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Submit by Monday 30 January 2012



**DARWIN INITIATIVE APPLICATION FOR UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CHALLENGE FUND:
Round 18**

Please read the Guidance Notes before completing this form.

1. Name, postal address and contact details of applicant organisation and main individual: (notification of results will be by email to this individual)	
Dr. James Fenton, Falklands Conservation, Jubilee Villas, Stanley, Falkland Islands, FIQQ 1ZZ	
E-mail address:	Phone:
2. Working title/name of the proposed resulting Darwin project (not exceeding 10 words):	
Developing Native Seed Mixes for Habitat Restoration in the Falklands	
3. Proposed UKOT(s) involved	Other collaborating country/ies to be involved
Falkland Islands	UK

4. Principals in Challenge Fund work

(a) Please give the details of the main individuals who will be directly involved in the Challenge Fund award. Please copy the table if you require more space. CVs must be enclosed (max 1 page each).

Details	Main individual	2nd individual
Surname	Fenton	Upton
Forename(s)	James	Rebecca
Post held	CEO of Falklands Conservation	Plants and Habitats Conservation Officer, Falklands Conservation
Department	N/A	N/A
Telephone		
Email		

(b) Partners relevant to the Challenge Fund award. Please provide details below, plus letters of support. (These letters should express intention to collaborate, contribution to the Challenge Fund activity, endorsement of the proposed partnership, and the expected contribution of the proposed resultant Darwin project to the conservation of the biodiversity of the relevant UKOT(s).) If you are a UKOT applicant, with no partner, you should provide a letter from your own organisation addressing these issues as appropriate.

Details	Main project partner	Other partners
Organisation	Falklands Conservation (FC)	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (RBG Kew)
Function/ Purpose of Organisation	Conservation NGO	Botanical research, Horticulture, Conservation and Education
Name of Main Contact	James Fenton	Colin Clubbe
Post Held	CEO	Head of UKOTs Conservation Programme

Details	Other partners	Other partners
Organisation	Environmental Planning Dept (EPD)	Department of Agriculture (DoA)
Function/ Purpose of Organisation	Falkland Islands Government (FIG)	FIG
Name of Main Contact	Nick Rendell	Andrew Pollard
Post Held	Environment officer	Senior Agricultural Advisor

5. Concept note for the Challenge Fund award (max 500 words). This question concentrates on what the current application is for and should demonstrate the objectives of the award including

- **what work will be carried out under the award;**
- **the location and duration of this work;**
- **what you expect to achieve from receiving the Challenge Fund award;**
- **details of how you will monitor and evaluate the work (reporting requirements for this fund are in the process of being finalised).**

Work to be carried out under the award

A Darwin Challenge Fund would employ a project officer (to be recruited) for 8 months to carry out:

1. Review of current vegetation data held at Falklands Conservation with the aim of finalising two groups of restoration trial species, drawing on successful outcomes of recently completed OTEP project (FAL601). One set of species will form a native pasture mix for use in areas where invasive plant species have been cleared; the second seed mix will comprise species that are good colonists of bare ground to target restoration of severely eroded sites.
2. Identification of sites for native restoration species' germination trials. In the Falklands it is vital but can be logistically time-consuming to visit a range of landowners and actually secure areas where work can be carried out and which we can check are fully appropriate for the planned research. This would include discussions with individual farmers, DoA and Stanley Nurseries.
3. Survey of 1998 trial restoration sites set up using introduced grasses by a PhD student who did not complete her project. Assessment of their usefulness to the planned main project. Dr Jim McAdam, the original supervisor, has agreed to provide access to the methodological details and data gathered.
4. Consultations with the DoA and Stanley Nurseries to identify the mechanism at the end of the main project that will ensure a commercially viable source of seed is available for all species in the developed seed mixes. This would include securing land for all species to be grown and where seed could be harvested easily for sale.
5. Intensive seed collecting and cleaning of target species ready for a full Darwin project; this would include mobilisation and coordination of seed collecting/ cleaning groups led by the project officer, using volunteers and partner staff. Without such pre-project focused collecting trips we would not have available the amount of seed necessary for large scale restoration trials. The recent OTEP Native Plants Project which set up a native plants nursery at Stanley Nurseries demonstrated the need to use seed for propagation from the previous season. Through the existing collaboration with Kew's Millennium Seed Bank much basic information has been gained to enable the up-scaling activities required in the main project.
6. Final report, summarizing the outcomes of the scoping period and how these form the basis of the main project.

Location and duration of work

All work will occur between September 2012 and May 2013. All work will be undertaken within the Falkland Islands, with the exception of some training and consultancy which will occur in the UK.

Expected achievement

The Darwin Challenge Fund would demonstrate the feasibility of a main Darwin project carrying out large scale research into the use of native plant seeds for restoration work in the Falklands.

Monitoring and evaluation

The project will be monitored and evaluated by the project officer in consultation with James Fenton at Falklands Conservation and Colin Clubbe at RBG Kew.

6. Concept note for resultant project (max 500 words). This question concentrates on the full Darwin application you intend to submit after the Challenge Fund award and should demonstrate:

- **Expected purpose and outputs of the resultant Darwin project**
- **How the resultant Darwin project would meet a need (and how this need was defined) in the UKOTs and help the territory/ies in its implementation of any or all of the following Conventions: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)/Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)/Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).**
- **Brief evidence of the proposed partners' intentions to collaborate in the Challenge Fund award and an outline of their expected role in the resultant Darwin project: include brief details of contact to date and planned ongoing collaboration. This would normally be supported by a letter or email of support, which may present the majority of this evidence.**
- **The expected role of the UKOTs and other UK expertise in the resultant Darwin project**

Purpose

1. Reduce soil erosion and improve the status of biodiversity of productive land in the Falkland Islands by providing viable habitat restoration options using native species seed mixes
2. Improve the methodology in place for management of sites after the removal of invasive plant species
3. Encourage the take-up of native seed mix by the agricultural community and private sector

Expected outputs

- Production of first habitat restoration guidelines for FIG
- Increased local knowledge and capacity through the production of practical guides for landowners/ conservationists on how to
 - Manage sites recently cleared of invasive plants to ensure good plant establishment from the developed native pasture mix
 - Assess a given eroded site, select the appropriate restoration method and achieve good establishment of the relevant native species
- Strengthened partnerships between Falklands Conservation, DoA, local landowners and Kew's Millennium Seed Bank Partnership
- Capacity building at local nursery/ DoA by providing seed collection protocols and training in order to enable locally produced, commercially viable seed mixes to be available for the future
- Publication in peer-review journal on restoration ecology in the Falkland Islands – this would present the results of large-scale field germination and management experiments carried out over 2 to 3 seasons and would have wider applicability within South America

Falkland Island and wider policy context

Soil erosion is a major concern across the Falkland Islands for farmers and conservationists alike; landowner consultations carried out during two recent (2007-2011) OTEP projects demonstrated a strong desire for practical advice on tackling erosion. At present restoration work is limited to the planting of *Poa flabellata* and *P. alopecurus* tillers at coastal eroded sites. This work is extremely valuable however a large amount of labour is involved in planting up areas with tillers and the use of these two species is not appropriate for all soil types or site locations.

The primary focus of this project would therefore be in addressing this knowledge and resource gap. Invasive plant species are also a concern across the Falklands and FIG's Biodiversity Strategy clearly makes the link between invasive species control, habitat restoration, species and habitat action plans and site management plans. In addition this project would directly address targets 6 and 10 of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, improving biodiversity of productive land and helping to better manage Important Plant Areas that have been affected by invasive plants.

Previous collaboration between partners:

Falklands Conservation has a strong relationship with RBG Kew and EPD; they have collaborated on 2 OTEP-funded plant conservation projects since 2007 as well as an EU-funded South Atlantic Invasive Species Project 2007-9 and the DEFRA-funded current invasive plants project, scheduled to run 2011-2013.

Role of UKOT and UK:

FI – Falklands Conservation will be the main institution and will implement the project. The Environmental Planning and Agriculture Departments of the FIG will be partners in the project, offering guidance, advice and consultancy.

UK – RBG Kew will be partners, offering guidance, advice, training, consultancy and access to expertise, data and facilities.

7. Justification of need for a Challenge Fund award. Please provide details of why alternative funding is not available from within your own organisation or from other sources. Will matched funding be provided? (max 250 words)

This project will enable the experience of Falklands Conservation and the Department of Agriculture to be brought together on work that will both benefit biodiversity and support an integrated approach to land management.

Falklands Conservation (FC) is an organisation with limited funds. The small population of the Falkland Islands (3500) means that only limited income is possible from membership subscriptions and donations. Hence our research work has to be funded through grant-aid. The current grant we get from FIG's Environmental Studies Budget is fully committed to other avenues of research (seabird monitoring), and our annual FIG subvention covers only core costs and is not sufficient to cover project staff costs.

The Department of Agriculture has a full programme of work devoted to maintaining or increasing agricultural productivity with no spare resources for developing native seed mixes or carrying out restoration trials.

FIG's Environmental Planning Department has made significant contributions to major plant conservation projects to date but is unable to fund the kind of scoping project that is necessary to effectively carry out the main planned project.

Matched funding, including both financial and in-kind contributions will be provided by FC (mainly staff time); RBG Kew (including covering the salary of an MSB seed collector for the duration of their visit to the Falkland Islands); EPD (staff time) and DoA (staff time, use of equipment).

8. Costs. Provide a detailed breakdown of costs to be funded by the Darwin Initiative.

Budget Line	Year 1 Apr 2012 – Mar 2013	Year 2 Apr 2013 – Mar 2014
Travel costs		
Flight to Falklands (Project officer)		
Flight from the Falklands (Project officer)		
Return flight to Falklands (MSB staff)		
Travel in the Falklands (air)		
Travel in the Falklands (vehicle & fuel)		
Subsistence costs		
Subsistence during fieldwork (project officer + one volunteer field assistant)		
Subsistence (MSB staff B&B)		
Overhead costs		
Falklands Conservation overheads (10%) – recruitment costs, use of office, internet, office, sundries, administration		
Salaries		
Project officer		
Total per year	£20,326	£4300
TOTAL REQUESTED FROM DARWIN INITIATIVE	£24,626	


9. Provide anticipated dates of award activity (including start and finish dates) and any milestones where relevant.

Date	Key Milestone
30/09/12	Late start date to ensure maximum time available for seed collections during southern hemisphere summer and autumn.
Oct 2012	Agree on species to be tested for native pasture mix (for sites where invasive plants have been removed or failed introduced species reseed sites) and native ground cover mix (for severely eroded areas) – this will involve review of current botanical dataset held by FC, discussions with the DoA and input from landowners where appropriate Consult with Stanley Nurseries and DoA to identify Stanley site for growing up target species for a future commercially viable seed source
Nov 2012	Plan seed collecting logistics in detail. Collate data from PhD started in 1998 to inform site selection and possible treatments to apply.
Dec 2012	Carry out site visits around East and West Falkland to determine where the best and most feasible locations are for restoration germination trial sites – this will include landowner and government consultation
Jan – April 2013	Seed collecting from native grass species (initial target of 8 species)

Feb-March 2013	Seed collecting from at least 2 native sedge species
Feb-May 2013	Seed collecting from at least 5 native forb species
May 2013	Report summarising project achievements including the list of sites planned for use in restoration trials
31/05/13	FINISH

10. In what year would you expect to submit the full Darwin project application?

Round 20

<p>I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made in this application are true and the information provided is correct.</p> <p>Name (block capitals): JHC Fenton</p> <p>Position in organisation: Chief Executive Officer</p> <p>Signed: </p> <p>Dated: 27 January 2012</p> <p>Project title: Developing Native Seed Mixes for Habitat Restoration in the Falklands</p>

Challenge Fund Application - Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you provided anticipated start and end dates for your award?	✓
Are both your concept notes within 500 words each?	✓
Has your application been signed	✓
Have you read the Guidance Notes and are you satisfied that your concept would be eligible for a main project application?	✓
Have you included CVs and letters of support as required?	✓
Have you checked the Darwin website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	✓

Once you have answered Yes to the questions above, please submit the application in Word format, not later than 2359h GMT on Monday 30 January 2012 to Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk using the title of the project (or first few words) as the subject of your email.

Please also send a hard copy of the signature page (only) to the Darwin Applications Unit, LTS International, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik EH26 0PL.

Applicants from UKOT institutions should fax a copy of the signature page to the Darwin Applications Unit on 0131 440 5501 or email a scanned original signature to Darwin-applications@ltsi.co.uk.

DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998: Applicants 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 the Darwin Initiative. Application form data will also be held by contractors dealing with Darwin Initiative 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 (ie name, contact details and location of project work) on the Darwin Initiative and Defra 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 Foreign and Commonwealth Office posts outside the United Kingdom, 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