



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office



Department
for International
Development



DPLUS049

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

Submit by **2359 GMT Monday 21 September 2015**

Please read the Guidance Notes before completing this form.

Information to be extracted to the database is highlighted blue. Blank cells may render your application ineligible

Basic Data

1. Project Title (max 10 words)	Maximising long-term survival prospects of Montserrat's endemic species and ecosystem-services		
2. UK OT(s) involved	Montserrat	Letter of support from OT government attached?	Yes/No
3. Start Date:	1 April 2016		
4. End Date:	31 March 2018		
5. Duration of project (no longer than 24 months)	24 months		

Summary of Costs	2016/17	2017/18	Total
6. Budget requested from Darwin	83,710	81,690	165,400
7. Total value of matched funding	68,050	61,950	130,000
8. Total Project Budget (all funders)	151,760	143,640	295,400
9. Names of Co-funders	UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, Treweek Environmental Consultants, Montana State University, Montserrat National Trust, Montserrat Department of Environment		

10. Name, address and contact details of lead applicant organisation (responsible for delivering outputs, reporting and managing funds)*	UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum 102 Broadway, Peterborough PE1 4DG, UK
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* Notification of results will be by email to the Project Leader named in Question 12

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

12. Partners in project. Please provide details of the partners in this project and provide a CV for the individuals listed. You may copy and paste this table if necessary

Details	Project Leader	Project Partner 1	Project Partner 2
Surname	Pienkowski	Gray	Sarita
Forename(s)	Michael William	Gerard	Francis
Post held	Honorary Executive Director	Director	Executive Director
Institution (if different to above)		Montserrat Department of Environment	Montserrat National Trust
Department			
Telephone/Skype			
Email			

Details	Project Partner 3	Project Partner 4	Project Partner 5
Surname	Treweek	Ivie	Wensink
Forename(s)	Jo	Michael	Catherine
Post held	Partner	Associate Professor & Curator Montana Entomology Collection	Manager & Coordinator
Institution (if different to above)	Treweek Environmental Consultants	Montana State University	UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum
Department		Dept of Plant Science & Plant Pathology	
Telephone/Skype			
Email			

13. 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
8164	Dr M Pienkowski & Dr O Cheesman	Developing Biodiversity Management Capacity around the Ramsar Site in the Turks & Caicos Islands
3032	Ms S Cross	Core Development of the Forum and Support for NGOs in UK Dependent Territories (final report published 1996 as "UK Dependent Territories: A Conservation Review")

14. If your answer to Q13 was No, provide details of 3 contracts previously held by your institution that demonstrate your credibility as an implementing organisation. These contracts 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 Q13 was Yes, you may delete these boxes, but please leave Q14)

15. Key Project personnel

Please identify the key project personnel on this project, their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project. Please provide 1 page CVs for these staff, or a 1 page job description or Terms of Reference for roles yet to be filled. Please include more rows where necessary.

Name (First name, surname)	Role	Organisation	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Mike Pienkowski	Project Leader	UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum	20	Yes
Gerard Gray	Lead on invasive plants	Montserrat Dept of Environment	10	Yes
Sarita Francis	Local management	Montserrat National Trust	10	Yes
Jo Treweek	Lead on addressing EIA, planning and risk	Treweek Environmental Consultants	10	Yes
Michael Ivie	Lead on survey and data handling	Montana State University	10	Yes
Catherine Wensink	Coordination, support & reporting	UKOTCF	20	Yes
Students & existing staff	Data handling and programming	Montana State University	various	Yes
Montserratian to be recruited	Local operations	Montserrat National Trust /Dept of Environment	100	Yes

Project Details

16. Project Outcome Statement: Describe what the project aims to achieve and what will change as a result. (30 words max). You can copy and paste from Q26.

Island-wide ecological sustainability and endemic species-survival enhanced, despite interaction of volcanism and human-activities, through strategic planning and varied management approaches, and biological recording, in both open and Exclusion zones.

17. 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 project supports objectives in Montserrat's Sustainable Development Plan 2008-2020, Physical Development Plan and Conservation and Environmental Management Act 2014, key documents for sustainable use of precious natural resources.

Despite 2/3 of Montserrat being an Exclusion-Zone due to volcanism, it remains hugely important for endemic species. Earlier part-Darwin-funded work centred on the Centre Hills. This project takes a strategic view of the whole island – needed to identify and minimise pressures, and ensure that the natural resources are safeguarded, also underpinning economic recovery.

The only long-term way of maximising survival prospects of the many endemic species and ecosystem-services (such as ecotourism and water-supply, vital to the economy) in this small island is to maximise size of the natural ecosystems. Three necessary elements are:

- 1) In the open zone, introducing effective planning and Environmental Assessment, and building local capacity on this, conservation and data-availability
- 2) recovery of remaining forests in the Exclusion-Zone
- 3) facilitating sustainable tourism, valuing the environment and involving more local people in using it sustainably for livelihoods without compromising its role in biodiversity conservation.

Darwin-Plus limits work on (3); UKOTCF and local partners are addressing mainly in other ways. This proposal focuses on (1) and develops plans for (2).

18. 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)

Invasive species control

Feral descendants of farm-animals abandoned due to the volcano, have major negative impacts on natural habitats both in open and exclusion zones; this is kept in check partly, particularly in the open zone, by an existing BEST-funded project addressing several Caribbean islands. Eradication of source populations in the exclusion-zone is required but is beyond the capacity of present projects. An approach to this will be developed for seeking future funding (from elsewhere).

Habitat restoration and management

A driver of potential resourcing for this would be natural restoration of rain-forest on a Caribbean island, based on the existing natural vegetation at the far south of the exclusion-zone, and reachable only by helicopter or boat. Plans will be developed for the management of this area, for nature-tourism, and consideration of the degree to which abandoned farming-elements, such as fruit-orchards, could be restored compatibly with natural forest areas. This will involve surveys (limited by the expense of travel within the Exclusion-Zone), maximising the value and cost-effectiveness of these using remote-sensing and other best-practice approaches benefiting from recent exchanges at UKOTCF-conferences, expert volunteers, local consultations, collaboration between tourism and environmental planners, and exploration of potential future major external funding sources.

Effective planning and environmental impact assessment process

The volcano destroyed Plymouth, the capital and only sizeable town. The remaining population is concentrated in the north, where a new capital is also being built. The pressures on remaining natural habitats for endemic species are now great. Necessary further work will address invasive plants which are reducing grazing and potentially exacerbating the problem. At the request of FCO and the Montserrat Government and NGOs, UKOTCF resourced and ran a workshop on EIA in January 2015, attended by many local players, including all Government-Ministers. A key output of this workshop was consensus regarding current barriers and essential capacity-building requirements, including several related to strategic environmental assessment, and biodiversity risk-assessment. A safe but responsive approach to land-use-planning is required that does not bypass provision for biodiversity conservation and that maximises opportunities for sustainable-use. Implementation of several existing planning and conservation requirements has been constrained by the multiple challenges faced by planning personnel

and land-use planners who are tasked with implementing development of a new capital whilst safeguarding diminishing natural capital on the island. The project will empower local actors to carry out EIA processes effectively. Activities will include working meetings on:

- Strategic spatial planning for biodiversity, including development of outcome-based indicators for threatened ecosystems and threatened and endemic-species populations.
- Programmatic reviews (sand-mining, urban re-development, coastal development, tourism).
- Biodiversity-inclusive risk-assessment.
- Development and review of EIA screening-criteria.
- Criteria and indicators for monitoring ecosystem-services based on supply, use and benefit, and focus-group discussions with representative beneficiaries (reflecting variation in age, gender, livelihood).

Biological Records-Centre

To bring together local wildlife-information and supply this to local users, implementation will build on experience from other territories, for establishment of a biological records-centre, making Montserrat an example in the region, on valuing knowledge of their island.

19. 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 is fundamental to delivery of Montserrat Government's terrestrial and marine conservation priorities, and fits Darwin-Plus Round 4 priorities (especially 5th, plus 1st, 2nd, 4th & 8th).

Whilst recent work was invaluable in moderating negative factors facing Montserrat, the only long-term solution to threats to endemics and endangered species (exacerbated by effects of volcanism increasing negative impacts of human activities) will be by large-scale ecosystem-based initiatives involving stakeholder buy-in, alongside the environment being included in development-planning.

This project will ensure that Montserrat makes good progress in meeting Environment Charter Commitments 1 – 6, and CBD targets 4, 5, 11, 12, 17, and will support UK Government meeting its commitments under CBD and Environment Charters.

b) The project's ambitious nature involves innovations in the scale of planning, and the integration of local champions. It will involve a network of external experts (mainly donating time) to work alongside local partners to address this challenging situation, to elaborate plans for the ways forward. Those involved in building the capacity of local actors on Montserrat have managed capacity-building for biodiversity for the International Association for Impact Assessment.

This project utilises the expertise of highly skilled entomologist, Dr Mike Ivie, who has previously collected records of many invertebrate species on Montserrat recording very high levels of endemism.

c) The project addresses several challenges which need to be overcome:

-ensuring that occupied-zone developments minimise impacts on the natural environment and that capacity is developed to conduct the necessary environmental and risk-assessments;

- supporting this by initiating a biological records-system

-identifying long-term strategies and management-plans for dealing with feral animals and invasive plants. of resourcing natural-forest restoration-management and overcoming operational challenges in the Exclusion-Zone;

-ensuring local support for actions.

The value of this approach has already been evident by the positive reaction, at many levels, to the EIA training organised recently by UKOTCF and led by Dr Jo Treweek, a world-leader in developing best practice and frequently contracted by international funding bodies to audit environmentally projects they

support. Montserrat Government has now expressed enthusiasm for a science-based approach to sustainable development and a willingness to contribute. It is keen also to work with conservation partner-organisations to identify opportunities to encourage those local persons and businesses which depend on the natural environment to become champions of this. The UKOTCF-network will be used to expand this approach to other territories. (This will be facilitated also by the next UKOTCF conference for UKOT conservation-practitioners and decision-makers – to be funded from elsewhere – planned for 2018 in Montserrat.)

The level of effective EIA processes in UKOTs varies. Outputs of this project will be shared with the informal EIA group formed under the auspices of the UKOTCF conference “Sustaining Partnerships” which took place in July 2015, and its likely successor in 2018 in Montserrat. A central depository for workshop outputs and other key documents will be developed on the UKOTCF database which has been a valuable source of information for over 20 years.

20. 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 Government of Montserrat is driving the project. They have recognised the need to safeguard its environment while it strives towards economic sustainability. The Minister of Agriculture, Trade, Lands, Housing and the Environment and his staff approached the network and expertise provided by the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum and are in constant dialogue with it to develop ideas and ways of working together.

The Montserrat National Trust is an associate organisation of the UKOTCF and has a long record of working together. The Trust is driving the project locally to ensure that the natural heritage of Montserrat is preserved for future generations, which is its overall mission. The Director of the Trust has been fully consulted on the proposal and welcomes the opportunity to host workshops in its premises but also local supervision of the work activities.

The local community are stakeholders and the outputs of the project will involve their input during outreach events such as radio and press coverage but also in the working workshops and the scoping exercise and the activities which they will be encouraged to support.

The project will also help UK Government to meet its commitments under MEAs and the Environment Charter to prevent extinctions.

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

UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum. The project will be overseen by a committee of partners, and co-ordinated by UKOTCF. This continues 30 years’ involvement in UKOTs, bringing together government and non-government partners across the territories

UKOTCF, the only UK body devoted entirely to conservation in the UKOTs, is run by a Council of up to 12 individuals including personnel of member and associate organisations, ex-UK Government officials, former Governors of the UKOTs, members of the business community and other specialists. It reviews project progress during quarterly Council meetings. It is a UK-registered audited charity. A small staff supports several experienced full-time volunteers, as well as a wide network throughout the world who provide expertise, knowledge and capacity to deliver projects.

UKOTCF and other partners have worked closely with colleagues in UKOT bodies to ensure that the time-demands on those bodies are within their capacities and priorities. Recent projects include: securing European Commission funding for, and advising, the £2m-project on “Management of Protected Areas to Support Sustainable Economies”, for 3 Caribbean UKOTs.

Montserrat Department of Environment, Government Department with responsibility for the environment, has been a partner in major projects addressing research and conservation, especially in

the Centre Hills.

NGO **Montserrat National Trust's** objectives include to: conserve and enhance the beauty of Montserrat; preserve the fauna and flora of Montserrat; make the public aware of the value and beauty of the island's heritage; pursue a policy of preservation and act in an advisory capacity. Membership includes the local community, the Montserrat population now living overseas and many others living in Montserrat.

Treweek Environmental Consultants (TEC) has capabilities ranging from strategic environmental assessment and wider sustainability-appraisal to focused impact-assessment and detailed ecological surveys. It works with an established network of specialist consultants to provide integrated, comprehensive advice on a wide range of environmental and sustainability issues in the UK and overseas. TEC has a wide portfolio of clients. Underlying TEC's work is a strong commitment to sound environmental planning and sustainable development. TEC undertakes also pro-bono work to help local communities in developing countries make good use of EIA and other procedures, and has already provided such assistance to Montserrat and other UKOTs, via UKOTCF.

Montana State University houses The West Indian Beetle Fauna Project (WIBF). It is fully equipped with computers, stereoscopes, specimen storage equipment, and an automated imaging system. All of this is provided at no cost to the project, representing a match. Several thousand records of invertebrate specimens are in the xBio:D (trans-Biology: Diversity) database, at Ohio State University. WIBF is a fully-vested collaborator in this database, and will host a collection of Montserrat's invertebrate data. The database, an Oracle-application query-able in OJ-Break-API, is a data-provider to both iDigBio and GBIF, so those protocols are in place and functional, compliant with international and Darwin-Core standards. A data-input GUI is in place for the WIBF, and available to this project. An individual GUI portals for Montserrat will be created, providing a localized environment for presenting data.

APPLICANTS SEEKING £100,000 OR OVER SHOULD PROCEED TO QUESTION 26

APPLICANTS SEEKING LESS THAN £100,000 YOU MAY SKIP QUESTION 26

26. LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

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

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Ensured minimal negative impact on natural environment despite pressures of population concentration, and a start on facilitating natural restoration of natural forests and other habitats of the Exclusion Zone.			
<p>Outcome: Island-wide ecological sustainability and endemic species-survival enhanced, despite interaction of volcanism and human-activities, through strategic planning and varied management approaches, and biological recording, in both open and Exclusion zones.</p> <p>(Max 30 words)</p>	<p>(Direct measurable biological results are impossible within the 2-year limit of current Darwin Plus projects. However, good indirect indicators are available:)</p> <p>0.1 Results of development proposals show that environmental sustainability is being taken into account.</p> <p>0.2 Human and supporting infrastructure improved</p> <p>0.3 Plan in place for resourcing and implementing an environmentally sustainable management plan for the Exclusion Zone, re-establishing natural forest</p>	<p>0.1 See 1.1 – 1.3 below</p> <p>0.2 See 2.1 - 2.5 below</p> <p>0.3 See 3.4 below</p>	As below
<p>Outputs:</p> <p>1. System in place to ensure that developments in the occupied zone take full account of maintaining the natural environment</p>	<p>1.1 Procedures and criteria set out.</p> <p>1.2 Environmental assessments available for development proposals.</p> <p>1.3 Decisions demonstrate environmental sustainability being taken into account.</p>	<p>1.1 Copy of procedures document.</p> <p>1.2 EIA documents for proposed developments.</p> <p>1.3 Records of planning authority decisions.</p>	<p>That severe hurricanes do not disrupt: Apart from very severe hurricanes (most recently in early 1990s), disruption tends to be short-term.</p> <p>That human-induced blockages do not disrupt: As finding ways to address these is a fundamental part of the project, major impacts are not envisaged.</p>
<p>2. Better local capacity to address development and conservation issues</p>	<p>2.1 Modified locally accessible database available and training in its use</p>	<p>2.1 The modified locally accessible database, and project reports.</p>	<p>Sufficient computing capability on Montserrat. Both the Montserrat Government Department of the</p>

<p>and support this by biological databases</p>	<p>developed.</p> <p>2.2 Data entry for Montserrat invertebrate information held remotely and repatriation achieved.</p> <p>2.3 Local personnel trained in recording and data recording systems, and operating these.</p> <p>2.4 Information on current status of invasive plants in the open zone collated, and management and control plan developed and initiated.</p> <p>2.5 Local post filled and operational.</p>	<p>2.2 Database populated with invertebrate information, and project reports</p> <p>2.3 Project reports and those of local partners.</p> <p>2.4 Invasive plants status document and project reports</p> <p>2.5 Project reports and those of local partners.</p>	<p>Environment and the Montserrat National Trust have adequate facilities and trained personnel.</p> <p>Qualified person recruited to local post. Although Montserrat has a small population, the skills and qualifications levels are high, so this should not be an issue.</p>
<p>3. Plan for the restoration and management of Montserrat's Exclusion Zone</p>	<p>3.1 Full local consultation system to input into an agreed plan for use of the Exclusion Zone, emphasising restoration of natural ecosystems developed.</p> <p>3.2 Information on the resources required (eg financial, technical assistance, other human resources) available.</p> <p>3.3 Volunteer expert input to the project achieved.</p> <p>3.4 Integrated plan for the environmental restoration and management of the Exclusion Zone produced</p>	<p>3.1 Consultation and workshop reports</p> <p>3.2 The Plan itself and project reports</p> <p>3.4 The Plan itself and project reports</p> <p>3.4 The Plan itself and project reports</p>	<p>That further volcanic activity does not cause disruption: The volcano has moved into a period of low activity in recent years, such that some restrictions in sectors of the Exclusion-Zone are being reduced. However, even increased volcanic activity would enable further assessment of the parameters.</p> <p>Local stakeholder participation is key, via a wide range of activities (workshops, consultations, etc.) Both the Government Department of Environment, the Montserrat National Trust, and other partners have an excellent record of participation in effective workshops and consultations.</p>
<p>4. Project managed and delivered</p>	<p>4.1 Reports and articles on lessons learnt on UKOTCF and other websites and social media, <i>Forum News</i> articles, presentations at meetings and conferences.</p> <p>4.2 Management of all aspects of the project, including local and remote meetings.</p>	<p>4.1 The reports, articles and presentations delivered.</p> <p>4.2. Interim and final reports on the project.</p>	<p>The project will be successfully delivered. All partners in the project have an excellent record of delivering project objectives, and managing required resources effectively and efficiently.</p>

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)

1.1 Developing and reviewing EIA screening criteria and programmatic reviews (sand mining, urban re-development, coastal development, tourism).

1.2 Developing criteria and indicators for monitoring ecosystem services based on supply, use and benefit, via Focus Group Discussions with representative beneficiaries (reflecting variation in age, gender, livelihood).and monitoring of ecosystem services and increasing local capacity for these, land-use planning, and biodiversity-inclusive risk-assessment.

1.3 Building on basic training delivered earlier to deliver training on the above and achieving strategic spatial planning for biodiversity, to include development of outcome-based indicators for threatened ecosystems and threatened and endemic species populations.

2.1 Modifying existing, tested biodiversity database-system for local use, but compatible with supporting wider systems.

2.2 Populating this database with initial content by repatriating of invertebrate data (survey and information basic to oriole and other bird conservation) from US and UK to Montserrat.

2.3 Training of local personnel, and support in the establishment of local recording and data recording systems.

2.4 Increasing local capability for conservation initiatives initially by developing an approach to removal of invasive plants and establishing a locally run system to promote and continue this.

2.5 Providing modest increased local capacity to implement the above activities during the period of support by the project.

3.1 Establish full local consultation system to input into an agreed plan for use of the Exclusion Zone, emphasising restoration of natural ecosystems

3.2 Scoping of the resources required (eg financial, technical assistance, other human resources)

3.3 Engage largely volunteer expert input (to combine with local knowledge) on ecological, restoration and external resourcing of major projects; .

3.4 Produce an integrated plan for the environmental restoration and management of the Exclusion Zone, as a basis for project development, resourcing and implementation beyond the present project, this to include also: determining cost effective methods for this, including field-work, remote-sensing (distant and/or close), monitoring, how to manage the existing abandoned farming elements, resources required etc

4.1 Wider dissemination of lessons of use to other UKOTs and elsewhere

4.2 Management of all aspects of the project, including local and remote meetings

27. 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)

Output 1 is designed to put in place a system which would then be integrated into ongoing activities of the Government of Montserrat and fall within their regular funding.

Output 2 is designed to put governmental and NGO partners in Montserrat in a much better position to maintain the functions developed or enhanced by the other outputs.

Output 3 is designed to provide a strategic framework plan within which future work will fit. The framework should facilitate the external resourcing of a series of projects to take this major initiative forward. Although this means that such further resources will be needed from various sources, without this initial strategic project, such progress would not be possible.

Output 4 is concerned with delivery of the project itself, and also with wider application of the results. In addition, UKOTCF has had a 30-year relationship with the UKOTs, including Montserrat, helping them overcome challenges due to changes in financial and human resources, and will continue this.

28. Open access: All outputs from Darwin Plus projects should be made available on-line and free to users whenever possible. Please outline how you will achieve this. (200 words max)

One of UKOTCF's main functions for the 30 years of its existence has been to facilitate the free exchange of information between conservation workers and others. It was responsible in the 1990s for the first online database on UKOT conservation, and has maintained this since. It provided also, under contract and later as a free service, online and other dissemination for some of Darwin Plus's predecessor programmes.

UKOTCF will continue to use these facilities, as well as its wide network, newsletters, regional working groups and conferences (especially that planned for Montserrat around the time of the project end – see above) to disseminate these outputs. As noted also above, UKOTCF and territory partners plan to incorporate the outputs in future projects for various UKOTs.

In addition, a major component of the work is to make freely available the largest datasets on Montserrat's biodiversity – previously unavailable because of lack of resources.

29. 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 managed overall by UKOTCF, which will oversee expenditure, co-ordination and reporting. In addition, a small project management-team will be established, comprising the following:

- UKOTCF
- Montserrat Government
- Montserrat National Trust
- Treweek Environmental Consultants
- Montana State University

The project management team will convene bi-monthly to review production reports, budget and finances and operational issues using a variety of communication tools (Skype, email). The project management-team will also fulfil reporting requirements for Darwin Plus.

UKOTCF has developed a model of dispersed co-ordination with partners in the UKOTs as well as in Britain and elsewhere, over several years and found it to be particularly effective. In addition, UKOTCF Council (including conservationists not involved in the project, personnel from other UKOTs, and those with skills of ecology, conservation, accountancy, law, general and project management and former UKOT governors) reviews all projects in which UKOTCF is involved.

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

30. 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?)

UKOTCF is a non-profit organization that has successfully managed and overseen several conservation projects throughout the UKOTs. Local partners will supply full information and copies of financial vouchers to UKOTCF regularly. UKOTCF has over 20 years of experience in managing projects and finances. Most of its Council members and officers have previous personal experience of financial management in governmental bodies, NGOs and/or commercial organisations. The project-leader will manage funds overall; in previous posts, he was responsible for managing the largest conservation grants issued then by UK Government, and the overall budget of a UK Government agency, as well as chairing the finance committee of a major international organisation. Since then, he has managed the finances of several NGOs, including UKOTCF. UKOTCF's Treasurer (a qualified accountant and director of a major commercial UK company) has oversight, as does UKOTCF's full Council. As a charitable company, UKOTCF has an annual independent audit and the audited accounts are supplied to member organisations, the Charity Commission and Companies House. The annual report and audited accounts are published.

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. If you are requesting over £100,000 from Darwin Plus, you must complete the full spreadsheet.

31. 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)

At the request of Montserrat Government and NGOs, this project reverts to the original objectives of the Darwin Initiative, to provide places that need it with British specialist assistance. Inevitably, this involves substantial travel and subsistence costs. However, this is more than offset by the fact that most of the expertise is being provided at no cost. The call for this work came not from UKOTCF, but from Montserrat partners (and, to some extent, from FCO, which had planned to fund the earlier EIA training, but then found it did not have resources, so UKOTCF met the cost – but does not have resources to fund alone the necessary expansion of this work). However, UKOTCF is pleased to help, especially at this time when both Montserrat Government Ministers, their staff and the NGOs are particularly responsive to environmentally sustainable approaches, to which they are strongly and publically committed. This, in itself, is a major aspect of value-for-money, because recommendations are highly likely to be implemented.

Travel-costs will be minimised by using electronic communications and training methods whenever possible. UKOTCF and its collaborators use much donated specialist-time throughout its activities.

32. 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

	Activity	No of Months	Year 1												Year 2											
			A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
Output 1	System in place to ensure that developments in the occupied zone take full account of maintaining the natural environment	19																								
1.1	Developing and reviewing EIA screening criteria and programmatic reviews (sand mining, urban re-development, coastal development, tourism).	9																								
1.2	Developing criteria and indicators for monitoring ecosystem services based on supply, use and benefit, via Focus Group Discussions with representative beneficiaries (reflecting variation in age, gender, livelihood).and monitoring of ecosystem services and increasing local capacity for these, land-use planning, and biodiversity-inclusive risk-assessment.	10																								
1.3	Building on basic training delivered earlier to deliver training on the above and achieving strategic spatial planning for biodiversity, to include development of outcome-based indicators for threatened ecosystems and threatened and endemic species populations.	8																								
Output 2	Better local capacity to address development and conservation issues and support this by biological databases	24																								
2.1	Modifying existing, tested biodiversity database-system for local use, but compatible with supporting wider	6																								

	Activity	No of Mont hs	Year 1												Year 2											
			A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
	systems.																									
2.2	Populating this database with initial content by repatriating of invertebrate data (survey and information basic to oriole and other bird conservation) from US and UK to Montserrat.	12																								
2.3	Training of local personnel, and support in the establishment of local recording and data recording systems.	17																								
2.4	Increasing local capability for conservation initiatives initially by developing an approach to removal of invasive plants and establishing a locally run system to promote and continue this.	20																								
2.5	Providing modest increased local capacity to implement the above activities during the period of support by the project.	24																								
Output 3	Plan for the restoration and management of Montserrat's Exclusion Zone	23																								
3.1	Establish full local consultation system to input into an agreed plan for use of the Exclusion Zone, emphasising restoration of natural ecosystems	14																								
3.2	Scoping of the resources required (eg financial, technical assistance, other human resources)	4																								
3.3	Engage largely volunteer expert input (to combine with local knowledge) on ecological, restoration and external	6																								

	Activity	No of Months	Year 1												Year 2											
			A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
	resourcing of major projects; .																									
3.4	Produce an integrated plan for the environmental restoration and management of the Exclusion Zone, as a basis for project development, resourcing and implementation beyond the present project, this to include also: determining cost effective methods for this, including field-work, remote-sensing (distant and/or close), monitoring, how to manage the existing abandoned farming elements, resources required etc	9																								
Output 4	Project managed and delivered	24																								
4.1	Wider dissemination of lessons of use to other UKOTs and elsewhere	3																								
4.2	Management of all aspects of the project, including local and remote meetings	24																								

CERTIFICATION

On behalf of the trustees/company* of UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum
(*delete as appropriate)

I apply for a grant of £165,400 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 key project personnel and letters of support.
- I enclose the most recent 2 years of signed and audited/independently verified accounts.

Name (block capitals)	Dr MIKE PIENKOWSKI
Position in the organisation	Honorary Executive Director

Signed



Date:

20 September 2015

If this section is incomplete the entire application will be rejected. You must provide a real (not typed) signature. You may include a pdf of the signature page for security reasons if you wish. Please write PDF in the signature section above if you do so.

Application Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you read the Guidance Notes ?	Yes
Have you checked the Darwin Plus website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	Yes
Have you provided actual start and end dates for your project?	Yes
Have you provided your budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP?	Yes
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?	Yes
Has your application been signed by a suitably authorised individual ? (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable in the email)	Yes
Have you included a 1 page CV for all the key project personnel ?	Yes
Have you included a letter of support from the applicant organisation, main partner(s) organisations and the relevant OT Government ?	Yes
Have you included a copy of the last 2 years' annual report and accounts for the lead organisation?	Yes

Once you have answered the questions above, please submit the application, not later than midnight **2359 GMT Monday 21 September 2015** 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.