



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office



Department
for International
Development



DPLUS035

Darwin Plus: Overseas Territories Environment and Climate Fund Project Application Form

Submit by Monday 4 August 2014

Please read the Guidance Notes before completing this form
Information to be extracted to the database is highlighted in blue

Basic Data

1. Project Title (max 10 words)	BVI Seabird Recovery Planning Programme
2. UK OT(s) involved	British Virgin Islands
3. Start Date:	1 April 2015
4. End Date:	31 March 2017
5. Duration of project (no longer than 24 months)	24 months

Summary of Costs	2015/16	2016/17	Total
6. Budget requested from Darwin	£29,275	£18,632	£47,907
7. Total value of matched funding	£19,360	£3,834	£23,194
8. Total Project Budget (all funders)	£48,635	£22,466	£71,101
9. Names of Co-funders	Avian Research & Conservation Institute (ARCI); University of Roehampton, UK; University of Liverpool, UK and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds providing in-kind funding support, staff time and equipment.		

10. Lead applicant organisation (responsible for delivering outputs, reporting and managing funds)	University of Roehampton
11. Project Leader name	Lewis Halsey
12. Email address	
13. Postal address	University of Roehampton, Holybourne Avenue, London, SW15 4JD
14. Contact details: Phone/Fax/Skype	

* Notification of results will be by email to the Project Leader in Question 11

15. Type of organisation of Lead applicant. Place an x in the relevant box.								
OT GOVT	UK GOVT	UK NGO	Local NGO	International NGO	Commercial Company	Other (e.g. Academic)	X	

16. Principals in project. Please identify and provide a one page CV for each of these named individuals. You may copy and paste this table if you need to provide details of more personnel or more than 2 project partners.

Details	Project Leader		Project Partner 1 - Main	Project Partner 2
Surname	Halsey	Soanes	Zaluski	Varlack
Forename(s)	Lewis	Louise	Susan	Lynda
Post held	Senior Lecturer	Postdoctoral researcher	Executive Director	Acting Director
Institution (if different to above)		University of Roehampton	Jost Van Dyke Preservation Society	BVI National Parks Trust
Department	Department of Life Sciences	School of Life Sciences		
Telephone/Skype				
Email				

Details	Project Partner 3	Project Partner 4	
Surname	Penn	Millett	Bright
Forename(s)	Kelvin	James	Jenny
Post held	Acting Director	Senior Partner Development Officer	Conservation Scientist
Institution (if different to above)	British Virgin Islands	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Department	Department of Conservation and Fisheries	UKOTs, International	Contract RSPB Conservation Scientist
Telephone/Skype			
Email			

17. Has your organisation been awarded Darwin Initiative funding before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)? If yes, please provide details of the most recent awards (up to 6 examples).

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
EIDPR057 (scoping project)	Stuart Semple	Post release monitoring of orangutans in Tabin Wildlife Reserve, Sabah

18. If your answer to Q17 was No, provide details of 3 contracts previously held by your institution that demonstrate your credibility as an implementing organisation. These contacts should have been held in the last 5 years and be of a similar size to the grant requested in this application. (If your answer to Q17 was Yes, you may delete these boxes, but please leave Q18)

Contract 1 Title	Energy costs and savings of arboreal locomotion in great apes: measuring a tractable model species, homo sapiens
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Contract Value	£64656.78
Contract Duration	3 months
Role of institution in project	Project leader, and joint lead on data collection, analysis and manuscript writing with partner institution – the University of Birmingham
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the contract.	In this project professional park our athletes, who have elite gymnastic abilities, served as human models traversing custom-made, simulated jungle terrain. Their consumption of oxygen (a standard method for measuring energy expenditure in the laboratory) was measured. This allowed us to understand how the relative costs of demanding forms of arboreal locomotion for large-bodied great apes are affected by size and build, the details of the environment being traversed, and knowledge of the route being taken. We successfully completed both data collection and manuscript write-up (one paper published with two more in preparation) and achieved all aims set out in the application.
Client reference contact details	Natural Environment Research Council 01793 411500

Contract 2 Title	Groundwater flooding: Groundwater community recovery following an extreme recharge event.
Contract Value	£51, 579
Contract Duration	12 months
Role of institution in project	Principal investigator and co-investigator with co-investigator from the University of Birmingham

<p>Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the contract.</p>	<p>This winter (2013-14) has been the wettest in the UK since records began resulting in extremely high groundwater levels and very extensive groundwater flooding, particularly in chalk aquifers. The exceptionally high intensity of flooding and water movement through the aquifers is expected to result in changed nutrient concentrations, including carbon. We think that these changes will have major effects on the groundwater ecosystem which, in addition to the chemical and physical environment, comprises microbial biofilms, microfauna (e.g. Protozoa, rotifers), and macroscopic invertebrates dominated by crustaceans such as copepods and Niphargus (blind shrimp-like animals). Most groundwater organisms are unique to this habitat and, in the UK, have been present for many millions of years. They mediate processes such as nitrogen recycling and thus they impact the quality of a vital source for drinking water.</p> <p>We think that during flooding, nutrient supplies will initially decrease due to dilution and that flow rates will increase, potentially stripping microbial biofilms and associated microfauna from the sediments and dislodging larger organisms into the water flow. This will lead to an initial reduction in biomass at each trophic level although it will not alter the overall shape of the biomass pyramid. We also expect ecosystem respiration and species and/or functional diversity to be low during flooding. When the flood ends we think that microbial biofilms, protozoa and small metazoa will recover quickly because they reproduce rapidly but that larger animals will recover more slowly if they cannot find shelter from the flood. This may result in a change in shape of the biomass pyramids. We will test these ideas by tracking the recovery of the groundwater ecosystem through space and time. We will do this by collecting samples to measure the food supply (dissolved organic carbon and other nutrients), count and identify the inhabitants of the groundwater ecosystem and also determine how ecosystem function changes by measuring respiration rates and microbial activity. We will collect samples in two separate flooded chalk aquifers at fortnightly intervals over a seven month period so that we can monitor changes in the community; we expect these to be rapid. We will use specialised equipment to measure microbial respiration and count the smallest organisms (bacteria). This extreme event permits a uniquely important case study because it will provide a baseline against which future extreme events (e.g. flooding and drought) in groundwaters can be measured and will enable us to compare the responses of groundwater ecosystems to stressors with those of other aquatic ecosystems.</p>
<p>Client reference contact details (Name, e-mail, address, phone number)</p>	<p>Natural Environment Research Council http://www.nerc.ac.uk/ 01793 411500</p>

Project Details

19. Project Outcome Statement: Describe what the project aims to achieve and what will change as a result. (50 words max)

We will provide comprehensive data on the population sizes, distribution and status of all breeding seabirds to the British Virgin Islands Government, with particular emphasis on the globally important population of roseate terns. We will develop and trial species recovery methods including prioritisation, management and restoration of key breeding sites.

20. Background: (What is the current situation and the problem that the project will address? How will it address this problem? What key OT Government priorities and themes will it address? (200 words max)

The BVI is home to 15 species of breeding seabird, including globally important populations of magnificent frigatebird and roseate tern, regionally important populations of eight species and an unquantified population of Audubon's shearwater. However, seabird populations are declining (e.g. 1200+ breeding pairs of roseate terns were reported in 1995, dropping to 550 pairs in 2004/2005 and 100-300 pairs recorded during preliminary surveys undertaken in 2014).

The BVI has limited capacity to implement seabird conservation strategies. This, coupled with a lack of understanding of breeding biology and habitat use of seabirds within the territory makes it difficult to respond to threats and population declines.

To address this the project will (i) conduct the first comprehensive seabird surveys since 2004/5; (ii) track movements of roseate terns to determine breeding site fidelity and foraging movements; (iii) trial habitat enhancement measures; (iv) develop a recovery plan based on survey and movement data, threat assessment, and stakeholder analysis.

This project supports key BVI environmental priorities including fulfilment of national planning instruments (National Integrated Development Strategy, 2007 -2017 Protected Areas System Plan) and commitments of regional and international environmental agreements, (e.g., Caribbean Challenge, BVI Environmental Charter and Convention on Biological Diversity).

21. Methodology: Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended outcomes and impact. Provide information on how you will undertake the work (materials and methods) and how you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools etc). Give details of any innovative techniques or methods. (500 words max)

Comprehensive seabird surveys of all 43 BVI cays will be conducted (over two years) to provide up to date information on seabirds within the territory. The methods will follow those used in the previous full census conducted in 2004/2005. In addition, extensive surveys for the elusive Audubon's shearwater will be conducted, as this species has never been comprehensively surveyed for within the BVI.

As one of the most important breeding species for the BVI, **roseate tern movements will be tracked** both within and between seasons to determine local foraging movements, and breeding site fidelity. The latest tried and tested GPS technology will be deployed on this species using standard protocols. Pathtrack nanologgers (weighing 2g) will be deployed on at least 10 birds to assess local foraging behaviour, whilst remotely-downloaded, long-life solar-powered tracking units (weighing 1.7g) will be deployed on three birds, and custom-made readable bands deployed on terns at key breeding sites, to examine wintering movements and breeding site fidelity. Innovative techniques for analysing tracking data, progressing work undertaken by Louise Soanes during her PhD, will be used to produce GIS maps of movements and to identify key foraging areas. These will be provided to both BVI Government's Department of Conservation & Fisheries (CFD) and be freely available through www.Movebank.org

Pilot trials of the **installation of 20 nest boxes** across three sites to provide suitable habitat for breeding terns, tropicbirds and shearwaters will be implemented, working with private landowners to raise the profile of BVI seabirds.

An assessment of threats to breeding seabirds at each island (e.g. invasive species, development) will be made. This will include conducting feasibility studies of rat removal/control at two small cays that have previously been recorded as breeding sites for the roseate tern (Cockroach and The Dogs, both <5ha). These will follow standard methodology used in the 2014 feasibility studies of BVIs Green Cay and Tobago Islands funded under an existing EC Project. This activity will be highly complementary to ongoing and planned restoration work on National Park Islands. This work will allow the **Prioritisation of cays for breeding seabirds** for further monitoring and restoration work. A **Seabird Recovery Plan**, including both restoration and management recommendations for key sites and across the entire system of BVI Protected Areas will be produced with focus on restoring priority cays to a state suitable for breeding seabirds, with particular emphasis on roseate terns.

All work will be overseen by the University of Roehampton (Lewis Halsey and Louise Soanes), with fieldwork conducted primarily by Susan Zaluski and Louise Soanes; both will also lead on the production of outputs with support from the RSPB, National Parks Trust BVI and BVI Government's Department of Conservation and Fisheries. JVDPS, RSPB and Roehampton will work together to **train staff and raise**

the profile of BVI seabirds to stakeholders.

In addition, seabird population data collected over the two years of study will be used to **update the status of, and make new recommendations for IBAs and Ramsar sites within the BVI.**

22. How does this project:

- a) Deliver against the priority issues identified in the assessment criteria
- b) Demonstrate technical excellence in its delivery
- c) Demonstrate a clear pathway to impact in the OT(s)

500 words max)

a.) This project delivers against the following priority issues: (1) Developing data systems on biodiversity to help develop policies and management plans (including a baseline survey and subsequent monitoring) though the collection of comprehensive data of seabird populations and ecology to inform policies and management plans, for example the National Park Trusts (NPT) Protected Areas Management Planning and Conservation and Fisheries Department's (CFD) Bird of Paradise Monitoring Programme and their commitment to the Caribbean Challenge Initiative; (2) Planning for the control/eradication of invasive species; and (3) Developing ecosystem-based initiatives for the conservation and sustainable use of the terrestrial and marine environments by providing data and advice to assist the NPT to implement appropriate management of seabird populations across the Protected Area Network. The tracking data collected from roseate terns will help the CFD and NPT to assess the effectiveness of their recently designated MPAs.

b.) The project was planned jointly by JVDPS and seabird ecologists from the University of Roehampton in consultation with the NPT, CFD and RSPB and thus draws upon the collective experience of numerous individuals and institutions with proven track records in species recovery, biodiversity monitoring, capacity-building, island restoration and invasive species management. The project builds upon the outputs, and the existing working relationships from a previous Darwin plus funded project "Using Seabirds to Inform Caribbean Marine Planning" (DPLUS007) by developing action plans and management solutions informed by the research conducted. Technical excellence is delivered through the use of state of the art tracking technology and methods of analysis to provide unique insights into both short and long term movements of the roseate tern. This project also trials habitat enhancement methods that will allow stakeholders to make informed decisions on long-term seabird conservation and management.

c.) Technical support will be provided by experts from both the UK & US to both collect comprehensive data and provide training to local stakeholders in order to ensure data collected is used to the best effect and can be conducted and sustained by local partners in future years. Data collected during this project will help support CFD as it embarks on its Birds of Paradise Monitoring Programme, which has the aim of establishing long term bird monitoring programmes and will assist the NPT by developing site-specific management planning guidelines for seabird islands that are designated as Protected Areas and under the authority and management of NPT. Working closely with the local JVDPS the project steering group will ensure that the data collected is both policy relevant and effectively communicated to relevant stakeholders and policy makers.

23. 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. (250 words max)

The project has been devised through an ongoing programme of collaborative work, including working jointly on a cross territory invasive species project, the restoration of the Tobago Islands and preliminary work on seabird monitoring. Consultation has taken place through a number of stakeholder meetings resulting in the development of this joint proposal. This project benefits and involves the following stakeholders:

BVI Government: This project involves and supports the Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour's two main environmental authorities: The **Conservation & Fisheries Department (CFD)** and the **National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands (NPT)** in meeting their respective missions of managing the Territory's Natural Resources and maintaining legal responsibility for the management of the BVI's system of Protected Areas.

Civil Society & Private (Tourism) Industry: The BVI System of Protected Areas Plan (2007- 2017) calls for increased participation of Civil Society organisations in managing protected areas. JVDPS /NPT co-management serves as a positive example and project leaders will seek to involve other NGOs and CBOs in the recovery planning and training workshops. Civil Society organisations, residents and members of the tourism sector have already been engaged and through existing CFD, NPT and JVDPS bird conservation initiatives, (participation in Christmas Bird Counts and a 2013 Wetland Bird Workshop hosted by CFD), expressing their commitment and support to bird conservation.

Finally, this project benefits bio-diversity conservation and contributes broadly to goals of Sustainable Human Develop, which will support quality of life for all persons in the BVI.

24. Institutional Capacity: Describe the implementing organisation's capacity (and that of partner organisations where relevant) to deliver the project.
(500 words max)

The University of Roehampton has a history of delivering high-profile projects in applied biological and environmental research. Dr Lewis Halsey has led on and managed national and international projects including on seabirds, and has published tens of papers on seabird behaviour and physiology. He has supervised several PhD students undertaking seabird projects on islands including Crozet in the Southern Ocean and Puffin Island, Wales. Dr Louise Soanes has an established working relationship with JVDPS and over 10 years experience in seabird conservation including monitoring, tracking and education. Dr Soanes' PhD developed innovative methods to define the role of animal tracking data in marine spatial planning, and her recent postdoctoral position on a Darwin Plus funded project included seabird monitoring and GPS tracking within Anguilla and the BVIs. Louise received funding to undertake a three-year fellowship through the University (beginning April 2015); her research will focus on the ecology of tropical seabirds and as such she will be based for the majority of her time in the Caribbean so is well placed to provide local support for this project. The University has licences for software such as ARCGIS and provides grant management support through its Research Office.

The Jost Van Dykes Preservation Society (JVDPS) is a locally based BVI NGO. JVDPS has previously worked on collaborative research and protected area management activities with the NPT CFD and RSPB and Louise Soanes. Projects have focused on the control of Alien Invasive Species, bio-security monitoring, bird monitoring and tracking and public education and outreach. JVDPS maintains an office and on-site presence on Jost Van Dyke island.

The National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands (NPT) is a BVI Statutory body and is legally responsible for the management of the BVI Protected Areas System. NPT develops policy and undertakes management activities for the 21 sites (including 5 designated bird sanctuaries) that it directly manages, with the number increasing during the 2007- 2017 planning period. NPT has expertise in GIS and management planning, and also maintains a staff of marine wardens

The BVI Department of Conservation & Fisheries (CFD): falls under the Ministry of Natural Resources & Labour of the Government of the British Virgin Islands, which seeks to manage the natural resources of the BVI in a sustainable manner. It was formed specifically to address to the growing environmental stresses that the territory is experiencing. The Department is responsible for all aspects of Natural Resources Management and is divided into five functional divisions each focusing on a particular aspect.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) has nearly 20 years of experience working with UKOTS and has built enduring relationships with local partners. James Millett (Caribbean Task Manger) will have oversight of RSPB inputs, Dr Leigh Lock (Senior Species Recovery Officer) will advise on roseate terns and Dr Jenny Bright who has experience managing a range of relevant research projects including a pilot GPS tracking study of seabirds in Anguilla and a previous Darwin Plus project will give technical support.

25. Expected Outputs			
Output (<i>what will be achieved e.g. capacity building, action plan produced, alien species controlled</i>)	Indicators of success (<i>how we will know if its been achieved e.g. number of people trained/ trees planted</i>)	Status before project/baseline data (<i>what is the situation before the project starts?</i>)	Source of information (<i>where will you obtain the information to demonstrate if the indicator has been achieved?</i>)
1. Our understanding of seabird colonies and breeding success of key species is improved across the BVI and utilised to support conservation planning.	<p>Surveys of 43 cays during both summer and winter in both years one and two of the project increases our understanding of seabird species distributions.</p> <p>Audubon's shearwater survey completed by May 2016.</p> <p>Roseate tern breeding success monitored across three selected cays.</p> <p>Trial of habitat enhancement measures (installation of nest boxes) to encourage and increase breeding success of key species.</p>	<p>The last Territory-wide seabird survey was conducted in 2004/2005;</p> <p>No comprehensive surveys of Audubon's shearwaters have ever been conducted.</p> <p>Seabird surveys and monitoring plan developed for Great Tobago as part of Darwin plus project "Using seabirds to inform Caribbean marine planning" 2014/15</p> <p>Historic seabird survey data from the 1990s indicates populations in rapid decline.</p>	<p>Data provided to Government of BVI.</p> <p>Data submitted to BirdLife International's IBA database.</p> <p>Data submitted to BirdsCaribbean database.</p> <p>Peer-reviewed paper produced.</p> <p>Report on trial of habitat enhancement measures & use of social attraction devices.</p>
2. Our understanding of roseate tern foraging movements and site choice is greatly improved.	<p>Tracking data from at least 13 birds provides clear maps of foraging movement of roseate terns to indicate key areas for protection.</p> <p>Monitoring of banded roseate terns provides regular updates (throughout the breeding season, and over multiple territories) to support mapping.</p>	Limited banding data from the early 1990s.	<p>GIS layers provided to Government of BVI and USVI.</p> <p>Data uploaded to freely available MoveBank.org website and BirdLife International's seabird foraging database</p> <p>Peer-reviewed paper produced.</p>
3. BVI Seabird Management and Recovery Plan produced and proposals to update international designations made.	<p>All relevant past and project seabird data collated into a series of reports to be presented at recovery plan workshop and given to government.</p> <p>Feasibility study of rat removal of two small cays</p>	Limited information on key sites. (with the exception of Great Tobago which was the focus of a previous Darwin plus proposal, data from this will be incorporated into the	<p>Reports on; historic data, enhancement trials, current threats, seabird movement (Terns) and cay surveys.</p> <p>Workshop attendance list and report.</p> <p>Feasibility report for</p>

	(less than 5 acres) where roseate terns previously reported breeding. Seabird Management and Recovery Plan workshop held for key stakeholders Recommendations for Ramsar and IBA updates submitted.	Management and Recovery) IBA seabird information last updated in 2005.	removal of rats Seabird Recovery and Management Plan with incorporated into stakeholder workplans. Ramsar information updated and if relevant new sites submitted IBA information updated and if relevant new sites submitted
4. Government and local stakeholders have access to improved seabird data and improved capacity to monitor seabirds and maintain databases.	At least 8 persons, including staff from JVDPS, NPT and CFD and 4 stakeholders (e.g. island owners, civil society groups and/or others from private industry, trained in seabird monitoring techniques by JVDPS and University of Roehampton by EOP). Surveys conducted effectively and to high standard as a result of training.	Limited capacity within the BVI to implement sustainable seabird monitoring.	Training report Data submitted to BirdLife International seabird wikispace database. Data submitted to BirdsCaribbean database.

26. Expected Outcomes: How will each of the outputs contribute to the overall outcome of the project? (100 words max)

Successful species conservation and site protection requires the collection of comprehensive data on populations and the threats facing them. This project sees the collection of such data (Output 1 & Output 2). Which will in turn allows the prioritisation of key sites (Output 3) for conservation management within BVI. Through the training of local staff and engagement of stakeholders this project will seek to implement long-term monitoring and assessment programmes to aid in the conservation of seabirds within the territory (Output 4).

27. Main Activities

	Activities or tasks to be done to deliver the outputs. Include activities on open access information sharing and collaboration with other OTs
Output 1	<i>Comprehensive Seabird Surveys of the BVI's Cays.</i>
1.1	All cays surveyed for summer breeding species by boat and validated by land based surveys, when possible, at least once during the two year project
1.2	All cays surveyed for winter/asynchronous breeding species by boat and validated by land based surveys, when possible, at least once during the two year project
1.3	Breeding success of roseate terns on different cays monitored
Output 2	<i>GPS Tracking and banding of Roseate Terns.</i>
2.1	Forging movements of 10-20 breeding individuals tracked using Pathtrack nano

	loggers
2.2	3 individuals tracked for long-term movements
2.3	Banding of breeding adults at 2-3 specific colony sites.
Output 3	Prioritisation of key breeding sites
3.1	Collation of previous seabird data (e.g. historic roseate tern breeding sites)
3.2	Trial installation of 20 nest boxes for shearwaters, tropicbirds and tern species at three sites to encourage nesting and increase nesting success, decoys, playback)
3.3	Identify potential threats facing each island (introduced predators, development, human disturbance)
3.4	Run stakeholder workshop to prioritise cays for breeding seabirds
3.5	Produce seabird recovery and management plan
Output 4	Improved access to data and database
4.1	Train NPT, CFD and other partner staff in seabird survey and monitoring methods
4.2	Train CFD in the planning and implementation of seabird monitoring programmes.
4.3	Establish a project steering group with government in key role to ensure buy in and long term support for the project.

28. Risks			
Description of the risk	Likelihood the event will happen (H/M/L)	Impact of the event on the project (H/M/L)	Steps the project will take to reduce or manage the risk
Weather and/or logistical problems affecting seabird survey/tracking	M	L	The length of the seabird breeding season in the BVI ranges from 6 weeks to 18 months so there is flexibility in the exact timing of surveys and tracking work over the two years of the project
Tracking device failure	L	H	We are obtaining devices directly from the company. In the highly unlikely event of radio/harness failure, the company will provide substitute devices to be attached during the second year of field work; Colour rings are also be used in addition to tracking work to provide complimentary data on movements
Illness/Injury to key team member	L	M	Open communication and collaboration decrease dependence on a single person. Local BVI personnel are available to stand in for fieldwork at short notice

29. Sustainability: How will the project ensure benefits are sustained after the project has come to a close? If the project requires ongoing maintenance or monitoring, who will do this? (200 words max)

The project will train staff and volunteers from partner organisations in seabird tracking and survey methods and through stakeholder consultation will design and implement sustainable long-term seabird monitoring programmes within the Territory. NPT maintains legal responsibility for management of Protected Area Sites.

JVDPS, NPT and CFD will take responsibility for the seabird monitoring as part of their on-going work programmes. The University of Roehampton will continue to provide advice and oversight to monitoring programmes as part of the University's portfolio of knowledge exchange. The RSPB is committed to support the organisational development of the UKOT partners in the long term through the work of its partner development officer, including providing financial support and assistance with fundraising.

30. Monitoring & Evaluation: How will the project be monitored and who will be responsible? Will there be any independent assessment of progress and impact? When will this take place, and by whom? (250 words max)

The project will be overseen by a Project Steering Group that will comprise the principles from each project partner as well as independent experts from outside the project. James Millett, the RSPB's Partner Development Officer for the UKOTs will participate and his extensive experience of working on these projects and in these territories will be invaluable. Representatives from the Caribbean region, U.S. and Europe with extensive seabird management experience will be invited to be on the Project Steering Group (see attached letters of support). The steering group will meet at the start of the project and every six months, and a meeting report will follow each Steering Group meeting.

The Project Steering Group will include independent members who will be objective in assessing and evaluating the progress of the project in relation to the specified output indicators, timelines and budget. Scientific outputs will also be rigorously assessed through the peer-review process during publication.

The project completion report is after the project is over and is linked to the final payment.

31. Financial controls: Please demonstrate your capacity to manage the level of funds you are requesting. (Who is responsible for managing the funds? What experience do they have? What arrangements are in place for auditing expenditure?)

Overall financial control will be the responsibility of Lewis Halsey, who will be responsible for managing the funds supported by the University of Roehampton's finance team. Dr Lewis Halsey and Roehampton Finance have considerable experience in running research projects of this nature, regularly being responsible for financial management of research grants and contracts. The Finance Team will thus be able to provide Dr Halsey with monthly statements of expenditure to compare against the budget and ensure that spending is in line with expectation. These will be checked bi-annually by the Project Steering Group.

Please complete the separate Excel spreadsheet which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.

NB: Please state all costs by financial year (1 April to 31 March) and in GBP. **Budgets submitted in other currencies will not be accepted.** Use current prices – and include anticipated inflation, as appropriate, up to 3% per annum. The Darwin Initiative cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.

33. Value for Money

Please explain how you worked out your budget and how you will provide value for money through managing a cost effective and efficient project. You should also discuss any significant assumptions you have made when working out your budget. (200 words max)

As a territory composed of 43 cays, the BVI is reliant on the health of its marine resources both for local livelihoods and tourism. Directly monitoring coastlines and oceans is expensive, however seabirds are known to be valuable indicators of the marine environment and can be easily monitored, making them a relatively cheap marine bio-indicator. The project will support stakeholders to establish cost-effective long-term monitoring of seabirds, appropriately designed to the local context which in turn will provide long-term information on the health of their marine resources.

Numerous project partners (Dr. Soanes, Dr. Meyers and RSPB) are providing their time and sabbaticals in-kind. The project makes use of existing equipment donated by ARCI and a previous Darwin plus project, resulting in reduced boat costs and GPS tracking equipment.

JVDPS have maintained a full-time staff person and office since 2007 in the BVI and as such have been able to find efficient and cost effective ways of working there (such as use of local boat operators and captains). In addition JVDPS has a strong partnership with local groups and government, and share responsibilities when implementing joint projects thus running them efficiently and cost effectively.

Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the following table as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project (Q1 starting April 2014)

Activity	No of Months	Year 1				Year 2			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1		A-J	J-S	O-D	J-M	A-J	J-S	O-D	J-M
1.1 All cays surveyed for summer breeding seabirds by boat and validated through land based counts when possible at least once during the two year project	0.5	X				X			
1.2 All cays surveyed for winter/asynchronous breeding species by boat and validated when possible at least once during the two year project	0.5			X				X	
1.3 Comprehensive Audubon's shearwater surveys conducted	0.5					X			
1.4 Breeding success of roseate terns on different cays monitored	0.5	X				X			
Output 2									
2.1 Breeding individuals tracked using Pathtrack nano loggers	0.5	X							
2.2 Individuals tracked for long-term movements	0.5	X							
2.3 Banding of breeding adults at selected sites	0.5	X				X			
Output 3									
3.1 Collation of previous seabird data (e.g. historic roseate tern breeding sites)	0.5		X						
3.2 Trial habitat enhancement (e.g. nest boxes, decoys, playback)	0.5	X				X			
3.3 Identify threats on each island (introduced predators, development, disturbance)	0.5		X						
3.4 Hold stakeholder workshops to prioritise cays for breeding seabird	0.5		X						X
3.5 Produce seabird recovery and management plan	1								X

CERTIFICATION

On behalf of the trustees/company* of
(*delete as appropriate)

I apply for a grant of £ in respect of **all expenditure** to be incurred during the lifetime of this project based on the activities and dates specified in the above application.

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 lead institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.*)

I enclose CVs for project principals and letters of support.

Our most recent audited/independently verified accounts and annual report are can be found at <http://www.roehampton.ac.uk/Finance/> :

Name (block capitals)	
Position in the organisation	

Signed

Date:

Application Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you read the Guidance Notes ?	X
Have you checked the Darwin Plus website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	X
Have you provided actual start and end dates for your project?	X
Have you provided your budget based on UK government financial years ie 1 April – 31 March and in GBP?	X
Have you checked that your budget is complete , correctly adds up and that you have included the correct final total on the top page of the application?	X
Has your application been signed by a suitably authorised individual ? (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable in the email)	X
Have you included a 1 page CV for all the principals ?	X
Have you included a letter of support from the <u>main</u> partner(s) organisations ?	X
Have you included a copy of the last 2 years' annual report and accounts for the lead organisation? An electronic link to a website is acceptable.	X

Once you have answered the questions above, please submit the application, not later than midnight GMT Monday 4 August 2014 to Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk using the first few words of the project title **as the subject of your email**. If you are e-mailing supporting documentation separately please include in the subject line an indication of the number of e-mails you are sending (e.g. whether the e-mail is 1 of 2, 2 of 3 etc). You are not required to send a hard copy.

DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998: Applicants for grant funding must agree to any disclosure or exchange of information supplied on the application form (including the content of a declaration or undertaking) which the Department considers necessary for the administration, evaluation, monitoring and publicising of Darwin Plus. Application form data will also be held by contractors dealing with Darwin Plus monitoring and evaluation. It is the responsibility of applicants to ensure that personal data can be supplied to the Department for the uses described in this paragraph. A completed application form will be taken as an agreement by the applicant and the grant/award recipient also to the following:- putting certain details (i.e. name, contact details and location of project work) on the Darwin Initiative and Defra/FCO/DFID websites (details relating to financial awards will not be put on the websites if requested in writing by the grant/award recipient); using personal data for the Darwin Initiative postal circulation list; and sending data to Governor's Offices outside the UK, including posts outside the European Economic Area. Confidential information relating to the project or its results and any personal data may be released on request, including under the Environmental Information Regulations, the code of Practice on Access to Government Information and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.