



Submit by Monday 24 October 2011

**DARWIN INITIATIVE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FOR ROUND 18: STAGE 2**

Please read the Guidance Notes before completing this form. Where no word limits are given, the size of the box is a guide to the amount of information required. Information to be extracted to the database is highlighted blue.

**1. Name and address of organisation (NB: Notification of results will be by post to the Project Leader)**

<b>Name:</b> Drs. <b>Annette Broderick &amp; Brendan Godley</b>	<b>Address:</b> Centre for Ecology and Conservation University of Exeter, Cornwall Campus Penryn TR10 9EZ
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**2. Project title (not exceeding 10 words)**

Implementing a Darwin Initiative Biodiversity Action Plan for Ascension Island

**3. Project dates, duration and total Darwin Initiative Grant requested, matched funding**

Proposed start date: April 2012		Duration of project: 30 months				End date: October 2014
Darwin funding requested	2011/12 £0	2012/13 £123,477	2013/2014 £118,422	2014/15 £57,580	2015/16 £0	Total £299,480
<p><b>Proposed (confirmed and unconfirmed) matched funding as percentage of total Project cost:</b></p> <p>The project has an outstanding level of matched funding in place. This already totals more than <b>£400,000 or 56%</b> of the total project cost and includes contributions from all project partners. <b>Ascension Island Government</b> (staff, vehicles, boats, fuel, accommodation for visitors; see extra sheet on budget xls for breakdown of AIG commitment non salary), <b>Centre for Ecology and Hydrology</b>, <b>Queen Mary</b> University of London, <b>RBG Kew</b>, <b>Royal Society for the Protection of Birds</b>, University of <b>Exeter</b>, University of <b>Lund</b> (staff time, overheads and equipment). See extra sheet in budget xls for details of how overheads were calculated.</p>						

**4. Define the purpose of the project (extracted from logframe)**

Improve capabilities applied to the sustainable and equitable management of biodiversity of Ascension Island (and St Helena, Tristan da Cunha and Falkland Islands).

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

<b>Details</b>	<b>Project Leader</b>	<b>Project Leader</b>	<b>Main project partner and co-ordinator in host country</b>	<b>Other personnel (working more than 50% of their time on</b>
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				<b>project)</b>
<b>Surname</b>	<b>Broderick</b>	<b>Godley</b>	<b>Stroud</b>	<b>Darwin Fellow TBA</b>
<b>Forename (s)</b>	<b>Annette</b>	<b>Brendan</b>	<b>Stedson</b>	
<b>Post held</b>	<b>Lecturer (Conservation Biology)</b>	<b>Assoc Prof (Conservation Biology)</b>	<b>Conservation Officer</b>	
<b>Institution (if different to above)</b>	<b>University of Exeter</b>	<b>University of Exeter</b>	<b>Ascension Island Government</b>	
<b>Departme nt</b>	<b>Centre for Ecology and Conservation</b>	<b>Centre for Ecology and Conservation</b>	<b>Conservation Office</b>	
<b>Telephone</b>				
<b>Email</b>				

6. Has your organisation received funding under the Darwin Initiative before? If so, please provide details of the most recent (up to 6 examples).

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
162/12/023	Drs Brendan Godley/Annette Broderick	Darwin Initiative Coastal Assessment of the Biodiversity of Anegada, BVI
14-051	Drs Brendan Godley/Annette Broderick	In Ivan's Wake: Darwin Initiative BAP for the Cayman Islands
17-005	Drs Brendan Godley/Annette Broderick	Darwin Marine Biodiversity Action Plan for Gabon
18-001	Drs Brendan Godley/Annette Broderick	Darwin Sustainable Artisanal Fisheries Initiative (Peru)

7. IF YOU ANSWERED 'NO' TO QUESTION 6 describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of your organisation. (Large institutions please note that this should describe your unit or department)

Aims (50 words)
Activities (50 words)
Achievements (50 words)

8. Please list all the partners involved (including the Lead Institution) , and explain their roles and responsibilities in the project. Describe the extent of their involvement at all stages, including project development. This section should illustrate the capacity of partners to be involved in the project. Please provide written evidence of partnerships. Please copy/delete boxes for more or fewer partnerships.

<p><b>Applicant institution and website where available:</b></p> <p>University of Exeter, UK (UoE)</p> <p><a href="http://biosciences.exeter.ac.uk/cec/">http://biosciences.exeter.ac.uk/cec/</a></p> <p><a href="http://biosciences.exeter.ac.uk/cec/staff/index.php?web_id=annette_broderick">http://biosciences.exeter.ac.uk/cec/staff/index.php?web_id=annette_broderick</a></p> <p><a href="http://biosciences.exeter.ac.uk/cec/staff/index.php?web_id=brendan_godley">http://biosciences.exeter.ac.uk/cec/staff/index.php?web_id=brendan_godley</a></p>	<p><b>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</b></p> <p>The UoE team working on this project include: <b>Dr Annette Broderick, Dr Brendan Godley (CVs appended)</b>. As the lead partner, the team will oversee and manage the project and lead on fieldwork, training, habitat mapping and GIS design. Broderick and Godley have been working on biodiversity on Ascension Island since 1998 when they arrived on the island as project officers for Darwin Initiative Project 7-006 "Assessment of the marine turtles of Ascension Island". This project was a great success and helped with the establishment of the Conservation Department. Since then their involvement on Ascension has continued including work on seabirds and land crabs on an ongoing basis, leading to the request from Ascension Island Government for them to help lead this project bid and manage the project which will help build on previous success on the Island, towards a sound BAP. These workers have an established track record of leading interdisciplinary projects in the UK OT's and elsewhere funded by Darwin, Defra, FCO and Conservation Charities.</p>
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<p><b>Lead Partner and website where available:</b></p> <p><b>Ascension Island Conservation Department</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.conservation-ascension-island.gov.ac/">http://www.conservation-ascension-island.gov.ac/</a></p>	<p><b>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</b></p> <p><b>Mr Stedson Stroud (AI Conservation Officer; CV appended) and Assistant Conservation Officer (currently under appointment)</b> will be deeply involved with the project which will encompass the whole spectrum of work of the Conservation Department as well as see the team branching into new areas of work. <b>The Darwin Fellow</b> who will have responsibility for the day to day running of the project will also be a member of the Ascension Island Conservation Staff and will be based permanently on the Island. These staff will be involved with all aspects of the project (research, training and educational activities as well as project management). Mr Stroud is an internationally renowned conservation practitioner and was awarded MBE for his services to nature conservation in 2005. He and his staff have a great deal of local knowledge- and expertise to bring to the project that will be further complemented by the expertise of the other international project partners. (see <b>letter 2</b>)</p>
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Partner Name and website where available:	Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):
<p><b>Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH)</b>  <a href="http://www.ceh.ac.uk/">www.ceh.ac.uk/</a></p>	<p>The project brings together a consortium of organisations with long standing interests and commitment to biodiversity on Ascension Island and other UK Overseas Territories. All overseas partners will contribute capacity building and research initiatives as well as offering their expertise to the management planning process. In addition they bring with them their key expertise, which have already been applied to Ascension:</p> <p>CEH staff (<b>Dr Alan Gray</b>) will lead on training, research and educational activities pertaining to invertebrates and invasive plants. (See <b>Letter 4</b>)</p>
<p><b>Queen Mary Univ of London (QMU)</b>  <a href="http://www.sbcs.qmul.ac.uk/staff/jeffduckett.html">http://www.sbcs.qmul.ac.uk/staff/jeffduckett.html</a></p>	<p>QMU staff (<b>Prof Jeff Duckett</b>) will lead on research and training regarding lower plants. (See <b>Letter 5</b>)</p>
<p><b>RBG Kew</b>  <a href="http://www.kew.org">www.kew.org</a></p>	<p>RBGK staff (<b>Dr Colin Clubbe</b> and <b>Martin Hamilton</b>) will lead on initiatives pertaining to higher plants, including <i>ex-situ</i> techniques. (See <b>Letter 6</b>)</p>
<p><b>Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)</b>  <a href="http://www.rspb.org.uk/">www.rspb.org.uk/</a></p>	<p>RSPB (<b>Dr Claire Stringer</b>) will continue their ongoing commitment to avian monitoring and research as well as control of invasive vertebrates. (See <b>Letter 7</b>)</p>
<p><b>University of Lund (UoL)</b>  <a href="http://www.lunduniversity.lu.se/">http://www.lunduniversity.lu.se/</a></p>	<p>The research group of <b>Dr Susanne Akesson</b> will contribute their expertise in novel marine vertebrate tracking. (See <b>Letter 8</b>)</p>

**9a. Have you consulted stakeholders not already mentioned above?** Yes

**If yes, please give details:**

We are proud to say that as this project has been so long in the planning stage we have been able to undertake extensive stakeholder consultation. This has resulted in resounding level of support for the work. See attached letters of support from:

**Government:**

- Ascension Island Administrator (See **Letter 1**)
- Ascension Island Conservation Department (See **Letter 2**)
- Ascension Island Crown Council (See **Letter 3**)
- JNCC (See **Letter 18**)

**These letters attest to the international worthiness of the project, the desire for the project on Ascension Island and the ongoing commitment to biodiversity on the island from AIG which speaks to the extremely high likelihood of sustainability of the project's legacy.**

**Community Organisations:**

- Two Boats School (See **Letter 9**)

Ascension Island Scout Group (See **Letter 10**)

**As well as highlighting the appetite for increased involvement with awareness raising activities, these signify the broad support for the project on the island.**

**Corporate Stakeholders:**

Babcock (operating on behalf of BBC) (See **Letter 11**)

Cable and Wireless (See **Letter 12**)

Central Signals Organisation (See **Letter 13**)

Interserve (operating on behalf of MoD) (See **Letter 14**)

US Air Force (See **Letter 15**)

**These letters show how, after broad stakeholder engagement, that the 4 major employers and land-users, after AIG are behind the project and are keen to help where possible**

**Other South Atlantic Stakeholders:**

St Helena Government (See **Letter 16**)

Shallow Marine Surveys Group, Falklands (See **Letter 17**)

St Helena National Trust (See **Letter 19**)

**Statements from key players in biodiversity on the sister OT's in the South Atlantic speak to the utility of our proposed training exchanges with workers and trainees from other OT's.**

**9b. Do you intend to consult other stakeholders?**

Yes  No

**If yes, please give details:**

Once the project is underway we will consult with the wider public, in particular young people, fishermen, divers and others who are actively involved with the natural environment. Additionally, we will explore additional potential linkages with Initiatives on other south Atlantic islands.-

**9c. Have you had any (other) contact with the government not already stated?**  Yes  No

**If yes, please give details:**

**9d. Will your project support any work in the UK Overseas Territories?**

Yes  No

**If yes, please give brief details stating which Territory/ies will be involved.**

The main project will focus on Ascension Island, with joint initiatives and training opportunities available for individuals from St Helena, the Falkland Islands and Tristan da Cunha. We have had strong positive responses from St Helena (**Letter 16,19**) and the Falklands (**Letter 17**) in this regard and will explore further communications with workers from all 3 UKOT's should the project be successful. Several organisations responded positively to our approach but were not able to send official letters in time.

## PROJECT DETAILS

**10. Please provide a Concept note (Max 1,000 words) (repeat from Stage 1, with changes highlighted)**

**Problem:** Ascension hosts globally important biodiversity with potential for income generation (eg sustainable fishing and ecotourism). Although a small Conservation Department has been formed (3 core staff), substantial work remains, a coherent biodiversity strategy is lacking, and there is a relative lack of capacity (manpower, resources and some key technical skills) for work that is urgently needed. Conservation legislation is lacking or outdated.

Key biodiversity that need to be assessed include **endemic invertebrates**, endemic and other native **plants**, endemic **fish**, globally important **marine turtle** and **seabird** populations including an

endemic, major **invasive species** problems.

**Priority:** There is a clear need for a national **Biodiversity Action Plan** integrating information on the spatial distribution of biodiversity and threats; increased local capacity to carry out research to further inform the development/implementation of the BAP; increased awareness among key stakeholders and the general public as to the importance of the biodiversity of Ascension Island.

**MEA Obligations:** The project will help **Ascension Island and UK** meet obligations under all three major biodiversity conventions: **CBD (Articles 5-8,12-14)**, **CITES** and **CMS (Appendix I species)**. It should be noted that upon the recommendation of Crown Council, an additional aspect of the project has been to prepare the information needed for legislative change already requested by Defra, with particular reference to **CITES (see letter 3)**.

The project is designed with the **Ecosystem Approach** at its heart with attention to the **underpinning principles**. The BAP will be based upon high quality science (**Principle 11,12**) will seek facilitated integrated management across the island promoting conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way (**Principle 1,4,10**) for the long-term, including consideration of climate change (**Principle 8, 9**). As Ascension is a relatively small it is a good spatial and human scale at which to work (**Principle 5, 7**) and will be an **excellent case study**. The Island has had a community for more than 200 years and the project recognizes that this will continue and that stakeholders needed to be closely involved with the project from the outset. This is why we have sought to engage a range of major stakeholder organisations in the planning process (**Principles 2, 12** see appended **letters of support 1-3,9-15**) so we could ensure a project of maximal impact and likelihood of sustainable outcomes.

#### **Strategy and outcomes:**

The main thrust of the project is to generate a sound, government-endorsed, implementable **Darwin Biodiversity Action Plan**. Integral, will be elements of all Darwin priority work areas:

- 1. Capacity building and training** focussing on key areas highlighted by pre-bid consultation with local partners. This will include workshops on taxonomy, population monitoring, GIS, plant culture techniques, biosecurity, and vertebrate tracking. A unique aspect of this project is that we will have local Conservation Trainees and we will seek to support study visits of key personnel from St Helena, Tristan da Cunha and Falkland Islands to facilitate knowledge exchange among UK OT's. This will include secondment of conservation staff and cross territory apprentice training and linkage with other Darwin and OTEP projects in the territories.
- 2. Research and monitoring** will focus on creating a full inventory of animal and plant species for Ascension Island with associated status information and species and habitat action plans as needed. This will include key invasives. Additional development of *ex-situ* plant conservation methods will be undertaken. Effort will be expended to standardise monitoring efforts and design of a sustainable biodiversity monitoring strategy which will include testing of the innovative use of remote cameras for costly seabird and endangered plant monitoring at restoration sites. A more detailed knowledge of the at-sea habitat use of key marine species will be attained (endemic fish, marine turtles, seabirds) through a combination of state-of-the-art tracking techniques, marine surveys and participatory community recording (fishers and divers) . Where appropriate, spatial patterns will be integrated with Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data to assess chances of fisheries interaction.
- 3. Raising environmental awareness** will focus on key decision makers, children and the general public. A similar strategy has proven extremely successful in previous UoE Darwin projects: Darwin project website linked with live tracking of sea turtles ([www.seaturtle.org/tracking](http://www.seaturtle.org/tracking)); Darwin newsletters (using *Ascension Island Quarterly* as vehicle), press releases and to local and international media; public meetings, school visits and Darwin seminars.

**Resources and Roles:** We request funds to: appoint a Darwin Project Manager and two Darwin Conservation Trainees to be based in Ascension Island Conservation Department from where the overall running of the project will be undertaken. In addition, we seek support for modest amounts of personnel time for CEH, QMU, RBG Kew and UoE, with all other staff in kind. Additional support is budgeted for high quality web and GIS support; T&S; training/conferences; equipment and consumables. All UK partners will be involved with training, research and awareness raising activities in conjunction with AICD. They will bring a great breadth of expertise to the project: **CEH**(Invertebrates and invasive plants), **QMU**(lower plants), **RBGKew**(higher plants), **RSPB**(birds and invasive vertebrates), **UoE**(marine biodiversity), **UoL** (vertebrates). Additional collaborating organisations on Ascension will include Administrator's Office, Two Boats School, community groups, and the main users of the Island. We will seek to facilitate exchanges with governmental and ngo's in St Helena, Tristan da Cunha and Falklands.

**Wider Justification:** This highly **collaborative** project combines **highly suited UK expertise**. Indeed, the project was developed collaboratively at the request of local partners to meet **real biodiversity needs**: building knowledge/infrastructure to promote **sustainable use**. Activities on Ascension already play a significant role towards **poverty alleviation** on St Helena, with the majority of the Island's workforce being St. Helenian. The AI Conservation Department has managed several successful projects including OTEP, RSPB and EU Invasive Species projects and has in depth knowledge of all local conservation issues. The UK team has a track record of **quality and excellence** in delivery of overseas conservation projects for **Darwin (Ascension Island, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Gabon and Peru)** as well as a range of other funding bodies including **FCO, DfID and NERC**. The **impact** of the project will be achieved on several fronts: research to fill key gaps, enhancement of **capacity** for biodiversity management and increased **awareness** among key stakeholders/wider public. The **quality** of this project emerges from its **highly integrative** approach, combining past research and that carried out within this project into spatially explicit management. A significant Darwin **legacy** is ensured as the BAP will mark the way forward. Progress towards sustainability will be promoted through a sound **exit strategy** of increased capacity, awareness and support for conservation that is likely to result in additional **leverage** of funds.

**11a. Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source)?  
Please give details:**

All of the UK partner organisations have a track record of working in collaboration with the Ascension Island Conservation Department funded by a broad range of sources (Darwin, Defra, FCO, NERC, OTEP) and the organisations themselves. As well as proposing some novel research that will fill knowledge gaps, the project will see multiple strands of work pulled together into a coherent management plan. Capitalising on the previous investment and work over 15 years allows us to propose such an ambitious landmark project.

There are several ongoing projects that will also feed synergistically into the Darwin project:

JNCC - Invasive species,

OTEP - An Ecosystem Approach to Plant Conservation on Ascension

OTEP: Status of Marine Turtles of Ascension Island

**11b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/ projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work?**  Yes  No

**No**

We believe that project consortium has pulled together all the key organisations that are currently focussed on Ascension Island's biodiversity.

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**11c. Are you applying for funding relating to the proposed project from other sources?**  Yes  No

Not as yet but it is likely that we will during the course of the project.

**12. Please indicate which of the following biodiversity conventions your project will contribute to:** - At least one must be selected.

- Only indicate the conventions that your project is directly contributing to.
- No additional significance will be ascribed for projects that report contributions to more than one convention

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)  Yes  No

CITES -  Yes  No

Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)\*  Yes  No

\*If CMS please indicate whether it is the main Convention or one or more of the daughter agreements/MoUs (ACAP, AEWA etc)

The project will contribute to ACAP and Western African MoU for sea turtles.

**Is any liaison proposed with the CBD/CMS/CITES focal point in the host country?**  Yes  No

**If yes, please give details:**

Ascension Island Conservation Office, the lead partner, is the focal point for all three conventions on Ascension.

**What specific issues covered by the Convention(s) will this project address and how were they identified? (150 words)**

Based on stakeholder consultation, this project is specifically designed to help implement the **CBD** and therefore the **Environment Charter**. In doing so, it will also contribute to the commitments of UK and Ascension Island under numerous MEA's: **CITES (marine turtles)**, **CMS (marine turtles and petrels)**, **Ramsar (seabirds)**. Additionally, as outlined by the Crown Council the project will facilitate urgently needed change to environmental legislation, particularly with regard to **CITES**, already requested by Defra (**Letter 3**). The impact of the project would be felt on AI, other South Atlantic OT's and internationally. There will be significant impact in the ability of the local conservation organisation in carrying out work which will allow the AI to meet obligations under the Biodiversity Convention. ie **Article6** - Development of BAP; **Article7** - Identification biodiversity for conservation and sustainable use; **Article8** - Monitoring; **Article8d** - Protection of ecosystems; **Article12** - Research and Training; and, **Article13** - Public Education.

**What will change as a result of this project? (150 words)**

The project will develop and put into action a **BAP for Ascension Island** integrating available information on the spatial distribution of biodiversity, threats, and mitigation measures. As a result, a much better understanding of biodiversity across the range of key taxa will be developed and mitigation of those threats will have been initiated leading to improved status. To do this effectively there is a need for increased local capacity to carry out research on key aspects to further inform the development/implementation of the **BAP** and a need to increase awareness among key stakeholders and the general public. We intend to have changed both of these latter factors significantly on the way to implementing the BAP. Our aim is also to form relationships between project partners that will exist well beyond the duration of this project, supporting local efforts in gaining funding in the future as well as further contributing to the ongoing network of specialist support needed by small conservation departments serving insular communities.

**Why is the project important for the conservation of biodiversity? (150 words)**

Only through a sound, implementable Biodiversity Action Plan will it be possible for the biodiversity of Ascension to be sustainably managed. Ascension has globally important biodiversity. There is marked under-capacity for taxonomy and spatial data management which will be addressed in the project:

1. **At least 7 endemic vascular plants species with as many as 15 lower plant species.**
2. **At least 26 endemic invertebrate species.**
3. **At least 7 endemic fish species.**
4. **Globally important, yet understudied, seabird populations** including one **endemic**. Although much effort has been expended on seabird restoration, virtually nothing is known of the at sea habitat use of this group.
5. **Globally important marine turtle populations:** The second largest aggregation in the Atlantic.
6. Major **invasive species** problems

It is clear with all of these competing issues that a clear action plan is needed to facilitate effective action and sustained progress in the long-term.

**13. How will the results of the project be disseminated; how will the project be advertised as a Darwin project and in what ways will the Darwin name and logo be used? (max 200 words)**

The staff employed through this project will use the Darwin name in their titles i.e. **Darwin** Fellow. Publicity for this project will be sought locally as part of a public awareness programme and through the activities of the project:

- Four press releases will be made
- A **Darwin** website will be established and include outputs accessible to the public and schools. Where possible, tracking will be carried out live on the internet.
- Four scientific papers will be produced fully acknowledging **Darwin** Initiative

All materials produced and workshops held will have the **Darwin** logo and acknowledge **Darwin** Initiative funding.

The project team have been shown to be exemplary in this regard in past projects.

**14. What will be the long term benefits (particularly for biodiversity and local communities) of the project in the host country or region and have you identified any potential problems to achieving these benefits? (max 200 words)**

The long term benefits to the host country and region will be a sound BAP that has been produced with significant input and buy-in from local stakeholders leading to enhanced ecosystem management. This will yield long term dividends for biodiversity by **promoting the recovery of populations of endemic and threatened species** and increasing their protection through

**legislative changes** and protection of key habitats. It will also contribute significantly to poverty alleviation by promoting the **sustainability of artisanal fisheries as a livelihood**.

We foresee no major problems that could lead to problems achieving these benefits. More important to the success of the project will be the buy-in of stakeholders, which we feel has been demonstrated (see **Letters 9-15**).

One reviewer expressed concerns as to how the BAP will be delivered and how this capacity will be sustained. We highlight the high level of buy in of Ascension Island Government to conservation (3 full time staff for a population of <800; nearly 4% of the population!) but their task is large, with Ascension containing far greater biodiversity of global concern than the whole of the Metropolitan UK. As outlined in letters of support (**Letters 1-3**) this is an ongoing commitment and there is sure to be a legacy from this project locally. This will be augmented by ongoing support of off-Island organisations which have already shown commitment to the island of more than a decade (See **Letters 4-8**).

**15. State whether or not the project will reach a stable and sustainable end point. If the project is not discrete, but is part of a progressive approach, give details of the exit strategy and show how relevant activities will be continued to secure the benefits from the project. Where individuals receive advanced training, for example, what will happen should that individual leave? (Max 200 words)**

There is a clear role for the project as it will act as a catalyst for the integration of past data, targeted gathering of additional data collection, and the formulation of a spatially explicit management plan that will act as a roadmap for further action at Ascension Island, and indeed regionally. There is a stable endpoint in that capacity and awareness will have been raised to an all-time high with the launch of the initiative. Sustainability will depend on the ongoing commitment of the Ascension Island Government and organisations that currently make up the consortium. This is likely given the accelerating efforts made by all partner organisations to date. There will be considerable legacy aspects to this project including developed expertise in biodiversity monitoring, project management, an increased level of awareness on the island, and increased protection of species and habitats.

Eight Ascension Island Government employees will have extensive periods of training (Darwin Fellow, Conservation Officer, Asst Conservation Officer, 3 Conservation Assistants, 2 Conservation Trainees) however, in addition, individuals from other OT's will have the opportunity to attend training events further augmenting the impact and legacy of the project. AIG have also offered to accommodate visiting scientists which should help enhance additional long term collaborations.

There is always a risk that key individuals will leave at some point, but we feel that our strategy of training the whole staff and others from other South Atlantic UK OT's maximises the chance of a stable and sustainable endpoint.

**16. If your project includes capacity building in local communities in the host country, please indicate how you will assess the training needs in relation to the overall purpose of the project. Who are the target groups? How will the training be delivered? What skills and knowledge you expect the beneficiaries to obtain and how these may be used beyond the life of the project and any wider application How will you measure training effectiveness. (max 300 words)**

You should address each of these points.

A number of key training needs were highlighted *a priori* by project partners and will be addressed as part of 5 planned workshops. Suggested content, which may be modified subject to further stakeholder consultation:

**Taxonomy.** Focussing on the most understudied taxa on Ascension (lower plants and insects. This will put skills in place for Conservation staff to monitor taxa of conservation concern but also gather rare or novel samples for further investigation (Lead CEH/QMU).

**Population monitoring.** Focussing on the fundamental principles underpinning the need for monitoring, general process and methods. We will then explore past data using specific examples of local interest and discuss fut (Lead UoE/RSPB)

**GPS and GIS use.** As all of the work carried out will be spatially explicit there is clear need for all practitioners to be accomplished in these techniques. The workshop will cover all skills needed from simple georeferencing to relatively advanced database interrogation (Lead UoE).

**Plant culture techniques and biosecurity.** Focussing on methods and challenges involved in ex-situ culture of plants of conservation concern and processes needed to promote biosecurity (Lead RBG Kew)

**Vertebrate tracking.** Will cover all the basic principles behind the established and novel techniques and will culminate in deployments on seabirds and sea turtles (UoE, UoL, RSPB)

All staff who will execute the monitoring aspects of the project will be trained in the relevant technologies and data monitoring and analysis. This will be followed up with support by UK based

staff who have been involved with the analysis of such data-sets elsewhere. The **Darwin Research Fellow** will monitor training effectiveness and implementation of this project component through observer feedback and reports.

## LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

17. Please enter the details of your project onto the matrix using the note at Annex 3 of the Guidance Note. This should not have substantially changed from the Logical Framework submitted with your Stage 1 application. Please highlight any changes. (Use no smaller than Arial 10 pt)

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p><b>Goal:</b> Effective contribution in support of the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), as well as related targets set by countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources.</p>			
<p><b>Sub-Goal:</b> Ascension Island's biodiversity is adequately conserved and is providing sustained and equitable benefits to local communities and beyond.</p>	<p>Ongoing monitoring of key biodiversity elements demonstrates positive trends within 5 years of project completion.</p>	<p>Data from AI Conservation Dept.</p>	
<p><b>Purpose:</b> Improved capabilities applied to the sustainable and equitable management of biodiversity of Ascension Island (and St Helena, Falkland Islands and Tristan da Cunha).</p>	<p>Biodiversity Action Plan is formally accepted by Ascension Island Government.  BAP is being implemented by Ascension Island Government and other island stakeholders</p>	<p>Biodiversity Action Plan completed  Biodiversity Action plan endorsed.  Quarterly reports from AI Conservation Department</p>	<p>Ascension Island government retains commitment to biodiversity conservation.</p>
<p><b>Outputs:</b> 1. AICD organisations able to undertake long-term monitoring &amp; management of the biodiversity of Ascension Island.</p>	<p>Appointment of Darwin Fellow Appointment of Darwin Trainees Minimum of 10 staff from UK OT partner organisations trained in key biodiversity assessment techniques  Habitat map Population assessments of key species aka Species Action Plans (min 20; 5 for each 6 mo.) Computer databases (min 4) Peer reviewed papers (min 3) Reference collections (min 3)</p>	<p>Field reports Participation in field activities Workshop reports Correspondence Biological databases</p>	<p>A high proportion of participants continue current employment.</p>
<p>2. Greatly enhanced knowledge of key biodiversity elements in Ascension Island</p>		<p>Habitat map Biological databases Scientific papers</p>	

<p>3. Greatly enhanced public awareness of the importance of, and threats faced by the biodiversity of Ascension Island including enhanced legislation.</p>	<p>Conference presentations (min 2) Biodiversity Action Plan (July 14)</p>		
<p>3. Greatly enhanced public awareness of the importance of, and threats faced by the biodiversity of Ascension Island including enhanced legislation.</p>	<p>Website Newsletters (min 9) Press releases (min 5) Public meetings (min 5) Interim report on legislative change</p>	<p>Web hits Circulation of Darwin Newsletter Media outputs</p>	
<p><b>Activities</b> (details in workplan)</p> <p><b>Capacity building</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 Appointment of Darwin Research Fellow</li> <li>1.2 Appointment of Darwin Trainees</li> <li>1.3 Training of staff and trainees in taxonomy including workshop</li> <li>1.4 Training of staff and trainees in population monitoring including workshop</li> <li>1.5 Training of staff and trainees in endangered plant culture techniques including workshop</li> <li>1.6 Training of staff and trainees in GIS including workshop</li> <li>1.7 Training of staff and trainees in Vertebrate tracking</li> </ul> <p><b>Field research</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 A full inventory of animal and plant species for Ascension Island</li> <li>2.2 Development of ex-situ plant conservation techniques</li> <li>2.3 Design of a more sustainable biodiversity monitoring strategy</li> <li>2.4 A more detailed knowledge of the at-sea habitat use of key marine species in relation to fishing effort.</li> <li>2.5 Species Action Plans for 20 key species</li> <li>2.6 Interim report on legislative change</li> <li>2.7 Design of a BAP with associated workplan</li> <li>2.8 Ascension Island Government adopts plan</li> </ul> <p><b>Awareness raising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1 Active engagement between school, other community groups and biodiversity professionals (20 class and field activities)</li> <li>3.2 Design and population of a detailed and vibrant biodiversity website</li> <li>3.3 Active media campaign throughout the project (5 press releases)</li> <li>3.4 Production of highly accessible Darwin Newsletter (9 issues)</li> <li>3.5 Series of public meetings (at least 5)</li> </ul> <p><b>Reporting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.1 6 monthly reports to Darwin</li> <li>4.2 Annual reports to Darwin</li> <li>4.3 Final report to Darwin</li> </ul>			

18. 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				Year 3			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1.1 Appointment of Darwin Research Fellow	3	√									XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
1.2 Appointment of Darwin Trainees	6			√			√				XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
1.3 Training Workshop 1	1	√									XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
1.4 Training Workshop 2	1			√							XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
1.5 Training Workshop 3	1				√						XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
1.6 Training Workshop 4	1					√					XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
1.7 Training Workshop 5	1							√			XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
2.1 A full inventory of animal and plant species for Ascension Island	24							√			XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
2.2 Development of <i>ex-situ</i> plant conservation techniques	6					√					XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
2.3 Design of a more sustainable biodiversity monitoring strategy	6							√			XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
2.4 A more detailed knowledge of the at-sea habitat use of key marine species in relation to fishing effort.	24							√			XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
2.5 Species Action Plans for 20 key species	24		√					√			XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
2.6 Interim report on legislative change	3								√				
2.7 Design of a BAP with associated workplan	27									√			
2.8 AIG adopts BAP	3											XXXX	XXXX
3.1 Active engagement between community school and biodiversity professionals	30	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
3.2 Design and population of a detailed and vibrant biodiversity website	30				√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

3.3	Active media campaign throughout the project. (5 Press releases)	30	√		√		√		√		√		√		√	XXXX	XXX x
3.4	Production of highly accessible Darwin Newsletter (9 issues)	30		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	XXXX	XXX x
3.5	Series of public meetings (at least 5)		√		√		√		√		√		√		√	XXXX	XXX x
4.1	6 monthly reports to Darwin				√		√		√		√		√		√	XXXX	XXX x
4.2	Annual Reports to Darwin														√	XXXX	XXX x
4.3	Final Report to Darwin														√	XXXX	XXX x

**19. Please indicate which of the following Standard Measures you expect to report against by providing indicative figures. These will help gauge project achievements if you receive funding. You will not necessarily plan to cover all these Standard Measures in your project.** Separate guidance on Standard Measures can be found at [http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/resources/reporting/standard\\_measures/](http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/resources/reporting/standard_measures/)

Standard Measure	Description	Estimate
1A	Number of people to submit thesis for PhD qualification (in host country)	0
1B	Number of people to attain PhD qualification (in host country)	0
2	Number of people to attain Masters qualification (MSc, MPhil etc)	0
3	Number of people to attain other qualifications (ie. Not outputs 1 or 2 above)	0
4A	Number of undergraduate students to receive training	0
4B	Number of training weeks to be provided	0
4C	Number of postgraduate students to receive training	0
4D	Number of training weeks to be provided	0
5	Number of people to receive at least one year of training (which does not fall into categories 1-4 above)	2
6A	Number of people to receive other forms of education/training (which does not fall into categories 1-5 above)	8
6B	Number of training weeks to be provided	30
7	Number of (ie different types - not volume - of material produced) training materials to be produced for use by host country	2
8	Number of weeks to be spent by UK project staff on project work in the host country	40
9	Number of species/habitat management plans (or action plans) to be produced for Governments, public authorities, or other implementing agencies in the host country	21 (20 SAP 1 BAP)
10	Number of individual field guides/manuals to be produced to assist work related to species identification, classification and recording	0
11A	Number of papers to be published in peer reviewed journals	3
11B	Number of papers to be submitted to peer reviewed journals	3
12A	Number of computer based databases to be <b>established</b> and handed over to host country	4
12B	Number of computer based databases to be <b>enhanced</b> and handed over to host country	2
13A	Number of species reference collections to be <b>established</b> and handed over to host country(ies)	3
13B	Number of species reference collections to be <b>enhanced</b> and handed over to host country(ies)	0
14A	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops to be <b>organised</b> to present/disseminate findings	5
14B	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops <b>attended</b> at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/ disseminated.	2
15A	Number of national press releases in host country(ies)	5
15B	Number of local press releases in host country(ies)	5
15C	Number of national press releases in UK	2
15D	Number of local press releases in UK	2
16A	Number of newsletters to be produced	9
16B	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the host country(ies)	200
16C	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the UK	500
17A	Number of dissemination networks to be <b>established</b>	1
17B	Number of dissemination networks to be <b>enhanced/ extended</b>	0
18A	Number of national TV programmes/features in host country(ies)	0
18B	Number of national TV programmes/features in UK	0
18C	Number of local TV programmes/features in host country(ies)	0
18D	Number of local TV programmes/features in UK	0
19A	Number of national radio interviews/features in host county(ies)	4
19B	Number of national radio interviews/features in UK	0

19C	Number of local radio interviews/features in host country(ies)	1
19D	Number of local radio interviews/features in UK	1
20	Estimated value (£'s) of physical assets to be handed over to host country(ies)	£63500
21	Number of permanent educational/training/research facilities or organisations to be established and then continued after Darwin funding has ceased	1
22	Number of permanent field plots to be established during the project and continued after Darwin funding has ceased	100
23	Value of resources raised from other sources (ie in addition to Darwin funding) for project work	£375k

## PROJECT BASED MONITORING AND EVALUATION

**20. Describe, referring to the Indicators in the Logical Framework, how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, including towards delivery of its outputs and in terms of achieving its overall purpose. This should be during the lifetime of the project and at its conclusion. Please include information on how host country partners will be included in the monitoring and evaluation.**

The progress of the project against key milestones and indicators will be appraised by a Steering Group made up of partner organisations that will meet bi-annually. Minutes from these meetings will be circulated to all partners with any actions necessary articulated.

There will be regular communication among project partners, facilitated by an e-mail listserv and the field presence of the Darwin Fellow on Ascension Island. The Darwin Fellow will report to the Steering group quarterly.

Although a necessarily ambitious project, there are a number of key indicators that will show the progress of the project as catalysed by the launch of several ongoing initiatives. These include appointment of key staff, key training events, production of species action plans and the overall biodiversity action plan, website development, newsletter and press release dissemination. All of these are clearly articulated and time stamped and will allow us to easily access how the project is progressing.

## FUNDING AND BUDGET

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

**NB: Please state all costs by financial year (April to March). Use current prices – and include anticipated inflation, as appropriate, up to 3% per annum. The Darwin Initiative cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.**

**21. How is your organisation currently funded? (max 100 words)**

The University of Exeter is funded by a mosaic of governmental, charitable and commercial sources. The Marine Turtle Research group is funded by limited core funding from the University supplemented by grants and consultancy from sources that have included Defra, DfID, FCO, NERC, Royal Society and smaller foundations. See full audited accounts at: [http://admin.exeter.ac.uk/finance/publications/financial\\_statements/index.shtml](http://admin.exeter.ac.uk/finance/publications/financial_statements/index.shtml)

**22. Provide details of all confirmed funding sources identified in the Budget that will be put towards the costs of the project, including any income from other public bodies, private sponsorship, donations, trusts, fees or trading activity. Please include any additional**

**unconfirmed funding the project will attract to carry out addition work during or beyond the project lifetime. Indicate those funding sources which are confirmed.**

**Confirmed:**

Ascension Island Government has confirmed in kind funding of £191,776 in the form of staff time, vehicle and boat support as well as accommodation support for visiting scientists.

CEH has confirmed staff and overheads totalling £

RBG Kew has confirmed staff and overheads totalling £

RSPB has confirmed staff and overheads totalling £

UofExeter has confirmed staff and overheads totalling £

UofLund has confirmed staff, overheads and equipment totalling £

**Unconfirmed:**

**23. Please give details of any further resources (confirmed or unconfirmed) for this project that are not already detailed in the Budget or Question 22. This will include donations in kind or un-costed support eg accommodation. (max 50 words per box)**

<p><b>Possible additional financial resources (not yet applied for):</b></p> <p>It is likely that the activity generated by the Darwin Project will generate additional funding bids that will be submitted during the project's lifetime. It is clear that anything funded on biodiversity related issues will contribute to the Darwin mission.</p>
<p><b>Funding in kind:</b></p> <p>As above</p>

**FCO NOTIFICATIONS**

**Please check the box if you think that there are sensitivities that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise the project's success in the Darwin competition in the host country.**

**Please indicate whether you have contacted the local UK embassy or High Commission directly to discuss security issues (see Guidance Notes) and attach details of any advice you have received from them.**

Yes (no written advice)                          Yes, advice attached                          No                     

**CERTIFICATION 2011/12**

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

I apply for a grant of £299,480 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 UK institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)*

**I enclose CVs for project principals and letters of support. Our most recent audited accounts and annual report are also enclosed/can be found at *(delete as appropriate)*:**

<b>Name (block capitals)</b>	Professor David Hosken
<b>Position in the organisation</b>	Director of the Centre for Ecology & Conservation

**Signed** 

**Date:** 21/Oct./2011

## Stage 2 Application - Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you provided actual start and end dates for your project?	√
Have you provided your budget based on UK government financial years ie 1 April – 31 March?	√
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?	√
Is the concept note within 1,000 words?	√
Is the logframe no longer than 3 pages and have you highlighted any changes since Stage 1?	√
Has your application been signed by a suitably authorised individual? (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable in the email, but a wet signature should be provided in the hard copy version)	√
Have you included a 1 page CV for all the Principals identified at Question 5?	√
Have you included a letter of support from the <u>main</u> overseas partner(s) organisations identified at Question 5?	√
Have you checked with the FCO in the project country/ies and have you included any evidence of this?	√
Have you included a copy of your most recent annual report and accounts? An electronic link to a website is acceptable.	√
Have you read the Guidance Notes ?	√
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, not later than midnight GMT on Monday **24 October 2011** to [Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk) using the application number (from your Stage 1 feedback letter) and the first few words of the project title **as the subject of your email**. However, 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 (eg whether the e-mail is 1 of 2, 2 of 3 etc). **In addition**, a hard copy of the signature page should be submitted to Darwin Applications, c/o LTS International, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik EH26 0PL **postmarked** not later than Tuesday 25 October 2011.

**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 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.**