Applicant: **Thorp, Neil**
Organisation: **Saint Helena National Trust**
Funding Sought: **£233,076.00**

DPR13S2\1011

Integrated Coastal Monitoring and Habitat Restoration Program 2025-2028

St. Helena’s coastline was historically home to large colonies of seabirds and nesting turtles. However, as human activity on the island increased, the number of nesting birds declined. This project aims to update and expand surveys of key areas initially identified in 2012, improve population data using new monitoring techniques, and enhance habitats by identifying threats and community engagement. The project looks to enrich knowledge via a coastal management report, to inform the upcoming review of the Marine Management Plan.

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DPR13S2\1011

Integrated Coastal Monitoring and Habitat Restoration Program 2025-2028

Section 1 - Contact Details

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GMS ORGANISATION

Type	**Organisation**
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Address	

Section 2 - Title & Summary

Q3. Project title:

Integrated Coastal Monitoring and Habitat Restoration Program 2025-2028

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

DPR13S1\1043

Please attach a cover letter as a PDF document.

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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.

Response to Stage 1 Feedback
1. Seabird and Turtle Population Sizes and Historical Context:
o Feedback: "Provide information on the current and historic population sizes of nesting seabirds and turtles,

with potential reasons for changes. How will overcrowding and major threats be identified and quantified?"
o Response: These changes have been addressed in Q12 with references to supporting documentation. Specific data on seabird populations, such as the Masked Booby population in the Sandy Bay National Conservation Area, have been refined. The 2009-2011 surveys first recorded Masked Boobies returning to the mainland, with continued monitoring through DPL00033 in 2023. The colonies grew from 2009-2011 and continued to develop along the coastline based on recent data. While Bolton et al. (2011) suggested that invasive predators like feral cats contributed to the Masked Boobies movement, there is limited literature to confirm this conclusively. Surveys of islets, including Egg Island—home to a significant Madeiran Storm Petrel colony—highlight the importance of these nesting areas, in consultation with ENRP it has been acknowledged there are gaps in knowledge surrounding these islets.
o Historic nesting records have been incidental for turtles, and no formal attempts to monitor turtle nesting have occurred recently. The project will fill this gap by conducting regular surveys over multiple seasons to establish a baseline for turtle nesting attempts in the region, Identified in Q12 and Q14. Overcrowding concerns, particularly for Red-billed Tropicbirds, have been addressed in Q12 and Q14, supported by references to the 2011 EMD report and findings from DPL00033. This project will compare two populations—one near human activity and one in a remote area—to determine the impact of human presence. Using camera traps, rodent tunnels, and ongoing monitoring will assess threats like predation and competition. In response to the overcrowding of burrow use, identified in Jamestown, artificial nesting boxes will be trialled and monitored as part of this project, as outlined in Q14 and the Logframe (2.2).
2. Clarifying Project Themes and Interdependencies:
o Feedback: "Clarify interdependencies between monitoring, public awareness, volunteer training, workshops, community outreach, artificial nesting sites, habitat mapping, and ecotourism."
o Response: The revised proposal clarified these interdependencies, particularly in Q14 and the Logframe. For example, drone monitoring and staff training are linked to habitat mapping and data collection. At the same time, community outreach, workshops, and ecotourism are integral to raising public awareness and fostering local involvement in seabird and turtle conservation, as laid out in Logframe output 4.
3. Synergy with Existing Management Plans:
o Feedback: "Strengthen the section on how the Coastal Management Plan will integrate with the existing Marine Management Plans (MMP) and National Conservation Areas (NCA) plans on St Helena."
o Response: This project aligns with the 2023-2028 Marine Management Plan, supporting the revised edition and addressing gaps identified by ENRP's recent work. In Q12, Q13, and Q23, we outline how the project contributes to the sustainable management of coastal areas within the context of St Helena's NCAs and marine management frameworks. A key project output will be forming a steering committee, critical to fostering collaboration and ensuring integration with other management plans.
4. Measurable Conservation Outputs:
o Feedback: "Provide details on hectares surveyed, species monitored, how drone data will be interpreted, and how nesting success will be measured."
o Response: The Logframe and supporting documents provide greater detail on measurable outputs. We have outlined specific metrics such as the number of hectares surveyed (Logframe 1.6), key species monitored (Q12+Q14), and how drone surveys will assess habitat use and environmental changes (Q14 and Logframe Output 1). Nesting success will be evaluated, using direct observation, with metrics such as breeding pairs, fledging rates and ringing of chicks that have successfully fledged (Logframe Output 2).
5. Logframe Improvements:
o Feedback: "Revise the impact statement, clarify specific activities and SMART targets, and strengthen Means of Verification (MoV)."
o Response: The Logframe has been revised to improve specificity, clarity, and focus on SMART targets. This includes refining the impact statement to reflect the project's goal of enhancing seabird and turtle conservation on St Helena Island. Outputs have been streamlined, such as Output 1, which focuses on building St Helena's drone surveying and bird handling capacity through British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) licenses. Output 2 assesses coastal species, habitats, and environmental threats, while Output 3 focuses on identifying specific threats and developing a risk management plan based on evidence-based recommendations. Output 4 highlights the importance of reporting findings to SHG and raising awareness within the local community. The

revised Logframe also strengthens the Means of Verification (MoV) for each output, ensuring that progress can be monitored and evaluated effectively.
This revised submission addresses all feedback points, offering a more detailed proposal that integrates robust conservation methods, public engagement, and synergy with existing management plans. Each section has been updated to align with the feedback, ensuring the project's objectives, activities, and outputs are well-defined, achievable, and measurable.

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 <u>at least one</u> of the themes of Darwin Plus either by the end of the project's implementation or via evidenced mechanisms for post-project delivery.

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

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.

St. Helena's coastline was historically home to large colonies of seabirds and nesting turtles. However, as human activity on the island increased, the number of nesting birds declined. This project aims to update and expand surveys of key areas initially identified in 2012, improve population data using new monitoring techniques, and enhance habitats by identifying threats and community engagement. The project looks to enrich knowledge via a coastal management report, to inform the upcoming review of the Marine Management Plan.

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

Q6. UKOT(s)

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

☑ St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha*

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

St Helena

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

⊙ No

Q7. Project dates

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

Q8. Budget summary

Year:	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total request
Amount:	[redacted]			£ 233,076.00

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?

No Response

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.

The project aims to address the significant environmental threats facing seabird populations along the coastline of St Helena, particularly along the southern coastline, such as the Sandy Bay National Conservation Area. This region was once home to large seabird colonies, but human persecution and the introduction of invasive species resulted in many seabirds, including the Masked Boobies and Storm Petrels, having to relocate to offshore islets[1]. However, in recent years the Masked Booby population has returned to the southern coastline and green turtles are nesting on Sandy Bay beach. This shift in this area's ecosystem is not fully understood, and whilst positive for the ecology, developing our understanding of these changes is essential to help preserve the natural balance. Which is highlighted in the Red-billed tropic birds during the DPL00033 survey. This might

suggest an underlying issue with the colonies, in the northern coastline at Ladder Hill.

The need for the project was identified through historical and ongoing ecological surveys. The return of the Masked Booby colonies to St Helena in 2009 [1] and their observed growth in 2011 [2] and 2023 (as part of DPL00033) highlight the importance of continued monitoring and conservation efforts. The initial surveys in 2009 and 2011 were cautious to draw any conclusions as to the reason behind the repopulation of the coastline. This project will look at addressing this question, by quantifying the range and growth of the population since 2011 and also investigating the threat of invasive species such as: cats, rats, and mice. Which were identified in Bolton et al. (2011), as a potential limiting factor to the population.
Furthermore, the project will address knowledge gaps in the seabird colonies on the islets surrounding St Helena's coastline through drone surveys and traditional monitoring techniques.
The project will utilise innovative methods, such as aerial drones, to survey hard-to-reach areas while minimising disturbance to wildlife, supported by ground-truthing methods. Long-term monitoring through trail cameras will help identify and quantify the impact of predatory species on the seabird populations and assess nest availability for species like the Red-billed Tropicbird. Additionally, artificial nesting boxes will be trialled in the James Bay and Great Stone Top regions to address any constraints on nesting availability.
It will also examine environmental changes at Sandy Bay, including coastal erosion and green turtle nesting patterns, providing vital data for future conservation strategies.
Finally, enhancing local conservation capacity is a key component of the project. By training an additional eight staff members to obtain their British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) licences, the project ensures that seabird conservation efforts on the island can be sustained into the future.

Section 5 - Environmental Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

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.

The proposed Integrated Coastal Monitoring and Habitat Restoration Program aligns closely with several vital ordinances and policies established by the St Helena Government (SHG), reinforcing its commitment to sustainable development and environmental conservation.
Relevant SHG Ordinances and Policies
• Environmental Protection Ordinance: This ordinance mandates the protection of St Helena's unique biodiversity and natural resources. It requires any project impacting the environment to undergo thorough assessments and adhere to best practices in conservation. Our project directly supports these goals by implementing monitoring and restoration efforts for seabird and turtle habitats, which are critical for maintaining the island's ecological balance.
• Marine Management Plan: 'The Marine Management Plan is a key policy framework that guides the sustainable use and management of St Helena's marine resources'. Our project complements this plan by filling knowledge gaps regarding coastal ecosystems and monitoring changes that affect marine life. This alignment ensures that our efforts contribute to preserving marine biodiversity.
• St Helena Strategy 2022-2025: This strategic framework emphasises sustainability, particularly in environmental management and natural resource conservation. It aims to enhance the quality of life for residents while safeguarding the island's unique ecosystems. By conducting ecological surveys and habitat restoration, our project directly supports this strategic vision, ensuring that local community's benefit from healthier ecosystems and improved biodiversity.
Alignment with International Treaties
In addition to local ordinances, this project aligns with international commitments, notably:

• Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): Our project supports the CBD's objectives by promoting the sustainable use of biological resources and enhancing the conservation of St Helena's unique ecosystems. By monitoring seabird populations and conducting habitat restoration, we contribute to the protection of biodiversity.
• Ramsar Convention on Wetlands: This project promotes the sustainable management of coastal and marine ecosystems, including critical seabird nesting areas. By enhancing habitat quality, we support the goals of the Ramsar Convention to ensure the conservation of wetlands and their biodiversity.
• UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Specifically, the project addresses SDG 14 (Life Below Water) and SDG 15 (Life on Land), focusing on protecting marine and terrestrial ecosystems. We aim to contribute to these global goals through targeted monitoring and restoration efforts while ensuring local needs are met.
In conclusion, the Integrated Coastal Monitoring and Habitat Restoration Program strategically aligns with local and international frameworks. By adhering to SHG ordinances and supporting global biodiversity treaties, this project aims to enhance environmental health and empower local communities through sustainable practices. This approach ensures that St Helena remains a beacon of ecological conservation in the UK Overseas Territories.

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

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.).**

This project has four areas of focus, however the skills and methodologies support each facet of the project:
1. Masked Booby Colony Growth:
The return of the Masked Booby (Sula dactylatra) to the island, first identified in Bolton et al. (2011) in 2009, has led to notable colony expansion along the southwestern coastline, as observed in 2023. The growth of these colonies remains under-characterised due to the challenging terrain and difficult access. For example, nest observations in 2011, and in planned 2024 surveys, are conducted at a distance using binoculars. This method is becoming less effective as the Masked Booby range has greatly expanded into areas where access is limited.
To overcome these limitations, drone surveys will be employed to monitor and map the colony size and distribution. Drones, equipped with GPS tracking and photogrammetry technology, allow for aerial surveys that minimise disturbance to the seabirds. Deep learning algorithms, following a training period, will be used to analyse the drone-collected imagery, providing precise maps of the colonies. Ground-nesting Masked Boobys are particularly suited for this method, as their nests are large and easily identifiable.
To ground-truth the drone data, in-situ surveys will also be conducted by the St. Helena National Trust (SHNT). These ground surveys will also aim to identify potential threats to the colonies, including invasive species, such as cats, rodents, and Myna birds whose presence was indicated by previous surveys on DPL00036. Data collection using long-term/ solar-powered camera traps will be deployed over a three-year period to capture activity around the colonies and monitor for threats. Additionally, rodent trail tunnels will be deployed to support threat identification and enable targeted conservation actions.
2. Monitoring of Islets:

In the 2012 Environmental Management Division (EMD, now the Environmental Natural Resources and Planning, ENRP) report, a significant knowledge gap was identified regarding seabird colonies on islets surrounding the mainland. Most studies have focused on Egg Island, but expanding monitoring efforts to other islets is essential. Drawing from previous work on Egg Island and the DPL00033 project, SHNT plans to extend monitoring to seven key islets and outcrops (see Fig. 1 in supplemental).

A combination of remote observation using long lenses, drone surveys, and in-situ surveys (where feasible) will be utilised to estimate population size and species diversity on these islets. Species such as Masked boobies, identified by M.Bolton on [redacted] in 2011 and Mandeiran Storm Petrels as identified on [redacted] in the 2011 EMD report. This data will support the Environmental Protection Ordinance (EPO) and National Conservation Areas (NCA) efforts led by the ENRP. Monitoring will provide a more comprehensive understanding of the seabird colonies across the broader region, informing conservation strategies.

3. Red-Billed Tropicbird Monitoring:

Red-Billed Tropicbirds (Phaethon aethereus), flagged as a species of concern in the EMD 2012 report, have been recorded at [redacted] Continued monitoring through the DPL00033 project in 2023 further reinforced concerns about their population status, with several nesting pairs struggling to find suitable sites.

In Year 1, the project aims to continue monitoring the two distinct sites to assess factors limiting nesting success. Jamestown, with a larger human and domestic predator population, may be contributing to stress on nesting pairs, while Great Stone Top offers a more remote comparison. In Years 2 and 3, artificial nests will be introduced at both locations to evaluate their effectiveness in supporting the population, a method that has been successful in other regions. These interventions aim to inform SHG on threats, solutions, and short-term conservation measures to aid the species' recovery.

4. Sandy Bay Beach Environmental Survey:

Sandy Bay Beach, an ecologically and historically significant area on the island, has experienced rapid changes in recent years due to shifting sands and erosion. This project will commission an environmental survey to assess these changes, focusing on the implications for local habitats and species.

Additionally, the area has seen occasional nesting by green turtles (Chelonia mydas), though data on their use of the beach is currently incidental. Protocols for effective monitoring will be established in order to accurately record turtle activity in the area to establish a baseline. The combined habitat mapping, profile modelling and nesting surveys will look to feed into a final report for the Sandy Bay Beach area, with recommendations in the continued management of this area.

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

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) will provide expertise in data analysis, capacity building, and methodology review with a focus on seabird conservation. They will actively support capacity building, with drone and data analysis support.

Marine Conservation and Fisheries (SHG) will provide advice and support concerning marine habitats and wildlife conservation. They have aligned the project with national conservation priorities and will ensure adherence to legal and environmental regulations.

Environmental and Natural Resources Planning Division (ENRP) will offer environmental support, particularly regarding National Conservation Areas (NCAs) and relevant policy frameworks. Their engagement will ensure the project's alignment with national policy and assist with integrating project data into broader environmental management plans. The local community will be engaged through reporting incidental sightings and participating in citizen science activities, ultimately increasing data collection and raising awareness about the project's objectives.

Each stakeholder has been consulted through formal partnerships and regional conservation networks, ensuring strong support and alignment with local and national priorities.

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.

SHNT has adopted the FAIRER (Fair, Accountable, Inclusive, Respectful, Ethical and Reflective) Conservation program model, which aligns with the Zoological Society of London (ZSL). The program strongly emphasises Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI). All staff have undergone training in GESI, safeguarding, actor engagement, and positionality. The project prioritises inclusivity, fairness, and equal participation, recognising that individuals may face disadvantages based on gender, race, ethnicity, class, age, or education. In response, SHNT promotes balanced representation, striving for a 50:50 gender split across all roles and groups while upholding an equal opportunities policy that covers all protected characteristics. The project aims to make fieldwork accessible to people of varying physical abilities and ages by integrating modern drone and GIS techniques to reduce the need for extensive trekking in St Helena's challenging terrain. SHNT also embraces intersectionality, recognising the interconnectedness of various social characteristics, and tailors its approach to meet the diverse needs of local communities. Decision-making processes prioritise equity and inclusivity, ensuring all voices are heard. As part of the ongoing review of SHNT's commitment to the FAIRER and GESI good practices, a revised governance framework will be implemented at the project's commencement, including stakeholder mapping, an agreed action plan for GESI, and a positionality statement.

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.

In the short term, the project will bring about immediate positive changes by increasing monitoring and restoration activities, which will lead to improved habitat conditions for seabirds and sea turtles. This is expected to result in enhanced breeding success and population stability. Local communities will also benefit from increased awareness and participation in coastal conservation efforts, fostering a sense of ownership and stewardship over coastal habitats. SHNT staff and community volunteers will gain valuable skills and knowledge in monitoring, habitat restoration, and conservation practices, contributing to their personal development and empowerment.

Looking ahead to the long term, the project's interventions will lay the foundation for sustainable conservation of coastal habitats, ensuring continued protection for seabirds and sea turtles beyond the project's lifespan. The improved habitat conditions will also support resilient coastal ecosystems, benefiting not only seabirds and sea turtles but also other marine species and the overall health of the marine environment. Furthermore, increased community engagement and awareness will foster a culture of conservation, leading to ongoing support for coastal protection initiatives and sustainable management practices. The project's integrated approach of combining seabird and sea turtle conservation efforts has the potential to serve as a model for other coastal conservation projects globally, with lessons learned and best practices identified during the project being shared to benefit similar initiatives.

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.

The project aims to safeguard seabird populations along St Helena's southern coastline.
The return of Masked Boobies and green turtle nesting in Sandy Bay signals ecological changes that need to be understood for effective conservation.
The project's expected pathway to change begins with enhanced monitoring of seabird colonies, using drones and ground-based techniques to assess population growth and distribution. The project will identify specific threats (e.g., invasive predators) by addressing knowledge gaps in mainland and islet seabird populations, allowing targeted conservation actions, such as predator control and habitat restoration. Artificial nesting boxes will be trialled for the Red-billed Tropicbirds to mitigate nesting limitations.
Long-term monitoring and environmental surveys at Sandy Bay will provide vital data on coastal erosion and turtle nesting patterns, supporting broader conservation management of this crucial area.
Additionally, training four local staff in ornithological monitoring ensures that these efforts will continue beyond the project, building local capacity to sustain seabird conservation. This long-term capacity-building is expected to create enduring conservation practices, contributing to St Helena's broader environmental protection and marine spatial planning strategies.
The project will directly support the 2028 Marine Management Plan review, ensuring that seabird and coastal habitat conservation remains a priority in future governance.

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 project aims for long-term sustainability. After receiving funding, we will integrate many activities into the operations of local stakeholders, such as the St. Helena National Trust (SHNT) and the Environmental and Natural Resources Planning Division (ENRP). By incorporating drone surveys, in-situ monitoring, and conservation efforts into routine management, we aim to minimise the need for additional funding.
We will seek international conservation grants, NGO partnerships, or local government funding for advanced technology or equipment maintenance, such as drones and camera traps if additional support is required.
To ensure the benefits' sustainability, local teams will receive comprehensive training in drone technology, machine learning, GIS mapping, bird handling, and ringing licences. Build local capacity to manage projects independently and ensure that skills and knowledge remain available beyond the funding period.
All data will be accessible through open-access platforms such as iRecord, research publications, and collaboration with conservation networks, enabling further use by researchers and policymakers.
The project's methods can be scaled to other regions facing similar challenges, serving as a model for seabird monitoring and coastal conservation.

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

Supporting documentation Coastal Mon_SHNT
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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
Fiduciary (Financial) Funds are not used for intended purpose or accounted for.	High	Unlikely	High	SHNT protects itself through implementing financial control guidelines which require senior level 'sign off' on all transfers from SHNT's account with at least 2 signatures. Finance oversight is provided by Treasurer on SHNT governing council and Finance Manager engaged in all financial activity.	Low
Safeguarding: risk of sexual exploitation abuse and harassment (SEAH), or unintended harm to beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff. SEAH or unintended harm to beneficiaries, the public, partners and staff.	High	Unlikely	Medium	To mitigate the risk of sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (SEAH) and unintended harm, the St Helena National Trust (SHNT) implements comprehensive safeguarding policies, conducts regular training for staff and partners, establishes clear reporting mechanisms, and fosters a culture of transparency and accountability to ensure the safety of all stakeholders.	Low
Safeguarding: risks to health, safety and security (HSS) of beneficiaries, the public. Implementing partners, and staff. Risk to Health, safety and security. (HSS)	High	Unlikely	Medium	The St Helena National Trust (SHNT) prioritises health, safety, and security by conducting regular risk assessments, implementing safety protocols, and providing training for staff and partners. SHNT fosters a culture of awareness and preparedness, ensuring swift responses to potential hazards to protect beneficiaries, the public, and all personnel involved.	Low

Delivery Chain Risk to delivery model	High	Unlikey	Medium	To mitigate delivery chain risks, the St Helena National Trust (SHNT) establishes clear communication channels and collaboration with local stakeholders and partners. Regular monitoring and evaluation will identify challenges promptly, ensuring adaptive management. Additionally, SHNT will provide training and capacity-building initiatives to enhance project implementation and sustainability across all partners	Low
Risk 5 Procurement and Logistics – Saint Helena is a remote island that has limited logistical frequency. Freight can take up to 3 months to arrive. Airfreight is costly and unpredictable	High	Possible	High	To mitigate procurement and logistics risks, SHNT will establish strong relationships with reliable suppliers and plan orders well in advance to account for potential delays. Utilising local resources whenever possible and exploring bulk purchasing options will help reduce costs and ensure timely access to essential materials, enhancing project efficiency.	Low
Risk 6 Prolonged bad and unpredictable weather. As large sections of the project are reliant on clement conditions. Field work could be hampered as an effect	Medium	Unlikely	Medium	To mitigate risks from prolonged bad weather, SHNT will implement flexible scheduling for fieldwork, allowing for adjustments based on weather conditions. Contingency plans will be developed to utilise staffing hours, rotating shifts to ensure that project timelines remain on track despite weather-related disruptions.	Low

Risk 7 Staff retentions/changes in management, both with SHNT and partners.	Medium	Possible	High	To mitigate risks associated with staff retention and management changes, SHNT will implement comprehensive onboarding and offboarding processes. This includes well-organised reporting and filing systems to ensure knowledge transfer and continuity. Additionally, ongoing training will enhance staff capabilities, fostering a resilient team and minimising disruptions in project implementation.	Medium

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.

⦿ Yes

Please provide brief details.

The Masked Boobies, Red-billed Tropic Birds, and Madeiran Strom Petrels ([redacted]) operate in environmentally sensitive land areas protected under the St Helena Environmental Protection Ordinance. Therefore, disclosing the location of nesting sites and breeding pairs should be handled with caution to prevent exploitation by malicious entities. Any public reporting should redact sensitive information to safeguard these species and their habitats.

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.

BCF_Workplan_Template_2024-25_FINAL_SHNT_CoatalMon
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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).

The progress of the Integrated Coastal Monitoring and Habitat Restoration Program will be monitored and evaluated through a structured and adaptive framework designed to ensure high-quality data collection, project adaptability, and stakeholder engagement. Throughout the project, St Helena National Trust will commit 78 days to monitoring and evaluation over three years. RSPB's M&E support will be weighted in Years 1 and 3, with a predicted 24 days allocated to their contribution.

Daily Oversight and Management

The project manager will oversee the project's day-to-day activities, ensuring that tasks are completed on schedule, within budget, and aligned with the overall goals. This daily oversight will allow for timely decision-making and real-time adjustments when needed. The project manager will regularly meet with the Head of Marine Conservation at SHNT to review ongoing activities, discuss challenges, and track progress. This partnership will provide critical insights into the project's direction and ensure it remains focused on addressing local conservation needs.

Quarterly Steering Group Meetings

Quarterly steering group meetings will ensure the project aligns with its strategic objectives. The steering group, composed of representatives from RSPB, SHG, and other key stakeholders, will provide a forum for reviewing progress against key milestones, addressing emerging challenges, and planning upcoming activities. These meetings will also evaluate potential risks and ensure appropriate mitigation strategies are in place to minimise adverse environmental or biodiversity impacts.

Data Quality and Support from RSPB

The RSPB's data management and drone surveying team will play a key role in ensuring the accuracy and reliability of the data collected. With a minimum of 40 days of support over the project's duration, RSPB will ensure that data gathered from drone surveys, camera traps, and habitat assessments is of the highest quality and in line with best practices for ecological monitoring. Additionally, RSPB will train SHNT staff to independently manage and analyse data, build local capacity, and contribute to the project's long-term sustainability.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Integration

M&E will be fully integrated into the project. SHNT will dedicate 78 days over the three years to M&E activities, including regular data monitoring and analysis. The RSPB will allocate 24 days of M&E support, weighted toward Years 1 and 3, to ensure thorough evaluation at critical stages of the project. This regular monitoring will enable adaptive management by providing timely insights into positive and negative impacts.

Adaptive Management

Integrating M&E into all project activities will allow the team to respond swiftly to new data, such as fluctuations in seabird populations or changes in coastal habitat conditions. The steering group will regularly review the M&E findings to make informed strategic decisions and ensure the project remains on track to meet its conservation objectives.

In conclusion, the collaboration between the project manager, SHNT, RSPB, and SHG, alongside robust data management and adaptive M&E processes, will guarantee the project's success and adaptability in achieving its long-term conservation goals.

Total project budget for M&E (£) **(this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)**	[redacted]
Total project budget for M&E (%)	[redacted]
Number of days planned for M&E	[redacted]

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.

BCF_St2_and_Single_Stage_Logical_Framework_Template_Apr24_Coastal_Mon_SHNT
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pdf 138.08 KB

Impact:

Improved monitoring and management of coastal habitats of key marine species of St Helena, integrating these efforts into a revised Marine Management Plan.

Outcome:

Enhanced seabird and turtle coastal conservation on St Helena Island.

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Develop St Helena's capacity to monitor nesting sites using drone surveying and bird handling via British Trust of Ornithology licences.

Output 2:

Assessment of key coastal species, assessing habitat use, threats and environmental changes.

Output 3:

Identify specific threats to key species in coastal habitats, creating a risk management plan based on evidence-based recommendations. To support both NCAs management and marine management plans.

Output 4:

Report finding to SHG and raise awareness around coastal habitats with local community, with the development of 'best practice guides' for safeguarding sensitive areas.

Output 5:

No Response

Do you require more Output fields?

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

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

Activities

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

Output 1: Develop St Helena's capacity to monitor nesting sites using drone surveying and bird handling via British Trust of Ornithology (BTO) licences.
1.1 Procurement of drone and computational equipment (Y1Q2).
1.2 Develop effective data management and survey protocol designs and best practices for data collection using drone surveying with partners at RSPB (Y1Q3).
1.3 Train and licence 2 staff in drone flight and surveying methods (Y1Q3).
1.4 Training data compiled and deep learning model developed for Masked Booby nests in phase 1 based on DPL00033 data sets (Y1Q4).
1.5 Complete photomosaic survey of Masked Booby nest sites, identifying 95% of nests in phase 1 + 2, and ensure mosaics are completed within each season to ensure spatial accuracy verified through ground-truthing (Y2Q4).
1.6 Complete photomosaic survey of Masked Booby nests across all phases consisting of 11.5km² (Y3Q4).
1.7 Train 4 key SHNT staff under the BTO ringing scheme: 1 to be trained to A class trainer (Y2Q2) and 3 to C class (Y2Q4).
Output 2: Assessment of key coastal species, assessing habitat use, threats, and environmental changes.
2.1 Monitor fledging success rates of Masked Boobies at 30 sites in Sandy Bay NCA and Red-billed Tropic Birds (30 nests annually) (Y2Q2 + Y4Q1). Ring at least 80% of successful chicks as per BTO guidelines.
2.2 Implement a trial of artificial nesting boxes for Red-billed Tropic Birds in Jamestown and Great Stone Top areas. Deploy 20 nesting boxes (Y2Q4).
2.3 Survey 8 islets in southern waters using drones and ground-truthing to identify and record seabird activity, breeding populations, and nesting (Y3Q4).
2.4 Conduct 20 surveys annually of Sandy Bay Beach to identify turtle nesting attempts, verifying 90% of all signs and nest locations (Y1-Y3Q4).
Output 3: Identify specific threats to key species in coastal habitats, creating a risk management plan based on evidence-based recommendations.
3.1 Install 5 solar-powered cameras and 10 camera traps over 15 nesting sites to identify potential predator and invasive species threats (Y1Q3-Y3Q4).
3.2 Deploy 8 mice and rat tunnels in seabird colonies to monitor rodent activity, with seasonal checks across 4 seasons (Y1-Y3Q4).
3.3 Commission a detailed coastal erosion and habitat survey of Sandy Bay area, with background data review, habitat mapping, and profile modelling (Y1Q4-Y3Q1).
Output 4: Report findings to SHG and raise awareness around coastal habitats with the local community, including development of 'best practice guides' for safeguarding sensitive areas.
4.1 Design and implement a community engagement strategy with key stakeholders and partners, holding 3 community workshops (Y3Q4).
4.2 Create education outreach via temporary signage, social media, radio, and newspapers. Install 20 signs in key areas (Y4Q1).
4.3 Develop sustainable ecotourism guidelines with SHG, involving 3 licensed operators (Y3Q2).
4.4 Create a showcase reel highlighting St Helena's coastline, wildlife, and conservation efforts, involving at least 5 community members (Y3Q1).

Q24b. Standard Indicators

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

e.g. DPLUS-A01: Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	**e.g. Output indicator 3.4 / Output 3**	**e.g. 60**	**e.g. 30 women; 30 men**
DPLUS-A05: Number of trainers trained under the project reporting to have delivered further training	Output 1.7: Train key SHNT staff under the BTO ringing scheme: trained to A class trainer (Y2Q2) to C class (Y2Q4). Using partnership with RSPB to achieve training goals. This training will improve island capacity to develop a core team of expertise that will continue to build future capacity.	4 x SHNT Staff: 1x Class A trainer level. (1 year working at Class A) 3x Class C licences (750 bird rung or 250 of multiple species)	Gender: 1 female, 3 male Age Group: 100% under 35 Stakeholder Group: 4 Nationals (SHNT) Skills/Knowledge Area: Biodiversity monitoring, habitat restoration
DPLUS-C01: Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed	Output 1.2 and 4.3	1 best practise guide for drone work and birds 1 guide for responsible tourism around the coastal habitats.	Knowledge/Practice Area: Drone monitoring for bird conservation Product Typology: Best practice guide, endorsed by SHG, RSPB and SHNT Knowledge/Practice Area: Sustainable Tourism in Coastal areas guide. Product Typology: Best practice guide, endorsed by SHG, RSPB and SHNT
DPLUS-C02: Number of new conservation or species stock assessments published	Output 2 Assessment of key coastal species, assessing habitat use, threats and environmental changes.	2 assessments	Taxa: Fauna (Seabirds: Masked Booby, Red-Billed Tropicbird) RDL Category: Regional assessment (Endemic populations) Assessment Method: Drone surveys, deep learning model, camera traps, direct observation
DPLUS-C03: New assessments of habitat conservation action needs published.	Output 1 (1.7) Complete photomosaic survey of Masked Booby nests across all phases	1 assessment Area: 11.5km2 surveyed and verified.	Biome/Ecosystem: Coastal habitats Assessment Method: Habitat erosion surveys, drone mapping, ground-based monitoring
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*

No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*

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

No Response

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.

BCF_Budget_over_100k_MASTER_25.07.24_SHNTv1
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xlsx 95.4 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:

This project builds on previous work, including the DPL00033 project, and aligns with the ongoing DPLUS154 initiative for sustainable management of St Helena's National Conservation Areas. It specifically addresses knowledge gaps in the avian communities of the islets, which have been identified in the DPLUS154.
Working closely with the Environment, Natural Resources, and Planning (ENRP) of the St Helena Government, the St Helena National Trust have identified a need for updated monitoring efforts. The last comprehensive seabird coastal monitoring was conducted in 2011, as outlined in the SHGs report (2). This project will fill those gaps by introducing new data collection methodologies, such as drone surveys and camera traps, to ensure accurate, timely monitoring.
Coordination on this project and quarterly steering group meetings with SHNT, SHG, and RSPB will avoid

duplication and ensure synergy across efforts. This collaborative approach will ensure long-term sustainability for St Helena's coastal ecosystems

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

⦿ No

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 project directly allocates [redacted] of the Darwin Plus funding to St Helena, ensuring substantial local economic and community benefits. These funds will cover in-territory activities, such as local staffing, logistics, and direct conservation efforts, creating jobs, building capacity, and strengthening the island's conservation infrastructure. Additionally, [redacted] of the budget will go toward capital purchases, such as monitoring equipment. These investments will provide long-term benefits, enabling the St Helena National Trust (SHNT) to continue its work beyond the project's duration.

Around [redacted] of the budget is dedicated to commissioning an erosion and habitat survey. This survey will provide essential data for understanding and planning for Sandy Bay Beach, an important nature and heritage site with cultural and economic significance for the island. The knowledge will contribute to the island's long-term environmental resilience and planning.

The remaining portion of the budget will support off-island activities, primarily M&E and capacity building, through professional advice from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). This external support is critical for ensuring the project's success, delivering high-quality data analysis, and training local staff in specialised monitoring techniques, thereby enhancing St Helena's capacity to manage its unique biodiversity in the future.

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.

This project ensures value for money by adopting a highly efficient approach to resource use and focusing on long-term benefits. By working in geographically aligned areas and leveraging existing conservation work, the project reduces logistical costs and optimises the use of personnel and equipment. This approach means that both time and financial resources are focused on high-impact activities, minimising unnecessary expenditure. Aligning skill sets across monitoring activities further contributes to cost savings. Instead of deploying separate teams for seabird, turtle, and coastal habitat monitoring, we can utilise the teams trained staff for multiple tasks, significantly reducing labour and operational costs. Investments in capital equipment, such as drones and camera traps, will also provide lasting value, enabling continued monitoring for years with minimal additional costs.

The erosion and habitat survey provide vital insights into protecting a culturally significant area, benefiting St Helena's long-term environmental planning. This targeted investment ensures that funds are spent on work that has immediate and future relevance to the island's conservation and community interests.

Additionally, off-island expenditures are kept to a minimum and focused on essential services such as professional monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and capacity-building support from the RSPB. This ensures that

funds used outside the territory bring vital expertise that enhances the project's effectiveness and long-term sustainability.

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 capital items purchased with Darwin Plus funding, such as drones, camera traps, and computational equipment, will remain in St Helena following the project's completion. These items will be handed over to the St Helena National Trust (SHNT), ensuring they continue to be used for conservation efforts long after the project concludes.
By investing in durable, high-quality equipment, the project not only enhances current monitoring and habitat restoration work but also strengthens the island's long-term capacity to manage its coastal and marine ecosystems. These tools will support future seabird/bird and habitat monitoring and contribute to the ongoing conservation work. This approach ensures that the capital items provide enduring value and continue to benefit local conservation initiatives well beyond the project's lifespan

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 St Helena National Trust (SHNT) adheres to the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS) as a minimum standard protocol in its operations, particularly its commitment to equality and social justice. The CHS emphasises ensuring that services are relevant, effective, and equitable. This is reflected in SHNT's core values, which promote diversity, participation, and accountability.

SHNT's policies emphasise the importance of creating a non-discriminatory working environment for all employees and volunteers, ensuring everyone is treated fairly, regardless of sex, race, sexual orientation, age, or disability. By actively engaging in diversity and equality initiatives, the Trust embodies the CHS principles of ensuring its work is inclusive and respectful of local communities and stakeholders. Furthermore, SHNT commits to ongoing training and awareness-raising initiatives to embed equality practices.

SHNT's recruitment policy prioritises candidates with St Helenian status, reflecting its commitment to fostering local engagement and participation. The organisation also ensures that reasonable adjustments are made to facilitate access to its properties and initiatives, which aligns with the CHS requirement for accountability to affected populations.

To enhance its adherence to the CHS and other standards like CAPSEAH and IASC MOS-PSEA, SHNT recognises that its approach is still evolving. Plans are underway to develop training programs and monitoring systems further to identify areas for improvement. These initiatives aim to bolster accountability mechanisms, ensuring that staff and volunteers can recognise and address any form of discrimination or harassment effectively.

In conclusion, SHNT is dedicated to fostering an inclusive and equitable environment in all its endeavours, aligning with established humanitarian standards while continuously seeking ways to enhance its practices in pursuing social justice.

Q31. Ethics

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

To uphold the fundamental principles of ethical practice, the St Helena National Trust adopts a comprehensive approach:

Respect for Individuals and Communities

SHNT values the dignity and rights of all individuals by actively engaging local communities in decision-making processes and respecting cultural sensitivities.

Transparency and Accountability

The Trust maintains transparency through open communication about project goals and progress while implementing feedback mechanisms for stakeholders to voice concerns.

Fairness and Non-Discrimination

SHNT promotes equality by adhering to comprehensive policies, ensuring fair recruitment practices, and prioritising local candidates.

Integrity and Honesty

The Trust conducts its operations with integrity, making ethical decisions and encouraging the reporting of unethical practices without fear of retaliation.

Commitment to Sustainability

SHNT practices environmental stewardship and builds local capacity through training, fostering sustainable practices that benefit communities.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Regular reviews and impact assessments ensure SHNT's practices align with ethical standards and positively contribute to the community.

Additionally, SHNT collaborates closely with the RSPB and ENRD, ensuring all research methods are licensed through the St Helena Research Institute's independent review process. By embedding these principles into its operations, SHNT aims to maintain high ethical standards, fostering Trust and collaboration with local stakeholders while championing St Helena's heritage.

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?
Neil Thorp	**Project Leader**	20	Checked
Kenickie Andrews	Project Manager	100	Checked
TBC	Project Officer	100	Checked
Sheena Benjamin	Education and Outreach	6	Checked

Do you require more fields?

⦿ Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Harry Marshall	Scientific Officer (RSPB)	5	Checked
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	Unchecked
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	Unchecked
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	Unchecked
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*	Unchecked
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.

Coastal_CVs
07/10/2024
17:15:42
pdf 640.97 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:	Saint Helena National Trust
Is the Lead Organisation based in a UKOT where the project is working?	⊙ Yes
Why is this organisation the Lead Organisation, and what value to they bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	The St Helena National Trust is the leading non-governmental organisation responsible for conserving St Helena's unique environment and cultural heritage. As the Lead Organisation, SHNT brings unparalleled local knowledge and experience, particularly in habitat restoration and species monitoring, including seabirds and marine life. SHNT has a proven track record of managing complex environmental projects, including its Marine Conservation Project, Darwin Plus-funded seabird conservation programs, and deploying BRUVs and drone surveys for ecosystem monitoring. With deep-rooted community connections, the Trust is vital in mobilising local resources and fostering sustainable conservation practices. The Marine Conservation and Seabird Monitoring Team, led by experienced staff, has the technical capacity and logistical support required to deliver high-quality results. SHNT ensures long-term sustainability by building local capacity, empowering staff, and providing knowledge transfer. Its collaboration with international partners such as RSPB and the St Helena Government (SHG) further enhances the project's reach, leveraging SHNT's strong foundation in coastal monitoring and species conservation to ensure the success of the Coastal Monitoring and Habitat Restoration Program.
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	[redacted]
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	⊙ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from the Lead Partner?	⊙ Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

⊙ Yes

1. Partner Name:	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Website address:	[redacted]
What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) brings substantial technical expertise, strategic support, and capacity-building experience to the project. As a globally recognised leader in bird conservation, the RSPB offers data management and drone surveying expertise, with a commitment of at least 40 days of support to the Coastal Monitoring and Habitat Restoration Program. The RSPB's extensive experience in avian conservation ensures robust methodologies are applied to monitoring seabird populations, including expertise in survey design, data analysis, and the application of new technologies such as machine learning in drone imagery. This enhances the scientific rigour and ensures that data is utilised effectively for decision-making. Through a history of collaboration with St Helena, the RSPB also brings valuable insights from previous projects like DPLUS154, ensuring alignment with ongoing management strategies. Their role in supporting local capacity building primarily through training and mentorship strengthens the project's long-term sustainability by fostering skill development among St Helena National Trust (SHNT) staff. In collaboration with SHNT and St Helena Government, the RSPB's expertise enhances the project's operational and strategic impact.
UKOT-based/other Partner	⦿ Other
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	[redacted]
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	⦿ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⦿ Yes

2. Partner Name:	St Helena Government (Environment, Natural Resources and Planning Portfolio)
Website address:	[redacted]

What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	The St Helena Government (Environment, Natural Resources and Planning Portfolio) is pivotal in the Coastal Monitoring and Habitat Restoration Program, providing regulatory oversight and ensuring the project aligns with national environmental policies. As the primary authority responsible for the island's natural resource management and marine conservation, their involvement ensures that the project's activities are integrated into the broader Marine Management Plan and National Conservation Area objectives. Their expertise in environmental policy development, coastal management, and marine spatial planning helps guide the project's strategic direction. SHG's participation in quarterly steering group meetings provides critical governance, while their access to local data and resources, including historical environmental surveys, strengthens the project's evidence base. Additionally, SHG brings the capacity to support legislative compliance, ensuring that conservation activities adhere to both local and international environmental standards. Their collaboration fosters effective partnerships with local stakeholders, ensuring long-term sustainability and integration of project outcomes into territory-wide conservation strategies.
UKOT-based/other Partner	⦿ UKOT-based
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	*No Response*
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	⦿ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⦿ Yes

3. Partner Name:	*No Response*
Website address:	*No Response*
What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	*No Response*
UKOT-based/other Partner	*No Response*
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	○ UKOT-based ○ Other
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	○ Yes ○ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	○ Yes ○ No

4. Partner Name:	*No Response*
Website address:	*No Response*
What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	*No Response*
UKOT-based/other Partner	○ UKOT-based ○ Other
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	*No Response*
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	○ Yes ○ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	○ Yes ○ No

5. Partner Name:	*No Response*
Website address:	*No Response*
What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	*No Response*
UKOT-based/other Partner	○ UKOT-based ○ Other
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	*No Response*
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	○ Yes ○ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	○ Yes ○ No

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

UKOT-based/other Partner	◯ UKOT-based ◯ Other
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	*No Response*
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	◯ Yes ◯ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	◯ Yes ◯ No

Please provide a combined PDF of all letters of support.

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07/10/2024
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pdf 431.27 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
DPL00033	Helena Bennett	Building on island capacity for long-term seabird monitoring
DPL00036	Helena Bennett	Building on island capacity for long-term seabird monitoring
DPLUS190	Helena Bennett	Improving St Helena's grasslands to benefit people and wildlife
DPLUS104	Helena Bennett	Conserving St Helena's endemic invertebrates through invasive invertebrate control
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

Saint Helena National Trust

I apply for a grant of

£233,076.00

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	Helena Bennett
Position in the organisation	Director
Signature (please upload e-signature)	hbennett 07/10/2024 17:42:05 jpg 15.78 KB
Date	07 October 2024

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

A200-SHNT-Accounts-2023-signed-SVLLP
07/10/2024
17:43:03
pdf 520.64 KB

A200-SHNT-Annual-report-and-Financials-statements-31-March-2024-SV-LLP
07/10/2024
17:43:02
pdf 665.62 KB

SHNT-annual-report-and-financial-statements-2022-audited
07/10/2024
17:43:02
pdf 502.54 KB

Please upload the Lead Organisation's Safeguarding and Associated Policies as a PDF

Combined_Policies
07/10/2024
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pdf 1.13 MB

Section 17 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance**, including the "Guidance Notes for Applicants", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Standard Indicator Guidance", "Risk Guidance", and "Finance Guidance".**	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions **for this fund.**	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates **for the project.**	Checked
I have provided a budget based on UK government financial years **i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.**	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, **correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.**	Checked
The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual **(clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).**	Checked
I have attached the below documents to the application: • **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.**	Checked
• **the** completed logframe **as a PDF using the Stage 2 template provided and using "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance" and "Standard Indicator Guidance".**	Checked
• **the budget (which meets the requirements above) using the template provided.**	Checked
• **a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts (covering three years) for the Lead Organisation, or provided an explanation if not.**	Checked
• **the completed workplan as a PDF using the template provided**	Checked

• **a copy of the Lead Organisation's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy, Code of Conduct and Safety and Security Policy or Security Plan (Question 30).**	Checked
• **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.**	Checked
• **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.**	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).