

Applicant: **Carr, Peter**  
Organisation: **Chagos Conservation Trust**  
Funding Sought: **£878,127.00**

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# DPR13S2\1003

## **Rewilding Northeast Peros Banhos, Chagos Archipelago**

Rats have had a catastrophic impact upon island ecosystems worldwide. Eradicating rats (a tried and tested conservation intervention) from four islands in northeast Peros Banhos, Chagos Archipelago, will produce the longest chain of invasive predator-free islands in the Indian Ocean (13 islands). When rat-free, the four islands' environmental quality will improve; biodiversity loss will be reversed and will both increase and diversify, with the surrounding marine ecosystems having enhanced resilience to climate change events.

CONTACT DETAILS

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|                |                           |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| Title          | Dr                        |
| Name           | Peter                     |
| Surname        | Carr                      |
| Organisation   | Chagos Conservation Trust |
| Website (Work) | [REDACTED]                |
| Tel (Work)     | [REDACTED]                |
| Email (Work)   | [REDACTED]                |
| Address        | [REDACTED]                |

# DPR13S2\1003

Rewilding Northeast Peros Banhos, Chagos Archipelago

## Section 1 - Contact Details

### CONTACT DETAILS

|                |                           |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| Title          | Dr                        |
| Name           | Peter                     |
| Surname        | Carr                      |
| Organisation   | Chagos Conservation Trust |
| Website (Work) |                           |
| Tel (Work)     |                           |
| Email (Work)   |                           |
| Address        |                           |

### GMS ORGANISATION

|              |                           |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| Type         | Organisation              |
| Name         | Chagos Conservation Trust |
| Phone (Work) |                           |
| Email (Work) |                           |
| Website      |                           |
| Address      |                           |

## Section 2 - Title & Summary

### Q3. Project title:

Rewilding Northeast Peros Banhos, Chagos Archipelago

### What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DPR13S1\1123

DPR13S1/1025

Please attach a cover letter as a PDF document.

## Q4. Response to Stage 1 feedback

**You must explicitly set out how and where you have addressed all the comments/feedback in the application form: briefly restating the feedback point, then clearly setting out how you have responded to it in the application.**

Below, a precis of the feedback point is given, followed by a brief statement of the action taken and a reference to where in the application the feedback has been addressed:

Outline key risks around complexity of logistics and preparation:

- Contingency time for bad weather – See Q14 Methodology. There is contingency time built in to the programme to offset bad weather.
- Assessment of non-target species bait consumption – See Q20 Risk Register. As per the Ecological Impact Assessment (Harper 2020b), there are no non-target species.
- Mitigation of Maldivian Customs challenges – See Q14 Methodology & Q20 Risk Register. The rodenticide is being imported as “Ship’s Stores”.
- Clarify 1 or 2 bait drops and reasoning – See Q14 Methodology. Two bait drops, this is standard operating procedures.
- Who conducted peer review of Ops Plan – See Q14 Methodology. Peer review of the archipelago-wide Ops Plan by IEAG (New Zealand DOC), for this specific operation the RSPB.
- Why specified islands and why 4 – see Q14 Methodology. Selected due to lack of risk of reinvasion, sited in amongst thriving seabird colonies in a protected area.
- Potential H&S and safeguarding management throughout project – see Q30 Safeguarding. CCT have the expertise and management structure to oversee these matters.
- Monitoring frequency and methods – see Q14 Methodology, Q23 M&E and Q33 Project Partners. M&E will be conducted in 2026 and 2027 using a chartered vessel (or BIOT Patrol Vessel). Team of four from CCT (ornithologist), RBG Kew (botanist), ZSL (invertebrates) and an independent rodent detection expert. Team will work to monitoring plans already produced against a baseline of data gathered in 2025 combined with historical records.
- Plan B if monitoring does not show expected outcomes – If M&E does not show the expected outcome, it will mean that either the rat eradication operation has failed or, the changes expected are taking longer to emerge. Further funding would need to be sought to extend the monitoring or, to undertake a repeat eradication operation.
- GESI – see Q19 GESI. CCT has policies in place for contractors and project partners (ZSL, BIOTA, RBG Kew) are GESI compliant.
- Combine with other Chagos Projects – see Q26b Future plans to work in area. If the brain coral project DPR13S1\1025 is funded, there is a strong possibility that they will have the use of the patrol vessel in 2026. If this is the case, the two projects will combine for fieldwork.
- All Projects - Demonstrate project uses existing environmental solutions and conservation outcomes – see Q5 Summary of Project and first paragraph of Q14 Methodology. Rat eradication is a tried and tested conservation tool.

## Q5. 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.

Rats have had a catastrophic impact upon island ecosystems worldwide. Eradicating rats (a tried and tested conservation intervention) from four islands in northeast Peros Banhos, Chagos Archipelago, will produce the longest chain of invasive predator-free islands in the Indian Ocean (13 islands). When rat-free, the four islands’ environmental quality will improve; biodiversity loss will be reversed and will both increase and diversify, with the surrounding marine ecosystems having enhanced resilience to climate change events.

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

#### Q6. UKOT(s)

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

☒ British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT)

\* 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)?

☒ Yes

If so, list here.

|                         |                               |                                     |                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Focus of work:<br>UKOTs | Rodent eradication operations | Other Territories/<br>country(ies): | All that are undertaking rodent eradication operations, especially on tropical islands e.g., Caribbean UK OTs, Henderson |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

#### Q7. Project dates

|               |               |                                    |
|---------------|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Start date:   | End date:     | Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months): |
| 01 April 2025 | 31 March 2028 | Three years                        |

## Q8. Budget summary

| Year:   | 2025/26     | 2026/27     | 2027/28     | Total request |
|---------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Amount: | £552,927.00 | £163,100.00 | £162,100.00 | £878,127.00   |

## Q9. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

☒ Yes

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

## Q10. 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?

Not applicable

## Q11. 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

### Q12. 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.**

Scientific research, much emanating from the Chagos Archipelago, has demonstrated that rat-free tropical seabird islands (where breeding seabirds drive the ecosystem), when compared to islands with invasive rats, have increased biodiversity (Benkwitt et al 2021) and build resilience in the surrounding nearshore ecosystems to global stressors such as climate change-related rises in sea temperatures (Graham et al 2018). However, most seabirds in the Chagos Archipelago cannot breed in the presence of invasive rats (Carr et al 2021a/b).

The Chagos Archipelago has 55 islands, 31 of which are environmentally degraded due to the presence of invasive rats (Carr et al 2021a). It has some 282,000 breeding pairs of 18 species of seabird found in four IUCN classified Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas (IBAs - Carr et al 2021b). These breeding seabird populations are important regionally due to their sheer numbers and, because they are found in Strict Nature Reserves in a large no-take Marine Protected Area in the only UK Overseas Territory in the Indian Ocean (Hays et al 2020).

Due to invasive rats, 94% of seabirds nest on 12 tiny islands within the IBAs comprising 6% of the total Chagos

Archipelago landmass (Carr et al 2021b). Theoretical modelling demonstrates that if just 1 km<sup>2</sup> of land is cleared of invasive species, the breeding seabird population of the archipelago could increase threefold (Carr et al 2021b). With seabirds being one of the most threatened family of birds in the world (Croxall et al 2012), the expansion of the number of rat-free islands and the total area available for seabirds to breed in the Chagos Archipelago is critical to seabird conservation efforts in the Indian Ocean.

This project, led by the Chagos Conservation Trust (CCT), will eradicate rats from four isolated islands found inside the boundary of a single IBA in the northern atoll of Peros Banhos. This will build on a successful pilot project, where CCT led an island restoration Darwin funded project that eradicated rats from a small island in the Peros Banhos atoll (DPLUS011 Ile Vache Marine Restoration Project).

Eradicating rats from the four named islands in Peros Banhos will create the longest chain of rat-free islands in the Indian Ocean. It will facilitate the return of seabirds to these islands which will improve their environmental quality over time, increasing terrestrial and marine biodiversity (Harper & Bunbury 2015). It will build resilience to climate change in the surrounding marine environs (Benkwitt et al 2021) and potentially, secure these tropical islands against future sea level rise (Steibl et al 2023).

## Section 5 - Environmental Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

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### Q13. 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.**

This project contributes to the Global Goals' targets of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life Below Water (<https://www.globalgoals.org/goals/14-life-below-water/>) and Goal 15 Life on Land (<https://www.globalgoals.org/goals/15-life-on-land/>).

As part of the UK government's commitment to the Convention on Biological Diversity Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, this project meets Target 1 – Plan and manage all Areas to Reduce Biodiversity Loss and, assists in meeting Target 2 – Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems.

The Chagos Conservation Trust (CCT) is an official partner of the UN Decade of Ecological Restoration (<https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/>), which aims “to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems on every continent and in every ocean”. The rewilding of northern Peros Banhos contributes towards the UN Decade of Ecological Restoration aims.

At the local, United Kingdom Overseas Territory level, the BIOT Administration (BIOTA - the governing authority) has identified 11 conservation and environmental priorities. This project will assist in meeting five of these, the most obvious one being “Eradicating invasive rats which threaten native seabird populations, and impact the delicate balance of BIOT's ecosystems”. (<https://www.biot.gov.io/environment/>). It also meets the aspirations of the BIOTA Conservation Management Plan that has a priority the eradication of rats (see BIOTA Letter of Support).

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

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### Q14. 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.).

The management of invasive species to improve the environmental quality of islands is an internationally recognised and accepted conservation intervention (Mulder et al 2011, Veitch et al 2019). Rodent eradication is a leading tool globally for island restoration (Harper & Bunbury 2015) and has been used successfully in the Chagos Archipelago (Harper et al 2019) in a Darwin funded project (DPLUS011) led by Dr Carr for CCT (lead applicant and lead organisation).

Within the Chagos Archipelago, CCT has been championing island restoration via rodent eradication (Harper et al 2019) and lowland rainforest rehabilitation projects (Franklin et al 2024). With assistance from Darwin funding (DPLUS138), CCT has produced a peer reviewed Feasibility Study (Harper 2020a) and Ecological Impact Assessment (Harper 2020b) for the eradication of rats from all of the degraded islands the northern atolls of the Chagos Archipelago (Harper 2022a – peer reviewed by the Island Eradication Advisory Group from the New Zealand Department of Conservation - IEAG) and, an Operational Plan specific to this project (Harper 2022b – peer reviewed by RSPB). The environmental rehabilitation of northeast Peros Banhos builds upon a solid foundation of trial and research globally and within the archipelago – led by CCT.

The four islands of northeast Peros Banhos selected for environmental rehabilitation were chosen because, when rat-free, will be part of the longest chain of invasive predator free islands (total of 13) in the Indian Ocean. The degraded islands are part of an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) and are amongst thriving seabird islands that provide optimal conditions for a rapid recolonisation of breeding birds. They are also found in a BIOT Strict Nature Reserve, meaning they are undisturbed – another factor important to breeding seabirds. They are also isolated, so reinvasion from rat-infested islands is very highly unlikely.

The BIOT Administration (BIOTA) has pledged the dedicated use of the BIOT Patrol Vessel (BPV) for 30 days in August/September 2025 towards this project (part of matched funding – see Budget). The BPV will be used as the platform for delivering the rat eradication operation and establishing (additional) baseline monitoring data on breeding seabirds, plants and invertebrates.

The 2025 field team will gather in Male, Maldives in August 2025 where they will board the BPV with all stores. The importation of rodenticide into the Maldives has proved problematical on previous Darwin funded projects (see DPLUS138 Final Report). This potential problem, on advice and assistance of the BPV shipping company NorthStar, has been mitigated for by importing the bait as “ship’s stores” - thereby the rodenticide is viewed as being in transit through the Maldives and not being used in the country.

The BPV will then sail to Peros Banhos. The technical lead (Biodiversity Restoration Specialists) with the global leading company dealing in delivering rodenticide by drone (Envico) have advised that the eradication operation involving two aerial drops of bait will take 14 days. The sail time from Male, Maldives to Peros Banhos is three days. The BPV is chartered for 30 days, the sail and eradication are estimated to take 20 days. This provides sufficient contingency (based on ~20 years of BIOT expedition experience) for e.g., adverse weather, no-fly days for the drones.

At the target islands, the rat eradication team will deliver rodenticide to every 5m<sup>2</sup> of the island by drone

following international standard operating procedures implemented by leading global experts. In addition, a team of expert rodent eradicators will deploy to each island to hand-broadcast / hang bola-bait in areas required e.g., small areas of mangroves. Rat eradication will be conducted to ethical standards approved by the governing authority and with an official permit.

Concurrently, the science team (four people) will deploy to islands to gather data to be added to historic records to form the pre-eradication baseline. (The four islands are in two pairs and there will be no overlap of monitoring with the eradication operation). The ornithologist (Dr Carr) will use established BIOT seabird census techniques (Carr et al. 2021a). The invertebrate and botanical experts will employ standardised monitoring techniques used globally but, tailored for the project by ZSL and RBG Kew.

In 2026 and 2027, a small vessel is to be chartered to take the monitoring team to the four islands. In addition to the ornithologist, entomologist and botanist, these trips will have an independent rodent eradication expert to assess rat presence/absence.

## Q15. 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**

British Indian Ocean Territory Administration (BIOTA). This is the governing authority, without their full support this project could not happen as they issue the official permit to enter the territory and control the use of the BIOT Patrol Vessel (BPV). BIOTA is match-funding the project by paying the charter costs of the BPV for 30 days in 2025 (£290,100.00).

Regular virtual and in-person meetings have taken place between the PM and the Strategic Environmental Officer of the BIOT Administration and the Chief Scientific Officer to BIOTA (Dr Mark Spalding) for over twelve months regarding this project. Regular consultation with BIOTA throughout the life of the project is essential to ensure there is a clear understanding of the project goals (eradication in 2025 followed by monitoring and evaluation in 2026 and 2027), to ensure further permits are issued.

BIOTA are the only organisation involved in the project that have a decision at project management level. All other organisations involved in the project are contracted partners and therefore, are important (and hand-picked) but can be replaced.

## Q16. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

**All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to promoting equality between persons of different gender and social characteristics. Please include reference to the GESI context in which your project seeks to work in. Explain your understanding of how individuals may be disadvantaged or 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 ensure meaningful participation for all those engaged.**

The Chagos Conservation Trust (CCT) is a small charity with a board of Trustees that includes both sexes and individuals of all ages and diverse backgrounds, including Chagossians. CCT has a female Director and its own GESI policy. The British Indian Ocean Territory Administration (BIOTA), its' employees and agencies it charts, e.g., the BIOT Patrol Vessel, all comply with UK government GESI policies. Biodiversity Restoration Specialists (BRS) and Orion Conservation Services are companies that are a single individual and hire in staff for projects. BRS has employed Envico to undertake the drone work, a company with its own GESI policy. The monitoring team come from ZSL and RBG Kew, both institutions with appropriate GESI policies in place.

CCT are confident that the individuals who will participate in the project from BIOTA (BPV crew), Envico, ZSL and

RBG Kew will have been selected with GESI criteria as a mainstay of the selection process. BRS and OCS individuals have been selected due to their unique knowledge and skills and in the case of BRS, have worked with CCT on previous Darwin Plus projects.

Throughout the project, CCT will ensure no participant is discriminated against and each individual will be respected and supported to perform to the best of their abilities - per the Chagos Conservation Trust policies (uploaded).

## Q17. Change expected

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

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

The immediate change to the four islands will be the absence of invasive black rats. Rats suppress plant growth by eating seeds and flowers and, inhibit biodiversity by killing and eating any species they can ranging from small insects through to large seabirds. The immediate expected change the absence of rats will produce is a flourishing of flora and an increase in breeding seabirds of the “less sensitive” species e.g., Brown and Lesser Noddy and White Tern.

Longer-term (5-15 years), in open areas of the cleared islands “sensitive” ground-nesting seabirds should return. This is especially the case for the Sooty Tern that breed in large numbers on rat-free islands in northeast Peros Banhos and are “ecosystem drivers” due to their abundance on small islands. The (re)colonisation by seabirds on these islands will (re)introduce nutrient transfers between the terrestrial and surrounding marine environment and will for example, build resilience to climate change induced stressors such as rising sea temperatures.

The Chagos Archipelago is currently uninhabited, but connected to coral reefs in the west (Madagascar, Seychelles, East Africa) and east (Indonesia). Improved reef resilience following rat eradication will therefore benefit reefs with high human dependency.

Should sovereignty transfer to Mauritius, resettlement is proposed. Improved island and ocean health and additional associated fish biomass will therefore benefit any new communities. It is too uncertain to quantify potential beneficiaries.

Further into time (15-150 years), in the absence of rats it is expected that native vegetation communities similar to the rat-free islands of northeast Peros Banhos, including eventually lowland (tropical island) rainforest will develop.

The potential to scale the planned conservation intervention is easily achievable if resources and funding are available. CCT has the aspiration and peer-reviewed plans ready to conduct similar operations on all of the environmentally degraded islands of the Chagos Archipelago. Ultimately, this will result in a completely environmentally rehabilitated archipelago with thriving seabird populations and restored ecosystem services.

## Q18. 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.**

By eradicating rats (Output 1), the route to the ecological rehabilitation of the environmentally degraded islands is opened. The eradication of rats removes an alien top predator from the environment, facilitating the expected outcome of growth of plants and the flourishing of previously preyed upon taxon (Outputs 2 and 3). This will produce an island environment conducive to breeding seabirds (Outcome).

Breeding and roosting seabirds deposit nutrients, generally in the form of guano on to the terrestrial environment. These in turn “run-off” through precipitation or leaching into the surrounding marine environment. This natural fertiliser significantly increases coral growth and resilience to bleaching and fish biomass.

Therefore, the removal of the top, alien predator directly leads to one part of the overall impact – a halt and reverse in biodiversity loss. It also indirectly contributes to the second part of the impact, mitigating some of the effects of climate change by, for example, building resilience in coral reefs to climate change induced rises in sea temperatures.

## Q19. 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?**

The two-year monitoring and evaluation phase of this project post rat-eradication is absolutely essential to confirm the rat eradication operation is a success. Two-years with no rat detection is the internationally accepted period after which a tropical island eradication can be declared a success. At this point, due to the isolation of the islands (from a reinvasion by rats’ perspective), the eradication intervention is considered sustainable.

The environmental rehabilitation of four islands in northeast Peros Banhos will continue to deliver ecological benefit in the long term. If the rat eradication is successful, the terrestrial and marine environments will provide beneficial environmental services ad infinitum, if global impacts allow. Vegetation management would speed-up the recolonisation of breeding seabirds, however, this is not essential.

After the life of the specific project, an open-access scientific paper (sponsored and funded by CCT - lead organisation) will be published highlighting the environmental change of these islands. All of the details of the project will be available on-line via the Chagos Information Portal (<https://chip.chagos-trust.org/>). Prior to that, the change in rodent status will be actively communicated to stakeholders, specialists in island restoration and BirdLife’s IBA database, as well as academic institutions committed to research in the Chagos Archipelago.

The legacy will be protocols and learning from this project that inform other tropical island eradication projects and scientific papers produced by future researchers incorporating the results of this project. There is no time limit to this research as the effects of eradicating rats in terms of rainforest regeneration is at least, centennial.

CCT (lead organisation) has produced plans to rewild (rat eradication and vegetation management) all of the northern atolls.

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

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 [20241003-CCT-Darwin\\_S2\\_Main\\_Application-References+Map](#)  
 03/10/2024  
 13:04:36  
 pdf 323.83 KB

## Section 7 - Risk Management

### Q20. 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><br>Possible misuse or misdirection of funds or, overcharging for services by the three companies to be contracted by the Chagos Conservation Trust (CCT).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Low    | Very low | Low           | CCT manage all of the funds associated with this project. This brings oversight and accountability of all expenditure. Standard accounting practices will be employed by CCT (e.g. receipts and invoices). CCT's Anti-fraud and Bribery Policy will be shared with all contractors prior to the project's commencement. | Low           |
| <b>Safeguarding: risk of sexual exploitation abuse and harassment (SEAH), or unintended harm to beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff.</b><br>Historically, a number of scientists and conservationists working in the Chagos Archipelago have been targeted by supporters of the Mauritian claim of sovereignty and have been threatened with legal action. Unintended harm of this nature could come to both implementing partners and CCT staff through public exposure of this project. | Low    | Very low | Low           | Discussions in 2024 between international scientists and conservationists, including Dr Carr (Lead applicant), with the Mauritian government, scientists and conservation practitioners went a long way to alleviate this problem. Should it reoccur, there is now an open route to discuss the way ahead.              | Low           |

**Safeguarding: risks to health, safety and security (HSS) of beneficiaries, the public. Implementing partners, and staff.**

Following rodent eradication there will be traces of rodenticide present in the marine and terrestrial environment. Potentially, this could be harmful to humans if ingested. (There are no non-target species present on the islands that could be impacted).

Low

Very low

Low

Even though the target islands are off-limits to all personnel without written permission from the governing authority, signs will be erected warning people not to eat any products from the terrestrial or marine environments of the island for a period of 24 months after the eradication operation.

Low

**Delivery Chain**

The unfettered delivery of rodenticide to the support ship in Male, Maldives.

High

Medium

Low

This problem has been encountered before where Maldivian Customs delayed the release of rodenticide to an operational team. This problem is negated by registering the rodenticide as Ship's Stores and thereby transiting through and not for use in the country. This solution has been agreed with the shipping company (NorthStar).

Low

**Risk 5**

Change of sovereignty of the British Indian Ocean Territory.

High

Unknown

Unknown

The length of and outcome of sovereignty talks with Mauritius is completely unknown and little information is being released. Should sovereignty change, discussions will be continued with Mauritian colleagues to ensure the project continues. This could mean chartering a new vessel for the rat eradication phase (planned 2025).

Unknown

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |        |          |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| <b>Risk 6</b><br>The BIOT Patrol Vessel not being available for the fieldwork in Year One when the heavy stores for the rat eradication need transporting to the target islands (e.g. BPV needs urgent, unplanned for repairs).     | High   | Very low | Low | It is known the BPV is scheduled for maintenance in dry dock in early 2025 and therefore should be "ship-shape" for the August deployment. If enough notice is given of non-availability, the eradication operation can be rescheduled and the project continue.                                            | Low |
| <b>Risk 7</b><br>Key person risk. Dr Peter Carr (Lead applicant) is key to the co-ordination and management of this application and has been the driving force of ecological restoration in the Chagos Archipelago for two decades. | Medium | Very low | Low | This risk has been mitigated for by the employment of an experienced conservation intervention manager, Peter Haverson, to shadow Dr Carr, with the ability to assume project leadership, if required. Peter will form part of the invertebrate monitoring team if not needed to take over as project lead. | Low |

Q21. 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

Q22. 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.

-  [20240927-CCT-Stage 2-Workplan-Master](#)
-  30/09/2024
-  17:14:56
-  docx 39.2 KB

Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Q23. 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).**

Monitoring and evaluation are integral to this project. The project’s Impact, Outcome and three of the Outputs can only be fully met if black rats are successfully eradicated from the four target islands in northeast Peros Banhos. Output 1, successful rat eradication can only be ascertained by monitoring undertaken by a rodent detection expert. Further, a rat-free period of two years after an eradication operation is required for it to be declared successful. This time constraint fits well with this Darwin project as the eradication operation happens in Year One (2025), giving two years (2026 and 2027) for post-eradication monitoring. The post-eradication monitoring for rats will be carried out by an independent expert with no direct connection with the company contracted to carry out the eradication. There are standard practices for rodent detection that will be employed by the rodent detection expert.

In addition to monitoring for rats, the environmental benefits of eradicating rats – an improvement in the island biodiversity (Outcome and Outputs 2-3), are to be monitored and evaluated.

The Outcome, the (re)colonisation of seabirds to these islands is essential to the Impact - mitigating for the effects of climate change. Seabird guano is the important element in this mitigation, it provides nutrients through run-off that enhance the surrounding ecosystems and builds resilience to some of the effects of climate change such as sea temperature rise. Dr Peter Carr (Project Lead) is the author of A guide to the Birds of the Chagos Archipelago (2023) and, in Carr et al 2021a, wrote protocols for monitoring breeding seabirds in the archipelago. Dr Carr will conduct the breeding seabird monitoring and report on the Outcome throughout the life of the project.

Following rat eradication, it is expected that the vegetation communities on the islands will change. Output Two of the project is concerned with vegetation monitoring following rat eradication. The Royal Botanic Garden (RBG), Kew, are internationally acknowledged experts in plant management and have centuries of practice in monitoring of vegetation communities throughout the globe. RBG Kew have written the monitoring plan for this project (as part of Carr 2024 – Operational Plan for Vegetation Management in the Chagos Archipelago). RBG Kew are to perform the monitoring and evaluation for Output Two over the three years of the project, free of charge (travel and subsistence met by the project).

Output Three of the project concerns an increase in native fauna. There are no mammals on the islands (except invasive rats) and no amphibians and only two reptiles, sea-turtles, that appear briefly on the islands to lay eggs. This project has selected invertebrates (including crabs) as the proxy for monitoring change following rat eradication. The entomological department of the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) are recognised experts in invertebrate monitoring and produced the monitoring plan for this project (in Carr 2024). ZSL will provide the monitoring and evaluation throughout the life of the project, free of charge (travel and subsistence met by the project).

|                                                           |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Total project budget for M&E (£)                          |     |
| (this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs) |     |
| Total project budget for M&E (%)                          |     |
| Number of days planned for M&E                            | 132 |

# Section 10 - Logical Framework & Standard Indicators

## Q24a. 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.

 [20240930-CCT-Stage\\_Two-Logframe-Master](#)

 30/09/2024

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 pdf 95.6 KB

Impact:

The successful eradication of rats from northeast Peros Banhos will assist in mitigating some of the effects of climate change and halt and reverse biodiversity loss at a local scale.

Outcome:

Rat eradication on the islands of Passe, Moeresby, Manoel and Yeye will increase native flora and fauna and will over time facilitate the recovery of nesting seabird populations.

Project Outputs

|                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Output 1:</b>                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Black rats <i>Rattus rattus</i> eradicated from Passe, Moeresby, Manoel and Yeye.                                                                                                      |
| <b>Output 2:</b>                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 2. Invertebrates increase on Passe, Moeresby, Manoel and Yeye as a proxy for all island fauna, as these taxa respond to environmental changes rapidly and within the project lifespan. |
| <b>Output 3:</b>                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Native vegetation increases on Passe, Moeresby, Manoel and Yeye.                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Output 4:</b>                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Sharing knowledge and experience of the eradication of invasive rodents available to inform further such operations on tropical islands                                                |
| <b>Output 5:</b>                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Not applicable                                                                                                                                                                         |

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.

OUTCOME

- 0.1. Breeding seabird census conducted on Passe, Moresby, Manoel and Yeye in 2025, 2026 and 2027 by Chagos Archipelago seabird expert (Dr Peter Carr).
- 0.2. 2025 results of Activity 0.1 combined with historical data to form monitoring baseline data.
- 0.3. Report submitted to CCT (Lead Organisation) by seabird expert detailing results of Activity 0.1 no later than one month after censuses undertaken.
- 0.4. CCT to incorporate results submitted at Activity 0.3 into Darwin progress (and final) reports as required.
- 0.5. CCT to publish online all results of censuses conducted in Activity 0.1 by Q4 Yr3.
- 0.6. Dr P Carr to upload all breeding seabird results to EBird.

OUTPUTS

- 1.1. Black rats eradicated from target islands as per Operational Plan for rat eradication in NE Peros Banhos, between 10 August – 10 September 2025 by rodent eradication expert (Biodiversity Restoration Limited and ENVICO).
- 1.2. Black rats searched for by rodent detection expert on target islands in 2026 and 2027.
- 1.3. Report submitted to CCT by rodent detection expert detailing results of Activity 1.2 no later than one month after censuses undertaken.
- 1.4. CCT to incorporate results submitted at Activity 1.3 into Darwin progress (and final) report when required by reporting programme.
- 1.5. CCT to publish online all results of censuses conducted in Activity 1.2 by Q4 Yr3.
- 2.1. Invertebrate census conducted on Passe, Moresby, Manoel and Yeye in 2025, 2026 and 2027 by entomologist from ZSL using protocols in the Invertebrate Monitoring Plan.
- 2.2. 2025 results of Activity 2.1 combined with historical data to form monitoring baseline.
- 2.3. Report submitted to CCT by ZSL entomologist detailing results of Activity 2.1 no later than one month after censuses undertaken.
- 2.4. CCT to incorporate results submitted at Activity 2.1 into Darwin progress (and final) report, as reports are required.
- 2.5. CCT to publish online all results of censuses conducted in Activity 2.1 by Q4 Yr3.
- 3.1. Botanical census conducted on Passe, Moresby, Manoel and Yeye in 2025, 2026 and 2027 by botanist from RBG Kew using protocols in the Botanical Monitoring Plan.
- 3.2. 2025 results of Activity 3.1 combined with historical data (if relevant) to form monitoring baseline.
- 3.3. Report submitted to CCT by botanist detailing results of Activity 3.1 no later than one month after censuses undertaken.
- 3.4. CCT to incorporate results submitted at Activity 3.1 into mandatory Darwin progress (and final) report as reports are required.
- 3.5. CCT to publish online all results of censuses conducted in Activity 3.1 by Q4 Yr3.
- 4.1. CCT to author and publish a non-scientific article on project methods and results by Q4 Yr3.
- 4.2. CCT to give presentation on project at Island Invasives conference (February 2026).
- 4.3. CCT to publish open access scientific paper in known journal after the life of the project (Results from Yr3 need to be incorporated in to manuscript and paper submission to acceptance will not be achieved in the life of the project).

Q24b. Standard Indicators

| Standard Indicator Ref & Wording | Project Output or Outcome this links to | Target number by project end | Provide disaggregated targets here |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|

| <b>e.g. DPLUS-A01:<br/>Number of people in<br/>eligible countries who<br/>have completed<br/>structured and relevant<br/>training</b> | <b>e.g. Output indicator<br/>3.4 / Output 3</b> | <b>e.g. 60</b>         | <b>e.g. 30 women; 30 men</b>                                                                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DPLUS-C01: Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed                                               | Output 4                                        | Two (2)                | <i>No Response</i>                                                                                                                   |
| DPLUS-C09: Number of records added to accessible databases                                                                            | Outcome, Outputs 2 & 3                          | 50                     | British Indian Ocean Territory                                                                                                       |
| DPLUS-D01b: Area improved through restoration                                                                                         | Output 1                                        | 1.75km2 (four islands) | British Indian Ocean Territory – T1 Tropical – subtropical forest (T1.1 Tropical lowland rainforest) – Animal management/restoration |
| DPLUS-D02: Ecosystem Loss Avoided                                                                                                     | Output 1                                        | 1.75km2 (four islands) | British Indian Ocean Territory – T1 Tropical – subtropical forest (T1.1 Tropical lowland rainforest)                                 |
| DPLUS-D07: Number of globally threatened taxa with improving conservation status                                                      | Output 1                                        | Three species (3)      | British Indian Ocean Territory – Robber Crab Birgus latro, Green Turtle Chelonia mydas, Hawksbill Turtle Eretmochelys imbricata.     |
| <i>No Response</i>                                                                                                                    | <i>No Response</i>                              | <i>No Response</i>     | <i>No Response</i>                                                                                                                   |
| <i>No Response</i>                                                                                                                    | <i>No Response</i>                              | <i>No Response</i>     | <i>No Response</i>                                                                                                                   |
| <i>No Response</i>                                                                                                                    | <i>No Response</i>                              | <i>No Response</i>     | <i>No Response</i>                                                                                                                   |
| <i>No Response</i>                                                                                                                    | <i>No Response</i>                              | <i>No Response</i>     | <i>No Response</i>                                                                                                                   |
| <i>No Response</i>                                                                                                                    | <i>No Response</i>                              | <i>No Response</i>     | <i>No Response</i>                                                                                                                   |
| <i>No Response</i>                                                                                                                    | <i>No Response</i>                              | <i>No Response</i>     | <i>No Response</i>                                                                                                                   |
| <i>No Response</i>                                                                                                                    | <i>No Response</i>                              | <i>No Response</i>     | <i>No Response</i>                                                                                                                   |
| <i>No Response</i>                                                                                                                    | <i>No Response</i>                              | <i>No Response</i>     | <i>No Response</i>                                                                                                                   |

**If you cannot identify three Standard Indicators you can report against, please justify this here.**

Not applicable

## Section 11 - Budget and Funding

---

### Q25. 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.

 [20241002-CCT-Master Budget for Submission](#)

 03/10/2024

 12:56:53

 xlsx 94.95 KB

### Q26. 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.

**Q26a. 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:**

Dr Carr (Project Lead) has been involved with conservation in the Chagos Archipelago since 1996 and led the only successful rat eradication of an island in the archipelago to date in 2014 (DPLUS011). Since 2019, Carr has been employed by the Chagos Conservation Trust (CCT) to spearhead the Trust and BIOTA aspiration to rid the archipelago of invasive species, especially rats. Concurrently, between 2016 -2021, Carr has been conducting research as part of a PhD whose theme was seabirds and invasive species. As one of the seabird experts involved with the archipelago, Carr has been part of associated research in to the impact of rats on the environment or, has intimate knowledge of these projects.

There are no other projects in progress ecologically rehabilitating environmentally degraded islands in the four northern atolls of the Chagos Archipelago. To the best of anyone's knowledge associated with this project, no similar endeavours are planned by any other institute or person.

**Q26b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for work in the geographic/thematic area to the proposed project?**

☒ Yes

**If yes, please give details explaining similarities and differences, and explaining how your work will be additional, avoiding duplicating and conflicting activities and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and share lessons learnt for mutual benefit.**

The Bertarelli Foundation's Marine Science Programme (BPMS) has funded most of the science in the Chagos Archipelago since 2017. As the programme is reaching the end of a funding cycle, there is no planned fieldwork in the archipelago past 2024. No other fieldwork is known to be taking place in the Chagos Archipelago from 2025 onwards.

There is an application in with Darwin Plus led Dr Bryan Wilson of University of East Anglia (DPR13S1\1025) that was successful at Stage One of the application process. Drs Carr (Lead Applicant this project) and Wilson, along with representation from BPMS and ZSL, have discussed the possibility of sharing resources during their respective project's lifespans. The outcome of the discussions was that there is a possibility of sharing a vessel

that DPR13S1\1027 aim to use for fieldwork in 2026. As this vessel has not been confirmed, this project aims to continue with its plan of chartering a small yacht for the monitoring visit in 2026 and, if the larger vessel of DPR13S1\1027 comes to fruition, request to Darwin to divert funds from a small yacht charter to co-funding the DPR13S1\1025 expedition.

## **Q27. 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.**

The Chagos Archipelago falls in to the category of “not always possible” from the introductory wording above. There are no communities and economies in this UK Overseas Territory. There is only a military facility on one island that holds a transient population that supports the military operations associated with the base.

Due to their being no infrastructure to support conservation interventions in the northern atolls of the archipelago, the majority of the overall budget is to be spent on chartering vessels to actually get to the target islands and, be supported once there. In Year One (2025), a large vessel is needed to transport the rodent eradication team, equipment and pallets of rodenticide to the target islands, as well as the seabird, vegetation and invertebrate monitoring teams. In Year Two and Three (2026 and 2027) a smaller craft will be chartered to transport the four people constituting the monitoring teams to the islands for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

Without a vessel to transport the teams to the islands in 2025, 2026 and 2027, the project cannot achieve its' Impact, Outcome or Outputs.

## **Q28. 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.**

Due to the remoteness of the Chagos Archipelago, a total lack of infrastructure in the northern atolls and, a reliance on a vessel to provide a base to work from, any conservation intervention in this UK Overseas Territory will be expensive and logistically challenging.

Fortunately for this operation, the governing authority (BIOTA) has provided the BIOT Patrol Vessel (BPV) for 30 days exclusively for the use of the project in Year One. BIOTA have also gifted-in-kind 100% of the charter cost of the vessel (£290,100.00). Use of the BPV will enhance the efficiency of the rat eradication due to the knowledge of the target islands the crew and Captain of the ship have.

All of the partners on this project have experience of working in the Chagos Archipelago and all have gifted-in-kind some or all of their time in preparing and planning this project. All of the project partners will continue to contribute their time to the project, formally or informally for the project duration. All of the named project staff are experts in their fields.

The lead organisation, CCT has a pedigree of delivering Darwin funded projects. The expertise within CCT, e.g. lawyers, fund managers, scientists and a former British Representative of BIOT, bring a solid management team to oversee the project – all gifting-in-kind their time.

## **Q29. 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 single capital item the project is intending to purchase is a laptop for the Project Manager. It is expected that the laptop will last the lifetime of the project and will be used for writing the scientific paper about the project after the life of the project. The expected lifespan of a work laptop is 3-5 years.

The three companies contracted to CCT do not require capital items to be purchased to achieve their project goals.

## **Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics**

---

### **Q30. 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) from harm. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have specific procedures and policies in operation.**

**Please upload the following mandatory policies:**

- **Safeguarding and/or PSEAH Policy**: including a statement of commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance to inaction statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse. Policy should include a commitment to either Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS), IASC minimum operating standards for PSEA MOS-PSEA) or CAPSEAH minimum standards.
- **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 staff and volunteers involved in the project and makes clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards, up to and including dismissal.
- **Safety and Security Policy or Security Plan**: that outlines a plan on how to mitigate and respond to potential health, safety and security threats.

**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 your project will ensure:**

- a) beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff are made aware of your safeguarding commitment and how they can 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 also meet these standards and policies.

**Indicate which minimum standard protocol your project follows and how you meet those minimum standards, i.e. CAPSEAH, CHS, IASC MOS-PSEA. If your approach is currently limited or in the early stages of development, please clearly set out your plans address this.**

The Chagos Conservation Trust (CCT) is committed to protect and promote the welfare of everyone that is involved with the Project. We have policies in place to ensure this (Safeguarding, Whistleblowing, GESI, Health and Safety, Anti-Fraud and Bribery) and an overarching Code of Conduct. All trustees, employees, volunteers and contractors involved with the Project will be required to comply with these policies and compliance will be continuously monitored throughout.

Great care has been taken by CCT when choosing its partners for the Project and a proven track record in all

safeguarding issues has been a key consideration in their selection. Partners on this Project are the BIOT Administration (the governing authority), ZSL and RBG Kew. All are extensive and well governed institutions with a proven track record of protecting and promoting the welfare of people they are involved with.

The Project will also involve CCT contracting with Biodiversity Restoration Specialists (BRS) and Orion Conservation Specialists (OCS). BRS will also be subcontracting with Envico in relation to the operating of drones. CCT has thoroughly vetted all of these contractors and sub-contractors. All will be made aware and required to comply with CCT policies under the terms of their contracts. BRS have been contracted by CCT on three previous Darwin projects. Envico are regularly contracted by governments and OCS is a known and trusted commodity to CCT.

CCT follow IASC - MOS-PSEA and will ensure that the Project complies with its terms.

As a relatively small charitable Trust, the trustees are in an excellent position to continuously monitor the Project and ensure its' good governance. The trustees are drawn from a wide range of institutions, and have extensive experience in relation to the overarching importance of all matters relating to safeguarding.

Q31. Ethics

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

There are ethical issues to consider when eradicating animals. The nub of the question is, “does the benefit accrued through the eradication outweigh the loss of a population?” This question arises in every eradication project undertaken around the globe. It is also answered in every Ecological Impact Assessment (EIA) undertaken as part of every project, as is the case in this project (see Harper 2022b). In short, in the case of this project, rats are non-native, invasive and have destroyed beneficial breeding seabird populations on the target islands. To halt the decline in biodiversity loss and to mitigate some of the impacts of climate change, rats have to be eradicated.

There is also a cultural aspect to the ethics question, “if the Chagossian community globally is permitted to return to the islands, would they want rats eradicated?” Reading the history of the islands,(e.g., Scott 1961), rats are regularly reported as a scourge of crops, and “children” were employed to control rat numbers.

The eradication of rats has been discussed with both the Chagossian community and Mauritian government but due to “political sensitivities” neither conversations have been allowed to be sourced but both parties are “supportive of ecological rehabilitation”.

Section 13 - Project Staff

Q32. 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 (these should match the details you provide in the budget).

| Name (First name, Surname) | Role                  | % time on project | 1 page CV or job description attached? |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Peter Carr                 | Project Leader        | 100               | Checked                                |
| Grant Harper               | Technical Lead        | 100               | Checked                                |
| Peter Haverson             | Deputy Project Leader | 100               | Checked                                |

|              |                          |   |         |
|--------------|--------------------------|---|---------|
| Sara Barrios | Botanist (M&E) - RBG Kew | 5 | Checked |
|--------------|--------------------------|---|---------|

**Do you require more fields?**

☒ Yes

| Name (First name, Surname) | Role                                                       | % time on project | 1 page CV or job description attached? |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Stuart Cable               | Botanist (M&E) - RBG Kew                                   | 5                 | Checked                                |
| Matthew Robertson          | Entomologist (M&E) - ZSL                                   | 5                 | Checked                                |
| TBC                        | Strategic Environmental Officer BIOT Administration        | 3                 | Checked                                |
| TBC                        | Technical Assistant - Biodiversity Restoration Specialists | 100               | Checked                                |
| TBC                        | Rodent Detection Expert                                    | 100               | Checked                                |
| No Response                | No Response                                                | No Response       | Unchecked                              |
| No Response                | No Response                                                | No Response       | Unchecked                              |
| No Response                | No Response                                                | No Response       | Unchecked                              |

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

 [20241003-CCT-CV+JD-For submission](#)

 03/10/2024

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 pdf 411.4 KB

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

☒ Yes

## Section 14 - Project Partners

### Q33. Project partners

**Please list all the Project Partners (including the Lead Organisation 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.**

**Lead organisation name:** Chagos Conservation Trust

|                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Is the Lead Organisation based in a UKOT where the project is working?</b>                                                                                          | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Please explain why this project is led from outside the UKOT</b>                                                                                                    | The only inhabited island in BIOT is Diego Garcia, a US Naval Support Facility. As such, it is impossible to base a project of this nature there, as the expertise and facilities required are not present and, establishing a permanent (non-military associated) presence is forbidden.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Why is this organisation the Lead Organisation, and what value to they bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):</b> | <p>CCT, with Dr Peter Carr as the Project Leader have a pedigree of successfully delivering Darwin funded projects in the Chagos Archipelago. CCT Trustees and Executive Committee have the expertise to provide oversight and guidance, if needed, to the project (scientists, fund specialist/Treasurer, lawyer, former British Representative on Diego Garcia as Chair, former and present DPAG members). This expertise comes as "gifted-in-kind" and is a substantial money-saver to the project.</p> <p>CCT has a Treasurer and, a Finance Committee that has the capacity and capability to manage the sum of money required to deliver the project. CCT also has the capacity and experience to draw up and manage the contracts required to deliver the project.</p> <p>As Project Leader, Dr Peter Carr has led three previous Darwin projects (DLUS011, 041 &amp; 138) involving terrestrial restoration in the Chagos Archipelago, has unparalleled experience of operating in the Chagos islands and has experience of rodent eradication operations outside of the Chagos.</p> <p>There is unlikely to be another organisation that would offer to manage an eradication project in the Chagos Archipelago with so much experience and, gift-in-kind so much of the management required.</p> |
| <b>Allocated budget (proportion or value):</b>                                                                                                                         | <div></div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <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 the Lead Partner?</b>                                                                                                    | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

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

☒ Yes

|                         |                                                                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1. Partner Name:</b> | British Indian Ocean Territory Administration (BIOTA)                       |
| <b>Website address:</b> | <a href="https://www.biot.gov.io/about/">https://www.biot.gov.io/about/</a> |

|                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                       | <p>BIOTA is the governing authority of the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT). BIOT is not open for tourism and personnel not directly associated with the military have to be granted a Permit to visit this UK Overseas Territory. This Permit is issued by BIOTA. Therefore, without the full backing of BIOTA, this project could not go ahead.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): | <p>Further, BIOTA control the use and schedule of the BIOT Patrol Vessel (BPV). After 12 months of discussions with BIOTA, they have pledged to dedicate the BPV for 30 days in Year 1 (2025) of the project. This is to ship the stores and equipment to the islands and act as a support vessel for the duration of the rat eradication phase. BIOTA have also confirmed they will pay the charter costs for the BPV for the duration [REDACTED]. This generous act by BIOTA is the mainstay of the entire project.</p> <p>Dialogue will continue with BIOTA throughout the project's life to ensure they are aware of the project progress and, to ensure Permits required for M&amp;E in 2026 and 2027 are granted.</p> |

|                                                                     |                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| UKOT-based/other Partner                                            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Other |
| Allocated budget (proportion or value):                             | [REDACTED]                             |
| Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure) | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes   |
| Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes   |

|                  |                                            |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 2. Partner Name: | Biodiversity Restoration Specialists (BRS) |
| Website address: | No Response                                |

|                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): | <p>BRS are internationally recognised as world leaders in biodiversity restoration, especially involving the eradication of invasive species. BRS have global experience in eradication operations. They also have a history of working with the lead organisation in the Chagos being the company that provided the technical (eradication) expertise for the Darwin funded restoration of Vache Marine in southern Peros Banhos (DPLUS011).</p> <p>Funded by CCT, BRS have also produced the Feasibility Study, Ecological Impact Assessment and Operational Plan for the eradication of black rats from all of the environmentally degraded islands of the four northern atolls of the Chagos Archipelago (31 islands). Latterly, BRS have produced an operational plan, peer reviewed by the RSPB, specific to this application, to eradicate rats from the four named islands in this bid using drones. The production of these plans was assisted with Darwin Plus funding (DPLUS138).</p> <p>BRS employ companies and individuals as a project demands. For this project, they have contracted Envico, global leaders in using drones for the eradication of invasive species (<a href="https://www.envicotech.co.nz/">https://www.envicotech.co.nz/</a> ).</p> |
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|                                                                     |                                                                                    |
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| UKOT-based/other Partner                                            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Other                                             |
| Allocated budget (proportion or value):                             |  |
| Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure) | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No                                                |
| Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes                                               |

|                  |                                   |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 3. Partner Name: | Orion Conservation Services (OCS) |
| Website address: | No Response                       |

|                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): | <p>Peter Haverson is OCS. Peter has vast experience from around the globe of managing eradication and monitoring operations including latterly team leading and logistics manager of the Lord Howe Island Rodent Eradication Programme and, presently, in the Caribbean working for the Dutch government. Specific to this project, Peter is shadowing the Project Leader (Dr Peter Carr) to mitigate key person risk. Much of Peter's time shadowing over the project's life has been gifted-in-kind.</p> <p>Peter has Chagos experience, having been part of the 2006 rat eradication operation of Eagle Island – living under canvas on the island for three months. Peter will deploy into the field in Year One of the project, partnering the ZSL entomologist. This is in order for him to have eyes on the ground and to have a full understanding of how the project operates.</p> <p>Throughout the life of the project Peter will step-up to lead the project on behalf of the lead organisation if for whatever reason the project leader needs replacing.</p> |
| UKOT-based/other Partner                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Allocated budget (proportion or value):                                                                               | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Other                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)                                                   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?                                                         | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

|                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| 4. Partner Name:                                                                                                      | Royal Botanic Garden, Kew (RBG Kew)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Website address:                                                                                                      | <a href="https://www.kew.org/">https://www.kew.org/</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity): | <p>RBG Kew are pioneers and global leaders in the science and conservation of plants. RBG Kew have a team dedicated to the 16 UK Overseas Territories who have experience of monitoring and managing vegetation in the British Indian Ocean Territory.</p> <p>RBG Kew have experience with working with the lead organisation, partnering on a previous Darwin-funded Chagos Archipelago project (DPLUS041).</p> <p>Specific to this project, RBG Kew have gifted-in-kind their time to produce a monitoring plan for the project and, are supplying the botanists to conduct the monitoring and evaluation, again, gifted-in-kind, with expenses paid. At present, no individuals have been specifically named who will undertake the monitoring and evaluation, though Sara Barrios and Stuart Cable have supported the project development to date.</p> |
| UKOT-based/other Partner                                                                                              | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Other                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

|                                                                            |                                                                                   |
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| <b>Allocated budget (proportion or value):</b>                             |  |
| <b>Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)</b> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No                                               |
| <b>Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?</b>       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes                                              |

|                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>5. Partner Name:</b>                                                                                                      | Zoological Society of London (ZSL)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Website address:</b>                                                                                                      | <a href="https://www.zsl.org/">https://www.zsl.org/</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):</b> | <p>ZSL are world leaders in protecting species and restoring ecosystems, driven by science. ZSL have a long association with the Chagos Conservation Trust, with ZSL scientists historically being on the Executive Committee. ZSL also have a history of working in the Chagos Archipelago, latterly leading the science and conservation projects out there on behalf of the Bertarelli Foundation.</p> <p>ZSL have partnered with the lead organisation of previous Darwin Plus projects in the Chagos Archipelago (DPLUS041).</p> <p>Specific to this project, ZSL invertebrate experts have gifted-in-kind their time to produce an invertebrate monitoring plan for the project and, again gifted-in-kind, an entomologist to conduct the monitoring and evaluation (with expenses met). At present, this individual has not been specifically named but is likely to be Matthew Robertson.</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"/> No                                                 |
| <b>Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?</b>       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes                                                |

|                                                                                                                              |             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>6. Partner Name:</b>                                                                                                      | No Response |
| <b>Website address:</b>                                                                                                      | No Response |
| <b>What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):</b> | No Response |

|                                                                     |                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| UKOT-based/other Partner                                            | <div><div><input type="radio"/> UKOT-based</div><div><input type="radio"/> Other</div></div> |
| Allocated budget (proportion or value):                             | No Response                                                                                  |
| Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure) | <div><div><input type="radio"/> Yes</div><div><input type="radio"/> No</div></div>           |
| Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?       | <div><div><input type="radio"/> Yes</div><div><input type="radio"/> No</div></div>           |

Please provide a combined PDF of all letters of support.

 [20241003-CCT-LoS Combined-Master for Subm](#)

[ission](#)

 02/10/2024

 16:32:58

 pdf 343.21 KB

Section 15 - Lead Organisation Capability and Capacity

Q34. Lead Organisation Capability and Capacity

Has your organisation been awarded Biodiversity Challenge Funds (Darwin Plus, Darwin Initiative or Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund) funding before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)?

☒ Yes

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

| Reference No | Project Leader | Title                                                                |
|--------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DPLUS138     | Peter Carr     | Filling knowledge gaps to enable rewilding of the Chagos Archipelago |
| DPLUS041     | Peter Carr     | Creating a terrestrial action plan for the Chagos Archipelago        |
| DPLUS011     | Peter Carr     | Ile Vache Marine Restoration Project                                 |
| No Response  | No Response    | No Response                                                          |
| No Response  | No Response    | No Response                                                          |
| No Response  | No Response    | No Response                                                          |

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

☒ Yes

# Section 16 - Certification

## Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

Chagos Conservation Trust

I apply for a grant of

£878,127.00

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                                  | Peter Carr                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Position in the organisation          | Programme Manager, "Healthy Islands, Healthy Reefs".                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Signature (please upload e-signature) | <div> <a href="#">20230112-PC-ESig</a></div> <div> 19/09/2024</div> <div> 12:22:17</div> <div> png 30.71 KB</div> |
| Date                                  | 06 October 2024                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div> <a href="#">CCT 2022 Report</a></div> <div> 17/09/2024</div> <div> 14:38:59</div> <div> pdf 390.93 KB</div> | <div> <a href="#">CCT 2023 Report</a></div> <div> 17/09/2024</div> <div> 14:38:59</div> <div> pdf 326.87 KB</div> |
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Please upload the Lead Organisation's Safeguarding and Associated Policies as a PDF

 [202409-CCT-Health and Safety Policy-Master](#)  
 19/09/2024  
 12:21:31  
 pdf 143.43 KB

 [202409-CCT-Code of Conduct-Master](#)  
 19/09/2024  
 11:50:47  
 pdf 80.55 KB

 [202409-CCT-Safeguarding Policy-Master](#)  
 19/09/2024  
 11:40:00  
 pdf 117 KB

 [202409-CCT-Whistleblowing Policy-Master](#)  
 19/09/2024  
 11:24:49  
 pdf 130.79 KB

## 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 a 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 the 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>the completed logframe as a PDF using the Stage 2 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>the 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 (covering three years) for the Lead Organisation, or provided an explanation if not.</b></li></ul>                                                                                                                 | Checked |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>the completed workplan as a PDF using the template provided</b></li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Checked |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>a copy of the Lead Organisation’s Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy, Code of Conduct and Safety and Security Policy or Security Plan (Question 30).</b></li></ul>                                                                                                | Checked |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1 page CV or job description for each of the Project Staff identified at Question 32, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not, combined into a single PDF.</b></li></ul>                                                                      | Checked |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>a letter of support from the Lead Organisation and partner(s) identified at Question 33 and relevant OT Governments, or an explanation of why not, combined into a single PDF.</b></li></ul>                                                                              | Checked |

|                                                                                                                                                    |         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| The 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: Rewilding Northeast Peros Banhos, Chagos Archipelago

| Project Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | SMART Indicators (including disaggregated targets)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Means of Verification                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Important Assumptions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Impact:</b> (Max 30 words)<br><br>The successful eradication of rats from northeast Peros Banhos will assist in mitigating some of the effects of climate change and halt and reverse biodiversity loss at a local scale.<br><br><b>(29 words)</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Outcome:</b><br>(Max 30 words)<br><br>Rat eradication on the islands of Passe, Moresby, Manoel and Yeye will increase native flora and fauna and will over time facilitate the recovery of nesting seabird populations.<br><br><b>(28 words)</b>   | <b>0.1</b> On Yeye, a 100% increase in breeding seabird populations by Q4 Yr2 and, a 500% increase in breeding seabird populations by Q3 Yr3 against a baseline of the last seabird census in 2023 combined with additional breeding records acquired by monitoring team ornithologist in 2025.<br><b>0.2</b> On Manoel, a 100% increase in breeding seabird populations by Q4 Yr2 and, a 500% increase in breeding seabird populations by Q3 Yr3 against a baseline of the last seabird census in 2017 combined with additional breeding records acquired by monitoring team ornithologist in 2025.<br><b>0.3</b> On Moresby, a 50% increase in breeding White Tern <i>Gygis alba</i> by Q4 Yr2 and, a 100% increase in breeding White Tern and an additional one species of seabird breeding by Q3 Yr3, against a | <b>0.1</b> Written report on breeding seabird status to the Chagos Conservation Trust (CCT, Lead Organisation) by monitoring team ornithologist after visiting all four islands in 2025 by Q4 Yr1, 2026 by Q4 Yr2 and 2027 by Q3 Yr3.<br><b>0.2</b> Publication online by CCT of breeding seabird status in 2025 by Q4 Yr1, 2026 by Q4 Yr2 and 2027 by Q4 Yr3.<br><b>0.3</b> All breeding seabird records from all four islands acquired in 2025, 2026 and 2027 uploaded to publicly available database (EBird <a href="https://ebird.org/home">https://ebird.org/home</a> ). | That permission to visit the Chagos Archipelago will be granted by the governing authority.<br>That the weather will allow landings on the four islands throughout a visit period – <b>the expeditions are planned for what are regarded as the calmest months weatherwise.</b><br>That vessels remain available and affordable for the three planned trips, one in 2025 (large-scale operation) and, 2026 and 2027 (small scale monitoring operations).<br>That technical specialists (rat eradication, ornithologist, entomologist, botanist) remain available and affordable for the three operations in 2025, 2026 and 2027. |

Project Title: Rewilding Northeast Peros Banhos, Chagos Archipelago

|                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                          | <p>baseline of the last seabird census in 2023 combined with additional breeding records acquired by monitoring team ornithologist in 2025.</p> <p><b>0.4</b> On Passe, a 50% increase in breeding White Tern <i>Gygis alba</i> by Q4 Yr2 and, a 100% increase in breeding White Tern and an additional one species of seabird breeding by Q3 Yr3, against a baseline of the last seabird census in 2023 combined with additional breeding records acquired by monitoring team ornithologist in 2025.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <p><b>Outputs:</b></p> <p><b>1.</b> Black rats <i>Rattus rattus</i> eradicated from Passe, Moresby, Manoel and Yeye.</p> | <p><b>1.1</b> Rats eradicated from Passe, Moresby, Manoel and Yeye as per peer reviewed Operational Plan produced by Biodiversity Restoration Specialists for CCT.</p> <p><b>1.2</b> No Black Rats detected on Passe, Moresby, Manoel and Yeye by Q4 Yr2.</p> <p><b>1.3</b> No Black Rats detected on Passe, Moresby, Manoel and Yeye by Q3 Yr3.</p>                                                                                                                                                      | <p><b>1.1</b> Written report on Black Rat status to CCT by monitoring team rodent detection expert after visiting and assessing rat presence/absence on all four islands in 2026 by Q4 Yr2.</p> <p><b>1.2</b> Written report on Black Rat status to CCT by monitoring team rodent detection expert after visiting and assessing rat presence/absence on all four islands in 2027 by Q3 Yr3.</p> <p><b>1.3</b> Publication online by CCT of rodent status in 2026 by Q4 Yr2 and in 2027 by Q4 Yr3.</p> | <p>That the logistical challenges of shipping rat detection equipment from New Zealand to the Chagos via the Maldives are met.</p> <p>That the BIOT Patrol Vessel remains available and affordable for the rat eradication operation in 2025.</p> <p>That the sea state will be calm enough to land on islands.</p> <p>That wind is less than Force 4 and precipitation less than 5mm/day when using rodent detection (monitoring) equipment.</p> <p>That a rodent detection expert is available in Yrs 2 and 3 to undertake the monitoring work.</p> |

Project Title: Rewilding Northeast Peros Banhos, Chagos Archipelago

|                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>2. Invertebrates increase on Passe, Moresby, Manoel and Yeye as a proxy for all island fauna, as these taxa respond to environmental changes rapidly and within the project lifespan.</p> | <p>2.1 A 1% increase in native invertebrate diversity by Q4 Yr2 and, a 3% increase in native invertebrate diversity by Q3 Yr3 against a historical baseline of data held by CCT/ZSL <a href="https://chip.chagos-trust.org/portal/datasets/terrestrial-invertebrates-of-biot-21-03-2018">https://chip.chagos-trust.org/portal/datasets/terrestrial-invertebrates-of-biot-21-03-2018</a>, supplemented by additional records acquired by monitoring team ZSL entomologist in 2025 using protocols contained in the Invertebrate Monitoring Plan produced by ZSL for CCT in 2024.</p> | <p>2.1 Written report on invertebrate diversity status in 2025 to CCT by monitoring team entomologist from ZSL after visiting and conducting standardised invertebrate surveys (per the ZSL Invertebrate Monitoring Plan) on all four islands in 2025 by Q4 Yr1.<br/>2.2 Written report on invertebrate diversity status to CCT by monitoring team (ZSL) entomologist after visiting and conducting standardised invertebrate surveys (per the ZSL Invertebrate Monitoring Plan) on all four islands in 2026 by Q4 Yr2.<br/>2.3 Written report on invertebrate diversity status to CCT by monitoring team (ZSL) entomologist after visiting and conducting standardised invertebrate surveys (per the ZSL Invertebrate Monitoring Plan) on all four islands in 2027 by Q3 Yr3.<br/>2.3 Publication online by CCT of invertebrate diversity status on all four islands in 2025 Q4 Yr1, 2026 by Q4 Yr2 and 2027 by Q4 Yr3.<br/>2.4 Invertebrate species recorded in 2025, 2026 and 2027 uploaded by ZSL entomologist to the Chagos Archipelago invertebrate database and made publicly available on the Chagos Information Portal by Q4 Yr3</p> | <p>That the rat eradication operation in 2025 is successful on all four islands.<br/>That permission to visit the Chagos Archipelago will be granted and permits to conduct rodent eradication operations by the governing authority are granted.<br/>That a vessel remains available and affordable to conduct the monitoring expeditions from.<br/>That the sea state will be calm enough to land on islands.<br/>That the weather remains in a state conducive to monitoring invertebrates (not excessively windy or wet).<br/>That a ZSL entomologist, <b>whose name at this point cannot be confirmed</b>, remains available to undertake the work.</p> |
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Project Title: Rewilding Northeast Peros Banhos, Chagos Archipelago

|                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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|                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <a href="https://chip.chagos-trust.org/portal/datasets/terrestrial-invertebrates-of-biot-21-03-2018">https://chip.chagos-trust.org/portal/datasets/terrestrial-invertebrates-of-biot-21-03-2018</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>3.</b> Native vegetation increases on Passe, Moresby, Manoel and Yeye.                                                                         | <b>3.1</b> A 1% increase in native plant cover by Q4 Yr2 and, a 2% increase in native plant cover by Q3 Yr3 against a baseline of data gathered by the Royal Botanic Garden (RBG), Kew, monitoring team botanist in 2025, using monitoring protocols contained in the Botanical Monitoring Plan produced by RBG Kew for CCT in 2024 (incorporating historical data if applicable). | <b>3.1</b> Written report on native plant cover to CCT by RBG Kew botanist after visiting and conducting botanical surveys (per the RBG Kew Botanical Monitoring Plan) on all four islands in 2025 by Q4 Yr1.<br><b>3.2</b> Written report on native plant cover to CCT by RBG Kew botanist after visiting and conducting botanical surveys (per the RBG Kew Botanical Monitoring Plan) on all four islands in 2026 by Q4 Yr2.<br><b>3.3</b> Written report on native plant cover to CCT by RBG Kew botanist after visiting and conducting botanical surveys (per the RBG Kew Botanical Monitoring Plan) on all four islands in 2023 by Q4 Yr3.<br><b>3.4</b> Publication online by CCT of native plant cover on all four islands in 2025 Q4, 2026 by Q4 and 2027 by Q4. | That the rat eradication operation in 2025 is successful on all four islands.<br>That permission to visit the Chagos Archipelago will be granted and permits to conduct rodent eradication operations by the governing authority are granted.<br>That a vessel remains available and affordable to conduct the monitoring expeditions from.<br>That the sea state will be calm enough (in the calmest months of the year) to land on islands.<br>That RBG Kew botanists, <b>whose names at this point cannot be confirmed</b> , remain available to undertake the work. |
| <b>4.</b> Sharing knowledge and experience of the eradication of invasive rodents available to inform further such operations on tropical islands | <b>4.1</b> One non-scientific publication detailing methods used to eradicate rats and preliminary results to be published by Q4 Yr3.<br><b>4.2</b> Presentation to an international audience of eradication practitioners,                                                                                                                                                        | <b>4.1</b> General article covering the project activities to be made available to public online by Q4 Yr3.<br><b>4.2</b> If possible, a video of the entire presentation to be uploaded to the CCT You-Tube site. If video                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | That the three-year project runs its' full course and produces results and data for the article and presentation.<br>That key personnel remain available to write the article and give the presentation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

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| <p><b>Activities</b> (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1. Each activity should start on a new line and be no more than approximately 25 words.)</p> <p><b>0.1.</b> Breeding seabird census conducted on Passe, Moresby, Manoel and Yeye in 2025, 2026 and 2027 by Chagos Archipelago seabird expert (Dr Peter Carr).</p> <p><b>0.2.</b> 2025 results of Activity 0.1 combined with historical data to form monitoring baseline data.</p> <p><b>0.3.</b> Report submitted to CCT (Lead Organisation) by seabird expert detailing results of Activity 0.1 no later than one month after censuses undertaken.</p> <p><b>0.4.</b> CCT to incorporate results submitted at Activity 0.3 into Darwin progress (and final) reports as required.</p> <p><b>0.5.</b> CCT to publish online all results of censuses conducted in Activity 0.1 by Q4 Yr3.</p> <p><b>0.6.</b> Dr P Carr to upload all breeding seabird results to EBird.</p> <p><b>1.1.</b> Black rats eradicated from target islands as per Operational Plan for rat eradication in NE Peros Banhos, between 10 August – 10 September 2025 by rodent eradication expert (Biodiversity Restoration Limited and ENVICO).</p> <p><b>1.2.</b> Black rats searched for by rodent detection expert on target islands in 2026 and 2027.</p> <p><b>1.3.</b> Report submitted to CCT by rodent detection expert detailing results of Activity 1.2 no later than one month after censuses undertaken.</p> <p><b>1.4.</b> CCT to incorporate results submitted at Activity 1.3 into Darwin progress (and final) report when required by reporting programme.</p> <p><b>1.5.</b> CCT to publish online all results of censuses conducted in Activity 1.2 by Q4 Yr3.</p> <p><b>2.1.</b> Invertebrate census conducted on Passe, Moresby, Manoel and Yeye in 2025, 2026 and 2027 by entomologist from ZSL using protocols in the Invertebrate Monitoring Plan.</p> <p><b>2.2.</b> 2025 results of Activity 2.1 combined with historical data to form monitoring baseline.</p> <p><b>2.3.</b> Report submitted to CCT by ZSL entomologist detailing results of Activity 2.1 no later than one month after censuses undertaken.</p> <p><b>2.4.</b> CCT to incorporate results submitted at Activity 2.1 into Darwin progress (and final) report, as reports are required.</p> <p><b>2.5.</b> CCT to publish online all results of censuses conducted in Activity 2.1 by Q4 Yr3.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                            |  |

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- 3.1.** Botanical census conducted on Passe, Moresby, Manoel and Yeye in 2025, 2026 and 2027 by botanist from RBG Kew using protocols in the Botanical Monitoring Plan.
- 3.2.** 2025 results of Activity 3.1 combined with historical data (if relevant) to form monitoring baseline.
- 3.3.** Report submitted to CCT by botanist detailing results of Activity 3.1 no later than one month after censuses undertaken.
- 3.4.** CCT to incorporate results submitted at Activity 3.1 into mandatory Darwin progress (and final) report as reports are required.
- 3.5.** CCT to publish online all results of censuses conducted in Activity 3.1 by Q4 Yr3.
  
- 4.1.** CCT to author and publish a non-scientific article on project methods and results by Q4 Yr3.
- 4.2.** CCT to give presentation on project at Island Invasives conference (February 2026).
- 4.3.** CCT to publish open access scientific paper in known journal after the life of the project (Results from Yr3 need to be incorporated in to manuscript and paper submission to acceptance will not be achieved in the life of the project).