkland Islands comprise a wide range of stakeholders such as the fishing, hydrocarbon and aquaculture sectors, the Ministry of Defence, ferries, cruise/expedition vessels, research organisations, and recreational craft (e.g., divers and yachts). The Falkland Islands community are also important stakeholders in this project, with improving the reporting and sampling of cetacean strandings a key goal. All landowners whose farms have coastal boundaries will be contacted to gauge their interest in cetacean strandings training, and with requests to report strandings. FIGAS are also a key stakeholder for stranding reports.

Bi-annual updates on project progress will be sent to all of these stakeholders, alongside general community updates via social media, local newspaper and the radio station.

## 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.**

There are no specific barriers to gender equality or social inclusion (GESI) within Falklands Conservation. The organisation welcomes diversity, is an equal opportunities employer, and has a series of policies on related issues such as safeguarding and whistleblowing. Falklands Conservation currently employs eight female and eight male members of staff. The Project Leader for this proposal is female.

Our project partners include Falkland Islands Government Environment Department (currently with one male and five female staff), British Antarctic Survey (female lead), Aarhus University (male lead), and the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme (male lead).

The proposed project includes a significant capacity-building component through the training of key stakeholders and communities in the sampling of dead cetaceans and responses to live stranded cetaceans in the Islands. These opportunities will be widely advertised in local media. The only barriers to applicants will be the requirement for participants attending the training sessions to be physically fit and mobile, able to swim, and 16+ years in age. This is because of the inherent risks while working with animals in remote locations (including slippery rocks and in water) and in handling large animals and using sharp equipment such as scalpels. Notwithstanding those restrictions, at least 50% of available spaces for training will be reserved and offered first to females and non-binary individuals. We plan to hold the BDMLR live cetacean training sessions close to Stanley, and both on workdays and weekends, to reduce costs and logistics and facilitate attendance by a wide range of people from different backgrounds.

## **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.**

Short-term changes:

Information on scarring related to anthropogenic activities and body condition of endangered sei whales will inform a threat status assessment of the species both in the Falklands (for the Action Plan) and worldwide (such as the IUCN Red List);

Genetic analysis of tissue samples of sei whales and southern right whales will provide population size and structure information that will inform stock assessments of both species and be relevant to the International Whaling Commission and other management bodies;

Up-to-date assessment of conservation status, current threats and recommendations for positive conservation action (through Action Plans for both whale species) will improve FIG and NGOs ability to conserve cetacean biodiversity within the Falklands;

Acquisition of new year-round data on dolphin presence in Stanley Harbour, and compilation of data from previous cetacean projects, will support the production of a comprehensive cetacean Technical Report for key harbour areas. This will benefit multiple stakeholders, including the Planning, Maritime and Environment departments of FIG, commercial developers, and NGOs;

Leading practice Falklands-specific cetacean mitigation options for pile-driving and seismic airgun use, can be used by FIG and developers to demonstrate consideration of the impacts of potentially-harmful industrial activities on protected cetacean species;

The Falklands community will have increased capacity to manage cetacean strandings (of both dead and live animals); at least 50 individuals will attend training in live animal response, and at least 20 individuals will receive training in basic sampling of dead animals (both involving at least 50% female or non-binary individuals). Community members located in at least five remote locations will be provided with equipment and resources for sampling.

Long-term changes:

The combined project outputs will provide a solid evidence-base that will underpin the protection of cetacean biodiversity in the Falkland Islands for decades to come, with targeted conservation actions laid out clearly in Action Plans, mitigation protocols and Codes of Conduct. This will act to maintain cetacean biodiversity in the Islands, benefitting the environment through the preservation of keystone species and providing enjoyment to the local community;

The assessments of conservation status, threats and stock will form a baseline against which future comparisons over time can provide information on population trends and threats that are relevant to the wider conservation management of whales by national government, local and international conservation bodies;

The EIAs produced for future proposed coastal construction projects will benefit from the availability of a comprehensive Technical Report on cetacean occurrence that will serve as a benchmark of robust information and ensure that cetaceans are properly incorporated into proposed risk assessment and mitigation;

The capacity for responding to cetacean strandings will be maintained long-term through the continued availability of equipment and the best practice protocols developed during the project's lifetime, and by continued outreach to the developed stranding network to maintain interest. The availability of samples from future strandings will benefit FIG and the wider international scientific community through improved knowledge of species diversity and threats.

## 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.**

The project lead is a highly experienced and well-respected cetacean ecologist who has worked in the islands for 7 years, embedded within a long-standing local conservation charity that has undertaken numerous Darwin projects and research and community engagement activities. This solid delivery base will be complemented by external expertise on specific issues to provide highly credible assessments of conservation status for cetaceans (Output 1) and training (Output 2) to fulfil the objective of compiling recent years of cetacean work, including DPLUS projects, into meaningful applied outputs. Working with FIG on such outputs will ensure maximum opportunity for the independent evidence-based outputs to advise policy debate in these areas (Output 3). Providing training to community members, particularly those located in remoter areas that experience cetacean strandings, will continue to carry on the broad awareness and engagement base built over recent years to ensure maximum traction and likelihood of outcome delivery. A solid communications base (Output 4) will increase the reach of the project to ensure that outcomes are widely understood and adopted. In combination, these Outputs all have clear relevance to achieving the project Impact, with most of them having good legacy element and remaining applicable long after project completion.

## 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 is discrete and timebound. However, it will generate multiple conservation related outputs that are intended to guide and inform policy and evidence-based management measures for years to come. In particular,

the Falklands-specific mitigation protocols, Red List assessment and southern right whale Action Plan are novel elements that will likely remain applicable over a long time frame (with 5-10 year revisions recommended). The sei whale Action Plan and the Cetacean Code of Conduct will be revisited and updated during this project, demonstrating that such documents remain relevant over time and provide good legacy elements to projects. Along with the other documents, the Technical Report for the EIAs will be provided open access and will form a robust baseline that will be available for consultation for all future coastal development projects.

It is likely that the stranding training provided during the project will provide good capacity in the Islands long after project completion, and the intention is to maintain relationships with both SMASS and BDMLR into the future in order to provide refresher courses. While the community in Stanley has relatively high turnover, the same is not true of private landowners, and consequently we expect that carrying out training on the farms will result in a good post-project longevity of the established stranding network.

Metadata for the datasets collected during the project will be made available through the IMS-GIS centre in Stanley, to ensure that data from the project are publicly accessible beyond the length of the grant. Knowledge gained will also be made available in scientific papers.

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

-  [DPR12S2\\_1012\\_Cetaceans\\_supporting\\_documentation](#)
-  29/09/2023
-  15:42:01
-  pdf 156.31 KB

## Section 7 - Risk Management

---

### 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
<b>Fiduciary (Financial)</b> Misuse of grant funds for non-Darwin Plus expenditure, resulting in loss of funding and inability to complete project components	Severe	Rare	Major	All expenditure is entered into standardised TAS accounting software, and is monitored monthly by FC Admin and Trustee Treasurer. Core project staff are all long-term employees with FC and therefore considered trustworthy.	Minor

---

**Safeguarding**

Community volunteers are injured during training sessions held for dead and live cetacean strandings (e.g., slips, falls, cuts, drowning, hypothermia), resulting in injury and failure to meet the training indicators for the project

Moderate

Unlikely

Moderate

All stranding volunteers adhere to risk assessments produced for attending strandings of dead and live cetaceans. Training sessions held in good weather.

Minor

---

**Delivery Chain**

The presentation of management-related project outputs such as the Red List, SAPs, mitigation protocols, Technical Report, fails to influence policy, resulting in no improved protection of cetacean biodiversity

Moderate

Possible

Major

This risk is reduced by the inclusion of Falkland Islands Government as a project partner, thus ensuring good buy-in to the project.

Moderate

---

**Risk 4**

Project Leader becomes unavailable due to illness, job change, or other reason, resulting in no in-country cetacean expert to lead the project and subsequent inability to deliver some project outputs

Severe

Rare

Major

Recruitment would be necessary to replace the Project Leader with a similarly-experienced cetacean scientist. Project could be extended to allow time for this, with shifting timeframe but most Outputs still delivered.

Moderate

---

**Risk 5**

Purchased equipment (e.g. UAV or FPODs) is lost/damaged in transit, resulting in loss of field season

Moderate

Unlikely

Moderate

Order equipment in plenty of time. Ship equipment with well-established shipping agents. Insure equipment. Plan fieldwork for early in the project so that there is time to reschedule

Minor

---

**Risk 6**

Poor weather conditions limit opportunities for fieldwork and to fly the UAV over whales

Minor

Possible  
Moderate

Moderate

This is an inherent risk and outside of control. Fieldwork has been planned for the number of boat survey days achieved during 'average' years of weather, and a poor year would affect the results. However, there is contingency to carry out an additional season if the first season is poor.

Moderate

---

## 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.


No


## 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.

 [DPR12S2\\_1012\\_Cetaceans\\_Workplan](#)

 25/09/2023

 19:06:02

 docx 38.02 KB

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

---

### 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).**

Project delivery will be overseen and managed by the establishment of a Steering Group formed by the Cetacean Ecologist (CE) and Project Partner representatives. Bimonthly project update meetings will be held with the primary project partner Falkland Islands Government.

The CE will be responsible for overall project management, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of timely outputs and progress and have overall project accountability. FC's Conservation Manager (CM) will have a supporting role in M&E and will help to manage the project within FC's broader suite of work.

Falklands Conservation's office administration team will provide financial oversight, support and 6-monthly financial summary. Accounting will be managed as an auditable restricted fund.

The CE will lead on the project implementation and delivery, including the planning of fieldwork, liaising with and coordinating project partners, equipment acquisition and maintenance, data analysis, and reporting.

The CE will provide Steering Group members with project updates on at least a bi-annual basis. Any significant change requests on budget, timing, or logframe will be agreed in discussion with relevant project partners, and

the CE will liaise with Darwin Initiative representatives to ensure such changes follow the necessary protocols and timings.

Within Falklands Conservation, weekly update meetings are held between all project staff on core activities on project progress. These meetings ensure there are not personnel or logistical conflicts between projects scheduling and also seek synergies between each project and project officers, including other concurrent Darwin projects.

Broader, external feedback on overall progress, or specific relevant elements of it, will be gained through communication with relevant stakeholders.


<b>Total project budget for M&amp;E (£)</b>	
<b>(this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)</b>	
<b>Total project budget for M&amp;E (%)</b>	8
<b>Number of days planned for M&amp;E</b>	134


## Section 10 - Logical Framework


---


### 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.**

 [DPR12S2\\_1012\\_Logical\\_Framework](#)

 26/09/2023

 18:30:54

 pdf 96.71 KB

#### Impact:

The conservation status of cetacean species in the Falkland Islands is understood, and cetacean biodiversity is protected via informed conservation actions and evidence-based threat mitigation.

#### Outcome:

To improve knowledge of cetacean species status and facilitate informed management of cetacean biodiversity in the Falkland Islands through the provision of evidence-based conservation and mitigation tools

#### Project Outputs

---

##### Output 1:

Development of evidence-based cetacean management tools and submission to Falkland Islands Government

---

---

**Output 2:**

Development of tools to mitigate specific anthropogenic activities that may potentially injure or kill cetaceans in the Falklands

---

**Output 3:**

Capacity to deal with live and dead cetacean strandings is increased in order to better identify threats and optimise scientific knowledge through sample collection

---

**Output 4:**

Outreach and dissemination of project results to target audiences (government, marine users, local community, international scientists)

---

**Output 5:**

*No Response*

---

**Do you require more Output fields?**

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

No

**Activities**

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

Output 1.

1.1.1. Meeting with FIG-ED regarding the Red List development.

1.1.2. Identify the criteria to be used in National Red List assessment, and whether it will be IUCN, modified-IUCN or non-IUCN.

1.1.3. Compile existing data on cetacean distribution, population structure, ecology, habitat and threats in the Falklands to carry out Red List assessment.

1.1.4. Liaise with FIG-ED to acquire feedback on draft Red List assessment and subsequent revision.

1.2. Compile existing data on southern right whales in the Falkland Islands, and analyse those data to support a SAP.

1.3.1. Purchase and ship UAV equipment to support sei whale work.

1.3.2. Research permits and risk assessments organised ahead of the sei whale UAV work.

1.3.3. Arrange logistics and conduct field season to obtain high quality unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) imagery of at least 50 sei whales in the Falklands.

1.3.4. UAV imagery used to assess sei whale body condition (as a proxy for health) between individuals and across the season using standardised photogrammetry methods and included in UAV field report.

1.3.5. UAV imagery used to identify scar patterns on individual whales consistent with anthropogenic activities (e.g. entanglements, vessel strikes) to inform sei whale SAP [DP-B02] and included in UAV field report.

1.3.6. Evaluation completed of scar types on sei whales, and assigned to anthropogenic vs natural causal factors.

1.3.7. Re-assess the draft sei whale SAP (produced during DPLUS126) to provide updated information on anthropogenic threats, and issue revised draft [DP-B02].

1.4.1. Arrange travel, accommodation and logistics for genetic training and analysis period at the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge.

1.4.2. Complete one month of training in the processing of genetic samples provided at the British Antarctic Survey, followed by four months of work processing all baleen whale tissue samples collected in the Falklands to date [DP-A02, DP-A03].



1.4.3. Compile available genetic and additional evidence to produce stock assessments.

Output 2.

2.1.1. Acquire research permits for dolphin acoustic work.

2.1.2. Deploy 4 x FPODs to collect one year of acoustic data around Stanley Harbour.

2.1.3. Analyse FPOD and historic CPOD datasets to provide spatio-temporal dataset on dolphin use of Stanley Harbour.

2.1.4. Compile all existing and available datasets on cetacean species in the wider Stanley Harbour area, produce maps and conduct temporal analysis to produce report to inform EIAs.

2.2. Draft the seismic mitigation guidance and submit to FIG-ED for feedback and revision.

2.3. Draft the piling mitigation guidance and submit to FIG-ED for feedback and revision.

2.4. Meet with FIG-ED to discuss the Cetacean Code of Conduct and any revision needed. Implement revision and distribute.

Output 3.

3.1. Organise travel, accommodation and logistics for international training in cetacean necropsies.

3.2.1. Produce training material for basic sampling methods training course in the Falklands.

3.2.2. Identify venue for training course and publicise.

3.3. Compile guidance protocol for cetacean stranding sampling in the Falklands and distribute.

3.4.1. Produce equipment lists for sampling kits, order and ship to the Falklands.

3.4.2. Identify locations in the Falklands where sampling kits can be stored, and ship them.

3.5.1. Ensure research permits are in place to cover sample collection.

3.5.2. Organise logistics and attend cetacean strandings whenever they are reported.

3.6.1. Organise travel, accommodation and logistics for international training with BDMLR in cetacean rescue and re-flotation.

3.6.2. Advertise training opportunity and prepare certificates and database of attendance.

3.6.3. Organise and run annual refresher courses in cetacean rescue/re-flotation.

3.7. Produce draft protocol for live stranding events and distribute for feedback (FIG-ED, BDMLR etc.).

Output 4.

4.1.1. Identify list of key stakeholders for project updates.

4.1.2. Produce and distribute stakeholder updates.

4.3. Produce training materials for Code of Conduct training session.

4.4 and 4.5. Production and dissemination of outreach activities.

4.6. Data analysis and preparation of scientific manuscripts.

4.7. Book travel and organise logistics for attendance at scientific conference.


## Section 11 - Budget and Funding


---

### 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.**

---

 [DPR12S2\\_1012\\_Cetaceans\\_Budget](#)

 29/09/2023

 20:17:11

 xlsx 99.51 KB

## 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:**

This project comprises a defined and standalone batch of new work, including a novel fieldwork element (UAV sei whale study), the application of established techniques to a new study area (dolphin acoustic work), the establishment of a cetacean stranding training and capacity-building network, and the production of multiple novel conservation-management outputs (Red List, mitigation plans, Action Plans, Technical Report, stock assessment).

However, the project also builds on previous work, including an EU BEST (1172) and three previous Darwin Plus projects: (DPLUS042, DPLUS082 and DPLUS126). In combination, those projects form a solid evidence base on cetacean occurrence in the Falklands (see PDF references), which was previously lacking. Consequently, it would not be possible to carry out the currently-proposed project without those earlier projects having been completed. Those projects generated datasets that can potentially be incorporated into the Technical Report, outputs (reports and scientific papers) that are relevant to informing the development of the Red List and Action Plans, and/or trialled and proved methodologies that can be applied in the current project (e.g., dolphin acoustic monitoring). The current project aims to consolidate and translate past work into a set of evidence-based management outputs to protect and manage cetacean biodiversity in the Islands.

**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.**

Increasing local capacity through training and equipment in specialist areas inevitably requires spend overseas to bring trainers to the Falklands or to send Falklands-based staff abroad, as well as to ship materials. However, this is much more cost effective than contracting such capacity every time it is needed. In this project approximately 20% of project funds would be spent overseas. This spend is principally associated with equipment for stranding response and research (UAV, FPODS) which will be available not only for the project but in the longer-term within the Islands, and also the islands-based Project Lead receiving training to undertake genetic analysis techniques, which can be undertaken more cheaply than contracting a laboratory. The project

aims to convert overseas spend into overall cost effectiveness/value-for-money for the project itself, and reduce future expenditure in the Islands as a consequence of having expertise and materials in the Islands. The large majority of project funds i.e. approximately 80% will be spent in the Falkland Islands.

## 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.**

We considered value for money throughout the development of the project budget. The proposed project makes full use of the results of costly marine fieldwork carried out over the last decade including previous Darwin Plus projects. The additional fieldwork proposed for the project optimises the use of resources acquired already during previous funding bids (i.e. a boat, safety equipment, GPS's etc), and the costs for fuel are based on realistic expectations of time at sea based on previous experience with weather. The funds requested for new equipment are realistic and based on current market values. The FPODs are widely considered to represent a highly cost-effective means of acquiring a full year of novel seasonal data on dolphin occurrence, and have been costed to the project at a research/conservation price by the manufacturer rather than at the more expensive consultancy/industry price.

The highest cost of the project is for staff salary time; that cost is at standard organisational rates, and the costs for using already-established organisational staff with relevant expertise is lower than equivalent consultancy costs or newly-recruited staff would be. Additionally, project partners are providing match funding to cover much of their salary costs and some organisations (e.g. BAS) are providing match funding with overhead costs.

Given that the multiple management-related outputs from this project will directly inform decision-making, policy and EIA components regarding the conservation of cetacean biodiversity in the Falklands for many years to come, the costs of the project are considered to represent excellent value for money.

## 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.**

The project has relatively little expenditure related to capital items, comprising: (1) 4 x FPODs for dolphin acoustic work (██████████), (2) cetacean stranding capital equipment (██████████), and (3) UAV equipment (██████████). This amounts to less than 10% of the total project costs.

Following project completion, all of this equipment will remain at the Falklands Conservation offices in the Falklands Islands. It is highly likely that the FPODs and the UAV will be used in future years for monitoring dolphins and whales respectively. The UAV may also be used in other work carried out by FC and other Falklands' organisations, such as habitat mapping and seabird counts. The capital cetacean stranding equipment purchased for the project will comprise flensing knives and oilskin clothing, and will be a permanent resource available for organisations attending strandings of large whales in future.

## Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

---

### 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.**

Awareness of and compliance with FC policies is a requirement of all FC staff and achieved through an electronic tracking system. Relevant policy components are adopted into risk assessments and guidance provided to those involved in FC activities.

Safeguarding issues are investigated and recorded in-line with Falklands Conservation's safeguarding policy, which employs a five stage procedure of 1. Recognise, 2. Respond, 3. Report, 4. Record, 5. Refer. Disciplinary action will be delivered in accordance with procedures set out in staff contracts.

Larger organisations acting as project partners are likely to have equivalent safeguarding policies which compliance with will be consistent with Falklands Conservation policy. For those that do not, project partners will be provided with Falklands Conservation's safeguarding policies and required to uphold them through partner contracts/MoUs/agreements.

## **Q30. Ethics**

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

This project will meet the relevant ethical requirements set out in the Darwin Plus guidance. Our field research carried out in the Falkland Islands will be permitted by Falkland Islands Government (FIG) to ensure that it complies with national legislation and ethical standards for animal welfare. FIG are also a formal project partner, further ensuring that the work carried out throughout the project will comply with national standards.

The health and safety of all personnel and community representatives involved with the project will be protected through existing Falklands Conservation risk assessments pertaining to fieldwork activities, and specific new risk assessments will be developed for novel activities (specifically including community stranding training). Safety procedures will be monitored and updated as needed throughout the project.

Falklands Conservation and all project partners operate to high standards of academic integrity. The results and

evidence collected during the project will be robust, accurately reported, collaborative, and published in a timely manner in reputable scientific journals. 'Grey literature' (e.g., Technical Reports and mitigation protocols) will be made available open access on the FC website and via the IMS-GIS centre following project completion.

## Section 13 - Project Staff

---

### 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?
Caroline Weir	<b>Project Leader</b>	100	Checked
Andy Stanworth	Project Management	4	Checked
Pamela Jelbes	Financial Management	5	Checked
Darnell Christie	Comms	5	Checked


Do you require more fields?


No

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

 [DPR12S2\\_1012\\_Cetaceans\\_CVs](#)

 29/09/2023

 17:19:36

 pdf 347.82 KB

Have you attached all project staff CVs and job descriptions?

Yes

## Section 14 - Project Partners

---

### 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:** Falklands Conservation

---

**Is the Lead Partner based in a UKOT where the project is working?**  Yes

---

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

Falklands Conservation (FC) is the lead partner and is a local NGO that has delivered conservation projects in the Falklands for over 40 years, including the successful delivery of multiple Darwin Plus projects. FC is recognised as the leading organisation working on cetaceans in the Falklands, having researched baleen whales in the Islands since 2016 including two previous Darwin Plus projects (DPLUS082 and DPLUS126). The capacity of the organisation to conduct a range of cetacean fieldwork techniques to a high standard in a remote and challenging region is well-established. Further, FC has a proven record of collaborative cetacean research, working alongside many scientific partners to achieve optimal outputs. The project leader will be FC's Cetacean Ecologist who has led the organisation's cetacean research since its onset. FC's Conservation Manager will input into the M&E components of the project, having successfully project managed previous Darwin Plus grants. A range of staff will have supporting roles, including in accounting and media outputs.

FC has good local relationships and community buy-in within the Falklands, which will benefit the project via a likely high engagement with community activities such as cetacean stranding training. The organisation also provides regular conservation advice to government.

---

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



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

---

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

---

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

Yes

**1. Partner Name:** Falkland Islands Government

---

**Website address:** Website address: <https://www.falklands.gov.fk/policy/environment>

---

<b>What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):</b>	<p>The Falkland Islands Government Environment Department (FIG-ED) works on areas related to environmental policy, regulation, enforcement and monitoring across terrestrial and marine activities, and co-ordinates research, climate change response initiatives and habitat preservation/restoration within FIG.</p> <p>The FIG-ED will provide support and guidance throughout the project to optimise the production of cetacean-related outputs (i.e., Red List, SAPs, mitigation protocols) that are most relevant and useful to their wildlife policy work. They will assist the project with research permits for fieldwork activities, and will participate in bi-monthly project meetings to ensure that the activities and outputs are delivered to a suitable standard and to schedule.</p>
<b>UKOT-based/other Partner</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> UKOT-based
<b>Allocated budget (proportion or value):</b>	£0.00
<b>Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes

<b>2. Partner Name:</b>	Jen Jackson, British Antarctic Survey
<b>Website address:</b>	<a href="https://www.bas.ac.uk/">https://www.bas.ac.uk/</a>
<b>What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):</b>	<p>The British Antarctic Survey (BAS) is a component of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). NERC is part of UK Research and Innovation (<a href="http://www.ukri.org">www.ukri.org</a>). BAS delivers and enables world-leading interdisciplinary research in the polar regions.</p> <p>BAS have been involved in FC's cetacean research in the Falklands for several years, providing support in: (1) genetic and isotope analysis of tissue samples; (2) equipment support; and (3) logistical support including the transport of samples from the Falklands to the UK and storage at Cambridge. For this project, BAS will again support with these areas, and specifically in providing training, expertise and laboratory space for the analysis of genetic samples with the goal of getting all available Falklands' whale tissue samples analysed and the results available for the stock assessments.</p>
<b>UKOT-based/other Partner</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Other
<b>Allocated budget (proportion or value):</b>	██████████
<b>Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes

---

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

---

**3. Partner Name:** Fredrik Christiansen, Aarhus University

---

**Website address:** <https://aias.au.dk/>

---

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

Fredrik Christiansen at Aarhus University is at the forefront of the emerging field of using UAV photogrammetry to quantify marine mammal body volume and condition. He has had numerous scientific publications published on this topic, and provides guidance to a wide range of projects including Darwin Plus projects (for example DPLUS188).

Fredrik will provide guidance to the UAV component of this project, including advice on equipment selection, field deployment, data analysis, and interpretation of results. UAV photogrammetry of sei whales is novel, and consequently the experience provided by Fredrik's work on similar species (e.g., Bryde's whale) will be very valuable in interpreting the results.

---

**UKOT-based/other Partner** £0.00

---

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

---

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

---

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

---

**4. Partner Name:** Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme

---

**Website address:** <https://strandings.org/>

---



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

The Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme (SMASS) has been in operation since 1992. It is funded by the Scottish and Westminster governments. The project aims to provide a systematic and coordinated approach to the surveillance of Scotland's marine species by collating, analysing and reporting data on all cetaceans, seals, marine turtles and basking sharks that strand on the Scottish coastline. SMASS carries out post mortem examinations to provide unique insight into metrics such as age structure, sex, body condition, cause of death, pollutant levels, reproductive patterns, diet, disease burden and pathology of the stranded population. This information can provide essential baseline data to help detect any future outbreaks of disease, unusual mortality events, anthropogenic stressors, and other health issues.

SMASS will provide the project with expertise and advice on optimising the response to strandings of dead cetaceans, including training the Cetacean Ecologist in necropsy procedures, advising on suitable equipment for stranding post-mortems and sample storage, and establishing a suitable sampling protocol for the Falklands.

UKOT-based/other Partner  Other

Allocated budget (proportion or value): £0.00

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

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

5. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

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

UKOT-based/other Partner  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

<b>6. Partner Name:</b>	No Response
<b>Website address:</b>	No Response
What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	No Response
<b>UKOT-based/other Partner</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Other
<b>Allocated budget (proportion or value):</b>	£0.00
<b>Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)</b>	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

Please provide a combined PDF of all letters of support.

-  [DPR12S2\\_1012\\_LoS](#)
-  29/09/2023
-  18:49:04
-  pdf 642.16 KB

## Section 15 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

### 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
DPLUS182	Andrew Stanworth	Habitat restoration and species re-introductions on four Falklands island reserves
DPLUS169	Andrew Stanworth	New Island: completing preparatory steps for restoration against invasive mammals
DPLUS126	Andrew Stanworth/Caroline Weir	Advancing Falklands and region-scale management of globally important whale populations
DPLUS115	Andrew Stanworth	Unlocking Falkland Islands Marine Management: Key Biodiversity Areas for Seabirds

---

DPLUS110	Andrew Stanworth	Recognise, protect, restore: driving sound stewardship of Falklands peat-wetlands.
DPLUS082	Andrew Stanworth	Lower plants inventory and conservation in the Falkland Islands

---

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

Yes

## Section 16 - Certification

---

### Certification

**On behalf of the**

Trustees

**of**

Falklands Conservation

**I apply for a grant of**

£258,416.00

**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** Esther Bertram

---

**Position in the organisation** CEO

---

**Signature (please upload e-signature)**  [EB Sig.\(Small\)](#)  
 25/09/2023  
 18:04:02  
 jpg 13.35 KB





---

**Date** 29 September 2023





---

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

---

 [Signed 2021 accounts Azets-compressed](#)  
 25/09/2023  
 18:07:46  
 pdf 4.17 MB





---

 [Signed 2022 accounts V2 ~ Azets](#)  
 25/09/2023  
 18:07:20  
 pdf 1.27 MB





---

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





---

 [Policy 28 FC Whistleblowing Policy 2019 EB](#)  
 26/09/2023  
 18:39:41  
 pdf 468.19 KB

---

 [Policy 25 FC Code of Conduct Employees 2019 EB](#)  
 26/09/2023  
 18:39:10  
 pdf 469.65 KB

---

 [Policy 24 FC Safeguarding Policy 2022 GW incl recording&FAQ](#)  
 25/09/2023  
 18:44:41  
 pdf 1.15 MB

---

## Section 17 - Submission Checklist

### 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Partner, or provided an explanation if not.</b></li></ul>	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>my completed workplan as a PDF using the template provided</b></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: Conserving cetacean biodiversity in the Falkland Islands

	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
Output 1														
1.1.1	Meeting with FIG-ED regarding the Red List development.	0.1	N/A											
1.1.2	Identify the criteria to be used in National Red List assessment, and whether it will be IUCN, modified-IUCN or non-IUCN.	0.5	N/A											
1.1.3	Compile existing data on cetacean distribution, population structure, ecology, habitat and threats in the Falklands to carry out Red List assessment.	2.5	N/A											
1.1.4	Liaise with FIG-ED to acquire feedback on draft Red List assessment and subsequent revision.	2	N/A											
1.2	Compile existing data on southern right whales in the Falkland Islands, and analyse those data to support a SAP.	2	N/A											
1.3.1	Purchase and ship UAV equipment to support sei whale work.	0.2	N/A											
1.3.2	Research permits and risk assessments organised ahead of the sei whale UAV work.	0.5	N/A											
1.3.3	Arrange logistics and conduct field season to obtain high quality unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) imagery of at least 50 sei whales in the Falklands.	4	N/A											
1.3.4	UAV imagery used to assess sei whale body condition (as a proxy for health) between individuals and across the season using standardised photogrammetry methods and included in UAV field report.	3	N/A											
1.3.5	UAV imagery used to identify scar patterns on individual whales consistent with anthropogenic	3	N/A											

Project Title: Conserving cetacean biodiversity in the Falkland Islands

	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
	activities (e.g. entanglements, vessel strikes) to inform sei whale SAP [DP-B02] and included in UAV field report.													
1.3.6	Evaluation completed of scar types on sei whales, and assigned to anthropogenic vs natural causal factors.	3	N/A											
1.3.7	Re-assess the draft sei whale SAP (produced during DPLUS126) to provide updated information on anthropogenic threats, and issue revised draft [DP-B02].	1	N/A											
1.4.1	Arrange travel, accommodation and logistics for genetic training and analysis period at the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge.	0.25	N/A											
1.4.2	Complete one month of training in the processing of genetic samples provided at the British Antarctic Survey, followed by four months of work processing all baleen whale tissue samples collected in the Falklands to date [DP-A02, DP-A03].	5	N/A											
1.4.3	Compile available genetic and additional evidence to produce stock assessments.	2	N/A											
Output 2														
2.1.1	Acquire research permits for dolphin acoustic work.	0.5	N/A											
2.1.2	Deploy 4 x FPODs to collect one year of acoustic data around Stanley Harbour.	12	N/A											
2.1.3	Analyse FPOD and CPOD datasets to provide spatio-temporal dataset on dolphin use of Stanley Harbour.	3	N/A											
2.1.4	Compile all existing and available datasets on cetacean species in the wider Stanley Harbour area,	3	N/A											

Project Title: Conserving cetacean biodiversity in the Falkland Islands

	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
	produce maps and conduct temporal analysis to produce report to inform EIAs.													
2.2	Draft the seismic mitigation guidance and submit to FIG-ED for feedback and revision.	1	N/A											
2.3	Draft the piling mitigation guidance and submit to FIG-ED for feedback and revision.	1	N/A											
2.4	Meet with FIG-ED to discuss the Cetacean Code of Conduct and any revision needed. Implement revision and distribute.	1	N/A											
Output 3														
3.1	Organise travel, accommodation and logistics for international training in cetacean necropsies.	0.5	N/A											
3.2.1	Produce training material for basic sampling methods training course in the Falklands.	1	N/A											
3.2.2	Identify venue for training course and publicise.	0.2	N/A											
3.3	Compile guidance protocol for cetacean stranding sampling in the Falklands and distribute.	1	N/A											
3.4.1	Produce equipment lists for sampling kits, order and ship to the Falklands.	0.25	N/A											
3.4.2	Identify locations in the Falklands where sampling kits can be stored, and ship them.	0.2	N/A											
3.5.1	Ensure research permits are in place to cover sample collection.	0.5	N/A											
3.5.2	Organise logistics and attend cetacean strandings whenever they are reported.	18	N/A											



Project Title: Conserving cetacean biodiversity in the Falkland Islands

	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
3.6.1	Organise travel, accommodation and logistics for international training with BDMLR in cetacean rescue and refloating.	0.25	N/A											
3.6.2	Advertise training opportunity and prepare certificates and database of attendance.	0.2	N/A											
3.6.3	Organise and run annual refresher courses in cetacean rescue/refloating.	0.5	N/A											
3.7	Produce draft protocol for live stranding events and distribute for feedback (FIG-ED, BDMLR etc.).	0.5	N/A											
Output 4														
4.1.1	Identify list of key stakeholders for project updates.	0.2	N/A											
4.1.2	Produce and distribute stakeholder updates.	0.25	N/A											
4.3	Produce training materials for Code of Conduct training session.	0.5	N/A											
4.4 and 4.5	Production and dissemination of outreach activities.	2	N/A											
4.6	Data analysis and preparation of scientific manuscripts.	3	N/A											
4.7	Book travel and organise logistics for attendance at scientific conference.		N/A											

Project Title: Conserving cetacean biodiversity in the Falkland Islands

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p><b>Impact:</b> The conservation status of cetacean species in the Falkland Islands is understood, and cetacean biodiversity is protected via informed conservation actions and evidence-based threat mitigation.</p>			
<p><b>Outcome:</b> To improve knowledge of cetacean species status and facilitate informed management of cetacean biodiversity in the Falkland Islands through the provision of evidence-based conservation and mitigation tools</p>	<p>0.1. At least two people from Falkland Islands Government Environment Department (FIG-ED) report an increase in their cetacean knowledge-base and available management tools by project completion <b>[DP-A07]</b>.</p> <p>0.2. Staff from two port authorities (Stanley Harbour and Mare Harbour) acknowledge receipt of mitigation plans and report an increased understanding of cetacean mitigation in relation to coastal development activities by project completion <b>[DP-A03]</b>.</p> <p>0.3. Environmental policy debate in the Falkland Islands incorporates outputs from this project with regard to the status of, and threats to, cetaceans. By project completion and beyond <b>[DP-C07, DP-D03]</b>.</p>	<p>0.1. Letters/emails from FIG-ED to confirm.</p> <p>0.2. Letters/emails from both harbour authorities to confirm.</p> <p>0.3. Letters/emails from FIG-ED to confirm, and copies of policies where appropriate.</p>	<p>Willingness by FIG to engage in the project.</p> <p><i>FIG are the primary project partner in order to ensure buy-in from the outset and optimise the Outcome.</i></p>
<p><b>Outputs:</b> 1. Development of evidence-based cetacean management tools and submission to Falkland Islands Government</p>	<p>1.1. Production of a draft national Red List for cetaceans in the Falklands and submission to FIG-ED by Yr2 Q1 <b>[DP-B02, DP-C02]</b>.</p> <p>1.2. Production of a Species Action Plan (SAP) for southern right whales and submission to FIG-ED by Y3 Q2 <b>[DP-B02]</b>.</p> <p>1.3. The SAP for endangered sei whales produced during DPLUS126 is revised to</p>	<p>1.1. Copy of Red List document made available online and data entries recorded at <a href="https://www.nationalredlist.org/">https://www.nationalredlist.org/</a></p> <p>1.2. Copy of the SAP and copy of submission email.</p> <p>1.3. Copies of UAV imagery provided in a report of the UAV</p>	<p>Whales are present during UAV fieldwork.</p> <p><i>The fieldwork will be scheduled for the months of peak sei whale occurrence (Feb-Apr) to optimise the likelihood of whales being present.</i></p>

Project Title: Conserving cetacean biodiversity in the Falkland Islands

	<p>incorporate new information on threats obtained during a novel unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) field study and assessment of boat-based photo-identification images by Y3 Q2 <b>[DP-B02]</b>.</p> <p>1.4. Stock assessments completed using tissue samples and existing evidence base, and published for sei and right whales by project completion <b>[DP-B02]</b>.</p>	<p>fieldwork and made available online. Metadata catalogue entry for the UAV dataset on IMS-GIS centre website <b>[DP-C16]</b>. Updated version of the sei whale SAP will be available online.</p> <p>1.4. Copy of database with genetic results. Copies of assessment reports made available online and submitted as papers to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting in May 2026.</p>	<p>Boat is functioning and available for fieldwork.</p> <p><i>The boat purchased under DPLUS126 has been stored and serviced and maintained compliant with marine coding. It is unlikely to be unavailable.</i></p> <p>The UAV assessment is dependent on drone function and appropriate weather.</p> <p><i>The project leader will receive training in the specific operation of UAVs over whales by project partner Christiansen, including appropriate weather.</i></p>
<p><b>2. Development of tools to mitigate specific anthropogenic activities that may potentially injure or kill cetaceans in the Falklands</b></p>	<p>2.1. Production of Technical Report by project completion summarising existing and novel information on cetacean species in the highest area of marine user activity in the Falklands (Stanley Harbour, Port William and Berkeley Sound) for use in future Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and marine planning by project completion <b>[DP-C19]</b>;</p> <p>2.2. Development of Falklands-specific guidance for the mitigation of seismic</p>	<p>2.1 to 2.4. Copies of meeting minutes with FIG-ED during the drafting of the documents. Copies of the final drafts of documents made available online.</p>	<p>FPODS are successfully deployed, recovered and have usable data.</p> <p><i>FPOD deployments will use suitable benthic moorings and, where possible, additional mooring ropes to adjacent jetties to avoid their loss. Training with</i></p>

Project Title: Conserving cetacean biodiversity in the Falkland Islands

	<p>activities on cetaceans by Y2 Q3 <b>[DP-B02]</b>;</p> <p>2.3. Development of Falklands-specific guidance for the mitigation of piling and construction activities on cetaceans by Y2 Q3 <b>[DP-B02]</b>;</p> <p>2.4. 5-yr revision of the Cetacean Code of Conduct (developed in 2020) by end of 2025 <b>[DP-B02]</b>.</p>		<p><i>Chelonia will reduce the likelihood of incorrect programming and data loss.</i></p>
<p><b>3. Capacity to deal with live and dead cetacean strandings is increased in order to better identify threats and optimise scientific knowledge through sample collection</b></p>	<p>3.1. International training of a representative from a key Falklands-based organisation in detailed necropsy methodology aimed at establishing causes of cetacean death by the end of 2025 <b>[DP-A01]</b>;</p> <p>3.2. Local training in the Falklands of at least 20 people (including at least 50% female) in basic stranding sampling methodology by Y1 Q4 <b>[DP-A05]</b>;</p> <p>3.3. Development of a standardised guidance document to aid future sampling of cetaceans in the Falklands by Y1 Q4 <b>[DP-A03, DP-C01]</b>;</p> <p>3.4. Provision of suitable sampling equipment to a central organisation in Stanley and as basic sampling kits to at least five locations on West Falkland and the outer islands by Y2 Q1 <b>[DP-A03]</b>;</p> <p>3.5. Samples are collected from at least 50% of stranding events over the</p>	<p>3.1. Photos of the training and details of travel arrangements.</p> <p>3.2. Photos of the training event, copies of training course attendance certificates and post-course feedback.</p> <p>3.3. Copy of the document made available online, and copy of its distribution email to local stakeholders.</p> <p>3.4. Copies of order receipts and photos of the equipment in different locations.</p> <p>3.5. Images of sample collection taking place, copies of stranding reports, metadata catalogue entries on IMS-GIS centre website <b>[DP-C16]</b>.</p> <p>3.6. Photos of the training events, copies of training course attendance certificates and post-course feedback. Copies of travel</p>	<p>Logistics for international travel for experts progress according to plan.</p> <p><i>Travel to the Falklands is quite unpredictable due to weather cancellations. However, the stranding training elements are onshore and therefore very flexible in nature, and some flight delays would not impact their delivery.</i></p> <p>Assumes at least one stranding during the project.</p> <p><i>Based on the last five years, we expect up to 13 strandings per year, and so the project has a high</i></p>

Project Title: Conserving cetacean biodiversity in the Falkland Islands

	<p>timeframe of the project <b>[DP-A04, DP-C09]</b>;</p> <p>3.6. Provision of training in the methods and decision-making process for the rescue and refloating (or subsequent euthanasia) of live stranded cetaceans to at least 50 local people (including at least 50% female) by Y2 Q1 <b>[DP-A01, DP-A03]</b>, with subsequent annual refresher course <b>[DP-A04, DP-A05]</b>.</p> <p>3.7. Development of a protocol for decision-making during live stranding events by Y2 Q1 <b>[DP-C01]</b>.</p>	<p>arrangements for international expert.</p> <p>3.7. Copy of the document made available online, and copy of its distribution email to local stakeholders.</p>	<p><i>likelihood of attending strandings.</i></p>
<p><b>4. Outreach and dissemination of project results to target audiences (government, marine users, local community, international scientists)</b></p>	<p>4.1. Project progress and results shared with key stakeholders via bi-annual reports in Y1, Y2 and Y3;</p> <p>4.2. Mitigation plans and Cetacean Code of Conduct are distributed to government and to relevant port controls at Mare Harbour and Stanley Harbour by Y2 Q3 <b>[DP-A07]</b>;</p> <p>4.3. Training session held for local boat operators on applying the Code of Conduct in 2025. Target representatives from at least two launch companies carrying out whale-watching activities;</p> <p>4.4. At least 50% of the local community of ~3,000 people is informed of the project goals and results via at least <b>[DP-C15]</b>: 1 x Penguin News article per year (Y1, Y2 and Y3), 1 x FC magazine article per year (Nov '24, Nov '25 and Nov '26), 1 x</p>	<p>4.1. Copies of bi-annual stakeholder reports and evidence of their distribution via email.</p> <p>4.2. Copies of the distribution of the documents via email to relevant stakeholders, specifically including FIG-ED and port authorities at Stanley and Mare Harbours.</p> <p>4.3. Copy of training material, and record of course attendance and course feedback.</p> <p>4.4. Copies of all media outputs.</p> <p>4.5. Copies of Facebook metrics for the project social media site.</p> <p>4.6. Copies of journal confirmation emails.</p>	<p>Launch companies that conduct whale watching engage with training.</p> <p><i>FIG have offered to assist in encouraging the key launch operators to attend training, which will provide good incentive.</i></p>

Project Title: Conserving cetacean biodiversity in the Falkland Islands

	<p>Falkland Islands radio interview (Mar '25), and 1 x FITV interview (Mar '25).</p> <p>4.5. The reach of social media posts on the project page extends to an average of over 1,000 local and international people over the project duration <b>[DP-C12]</b>;</p> <p>4.6. Two journal articles on cetacean occurrence and its relevance to conservation and management in the Falklands are submitted to peer-reviewed journals by Y3 Q4, with at least one reaching publication stage by project completion <b>[DP-C06, DP-C17]</b>.</p> <p>4.7. Attendance, and presentation of project results at, one relevant international scientific conference by project completion <b>[DP-C17]</b>.</p>		
<p><b>Activities</b></p> <p><b><u>Output 1.</u></b></p> <p>1.1.1. Meeting with FIG-ED regarding the Red List development.</p> <p>1.1.2. Identify the criteria to be used in National Red List assessment, and whether it will be IUCN, modified-IUCN or non-IUCN.</p> <p>1.1.3. Compile existing data on cetacean distribution, population structure, ecology, habitat and threats in the Falklands to carry out Red List assessment.</p> <p>1.1.4. Liaise with FIG-ED to acquire feedback on draft Red List assessment and subsequent revision.</p> <p>1.2. Compile existing data on southern right whales in the Falkland Islands, and analyse those data to support a SAP.</p> <p>1.3.1. Purchase and ship UAV equipment to support sei whale work.</p> <p>1.3.2. Research permits and risk assessments organised ahead of the sei whale UAV work.</p>			

## Project Title: Conserving cetacean biodiversity in the Falkland Islands

1.3.3. Arrange logistics and conduct field season to obtain high quality unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) imagery of at least 50 sei whales in the Falklands.

1.3.4. UAV imagery used to assess sei whale body condition (as a proxy for health) between individuals and across the season using standardised photogrammetry methods and included in UAV field report.

1.3.5. UAV imagery used to identify scar patterns on individual whales consistent with anthropogenic activities (e.g. entanglements, vessel strikes) to inform sei whale SAP **[DP-B02]** and included in UAV field report.

1.3.6. Evaluation completed of scar types on sei whales, and assigned to anthropogenic vs natural causal factors.

1.3.7. Re-assess the draft sei whale SAP (produced during DPLUS126) to provide updated information on anthropogenic threats, and issue revised draft **[DP-B02]**.

1.4.1. Arrange travel, accommodation and logistics for genetic training and analysis period at the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge.

1.4.2. Complete one month of training in the processing of genetic samples provided at the British Antarctic Survey, followed by four months of work processing all baleen whale tissue samples collected in the Falklands to date **[DP-A02, DP-A03]**.

1.4.3. Compile available genetic and additional evidence to produce stock assessments.

### **Output 2.**

2.1.1. Acquire research permits for dolphin acoustic work.

2.1.2. Deploy 4 x FPODs to collect one year of acoustic data around Stanley Harbour.

2.1.3. Analyse FPOD and historic CPOD datasets to provide spatio-temporal dataset on dolphin use of Stanley Harbour.

2.1.4. Compile all existing and available datasets on cetacean species in the wider Stanley Harbour area, produce maps and conduct temporal analysis to produce report to inform EIAs.

2.2. Draft the seismic mitigation guidance and submit to FIG-ED for feedback and revision.

2.3. Draft the piling mitigation guidance and submit to FIG-ED for feedback and revision.

2.4. Meet with FIG-ED to discuss the Cetacean Code of Conduct and any revision needed. Implement revision and distribute.

### **Output 3.**

3.1. Organise travel, accommodation and logistics for international training in cetacean necropsies.

3.2.1. Produce training material for basic sampling methods training course in the Falklands.

3.2.2. Identify venue for training course and publicise.

Project Title: Conserving cetacean biodiversity in the Falkland Islands

- 3.3. Compile guidance protocol for cetacean stranding sampling in the Falklands and distribute.
- 3.4.1. Produce equipment lists for sampling kits, order and ship to the Falklands.
- 3.4.2. Identify locations in the Falklands where sampling kits can be stored, and ship them.
- 3.5.1. Ensure research permits are in place to cover sample collection.
- 3.5.2. Organise logistics and attend cetacean strandings whenever they are reported.
- 3.6.1. Organise travel, accommodation and logistics for international training with BDMLR in cetacean rescue and re-flotation.
- 3.6.2. Advertise training opportunity and prepare certificates and database of attendance.
- 3.6.3. Organise and run annual refresher courses in cetacean rescue/re-flotation.
- 3.7. Produce draft protocol for live stranding events and distribute for feedback (FIG-ED, BDMLR etc.).

**Output 4.**

- 4.1.1. Identify list of key stakeholders for project updates.
- 4.1.2. Produce and distribute stakeholder updates.
- 4.3. Produce training materials for Code of Conduct training session.
- 4.4 and 4.5. Production and dissemination of outreach activities.
- 4.6. Data analysis and preparation of scientific manuscripts.
- 4.7. Book travel and organise logistics for attendance at scientific conference.