



Submit by Monday 5 December 2016

DARWIN INITIATIVE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FOR ROUND 23: STAGE 2

Please read the [Guidance](#) 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. Blank cells may render your application ineligible

24-012 ref 3713

ELIGIBILITY**1. Name and address of organisation**

(NB: Notification of results will be by email to the Project Leader in Question 6)

Applicant Organisation Name:	Blue Ventures Conservation
Address:	39-41 North Road
City and Postcode:	London N7 9DP
Country:	UK
Email:	
Phone:	

2. Stage 1 reference and Project title

Stage 1 Ref:	Title (max 10 words): Incentivising community-led marine biodiversity conservation on Atauro Island
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3. Project description (not exceeding 50 words)

(max 50 words)

By empowering communities for locally-led marine resource assessment and management, and introducing homestay tourism to diversify incomes, the project will enable traditional fishers to rebuild fishing stocks and attain more sustainable livelihoods, helping arrest the loss of exceptional marine biodiversity and safeguard food security for over 9,000 people.

4. Country(ies)

Which eligible host country(ies) will your project be working in? You may copy and paste this table if you need to provide details of more than four countries.

Country 1: Timor-Leste	Country 2:
Country 3:	Country 4:

5. Project dates, and budget summary

Start date: 1 Apr 2017	End date: 31 Mar 2021			Duration: 4 years	
Darwin funding request (Apr – Mar)	2017/18 £57,155	2018/19 £70,349	2019/20 £81,265	2020/2021 £86,446	Total £295,214
Proposed (confirmed & unconfirmed) matched funding as % of total Project cost					46%

6. 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	Harris	Tilley	Elsion
Forename (s)	Alasdair	Alexander	Dominic
Post held	Executive Director	Post-doctoral Research Fellow	CEO
Organisation (if different to above)	As above	WorldFish	Seventythree (pte ltd) and the Asosiasi Usaha Homestay Lokal Kabupaten Raja Ampat (The Rajah Ampat Homestay Association)
Department	N.A.	-	-
Telephone			
Email			

Details	Project Partner 3		
Surname	Pires		
Forename (s)	Rui Dos Reis		
Post held	Director General of Biodiversity		
Organisation (if different to above)	Ministry of Commerce Industry and Environment (Directorate of Biodiversity), Government of Timor-Leste		
Department	-		
Telephone			
Email			

7. Has your organisation been awarded a Darwin Initiative award before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)? Yes

If so, please provide details of the most recent awards (up to 6 examples).

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
19016	Dr Alasdair Harris	Leveraging markets to conserve mangrove biodiversity and alleviate poverty in Madagascar
21011	Dr Alasdair Harris	Securing livelihoods and conserving marine biodiversity through rights-based fisheries management

Questions 8 a, b and c deleted.

9. 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>Lead institution and website:]</p> <p>Blue Ventures Conservation www.blueventures.org</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to lead the project): (max 200 words)</p> <p>Blue Ventures is an award winning marine conservation charity registered in England and Wales, dedicated to rebuilding tropical fisheries with coastal communities. Blue Ventures launched its Timor-Leste country programme in 2016 at the invitation of the government of Timor-Leste. The purpose of Blue Ventures' partnership with government and civil society organisations within Timor-Leste is to build national and local capacity for marine conservation and sustainable fisheries management, while replicating Blue Ventures' non-profit eco-tourism model (already active in Madagascar and Belize) to provide direct economic incentives to coastal communities to engage in marine management and conservation.</p> <p>As project lead, Blue Ventures will be responsible for delivering the main activities for all project outputs. Blue Ventures' resident in-country team will focus on all community-level consultations, training workshops and post-training support. The technical and support team will provide the guidance for site selection, fisheries monitoring and assessment, impact evaluation and analysis, and the dissemination of project results to partner communities and national stakeholders.</p> <p>In managing this project, Blue Ventures will coordinate all technical and capacity building components, as well as financial management and reporting, and the involvement and inputs from all partners and stakeholders.</p>
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?	Yes/No

<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>WorldFish http://www.worldfishcenter.org/</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)</p> <p>WorldFish is a 'research in development' organisation with a mission to 'reduce hunger and poverty by improving fisheries and aquaculture'. WorldFish has offices in 9 countries throughout the tropical developing world, and a strong track record in community based-management of coastal ecosystems (http://www.worldfishcenter.org/content/policies-practices-resilience). In Timor-Leste, WorldFish works on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture systems, coastal livelihoods and food security. WorldFish worked with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to develop a sustainable aquaculture strategy for Timor-Leste, and is embarking on a similar process of developing a strategy for the sustainable use of coastal fisheries resources.</p> <p>On the island of Atauro, WorldFish will be working with the community of Adara and Baroana on fisheries and alternative livelihood development. Their work will support Blue Ventures' specific focus on understanding women's fishing activities and their role in food security, so it can be incorporated into community and national governance processes. Blue Ventures and WorldFish will</p>
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	collaborate to leverage maximum benefit across both projects, to align activities where necessary, and to bring specific expertise to each other's sites and working communities.
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?	Yes/No

Partner Name and website where available: Seventythree Ltd www.73-ltd.com	Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words) Seventythree is a conservation and natural resources management advisory organisation founded by experts in public policy, economic development and investment who provide a blend of advisory and training services to governments, businesses, community organisations and philanthropists. Seventythree has a long history of supporting homestay association development in Raja Ampat (Indonesia), and will be providing support in sharing lessons and experiences between Timorese communities and the <i>Asosiasi Usaha Homestay Lokal Kabupaten Raja Ampat</i> (Raja Ampat Local Homestay Business Enterprise Association")
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?	Yes/No

Partner Name and website where available: <i>Asosiasi Usaha Homestay Lokal Kabupaten Raja Ampat</i>	Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words) <i>Asosiasi Usaha Homestay Lokal Kabupaten Raja Ampat</i> (Raja Ampat Local Homestay Business Enterprise Association) http://www.stayrajaampat.com/ultimate-raja-ampat-guide/news/raja-ampat-homestay-association/ is a community organisation that currently represents just over sixty family-owned businesses. They are collective family entities, similar to a traditional joint stock company, that support and employ an extended network of relations. The Association is now the largest community-owned business grouping in Papua and West Papua. First concentrated around Mansuar and Gam in the Dampier Strait, the Association's membership is spreading to include communities from other parts of Raja Ampat such as the Fam islands, Batanta and Saleo in western Waigeo. Supported by Seventythree-Ltd, which is also a partner of the Walton Family Foundation, the Association role in the project is to host Timorese homestay families as part of a peer-learning exchange (Output 3). We do not have a letter of support from the association as the relationship is currently facilitated through our partnership with Seventythree. However, this will change by January 2017 when Blue Ventures facilitates the first community exchange between Timor-Leste and Raja Ampat, which will launch the working collaboration between Blue Ventures and the association.
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?	Yes/No

<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>Ministry of Commerce Industry and Environment (Directorate of Biodiversity)</p> <p>http://www.mcia.gov.tl/</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)</p> <p>Timor-Leste's Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment is the central government body responsible for the design, execution, coordination and assessment of the policy defined and approved by the Council of Ministers for the areas of industrial, and commercial economic activities and co-operative sector, as well as environment.</p> <p>As an implementing partner alongside Blue Ventures in the Global Environment Facility's Seagrass and Dugong Conservation project, the Ministry is a key stakeholder and supporter for this project's outputs 1, 2 and 4, but will not be responsible for delivering any specific activities.</p>
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?	Yes/No

<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Government of Timor-Leste</p> <p>http://gov.east-timor.org/MAFF/</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)</p> <p>Timor-Leste's Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is the central Government body responsible for the design, execution, coordination and assessment of the policy defined and approved by the Council of Ministers for the areas of agriculture, forestry, fisheries and livestock.</p> <p>Also an implementing partner in the GEF Seagrass and Dugong Conservation project, the Ministry is a key stakeholder and supporter for this project's outputs 1, 2 and 4.</p> <p>The Ministry supports Blue Ventures' programme in the country and will be consulted as part of this project's efforts to promote community-led fisheries management.</p>
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?	Yes/No

<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>Ministry of Arts Culture and Tourism, Government of Timor-Leste</p> <p>http://www.cultura.gov.tl/en/home</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)</p> <p>Timor-Leste's Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture is the central Government body responsible for the design, execution, coordination and assessment of the policy defined and approved by the Council of Ministers for the areas of tourism, arts and culture.</p> <p>This Ministry is a key stakeholder for the project's output 3, as improved homestays in the project area – identified as a national priority for the development of community-based ecotourism – will contribute to higher tourism figures and the Ministry's own targets to increase the number of tourists to the country.</p> <p>While not an implementing partner, the Ministry supports Blue Ventures' aims in Timor-Leste and the expected outcome of this project.</p>
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?	Yes/No

10. 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?
Dr Alasdair Harris	Project Leader	Blue Ventures	10%	Yes - CV
<i>The candidate is considering the offer made.</i>	Conservation Manager	Blue Ventures	100%	Yes - JD
Oldegar Massinga	Community Conservation Coordinator	Blue Ventures	100%	Yes - CV
<i>Role to be filled by December 2016</i>	Ecotourism Expedition Leader	Blue Ventures	50%	Yes - JD
Jemina Gomes	Dive/ ecotourism Assistant	Blue Ventures	50%	Yes - CV
Amos Da Costa	Dive/ ecotourism Assistant	Blue Ventures	50%	Yes - CV
Antonio De Arujo	Boat Captain	Blue Ventures	50%	Yes - CV
Ade Fernanades	Administrative Assistant	Blue Ventures	100%	Yes - CV
<i>Role to be filled by December 2016</i>	Field Scientist	Blue Ventures	50%	Yes - JD
Richard Nimmo	Managing Director	Blue Ventures	20%	Yes - CV
Charlotte Gough	Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator	Blue Ventures	10%	Yes - CV

11. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of biodiversity and its relationship with poverty. For example, what are the drivers of loss of biodiversity that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems?

If your project is working on an area of biodiversity or biodiversity-development linkages that has had limited attention (both in the Darwin Initiative portfolio and in conservation in general) please give details.

(Max 300 words)

Timor-Leste is located at the heart of the Coral Triangle, a region home to the world's highest levels of marine biodiversity. Fisheries underpin the livelihoods and food security of Timor-Leste's coastal communities, and environmental sustainability is deeply enshrined in Timorese culture through traditional environmental management practices such as Tara Bandu.

Yet recent decades have resulted in decimation of Timor-Leste's critically important marine ecosystems by overfishing and a proliferation of destructive fishing techniques, which threaten the resilience of the fragile marine ecosystems upon which the country's coastal communities depend.

Declining catches, rapid population growth and a lack of livelihood alternatives have pushed traditional fishers into deepening poverty, forcing communities to adopt increasingly unsustainable fishing practices to support dwindling catches, and perpetuating the low socio-economic development and high rural poverty seen in coastal zones. Decades of conflict, occupation and civil unrest have eroded traditional local-level marine management practices and customs.

Women are almost invisible in community and national-level decision making on fisheries and coastal management, despite the critical role that gleaning of shellfish, seaweeds and fish from

reefs by women and children plays in food security and family income. This lack of recognition means that women's fisheries are ignored in national policy discussions, and women in coastal communities have very low levels of participation in community decision making about coastal resources and fisheries.

These challenges have hindered progress in marine biodiversity conservation, with biodiversity conservation in Timor-Leste lagging behind neighbouring countries.

There is now a critical need for effective community engagement in marine conservation – prioritising women's participation through incentive-based approaches – to safeguard the small-scale fishing traditions that have sustained Timorese coastal communities for millennia.

Identification of these problems and priorities has taken place during focus groups since 2013 in the design of this project with coastal communities and government agencies.

12. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Your project must support the objectives of one or more of the agreements listed below. Please indicate which agreement(s) will be supported and describe which objectives your project will address and how. Note: projects supporting more than one will not achieve a higher score.

Convention On Biological Diversity (CBD)	Yes/No
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)	Yes/No
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)	Yes/No
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)	Yes/No
Global Goals for Sustainable Development	Yes/No

12b. Biodiversity Conventions

Please detail how your project will contribute to the objectives of the agreement(s) your project is targeting and how your project will help to achieve the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs). You should refer to Articles or Programmes of Work here. Note: No additional significance will be ascribed for projects that report contributions to more than one agreement

(Max 500 words)

The project's outcomes will contribute to all three main objectives of the CBD (ratified by Timor-Leste in 2006), in particular Articles 6, 8, 10 and 11. The project is strongly aligned with the Programme of Work on Marine Biodiversity by promoting full participation of communities in the establishment and maintenance of marine protected areas in line with decision VII/28 on protected areas.

By working participatively with fishers to manage biodiversity with the goal of reducing poverty and protecting preferential access rights, the project fulfills articles 7 and 8 of the basic principles of the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity.

By reinforcing the effective management of marine resources through a community-managed MPA and taking practicable actions to rebuild fish populations and protect key habitats, the project will help protect critical ecosystems and ensure local, poor communities are able to benefit sustainably from biodiversity; helping Timor-Leste achieve CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets 6, 10, 11 and 14.

Project activities will make a substantial contribution towards Timor-Leste's commitment to SDG 14 – conserve and sustainably use the ocean, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. Specific targets include: to effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, IUU fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible; and to increase scientific knowledge, and develop research capacity in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries.

In addition to Goal 14, since Timor-Leste's small-scale fisheries make a vital contribution to livelihoods, this work will also support both Goal 1 – End poverty in all its forms everywhere – and Goal 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

Project activities are designed to be gender transformative in the following ways, all of which support SDG Goal 5 – achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls – and in particular targets around rights to economic resources, using technology to promote empowerment of women and ensuring women's participation in decision making:

- (a) Fisheries and homestay activities benefit entire households, not just the head of the household (often male). Women will be mainly responsible for hosting homestay clients, and training provided to improve homestays will benefit women predominantly. The project will also encourage household financial planning and controls where families will be encouraged to open joint bank accounts to reduce the risk of men having sole control over household finances. Improved economic empowerment will reduce gender gaps in employment and reduce the vulnerability of women to domestic violence, which is the most common form of gender-based violence in Timor-Leste.
- (b) By changing the power dynamic in the target community, for the first time women will be able to make their voices heard in community and Suku (village) Council decision-making, including decision-making on coastal and marine resource management.
- (c) Work with national partners (in particular WorldFish) will promote women's participation in national level forums on marine and fisheries management.

12c. Is any liaison proposed with the CBD / ABS / ITPGRFA / CITES / SDG focal point in the host country?

Yes No if yes, please give details:

Blue Ventures has a strong working relationship with the UNDP in Timor-Leste via the UNDP Special Advisor to the Oe-Cusse Special Administrative Region and Zonas Especias de Economia Social de Mercado de Timor-Leste (ZEESM). Blue Ventures consults regularly with the CBD working group and the SDG national focal point through our partnership with the Ministry of Commerce Industry and Environment. Blue Ventures has maintained a close working relationship with the CBD focal point since 2013 through Blue Ventures work designing the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project.

13. 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.).

(Max 500 words)

Four parallel actions will be implemented through target communities. Participatory approaches will ensure cost effectiveness and local buy-in, while maintaining cooperation with national authorities and NGO partners. All fisheries management and homestay activities are designed to maximise benefits to women.

Participatory marine resource assessment systems, developed by the project's scientific team, will collect critical baseline biodiversity information to identify priority coral reef and seagrass sites for management. Participatory community-based monitoring systems, including underwater 360° video monitoring, deployed by women and men, will help build local understanding of resource status and changes in fish communities and reef habitats.

These methods will provide engaging and cost effective tools to communicate changes to the entire community (eg through the use of low-cost 360° virtual reality devices to share underwater monitoring footage), helping strengthen local support for conservation.

The project will **enact locally-enforced fisheries management measures** through participatory fisheries assessments to identify practicable opportunities and approaches for

fisheries management, targeting fisheries that are important to women's livelihoods, and fast-growing and reproducing species that respond quickly to management (eg commercially exploited invertebrates such as *Octopus cyanea*).

Once the target fishery is identified, periodic closures will be prioritised. These are likely to respond most quickly to management by delivering sustained increases in production following a closure. This draws on Blue Ventures' experience supporting invertebrate fisheries management in Indonesia and elsewhere in the Indo-Pacific.

Community leaders and project personnel will share fisheries management measures through community and women's groups meetings, and by installing markers to delineate managed areas where appropriate.

Participatory catch monitoring, using Blue Ventures' low-cost smartphone system, will be used along with video monitoring (above) to monitor the fisheries impacts (catch per unit effort) and ecological impacts (fish diversity, biomass, reef composition) of management, and communicate results to a wide audience in a format designed to maximise local comprehension.

To diversify household income away from a dependence on fishing, communities and women's groups will receive training and practical support in hosting and provisioning for homestay guests, and through reciprocal community-learning exchange with West Papua's Raja Ampat Local Homestay Business Enterprise Association.

Blue Ventures' conservation volunteering programme, launched in Timor-Leste in March 2016, will assure visitor footfall to these remote communities. It is committed to providing ecotourists year-round to the project. This model is part of a partnership with the Timor-Leste Government to diversify coastal livelihoods through community-based tourism (currently forecast to increase national annual ecotourism bed-nights by up to 20%), and will continue beyond the project term to ensure long-term continuation of livelihood benefits.

Establishment of a **locally managed marine area (LMMA)** incorporating managed fishing areas and at least one permanent marine reserve site zoned around priority coral reef and seagrass ecosystems, will use a governance model based on traditional Tara Bandu social code, incorporating locally-led management, monitoring and surveillance.

Community outreach by LMMA leaders will showcase status of habitats within reserves, and catch trends, from data derived from participatory monitoring. Close cooperation with local authorities will reinforce community enforcement and resolve conflicts with outsiders.

14. Change Expected

Detail the expected changes this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who will benefit a) in the short-term and b) in the long-term.

(Max 300 words)

Without the project, continued overfishing leads to ongoing and potentially irreversible declines in catches and ecological integrity, loss of globally-important biodiversity, and reduced fisher earnings and food security. This will exacerbate the already high vulnerability of target communities to climate change, further weakening socio-ecological resilience.

The project will introduce participatory marine monitoring and fisheries management, targeting fisheries that are of particular importance to women. Marine management interventions will subsequently be formalised within a Locally Managed Marine Area, established using a traditional social code endorsed by communities and authorities. This will increase the area of marine habitats under local protection, and bring local fisheries under community management.

The homestay ecotourism model is expected to increase income and diversify livelihoods, reducing gender inequality, and delivering meaningful economic incentives for communities to sustain long-term conservation actions.

Against a baseline of continued overfishing in the absence of any fisheries management, a lack of community or women's engagement in conservation, and few viable economic alternatives to

unsustainable fishing, the following changes are expected:

Short-term (3-5 years):

It will slow declines in catches of key fisheries, and consequently of fishers' food security and earnings. It will engage fishing communities – women and men – to take a lead in efforts to rebuild the fisheries underpinning local livelihoods, diversifying livelihoods away from fishing.

Long-term (5-8 years):

It will bring fisheries to a point where they are fished sustainably; incomes will diversify through community ecotourism, and long-term earnings and food security will be sustained. This will be accompanied by an improvement in ecosystem health and the preservation of nearshore biodiversity. Better-managed fisheries and the preservation of the biodiversity underpinning fisheries will increase communities' resilience to climate change.

The project will also create a new model for incentive-based community-led marine conservation that can be replicated elsewhere in Timor-Leste.

15. Pathway to poverty alleviation

Please describe how your project will benefit poor people living in low-income countries. Give details of who will benefit and the number of beneficiaries expected to be impacted by your project. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used. If possible, indicate the number of women who will be impacted.

(Max 300 words)

A legacy of high poverty and weak governmental institutions following decades of conflict and civil unrest has constrained the young country's economy. The majority of Timor-Leste's population lives in severe poverty. The country has an extremely high indicator value of 29.8 on the 2014 Global Hunger Index (GHI) – the highest in south, east and southeast Asia and the third highest in the world. This emphasises the critical importance of ensuring sustainable management of the small-scale fisheries that underpin food security for Timor-Leste's coastal communities.

This project is designed to improve the lives of 9,000 people in coastal communities through community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) and livelihood diversification through low-impact homestay ecotourism. Both models prioritise women's engagement and as a result we expect 25% of households in target communities to have increased total household income, against baseline, by the end of Year 3.

Fishery management (eg through periodic closure of gleaning sites that leads to higher yields when a closed site reopens) is expected to increase mean fisher incomes by 50% two years after we establish the baseline.

The ecotourism and homestay training, benefiting approximately 300 people in the target communities, will prepare and enable families to tap into the country's nascent ecotourism sector through a low risk, low impact, culturally sensitive and conservation-orientated model. Once trained and ready, households will benefit from assured year-round visitor numbers through Blue Ventures' existing non-profit volunteer ecotourism programme, which launched in Timor-Leste in March 2016, and forecasts 80 visitors by end of 2016 (2520 bed nights) with strong growth anticipated in 2017 and 2018, thus providing homestay households with a growing market. This will attract other homestay micro-businesses and help build up the country's community-based ecotourism sector, consistent with governmental commitments to prioritise tourism as a key non-petroleum growth area.

16. Exit strategy

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)

The project's primary interventions – conservation (LMMA and fisheries management) and livelihoods (homestay development) – have been specifically grounded in well-established participatory and incentive-based models that help ensure long-term community engagement in their continuation, as follows:

- The use of community-led monitoring and periodic fisheries closures have both proven to be effective catalysts for local engagement in marine management in diverse Indo-Pacific small-scale fisheries contexts.
- Homestay tourism is forecast to grow in the target communities, in line with national commitments to expand this sector, with secured footfall through BV.

The project will use village exchanges and fisher-fisher education to build support for maintaining community-based fisheries management, creating a culture and tradition of conservation to ensure that actions continue beyond the project term.

Blue Ventures' partnership with the Government of Timor-Leste to support conservation on Atauro will also continue in the long-term, including through direct technical support for conservation, and through assured year-round provision of homestay guests (BV's similar partnerships in other countries have continued uninterrupted for 14 and 6 years in Madagascar and Belize respectively).

The project's commitment to local hiring, and participatory training, will also ensure skills remain within the target community, building capacity in the long-term.

17a. Harmonisation

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

(Max 200 words)

This project will mark a new phase in Blue Ventures' work in Timor-Leste, by launching efforts to engage communities in marine monitoring, management, and ecotourism homestay service provision.

Blue Ventures initiated its Timor-Leste country programme in March 2016 at the invitation of the government, following partnership discussions and field scoping since 2013. Initial activities on Atauro since March have focused on marine ecosystem and biodiversity assessments in coral reef and seagrass habitats, and provision of marine science and monitoring training to Timorese personnel, including local team members recruited from target communities.

This rapid biodiversity assessment and capacity building phase is forecast to continue until the second quarter of 2017, when Blue Ventures plans to embark on this project, with a new focus on community engagement in fisheries monitoring and management, LMMA establishment, and homestay tourism development.

Current activities are funded through Blue Ventures' core funds (generated through our volunteer ecotourism model), as well as additional support from the GEF Seagrass Conservation Initiative, and Wilstar Foundation.

Timor-Leste's nascent environmental sector benefits from close working relations between civil society organisations active in conservation, and Blue Ventures maintains open dialogue with NGOs, embassies, and other initiatives related to conservation, fisheries management and tourism.

17b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work? Yes/No

If yes, please give details explaining similarities and differences explaining how your work will be additional to its work and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and learn lessons from such work for mutual benefits.

The environmental conservation and natural resource management sectors in Timor-Leste lag behind those of neighbouring countries in the Coral Triangle region, particularly on areas relating to marine and fisheries management, research and governance. Nevertheless, the last two years have seen growing interest in the environmental sector by civil society organisations.

The UNDP has recently launched a partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to deliver a three-year project to build shoreline resilience to protect local communities and coastal livelihoods.

International NGO Conservation International (CI) is working to improve the management of the Nino Konis Santana National Park (the easternmost point of Timor-Leste) and three coastal communities within the park. CI is also a GEF partner to “establish Timor-Leste’s national Protected Area Network and improve the management of forest ecosystems in priority catchment corridors”.

International NGO Worldfish has initiated a partnership with with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to develop aquaculture as a means to provide nutrition and alternative livelihoods.

Blue Ventures holds regular meetings with these and other actors to ensure close collaboration, and promote shared learning and synergies between these institutions and organisations, as well as others working in Timor-Leste (including the Asia Foundation, Coral Triangle Foundation) to improve the livelihoods of coastal communities and develop effective local management of inshore coastal resources.

18. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the Darwin Initiative’s key principles for research ethics as outlined in the [Guidance](#).

(Max 300 words)

All activities and research conducted in this project are focused directly on poverty reduction, gender empowerment and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Blue Ventures’ work in the Timor-Leste explicitly promotes local leadership and participation in fisheries management, to ensure that the needs, perspectives, interests and food security of coastal communities and other stakeholders affected by the project are properly addressed.

By empowering communities with knowledge and legal rights to manage their fisheries, the project will ensure that traditional ecological knowledge will be utilised wherever possible, for example through participatory zoning of the timing and placement of fishing restrictions.

Consistent with procedures for all Blue Ventures personnel, the project team will follow rigorous UK-accredited operational policies and protocols, reviewed annually by Blue Ventures’ senior management team and overseen by Blue Ventures’ board of trustees. These cover all aspects of field operations and welfare, including health and safety, navigation at sea, marine research methods, child protection, discrimination, research ethics, conflicts of interest, anti-bribery, procurement and fraud.

Blue Ventures maintains a research ethics committee within the senior management team tasked with the responsibility for ensuring the validation of all social research methods, and consulting with local stakeholders prior to undertaking field research. All research personnel adhere to a free, prior and informed consent framework governing community research, ensuring prioritisation of local rights, privacy and safety, and ensuring that information obtained through community research is fed back to participants.

19. Raising awareness of the potential worth of biodiversity

If your project contains an element of communications, knowledge sharing and/or dissemination please provide a description of your intended audience, how you intend to engage them, what the expected products/materials will be and what you expect to achieve as a result. For example, are you expecting to directly influence policy in your host country or is your project a community advocacy project to support better management of biodiversity?

(Max 300 words)

The project will utilise Blue Ventures' in-house digital communications expertise to ensure that the project is communicated appropriately to local, national and international audiences.

Community exchanges allow participants to learn best practices in small-scale fisheries management, exploring new ideas and approaches to sustainability, and sharing positive experiences and solutions. Participatory blogs and film will be produced around these learning exchanges [<https://blueventures.org/crossing-the-ocean-a-community-exchange/>] in multiple languages, disseminated in local communities through dedicated outreach events with locally relevant social marketing materials. The use of underwater 360 video in participatory ecosystem assessment and monitoring, relayed to communities through virtual reality applications, will demonstrate a new and highly innovative and engaging approach to community outreach.

Through close governmental engagement, lessons learned will be communicated effectively to decision makers, building national support for rights-based fisheries management. We will use established in-country relationships to engage policymakers with the project and outputs will be publicised through local and national media.

Project communications will receive a strong international presence through digital communications shared by Blue Ventures (eg. <https://blueventures.org/newsroom/>), as well as through social media (<https://www.facebook.com/blueventures/>, <https://www.instagram.com/beyondconservation/>), interactive sites (<https://discover.blueventures.org/marine-management-pays/>) and photo-journalism (<http://explore.blueventures.org/conservation-ecotourism/>), all of which will be developed to maximise the engagement of online, global and mobile audiences, and to share project learning. Where possible communications will focus on human perspectives and experiences, portrayed sensitively through profiles and case studies.

A new website will be built to highlight the importance of homestays for Timor-Leste with the aim of attracting international visitors to local homestays, further promoting the long-term sustainability of the project.

Project personnel will prepare scientific articles for peer review documenting project progress and learning, focusing on the impacts of marine management and livelihood diversification interventions.

20. Capacity building

If your project will support capacity building at institutional or individual levels, please provide details of what form this will take and how this capacity will be secured for the future.

(Max 300 words)

Community members will receive training in marine and fisheries monitoring and management, including the use of technology (underwater video, smartphone-based fisheries monitoring systems). At least 10 community members will be trained in participatory ecological assessment methods and another 10 community members in fisheries monitoring procedures. At least half will be women.

Involving local stakeholders in the design, collection and analysis of data on natural resources has been shown to increase empowerment for local management, and lead to quicker decision-making and implementation of decisions at the local level.

Local associations and community members will be involved and trained in all LMMA

management processes, including management planning, LMMA zoning, conflict resolution, and monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS). Communities will be supported to organise and hold management meetings and make decisions on fisheries management measures in an informed, transparent and democratic manner, helping build local leadership and community support for ongoing marine environmental management. The project will work to empower community representatives to undertake most of the management decision-making, with minimal dependence on NGO support. Local and national government partners will be strongly involved, ensuring sustained institutional support for the LMMA model beyond the project's lifetime.

The project will provide training for 50% (approx. 300 people) of adults in the target community (at least 50% women) in ecotourism service provision as homestay hosts and eco-guides. Training will include food handling and preparation, health and safety and managing tourists' expectations. Additional practical training will be provided to homestay hosts (predominantly women) in financial management and planning to help empower women with control of household finances.

Peer-learning exchanges will be used to help train families and community members involved in homestay service provision. This 'barefoot learning' approach will connect community members directly with members of West Papua's highly successful Raja Ampat Homestay Association).

21. Access to project information

Please describe the project's open access plan and detail any specific costs you are seeking from Darwin to fund this.

(Max 250 words)

All research outputs (peer-reviewed academic journal articles, non peer-reviewed articles, conference papers, theses, book chapters, etc.) arising from the project will be published where possible in open access journals or available through self-archiving on the Blue Ventures website (<https://blueventures.org/impact/publications/>).

All data collected by Blue Ventures are currently available to interested parties through a standardised data sharing agreement. In addition, a new online georeferenced data portal is currently being designed for launch by Blue Ventures during the project term, through which project data will be freely available online.

Research outputs and data will also be shared with local and national partners, formally presented to national partners through stakeholder engagement workshops, and where necessary adapted as policy briefs or short summaries for Timorese stakeholders, including through translation to Tetum.

Darwin's funds will not be used for publication or online editing or publishing - these costs will be met by Blue Ventures' match contribution.

22. Match funding (co-finance)**a) Secured**

Provide details of all funding successfully levered (and identified in the Budget) towards the costs of the project, including any income from other public bodies, private sponsorship, donations, trusts, fees or trading activity.

Confirmed:

Blue Ventures has secured the following co-finance sources, a contribution of 44% of the total project cost:

- WWF Netherlands, £XXX, Year 1
- Wilstar Foundation, £XXX, Years 1 and 2
- Global Environment Facility (GEF) Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project , £XXX, Year 1 and 2
- Mulago Foundation, £XXX, Years 1 and 2
- Blue Ventures £XXX, Years 3 and 4

WWF, Wilstar, GEF and Mulago Foundation are long-standing Blue Ventures supporters with strong working relationships with the charity. Blue Ventures and WWF have signed an agreement to strengthen collaboration to drive community-led marine conservation through sharing learning and developing field partnerships. Blue Ventures contributed to the design of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project.

22b) Unsecured

Provide details of any matched funding where an application has been submitted, or that you intend applying for during the course of the project. This could include matched funding from the private sector, charitable organisations or other public sector schemes.

Date applied for	Donor organisation	Amount	Comments
N.A.			

22c) None

If you are not intending to seek matched funding for this project, please explain why.

(max 100 words)

Funding detailed in 22a is confirmed. Blue Ventures is continuing its fundraising efforts to be able to enhance its own match contribution to this project. Other than this proposal there are no other project proposals pending.

23) Risk

Explain how you have considered the risks and threats that may be relevant to the success of this project, including the risks of fraud or bribery.

(max 200 words)

Timor-Leste has faced decades of occupation and civil unrest, resulting in weak institutions and severe socio-economic challenges, including a chronically food insecure rapid-growing population.

In many regions immediate livelihood-food-security needs outweigh environmental concerns and are likely to continue to do so for some time. This means coastal and marine resource management strategies must ensure that existing productivity is not lost, and where losses have previously occurred ensure that these, wherever economically possible, are recovered or minimized. The project's main challenge is to ensure demand for marine resources is managed within sustainable limits. The project's success will require ensuring governmental support is maintained for decentralised coastal resource management, and that village level community support for – and engagement in – conservation are sustained.

The main risks for ecotourism are political and civil unrest, natural disasters and extreme weather conditions. Regular risk assessments, proactive local intelligence and continual monitoring of political and civil indicators, alongside careful choice of location and scheduling to reflect the prevailing weather conditions, all help mitigate these risks. Blue Ventures has over 14 years' experience managing LMMA and marine expedition ecotourism projects in remote tropical coastal environments, and would assess and mitigate risks through existing operating protocols.

PROJECT MONITORING AND EVALUATION

MEASURING IMPACT

24. LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Darwin projects will be required to report against their progress towards their expected outputs and outcomes if funded. This section sets out the expected outputs and outcomes 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
<p>Impact: The livelihoods of coastal communities in Timor-Leste are improved and diversified through effective local management of inshore coastal resources and alternative livelihoods. (Max 30 words)</p>			
<p>Outcome: Reducing fishing pressure and protecting priority biodiversity areas in Timor-Leste through community-based marine resource management and sustainable alternative livelihoods benefiting 9,000 people in coastal communities. (Max 30 words)</p>	<p>0.1 25% households in target community have increased total household income as a result of ecotourism by end Y3 and continuing in Y4, against baseline to be established end Y1.</p> <p>0.2 Fisheries management benefits increase mean fisher incomes by 50% by Y4 (against Y2 baseline).</p> <p>0.3 Marine area managed/protected by communities on Atauro increases from 1 area in Atauro in Y1 to 3 areas by end Y4.</p> <p>0.4 Key biodiversity indicators (reef fish, coral, invertebrate) within locally managed/protected areas remain stable or increase by end Y4.</p>	<p>0.1a Household income surveys conducted pre- (Y1) and post-ecotourism development (Y4);</p> <p>0.1b Data from ecotourists documenting average spend per week on Atauro, collected via feedback surveys every 6 weeks.</p> <p>0.2 Participatory fisheries landings and market price monitoring.</p> <p>0.3 Documents formalising Taru Bandu and/or community endorsed zoning/delimitation maps.</p> <p>0.4a Surveys of fish diversity (SpR/SDI) and/or fish biomass (kg/ha) protected within managed areas.</p> <p>0.4b Surveys of benthic diversity (% cover of key benthic groups) within</p>	<p>Shift from fishing to ecotourism for income generation reduces number of people dependent on fishing.</p> <p>Income from fisheries management incentivises further community-based natural resource management (CBNRM).</p> <p>Fisheries management initiatives do not increase number of people fishing, but allow people to fish less and catch more.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
		<p>managed areas.</p> <p>0.4c Commercially exploited invertebrate abundance surveys within managed areas.</p>	
<p>Outputs:</p> <p>1. Local marine management and ecotourism development plans in place, using site identification, zoning and indicator information provided via stakeholder consultations and participatory community marine resource assessment and monitoring.</p>	<p>1.1 At least 1 site for CBNRM and ecotourism activities identified by end of Y1.</p> <p>1.2 At least 10 community members (≥50% women) trained in participatory ecological assessment methods by end Y1 Q1.</p> <p>1.3 Participatory habitat status assessment completed by communities by end Y1 Q2.</p> <p>1.4 At least 10 community members (≥50% women) trained in fisheries monitoring procedures by end of Y1.</p> <p>1.5 Communities are conducting ongoing participatory ecological and fisheries monitoring, including quarterly feedback to community leaders and managers by end of Y2.</p>	<p>1.1 Site selection matrix based on information gathered; selection of sites verified through ongoing activities.</p> <p>1.2 Record of completion of training in methods (test results/certifications).</p> <p>1.3 Participatory habitat status assessment survey database and summary results.</p> <p>1.4 Record of completion of training in methods (test results/certifications).</p> <p>1.5a Resource monitoring database.</p> <p>1.5b Feedback session documentation (meeting minutes, photos).</p>	<p>Knowledge from participatory monitoring is used to design community-led management plans.</p> <p>Communities are interested in participating in monitoring, and results can be used to guide marine management and planning to improve fishing livelihoods.</p>
<p>2. Locally-led fisheries management measures piloted and continued by communities</p>	<p>2.1 Fisheries management measures (e.g. periodic fishing site closures), decided by the target local community in Y2, piloted by end Y3 for at least one key fishery species.</p>	<p>2.1a Minutes and documents from meetings on community consultations and decisions.</p> <p>2.1b Management plan documenting management measures, map of closure area(s)/</p>	<p>Economically important marine fisheries resources exist with species that can respond quickly to management and will incentivise broader local engagement in fisheries management and marine conservation.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>2.2 Community outreach events held at least twice a year, to give feedback of participatory monitoring and results of local resource management.</p>	<p>calendar of seasonal restrictions.</p> <p>2.1c Catch monitoring data and analysis from before and after implementation of fisheries management measure(s).</p> <p>2.2 Photos of community events and sessions.</p>	<p>Sufficient local leadership and community cohesion for local management to be developed successfully and respected.</p>
<p>3. Community members are trained and employed in ecotourism activities</p>	<p>3.1 New locally owned ecotourism and homestay services are established in 1 target community (12 families) (Beloi) in Timor-Leste by end Y1, and in 2 further communities on the island by end Y3.</p> <p>3.2 50% (approx. 300 people) of adults in target community (at least 50% women) receive training by Blue Ventures, and by trained homestay members, in ecotourism service provision as hosts, ecoguides and other income generating activities by end Y2.</p>	<p>3.1 Contracts and MoUs with target community to provide ecotourism facilities and provisions.</p> <p>3.2a Census data to establish number of people in population.</p> <p>3.2b Photographs from training workshops and exchange trip to Raja Ampat.</p> <p>3.2c Certificates from training as hosts/ ecoguides.</p>	<p>A site exists in Timor-Leste that can provide both the requirements for ecotourists (eg. infrastructure, diving, safety) and also a nearby community that is keen to participate in provision of accommodation and services.</p> <p>Blue Ventures can maintain the number of tourists currently joining ecotourism expeditions in Timor-Leste.</p> <p>Timor-Leste continues to be a safe and attractive destination for ecotourists to visit.</p>
<p>4. Locally managed marine area (LMMA) established.</p>	<p>4.1 By end Y2, 100% of target community has been engaged in discussions on LMMAs.</p> <p>4.2 Community stakeholder group (at least 50% women) receives training on how to establish and manage an LMMA in Timor-Leste by end Y3.</p>	<p>4.1a Meeting minutes, and attendance record sheets from village meetings.</p> <p>4.1b Census data to establish number of people in population.</p> <p>4.2a Training attendance sheets (include gender).</p>	<p>Incentives from improved local fisheries management and new income from ecotourism promote further local marine natural resource management.</p> <p>Legislation and policies in Timor-Leste do not change, and the legal provision for allowing locally-led</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>4.3 Target community delineates LMMA and develops zoning and management plan by end Y3, coming into effect by end Y4.</p>	<p>4.2b Copies of training documents, materials and participant assessments.</p> <p>4.3 Management plans/documentation formalising establishment of LMMA through Tara Bandu.</p>	<p>marine resource management is maintained.</p>
<p>Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)</p> <p>Output 1: Local management and ecotourism plans in place, using site identification, zoning and indicator information provided via participatory community marine resource assessment and monitoring.</p> <p>1.1 Community consultations on ecotourism homestay workplan and activities at 2-3 villages, consulting communities and women's groups.</p> <p>1.2 Community, NGO and wider stakeholder consultations for natural resource management at 2-3 villages, with local consultations consulting both communities and women's groups.</p> <p>1.3 Train (minimum) 10 community members in habitat monitoring (minimum 50% women), including use of underwater 360° video.</p> <p>1.4 Conduct participatory habitat assessments across southeast and northeast coastal zones of Atauro.</p> <p>1.5 Train (minimum) 10 community members in fisheries monitoring, simple analysis and presenting information back to communities (minimum 50% women).</p> <p>1.6 Establish participatory fisheries monitoring programme in 2-3 villages for duration of project.</p> <p>1.7 Disseminate results of participatory monitoring to communities, community leaders and women's groups on Atauro, including through use of 360° VR engagement tools showcasing underwater monitoring footage.</p> <p>Output 2: Locally-led fisheries management measures piloted and continued by communities</p> <p>2.1 Village level workshops, with communities and women's groups, to discuss fisheries management options based on participatory monitoring data, and discussions on key fisheries and threats.</p> <p>2.2 One key fishery selected for trial management measure through further consultations with communities and women's groups, with minimum 1 village.</p> <p>2.3 Work plan agreed upon with community – including women's groups – for timeline for local fisheries management (eg. location, duration, rules).</p> <p>2.4 Support provided to community and women's groups for implementation of workplan.</p> <p>2.5 Results of management measure evaluated with the community and improvements suggested and implemented.</p> <p>2.6 Twice yearly outreach events with wider community – men and women – to disseminate results from local management and monitoring.</p>			

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Output 3: Community members are trained and employed in ecotourism activities</p> <p>3.1 First round of homestay participants selected.</p> <p>3.2 Homestay Association set up with legal paperwork completed, with equal representation of women within Association board.</p> <p>3.3 Business plans developed and standards for homestays agreed upon.</p> <p>3.4 Exchange trip to Raja Ampat, Indonesia, to meet and learn from a successful homestay group.</p> <p>3.5 Training given on key areas such as health and safety, cuisine and catering, language and hospitality, budget management, tourist expectations and ecoguiding.</p> <p>3.6 Ongoing support to Homestay Association through monthly meetings focusing on continuous improvement through feedback, and facilitated induction of first guests.</p> <p>3.7 Workshops with further villages for subsequent expansion of homestay association.</p> <p>Output 4: Locally managed marine area (LMMA) established.</p> <p>4.1 Workshops with community (from activities 2.2 to 2.5) and women's groups to discuss potential benefits of developing an LMMA and locally relevant mechanisms for management (eg. <i>Tara Bandu</i>).</p> <p>4.2 Training in LMMA management and what it means for the village, including exchange trips to the village of Adara to meet other villages engaged in LMMAs, with minimum 50% participation by women.</p> <p>4.3 Workshops to decide on LMMA criteria (eg. size, zoning, rules), with minimum 50% participation by women.</p> <p>4.4 Workshops to draft a local management plan for the LMMA, with minimum 50% participation by women.</p> <p>4.5 Delineation of LMMA and outreach by communities.</p> <p>4.6 Support on any required administration with Ministries.</p>			

25. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the following table as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project (Q1 starting April 2017)

Activity	No. of months	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1																	
1.1 Community consultations on ecotourism homestay workplan and activities at 2-3 villages.	6																
1.2 Community, NGO and wider stakeholder consultations for natural resource management at 2-3 villages.	6																
1.3 Train (minimum) 10 community members in habitat monitoring.	9																
1.4 Conduct participatory habitat assessments across southeast and northeast areas of Atauro.	9																
1.5 Train (minimum) 10 community members in fisheries monitoring, simple analysis and presenting information back to communities.	9																
1.6 Establish participatory fisheries monitoring programme in 2-3 villages for duration of project.	42																
1.7 Disseminate results of participatory monitoring to community leaders on Atauro.	42																
Output 2																	
2.1 Village level workshops to discuss fisheries management options based on participatory monitoring data, and discussions on key fisheries and threats.	9																

Activity	No. of months	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2.2 Key fishery selected for trial management measure through further consultations, with minimum 1 village.	9																
2.3 Work plan agreed upon with community for timeline for local fisheries management (eg. location, duration, rules).	9																
2.4 Support provided to community for implementation of workplan.	18																
2.5 Results of management measure evaluated with the community and improvements suggested and implemented.	6																
2.6 Twice yearly outreach events with wider community to disseminate results from local management and monitoring.	6																
Output 3																	
3.1 First round of homestay participants selected.	6																
3.2 Homestay Association set up with legal paperwork completed.	15																
3.3 Business plans developed and standards for homestays agreed upon.	15																
3.4 Participate in exchange trip to Raja Ampat, Indonesia, to meet and learn from a successful homestay group.	1																
3.5 Training given on key areas such as health and safety, budget management, tourist expectations, ecoguiding etc.	30																

Activity	No. of months	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
3.6 Ongoing support to Homestay Association through monthly meetings and facilitate induction of first guests.	42																
3.7 Workshops with further villages for potential expansion of homestay association.	6																
Output 4																	
4.1 Workshops with community (from activities 2.2 to 2.5) to discuss potential benefits of developing an LMMA.	12																
4.2 Training in LMMA management and what it means for the village, including exchange trips across Atauro to meet other villages engaged in LMMAs.	9																
4.3 Workshops to decide on LMMA criteria (eg. size, zoning, rules).	9																
4.4 Workshops to draft a local management plan for the LMMA.	9																
4.5 Delineation of LMMA and outreach by communities.	15																
4.6 Support on any required administration with Ministries.	24																

26. Project based monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

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)

Understanding the effectiveness and impact of activities and interventions in achieving conservation and development outcomes is central to the design of this project. The project's monitoring and evaluation system is designed to enable the project team to learn from, adapt and improve the performance of the project, while ensuring accountability to Darwin as well as to partner organisations and communities.

The project team will undertake routine internal evaluations of the project's progress and performance against the logframe and timetable of activities. Outputs are tracked monthly within Blue Ventures' internal project management system, which is designed to enable efficient coordination of programming between Blue Ventures' portfolio of conservation projects.

Evaluation at the outcome level will be performed by the project leader and project staff with key support from the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) coordinator and core technical advice from fisheries (indicator 0.2), social (indicator 0.1) and ecological (indicators 0.3 and 0.4) research coordinators.

Many of the ecological and fisheries assessment methods that will be used during this project have been developed and tested by Blue Ventures over the past decade in other tropical coastal contexts, and will be adapted where appropriate to the context in Timor-Leste.

Most indicators have been developed after extensive research into M&E methodologies, use many internationally-approved indicators and collection methods, and are collected where possible through participatory approaches, ensuring that the data collected are not only useful for evaluating the project outputs and outcomes but are also useful to communities in supporting fisheries management and conservation decision making.

The project team will additionally be supported in both data collection and data management by the M&E coordinator and through a number of tools, systems and processes developed by Blue Ventures at other locations. These include the use of information communication technology (ICT) such as picture-based smartphone apps for participatory fisheries landings assessments, and other technologies for data collection, as well as systems for double entry and data validation, and data visualisations and dashboards for key indicators.

The results of ongoing monitoring and evaluation will not only serve to monitor project progress, but will also enable identification of opportunities and challenges, in real time, ensuring that the project is adaptive and able to respond to the changes that will inevitably take place given the socioeconomic context of implementation.

Building this capacity for iterative learning into the project design from the outset will maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of programme delivery, enabling implementation strategies to be adjusted whenever necessary.

Blue Ventures' M&E systems follow the standards of the Conservation Measures Partnership, a partnership of conservation organizations that seek better ways to design, manage, and measure the impacts of their conservation actions.

Number of days planned for M&E	120
Total project budget for M&E	Activity costs - £51,883
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E	9.79%

FUNDING AND BUDGET

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. You should also ensure you have read the 'Finance for Darwin' document and considered the implications of payment points for cashflow purposes.

NB: The Darwin Initiative cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.

27. 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.

(max 300 words)

The budget is worked out to ensure that project resources are used optimally to achieve intended outcomes.

Local and expatriate staff salaries, including consultant rates, are set at competitive rates that allow us to recruit those with the commitment, value and skillset to deliver the best results. The resident team is based in the community which reduces travel costs for community outreach and increases the effectiveness of our work there. All other costs are set based on previous actual spends and these are regularly monitored by our Finance team to ensure best value. Wherever possible, materials are purchased locally. Blue Ventures' procurement policy ensures a clear and transparent path for all spend transactions and provides guidance on the most appropriate form of procurement for different types of spend.

We have match funding secured from several sources and partners, including in-kind support.

We work towards efficiency via strong financial management, good work-planning, staff support and supervision and ongoing monitoring to keep activities on track. The project team will be well briefed in targets agreed, The project will have a dedicated grant manager assigned to track spending, with support from the Finance Manager, and outputs targets will be monitored by the Conservation Coordinator and Managing Director on a monthly basis.

Blue Ventures' has an excellent track record in effectiveness. The project focuses on local leadership, with a Timorese staff team being trained up. Community-based approaches are proven to be cost effective and supports local ownership. Support from local and national government, which Blue Ventures has already secured, increases the likelihood of achieving the desired impact.

Finally, investment in this project will create a long term means of livelihood diversification for communities, creating micro-enterprises that will collectively raise funding that will eventually exceed the original project budget and last long into the future.

28. Capital items

If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end.

(max 150 words)

The cameras, laptops and smartphones purchased, if they are used by BV staff, remain on our asset register. There is a lot of wear and tear in capital items used in the field due to local conditions - salt and seawater affecting electronics, however we do take a lot of care in use, storage and maintenance.

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 your Foreign Ministry or the local embassy or High Commission (or equivalent) directly to discuss security issues (see Guidance) and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

Yes (no written advice) **Yes, advice attached** **No**

CERTIFICATION

On behalf of the trustees/~~company~~* of Blue Ventures

I apply for a grant of **£295,214** 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.

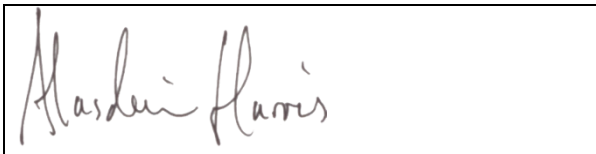
I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the project schedule should this application be successful.

(This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the applicant institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)

- I enclose CVs for key project personnel and letters of support.
- I enclose our most recent signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual reports

Name (block capitals)	ALASDAIR HARRIS
Position in the organisation	Executive Director

Signed**



Date:

5th December 2016

If this section is incomplete or not completed correctly 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.

Stage 2 Application – Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you read the Guidance ?	✓
Have you read and can you meet the current Terms and Conditions for this fund?	✓
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)	✓
Have you included a 1 page CV for all the key project personnel identified at Question 10?	✓
Have you included a letter of support from your key partner organisations identified at Question 9?	✓
Have you been in contact with the FCO in the project country/ies and have you included any evidence of this?	n.a.
Have you included a signed copy of the last 2 years annual report and accounts for the lead organisation?	✓
Have you checked the Darwin website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	✓

Once you have answered the questions above, please submit the application, not later than 2359 GMT on Monday 5 December 2016 to 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**. 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). 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 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.