

Applicant: **Mukhida, Farah**
Organisation: **Anguilla National Trust**
Funding Sought: **£23,571.00**

DPR12F\1016

Giovanni Hughes

Community engagement in nature conservation is essential: it helps build ownership and responsibility for natural resources management while promoting sustainability of conservation efforts. Through practical training in developing and applying stakeholder and stewardship strategies, this Fellowship will raise local capacity to enhance collaborative approaches to environmental management in Anguilla.

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name Farah
Surname Mukhida
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
Email (Work) [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

DPR12F\1016

Giovanni Hughes

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| Name | Farah |
| Surname | Mukhida |
| Tel (Work) | [REDACTED] |
| Email (Work) | [REDACTED] |
| Address | [REDACTED] |

GMS ORGANISATION

| Type | Organisation |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Name | Anguilla National Trust |
| Phone (Work) | [REDACTED] |
| Email (Work) | [REDACTED] |
| Website (Work) | [REDACTED] |
| Address | [REDACTED] |

Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Please attach a cover letter as a PDF document.

[BCF-CoverLetter-DPR12F_1016-GHughes](#)

30/09/2023

11:46:53

pdf 139.15 KB

Q3a. Is this a resubmission of a previously unsuccessful application to Darwin Plus Fellowships?

No

Q4. Name and official address of proposed Darwin Plus Fellow

Include email details where available.

| | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Name | Giovanni Hughes |
| Address | Sacchasses, Anguilla |
| Email Address | [REDACTED] |

Q5. Summary of proposed Fellowship i.e. Outcome

Community engagement in nature conservation is essential: it helps build ownership and responsibility for natural resources management while promoting sustainability of conservation efforts. Through practical training in developing and applying stakeholder and stewardship strategies, this Fellowship will raise local capacity to enhance collaborative approaches to environmental management in Anguilla.

Q6. UKOT involved

Q6a. Please state which UKOT(s) will be involved with the Fellowship?

Anguilla

Q6b. Have you included a letter of support from the relevant OT Government(s) and/or OT-based civil society organisation?

Yes

Please provide a combined PDF of all letters of support

[BCF-LettersOfSupport-DPR12F_1016-GHughes](#)
30/09/2023
12:41:38
pdf 949.86 KB

Q7. Project dates

Start date:
01 April 2024

End date:
31 March 2025

Duration (e.g. 1 year, 2 months):

1 year

Q8. Budget summary

| | 2024/2025 | 2025/2026 | 2026/27 | Total |
|------------------------------------|------------|-----------|---------|--------------|
| Darwin funding request (Apr - Mar) | ██████████ | 0.00 | 0 | £ ██████████ |

Please complete the template below which provides the Budget for this application.

[BCF-Budget-DPR12F_1016-GHughes](#)
29/09/2023
19:20:08
xlsx 35.99 KB

Section 3 - Principals

Q9. Principals in the Fellowship

Please give the details of the individuals from the applicant and host organisations (and other institutions if relevant) who would be directly involved in supervising/ working with the Darwin Plus Fellow.


| Details | Project Leader | Other Expert | Other Expert | Other Expert |
|---------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Surname | Mukhida | Witt | Soanes | Gauvain |


| | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--|---|-------------------------|
| Forename(s) | Farah | Matthew | Louise | Roland |
| Post held | Executive Director | Associate Professor of Natural Environment | Senior Conservation Scientist | Chief Executive Officer |
| Organisation | Anguilla National Trust | University of Exeter | Royal Society for the Protection of Birds | Alderney Wildlife Trust |
| Email | [REDACTED] | | | |


Do you require more fields?


No

Please provide a one page CV for each of these named individuals, including the Fellow named at Question 4, uploaded as one PDF.

 [BCF-CVs-DPR12F_1016-GHughes](#)

 27/09/2023

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Section 4 - Aims, Activities & Achievements

Q10. Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of the proposed Fellow's employing organisation.

The Anguilla National Trust (ANT) is Anguilla's leading environmental nongovernment organisation, working to protect, conserve, and promote Anguilla's heritage through four main programmatic areas: species and habitat conservation; protected areas management; cultural heritage promotion and preservation; and public awareness and stewardship.

For more than 30 years, our work has focused on Anguilla's terrestrial and marine environments, including island restoration, evidence-based marine and terrestrial protected areas management and endangered species conservation, and enhancing resiliency to climate change through nature-based solutions. We have (amongst other things):

- Restored six offshore islands and islets by removing alien invasive predators, supporting native biodiversity recovery.
- Successfully lobbied for the protection of seven critically endangered species.
- Developed priority species and protected areas conservation action plans.
- Successfully expanded the range of Critically Endangered Lesser Antillean iguanas, through reintroductions and translocations.
- Restored marine and terrestrial environments by creating designed underwater habitats and rewilding coastal and wetland ecosystems.

Q11. Describe briefly the proposed Fellow's current role within their organisation and what relevance this has to one or more of the main themes of Darwin Plus.

ANT Programmes and Projects Officer Giovanni Hughes is involved in on-the-ground conservation action, from collecting data to implementing strategies to conserve and protect Anguilla's biodiversity.

Giovanni has helped to develop relationships with government agencies, international conservation organisations, and local communities as we develop, undertake, and increase support for our work. While there have been undeniable successes (e.g., developing protected area management plans by consensus), there have also been some difficulties (e.g., individuals advocating removal of endangered species protections).

We recognise the difficult context in which we operate: 97% of Anguilla's land is privately owned, individuals and families struggle with high standards of living but poorly paid jobs, and a culture that sometimes values individual rights over the collective good. While providing opportunities for direct involvement and experiential learning has helped to raise awareness and support for safeguarding Anguilla's natural environment, there is still room for improvement.

This Fellowship will focus on developing Giovanni's capability in promoting and facilitating community and stakeholder involvement in applied research and the development and implementation of evidence-based biodiversity conservation interventions. He will learn from experiences and apply those lessons learned to support biodiversity conservation in Anguilla in the short- and long-term.

Section 5 - Outcomes & Objectives

Q12. Provide a concept note on the Fellowship. This should include:

Q12a. A clear outline of the aim and objectives of the Fellowship

This Fellowship focusses on Giovanni's professional development, and by extension will build capacity within ANT. Giovanni will be supported by three different international agencies, each bringing a different perspective to community and/or stakeholder involvement and engagement: University of Exeter (UoE), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), and Alderney Wildlife Trust (AWT). The aims and objectives of the Fellowship focus on providing opportunities for Giovanni, through a learning-by-doing approach, to increase his understanding of the various methods and approaches that can be applied to engage communities and stakeholders in impactful biodiversity conservation.

With UoE, Giovanni will:

1. Learn how stakeholder conflict and turbulent environments shape environmental research and how such applied research can still be conducted successfully.

With RSPB:

1. Learn how a large, membership-supported organisation engages with stakeholders on private lands to conduct critical scientific research;
2. Learn how other environmental conservation management strategies (OECMS) are being applied to conserve lands and biodiversity.

With AWT:

1. Learn how to enhance and sustain volunteer opportunities and experiences;
2. Learn how citizen science can be integrated into natural resources management;
3. Learn how volunteering with AWT has shaped and influenced environmental management in a small island community.

Through these varied experiences, Giovanni will gain practical experience in volunteer and stakeholder engagement in conducive as well as more difficult situations, which also realistically reflect Anguilla's environmental stakeholder context.

Q12b. The role of the applicant and/or host organisation, and others where relevant

The Fellowship will be hosted by UoE, RSPB, and AWT. All three organisations have close relationships with ANT and have a good understanding of how best to tailor experiences to Anguilla's context.

AWT is a nongovernmental organisation that works with local communities and private landowners to protect Alderney's wildlife. AWT is responsible for managing >130 hectares of land and >20 kilometres of publicly-accessible footpaths. AWT will host Giovanni for one month during which time he will learn about and engage in volunteer-supported conservation and research initiatives, including bioblitzes, Living Seas Project, and reserve and volunteer management.

RSPB is Europe's largest conservation nongovernmental organisation, operating in the UK and supporting partners around the world, including ANT. RSPB has an extensive nature conservation work programme embedded in evidence-based management approaches to support habitat and species conservation. RSPB adopts an inclusive, supportive approach to conservation, working with and supporting people and communities and providing opportunities for individuals to connect with and protect nature. RSPB will host Giovanni for two weeks during which time he will assist with research and monitoring within the Cairngorm National Park while learning about the visionary 200-year re-wilding ambition that is being supported by a network of committed landowners and managers.

UoE is one of England's leading research universities. UoE Associate Professor Matthew Witt will host Giovanni for one month. Dr. Witt's research focuses on the intersection of marine ecology and human-wildlife conflict and Giovanni will assist with novel research using acoustic tracking of commercially important fish and shark species, facing a range of stakeholders including the marine renewable energy sector and commercial fisheries.

ANT Executive Director, Farah Mukhida, will provide Giovanni with remote supervisory and logistical support and will work directly with him to apply new knowledge and experiences within ANT programme and project design and implementation post-placement.

Q12c. Where appropriate, how the Fellowship will contribute towards one or more of the four themes of Darwin Plus in the OTs i.e. what the expected outcome of the Fellowship will be.

This Fellowship will increase national capability and capacity to engage environmental stakeholders in impactful, long-term biodiversity conservation. This Fellowship focuses on broadening Giovanni's professional experience by working with experienced and knowledgeable conservation practitioners, scientists, and experts who are making significant contributions to biodiversity conservation through their work. They also serve as inspiration of what can be accomplished with the help of dedicated teams comprised of

researchers, natural resources managers, and people who care. At the same time, this Fellowship will also provide insight into how to work with stakeholders who may not be as supportive and explore how to establish understanding despite differing values and positions. Upon returning to Anguilla, Giovanni will multiply the impact of his Fellowship by sharing lessons learned and skills developed while on his placement with all ANT staff and by working with the ANT team to apply that knowledge and those skills directly in the field.

Enhanced community and stakeholder engagement will make ANT's efforts in biodiversity conservation, habitat restoration, and species recovery more effective by creating meaningful opportunities for stakeholders and communities to not only connect with nature but to make tangible differences, where not only are they beneficiaries of healthier and more resilient ecosystems but real and vested partners in effecting change and contributing to critical and long-term biodiversity conservation.

In the long-term, such an approach should also foster increased interest in developing a bottom-up, grassroots movement to biodiversity conservation where ANT can work with communities and stakeholders on evidence-based conservation priorities that they themselves have identified.

Section 6 - Legacy & Collaboration

Q13. Legacy

Provide information on how the Fellow will utilise, promote and disseminate the benefits of the Fellowship. Will a strategy be developed during the Fellowship to ensure this is achieved?

While ANT already has existing relationships with all three host agencies, Giovanni's placement will strengthen these ties and he will use his time with each to also explore potential opportunities for further collaboration, including expanding Anguilla's Pollinator Project (DPLUS131) (AWT), enhancing community-based protected areas management (DPLUS158, DPLUSR12S2\1018) (RSPB), and implementing aspects of ANT's and the Government of Anguilla's Fisheries Unit's Shark Research Action Plan (DPLUS136) (UoE).

Giovanni is committed to promoting and disseminating the benefits of his Fellowship. Through three webinars held with ANT staff at each placement end, followed by comprehensive debriefings upon his return to Anguilla, Giovanni will provide updates, highlighting lessons learned and opportunities for replication within the Anguilla context.

With much of ANT's work focused on enabling community and stakeholder engagement in biodiversity conservation, Giovanni will work with ANT staff to review existing and develop and implement new meaningful community engagement strategies, applying lessons learned from his experiences with AWT, RSPB, and UoE for the remainder of his Fellowship.

A comprehensive strategy will be developed by ANT in collaboration with host agencies at Fellowship start to ensure that this is achieved.

Q14. Priorities

How will the Fellowship assist the OT's environmental priorities? Please refer to international or national environmental conventions, treaties, agreements, strategies and/or action plans relevant to the OT as appropriate.

This Fellowship aligns with and directly supports and contributes to the Government of Anguilla's National Environmental Management Strategy by "supporting and enhancing the capacity of non-governmental and community-based organisations for environmental management (Principle 3, Strategy 8), working with "international organisations to promote environmental education, training, capacity building and awareness" (Principle 7, Strategy 24), and building "capacity of the Anguilla National Trust to manage natural and cultural heritage sites" (Principle 12, Strategy 37). It also supports the Anguilla Environmental Charter through which the UK Government is committed to helping "build capacity to support and implement integrated environmental management" (Principle 1) and using "UK, regional and local expertise to give advice and improve knowledge of technical and scientific issues," (Principle 7) and through which the Government of Anguilla is committed to ensuring "the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms" (Principle 2).

Q15. Collaboration

What collaboration has there been with the proposed Fellow to date in developing the proposal, and what collaboration is planned for the duration of the Fellowship? Where relevant, describe any consultation or collaboration by the proposed Fellow within their own territory.

This proposal has been developed collaboratively amongst the ANT, UoE, RSPB, and AWT and builds on relationships established through numerous Darwin Plus-supported projects and initiatives, including but not limited to, A "B-Line" to Re-wilding: Anguilla's Pollinator Project (DPLUS131 with AWT), Restoring and safeguarding wetlands of the Caribbean UKOTs (DPLUS097 with RSPB), and Anguilla Shark Conservation: social acceptance, spatial protection and legislative reform (DPLUS136 with UoE).

Giovanni has assisted in the development of the application, identifying training needs, relevance of the Fellowship to ANT, biodiversity conservation in Anguilla as well as on-going and potential conservation projects, and interest in community-based management approaches. Identification of placements, host supervisors, and the work schedule/implementation plan were decided upon jointly by ANT Executive Director and Giovanni (as well as the host supervisors), ensuring that the placement fits within ANT field schedules and other work commitments. During the Fellowship placements, Giovanni will be in regular contact with the ANT Executive Director who will provide guidance, assist with any logistical matters, and ensure that the Fellowship experience maximises learning opportunities and benefits.

Collaboration with host agencies will continue post-placement (and -Fellowship) through the development of new projects and on-going mentorship.

Q16. Where will the Fellow be based?

Please be specific with organisational details and dates (where more than one location).

This Fellowship includes three overseas placements:

UoE will host Giovanni for one-month (1-30 April 2024) from their campus in Exeter, Devon.

RSPB will host Giovanni for two weeks (1-15 May 2024) at Cairngorm National Park.

AWT will host Giovanni for one-month (16 May - 15 June 2024) at their office and field stations in Alderney.


The remainder of the Fellowship (16 June 2024-31 March 2025) will be spent in Anguilla with ANT, where Giovanni will work with the ANT team to revise and implement engagement strategies as it relates to the ANT's programme areas and projects.


Section 7 - Workplan


Q17. Workplan

Provide a project workplan that shows the key milestones in project activities.

 [BCF-Workplan-DPR12F_1016-GHughes](#)

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Section 8 - Certification

Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

Anguilla National Trust

I apply for a grant of





£23,571.00

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 one page CVs for project principals, cover letter, budget, workplan, and letters of support as requested in the Guidance Notes.

Checked

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Name | Farah Mukhida |
| Position in Organisation | Executive Director |
| Signed |  FMukhida.signature  27/09/2023  19:22:12  jpg 59.28 KB |
| Dated | 30 September 2023 |

Section 9 - Submission Checklist

| | |
|---|---------|
| I have read the Guidance documents, including the "Guidance Notes for Applicants" and "Finance Guidance". | Checked |
| I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund. | Checked |
| I have provided actual start and end dates for my project. | Checked |
| I have provided a budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April - 31 March and in GBP. | Checked |
| The application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable). | Checked |
| I have provided the relevant letters of support, cover letter, workplan, and CVs with this application. | 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, Darwin Plus and our sister grant scheme, the IWT Challenge Fund. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share our quarterly project newsletter. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in 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](#).

Project Title:

Guidance – please delete before submitting

Provide a **Workplan** that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the following table as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project. Quarters are based on UK FYs (**1 April – 31 March** - Q1 therefore starts April 2024).

Please add/remove columns to reflect the length of your project. For each activity (add/remove rows as appropriate) indicate the number of months it will last, and shade only the quarters in which an activity will be carried out. The activity numbers should correspond to the activities in your logical framework (logframe). The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

This template covers multiple Biodiversity Challenge Funds schemes, so ensure you check the eligible dates/project length for the scheme you are applying to and feel free to delete later years if not applicable for your project.

| | Activity | No. of months | Year 1 (24/25) | | | | Year 2 (25/26) | | | | Year 3 (26/27) | | | | Year 4 (27/28) | | | | Year 5 (28/29) | | | |
|----------|---|---------------|----------------|----|----|----|----------------|----|----|----|----------------|----|----|----|----------------|----|----|----|----------------|----|----|----|
| | | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| Output 1 | Increased personal and national capacity to support community engagement and stewardship in environmental conservation management | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 | Undertake and complete practical training in marine acoustic fish and shark tracking at the University of Exeter | 1 | x | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.2 | Undertake and complete practical training in protected areas management, development of OECMS, and stakeholder engagement in scientific research with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds | 0.5 | x | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.3 | Undertake and complete practical training in the development of volunteer opportunities and | 1 | x | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Project Title:

| | Activity | No. of months | Year 1 (24/25) | | | | Year 2 (25/26) | | | | Year 3 (26/27) | | | | Year 4 (27/28) | | | | Year 5 (28/29) | | | |
|-----|--|---------------|----------------|----|----|----|----------------|----|----|----|----------------|----|----|----|----------------|----|----|----|----------------|----|----|----|
| | | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| | experiences, including through organised citizen science programmes and initiatives with the Alderney Wildlife Trust | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.4 | Share lessons learned from Fellowship placements with ANT staff and volunteers | 0.5 | x | x | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.5 | Review ANT community engagement and outreach plans | 1 | | x | x | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.6 | Implement ANT community engagement and outreach strategies | 5 | | x | x | x | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |