

Applicant: **Callender, Andrew**
Organisation: **Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)**
Funding Sought: **£2,572,235.00**

DPR12ST\1009

Enabling effective biosecurity in the Caribbean UK Overseas Territories

Biodiversity in the five Caribbean UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) is globally significant and increasingly threatened by the impacts of invasive non-native species (INNS). Preventing the arrival of INNS is the best defence to mitigate their impact on native biodiversity. This project will strengthen at-border biosecurity in all 5 Caribbean UKOTs by enhancing biosecurity legislation, increasing effective inter-agency working, improving at-border biosecurity infrastructure and facilities and increasing in-territory agency capacity, improving regional capacity to prevent and respond to INNS incursions.

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DPR12ST\1009

Enabling effective biosecurity in the Caribbean UK Overseas Territories

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
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Section 2 - Title & Summary


Q3. Title:


Enabling effective biosecurity in the Caribbean UK Overseas Territories

Please attach a cover letter as a PDF document.

 [RSPB Cover Letter](#)

 24/07/2023

 19:10:15

 pdf 179.2 KB

Q4. Summary of project

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

Successful Darwin Plus Main projects must demonstrate substantial measurable outcomes in at least one of the themes of Darwin Plus either by the end of the project's implementation or via evidenced mechanisms for post-project delivery.

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

The broad themes of Darwin Plus Main are:

- **Biodiversity:** improving and conserving biodiversity, and slowing or reversing biodiversity loss and degradation;
- **Climate change:** responding to, mitigating and adapting to climate change and its effects on the natural environment and local communities;
- **Environmental quality:** improving the condition and protection of the natural environment;
- **Capability and capacity building:** enhancing the capacity within UKOTs to support the environment in the short- and long-term.

Biodiversity in the five Caribbean UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) is globally significant and increasingly threatened by the impacts of invasive non-native species (INNS). Preventing the arrival of INNS is the best defence to mitigate their impact on native biodiversity. This project will strengthen at-border biosecurity in all 5 Caribbean UKOTs by enhancing biosecurity legislation, increasing effective inter-agency working, improving at-

border biosecurity infrastructure and facilities and increasing in-territory agency capacity, improving regional capacity to prevent and respond to INNS incursions.

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

Q5. UKOT(s)

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

- Anguilla
- British Virgin Islands (BVI)
- Cayman Islands
- Montserrat
- Turks & Caicos Islands (TCI)

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

No Response

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

No

Q6. Project dates

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):
01 April 2024	31 March 2028	4 years

Q7. Budget summary

Year:	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	Total request
Amount:	£311,663.00	£1,006,215.00	£700,708.00	£553,649.00	£0.00	£ 2,572,235.00

Q8. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

Yes

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

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

No Response

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

No

Section 4 - Problem statement

Q11. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in the UKOTs, relating to at least one of the themes of Darwin Plus:

For example, what are the specific threats to the environment that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify the need for your project? Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem.

This project seeks to prevent new invasive non-native species[1] (INNS) invasions that increasingly threaten the economies, environment and people of the five Caribbean UKOTs. It will do this by advancing the passage of effective biosecurity legislation; enhancing at-border biosecurity through improved capacity, capability and infrastructure; and putting in place rapid response procedures. It will emphasise the importance of the sharing of knowledge and expertise across the Territories and wider region, in recognition of the commonality of threats (e.g. green iguana, fire ants, red-headed agama, fruit flies) and response experiences, and ensure that practices are embedded within responsible agencies to secure project legacy.

The detrimental ecological and socio-economic impacts of INNS are rapidly escalating worldwide, associated with increasing global trade[2] and exacerbated by climate change, and are particularly acute on islands[3] [4]. The Caribbean UKOT economies (specifically tourism and agricultural sectors) and their often unique biodiversity are particularly vulnerable, and these risks are increasing. The prevalence of trade through Florida heightens the risks of new invasion, given the number of invasive species present there; emerging trade pathways are becoming more important, generally with much weaker safeguards than those through Miami – e.g. from Guyana, Suriname and Dominican Republic; and greater movement of goods and people within the Caribbean threatens to spread species from island to island.

The project team has consulted extensively with UKOT Government bodies (mainly Departments of Agriculture and Environment and Port Authorities) and other in-territory stakeholders, ranking the range of possible biosecurity interventions[5] to assess the greatest need. No area of this exercise was deemed unimportant, yet the lack of capacity, training and biosecurity infrastructure and equipment was universally highlighted as the greatest impediment to effective preventative management. These consultations and the resulting prioritisation to inform the three main outputs of project focus also reflected recent external analyses that concluded that biosecurity INNS management capacity in the Caribbean UKOTs was weakest in the area of prevention[6] (which is invariably most cost-effective) and greatest in that of long-term management[7] [8], with a general lack of biosecurity legislation and enforcement[9]. The RSPB and partners have extensive experience of eradication work so are acutely aware of the high costs of such work and the need to refocus activities more evenly to include greater emphasis on preventative measures.

The UK government has invested strategically in biosecurity across the Overseas Territories for many years,

supporting for example advances in legislative processes through the UKOTs Biosecurity Project, the 2018 horizon scanning exercise led by the UK's Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UKCEH) and the 2023 online training provided by CABI on their Pest Risk Analysis tool. This project proposal complements these efforts by collaboratively focusing on at-border, preventative actions, advancing rapid response procedures and ensuring that the momentum behind legislative processes is maintained. It will also advance the sharing of knowledge and experience between Territories and across the wider Caribbean, through engagement with organisations such as the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, recognising that such collaboration enhances cost-effectiveness.

Section 5 - Environmental Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q12. Environmental Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Please detail how your project will contribute to the aims of the national and/or international agreement(s) your project is targeting. What key UKOT Government priorities and themes will it address and how? You should also consider local, territory specific agreements and action plans here. Letters of support from UKOT Government partners/stakeholders should also make clear reference to the agreements/action plans your project is contributing towards.

By focusing on at-border biosecurity, this project aims to prevent the introduction of new or further populations of existing invasive non-native species into the five Caribbean Overseas Territories, enhancing biosecurity, minimising the impact of invasives and safeguarding native species. This strongly aligns with biosecurity priorities, agreements and action plans in all five Overseas Territories, regionally in the Caribbean and internationally.

International Agreements:

Convention on Biological Diversity Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target 6 to 'eliminate, minimize, reduce and or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species', including by managing pathways of introduction, and reducing or preventing the rates of introduction and establishment of invasive alien species
UN Sustainable Development Goal 15.8 to 'significantly reduce the impact of invasive species on land...'

UK National Priorities:

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

Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS):

Anguilla, British Virgin Islands and Montserrat are all signatories to the OECS's St. George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability. The Declaration's 'Biodiversity and Ecosystems' Objective 2 outlines a commitment to 'Minimise the threats to the Eastern Caribbean from invasive alien species... and enhance biosafety and biosecurity.'

OECS Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management Framework (2020-2035) names invasive alien species and biosecurity as one of its 5 Priority areas, with the objective to protect the OECS region against invasive alien species, biosafety and biosecurity threats

OECS SDG2040 objective BE 2, 'Minimise the threats to the Eastern Caribbean from invasive alien species... and enhance biosafety and biosecurity'

Anguilla:

National Environmental Management Strategy – Principle 13, Strategy 40 'Take necessary precautionary measures to avoid or minimise, the intentional or accidental introduction or escape... of alien or living modified

organisms'

Anguilla Environment Charter Principle 7 'to safeguard and restore native species... and control or eradicate invasive species'

Anguilla Invasive Species Strategy 2008 "Prevention is the best method from keeping Invasive Species from entering Anguilla'

British Virgin Islands

Environmental Charter of the BVI Principle 7, 'to safeguard and restore native species... and control or eradicate invasive species'

National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) objectives

Cayman Islands:

Contributes to implementing priorities in the National Biodiversity Action (2009) plan to reduce/eliminate invasive non-native species

Deliver priorities under the Cayman Islands' Environmental Charter (commitments 1,2,6,7,9,10 & 11) to protect native biodiversity and control invasive species

Montserrat:

Montserrat Environment Charter Principle 7, 'to safeguard and restore native species... and control or eradicate invasive species'

Turks and Caicos Islands:

TCI Environment Charter Principle 7, 'to safeguard and restore native species... and control or eradicate invasive species'

Section 7 - Method, Project Stakeholders, Gender, Change Expected, Pathway to Change & Exit Strategy

Q13. Methodology

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

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

From 2013-2019, the RSPB led two successive EU BEST projects focussed on enabling and empowering local and national partners to safeguard species and habitats in Caribbean Key Biodiversity Areas, targeting INNS and improving biosecurity at specific sites. These projects enabled RSPB to strengthen ties with our Caribbean OT partners and better understand the biosecurity challenges faced in each territory. In 2017 RSPB also commissioned an "Assessment of legislation supporting biosecurity in the Caribbean UK Overseas Territories": this assessment has guided our ongoing commitment to improving OT biosecurity legislation and informed current project design.

This project was conceived after significant consultation with our government partners (mainly Departments of

Agriculture/ Natural Resources) in the 5 Caribbean OTs. Ten themes relating to pre-, at- and post-border biosecurity were explored and prioritised by each territory government. The areas of greatest need are reflected in the three main project outputs, namely (i) advancing the passage of effective national biosecurity legislation (ii) enhancing at border capacity and capability across responsible agencies, including rapid response planning and (iii) delivering better biosecurity facilities and equipment as a necessity to achieve better biosecurity outcomes.

The importance of securing the passage of and/or advancing legislative processes in each of the 5 Caribbean UKOTs was identified as a priority in consultation with all territory partners, with legislation seen as a key enabling factor for more effective biosecurity implementation and enforcement. At the start of the project, a Project Manager will be recruited. Their initial task will be to coordinate an assessment of legislative needs in each territory, supported by the RSPB and expert partners. While RSPB recognises that the status of legislative processes currently differs markedly across the territories, the RSPB Global policy team has already been supporting the passage of legislation in TCI, providing legal text and explanatory briefings and will continue to provide the necessary resources to support a successful conclusion to TCI legislative process. This experience has given us a crucial understanding of the commitment but also flexibility necessary to advance any legislative process, and a blueprint for successful support to other territories.

Dependent on the legislative needs assessment, the RSPB team will work to support ongoing legislative processes, notably supporting the legislative process in Montserrat (currently fifth draft from the GB Non-native Species Secretariat (GBNNSS) Biosecurity project), taking learnings from the biosecurity policy engagement built into the Cayman-focused DPLUS128, and also aiming to advance the nascent legislative aspirations in Anguilla and BVI, with the overall goal of harmonising legislative regimes across the Territories. The Project has already engaged with the OECS whose Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Ecosystems Services (BEES) programme and the broader Environmental Sustainability Division (ESD) have indicated an interest and willingness to support legislative and other project activities that benefit the three OECS Member States (Anguilla, BVI, Montserrat) under the OECS IAS strategy (2016-2025). These regional frameworks will help to drive the important political will and momentum to ensure progress is achieved.

The recruitment of Biosecurity Officers in Y1, one for each participating OT, will provide the local capacity to drive and embed particularly project outputs 2 and 3, namely increasing the capacity and capability of local biosecurity, and liaising with relevant stakeholders (e.g., Port Authorities) to improve existing biosecurity facilities and procedures. Supported by the Project Manager, three main actions will take place in Y1: 1. RSPB and Project Manager will coordinate an initial cross-territory meeting with territory partners and key stakeholders to form the inter-territory biosecurity working group, and appoint the consultant to carry out the Y1 port surveys; 2. The Biosecurity Officers will undertake training by specialists in the field and jointly develop an at-border biosecurity training programme for in-territory staff (e.g., customs officers, port authority staff) by Y2 Q4 and integrate this into staff training/inductions by end of project and 3. On-the-ground port surveys will review current biosecurity capacity, procedures and infrastructure via an expert consultant (brought in via tender process) across all five territories. These surveys will both engage stakeholders to identify and catalyse the procurement of biosecurity equipment and infrastructure where required (within budgetary constraints). Enhanced or new facilities to enable detection and prevention of harmful INNS are a crucial element of the project.

As part of the ongoing aim of the project to enhance at border biosecurity capability across all five OTs, the Project Manager and Biosecurity Officers will organise a further series of workshops in Y2. These workshops will focus on 1. A collaborative, consultant-led horizon scanning study (potentially led by the UKCEH) with key stakeholders (e.g., Government departments and the representative National Trusts) will assess emerging and new threats and update the 2018 prioritised lists of INNS that have the potential to pose a threat to the Territories. 2. Improved capability to identify these priority species through ID sheets and the production of materials that aim to raise awareness of the threats posed. 3. The collaborative development of incursion response plans based on these prioritised species lists, with the necessary supporting equipment identified and delivered through the project. Many experts, particularly those who led themes within horizon scanning studies in the UK and Europe, will contribute time in-kind to this horizon scanning work.

This project is appropriately ambitious and aims to bring resource to the critical area of practical at border biosecurity: implementation is key. An end-of-project audit review process will be commissioned to assess progress against the Y1 port survey baselines, Y2 rapid response workshops and the status of legislative processes and recommend next steps to ensure project legacy, including a continuation of the Inter-territory working group and enhanced at border biosecurity capacity and capability.

A strong governance structure is of course vital: the Project Manager will have overall responsibility for project delivery with the RSPB Project Executive being accountable for project success, reporting into a Partner-led Steering Group to assess project progress. The Steering Group will meet quarterly. RSPB has strong financial controls in place and now uses a high-performance project and portfolio management system, which will underpin the smooth-running of the project.

Q14. Project Stakeholders

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

The Project is being led by the RSPB, in conjunction with a lead partner in each of the 5 Caribbean OTs. These partners are:

- Department of Agriculture, Cayman Islands
- Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change, BVI
- Department of Natural Resources, Anguilla
- Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Housing and the Environment, Montserrat
- Department of Agriculture, TCI

All the partner Departments/Ministries have been consulted from the outset, and the priority outputs of the project are driven by these partners. The engagement and commitment of these partners will be key to project delivery success, especially in facilitating engagement with other project stakeholders notably the relevant Port Authorities.

The project has also been open in communicating and asking for feedback from other territory and regional stakeholders, notably the Departments of Environment (where jurisdiction on biosecurity matters is separated) and the National Trusts who have an important role in public engagement and messaging even if this is not a direct project output. Of specific relevance to the three Eastern territories, the project has also engaged with the OECS to explore more regional applications of project activities and experiences.

In addition, the project is engaging with a wide range of other stakeholders who work in the field of biosecurity, many of whom may have a role to play in delivering strong outcomes. The project has also opened dialogue with one of region's premier shipping companies, Tropical Shipping, to ensure that the working realities of shipping and biosecurity are incorporated.

Q15. Gender equality and social inclusion

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

A key output of this project is to enhance in-territory capacity to implement at-border biosecurity and incursion response. We are therefore dedicated to ensuring all new staff are recruited in the spirit of equal opportunity to maximise gender and social inclusion and all training of staff is offered to all appropriate staff regardless of

gender and without discrimination.

Although an RSPB-led project, RSPB will provide a coordinating and facilitatory role, supporting partners to implement the project effectively in-territory. This project will hire five new Biosecurity Officers (one in each territory) and a Project Manager (likely based in TCI). The project intends to recruit locally and/or regionally. By introducing staff with local expertise and knowledge sensitive to the gender and social barriers that may be unique to the Caribbean/each territory, it will help ensure that where relevant and possible all project elements (such as training opportunities) are made inclusive.

To maximise the inclusivity of the application stage of all six advertised roles, all partners will implement measures appropriate and relevant to their territory to minimise barriers to entry and offer equal opportunity. Measures will include:

An aim to eliminate any conscious or subconscious discrimination, the initial applicant stage will be anonymous, with all personal identifiers (e.g., age, gender) hidden until interview stage.

Living costs in the Caribbean are exceptionally high. Roles will pay a living wage (in line with each territory's figure), to ensure wage is not a social barrier to entry.

Job adverts will include a statement making it clear we welcome applications from applicants from a diverse range of backgrounds and will be advertised across a range of platforms (online and physical copies) to maximise visibility.

The roles will offer flexible working where appropriate and be aligned with partners recruitment policies so as not to exclude applications with competing responsibilities (e.g., care duties)

As well as hiring new staff, this project will offer training opportunities to existing staff, such as the at-border biosecurity training being offered to at least 5 staff per territory. The training will be offered to all appropriate staff regardless of gender.

As the lead partner, the RSPB is a UN Global Compact signatory, committing to upholding principles such as to 'eliminate discrimination in employment'. This is backed up in practice by RSPB policies such as 'Whistleblowing' which provide processes for RSPB and all project partner staff to allow concerns to be raised and formal investigations to be launched should there be any suspected instances of discrimination.

Q16. Change expected

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

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

The project will result in a significant and lasting improvement in biosecurity capacity and capability across all five Caribbean OTs. INNS are not only hugely damaging for native species and habitats, but also for island economies, dependent largely on tourism, itself dependent on healthy ecosystems. To give a recent example, the arrival and population explosion of green iguanas resulted in an explosion of the population across Grand Cayman. The invasion impacted local wildlife and infrastructure such as power lines. The ongoing cull has so far

cost nearly US\$9 million with 1.6 million green iguanas removed. This project will seek to prevent such costly new invasions of harmful INNS to all five participating Caribbean OTs, protecting the native species and environments, agriculture sector and local economies.

A key gap identified by project partners and RSPB-led analysis is the absence of strong environmental governance enabling biosecurity. In the short-term, the Project Manager will liaise closely with project partners to identify the specific legislative needs in each OT (though not all may need support). For Anguilla and BVI and Cayman Islands, framework legislation will be drafted to be subsequently tabled for cabinet approval. And for those OTs further ahead with their legislation (such as Montserrat), it will mean supporting local efforts to secure the passage of current draft legislation towards cabinet approval.

Significant gaps in biosecurity capacity have also been highlighted by project partners across the five Caribbean OTs. This will change from the initiation of the project. By end Y1, the project will bring in much-needed biosecurity capacity via the recruitment of Biosecurity Officers in each OT. The training they will receive, led by experts from the region and the UK, will equip them with the knowledge and skills to train and empower key in-territory stakeholders such as customs staff and the ports authority to tackle arrivals of INNS at-border. This will include, by the end of Y2, Biosecurity Officers and other key stakeholders being cognizant of the priority INNS for their territory. Incursion response plans will subsequently be developed so that by end of Y3, plans for at least two priority INNS will be available and owned by relevant stakeholders in each OT, with these response plans shared between territories. By the end of the project, government staff and key stakeholders will be more capable of delivering effective at-border biosecurity, understand the priority species for which greatest risk management is needed and, in the event of arrival of INNS on-island, be capable of responding effectively to the threat they pose.

The breadth of knowledge and experience inherent within the five Caribbean OTs will be further built via the inter-territory biosecurity working group. In the short-term, lessons learned from the training can be shared amongst project partners. These learnings will then be transmitted to at least 25 port staff and other key stakeholders enabling a rapid assimilation of insight in dealing with challenges such as incursions and best practice in terms of early detection and disposal of INNS.

The benefits of improving at-border biosecurity are widely acknowledged by partners. Port surveys will be conducted by experienced experts to identify the equipment and facilities needed to achieve effective at-port biosecurity. This will be done in consultation with local stakeholders and partners. By the end of the project infrastructure improvements will have been implemented at each OT port and each port will be equipped with or have identified its needs to respond to INNS incursions.

In the long-term, the unique and threatened biodiversity of all five Caribbean OTs will be far better protected from the threat of INNS than pre-project. The biosecurity working group, set up by the end of Y2 Q2 will have a clear ToR and 5-year plan, which will mean that learnings and knowledge gained within the group can be embedded within and across the five Caribbean OTs. We will use the project successes and the final port survey audit and incursions response records to advocate to high-priority stakeholders within each territory the importance of continuing to build on improved at-border biosecurity capacity introduced by the project (i.e Biosecurity Officers) long-term, resulting in the posts being funded either directly in-territory or via external funding. In addition, trainings delivered to staff will improve biosecurity knowledge and understanding in the long term and training programmes developed will be adopted by partners for use with future at-border staff.

Q17. Pathway to change

Please outline your project's expected pathway to change. This should be an overview of the overall project logic and outline why and how you expect your Outputs to contribute towards your overall Outcome and, in the longer term, your expected Impact.

The project will assess biosecurity legislation needs in each OT, which will inform an OT-specific work plan to guide legislative engagement including draft text where no biosecurity legislation currently exists (such as Anguilla, BVI) complementing and supporting if appropriate framework legislation developed by GBNNSS. The legislative process in Montserrat is already at an advanced stage, and this project will seek to support its adoption. With the resource and targeted effort to advance legislation we expect at least 2 OTs to have legislation tabled or adopted by the end of the project.

Agencies responsible for biosecurity will receive a significant capacity boost. A Biosecurity Officer will be recruited in each OT and the project will work to secure that these biosecurity posts are funded and adopted into government beyond project end. Furthermore, a working group will be established to harmonise progress in and inter-territory. The working group will be established to live beyond the project enabling and supporting inter-agency working.

Port biosecurity assessments will enable gaps to be addressed through improved facilities and equipment. All ports will have improvements made to enhance biosecurity with facilities and equipment available for use to prevent new incursions. With support from specialist stakeholders (e.g., UKCEH), territory priority INNS will be identified with incursion response plans developed. This will lead to a substantial increase in at-border biosecurity capability and capacity across all 5 Caribbean OTs.

In summary, therefore, our Theory of Change statement is: IF effective legislation can be enacted, IF in-territory at-border biosecurity capacity and knowledge is increased and secured, and IF at-border facilities and infrastructure are improved to reduce INNS incursions, THEN native species, human health and local economies will be safeguarded and enhanced over the long-term.

Q18. Sustainable benefits and scaling potential

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?


There are several anchor points to achieving long-term sustainability. The central, lasting elements of the project are the advancement of biosecurity legislation and installation of biosecurity facilities. Once approved, the legislation is anticipated to have a long-lasting post-project impact. Legislation will frame the need for more effective implementation, empowering the roles of the at-border Biosecurity Officers, clarifying responsibilities of each agency and providing powers for fines and sanctions. A full checklist of the provisions at the disposal of OT governments is available from the GBNNSS Biodiversity toolkit. Through our close working relationship with the OECS, and their ongoing work around biosecurity legislation harmonisation, the framework legislation developed during the project will be made available to the wider Eastern Caribbean.


Over 28% of the proposed budget is designated to delivering at-border biosecurity infrastructure, facilities and equipment to enable enhanced detection and prevention of arrival of INNS. The biosecurity facilities will be operational by – and crucially, beyond - the end of the project in at least 3 territories. Biosecurity Officers will liaise closely with port authorities to ensure the facilities and their operation are embedded post-project. The importance of maintaining Biosecurity Officer capacity post-project will be highlighted throughout the project to ensure this continues post-project. The training provided to Biosecurity Officers will form part of the induction process for new starters - with an outline of the key elements as an annex to the biosecurity working group’s 5-year plan -, should there be any change in staff during or after the project ends, ensuring long-term sustainability.


The biosecurity working group will be set up and operate throughout the project, during which time a 5-year


working group plan will be developed. The plan will be initiated prior to the project ending, aiming to maintain regional cooperation and learning around biosecurity and INNS.


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


 [Theory of Change](#)


 24/07/2023


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 [List of References \(1\)](#)

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Section 8 - Risk Management





Q19. Risk Management

Please outline the 6 key risks to achievement of your Project Outcome and how these risks will be managed and mitigated, referring to the Risk Guidance. This should include at least one Fiduciary, one Safeguarding, and one Delivery Chain Risk.

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Inherent Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
<p>Fiduciary (Financial)</p> <p>Funds for project implementation are stuck with or mismanaged via Gov treasury and not available to partners.</p>	Severe	Likely	Severe	Establish payment channels to partners early in project establishment and ensure, with director level support, that treasury is aware of payments being made and where funds are to be allocated. RSPB to support process by marking payments clearly and to follow-up with partners re: receipt of funds.	Major
<p>Safeguarding</p> <p>Ports are particularly unsafe/staff are placed into uncomfortable working conditions with other port employees /are injured during port visits.</p>	Severe	Possible	Severe	Mandatory H&S training part of on-boarding. Ensure all staff accessing ports are aware of safety protocols and receive briefings and guidance from Port Authorities, prior to access. Biosecurity officers should be made aware of Safeguarding protocols (supported by RSPB) and how to raise issues.	Major

Delivery Chain	Partners have limited experience in grant funding (of this size), leading to drift from project scope and/or technical/financial reporting not being completed to a sufficient standard or on time.	Major	Possible	Major	Regular liaison with partner and RSPB project staff, supported by RSPB staff with exiting and strong working relationships with project partners. Support via regular contact, provision of training and templates from RSPB project support officer and senior finance manager to aid reporting will be available to partners from project start.	Major
Risk 4	Project partners unable to attract candidates to take up at-border biosecurity posts within a reasonable time frame, or to a suitable standard	Severe	Possible	Severe	Ensure salary/ benefits package are appropriate for territories and advertising is done well in advance/through multiple platforms to ensure enough time for potential candidates to see the advert and apply. Partners will ensure they have the time and capability to recruit and on-board staff effectively, supported by RSPB.	Moderate
Risk 5	Suitable expertise cannot be found to conduct port surveys to a high enough standard.	Severe	Possible	Major	Ensure tender is advertised broadly through multiple channels and utilise contacts within partnership to share tender invitation directly, ensuring adequate budget available to ensure high standard of deliverables	Moderate
Risk 6	Political climate in territories is not supportive of passing biosecurity legislation and therefore legislation cannot be put to cabinet/be enacted.	Major	Possible	Major	Little opportunity to change. The political climate across all territories is outside of the project's control, therefore monitoring the territory political situation with support of partners is necessary action to understand how best and when to progress/put forward legislation	Major

Please upload your Risk Register.

-  [Risk Framework](#)
-  24/07/2023
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-  xlsx 100.68 KB

Q20. Project sensitivities

Please indicate whether there are sensitivities associated with this project that need to be considered if details are published (detailed species location data that would increase threats, political sensitivities, prosecutions for illegal activities, security of staff etc.).

Yes

If yes, please provide brief details.





We request that any biosecurity incursions detected and responded to are handled and reported (or not) as each individual territory deems appropriate.

We will be happy to provide draft updates to Darwin on progress advancing biosecurity legislation. However, given that there are potentially political hurdles to overcome, we suggest that it would be best not to publicise progress by territory, at least until legislation has been passed or reached an advanced stage in the process.

Section 9 - Workplan

Q21. Workplan

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

 [Workplan](#)
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 18:09:19
 docx 37.68 KB

Section 10 - Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Q22. 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).

Darwin Plus Strategic Projects are required to commission an Independent Final Evaluation to report by the time that the project completes. The cost of this should be included in the project budget, and within the total project cost for M&E.

The RSPB Project Manager (PM) will be responsible for M&E. The PM will have responsibility for all OT-level logistics and facilitation and will support the Biosecurity Officers' local co-ordination of activities. The PM will also be responsible for ensuring all output level indicators are met, with specific responsibilities set out below.

The PM will set up a project Steering Group (SG) to include Department of Agriculture (DoA) or other staff from each Caribbean OT, focussed on assessing progress against logframe indicators. The SG will meet at the onset of the project and tri-annually thereafter.

A SharePoint site will be setup by the Project Support Officer, accessible by the project team and project partners, whilst project management communications will include emails and meetings with project partners. Project management communications will include emails, Teams calls and in-country meetings with project partners. Key actions and meeting notes will be kept in accordance with current standards.

The Project Executive is the RSPB Head of UKOTs and will be accountable for delivery of the project outcome and outputs, including its M&E. They will have overall oversight and monitor and manage risk, supported by the Caribbean Territories Programme Manager (CTPM).

A total of 665 days will be spent on M&E, representing 5.86% of the total project budget. The PM and support officers will spend the most significant proportion of time on M&E, totalling 115 days per annum.

As with the current, successful RSPB-led Darwin Plus projects in the Caribbean, RSPB will establish a SharePoint page to maintain all project materials, ensuring accessibility to all involved organisations. This will include an M&E plan, with more details regarding responsibilities for tracking project indicators and activities.

The PM will lead on monitoring of all project outputs, comprising 69 days per year (30% of project time), supported by the CTPM (12 days p.a) and project support officer (23 days p.a.). The PM will work closely with in-territory leads, internal and external specialists to monitor outputs. A key component of output 2 is the establishment of the biosecurity working group comprised of key stakeholders, biosecurity officers and DoA Officers and will be established from Year 2 onwards. Working group meetings will also serve as an opportunity to monitor progress against Output 2, with monitoring responsibility remaining with the PM. The CTPM will support the PM with the biosecurity audit monitoring.


Annual technical reports will feed into the annual planning cycle, key insight from these reports will cycle back into informing project delivery.


Independent Final Evaluation (£)	£ [REDACTED]
Independent Final Evaluation (%)	[REDACTED]
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	665


Section 11 - Logical Framework


Q23. Logical Framework (logframe)

Darwin Plus projects will be required to monitor and report against their progress towards their Outputs and Outcome. This section sets out the expected Outputs and Outcome of your project, how you will measure progress against these and how we can verify this.

 [Logframe](#)

 24/07/2023

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 pdf 98.8 KB

Impact:

Caribbean UKOT economies, environments and people are safeguarded from the impacts of new INNS by robust and updated biosecurity legal frameworks, biosecurity capacity, capability and infrastructure and rapid response regimes.

Outcome:

At-border biosecurity is strengthened and effectively implemented in the 5 Caribbean OTs via advanced legislation, effective inter-agency working, increased capacity and improved infrastructure and facilities

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Legislative needs better understood and supported across all 5 Caribbean OTs with national biosecurity legislation that enables effective at-border biosecurity developed

Output 2:

Enhanced capacity amongst in-territory agencies to implement at-border biosecurity across all 5 Caribbean OTs

Output 3:

In-territory agencies better equipped to implement effective at-border biosecurity via improved infrastructure, facilities and equipment

Output 4:

No Response

Output 5:

No Response

Do you require more Output fields?

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

No

Activities

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

1. Output 1

1.1. RSPB, supported by GBNNSS Biosecurity project legislation toolkit, initiates a legislation needs assessment linked to legislative process for each territory with lessons learned (e.g., from TCI) shared with partners via the inter-territory working group (activity 2.3)

- 1.2. RSPB coordinates a workshop to present results of legislative needs assessment to in-territory partners and relevant stakeholders and develops legislative improvement workplan for relevant territories by end Y1
- 1.3. RSPB supports Montserrat to review existing national biosecurity legislation and finalise draft in advance of submission to cabinet
- 1.4. RSPB, supported by GBNNSS and legal drafters, coordinate the drafting of biosecurity policy for Anguilla and BVI, engaging key in-territory, inter-territory partners (Cayman, TCI) and international stakeholders (e.g., OECS)
- 1.5. RSPB, with support of legal drafters, develops biosecurity legislation for Anguilla, BVI, and Cayman Islands (building on existing biosecurity policy in development) building on lessons learned from other territories, submits to cabinet by end of project.

2. Output 2

- 2.1. RSPB, supported by TCI, recruits a project manager based in Turks & Caicos by Y1 Q2
- 2.2. RSPB and partners review biosecurity officer job descriptions to align specifically for each territories needs and recruit in-territory biosecurity officers (3 recruited by Y1 Q3, a further 2 by end Y1)
- 2.3. RSPB coordinates an initial cross-territory meeting with territory partners and key stakeholders (e.g., OECS) to form the inter-territory biosecurity working group, and develops ToRs to be agreed by all partners by Y2 Q2 with inter-territory biosecurity working group meeting at least annually from Y2
- 2.4. RSPB supported by the inter-territory biosecurity working group develops a 5-year post-project plan including funding strategy for F2F meetings on rotation across the Caribbean OTs by end of project
- 2.5. RSPB coordinates a training programme for Biosecurity Officers, supported by University of West Indies CBS and GBNNSS and attended by all 5 biosecurity officers (and other relevant partner staff) by end Y2 Q2
- 2.6. Biosecurity Officers, with RSPB support and expert advice (e.g., GBNNSS) and building on from training received above, develop an at-border biosecurity training programme for in-territory staff (e.g., customs officers, port authority staff) by Y2 Q4 and integrate into staff training/inductions by end of project
- 2.7. Biosecurity Officers deliver at-border biosecurity training developed above to at least 5 staff in each territory by end Y3, with follow-up training delivered by end Y4
- 2.8. RSPB coordinates expert group from UKCEH to lead INNS horizon scanning workshops involving in-territory stakeholders (e.g., departments of environment, National Trusts) in each OT by end Y2 Q4, to identify priority INNS
- 2.9. RSPB supports in-territory partners to develop incursion response plans for at least 2 priority INNS per territory identified above
- 2.10. RSPB, UKCEH support in-territory partners to develop identification resources, communication materials/port signage for the INNS identified through the horizon scanning for port staff and stakeholders in each territory
- 2.11. In-territory partners and RSPB coordinate high-level stakeholder meeting to present project learnings and final biosecurity audit results (Activity 3.6) with the aim of securing biosecurity posts at-border post project by end of project
- 2.12. In-territory partners complete survey of at-border staff trained (activity 2.7) to quantify knowledge of at-border biosecurity, INNS and incursion response procedures

3. Output 3


- 3.1. RSPB coordinates a project launch meeting in Y1 Q2 to identify port prioritisation with all partners
- 3.2. RSPB contracts consultant by end Y1 Q2 to complete port surveys in each territory by end Y1 that include recommendations for biosecurity improvements to existing infrastructure and needs of each territory re: facilities
- 3.3. In-territory partners implement recommendations for improvements to ports identified above by end of project
- 3.4. RSPB coordinates with in-territory partners, to identify equipment needs that support effective at-border biosecurity and incursion response, based on results of priority INNS horizon scanning workshop (activity 2.8)
- 3.5. In-territory partners, supported by RSPB and experts such as GBNNSS, plan, cost (for all 5 territories) and install (in at least 3 territories) biosecurity facilities at priority ports by end of project


3.6. RSPB commissions an independent biosecurity audit (repeat port survey) to be completed in each territory by end of project


Section 12 - Budget and Funding

Q24. Budget

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

 [BCF-Budget-over-100k-MASTER-Jul23](#)

 24/07/2023

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Q25. Alignment with other funding and activities

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

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

New Initiative

Please provide details:

This work is new with at-border biosecurity preventative work a significant implementation gap in INNS management. The project aims, however, to complement and expand from work that has or is in the process being undertaken by RSPB and other stakeholders.

RSPB projects of relevance include:

EU BEST II - key outcomes biosecurity recommendations and feral animal recommendations made as per the work undertaken in the TCI, BVI and Montserrat.

DPLUS196 – active - aims to remove INNS from the Tobago Islands; this proposed project will help reduce risks of further possible future incursions to the Tobago Islands

DPLUS121, TCI – builds directly on from current biosecurity project.

DPLUS128, Cayman – will build on biosecurity outputs started in this project, specifically biosecurity capacity and the development of and support for biosecurity policies.

Wide range of stakeholders consulted including:

GBNNSS: the current Biosecurity Project is providing legislative support to Caribbean OTs, specifically in Montserrat, as well as port infrastructure delivered in 2022 to Montserrat.

CABI/CABI-Caribbean: the port surveys proposed build upon surveys undertaken elsewhere in the Caribbean.

UKCEH: 2018 horizon-scanning with an expressed need to repeat this exercise.

Other conversations have taken place with APHA, the OECS and Tropical Shipping.

Q25b. 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 RSPB has engaged proactively and openly communicated with partners in the Territories, representatives in the UK (through UKOTA), UK Government agencies including in close collaboration with the GBNNSS and with those organisations that work actively to address biosecurity issues in the Caribbean. The project seeks to avoid duplication but rather build on prior work in relation to notably horizon scanning (UKCEH 2018) and to complement continuing work under notably the UK Biosecurity Project, specifically where that project is already engaged in the drafting of legislation. Implementation of at border biosecurity is largely an unaddressed but vital gap, but we will endeavour to work collaboratively throughout the planning and delivery phase of the project to ensure activities leverage off other work and that lessons and experiences are shared extensively.

Q26. Balance of budget spend

Defra are keen to see as much Darwin Plus funding as possible directly benefiting UKOT communities and economies. While it is appreciated that this is not always possible every effort should be made for funds to remain in-Territory.

Explain the thinking behind your budget in terms of where Darwin Plus funds will be spent. What benefits will the Territory/ies see from your budget? What level of the award do you expect will be spent locally? Please explain the decisions behind any Darwin Plus funding that will not be spent locally and how those costs are important for the project.

The Project has an estimated minimum 80% of expenditure benefitting the territories directly. Major components of expenditure include 42% of funds to be spent salaries (inc overheads) with 92% of this on in-territory staff. The majority of the staff costs are for 6 core project staff (one Project Manager likely based in TCI, and 5 Biosecurity Officers one each based in the respective Territories), with the presumption that all will be locally hired. 28% of funds will be spent on biosecurity-related infrastructure, facilities and equipment (see Q28 re capital equipment expenditure). Some consultancy expenditure may involve bringing in expertise to carry out horizon scanning assessments from outside the Territories, but outputs will include INNS prioritization, ID sheets and awareness-raising materials that will directly raise capability amongst in-territory staff and also provide the framing for the rapid response procedures. While this expert input is relatively expensive, much of the work will be provided in kind to reduce costs, while leveraging this expert input across multiple territories will also produce economies of scale and enhanced outcomes through shared learning.

Q27. Value for Money

Please describe why you consider your application to be good value for money including justification of why the measures you will adopt will secure value for money.

Project expenditure is focussed on improving at border biosecurity capacity, capability and infrastructure: these tangible actions are widely recognised as the most cost-effective biosecurity interventions, yet still attract far less expenditure than reactive, post-invasion management where the cost of damage is clearer (and greater). This preventative expenditure, effectively implemented to build long-term capacity, will have huge benefits across the economy, safeguard agricultural crops, secure populations of unique species and protect human health. Without the provision of actual capacity and equipment at border, new INNS can simply not be intercepted, and will need substantially greater and more expensive reactive management.

The ability to deliver a project wider than an individual territory or specific issue will also bring substantial cost benefits, not only in lower overall overheads, but also in the synergies and shared experiences between the territories that should drive an ambition of competitive outcome.

The project will also benefit from substantial match funding which at present is still under-reflected in the budget, notably from the in-territory partners, additional RSPB biosecurity expertise and additional consultancy time from external organisations. Matched funding is, moreover, around 16% at the time of submission.

Q28. Capital items

If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin Plus funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end. If you are requesting more than 10% capital costs, please provide your justification here.

Biosecurity efforts will not be effective without the provision of the right tools and infrastructure. The initial surveys across the Territory ports are designed to identify specific needs but early conversations suggest a widespread absence of dedicated infrastructure, such as office space, inspection and quarantine facilities, scissor lifts (for vehicle inspections), and incinerators. A lack of equipment and facilities serves only to discourage any attempts to carry out biosecurity checks. The capital item budget represents 13.6% of the overall budget and will provide the infrastructure and tools to advance effective biosecurity implementation (along with smaller equipment (e.g., tarpaulins for containing infested goods, laboratory equipment), consumables (e.g., PPE, rapid response sprays) and non-capital port improvement works). All equipment will be procured and installed in collaboration with the relevant agencies (e.g., Port Authorities) who will take ownership and responsibility for its use during and after the project.

Section 14 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q29. Safeguarding

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

Please upload the following required policies:

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

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

Please outline how (a) beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff are made aware of your safeguarding commitment and how to confidentially raise a concern, (b) safeguarding issues are investigated, recorded and what disciplinary procedures are in place when allegations and complaints are upheld, (c) you will ensure project partners uphold these policies.

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

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

The policy is publicly available on the RSPB website and all RSPB staff are familiarised with it during inductions and compulsory annual training. The policy and relevant training detail how to confidentially raise a concern. Sub-grants include our standard Annex, obliging partners to uphold safeguarding policies and outlining how they report, record and mitigate any incidents. All RSPB workforce and other representatives/project partners are obliged to report any safeguarding concerns following the required RSPB procedure.

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

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

Q30. Ethics

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

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

The project has been co-developed with in-territory governments and staff at all stages and is designed entirely around the at-border biosecurity needs requested by each territory. The on-the-ground actions will be delivered by partners and staff in all named territories, with all six new staff members employed in-territory.

Delivery by local staff sensitive to their territory's culture means they can effectively champion the wellbeing and safety of anyone directly or indirectly impacted by the project. The health and safety of all project staff is a priority and will be informed by the relevant employing partner's health and safety guidelines. The RSPB will ensure compliance by following its own policies and will assume responsibility of monitoring and upholding them across all partner activities.

All data and knowledge arising from the project (not subject to GDPR/equivalent restrictions) will be shared freely between all partners through workshops/working groups and publicly through project reports, with more bespoke/in-depth learnings gladly shared with the wider Caribbean/similar OT projects. Credibility of research and findings is protected by the experience of project partners, and the expertise of carefully chosen relevant local stakeholders.

Section 15 - Project Staff

Q31. Project staff

Please identify the core staff (identified in the budget), their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project.

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Sarah Havery	Project Leader	10	Checked
To be recruited	Project Manager	100	Checked


To be recruited	5 Biosecurity Officers (one in each Territory)	100	Checked
Charlie Butt	Caribbean Territories Programme Manager	20	Checked


Do you require more fields?


Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Lyndon John	UKOTs Officer - Caribbean	40	Checked
Simon Busutill	Turks and Caicos Operations Manager	17	Checked
Wendy Cain	International Finance Support	20	Checked
Joe Jeffcoate	Species Recovery Officer	20	Checked
Sacha Cleminson	Senior Policy Officer	5	Checked
Natalie Hall	Senior Policy Officer	5	Checked
Jack Whitelegg	Project Support Officer	20	Checked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked

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

 [CVs and Job Descriptions](#)

 24/07/2023

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 pdf 1.3 MB

Have you attached all project staff CVs and job descriptions?

Yes

Section 16 - Project Partners

Q32. Project partners

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

This section should demonstrate the capability and capacity of the Project Partners to successfully deliver the project. Please provide Letters of Support for all project partners or explain why this has not been included. The order of the letters must be the same as the order they are presented in below.

Lead partner name:	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Is the Lead Partner based in a UKOT where the project is working?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Please explain why this project is led from outside the UKOT	<p>The RSPB has been working closely with the OTs for over 20 years and has a strong holistic overview of the biosecurity challenges and needs of all 5 Caribbean UKOTS, and so is uniquely placed to coordinate a regional biosecurity project. RSPB has a strong relationship with all project partners.</p> <p>The UK Overseas Territories are a major strategic priority for the RSPB, and we have a considerable track record of successful project delivery in the OTs under both Darwin and BEST. This includes leading or supporting in the delivery of long-term conservation initiatives in all 5 Caribbean UKOTS, many of which focused on biosecurity (e.g., DPLUS128 'Safeguarding Cayman's Sister Islands from invasive species' and DPLUS121 'Strengthening biosecurity to protect Turks and Caicos' Iguana Islands').</p> <p>The RSPB will lead and manage the project, assuming responsibility for coordinating overall project delivery, monitoring/evaluation and financial management, all in close liaison with the project partners, steering group and stakeholders. Project leader Sarah Havery has 8 years' experience working in the UKOTS, including fieldwork and project managing multiple Darwin-funded biosecurity projects and has excellent links into key agencies involved in the project. Wendy Cain will provide financial management support, with 7 years' experience working with UKOT partners, including Caribbean UKOT Governments. An additional 5 named core staff will provide further skills and expertise with strong working relationships with project partners.</p> <p>The RSPB will also provide technical input from our considerable internal expertise working on biosecurity and invasive species, including biosecurity legislation.</p>
Why is this organisation the Lead Partner, and what value to they bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	£ ██████████
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from the Lead Partner?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

1. Partner Name:	Department of Natural Resources, Ministry of Sustainability, Innovation & the Environment; Economic Development Investment and Commerce The Government of Anguilla
Website address:	http://gov.ai/department.php?id=5&dept=15
What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	<p>The Ministry is the lead project implementation agency in Anguilla. The Ministry is responsible for formulation and implementation of national policy and management of natural resources and agriculture, and is the agency responsible for the development and implementation of biosecurity policy.</p> <p>GBNNS worked closely with the Ministry on a prioritization workshop for existing, established invasive species in March 2020. An initial set of priority terrestrial INNS were identified, (this will be updated through the project).</p> <p>The Ministry is the only agency in Anguilla capable of leveraging their existing relationships with key Anguillan stakeholders such as the port authority, customs, agriculture. In discussion, the Ministry identified that at present there are only two officers to deal with biosecurity and recognised the need for further support. The Ministry is cognizant of and advised the lead partner of the challenges around checks (or lack thereof) of shipping containers arriving on-island, and has a sufficient understanding of the issues to be a pro-active and supportive partner.</p>
UKOT-based/other Partner	<input checked="" type="radio"/> UKOT-based
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	£ ██████████
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:	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources & Climate Change Government of the Virgin Islands
Website address:	http://www.bvi.gov.vg/departments/department-agriculture-0

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

DoAF is the lead focal point for the project in the British Virgin Islands. The Ministry will play a vital role in hosting the biosecurity officer, working in support of advancing biosecurity legislation supporting and co-delivering project activities. DoAF will have at least one staff member part of the biosecurity working group.

DoAF was a participant in the original GBNNS horizon scanning workshop, demonstrating significant commitment to the issue of dealing with at-border biosecurity. The Ministry highlighted that at present, there are only skeleton staff at the ports, and welcome the opportunity to increase at-border port biosecurity capacity.

The Ministry has the physical space needed within their offices to accommodate the biosecurity officer. Partner staff are trained in natural resource management, project implementation, project reporting and policy formulation.

Indications from discussion so far are that, with recent changes within government, the situation has improved meaning project partners now have strengthened links with key decision-makers within the relevant ministries.

UKOT-based/other Partner UKOT-based

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

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

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

3. Partner Name: Department of Agriculture, Cayman Islands Government

Website address: <https://doa.gov.ky/>

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

Department of Agriculture (DoACI) will provide the coordination of project activities within the Cayman Islands, as with other territories, recruiting an at-border biosecurity officer and coordinating the development of biosecurity facilities and port improvements. The DoA has a strong track record of supporting biosecurity efforts, notably working effectively to maintain 100% check rates of all live plant imports to the Cayman Islands. The DoA has a good working relationship with Port Authority, Customs and Border Control and the Department of Environment who it regularly consults with re: biosecurity concerns and important permits for potentially invasive and non-native species. The department is an active member the Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum and has significant experience and expertise in the identification and management of certain species e.g., fruit fly and will provide expertise and experience to other territory partners through the inter-territory working group.

UKOT-based/other Partner	<input checked="" type="radio"/> UKOT-based
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

4. Partner Name:	Department of Agriculture, Land, Housing and Environment, Government of Montserrat
Website address:	https://www.gov.ms/government/ministries/ministry-of-agriculture-lands-housing-environment/department-of-agriculture/

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

The Ministry (MAHLE) is responsible for formulation and implementation of national policy and management of natural resources and agriculture, and leads on the development and implementation of biosecurity policies and legislation. MAHLE work closely with the Environmental Health department who already work effectively with the Ports Authority regarding violations of their import laws. MAHLE will provide the coordination of project activities within Montserrat recruiting an at-border biosecurity officer and coordinating the development of biosecurity facilities and port improvements. MAHLE will help support engagement of local partnerships with ancillary government agencies who are key stakeholders on biosecurity (i.e. port authority, customs, agriculture) and help represent and disseminate project learnings on local and regional forums (e.g. OECS). MAHLE have a good existing working relationship with the port authority. This will assist with facilitating the advice and support of the biosecurity officer as regards port upgrades and improvements. Furthermore, we anticipate this good working relationship will serve to reduce potential political obstacles that the project may face in terms of passing biosecurity legislation.

UKOT-based/other Partner	<input checked="" type="radio"/> UKOT-based
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

5. Partner Name:	Department of Agriculture, The Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands
Website address:	https://www.facebook.com/tciagriculture/

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

The Department of Agriculture (DoATCI) through the Agriculture Ordinance has responsibility for the encouragement and development of agriculture in the Turks and Caicos Islands. This includes not only production of crops and livestock but also biosecurity and the inspection, regulation and approval of food production systems at all levels in TCI. The Department was formed in 2012 and has since evolved to have four distinct Units which carryout these functions -the Biosecurity Unit, the Animal Health Services Unit, Extension and Training Unit and the Kew Research and Demonstration Station. The Department has taken a clear lead in biosecurity within TCI Government, and this project will be a natural continuation of that role. DoA will have responsibility for coordination of activities as part of the project as with other territories such as recruitment of the at-border biosecurity officer and will also host and support the (RSPB) project manager who will be based in TCI. Department of Agriculture has a close working relationship with RSPB through the DPLUS121 "Strengthening biosecurity..." project and have been successful in passing biosecurity policy to cabinet and developing legislation which will bring valuable lessons and knowledge to share via the inter-territory working group

UKOT-based/other Partner	<input checked="" type="radio"/> UKOT-based
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

6. Partner Name:	<i>No Response</i>
Website address:	<i>No Response</i>

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

No Response

UKOT-based/other Partner

UKOT-based
 Other

Allocated budget (proportion or value):

£0.00


Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)


Yes
 No


Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?


Yes
 No

Please provide a combined PDF of all letters of support.

 [Letters of Support \(1\)](#)

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Section 17 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q33. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Has your organisation been awarded Biodiversity Challenge Funds (Darwin Plus, Darwin Initiative or Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund) funding before (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
DPLUS191	Andy Schofield	Enabling invasive plant eradications and long-term management in Tristan
DPLUS196	Charlie Butt	Habitat restoration of Great and Little Tobago National Parks (BVI)
DPLUS178	Andy Schofield	Inhabited territory restoration: completing preparations for a rodent-free Pitcairn Islands
DPLUS181	Charlie Butt	East Caicos Wilderness Area: Protecting the Caribbean's largest uninhabited island
DPLUS128	Joe Jeffcoate	Safeguarding Cayman's Sister Islands from invasive species

DPLUS121

Joe Jeffcoate

Strengthening biosecurity to protect Turks and Caicos'
Iguana Islands

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

Yes

Section 18 - Certification

Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

I apply for a grant of

£2,572,234.70

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 have enclosed CVs for key project personnel, cover letter, letters of support, a budget, risk register (inclusive of delivery chain risk map), logframe, theory of change Safeguarding and associated policies, and project workplan (uploaded at appropriate points in the application).
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report (covering three years) are also enclosed.

Checked

Name


Andrew Callender


Position in the organisation


Acting Head Of Overseas Territories

Signature (please upload e-signature)

 [ADC digital signature](#)

 24/07/2023





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



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

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



Please upload the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.





 [RSPB Audited Accounts 2021-22](#)
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 pdf 697.12 KB

 [RSPB Audited Accounts 2020-2021](#)
 24/07/2023
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 pdf 881.89 KB

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

 [Whistleblowing Policy - Nov 21](#)
 24/07/2023
 19:20:35
 pdf 134.15 KB

 [RSPB Employee Code of Conduct](#)
 24/07/2023
 19:20:35
 pdf 165.56 KB

 [RSPB Safeguarding Policy 2022](#)
 24/07/2023
 18:55:42
 pdf 956.91 KB

Section 19 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including the "Darwin Plus Guidance", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Standard Indicator Guidance", "Risk Guidance", and "Financial 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 my 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 my application:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">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
<ul style="list-style-type: none">my completed logframe as a PDF using the template provided and using "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance" and "Standard Indicator Guidance".	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none">my budget (which meets the requirements above) using the template provided.	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none">a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Partner, or provided an explanation if not.	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none">my completed workplan as a PDF using the template provided	Checked

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a copy of the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct (Question 29). 	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 page CV or job description for each of the Project Staff identified at Question 30, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not, combined into a single PDF. 	Checked
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a letter of support from the Lead Partner and partner(s) identified at Question 32 and relevant OT Governments, or an explanation of why not, combined into a single PDF. 	Checked
My additional supporting evidence is in line with the requested evidence, amounts to a maximum of 5 sides of A4, and is combined as a single PDF.	Checked
(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	Unchecked
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: Enabling effective biosecurity in the Caribbean Overseas Territories

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (24/25)				Year 2 (25/26)				Year 3 (26/27)				Year 4 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1	Legislative needs better understood across all 5 Caribbean OTs with national biosecurity legislation that enables effective at-border biosecurity developed																	
1.1	RSPB, supported by GBNNSS Biosecurity project legislation toolkit, initiates a legislation needs assessment linked to legislative process for each territory with lessons learned (e.g., from TCI) shared with partners	6																
1.2	RSPB coordinates a workshop to present results of legislative needs assessment to in-territory partners and relevant stakeholders and develops legislative improvement workplan for relevant territories by end Y1	6																
1.3	RSPB supports Montserrat to review existing national biosecurity legislation and finalise draft in advance of submission to cabinet	10																
1.4	RSPB, supported by GBNNSS and legal drafters, coordinate the drafting of biosecurity policy for Anguilla and BVI, engaging key in-territory, inter-territory partners (Cayman, TCI) and international stakeholders (e.g., OECS) to inform the policy	9																
1.5	RSPB, with support of legal drafters, develops biosecurity legislation for Anguilla, BVI, and Cayman Islands (building on existing biosecurity policy in development) building on lessons learned from other territories, submits to cabinet by end of project	24																
Output 2	Enhanced capacity amongst in-territory agencies to implement at-border biosecurity across all 5 Caribbean OTs																	
2.1	RSPB, supported by TCI, recruits a project manager based in Turks & Caicos by Y1 Q2	6																

Project Title: Enabling effective biosecurity in the Caribbean Overseas Territories

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (24/25)				Year 2 (25/26)				Year 3 (26/27)				Year 4 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2.2	RSPB and partners review biosecurity officer job descriptions to align specifically for each territories needs and recruit in-territory biosecurity officers (3 recruited by Y1 Q3, a further 2 by end Y1)	10																
2.3	RSPB coordinates an initial cross-territory meeting with territory partners and key stakeholders (e.g., OECS) to form the inter-territory biosecurity working group, and develops ToRs to be agreed by all partners by Y2 Q2 with inter-territory biosecurity working group meeting at least annually from Y2	30																
2.4	RSPB supported by the inter-territory biosecurity working group develops a 5-year post-project plan including funding strategy for F2F meetings on rotation across the Caribbean OTs by end of project	6																
2.5	RSPB coordinates a training programme for Biosecurity Officers, supported by University of West Indies CBS and GBNNSS and attended by all 5 biosecurity officers (and other relevant partner staff) by end Y2 Q2	6																
2.6	Biosecurity Officers, with RSPB support and expert advice (e.g., GBNNSS) and building on from training received above, develop an at-border biosecurity training programme for in-territory staff (e.g., customs officers, port authority staff) by Y2 Q4 and integrate into staff training/inductions by end of project	10																
2.7	Biosecurity Officers deliver at-border biosecurity training developed above to at least 5 staff in each territory by end Y3, with follow-up training delivered by end Y4	10																
2.8	RSPB coordinates expert group from UKCEH to lead INNS horizon scanning workshops involving in-territory stakeholders (e.g.,	6																

Project Title: Enabling effective biosecurity in the Caribbean Overseas Territories

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (24/25)				Year 2 (25/26)				Year 3 (26/27)				Year 4 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	departments of environment, National Trusts) in each OT by end Y2 Q4, to identify priority INNS																	
2.9	RSPB supports in-territory partners to develop incursion response plans for at least 2 priority INNS per territory identified above	7																
2.10	RSPB, UKCEH support in-territory partners to develop identification resources, communication materials/port signage for the INNS identified through the horizon scanning for port staff and stakeholders in each territory	10																
2.11	In-territory partners and RSPB coordinate high-level stakeholder meeting to present project learnings and final biosecurity audit results (Activity 3.7) with the aim of securing biosecurity posts at-border post project by end of project	3																
2.12	In-territory partners complete survey of at border staff trained (activity 2.8) to identify knowledge of at-border biosecurity, INNS and incursion response procedures	3																
Output 3	In-territory agencies better equipped to implemented effective at-border biosecurity via improved infrastructure, facilities and equipment																	
3.1	RSPB coordinates a project launch meeting in Y1 Q2 to identify port prioritisation with all partners	1																
3.2	RSPB contracts consultant by end Y1 Q2 to complete port surveys in each territory by end Y1 that include recommendations for biosecurity improvements to existing infrastructure and needs of each territory re: facilities	8																

Project Title: Enabling effective biosecurity in the Caribbean Overseas Territories

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1 (24/25)				Year 2 (25/26)				Year 3 (26/27)				Year 4 (27/28)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
3.3	In-territory partners implement recommendations for improvements to ports identified above by end of project	24																
3.4	RSPB coordinates with in-territory partners, to identify equipment needs that support effective at-border biosecurity and incursion response, based on results of priority INNS horizon scanning workshop (activity 2.9)	4																
3.5	In-territory partners, supported by RSPB and experts such as GBNNSS, plan, cost (for all 5 territories) and install (in at least 3 territories) biosecurity facilities at priority ports by end of project	20																
3.6	RSPB commissions an independent biosecurity audit (repeat port survey) to be completed in each territory by end of project	4																

Project Title: Enabling effective biosecurity in the Caribbean Overseas Territories

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: (Max 30 words) Caribbean UKOT economies, environments and people are safeguarded from the impacts of new INNS by robust and updated biosecurity legal frameworks, biosecurity capacity, capability and infrastructure and rapid response regimes.</p>			
<p>Outcome: (Max 30 words)</p> <p>At-border biosecurity is strengthened and effectively implemented in the 5 Caribbean OTs via advanced legislation, effective inter-agency working, increased capacity and improved infrastructure and facilities</p>	<p>0.1 [DPLUS-D03] National biosecurity legislations have been tabled to decision-makers or enacted in at least 2 OTs by end of project</p> <p>0.2 Biosecurity posts are funded and adopted into government staffing structures post-project and biosecurity trainings adopted into staff training plans</p> <p>0.3 Inter-territory biosecurity working group 5-year post-project plan established and agreed by partners by end of project</p> <p>0.4 [DPLUS-A04] At least 25 (minimum 5 from each territory) in-territory government staff and key stakeholders indicate an increased knowledge of (i) effective at-border biosecurity (ii) priority species risks and,</p>	<p>0.1 Cabinet meeting minutes; published legislation</p> <p>0.2 Biosecurity officer workplans; staff training plans; Org-charts</p> <p>0.3 5-year plan; ToR</p> <p>0.4 Questionnaire; survey results</p>	<p>Assumption 1 Political climate in territories is supportive of passing biosecurity legislation <i>While we recognise the political support and priority for biosecurity legislation in each territory will vary and that this is not within the gift of the project to directly influence, we have been working in support of the draft TCI biosecurity legislation and believe this experience gives us a greater understanding of the commitment and flexibility necessary to advance any legislative process, and a blueprint for successful support in other territories. The project will facilitate best practice across the Caribbean OTs to enable and empower harmonisation of legislation in the 3 other OTs. We will work closely with Departments of agriculture (and/or other responsible Departments), including via directors to remain informed of political climate and necessary steps to get legislation passed in the different territories.</i></p> <p>Assumption 2 In-territory partners recognise the value and agree to support at-border biosecurity positions and trainings post-project <i>We expect this to hold true as partners have expressed significant interest in supporting long-term impact and ensuring capacity for project delivery is maintained post project end. Department</i></p>

Project Title: Enabling effective biosecurity in the Caribbean Overseas Territories

	<p>(iii) how to effectively respond to INNS by end of project</p> <p>0.5 Marked increase to at-border biosecurity facilitates and infrastructure in all 5 territories against port survey baseline established in Y2</p>	<p>0.5 Initial port survey results, audit reports; photos of facilities and port improvements</p>	<p><i>of Agriculture directors from each territory have been consulted on the capacity support provided through the project and have expressed their support for these positions during project consultations and will be regularly involved in the project. We will ensure that regular engagement with high-level government stakeholders via Department of agriculture directors and ensure that learnings and successes are shared regularly with these stakeholders.</i></p> <p>Assumption 3 It is possible to make improvements /Port Authorities are supportive of making improvements <i>We expect this to hold true as port surveys will make recommendations specific to each port and will ensure flexibility and adaptability to resolve specific issues rather than a one size fits all approach. We will adaptively manage budget to facilitate improvements necessary and via regular engagement with port authority staff through the biosecurity officers and with support from directors of the departments of agriculture expect that we can show stakeholders that the improvements are a beneficial resource aligned with their priorities. Training of port staff and resources will be provided at no additional cost to stakeholders which we expect will be sufficient to align port stakeholders with the project priorities.</i></p>
<p>Output 1 Legislative needs better understood and supported across all 5 Caribbean OTs with national biosecurity legislation that</p>	<p>1.1 Biosecurity legislative needs assessment completed for all territories by end Y1</p>	<p>1.1 Legislation assessment report</p>	<p>Assumption 4 TCI legislation is passed pre-project and lessons learned from the process can be shared with partners <i>We expect this to hold true as biosecurity legislation has been developed as part of DPLUS121: strengthening biosecurity for the TCI iguana islands</i></p>

Project Title: Enabling effective biosecurity in the Caribbean Overseas Territories

<p>enables effective at-border biosecurity developed</p>	<p>1.2 Workplan to support legislative plan for relevant territories established by end Y1 and agreed by project partners</p> <p>1.3 Existing national biosecurity legislation in Montserrat finalised by end Y1</p> <p>1.4 National biosecurity legislation for Anguilla, BVI and Cayman Islands drafted by end Y3</p>	<p>1.2 Legislative development workplan; meeting minutes approved by partners</p> <p>1.3 Final biosecurity legislation document</p> <p>1.4 Draft legislation documents</p>	<p><i>and has been submitted to cabinet for review before the end of 2023. We are optimistic this will be passed, however lessons learned from the entire process will be of value to informing the development of legislation in other territories</i></p> <p>Assumption 5 Montserrat biosecurity legislation is finalised prior to project start and passed without input from project team <i>Legislation in Montserrat is currently in the final drafting stages but with no clear timeline as to when this will be completed. Should it be passed prior to project start this will nonetheless benefit the project via inter-territory learnings.</i></p> <p>Assumption 6 National biosecurity policy is finalised in Cayman Islands to inform legislation <i>This should hold true as a national biosecurity policy is planned to be drafted as part of the DPLUS128 project, Safeguarding Cayman Sister Islands from Invasive species which will inform development of legislation.</i></p>
<p>Output 2 Enhanced capacity amongst in-territory agencies to implement at-border biosecurity across all 5 Caribbean OTs</p>	<p>2.1 [DPLUS-A03] Capacity to coordinate at-border biosecurity increased via recruitment of at least 3 Biosecurity Officers by Y1 Q3, with a further 2 by end Y1 (one in each of the 5 OTs)</p> <p>2.2 Inter-territory biosecurity working group represented by all 5 territories established by Y2 Q2 to support cross-</p>	<p>2.1 Job descriptions; job adverts; signed contracts</p> <p>2.2 ToR; meeting minutes; attendance records</p>	<p>Assumption 7 Project partners can attract suitable candidates within the region to take up at-border biosecurity posts <i>RSPB has a strong track record of recruiting and supporting partners to recruit project staff in with territory e.g., DPLUS121, 181 and 128. We have consulted extensively with partners prior to project development to ensure each has the capability and means to accommodate officers in-territory.</i></p> <p>Assumption 8 Partners remain engaged in the project and continue to share lessons collaboratively.</p>

Project Title: Enabling effective biosecurity in the Caribbean Overseas Territories

	<p>territory learning with at least 1 meeting in Yrs 2, 3 and 4</p> <p>2.3 [DPLUS-A01] All 5 Biosecurity Officers complete at-border biosecurity training by end Y2 Q2</p> <p>2.4 [DPLUS-A05] At least 5 stakeholder staff per territory (e.g., port authority staff, customs officers) complete at-border biosecurity training in Y3 and follow up training in Y4</p> <p>2.5 Priority INNS identified for each territory and shared amongst partners by end Y2</p> <p>2.6 [DPLUS-B02] By Y3 Q4, INNS incursion response plans developed for at least 2 priority INNS per territory</p>	<p>2.3 Attendance reports; attendance certificates</p> <p>2.4 Training programme plan; training resources; attendance lists</p> <p>2.5 INNS prioritisation reports; working group minutes</p> <p>2.6 Incursion response plans</p>	<p><i>Partners are experienced in cross territory learning. There are several existing platforms/groups in the region in which project partners participate collaboratively such as the OECS and the Caribbean Plant Health Director's forum. RSPB has extensive experience in working cross-territory and facilitating inter-territory working in the overseas territories, in particular the Caribbean as evidenced in DPLUS098, Restoring and safeguarding wetlands of the Caribbean UKOTs. RSPB also co-ordinates and facilitates the Caribbean Conservation Network of Directors of the NTs of the 5 Caribbean OTs.</i></p> <p>Assumption 9 Biosecurity training provides necessary information to improve biosecurity staff skills. <i>We will develop the training programme using lessons learned and resources developed from previous projects where biosecurity is a focus (e.g., DPLUS121, DPLUS128, DPLUS095 and RSPB's Biosecurity for LIFE project). In addition, the training programme will be developed in line with international best practice (informed by GBNNSS) resources/advice as well as building on modules already taught as part of the Uni West Indies Centre for Biosecurity Studies and with advice from UKCEH and CABI-Caribbean.</i></p> <p>Assumption 10 Project staff and in-territory stakeholder staff (at ports) are receptive to training and retain biosecurity knowledge <i>We believe this will hold true as Department of Agriculture staff in all territories have expressed interest in upskilling at-border biosecurity knowledge and expertise in project development consultations. Port Authority staff/Customs Officers</i></p>
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Project Title: Enabling effective biosecurity in the Caribbean Overseas Territories

			<p><i>in each territory will benefit from resources provided to enable them to do their jobs effectively whilst biosecurity officers hired through the project will maintain regular communication with port staff to encourage participation. Follow-up trainings in Y4 will support retention of knowledge.</i></p> <p>Assumption 11 Differing stakeholder priorities do not prevent agreement of priority INNS <i>Stakeholders will include government environment and agriculture departments and national trusts who will have differing priorities, however priority INNS will be assessed against impact assessed for biodiversity, economy and human health as completed in the previous GBNNS and UKCEH 2018/19 horizon scanning exercise. RSPB will work closely with GBNNS and UKCEH to facilitate workshops that enable agreement of priority species. All three organisations have much experience in facilitating meetings and agreements of stakeholders in the region.</i></p>
<p>Output 3 In-territory agencies better equipped to implement effective at-border biosecurity via improved infrastructure, facilities and equipment</p>	<p>3.1 Port surveys, including recommendations for improvements to existing infrastructure, completed for all 5 territories by end Y1</p> <p>3.2 Port biosecurity infrastructure improvements made in all 5 territories by Y4 Q3</p> <p>3.3 At-border biosecurity facility and equipment need assessed, quantified and</p>	<p>3.1 Port survey reports</p> <p>3.2 Procurement documents; relevant planning permissions; photos of infrastructure</p> <p>3.3 Port survey reports, equipment needs reports</p>	<p>Assumption 12 Suitable expertise can be found to conduct port surveys to a high standard <i>An open tender will be advertised to attract the best candidate to complete the work. We have been advised by GBNNS that there are several agencies within the region that would be able to complete such a task to a high standard, e.g., CABI-Caribbean, who have previously conducted port surveys within the Caribbean. We will also be advised and supported by GBNNS during the tender selection process to select appropriately</i></p>

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	<p>prioritised for all 5 territories by end Y2</p> <p>3.4 Biosecurity facilities planned and costed for all 5 territories by Y4 Q1 and facilities operational in at least 3 territories by end of project</p> <p>3.5 All 5 territories have the necessary equipment to implement at-border biosecurity and respond to priority INNS incursions by end of project</p>	<p>3.4 Facility plans; budgets; planning permissions; photos of operational facilities</p> <p>3.5 Procurement documents; photos of equipment in use; incursion response reports</p>	<p>Assumption 13 Access for port surveys/ approvals and space for biosecurity facilitates to be installed can be agreed by relevant authorities <i>We expect this to hold true as we understand the relationship between most, if not all, the partners and port authority/customs agencies who manage/own the ports is good. This varies from between territories and so a stakeholder management plan will be developed prior to project implementation to ensure port stakeholders are properly engaged and on board with the project.</i></p> <p>Assumption 14 Incursion response materials are not restricted for import/use within territories. <i>This should hold true as the expectation of equipment needs to effectively respond to INNS incursions will unlikely require such items as firearms or highly toxic chemicals. In the case that this would happen in any territory, we would expect that government partners would be able to facilitate, expediate or apply for exemptions. In addition, we have engaged Tropical Shipping, (Miami), to support the shipment of materials/equipment who are a significant shipper in the region with extensive experience of necessary documentation/processes needed.</i></p>
<p>Activities</p> <p>1. Output 1</p> <p>1.1. RSPB, supported by GBNSS Biosecurity project legislation toolkit, initiates a legislation needs assessment linked to legislative process for each territory with lessons learned (e.g., from TCI) shared with partners via the inter-territory working group (activity 2.3)</p> <p>1.2. RSPB coordinates a workshop to present results of legislative needs assessment to in-territory partners and relevant stakeholders and develops legislative improvement workplan for relevant territories by end Y1</p> <p>1.3. RSPB supports Montserrat to review existing national biosecurity legislation and finalise draft in advance of submission to cabinet</p> <p>1.4. RSPB, supported by GBNSS and legal drafters, coordinate the drafting of biosecurity policy for Anguilla and BVI, engaging key in-territory, inter-territory partners (Cayman, TCI) and international stakeholders (e.g., OECS)</p>			

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1.5. RSPB, with support of legal drafters, develops biosecurity legislation for Anguilla, BVI, and Cayman Islands (building on existing biosecurity policy in development) building on lessons learned from other territories, submits to cabinet by end of project.

2. Output 2

2.1. RSPB, supported by TCI, recruits a project manager based in Turks & Caicos by Y1 Q2

2.2. RSPB and partners review biosecurity officer job descriptions to align specifically for each territories needs and recruit in-territory biosecurity officers (3 recruited by Y1 Q3, a further 2 by end Y1)

2.3. RSPB coordinates an initial cross-territory meeting with territory partners and key stakeholders (e.g., OECS) to form the inter-territory biosecurity working group, and develops ToRs to be agreed by all partners by Y2 Q2 with inter-territory biosecurity working group meeting at least annually from Y2

2.4. RSPB supported by the inter-territory biosecurity working group develops a 5-year post-project plan including funding strategy for F2F meetings on rotation across the Caribbean OTs by end of project

2.5. RSPB coordinates a training programme for Biosecurity Officers, supported by University of West Indies CBS and GBNNSS and attended by all 5 biosecurity officers (and other relevant partner staff) by end Y2 Q2

2.6. Biosecurity Officers, with RSPB support and expert advice (e.g., GBNNSS) and building on from training received above, develop an at-border biosecurity training programme for in-territory staff (e.g., customs officers, port authority staff) by Y2 Q4 and integrate into staff training/inductions by end of project

2.7. Biosecurity Officers deliver at-border biosecurity training developed above to at least 5 staff in each territory by end Y3, with follow-up training delivered by end Y4

2.8. RSPB coordinates expert group from UKCEH to lead INNS horizon scanning workshops involving in-territory stakeholders (e.g., departments of environment, National Trusts) in each OT by end Y2 Q4, to identify priority INNS

2.9. RSPB supports in-territory partners to develop incursion response plans for at least 2 priority INNS per territory identified above

2.10. RSPB, UKCEH support in-territory partners to develop identification resources, communication materials/port signage for the INNS identified through the horizon scanning for port staff and stakeholders in each territory

2.11. In-territory partners and RSPB coordinate high-level stakeholder meeting to present project learnings and final biosecurity audit results (Activity 3.6) with the aim of securing biosecurity posts at-border post project by end of project

2.12. In-territory partners complete survey of at-border staff trained (activity 2.7) to quantify knowledge of at-border biosecurity, INNS and incursion response procedures

3. Output 3

3.1. RSPB coordinates a project launch meeting in Y1 Q2 to identify port prioritisation with all partners

3.2. RSPB contracts consultant by end Y1 Q2 to complete port surveys in each territory by end Y1 that include recommendations for biosecurity improvements to existing infrastructure and needs of each territory re: facilities

3.3. In-territory partners implement recommendations for improvements to ports identified above by end of project

3.4. RSPB coordinates with in-territory partners, to identify equipment needs that support effective at-border biosecurity and incursion response, based on results of priority INNS horizon scanning workshop (activity 2.8)

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- 3.5. In-territory partners, supported by RSPB and experts such as GBNNSS, plan, cost (for all 5 territories) and install (in at least 3 territories) biosecurity facilities at priority ports by end of project
- 3.6. RSPB commissions an independent biosecurity audit (repeat port survey) to be completed in each territory by end of project