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Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs | DARWIN INITIATIVE | Foreign & Commonwealth Office | Department for International Development | UKaid from the British people

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

Submit by **2359 GMT Monday 29 August 2016**

Please read the Guidance 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)	**Securing the future of the Tristan marine environment**		
2. UK OT(s) involved	Tristan da Cunha	**Letter of support from OT government attached?**	Yes
3. Start Date:	May 2017		
4. End Date:	May 2020		
5. Duration of project (no longer than 36 months)	36 months		

Summary of Costs	**2017/18**	**2018/19**	**2019/20**	**Total**
6. Budget requested from Darwin	£155,540	£78,150	£54,800	£288,490
7. Total value of matched funding	£10,350	£5,350	£5,350	£21,050
8. Total Project Budget (all funders)	£165,890	£83,500	£60,150	£309,540
9. Names of Co-funders	TDC Government, RSPB			

10. Name, address and contact details of lead applicant organisation (responsible for delivering outputs, reporting and managing funds)*	RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL

* 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	Schofield	Glass	
Forename(s)	Andrew	James	
Post held	Overseas Territories Officer	Director	
Institution (if different to above)	RSPB	Tristan da Cunha Government	
Department	International Directorate	Fisheries	
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
DPLUS053	Dr Alexander Bond	Project Pinnamin: conserving northern rockhopper penguins on Tristan da Cunha
22-015	Dr Paul Donald	Sustainable management of an Ethiopian rangeland for biodiversity and pastoralists
DPLUS028	Clare Stringer	Assessing the conservation status of the Atlantic yellow-nosed albatross, Tristan da Cunha
DPLUS005	Clare Stringer	Sustainable management of the marine environment and resources of Tristan da Cunha
2031	Nicolas Tubbs	Enhancing habitat connectivity through sustainable development around the Gola Rainforest.
19-011	Ian Barber	Conserving the critically endangered Bengal Florican - a Terai flagship species

14. If your answer to Q13 was No, DELETED – NOT RELEVANT

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?
Andy Schofield	Project Leader	RSPB	50%	Yes
James Glass	Project Partner	Government of Tristan da Cunha	70%	Yes
Charles Kilgour	Post-holder, Consultant	Independent	50%	Yes
Rob Mrowicki	Post-holder, Consultant	Independent	33%	Yes
Sue Scott	Consultant	Independent	10%	Yes
Ruth Sharman	International Finance Officer	RSPB	5%	Yes

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.

Strengthened local capacity for sustainable management of marine resources, underpinning of decisions on fisheries diversification and MPAs, and enhanced understanding of impacts of invasive marine species and climate change.

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)

Tristan da Cunha is highly dependent on a healthy marine environment to support its MSC-certified rock lobster fishery, which provides 80-90% of the island's income, enabling it to be self-sustaining. The marine life of the islands is also of high conservation importance. However the marine life and fishery are highly vulnerable to climate change, with the key kelp forest potentially disappearing if seawater temperatures increase. The high reliance on the lobster fishery makes it crucial for islanders that it is managed sustainably, and that the probable effects of threats from invasive introduced species and climate change are assessed in order to plan for the future. Previous Darwin projects have substantially enhanced local capacity for marine research and response to change through an increased knowledge base and training of islanders, and identified ways of improving data collection for fisheries management. This project aims to consolidate and build on this established base by further training for islanders in fisheries data acquisition and processing, including experience for the Head of Fisheries in a relevant country with sustainable lobster fisheries and established MPAs. The project also aims to fill gaps in knowledge of biota essential to underpin MPA decisions, and of marine invasives.

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)

Planning for this project has taken account of experience from previous Darwin projects on Tristan, with respect to appointment of suitable personnel, the timing of fieldwork, and what can realistically be achieved. Periods on-island will be determined according to the work programme and agreed with the Fisheries Department, and will require 3-4 months in the calmer summer months, because of the often inclement sea conditions and restrictions of the small harbour. Once trained, much of the work can be continued by islanders in the absence of researchers. An extended period of three years is proposed, to allow for delays and difficulties of working on Tristan (transport and weather are particular challenges), and to complete an extended period of lobster research and training for islanders.

In order to benefit from the experience of other countries, we propose a study trip for the Director of Fisheries on Tristan, accompanied for part of the trip by the fisheries post-holder to aid in interpretation, to a country with a spiny lobster fishery and with established MPAs.

Survey equipment is already available on Tristan, some funded or part-funded by previous Darwin projects, including a rigid-hulled inflatable boat, microscopes and sampling equipment. Robust methods and protocols are already established for diving on Tristan, with due regard to safety in a remote and rigorous environment. Two islanders are now fully competent and experienced divers, enabling an efficient diving team of four to be made up with islanders and researchers. Other equipment necessary for the proposed work is costed into this project, including towed plankton nets, innovative data loggers to record fishing effort on local boats, and seine or gill nets for catching invasive porgy. GoPro cameras in housings depth-rated at 1,500m are a cost-effective way of gaining more information on deeper water biota, and an acoustic array will gather information on cetaceans at the islands. A small purpose-built holding facility will be constructed for experimental work on lobsters, in particular to test methods of tagging, a vital fishery management tool. This facility will be a permanent legacy of the project, facilitating future experimental work. Building on techniques implemented during previous Darwin projects, analysis of remote sensing imagery will be combined with in-water surveys to enable large-scale mapping of kelp forest extent and biomass.

Project personnel with an established record of working successfully on Tristan, and who will not require lead-in time and project familiarisation, will complete the work programme and training if possible, otherwise suitably qualified personnel will be appointed through the usual recruitment process. Full support will be available from project personnel. The Project Leader is experienced in running large-budget projects in the OTs, while Project Partner James Glass has been Director of Fisheries on Tristan for 23 years, with considerable experience off-island on training and study trips. Other project personnel have extensive experience of working in the marine environment of the Tristan top islands and Gough, in other South Atlantic UKOTs, and of running and conducting research on Darwin marine projects on Tristan (see CVs).

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) Priority issues against which the project will deliver on Tristan are:

1. Improving the conservation, protection and management of the marine environment - data analysis and a study trip to an existing MPA will underpin planning for MPAs, thus contributing to the UK Government's 'Blue Belt' manifesto commitment. The project will improve the data collection on which the lobster fishery is managed.

2. Dealing with invasive alien species - the project will collect further data on the invasive porgy fish to establish its impact on native marine life. It will monitor for other introductions from past incidents, and it will examine and progress ways of prevention of new introductions.

3. Developing approaches to deal with the effects of climate change - the project will include monitoring for change in biota, and gathering of data on aspects of the biology of key ecosystem organisms in order to help predict the likely effects of climate change, and scenarios for coping.

4. Developing tools to value ecosystem services - data on the abundance and distribution of key marine species will be useful for quantifying ecosystem services. In particular, inshore kelp forests provide a number of important services in terms of coastal protection and supporting lobster biomass.

5. Developing ecosystem-based initiatives for the conservation and sustainable use of the terrestrial and marine environments - by addressing critical knowledge gaps concerning lobster ecology and interactions with other species (particularly invasives), various aspects of this project will inform ecosystem-based approaches to managing marine resources.

6. Promoting sustainable fisheries - much of the fisheries-related work proposed in the project is aimed at continued and improved sustainable management of the lobster fishery. It will also examine diversification of sustainable fisheries.

7. Developing or improving waste management strategies - The project will look at improved use of fishery waste for agriculture on Tristan.

8. Developing data systems on biodiversity - the project includes developing an accessible database for all marine and fisheries data.

b) Technical excellence in delivery of the project will be achieved by using the collective experience of the project leader and partners, who are experts in their own fields (fisheries, marine survey, training, see section 21) and have proven records of delivering results in the often difficult marine environment on Tristan. Off-island project partners can also provide backup support to personnel on Tristan. If project partners are unavailable for fieldwork, appropriate salaries will be offered to attract biologists of a suitable calibre to ensure high-quality research and a legacy of skills transferred to islanders.

c) The project has a clear pathway to impact on Tristan because the majority of the work is directly or indirectly related to sustainability of the lobster fishery, which provides the main income for the island. The work is also highly relevant to other major marine issues, in particular the effects of invasive species and climate change, and how to mitigate these. Identifying areas that would benefit from protection is a high priority for Tristan in designing MPAs.

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 main stakeholders are the people of Tristan da Cunha. The island Administrator and the Director of Fisheries (a Project Partner) are in full support of this project, and have identified specific needs to be addressed. Project leaders, partners and personnel have been in frequent discussions following previous projects, particularly project DPLUS005, which identified or informed the need for much of the work proposed in this project. Islanders will be involved at all stages in the fieldwork, data-gathering and analysis. Project personnel will keep the Tristan people informed of project progress at regular intervals through presentations on the island. The Tristan Government is providing laboratory facilities and is prepared to provide some co-funding (local costs) for marine work directly related to the stranding of the bulk carrier *Oliva* in 2011.

Ovenstones Pty, the fisheries concession holder, is also a stakeholder, with a direct interest in the sustainability of the lobster fishery. The company has been supportive of past projects, and can provide survey support at reduced rates while fishing in remoter parts of the archipelago, particularly Gough Island. A number of scientists have an interest in the Tristan marine environment and can provide specialist advice and support.

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

The **RSPB** has been working in the UKOTs for over 20 years; this work is undertaken in partnership with local organisations. The underlying principle of the RSPB's engagement in the UKOTs is to establish enduring relationships with local partners and support their development to lead sustainable conservation programmes. The RSPB will provide financial and technical project management and coordinate activities, monitoring and reporting in close liaison with the project group including partners and Government representatives.

Project Partner **James Glass** has been Head of Fisheries on Tristan for 23 years, and is responsible for managing the lobster fishery. Tristan has a unique rock lobster species (*Jasus tristani*) with over 80% of the island's economy stemming from harvesting the lobster. James takes the lead role in all negotiations with fishing companies, issuing licences for longlining and trawling, setting quotas, instigating conservation measures and liaising with the environmental lobby and academia to ensure the island has a healthy marine environment. In 2014 he completed his MSc thesis on aspects of the Tristan lobster fishery. Together with other fishery department staff, he provided support for surveys of Gough in 2014 and 2015.

Charles Kilgour is a fisheries specialist with experience of diverse sustainable fisheries through his work with MacAllister Elliot and Partners, a UK company that assesses fisheries for Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification. He was appointed as fisheries post-holder on Tristan for the previous Darwin marine project (DPLUS005)

Rob Mrowicki is a marine ecologist with fundamental research expertise in the effects of biodiversity loss and environmental change on ecosystem functioning. Most recently, he has led and participated in practical marine and fisheries-related research and survey work at Ascension Island, the Falkland Islands and Tristan, where he worked on the previous Darwin marine project during 2014–2015. He is a diving instructor with extensive experience of diving and conducting underwater surveys in remote places.

Sue Scott is a self-employed marine biologist with extensive experience of working on and managing marine surveys and impact assessment in remote places and in temperate waters of the Atlantic. She has worked on Tristan in most years from 2004-2014, mainly on Darwin Initiative project diving surveys which described marine habitats and species. She advised the Tristan Government on assessment of impacts following the rig stranding in 2006 and the Oliva wreck in 2011. She provided information in support of MSC certification of the lobster fishery, and her underwater photographs have been used for education and tourism projects on Tristan. She has also dived at most of the South Atlantic OTs, enabling work on the Tristan marine ecosystem to be put into a wider context. She provides ongoing support to Tristan through the Tristan Biodiversity Action Group (TBAG).

APPLICANTS SEEKING £100,000 OR OVER CAN PROCEED TO 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: (this is long term – the wider context of your proposal) (Max 30 words) The marine environment is managed to sustain local livelihoods, while conserving biodiversity and natural resources, and monitoring for potential effects of invasive species, climate change and other anthropogenic impacts.			
Outcome: (by the end of the Darwin funding) (Max 30 words) Strengthened local capacity for sustainable management of marine resources, for underpinning of decisions on fisheries diversification and MPAs, and enhanced understanding of impacts of invasive marine species and climate change.	0.1 Acquisition of data to better inform decisions on conservation of stocks, underpin continued accreditation of lobster fishery with MSC.and enable informed decisions on fisheries diversification. Study trip to country with well-managed lobster fishery completed. 0.2 Data collected on the biology of invasive porgy fish. Enhanced surveys to detect and monitor invasive species and changes in marine communities in response to anthropogenic impacts. 0.3. Potential impacts of climate change on marine ecosystems and the Tristan lobster fishery are identified, and relevant aspects of the biology of key species clarified. 0.4. Species distribution data are used to identify biodiversity hotspots and recommend appropriate levels of protection for the marine zone. Study trip to country with established MPAs completed. Workshop involving stakeholders and marine planning specialists held.	0.1 Reports on deeper biota in lobster fishery area. Tagging methods adjusted, use of enhanced data to set annual fishery quotas and refine methods. Report on study trip completed. Lobster holding facility built. 0.2. Annual reports on the abundance and distribution of invasive species and status of marine communities within the inshore environment. Paper published on porgy status, distribution and biology. 0.3. Assessment report of potential impacts of climate change on the Tristan lobster fishery and marine ecosystems. 0.4. Report on study trip. Report summarising distributions of habitat types and species. Report on workshop.	Suitably qualified and experienced personnel can be recruited to conduct research and training Capacity building is retained on island (either by people staying or training being shared) Appropriate country willing to host fisheries/MPA study trip.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Outputs			
1.Tristan da Cunha has greater local capacity to manage its marine resources sustainably	1.1 Fisheries Manager on TdC and fisheries specialist post-holder undertake a study visit to a well-managed rock lobster fishery in another country. The study visit includes integration with a lobster management team during the quota allocation processes, data collection activities and stakeholder engagement process. The trip also includes meeting key people and organisations in the UK. 1.2. 3 TdC fisheries observers trained in other fishing techniques appropriate to fisheries diversification at Tristan. Training should include monitoring techniques, observer daily activities, conflict resolution, reporting, and general MCS techniques. 1.3. Further training for islanders in fisheries data collection and processing 1.4. Three islanders undergo further dive training and experience on-island 1.5. Five islanders trained in new survey techniques, demonstrate ability to collect monitoring data of sufficient standard 1.6. An integrated database is established for storing/querying fisheries and marine environmental data, and all related metadata	1.1. Trip 'diary' and thoughts/conclusions written up by participant(s). Updated Tristan da Cunha Lobster Management Plan completed with host organisation 1.2. Course certification by training organisation CapFish in Cape Town. 1.3. Report from trainer(s) 1.4. Diving logbooks updated, qualification certificates/cards, training report 1.5 Training reports, individual performance reports, informal assessment by researchers and supervisors, data sheets completed. 1.6. Database established, and islanders able to interrogate.	Appropriate country willing to host fisheries/MPA study trip, and external organisations agree to host fisheries staff members for extended periods of time New additional observers/surveyors are available and willing to undertake training Suitably qualified and experienced personnel can be recruited to conduct training Capacity building is retained on island (either by people staying or training being shared)
2. The monitoring of the lobster fishery is improved through research and the introduction of new	2.1 The estimation of fishing effort on Tristan is improved by procuring and installing fishing activity monitoring	2.1 Operational data loggers and trap tags installed on all Tristan fishing vessels. Data used for improved	Suitably qualified and experienced researchers can be recruited Fishers willing to cooperate with new

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
technology.	technology on the powerboats operating at Tristan. 2.2 The impact of tagging Tristan lobsters is reduced by undertaking an 18-month study of tagged lobster	fisheries management. 2.2 Lobster tagging report	technology trials Lobster holding facility can be built on-island, or suitable facility identified in Cape Town
3. Critical information on *Jasus tristani* life history and ecology is used to improve long-term monitoring and management of stocks.	3.1 Lobster larval abundance in inshore and offshore waters is determined by plankton net hauls 3.2 Methods for monitoring lobster larval settlement developed 3.3 Information obtained on distribution and habitat preferences of lobster, kelp and other key species	3.1 Lobster data sheets, preserved samples, reports, species distribution maps, published papers 3.2 Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) document 3,3 Survey forms, photographs, survey reports, species distribution maps, published papers. Data being used to inform stock management	Suitably qualified and experienced researchers can be recruited Weather conditions allow survey and monitoring work Access to a suitable platform for offshore sampling is available
4. The status of invasive marine species and their potential impacts on native ecosystems are determined, and monitoring protocols established.	4.1 Surveys of distribution and abundance of South American silver porgy at Tristan, and for presence at Nightingale and Inaccessible 4.2 At least 100 porgy sampled for diet and reproductive analysis 4.3. Information gathered on porgy population structure and dynamics by monitoring regularly at selected sites 4.4 Surveys for presence of non-native benthic invertebrates, especially in the harbour, the vicinity of Trypot (rig stranding) and Nightingale (*Oliva* wreck) 4.5 Settlement panels for detecting non-native benthic invertebrates deployed for period of project	4.1 and 4.2 Porgy data sheets, photographs, preserved samples, species distribution maps, survey reports, paper published 4.3 Survey reports, photographs 4.4 Survey reports, photographs, dive logs 4.5.Report of results, list of settled invertebrate species (native and non-native), SOPs	Weather conditions allow survey and monitoring work

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
5. Habitat and species distributions are mapped and monitored to assess potential effects of climate change	5.1 Habitat mapping methods researched, trialled and established 5.2 Baseline data on kelp biomass, condition and growth rates collected at representative inshore sites 5.3 Number of subtidal monitoring sites increased to six, encompassing multiple islands and habitat types 5.4 Inshore and offshore plankton samples from at least two different seasons collected and analysed 5.5. More data loggers deployed in the subtidal	5.1 Research reports, survey reports, inshore habitat and species maps, SOPs 5.2 Data sheets, photographs, survey reports, ground-truthed kelp habitat maps 5.3 SOPs, long-term survey schedule, evidence of training in monitoring techniques (see output 1) 5.4 Preserved plankton samples, species lists and photographs, report on plankton composition 5.5. Data retrieved from loggers	Suitably qualified and experienced researchers can be recruited Weather conditions allow survey and monitoring work Access to a suitable platform for offshore sampling is available
6. Tristan da Cunha has greater local capacity to prepare for large scale Marine Protected Area Management	6.1. Fisheries Manager on TdC visits an appropriate MPA with diverse zonation scheme. Integrates with the MPA management team to learn about the various degrees of protection associated with MPA's, enforcement techniques and tools and daily management tasks. The trip will also include visits to key organisations in the UK dealing with MPA establishment. 6.2. Biodiversity 'hotspots' identified through mapping of habitats and species from survey data, to facilitate MPA planning. 6.3. Data acquired on biota of deeper water, other data-deficient habitats, and cetacean occurrence and distribution. 6.4. Data acquired on cetacean distribution and abundance using underwater acoustic array	6.1. Trip 'diary' and thoughts/conclusions written up by participant(s). With training management team and stakeholders, report on conditions for the development of an MPA for Tristan da Cunha. 6.2. Report on biodiversity mapping and recommendations. 6.3. Survey results and report on gap-filling habitat/species surveys. 6.4. Workshop reports	Appropriate country willing to host fisheries/MPA study trip.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	6.5. Workshops and/or phone conferences held on/off island as appropriate to discuss MPA establishment at Tristan.		

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)

Output 1. Improved local capacity

1.1 Study trip to a country managing a rock lobster fishery (possibly Tasmania) and with MPAs, for Director of Fisheries and researcher.
1.2 Fisheries observer training in Cape Town for 3 islanders, on fishing methods for species other than rock lobsters
1.3. Continued training for islanders in fisheries data gathering, processing and use for fisheries modelling
1.4 Further training and dive experience for 3 islanders on Tristan
1.5. Continued and expanded training and involvement in marine survey methods for 5 islanders, including recording, identification, data processing etc
1.6. Creation of an integrated database for storing/querying fisheries and marine environmental data, and all related metadata.

Output 2. Improved fisheries monitoring

2.1. Procure and install fishing activity monitoring technology on local Tristan fishing boats to improve accuracy of fishing effort data, essential for sustainable fisheries management.
2.2 Experiments to determine the effects of various tags and tagging methods on the lobsters to reduce mortality. Construction of holding tank facility on Tristan.

Output 3. Improved information base on Tristan lobster life history and ecology

3.2 Sample lobster pueruli larvae using pueruli traps, in-water surveys and plankton hauls to improve understanding of seasonal/annual abundance and to inform modelling
3.3. Assess Pueruli habitat preferences through underwater searches; traps with different materials.
3.4 Continue assessment of juvenile lobster/fish food supply through surveying smaller biota of different habitats, depths, types of seaweed cover through analysis of turf samples..
3.5. Assess dietary requirements of adult lobsters through further gut content analysis and recording of night time foraging behaviour.
3.6. Acquire basic data on under-recorded habitats, particularly life on the deeper seabed at 30-100m (depths affected by the lobster fishery), and on cobble/pebbles (probably an important refuge habitat for larval lobsters and adults feeding)

Output 4. Invasive non-native species impacts

4.1 Study reproductive state and diet of the invasive porgy fish through trapping (gill and/or seine netting) and dissection of large sample.
4.2 Surveys to assess current geographical distribution of invasive porgy across Tristan main island, and Nightingale and Inaccessible.
4.3 Surveys of porgy abundance/distribution at selected sites; assess population structure (sizes, sex ratios), reproductive cycles (gonad visual inspection and preservation for later histological analysis) and dietary overlap with native species e.g. fivefinger (gut contents analysis); establish regular sampling protocols

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
4.4 Surveys to look for new settlement of invasive mussels *Mytilus galloprovincialis* from the wreck of the *Oliva* in 2011, both shore and subtidal, at Nightingale 4.5.Surveys to continue checking for establishment of invertebrates from the rig stranding in 2006, especially at sites near Trypot; implement checks on hulls of yachts visiting Tristan; install PVC settlement tiles at a number of accessible sites (monitor using underwater photography). **Output 5. Climate change impacts** 5.1. Map habitats using existing and new survey data 5.2. Establish methods for mapping giant kelp cover and assessing biomass; tracking changes in response to local- and large-scale environmental stressors. Establish methods and sites for assessing kelp growth and condition (possible early indicators of stress), and seasonal changes 5.3. Expand long-term climate change impact monitoring sites using methods developed in other South Atlantic UKOTs 5.4. Study seasonal/annual changes in plankton ecology/populations through regular hauls, record abundance and composition, preserve. (see also 3.2). Look at possible differences between Tristan & Nightingale, especially in summer when Subtropical Front there. 5.5 Continued collection of long-term sea surface temperature data and collection of data from subtidal data loggers. **Output 6. Towards MPA establishment** 6.1 Fact-finding visit for Director of Fisheries to another country with appropriate MPAs and fisheries, to establish how they may be managed together. The trip will also include time in the UK meeting with relevant organisations and individuals. 6.2 Mapping and collation of existing data to identify biodiversity hotspots. 6.3 Acquire data on the biota of deeper water. A comprehensive survey of the seabed in waters below 30m is beyond the scope of this project, but preliminary information will be recorded using GoPro cameras in underwater housings depth-rated to 1,500m. 6.4. Acquire data on cetacean distribution and abundance using underwater acoustic array 6.5 Hold workshops/meetings on/off Tristan as appropriate to discuss MPA establishment at Tristan, aims and mechanisms			

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)
Previous projects have provided data, and passed on valuable skills, but there has been little time to consolidate these skills and they require enhancing (e.g. with improved identification training and data management) to avoid falling out of use. This project will reinforce these skills, with full participation of islanders. At the completion of this project islanders will be at the stage where they can continue a regular programme of work, and adapt the skills to future needs. The greater emphasis of fisheries training and data management in this project will also ensure benefits are sustained, as fisheries are crucial for the island's income. The island specifically requested training in fisheries data acquisition and processing, and in MPA establishment, indicating that these are a high local priority and that the benefits will be sustained after the project. Project partners will retain an interest in and contacts with Tristan after the end of the project, and be available to provide continuing advice if required, partly through the Tristan Biodiversity Action Group (TBAG) of which RSPB and Sue Scott are members. The proposed lobster holding facilities on Tristan will be a permanent facility, facilitating future experimental work on lobsters to aid fisheries management.

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)
Open access to data and the products of research is a general policy of RSPB. All data, reports, photographs and other outputs from the project will be free of access, and available in digital form where possible and appropriate on the Darwin and RSPB websites. Annual and half-year reports to Darwin will list project progress and the products available from them. Any papers arising from the project will be published on-line.

29. Monitoring & Evaluation: Describe, referring to the Indicators above, how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, making reference to who is responsible for the project's M&E. Darwin Initiative projects are expected 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.
(Max 500 words) The Project Leader will be responsible for implementing the M&E. The project will utilise the Logical Framework as the basis of monitoring progress and reporting to Darwin. The Project management team will have responsibility to track and review project progress through the M&E plan, which the project leader will develop at project start-up in consultation with all partners. Project personnel will be in frequent contact over project progress, and priorities for output completion discussed and revised where necessary. Annual and half-year reports to Darwin will summarise progress against the planned outputs and activities. Tristan is a difficult place to reach and work, and past experience has shown that it is often necessary to be flexible and to adapt to changes of plan beyond the control of project personnel, therefore we plan for frequent M&E reviews to keep projects on track and provide early solutions to potential problems.

Number of days planned for M&E	Not defined; as required
Total project budget for M&E	Not defined; project staff time as required
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E	n/a

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?)
RSPB will manage the grant and has extensive experience of managing grant funding and of prioritising spending, and has a good track record with the management of Darwin Projects. The RSPB follows the highest standards of financial accountability and control. RSPB will sub-grant to the Tristan Government and partners who will produce quarterly financial and technical reports and submit them to the RSPB. RSPB will contract any consultants through the appropriate tendering process that Darwin and RSPB require. The project will be audited once it has ended and as final reports are submitted.

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)
The budget builds on the extensive experience acquired from the previous Darwin project, RSPBs long term experience of working on island and from local partner advice. Project teams will be based on island long term due to the logistical challenges of reaching TDC. Having personnel based on Tristan is also the most cost-effective way of survey at Gough, enabling opportunistic visits if the opportunity arises during fishing operations and it reduces the considerable expense of multiple visits. On-island costs for accommodation, boat hire, and local labour, are set by the island, but have been partially offset as a Tristan contribution to funding. RSPB staff time is also part-funded by the organisation. Equipment bought under previous projects has reduced costs, and the Tristan Government is prepared to co-fund the purchase of a suitable vehicle for fieldwork. Value for money will be ensured through: **Working in Partnership** – will offer value for money both by recruiting locally and with local costs and building capacity locally to ensure sustainability **Procurement of supplies and equipment:** Will be purchased where most cost effective in terms of quality, price and transport considerations. **Financial management:** The project will be supported by the RSPBs robust financial management processes (see 30) in parallel to ongoing support that RSPB provides to the Tristan Government in building its financial management capacity.

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

Please add/remove columns to reflect the length of your project. For each activity (add/remove rows as appropriate) indicate the number of quarters it will last, and shade only the quarters in which an activity will be carried out. The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

	Activity	No. of months	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1														
1.1	Visit to rock lobster fishery		x	x										
1.2	Observer training						x	x						
1.3, 1.4	Islander training, survey techniques and diving				x	x			x	x			x	x
1.5.	Database established												x	
Output 2														
2.1	Install monitoring technology on Tristan boats			x	x									
2.2	Build holding facility, study of tagged lobster		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2.3														
Output 3														
3.1	Larval abundance in plankton hauls				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
3.2	Monitoring larval settlement				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
3.3	Species distribution and habitat preferences				x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x
3.4														
Output 4														
4.1	Surveys of invasive porgy				x	x			x	x			x	x
4.2	Porgy sampling				x	x								
4.3	Surveys for invasive invertebrates				x	x								
4.4	Deployment of settlement panels, recording of results				x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x
4.5														
Output 5														
5.1	Habitat mapping		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				

5.2	Kelp data				x	x	x								
5.3	Subtidal monitoring				x	x	x		x	x	x		x		
5.4	Plankton sampling				x	x	x								
Output 6															
6.1	Study trip for MPA (as 1.1)			x	x										
6.2	Biodiversity hotspot mapping			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
6.3	Information from deeper water				x	x	x		x	x	x				
6.4	MPA workshops				x			x							

CERTIFICATION

On behalf of the trustees/company* of RSPB

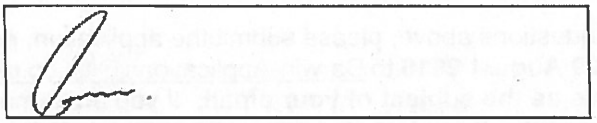
(*delete as appropriate)

I apply for a grant of £288,490 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)	Andrew Schofield
Position in the organisation	Overseas Territories Officer

Signed  **Date:** 29.08.2016

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

Once you have answered the questions above, please submit the application, not later than midnight **2359 GMT Monday 29 August 2016** 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.