

Applicant: **Callender, Andrew**
Organisation: **Royal Society for the Protection of Birds**
Funding Sought: **£3,000,000.00**

DPR13ST\1005

Restoring New Island through invasive species removal

New Island is globally important, supporting millions of seabirds including the world's largest Slender-billed Prion colony. Recognised as a Key Biodiversity Area it hosts significant populations of breeding pinnipeds and remnant native habitats over carbon-rich peat. Four invasive species are impacting the island's ecosystem and biodiversity. Their removal will allow the reintroduction of lost endemic species, the restoration of natural habitats including combatting catastrophic peat erosion, increase climate change resilience and enable the recovery of seabird populations, passerines and invertebrates.

CONTACT DETAILS

Title Mr
Name Andrew
Surname Callender
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
Email (Work) [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]

CONTACT DETAILS

Title Mr
Name Ross
Surname James
Website (Work) www.falklandsconservation.com
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
Email (Work) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]

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Section 1 - Contact Details

CONTACT DETAILS

Title	Mr
Name	Andrew
Surname	Callender
Tel (Work)	
Email (Work)	
Address	

CONTACT DETAILS

Title	Mr
Name	Ross
Surname	James
Website (Work)	www.falklandsconservation.com
Tel (Work)	
Email (Work)	
Address	

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Phone (Work)	
Email (Work)	
Address	

Section 2 - Title & Summary

Q3. Project Title:

Restoring New Island through invasive species removal

Please attach a cover letter as a PDF document.

 [RSPB letter for New Island Darwin Strategic application_new](#)
 26/07/2024
 08:21:35
 pdf 175.6 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 Strategic 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.

New Island is globally important, supporting millions of seabirds including the world's largest Slender-billed Prion colony. Recognised as a Key Biodiversity Area it hosts significant populations of breeding pinnipeds and remnant native habitats over carbon-rich peat. Four invasive species are impacting the island's ecosystem and biodiversity. Their removal will allow the reintroduction of lost endemic species, the restoration of natural habitats including combatting catastrophic peat erosion, increase climate change resilience and enable the recovery of seabird populations, passerines and invertebrates.

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

Q5. UKOT(s)

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

☒ Falkland Islands (FI)

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

No Response

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

☐ No

Q6. Project dates

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):
01 April 2025	30 June 2029	4 years, 3 months

Q7. Budget summary

Year:	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	Total request
Amount:	£421,637.00	£824,026.00	£1,511,236.00	£164,255.00	£78,846.00	£3,000,000.00

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?

N/a

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.

A Key Biodiversity Area and National Nature Reserve, New Island is one of the world's most important seabird islands, home to over 4 million seabirds with 39 breeding bird species. It is a hub for scientific research and was the first island in the Falklands to identify eco-tourism via expedition cruise ships as an alternative sustainable income to traditional farming practices.

Thanks to decades of pioneering conservation action and management, New Island remains an incredibly valuable site for nature. However, it is far from saved. Globally, invasive species are implicated in 86% of all recorded extinctions on islands, and on New Island there are four species of invasive mammals which are regarded to be among the world's most damaging. Despite efforts, the island ecosystem is not healthy, endemic species have been lost whilst other species and habitats are declining at an alarming rate.

White-chinned Petrels, an ACAP listed species classified by IUCN as vulnerable, are found in only 4 locations in the Falklands, with New Island being one of them. Historically there have been 30-50 pairs known to breed on the island, but a survey conducted in 2023 showed the colony had declined dramatically, with zero breeding success recorded that season, and less than 10 burrows which could potentially be suitable for nesting with the remaining burrows no longer being suitable due to damage and erosion. Trail cameras showed feral cats, black rats, mice and rabbits using the site; all four invasive species are known to impact burrowing seabirds by predation or by competition for burrows.

Similarly, New Island's Slender-billed Prions (the largest colony in world) are being impacted by the same threats of predation from invasive mammals (Ref: 1), and erosion /loss of habitat suitable for burrowing.

Erosion is a significant issue for the island with dramatic losses of habitats, soils, and carbon-rich peat recorded. Analysis of satellite imagery by RSPB showed that 23% of the island has been eroded to bare rock or clay, half of this in the past 18 years. Nine football pitches of soil are now lost from New Island each year. This is in part due to climate change which is likely being exacerbated by the presence of invasive mammals and the impacts they have on native flora and ecosystem function. The ongoing loss of peaty soils, and their stored carbon, are contributing to global climate change.

Some species have already been extirpated from New Island by invasive mammals. The endemic Cobb's Wren and Camel Cricket are notably absent, so too are other small seabirds such as diving and storm petrels, while Tussacbirds and other coastal waterbird populations are likely to be approximately half of what would be expected on a rodent-free island in the Falklands (Ref: 2).

The project aims to eradicate invasive mammals, thereby halting further degradation and allowing the ecosystem to recover. This will lead to the restoration of native habitats, stabilization of soils, sequestration of carbon, and recovery of suppressed and extirpated species.

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.

The project delivers strongly on Falkland, international and UK policy commitments. Few, if any, projects in the Falklands have the ability to deliver as strongly on the ground against these objectives.

National policy fulfilment

1. Falkland Islands Environment Strategy 2021-2040: Strategic objective & action: to work towards preventing the introduction of invasive species, reducing their spread and reducing, eliminating or appropriately managing them, and to mitigate for degradation and promote restoration of native ecosystems, where possible
2. Conservation of Wildlife Ordinance 1999: protection of a designated National Nature Reserve.
3. Biodiversity Framework 2016-2030 - 'High Priority Threat': Invasive Species and Biosecurity.

4. Biosecurity and Invasives Strategy 2016-2030: Delivery of Goal A: to contain and reduce the spread and populations of invasive species
5. Falkland Islands ACAP Implementation Plan:
 - ACAP Breeding Site No.20: New Island;
 - High priority: Complete the feasibility study for eradication of all introduced predators from New Island and use this to help develop the appropriate management approach;
 - High priority: Consider management options for local control of the Feral Cat population in the vicinity of the small White-chinned Petrel colony at New Island.
6. Falklands Islands Environment Charter 2001: to safeguard and restore native species [...] and to control or eradicate invasive species.

International policy fulfilment

1. South Atlantic Invasives Species Action Plan: Key Action E - Control, management and restoration: tackle established invasives as part of integrated land management policies in order to protect and restore native South Atlantic biodiversity. Eradication (complete removal from the island) is the preferred option.
2. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): support responsibilities under Target 2 on restoring degraded ecosystems & Target 6 on alien species. Indicators for Target 3 on conservation of land and seas highlight the need to conserve KBAs.
3. Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) under the UN Convention on Migratory Species:
 - Annex 2.2.1. Where feasible, the Parties shall give protection to the breeding sites of albatrosses and petrels[...]. For all such protected areas, the Parties shall endeavour to develop and implement management plans and take other actions which maintain and enhance the conservation status of the species, including [...] elimination of damage by introduced non-native animals.
 - New Island is ACAP Breeding site No.20: designated for White-chinned Petrels, Southern Giant Petrels and Black-browed Albatrosses. It also holds the world's largest colony of Thin-billed Prions.
4. Sustainable Development Goals: delivery against SDGs 15 (Life on Land) and 17 (Partnerships).

UK policy fulfilment

1. UK Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy (2014): Strategic Priority ii: preventing the establishment of invasive alien species, and eradicating or controlling species that have already become established;
2. 25 Year Environment Plan:
 - Taking action to recover threatened, iconic or economically important species of animals, plants and fungi, and where possible to prevent human-induced extinction or loss of known threatened species in England and the Overseas Territories.
 - Managing and reducing the impact of existing plant and animal diseases; lowering the risk of new ones and tackling invasive non-native species.

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

Q13. Methodology

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

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

- how you will **manage the work** (governance, roles and responsibilities, project management tools, risks etc.).

Invasive mammal eradication operations are crucial tools in island conservation, enabling long-term restoration with minimal ongoing costs. This project builds on a global movement of successful island eradications— 800 for rodents, over 90 for feral cats, and over 50 for rabbits.

This programme is designed based on best practice, extensive preparatory work and lessons learned from the local and global island restoration communities. In 2013, Derek Brown conducted a feasibility study commissioned by the New Island Conservation Trust (NICT) and, more recently, a Darwin-funded project (DPLUS169) led by FC completed the preparatory steps, including an updated feasibility study by Pete McClelland, to enable a multi-species eradication on New Island.

The project will be delivered through four main outputs:

Output 1: Operational Planning Completed for Invasive Vertebrate Removal

The planning phase involves three main parts:

1. Planning and Documentation: Development and external review of all project planning documentation to ensure best practices are met and programme requirements are fulfilled. The Programme Plan will outline governance structures and Monitoring & Evaluation frameworks. The project will be managed through a well-defined governance structure comprising a Steering Group, Programme Board, and Delivery Group. An Operational Plan will guide procedures and logistics. Programme risks and their mitigations will be documented and monitored.
2. Recruitment and Tendering: Recruitment of key team members and tendering for contractors with the necessary skills and experience.
3. Mitigation Strategy Development: Refinement of mitigation strategies through field trials and desk-based analysis to minimize non-target impacts, such as Distractionary Feeding to protect the Striated Caracara during the baiting operation.

Output 2: Enhanced Biosecurity Measures

Output 2 focuses on strengthening biosecurity measures to ensure New Island remains free of invasive vertebrates following eradication efforts. The goal is to establish robust procedures and plans that will reduce the risk of future invasions.

1. Biosecurity Review: Review and update biosecurity resources and procedures to ensure robustness.
2. Biosecurity Plan Update: Align the Biosecurity Plan with the island's changing status and emerging best practices, including implementing a Biosecurity Surveillance Plan and an Incursion Response Plan to address future potential biosecurity breaches.
3. Staff Training: Train staff and build capacity to implement the Biosecurity Plan effectively.

Output 3: Eradication Operation

Output 3 encompasses the critical on-island operational phase, focusing on the eradication of invasive vertebrates from New Island.

1. Mitigation Strategy Implementation: Implement the Mitigation Strategy to minimize non-target impacts during eradication. This will be done by employing a team of 2 distractionary feeders establishing a network of feeding stations around New Island. Daily provision of food (meat) will satiate Striated Caracara and other raptors, reducing the risk of them scavenging on bait or carcasses and being exposed to toxin. Other techniques, such as collecting carcasses following the aerial bait drop, will also be employed to minimise secondary poisoning risk to non-target species.
2. Population Reduction: Knock down cat and rabbit populations before the aerial brodifacoum bait drop. This

will be achieved with shooting by professional hunters and the use of para-aminopropiophenone (PAPP) which is a toxin developed for use with cats. The knock-down will minimise the number of cats and rabbits that are exposed to brodifacoum bait, which results in a more humane death and ensures that the brodifacoum bait is available to the target species (rats & mice). The efficacy of these efforts will be monitored by using a network of trail cameras and mathematical models to calculate the population of feral cats before, and after the knockdown operation.

3. Aerial Baiting: A second-generation anticoagulant rodenticide, with the active ingredient of brodifacoum, will be applied to eradicate rats and mice. Helicopters will be used to apply bait at a specified rate across the entirety of New Island, including the coastal margin and the cliff faces. This will be followed by a 14-day hiatus, before a second application as per best practice. This ensures the best chance of every mouse and rat encountering a lethal dose of bait.

4. Mop-up Operations: The use of high specification thermal equipment such as drones, scopes and night vision binoculars, will be used by a professional team of shooters to identify and remove every last remaining feral cat and rabbit. The network of trail cameras, and potentially the use of specially trained detection dog team and other technologies will be used to make sure the mop-up operation is as efficient and effective as possible.

Output 4: Monitoring and Long-term Management

This phase aims to verify the eradication of invasive species, support the recovery of native species and habitats, and develop plans for future conservation efforts.

Key elements include:

1. Baseline Surveys: Surveys of key indicator species and habitats will be conducted before the operation to establish a reference or baseline for future monitoring.
2. Invasive Mammal Monitoring: We will implement constant monitoring to detect the presence of invasive mammals. The network of trail cameras deployed pre-operation will remain in place and will be part of this effort. We will use professional dog teams to detect feral cat scat and rodent sign. We will deploy passive and active monitoring techniques to maximise the chance of detecting the 4 target species.
3. Management Plans: We will develop comprehensive management plans to facilitate the recovery of species and habitats. These plans will identify potential opportunities for translocation or re-introduction of native species and outline the necessary conservation and management actions to support recovery. By establishing these management plans, we will ensure that the programme's legacy extends beyond its lifespan.
4. Verification Surveys: Two breeding seasons after the bait drop operation, we will conduct a final rigorous survey. This elapsed time ensures that any remaining rodents will have had 2 full seasons to multiply to a population large enough to be confidently detected. We would use the techniques described in 2. and follow an external review process to confirm the complete removal of cats, rabbits, rats, and mice, or the success or failure of the programme.

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 New Island Restoration Programme is led by the RSPB in collaboration with FC and FIG. These key stakeholders were intimately involved in the Darwin-funded preparatory project led by FC. The project team has led the development of this proposal, holding weekly project development meetings.

FC, as a project partner, will lead on-ground activities, provide local expertise, logistical support, and community engagement. FC have long standing experience and relationships with local stakeholders, and a good understanding of local sensitivities. FIG will offer regulatory support, facilitate permits, and provide policy guidance, ensuring alignment with national conservation goals.

The project will involve the local community, drawing on local expertise from individuals and organisations such as Island Landcare and South Atlantic Biosecurity Dogs. Community members will participate in the project as far as skills and availability permit, fostering a sense of ownership and long-term stewardship.

International organisations such as the Island Eradication Advisory Group (IEAG) and Island Conservation (IC) will provide external review and guidance on planning documentation and operational procedures. Their role is to ensure that project activities adhere to best practices and that any deviations are thoroughly considered and documented. Data generated by the programme will be made accessible via the Falklands Islands Data Centre, and public reports or papers will be available on the Falklands Conservation website.

All stakeholders have been consulted throughout the preparatory phase and the development of this project. Regular meetings, workshops, and collaborative planning sessions have ensured their input and alignment with project objectives.

Q15. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to promoting equality between persons of different gender and social characteristics. Please include reference to the GESI context in which your project seeks to work in. Explain your understanding of how individuals may be 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.

Women are well represented among the project stakeholders. 50% of the staff involved in the project are women including the Chief Executive of FC. There are no specific barriers to gender equality in the proposed project activities.

This project will hire a new Assistant Project Manager and two distractionary feeders. To maximise the inclusivity of the application stage of all three advertised roles, FC will implement appropriate and relevant measures to ensure equal opportunity.

A key output of this project is to enhance biosecurity measures to ensure New Island remains free from invasive vertebrates post-eradication. We plan to offer training to all appropriate staff regardless of gender and without discrimination to deliver biosecurity procedures.

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 New Island Restoration Programme aims to deliver significant ecological changes in both the short-term and long-term, benefiting the environment and the local community while protecting globally significant species. The programme will enable New Island to continue supporting eco-tourism and scientific research, benefitting those

whose livelihoods depend on these industries.

Short-term Changes (During the Life of the Project)

1. Immediate Protection for Native Species and Habitats:

The removal of invasive mammals will halt the predation and competition pressures on native species, such as the Slender-billed Prion and White-chinned Petrels. Immediate benefits include increased breeding success and population stability for White-chinned petrels which are a vulnerable ACAP listed species.

The elimination of the biosecurity risk posed by black rats will prevent their spread to other islands in the Falklands, ensuring the integrity of the archipelago's unique ecosystems.

2. Capacity Building and Resource Development:

The project will enhance local capacity and resources in biosecurity and invasive species management. This includes training local personnel, developing effective monitoring systems, and establishing protocols that can be applied to future conservation efforts.

3. Community and Economic Benefits:

Increased opportunities for local employment and community involvement in the project.

Long-term Changes (Post-Project)

4. Recolonization of Extirpated Species:

Species previously extirpated due to invasive mammals, such as Cobb's Wren, camel crickets, diving petrels, and storm petrels, will have the opportunity to recolonize New Island. This will restore the island's biodiversity to its natural state.

5. Ecosystem Recovery:

The recovery of coastal waterbirds and other native species is expected, with populations potentially doubling. This will lead to a more balanced and resilient ecosystem.

Active restoration efforts, including the planting of native flora, will be possible, leading to the recovery of key native habitats and the stabilization of soils. This will enhance carbon sequestration and contribute to global climate change mitigation efforts.

6. Stabilisation of Soils and Sequestration of Carbon:

The removal of invasive mammals will allow the benefits of active restoration to be fully realised. For example, planting native flora will help to stabilise soils, retain soil moisture and sequester carbon.

7. Increased Habitat and Species Resilience:

Restored habitats and ecosystems will be more resilient to external threats, such as climate change and novel pathogens. This increased resilience will ensure the long-term sustainability of New Island's natural environments.

8. Long-term Economic and Educational Benefits:

As a National Nature Reserve, New Island's restoration will boost ecotourism, a key pillar of the Falklands' economy. The island will serve as a living example of successful habitat restoration, attracting visitors and educating them on the importance of island ecosystems and their conservation.

The field station on New Island will continue to enable scientific research, providing valuable data on ecosystem recovery and the effects of invasive species removal. This will contribute to global scientific knowledge and provide educational opportunities for researchers and students.

Beneficiaries

9. Local Community:

Increased employment opportunities during and after the project, particularly in ecotourism and conservation sectors.

10. Global Scientific Community:

Researchers and students will benefit from continued access to New Island and a restored ecosystem for study.

11. Tourists and Eco-tourists:

Enhanced visitor experiences due to improved natural habitats and increased wildlife sightings, attracting more tourists and boosting local income.

Overall, the New Island Restoration Programme will create substantial and measurable positive outcomes for biodiversity, environmental quality, and community capacity, aligning with the broad themes of Darwin Plus. By addressing the immediate threats of invasive species, the project will lay the foundation for a thriving, resilient ecosystem that supports both nature and people in the Falkland Islands.

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 seeks to create the enabling conditions that will restore the ecological processes on New Island. It will do this by:

1. Planning and delivering the eradication of four invasive non-native species (Outputs 1 and 3). The emphasis here is in robust planning, building on the work that is already ongoing to enable the best possible operational delivery supported by effective contingency planning and risk management. Key will be ensuring effective governance, sufficient dependency capacity (e.g. finance) and clearly defined roles and responsibilities.
2. Enhancing the current biosecurity regime to prevent (re)introduction of potentially invasive species (Output 2). After review, as necessary, greater capacity, training, and awareness will be embedded for those working on the island both over the project length and beyond.
3. Monitoring the operational legacy will give the potential for further rapid response if necessary, while planning for the long-term sustainable management actions (Output 4) will identify how and what interventions may be needed to enable the future recolonization of endemic species (e.g. Cobb's Wren that may not disperse back to New Island naturally), the recovery of seabird populations and reversal of habitat erosion (e.g. accelerated re-planting of tussac grass).

In summary, therefore, our Theory of Change statement is: IF the eradication is well-planned and well-executed drawing on international best practice, IF at the same time biosecurity practices are enhanced to prevent/minimise chances of (re-)invasion and IF planning is advanced to help the restoration of New Island's ecological processes post eradication, THEN New Island's globally significant biodiversity will have the opportunity to recover, native habitats will have opportunity to flourish,, ensuring greater resilience against climate change and providing another example of the effectiveness of island restoration projects both in the Falklands and beyond.

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?

Removing invasive species from an island ecosystem is one of the most effective management interventions for improving ecosystem health. This project aims to achieve a long-term invasive mammal-free status for New Island, providing perpetual benefits to its ecosystem. New Island's isolation and its management by FC, with a primary focus on nature conservation, significantly reduce the risk of future introductions of non-native species.

A key project output is the establishment of robust biosecurity measures. These measures will ensure that the resources and capacity required to maintain the island's invasive-free status are in place permanently. Biosecurity protocols will be incorporated into FC's standard operations, ensuring continued vigilance against invasive species.

While the eradication project has a clear end point—successful removal and verification of the absence of invasive species—the broader ongoing restoration of New Island will require sustained resources. FC is

committed to this effort, and this commitment will be formalized in the New Island Management Plan, a critical deliverable of the project.

Knowledge and skills developed during the project will be retained within FC through continuous training and capacity-building initiatives. Operational procedures and deviations from best practices will be documented and shared with the island eradication community both locally and internationally. This ensures that lessons learned can be applied to future projects.

Data and evidence collected throughout the project will be made accessible to others through publications and reports and submitted to the Falkland Islands data centre. This approach not only sustains the benefits of the project but also contributes to the broader body of knowledge on island restoration and invasive species management.

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

 Theory of change - New Island	 References
 29/07/2024	 24/07/2024
 17:13:11	 20:05:36
 pdf 61.12 KB	 pdf 113.2 KB

Section 7 - Risk Management

Q19. Risk Management

Please outline the 7 key risks to achievement of your Project Outcome and how these risks will be managed and mitigated, referring to the Risk Guidance. This should include at least one Fiduciary, one Safeguarding, and one Delivery Chain Risk.

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Inherent Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Fiduciary (Financial) Major contractors may charge in foreign currency, while the project's base currency is GBP. Significant changes in the rates may positively or negatively affect budgeting.	Moderate	Possible	Major	Some mitigating action may be possible, including holding contingency funds (outside of any grants) in the contracted currency, but exchange rate swings can also be to the project budgeting benefit.	Moderate

Safeguarding: risk of sexual exploitation abuse and harassment (SEAH), or unintended harm to beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff.

The operational phases of the project will bring together teams of eradication experts and workers who may not necessarily get on with each other, risking lower team morale and work efficiency, as well as increasing safety risks and potentially loss of key staff if conflict is left unmanaged.

Moderate

Possible

Major

Team selection takes into account experience of field workers and known team players. Ensure clear roles and responsibilities, reporting structures and decision-making hierarchy. Code of conduct to form element of contracting of personnel. All personnel to be made aware of safeguarding and whistleblowing protocols.

Moderate

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

Helicopter failure, including crash during the operation, including bird strike or debris going into the helicopter.

Severe

Rare

Major

Use highly experienced pilots and well-maintained helicopters; bring a helicopter technician. Military on standby for Search and Rescue. Training of loading team. Appropriate supervision of all helicopter operations especially when working under the machine. Operation takes place in winter when nearly all seabirds are away from the island.

Major

Delivery Chain

Vessel(s) transporting critical equipment from abroad are delayed e.g., by geopolitical events, weather, shortage of containers, port strike action, leading to late delivery, loss of operational time and even loss of the operational window; also raised dependency costs.

Major

Possible

Major

Build in contingency time in scheduling, have clear agreement on schedule with all parties, use operators with high degree of on time delivery.

Moderate

Risk 5				
Adverse weather, such as one or a combination of sustained high winds and frequent heavy rain, may stop baiting applications being completed and/or risk project failure. Climate change is adding to unpredictability.	Severe	Possible	Severe	Allow longer period than operationally required on island to complete bait drops according to best practice. Prepare contingency plans to adapt baiting strategy if necessary.
				Major
Risk 6				
Failure to eradicate one or more of the target invasive vertebrates raises questions over the methodology, partnership	Major	Possible	Major	The whole project involves building in robust planning, significant contingency and making sure that planning draws on world-leading experts including expert challenge. Implementation to be done to the highest standard possible by experienced operators. Build in opportunity to respond to any post-eradication invasive vertebrate signs. But success cannot be guaranteed.
				Major
Risk 7				
Distractionary feeding is less successful than trials indicate leading to higher non-target mortality.	Major	Possible	Major	Continue to work with external experts to improve delivery of distractionary feeding.
				Moderate

Please upload your Risk Register.

 [2024 Biodiversity Challenge Funds Risk Frame work](#)
 25/07/2024
 18:20:32
 xlsx 105.28 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.

The eradication of invasive species, particularly feral cats and rabbits, can be a sensitive issue. The non-target impacts are another key sensitivity. The short-term effects on non-target species, such as individual Striated Caracaras (an IUCN Near Threatened species) could be misconstrued without context regarding mitigation techniques and long-term ecological benefits. Our communications strategy aims to inform audiences, and

mitigate reputational risks for project partners, but sensitivity is required for external communications on specific project outputs to address these concerns appropriately.

Section 8 - Workplan

Q21. Workplan

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

 [Workplan-2025-29](#)

 29/07/2024

 17:47:54

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Section 9 - 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 New Island Restoration Programme (NIRP) will implement a comprehensive and adaptive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan to ensure the project's progress is meticulously tracked and evaluated. The M&E activities will be integrated into the project structure from the outset providing a holistic view of the project's effectiveness and areas needing improvement.

The governance structure for M&E within the NIRP will consist of a three-tiered system: the Steering Group, Programme Board, and Delivery Group. These groups will meet regularly—at least quarterly, monthly, and weekly, respectively—to review progress and make necessary adjustments based on M&E findings.

The Steering Group will be established at the programme's inception and will include senior members from each partner organization, such as RSPB, FC and FIG, as well as members from expert technical advisory groups like the International Conservation (IC) and Independent Evaluation Advisory Group (IEAG). This group will provide strategic direction and guidance, ensuring that high-level decisions are informed by robust M&E data. The Steering Group will also ensure that the M&E processes are aligned with international best practices and adaptive management principles.

The Programme Board will include members who are directly involved in the management of the NIRP. This board will facilitate the implementation of the project by enabling and supporting the Delivery Group. It will act as a bridge between the strategic oversight of the Steering Group and the operational execution by the Delivery Group. The Programme Board will review monthly progress reports, evaluate M&E data, and make decisions to address any issues or changes needed to keep the project on track.

The Delivery Group, meeting weekly, will be responsible for the day-to-day execution of the project activities. This group will ensure that the project adheres to the planned timelines and logframe. It will conduct regular internal M&E, collecting data, and reporting on key performance indicators (KPIs) to the Programme Board. This hands-on approach ensures that any issues are promptly identified and addressed, allowing for continuous improvement and adaptation of the project activities.

In addition to the internal M&E processes, an Independent Final Evaluation will be commissioned to report by the project's completion. This will provide an unbiased assessment of the project's outcomes, impacts, and sustainability, including the project's adherence to the logframe, effectiveness of the governance structures.

The budget allocated for M&E activities will be carefully calculated to ensure comprehensive coverage of all necessary evaluations, including the independent final evaluation. The level of effort dedicated to M&E is expected to be significant, with an estimated 10% of the total project budget allocated to these activities. This will include costs for data collection, analysis, reporting, and the commissioning of the independent evaluation.

In terms of person-days, the project will allocate approximately 50 person-days annually to M&E activities. This includes time spent by members of the Steering Group, Programme Board, and Delivery Group in meetings, data analysis, and reporting. The independent evaluators will also contribute an additional 30 person-days for the final evaluation.

Independent Final Evaluation (£)	
Independent Final Evaluation (%)	
Total project budget for M&E (£)	
(this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)	
Total project budget for M&E (%)	
Number of days planned for M&E	780

Section 10 - Logical Framework & Standard Indicators

Q23a. 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.

 [logical-framework](#)

 24/07/2024

 18:20:32

 pdf 100.22 KB

Impact:

New Island's globally significant biodiversity recovers, native habitats flourish and the project stands as a model of conservation ambition that catalyses action for the environment across the Falklands Islands.

Outcome:

The permanent removal of invasive vertebrates from New Island, underpinned by enhanced biosecurity, enable the future recolonization of endemic species, recovery of seabird populations and reversal of habitat erosion

Project Outputs

Output 1:

1. Operational planning completed for invasive vertebrate removal.

Output 2:

2. Biosecurity measures enhanced to ensure New Island remains free from invasive vertebrates post-eradication.

Output 3:

3. Operation delivered for complete removal of invasive cats, rabbits, rats and mice.

Output 4:

4. Operational legacy monitored and long-term sustainable management of New Island planned.

Output 5:

No Response

Do you require more Output fields?

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

☒ No

Activities

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

Output 1

- 1.1 Programme Plan, setting out the internal and external governance structure including roles and responsibilities for key project staff is approved by the programme steering group by Y1 Q1.
- 1.2 Project team completes all operational documentation (or in advanced draft), internally and externally reviewed with any exceptions against eradication best practice documented by Y1 Q3 FC/RSPB produce Communications Plan and resource comms roles to raise the project profile and to support fund-raising efforts by Y1 Q3.
- 1.3 FC Programme manager maintains a risk register to identify and track risks and mitigating actions by Y1 Q3.
- 1.4 Main project team members including leading eradication experts are recruited for operational delivery by Y1 Q3. Operational partners/key contractors are identified through tender processes following RSPB/FC procurement guidelines and decisions to contract made by Y1 Q3.
- 1.5 Surveys of group islands are conducted to establish presence/absence of invasive mammals by Y2 Q4.
- 1.6 Mitigation strategy for non-target species planned and tested – especially distractionary feeding for Striated Caracara - by Y2 Q3.

Output 2

- 2.1 Review biosecurity resources and procedures to ensure risk of rodent reinvasion via cargo from sea and air is mitigated. Y2 Q1.
- 2.2 FC updates Biosecurity Plan to ensure it remains fit for purpose according to the changing risks and status of the island and emerging best practice to minimise the risk of introduction or reintroduction of invasive vertebrates to New Island. Y2 Q3.

2.3 Provide training to ensure staff (and to include wider stakeholders) have the capacity to deliver the Biosecurity Plan. Y2 Q4.

Output 3

3.1 Mitigation strategy for non-target species implemented –Y2 Q4 through until Y3 Q3.

3.2 PAPP baiting operation undertaken with appropriate monitoring in place to understand efficacy by Y3 Q1.

3.3 Shooting effort reduces rabbit numbers prior to brodifacoum bait drop. Y3 Q2.

3.4 Aerial application of brodifacoum to remove rats, mice and remaining rabbits. Y3 Q1.

3.5 Shooting and trapping for rabbits and cats undertaken by shooting team. Y3 Q1-Q4.

Output 4

4.1 Pre-eradication baseline surveys of key indicator species/habitats conducted by Y2 Q3.

4.2 Constant effort monitoring for cats, rabbits, rats and mice post eradication, with final evaluation by project end Y5 Q1.

4.3 Management plans produced for key species and habitats by Y5 Q1.

4.4 Undertake final monitoring to validate status of invasive mammals Y5 Q1.

Q23b. Standard Indicators

Standard Indicator Ref & Wording	Project Output or Outcome this links to	Target number by project end	Provide disaggregated targets here
e.g. DPLUS-A01: Number of people in eligible countries who have completed structured and relevant training	e.g. Output indicator 3.4 / Output 3	e.g. 60	e.g. 30 women; 30 men
DPLUS-A03: Number of local or national organisations with enhanced capability and capacity	Output 0.2	2	1 NGO, 1 Government
DPLUS-A04: No. of people reporting that they are applying new capabilities 6+ months after training	Output 2.3	4	2 men, 2 women
DPLUS-B01: Number of new or improved habitat management plans available and endorsed	Output 4.3	4	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response

No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response

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

No Response

Section 11 - Budget and Funding

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.

-  [New Island Budget](#)
-  25/07/2024
-  18:24:31
-  xlsx 102.03 KB

Q25. Alignment with other funding and activities

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

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

- ☒ Development of existing work

Please provide details:

This project builds on existing and past activities by FC, FIG and other local stakeholders. FC has extensive experience with island restorations, albeit on islands of a smaller scale. Like FC, FIG also owns and manages a number of islands for nature, many of which are rodent-free and pristine. Other local stakeholders contribute valuable knowledge and experience from recent successful island eradications on Bleaker Island, Bense Island, and the Arch Islands. This local experience complements the experience RSPB from their work in the UK and it's OT's.

This proposed project builds and delivers on the preparatory work of a Darwin-funded project (DPLUS169), which collected the necessary technical data, identified non-target mortality mitigations, created a new up to date feasibility study (following work done by NICT and Derek Brown in 2013), and secured relevant permissions and partnerships.

The partnership between RSPB and FC and FIG provide in-depth knowledge geographically and thematically,

making us well placed to deliver the programme without risk of duplicating effort or conflicting with other activities.

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.

Falklands Conservation has applied for two DPLUS bids in the current round, which involve work on New Island. One aims to support WCP by installing additional artificial burrows and establishing a second colony. The other project focuses on the Green Spider population throughout the Falklands, with New Island as a known hotspot, facilitating conservation of this species while removing invasive gorse.

Falklands Conservation has approached the Falkland Islands Government (FIG) to extend the National Nature Reserve to include the entirety of New Island and smaller islands within the group.

New Island and Steeple Jason Island are the only remaining rodent-infested islands in the Falklands that are currently feasible for eradication. There are no current plans to undertake restoration on Steeple Jason Island to the best of our knowledge. However, lessons learned from our project and previous work in the Falklands will benefit future efforts, particularly regarding mitigation approaches to minimize non-target impacts on the striated caracara, a key species on Steeple Jason.

FIG has aspirational plans to eradicate feral goats on East Falkland, which aligns with broader conservation goals. Our project will share insights and strategies to support these future initiatives.

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 been designed to give Falklands Conservation overall responsibility for the delivery of this project, to ensure a high-level of local engagement and ownership, with RSPB providing project oversight/administration and technical support. The project has an estimated minimum 30% of expenditure benefitting the Falklands directly. Major components of expenditure include 21% of funds to be spent salaries (including overheads) with 82% of this on in-territory staff.

The largest costs in our budget are attributed to helicopter services, which are essential for an aerial bait application on New Island. Unfortunately, there is no local helicopter provider available in the Falklands, necessitating the use of international services. Additionally, purchasing rodent bait is another significant expenditure, as it is impossible to source this specialized product locally. Utilising expertise from the global island restoration community to review and scrutinise will also provide essential rigour to our eradication planning.

Despite these unavoidable overseas expenses, 30% of the budget will be allocated to local services and products. We plan to employ local contractors where skills and availability permit, and source supplies from local vendors

wherever possible. This approach supports the local economy and leverages the invaluable local knowledge and experience.

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 the planning and implementation of the multi-species eradication. Eradication operations require significant investment to deliver over a short period but, if successful, provide excellent value for money long-term by having high conservation impact and removing the need and ongoing cost of any long-term control of these invasive mammals.

The project has already benefited from substantial in-kind advice from the international expert eradication community, the ongoing learnings from projects around the world (e.g. South Georgia, Floreana, Gough) and the strong relationships that RSPB has with key eradication contractors. These relationships are allowing some of the key financial and logistical challenges (e.g., the delivery of helicopter(s) to New Island) to be scrutinised early to ensure solutions offer the best value for money.

The project will also use existing eradication equipment, notably the bait buckets that were used on Gough, reducing costs wherever possible.

New Island's relative isolation means that natural reinvasion of invasive non-native mammals is extremely unlikely, and this, when coupled with planned improvements in biosecurity protocols and capability, should ensure that the legacy of a successful eradication can be safeguarded. The benefits of this work are multiple, but in essence a successful eradication would increase the Falkland Islands rodent-free territory by a third: from 6500 to 8740 hectares.

Q28. Capital items

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

The total capital cost is less than 10%. The Darwin Plus funding will be used to purchase thermal optics, monitoring equipment, meat storage freezers, e-bikes, and IT equipment. These items are critical for the New Island Restoration Programme, facilitating efficient monitoring, non-target impact mitigation, and operational activities. Post-project, this equipment will support ongoing restoration and conservation efforts on New Island and other Falklands Conservation projects in the Falklands.

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q29. Safeguarding

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

Please upload the following mandatory policies:

- **Safeguarding Policy and/or PSEAH Policy:** including a statement of commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance to inaction statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse. Policy should include a commitment to either Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS), IASC minimum operating standards for PSEA MOS-PSEA) or CAPSEAH minimum standards.

- **Whistleblowing Policy:** which details a clear process for dealing with concerns raised and protects whistle blowers from reprisals.
- **Code of Conduct:** which sets out clear expectations of behaviours – inside and outside the workplace – for staff and volunteers involved in the project and makes clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards, up to and including dismissal.
- **Safety and Security Policy or Security Plan:** that outlines a plan on how to mitigate and respond to potential health, safety and security threats.

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

Please outline how your project will ensure:

1. beneficiaries, the public, implementing partners, and staff are made aware of your safeguarding commitment and how they can confidentially raise a concern,
2. safeguarding issues are investigated, recorded and what disciplinary procedures are in place when allegations and complaints are upheld,
3. you will ensure project partners also meet these standards and policies.

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

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-contracts 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 13 - Project Staff

Q31. Project staff

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

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Ross James	Project Leader	100	Checked
Andrew Callender	Senior Programme Manager	15	Checked
Wendy Cain	RSPB Senior Finance Officer	20	Checked
TBC	Assistant Programme Manager	100	Checked

Do you require more fields?

☒ Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Andy Stanworth	FC Chief Operating Officer	25	Checked
Esther Bertram	FC CEO	25	Checked
Pamela Jelbes	FC Financial Lead	10	Checked
Mike Jervois	FIG Advisor	5	Checked
Sarah Havery	RSPB Head of UKOTS	5	Checked
No Response	No Response	No Response	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	No Response	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	No Response	Unchecked

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

 [Combined CVs and JD](#)
 26/07/2024
 09:45:52
 pdf 2.59 MB

Have you attached all project staff CVs and job descriptions?

☒ Yes

Section 14 - Project Partners

Q32. Project partners

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

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 Organisation name:	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Is the Lead Organisation based in a UKOT where the project is working?	☒ No
Please explain why this project is led from outside the UKOT	The RSPB has worked in support of conservation in the Falklands, and specifically in close partnership with Falklands Conservation as the local BirdLife partner. Our role is always, as with this project, is to provide programmatic support and capacity to facilitate Falkland Conservation's on-the-ground delivery.
Why is this organisation the Lead Organisation, and what value to they bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	The RSPB brings value to the project in two main ways: 1. It has substantial experience in working both as a lead organisation and in partnership to deliver eradication projects and now has greater capacity in the space. This has resulted in closer cooperation and collaboration with the wider international eradication community. This will be to the benefit of the New Island project, ensuring that the project receives the most critical yet constructive external scrutiny and also secures the best practitioners and most experienced contractors for the operation. 2. It also has significant capacity and experience in running projects of this size and duration. Support to the project will thus not just focus on the eradication itself and the project's other supporting outputs, but also in dependent areas of the project, including governance structures, ethical considerations, communications, additional fund-raising, procurement practices and risk management. As such, in addition to the named RSPB members of the New Island team, there is a wealth of specific eradication scrutiny that will be brought to bear, and wider project management support that will ensure that the delivery of the project is as robust as possible.

Allocated budget (proportion or value):	
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	☒ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from the Lead Organisation?	☒ Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

☒ Yes

1. Partner Name:	Falklands Conservation
Website address:	https://falklandsconservation.com/
What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	Falklands Conservation is the largest membership-based conservation organisation in the Falklands. It has a dedicated New Island team, including experienced New Island Restoration Programme Manager and Warden. It has finance, conservation and senior management teams well-versed in delivering successful Darwin projects, alongside the necessary logistical connections into the islands' companies, agencies and land-owners needed to deliver a project with remote supply chains. This is built upon critical support from senior government officials and elected representatives. The organisation is heavily strategy-lead with the New Island restoration programme at its strategy's heart. Falklands Conservation will be leading the on-the-ground delivery of the New Island Restoration Programme as well as being responsible for managing key contractors and consultants.

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

2. Partner Name:	Falkland Islands Government
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Website address:	https://www.falklands.gov.fk/
What value does this Partner bring to the project? (including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	Falkland Islands Government, through its Environment Department, has been involved in all steps of project development, and has provided a licence to carry out the baiting programme. It was a partner on the preliminary project 'New Island: completing preparatory steps for restoration against invasive mammals' (DPLUS169) and considers this project the natural next step. Falkland Islands Government will have a role on the project steering group, participating in meetings, and workshops. FIG will provide a platform for sharing project learning through the Falkland Islands Environmental Committee. Falkland Islands Government has a proven track record in project preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and legacy generation. The Environment Department has highly skilled staff who will benefit the project.
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:	<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):	<i>No Response</i>
UKOT-based/other Partner	☐ UKOT-based ☐ Other
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	<i>No Response</i>
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	☐ Yes ☐ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	☐ Yes ☐ No

4. Partner Name:	<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):	<i>No Response</i>
UKOT-based/other Partner	☐ UKOT-based
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	<i>No Response</i>
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	☐ Yes ☐ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	☐ Yes ☐ No

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

6. Partner Name:	<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):	<i>No Response</i>

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

Please provide a combined PDF of all letters of support.

-  [Combined LoS](#)
-  24/07/2024
-  19:37:42
-  pdf 1.17 MB

Section 15 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q33. Lead Organisation Capability and Capacity

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

☒ Yes

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

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
DPSTR001	Sarah Havery	Enabling effective biosecurity in the Caribbean UK Overseas Territories
DPLUS207	Joe Jeffcoate	Empowering and preparing Cayman’s Sister Islands to tackle invasive mammals
DPLUS196	Charlie Butt	Habitat restoration of Great and Little Tobago National Parks (BVI)
DPLUS191	Andy Schofield	Enabling invasive plant eradications and long-term management in Tristan
DPLUS181	Charlie Butt	East Caicos Wilderness Area: Protecting the Caribbean’s largest uninhabited island
DPLUS178	Andy Schofield	Inhabited territory restoration: completing preparations for a rodent-free Pitcairn Islands

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

☒ Yes

Section 16 - Certification

Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

I apply for a grant of

£3,000,000.00

I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the project schedule should this application be successful.

(This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the applicant institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)

- I 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	Senior Programme Manager - UKOT Island Restoration
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 ADC digital signature  27/07/2024  04:16:57  jpg 31.76 KB
Date	29 July 2024

Please upload the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

 [RSPB Audited Accounts 2022-23](#)
 26/07/2024
 08:34:19
 pdf 738.44 KB

 [RSPB Audited Accounts 2021-22](#)
 26/07/2024
 08:34:17
 pdf 697.12 KB

Please upload the Lead Organisation's Safeguarding and associated policies as a PDF

 [Employee Code of Conduct Dec 2023](#)
 26/07/2024
 08:34:36
 pdf 87 KB

 [RSPB Safeguarding Policy 2022](#)
 26/07/2024
 08:34:35
 pdf 956.91 KB

 [Whistleblowing Policy - Nov 21](#)
 26/07/2024
 08:34:34
 pdf 141.93 KB

Section 17 - 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 this project.	Checked
I have provided a budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that the 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:	
• a cover letter from the Lead Partner, referencing any potential conflicts of interest, as a single PDF.	Checked
• a risk register, including delivery chain risk map, as an Excel file using the template provided.	Checked
• the completed logframe as a PDF using the template provided and using "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance" and "Standard Indicator Guidance".	Checked
• the budget (which meets the requirements above) using the template provided.	Checked
• a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Organisation, or provided an explanation if not.	Checked
• the completed workplan as a PDF using the template provided	Checked

• a copy of the Lead Organisation's Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy and Code of Conduct (Question 29).	Checked
• 1 page CV or job description for each of the Project Staff identified at Question 31, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not, combined into a single PDF.	Checked
• a letter of support from the Lead Organisation and partner(s) identified at Question 32 and relevant OT Governments, or an explanation of why not, combined into a single PDF.	Checked
Any 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 the responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	Checked
I have checked the Darwin Plus website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Plus website.	Checked

Ensure you submit this application on [Flexi-Grant](#).

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 organisation, project leader, location, and total grant value).

Project Title: New Island Restoration Programme

Project Summary	SMART Indicators (including disaggregated targets)	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: (Max 30 words) New Island's globally significant biodiversity recovers, native habitats flourish and the project stands as a model of conservation ambition that catalyses action for the environment across the Falklands Islands.			
Outcome: (Max 30 words) The permanent removal of invasive vertebrates from New Island, underpinned by enhanced biosecurity, enable the future recolonization of endemic species, recovery of seabird populations and reversal of habitat erosion.	0.1 No invasive vertebrates (feral cats, rabbits, rats and mice) remain on New Island at project end	0.1 Monitoring datasheets and reports post operational delivery.	<i>Assumption 1:</i> The complete removal of invasive vertebrates is technically and logistically feasible. This should hold as the Feasibility study that outlines the removal delivery has been externally and independently reviewed against best practice. <i>Assumption 2:</i> The removal of invasive mammals from New Island maintains multi-stakeholder support across the Falkland Islands. We believe this will hold true as the restoration builds on existing efforts across the Territory and importantly will fulfil Falkland Islands Government policy and objectives under its Environment Strategy. <i>Assumption 3:</i> Best practice delivery is sufficient to eradicate the target vertebrates. The best practice methodologies for the target species, if well implemented, have a strong track record of success. <i>Assumption 4:</i> Sufficient resources are brought to the island to test for the presence/absence of the targeted invasive vertebrates. The monitoring post eradication will give a strong steer as to whether the

Project Title: New Island Restoration Programme

			eradication has been successful, but specially trained detection dogs will need to be brought to the island in Y4 Q3 to ensure validation is robust.
	0.2 Biosecurity Plan reviewed and updated by Falklands Conservation with enhanced biosecurity resources, capability and capacity in place by Y2 Q4 to maintain invasive vertebrate free status in perpetuity. [DPLUS-A03]	0.2 Review of Plan, photos of biosecurity process, new biosecurity protocols, distribution of information logs, implementation records.	<i>Assumption 5:</i> There is no reasonable chance of natural re-invasion and reinvasion prevention should focus on points of human/cargo access. We believe that natural reinvasion will not occur as nearest source populations are beyond the swim distance known for these species. The most likely pathway of reinvasion is thus to disembarkation point(s) on New Island, i.e. the airstrip and/or the jetty and this is where effort should be concentrated.
	0.3 Updated and revised New Island Management Plan formally adopted and resourcing plan for implementation approved by end of project	0.3 Re-drafted NI Management plan, to include project actions, is formally adopted.	<i>Assumption 6:</i> Plans have a realistic probability of being implemented. This is realistic as New Island is owned and managed by Falklands Conservation, and the island will be managed for nature in perpetuity. This will be enshrined in the island's management plan and recognised by the island's designation as a National Nature Reserve.
Outputs: 1. Operational planning completed for invasive vertebrate removal	1.1 Internal and external governance and financial structures and systems in place Y1 Q1	1.1 Meeting agenda, minutes and action logs for Project Steering Group, Project team and external operational review body.	<i>Assumption 7:</i> The governance and financial structures will be built around the established frameworks used by RSPB and Falklands Conservation. Capacity will be increased within Falklands Conservation to deliver complex eradication projects.
	1.2 Operational planning documentation completed or in advanced version by Y1 Q3	1.2 Operational Plan, Baiting Strategy, non-target Mitigation Plan, Detailed budget, Comms Plan, Logistics Plan. Permissions log.	<i>Assumption 8:</i> Key operational planning documents will be externally reviewed to ensure best practice and will be agreed and approved as per the governance structure.

Project Title: New Island Restoration Programme

	1.3 Project risks assessed by Y1 Q3, and reviewed on a quarterly basis throughout project.	1.3 Live and updated risk log.	<i>Assumption 9:</i> Risks will be identified and mitigated for as they arise. The risk log remains a live document throughout the project and is consistently reviewed to help manage risks
	1.4 Major project team and contractors (e.g. bait, helicopters) tendered and appointed Y1 Q3.	1.4 Evidence of appropriate recruitment and procurement processes, draft/final contracts.	<i>Assumption 10:</i> We will be able to recruit suitably experienced personnel and service-providers to fulfil the key elements of the project and maintain their involvement through the life of the project.
	1.5 Offshore islands within the NI group confirmed free of invasive mammals prior to baiting operation. Y2 Q4	1.5 Report detailing detection effort.	<i>Assumption 11:</i> North, Saddle, Cliff Knob, Beef, Coffin and Seal Rocks are rodent-free and will not be baited. Ship Island is also rodent-free but will be baited as a precaution because of distance from land and lower degree of confidence in rodent-free status. Burnt Island and Land's End Bluff are known or assumed to be rodent infested and will be baited.
	1.6 Mitigation Strategy to minimise non-target impacts planned and tested by Y2 Q3.	1.6 Mitigation Strategy prepared.	<i>Assumption 12:</i> Mitigation approaches will reduce impacts on non-target species, especially the distractionary feeding of Striated Caracara. Distractionary feeding has been informed by expert veterinary and bird of prey aviculture experts
2. Biosecurity measures enhanced to ensure New Island remains free from invasive vertebrates post-eradication.	2.1 Biosecurity resources are in place and procedures reviewed to ensure fit for purpose by Y2 Q1.	2.1 Review of biosecurity procedures.	<i>Assumption 13:</i> Biosecurity procedures will be employed in the long term, with adequate resourcing maintained.
	2.2 Biosecurity protocols updated by Y2 Q3.	2.2 Updated Biosecurity Plan.	<i>Assumption 14:</i> Biosecurity protocols will be updated to reflect changing risks and emerging technologies and best practice.

Project Title: New Island Restoration Programme

	2.3 Staff trained/appointed by Y2 Q4 [DPLUS-A04]	2.3 Employment contracts; Training course certification.	<i>Assumption 15:</i> Trained staff will always be present to deliver biosecurity procedures.
3. Operation delivered for complete removal of invasive cats, rabbits, rats and mice.	3.1 Mitigation Strategy implemented successfully to minimise non-target impacts Y2 Q4.	3.1 Evaluation of mitigation effectiveness Y3 Q3	<i>Assumption 16:</i> Whilst there will be mortality of individual non-target animals, impacts will not be at a population level and recovery is expected within a short timeframe, as has occurred during previous island eradication operations in the Falklands.
	3.2 Feral cats removed with PAPP baiting and shooting in alignment with international best practice with all exceptions documented Y3 Q1	3.2 Internal and external reviews of operational delivery for feral cat removal.	<i>Assumption 17:</i> Eradication of all four invasive mammals is successful within the timeframe of the programme.
	3.3 Rabbits removed with shooting and brodifacoum baiting in alignment with international best practice with all exceptions documented Y3 Q2.	3.3 Internal and external reviews of operational delivery for rabbit removal.	
	3.4 Rats & mice removed via aerial bait drop of brodifacoum in alignment with international best practice with all exceptions documented Y3 Q2.	3.4 Internal and external reviews of operational delivery for removal of rats and mice.	
	3.5 All remaining feral cats and rabbits removed by shooting team. Y3 Q1-4	3.5 Internal and external review of search and monitoring effort.	

Project Title: New Island Restoration Programme

4. Operational legacy monitored and long-term sustainable management of New Island planned	4.1 Baselines for key species/ habitats established by Y2 Q3	4.1 Report detailing repeatable methodology and baseline data.	<i>Assumption 18:</i> Coastal waterbirds are expected to increase in number when the pressure from invasive mammals is removed.
	4.2 Monitoring for any presence of invasive species Y3 Q3 – Y5 Q1	4.2 Metrics on detection effort recorded e.g. (i) footage/hours of camera traps reviewed (all four invasive vertebrates); (ii) number of tracking tunnels inspected (rats, mice); (iii) hours/records of field observation and thermal imaging effort in appropriate habitat (cats, rabbits).	<i>Assumption 19:</i> The suite of monitoring techniques applied, and the time allowed for target species to reproduce to a detectable level, ensures that verification of the success or failure of the eradication can be attained.
	4.3 Management actions produced for key habitats and species by Y5 Q1 [DPLUS-B01]	4.3 Re-drafted New Island Management Plan	<i>Assumption 20:</i> Restorative efforts identified in the species and habitat management plans will be actionable, and may include planting of native vegetation, translocation of native species and management of tourism and science activities for nature.
	4.4 Validation of absence of cats, rabbits, rats and mice on New Island by end Y5 Q1.	4.4 Report detailing Validation methodology and effort and results reported	<i>Assumption 21:</i> A suite of active and passive monitoring techniques, including the use of detection dogs, camera traps and passive monitoring tools, will validate the presence/absence of target species.
Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1. Each activity should start on a new line and be no more than approximately 25 words.) Output 1 1.1 Programme Plan, setting out the internal and external governance structure including roles and responsibilities for key project staff is approved by the programme steering group by Y1 Q1 1.2 Project team completes all operational documentation (or in advanced draft), internally and externally reviewed with any exceptions against eradication best practice documented by Y1 Q3 FC/RSPB produce Communications Plan and resource comms roles to raise the project profile and to support fund-raising efforts by Y1 Q3			

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- 1.3 FC Programme manager maintains a risk register to identify and track risks and mitigating actions by Y1 Q3
- 1.4 Main project team members including leading eradication experts are recruited for operational delivery by Y1 Q3. Operational partners/key contractors are identified through tender processes following RSPB/FC procurement guidelines and decisions to contract made by Y1 Q3
- 1.5 Surveys of group islands are conducted to establish presence/absence of invasive mammals by Y2 Q4
- 1.6 Mitigation strategy for non-target species planned and tested – especially distractionary feeding for Striated Caracara - by Y2 Q3.

Output 2

- 2.1 Review biosecurity resources and procedures to ensure risk of rodent reinvasion via cargo from sea and air is mitigated. Y2 Q1
- 2.2 FC updates Biosecurity Plan to ensure it remains fit for purpose according to the changing risks and status of the island and emerging best practice to minimise the risk of introduction or reintroduction of invasive vertebrates to New Island. Y2 Q3
- 2.3 Provide training to ensure staff (and to include wider stakeholders) have the capacity to deliver the Biosecurity Plan. Y2 Q4

Output 3

- 3.1 Mitigation strategy for non-target species implemented –Y2 Q4 through until Y3 Q3
- 3.2 PAPP baiting operation undertaken with appropriate monitoring in place to understand efficacy by Y3 Q1
- 3.3 Shooting effort reduces rabbit numbers prior to brodifacoum bait drop. Y3 Q2.
- 3.4 Aerial application of brodifacoum to remove rats, mice and remaining rabbits. Y3 Q1
- 3.5 Shooting and trapping for rabbits and cats undertaken by shooting team. Y3 Q1-Q4

Output 4

- 4.1 Pre-eradication baseline surveys of key indicator species/habitats conducted by Y2 Q3.
- 4.2 Constant effort monitoring for cats, rabbits, rats and mice post eradication, with final evaluation by project end Y5 Q1.
- 4.3 Management plans produced for key species and habitats by Y5 Q1
- 4.4 Undertake final monitoring to validate status of invasive mammals Y5 Q1

Guidance (please delete this before attaching your logframe to your application): Refer to the **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Guidance** when developing your logical framework.