

Applicant: **Carlton-Paterson, Maja**
Organisation: **Blue Ventures Conservation**
Funding Sought: **£342,142.00**
Funding Awarded: **£342,142.00**

DIR26S2\1049

27-006 Developing an incentive-based model for community-led marine conservation in Comoros

This project aims to improve the livelihoods of 1,500 small-scale fishers in the Comoros whilst reducing pressure on fisheries and enabling effective management of 350 hectares of coral reefs, conserving marine biodiversity. A replicable, locally-led marine management model developed with ten communities on the island of Anjouan will incentivise adaptive fisheries management. Additional activities will add value to catches and increase agricultural production, diversifying and improving livelihoods. Best practices will be shared with government and partners, supporting replication nationwide.

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title	Miss
Name	Maja
Surname	Carlton-Paterson
Organisation	Blue Ventures Conservation
Website (Work)	https://blueventures.org/
Tel	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title Miss
Name Maja
Surname Carlton-Paterson
Organisation Blue Ventures Conservation
Website (Work) <https://blueventures.org/>
Tel [REDACTED]
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GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Delivery Partner
Name	Blue Ventures Conservation
Phone	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Website	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q3. Project title:

27-006 Developing an incentive-based model for community-led marine conservation in Comoros

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DIR26S1\100123

DIR26S1\1349

Q4. Country(ies)

Which eligible country(ies) will your project be working in? Where there are more than 4 countries that your project will be working in, please add more boxes using the selection option below.

Country 1	Comoros	Country 2	No Response
Country 3	No Response	Country 4	No Response

Do you require more fields?

No

Q5. Project dates

Start date:

01 April 2020

End date:

31 March 2023

Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):

3 years

Q6. Budget summary

Year:	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Total request
Amount:				£ 342,142.00

Q6a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

Blue Ventures is contributing £[REDACTED] towards salaries of project staff. In addition, Blue Ventures is actively seeking match funding support for this work, and has so far secured £[REDACTED] from the Oak Foundation. Dahari has secured £[REDACTED] over 3 years from the European Development Fund towards agricultural activities.

The Tusk Trust has invited Blue Ventures to apply for an annual grant of £[REDACTED] (£[REDACTED] over three years) towards our work in Comoros, continuing an existing funding partnership.

Dahari anticipates securing £[REDACTED] over years one and two from WWF Madagascar as part of the Northern Mozambique Channel Initiative.

Applications to WWF Madagascar and the Tusk Trust are built on strong and longstanding partnerships supporting our work in the Comoros over the last four years. They are only classed as 'unsecured' because they are annual grants that are approved anew each year.

Should any of these fail, we will fundraise from other sources, and endeavour to make any shortfall through our own (modest) unrestricted funds.

Q6b. Proposed (confirmed and unconfirmed) matched funding as % of total project cost (total cost is the Darwin request plus other funding required to run the project).

49

Section 3 - Project Summary

Q7. Summary of project

Please provide a brief summary of your project, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking. Please note that if you are successful, this wording may be used by Defra in communications e.g. as a short description of the project on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

This project aims to improve the livelihoods of 1,500 small-scale fishers in the Comoros whilst reducing pressure on fisheries and enabling effective management of 350 hectares of coral reefs, conserving marine biodiversity. A replicable, locally-led marine management model developed with ten communities on the island of Anjouan will incentivise adaptive fisheries management. Additional activities will add value to catches and increase agricultural production, diversifying and improving livelihoods. Best practices will be shared with government and partners, supporting replication nationwide.

Section 4 - Lead Organisation Summary

Q8. Lead organisation summary

Has your organisation been awarded a Darwin Initiative or IWT Challenge Fund award before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)?

Yes

If yes, 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, Madagascar
21011	Dr Alasdair Harris	Securing livelihoods and conserving marine biodiversity through rights-based fisheries management
24012	Dr Alasdair Harris	Incentivising community-led marine biodiversity conservation on Atauro Island, Timor-Leste
EIDP0048	Dr Alasdair Harris	Securing definitive protection and co-management throughout the Barren Isles archipelago
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts? If you select "yes" you will be able to upload these. Note that this is not required from Government Agencies.

Yes

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

 Blue Ventures Annual Accounts 2017 (1)

 05/12/2019

 10:22:39

 pdf 2.87 MB

 Blue Ventures Annual Report and Accounts 2018 (1)

 04/12/2019

 20:15:38

 pdf 3.82 MB

Section 5 - Project Partners

Q9. Project partners

Please list all the partners involved (including the Lead Organisation) 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 Letters of Support for the Lead Organisation and each partner or explain why this has not been included.

N.B: There is a file upload button at the bottom of this page for the upload of a cover letter (if applicable) and all letters of support.

Lead Organisation name: Blue Ventures Conservation

Website address: www.blueventures.org

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

Blue Ventures (BV) is a marine conservation charity registered in England and Wales, dedicated to rebuilding tropical fisheries with coastal communities. BV started collaborating with Dahari in the Comoros in 2015. This partnership aims to build local capacity for marine conservation and sustainable fisheries management, building on the successful conservation catalyst model of temporary fishery closures established in Madagascar. This model provides direct economic incentives to coastal communities to engage in marine management and conservation, leading to the establishment of Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs). Support to partners worldwide has led to replication of locally-led models for marine conservation in Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, India, Indonesia and Timor-Leste.

BV will coordinate the overall project, including providing technical support and training to Dahari in implementing community-based marine management. BV will lead efforts to explore and pilot value-addition interventions and will provide guidance for site selection, fisheries monitoring and assessment, impact evaluation and analysis, and the dissemination of project results to partner communities and national stakeholders.

In managing this project, BV will coordinate financial management and reporting, ensuring the involvement and inputs from all partners and stakeholders.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

Have you provided a cover letter to address your Stage 1 feedback? Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

1. Partner Name: Dahari

Website address: www.daharicomores.org/en

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

Dahari is a Comorian NGO created in 2013 following a Darwin-funded project (17-011), and subsequently supported by a Darwin fellowship (EIDP SO34), and a further Darwin project (24-009).

Now a highly regarded environmental and rural development NGO, Dahari has an in-depth understanding of the context and customs in the Comoros. With over 70 staff in Anjouan and a network of 14 regional and international technical partners, Dahari's mission is to shape sustainable and productive landscapes with Comorian communities.

One of the project's main objectives is to build Dahari's capacity to become the first strong civil society actor for marine management in the Comoros. In partnership with BV, Dahari has been supporting emerging community-based marine resource management efforts since 2015, culminating in Anjouan's first temporary fishery closure in 2018.

Dahari will share project management and decision-making with BV and lead the implementation of activities on Anjouan. This includes training workshops, community consultations, exchange visits, and fisheries data collection. Dahari's agricultural expertise will enable the development of alternative livelihoods, reducing pressure on fisheries.

As a co-signatory on SWIOFish1 fisheries co-management agreements, Dahari will ensure strong collaboration with the National and Regional Fisheries Directorate, the World Bank, and other national actors.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

2. Partner Name: Mohéli National Park

Website address: N/A

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

Mohéli National Park (MNP) is a governmental institution established in 2001 to oversee the management of a marine protected area. The park is home to coelacanths, varieties of sharks, and humpback whales. Since 2014, the French Development Agency and UNDP have supported the development of MNP's institutional capacity.

Within the park, fishers are actively engaged in consultation and development of fisheries management measures (e.g. gear restrictions and no-take zones). Communities and park authorities have collaborated since 2016 to implement temporary octopus closures in several villages.

BV supports MNP in developing and improving its monitoring and evaluation systems through staff training, and also sharing learning and best practices in community-led marine management.

Dahari and MNP have shared learning on their respective experiences in community-based marine management since 2017 through two exchange visits, and Dahari has provided support with ecological monitoring.

This project will strengthen the partnerships and offer further opportunities to share learning, improving skills for partners to be more effective in supporting community-led marine and fisheries management.

MNP will participate in organising and facilitating exchange visits and training sessions for fishing communities, and will share learning and best practices with the wider UNDP-Protected Areas Network and beyond.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

3. Partner Name:

The National and Regional Fisheries Directorate

Website address:

N/A

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

The National Fisheries Directorate has overall responsibility for fisheries management in the Comoros, presiding over the regional directorates in each island. Dahari and BV have been collaborating with the National and Anjouan Regional Directorates since the start of their intervention, and both are supportive of the initiative. Representatives of the female fisher's association, Maecha Bora, that work with Dahari and BV have already been invited to participate in two exchange visits to the islands of Grande Comore and Mohéli in 2019 organised by the National Fisheries Directorate.

The National and Regional Fisheries Directorate coordinates activities between partners and other stakeholders (UNDP, SWIOFish1) active on the southwest coast of Anjouan. It will organise exchange visits and training sessions focused on sharing best practices in community-led marine management. These will be in line with national fisheries legislation that seeks to establish institutional mechanisms to encourage and ensure fishers' participation in fisheries management, which will support the establishment and replication of LMMAs.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

4. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): *No Response*

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes
 No

5. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): *No Response*

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes
 No

6. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): *No Response*

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes
 No

If you require more space to enter details regarding Partners involved in the project, please use the text field below.

No Response

Please provide a cover letter responding to feedback received at Stage 1 if applicable and a combined PDF of all letters of support.

 [Letters of support from other stakeholders](#)

 05/12/2019

 14:15:00

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 [Letters of support from project partners](#)

 05/12/2019

 14:08:33

 pdf 4.08 MB

 [Blue Ventures cover letter FINAL](#)

 05/12/2019

 13:04:31

 pdf 167.44 KB

Section 6 - Project Staff

Q10. Key project staff

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. These should match the names and roles in the budget spreadsheet.

If your team is larger than 12 people please review if they are core staff, or whether you can merge roles (e.g. 'admin and finance support') below, but provide a full table based on this template in the pdf of CVs you provide.

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Alasdair Harris	Project Leader	10	Checked
Fanny Vessaz	Comoros Partner Support Technician - Partner Support	80	Checked
Hannah Gilchrist	MEL Officer	20	Checked
Rupert Quinlan	Outreach Director	10	Checked

Do you require more fields?

Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Fiona Moejes	Project Manager	100	Checked
Hugh Doulton	Co-Project Leader	10	Checked
Fatima Ousseni	Lead Fisheries Technician	100	Checked
Faissoil Ahmed Said	Lead Fisheries Technician	100	Checked
Egle Homenya	Agriculture Manager	15	Checked
Under recruitment	Operations Director	20	Checked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked

Please provide 1 page CVs (or job description if yet to be recruited) for the project staff listed above as a combined PDF.

Ensure the file is named clearly, consistent with the named individual and role above.

 [Blue Ventures CVs combined](#)
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 20:41:06
 pdf 1.52 MB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 7 - Problem Statement & Conventions

Q11. 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?

The Comoro archipelago sits at the centre of the Northern Mozambique Channel, an ecoregion with the second highest marine biodiversity globally. This marine biodiversity is critical to the Comorian people: 20% are fishers and over 70% of the rural population rely on fish for protein (Obura, 2012). The young, rapidly increasing population in the Comoros depends on dwindling fish stocks and farming for food security and income.

The project will be based on Anjouan, the poorest and most populous island. Population growth has increased pressure on agricultural land and traditional extensive farming methods harm soil fertility, resulting in low yields. Soil erosion also leads to the silting of coral reefs, affecting marine biodiversity.

The results of a three-year study led by BV and Dahari revealed in 2018 that overexploitation and destructive fishing practices are causing high levels of ecosystem degradation, particularly in Anjouan's western peninsula.

The project targets both reef gleaning and boat fisheries. Reef gleaning is practiced mainly by women who are entirely dependent on accessible, shallow coral reefs, which are vulnerable to climate change. They often use destructive fishing techniques such as poison or metal rebars to fish for octopus. In general, women are under-represented in community-level decision making.

Boat fishing is practiced mainly by men, who often use destructive fishing techniques such as small-sized nets. Both fisheries typically sell landings on the roadside or consume it fresh. Little to no value-addition activities take place (e.g. drying their catch). With no local supply, dried octopus imported to Madagascar is sold at 1.5 times the value of fresh octopus.

Whilst progress has been made towards fisheries management measures in a few communities, further support is required to implement longer-term management measures (e.g. no-take zones) and to develop the accompanying leadership skills and equitable governance systems.

Q12. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q12a. 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.

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q12b. Biodiversity Conventions

Please detail how your project will contribute to the objectives of the agreement(s) your project is

targeting. You should refer to Articles or Programmes of work here.

The project is strongly aligned with the Programme of Work on Marine and Coastal 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. Specifically, by working with fishers to manage biodiversity with the goal of reducing poverty and protecting preferential access rights, the project fulfills general principle 4 of the Programme of Work. The project includes activities aimed at strengthening the capacity of local communities and associations to be 'involved in decision-making related to...practices relevant to conservation' (Task 1). These include training and support in technical management and governance skills, training in data monitoring and analysis to enable informed decision-making, exchange visits, and annual workshops between relevant stakeholders to encourage learning and collaborative planning. Improving the governance and management of local fisher associations and connecting small-scale fishers with a network of representatives from the government, INGOs and NGOs contributes to Task 4 of the Programme of Work (developing mechanisms for promoting the full and effective participation of local communities).

The project's outcomes will contribute directly to the Comoros meeting its commitments to the Convention on Biological Diversity (ratified by Comoros in 1994), in particular Articles 8 (In-situ Conservation), 10 (Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity) and 14 (Impact Assessment and Minimizing Adverse Impacts).

In addition, by reinforcing the effective management of marine resources through community management and by taking practical actions to rebuild fish populations and protect key habitats, in particular coral reefs, the project will help protect critical ecosystems and ensure local, poor communities are able to benefit sustainably from biodiversity; helping Comoros achieve CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets 6 (sustainable fishing), 10 (minimising climate change impacts), 11 (effective conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services) and 14 (safeguarding health, livelihoods and well-being).

The project responds directly to targets identified in the Comoros' National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan submitted to the CBD in 2016. The approach and objectives contribute to all five of the key targets: reduce the causes of biodiversity loss through integration into productive sectors; reduce direct pressures and encourage sustainable use; conserve ecosystems and species; and reinforce implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

Q12c. Is any liaison proposed with the CBS / ABS / ITPGRFA / CITES / CMS / Ramsar / CCC focal point in the host country?

Yes

If yes, please give details.

Dahari consults regularly with the national CBD focal point M. Abdouchakour Mohamed Abderemane, who visited Dahari's activities in the field two years ago. The focal point has reviewed a translated summary of this project proposal and supports the submission - the support letter from the Ministry has been signed with his approval. Exchanges regarding this project will focus on ways to scale-up sharing of lessons learned to the national level through exchange visits and training workshops.

Q12d. Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Please detail how your project will contribute to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Project activities will make a substantial contribution towards the Comoros' commitment to SDG 14 –

conserve and sustainably use the ocean, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. Specifically, the project aims to effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, reduce destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans - all of which aim to restore fish stocks in the shortest time possible.

As Comorian coastal communities are largely reliant on small-scale fisheries for their livelihoods, this work will support SDG 1 (end poverty), by diversifying and improving livelihoods through agricultural activities and catch value improvements. In addition, by coupling fisheries management activities with complementary sustainable agricultural activities, the project contributes towards SDG 2 – end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

The project addresses SDG 5 (gender equality) by empowering women and ensuring their participation in decision-making (50% of target population, 750 women). This will be achieved by designing fisheries management interventions that prioritise equitable benefit sharing to women (gleaners are almost exclusively women), and ensuring that the reopening of temporary fishery closures coincide with tidal periods favourable to gleaning. Value-addition activities and improved agricultural practices will target women and benefit entire households. BV's experience shows that, as women's contribution to household income increases, so will their ability to participate in household and community-level decision-making. This will ensure that their voices are heard in community decision-making on coastal and marine resource management. The increased income and decision-making for women will promote equal opportunities.

Section 8 - Method, Change Expected, Gender & Exit Strategy

Q13. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and Impact.

Provide information on:

- How you have analysed historical and existing initiatives and are building on or taking work already done into account in project design. Please cite evidence where appropriate.
- The rationale for carrying out this work and a justification of your proposed methodology.
- How you will undertake the work (materials and methods).
- How you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools, etc.).

Drawing on the successes of Madagascar's growing LMMA movement, the Mohéli Marine Park, and BV and Dahari's work to date in the Comoros, the project will develop a community-led marine conservation model for the Comoros that improves fishers' livelihoods and conserves reef biodiversity, laying the groundwork for its wider replication.

Enacting fisheries management measures:

In 2018, BV and Dahari supported Maecha Bora (female fishers association) to implement the first temporary closure on Anjouan. The project will refine and replicate this approach for fast-reproducing high-value invertebrate species that respond quickly to management. Maecha Bora membership more than doubled post closure (33 members in May to 71 in December 2018), demonstrating that this approach builds community interest in marine conservation. The relatively rapid, tangible benefits of periodic fishery closures (e.g. increased productivity and income) encourage communities to implement broader fisheries management measures, supported via training in non-destructive fishing techniques and awareness-raising events.

Improved access to data leading to adaptive management:

Continued training and support in participatory marine resource monitoring, evaluation and learning will

feed regular adaptation of community-based fisheries management. Bi-annual reef monitoring surveys will inform which key coral reef biodiversity hotspots to prioritise for specific protection measures. A smartphone-based data recording and dashboarding system tested on Anjouan, based on an app that can work offline, will allow simplified participatory monitoring, feedback and interpretation by fishers with low literacy. Regular feedback to the wider community will improve community engagement, buy-in and understanding of the impacts of fisheries management.

Interventions for improving and diversifying livelihoods:

Building on successful fishery value improvement activities, a market and value chain analysis will explore simple, cost-effective steps to reduce post-harvest losses and increase catch value, e.g. catch method modifications, drying produce, improved cooling facilities. Complementary agricultural activities will build on Dahari's 12 years of experience of supporting communities in sustainable food crop production techniques, seed production, and access to markets, increasing food security and diversifying livelihoods.

Establishment of effective LMMA governance frameworks:

The project will support communities in at least one coastal area to establish the Comoros' first LMMA, incorporating managed fishing areas and at least one permanent marine reserve site zoned around key coral reef biodiversity habitats. Training and guidance will build community management associations' capacity to develop and implement a management plan outlining rules and regulations to govern the LMMA, and ensure women are represented in community decision-making. Community exchanges will stimulate peer-to-peer learning, reinforced by training in communication, teamwork, and leadership skills as well as consultative decision-making.

Building a learning network of fishing communities and relevant stakeholders

National and regional learning exchanges and reciprocal training workshops with project partners will build foundations for replication in the Comoros, increasing capacity, and motivation for community-led management. Toolkits and video-based training resources will capture and disseminate project learning and best practices.

Project management

BV will lead project management and reporting, working closely alongside Dahari colleagues. The combined management team will review progress quarterly against a timeline of expected activities and milestones.

Q14. 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?

Communication, knowledge sharing and dissemination are key to initiating the behaviour change required for sustainable and effective community-based fisheries management to preserve nearshore biodiversity and improve fishers' livelihoods. The project will achieve this through participatory research and management, supported by education, outreach and awareness-raising events.

Tailored training and support will provide the communities with technical skills in data collection and analysis as well as complementary presentation skills, allowing them to share and discuss findings with the wider community. Communicating the impact of fisheries management initiatives will guide adaptive management. Peer-to-peer learning through community exchanges will enable participants to learn and

share best practices in small-scale fisheries management.

Regular outreach events will increase community awareness of, and support for, marine management initiatives and biodiversity conservation. This will include awareness-raising events focused on the value of biodiversity, including the biology of key species, and the impacts of unsustainable fishing practices. Methods will include interactive presentations, organised debates, theatre plays and traditional ceremonies.

The project will ensure that all learning activities are shared and disseminated through regular meetings with other fisheries associations, authorities and local partners in order to build national support for community-based management and sustainable use of resources.

A manual documenting all learning will provide a model of best practices in community-based marine management in the Comoros, enabling scaling up and replication nationwide. News articles (two per annum) and a community-based film disseminated nationally and online will promote national and international awareness of community-based fisheries management in Comoros.

Digital communications expertise within BV and Dahari will ensure that the project is communicated appropriately to local, national and international audiences. Social media, interactive sites and photo-journalism will further elevate the project maximising the engagement of a global online and mobile audience, supporting further expansion and scaling.

Q15. 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.

Strengthening the capacity of Comorian community associations for marine and fisheries management is fundamental to achieving the project's objectives. Dedicated training and support from field technicians will develop technical and organisational skills.

At least 60 community members will receive training in fisheries monitoring, including the use of tried and tested smartphone-based fisheries monitoring and dashboarding systems. The participation of local stakeholders in the design, collection and analysis of data on natural resources will improve local engagement in adaptive marine management and decision making. The project will also build the capacity of the communities to diversify their livelihoods by providing training and support in value-addition activities and sustainable agricultural practices.

Local associations and community members will be involved and trained in all local management processes, including development of periodic fishery closures, management planning, LMMA zoning, conflict resolution, and monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS). Training in facilitating management meetings and making decisions on fisheries management measures in an informed, transparent and democratic manner will help build local leadership and community support for ongoing marine environmental management. This will empower community representatives to undertake most of the management decision-making, with minimal dependence on NGO support.

At an institutional level, the engagement of local and national government partners will ensure sustained institutional support for the LMMA model beyond the project's lifetime. Partners and authorities will participate in exchange visits and tailored training events to build their technical capacity for effective community-based fisheries management.

The project will also build Dahari's capacity to lead the development of community-based fisheries

management efforts on Anjouan. Dahari's technical, managerial and leadership capacity will be strengthened through support from BV and their co-management of the project. This will ensure Dahari becomes a leading NGO in the Comoros for supporting community-based marine conservation in the long-term.

Q16. Gender equality

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain how your project will collect sex disaggregated data and what impact your project will have in promoting gender equality.

BV and Dahari staff work with local leaders to identify, encourage, and enable vulnerable and marginalised groups to participate in activities.

Women in the Comoros are traditionally absent from resource management discussions where collective decision-making is dominated by men. Their interests are underrepresented and they lack confidence to participate in male-dominated meetings. The project aims to empower women to play a more equitable role in resource management.

Activities will reinforce and strengthen gender integration in locally-led fisheries management, targeting one fishery predominantly practiced by women. BV has a proven track record in enabling and empowering women to participate in decision-making in fisheries management and conservation. BV and Dahari helped establish a women's association (Maecha Bora) who led the implementation of the periodic closure on Anjouan in 2018.

Value-addition activities and improved agricultural practices will target women and benefit entire households. It is BV's experience that, as women's contribution to household income increases, so does their ability to participate in household and community-level decision-making.

The project aims to have women make up at least 50% of the community management associations. Before/after training surveys and association meeting records will demonstrate whether women have increased confidence to participate in decision-making. Fisheries monitoring data, and all training and meeting attendance records will be disaggregated by gender to assess the extent of gender equity in participation.

All locally-led activities will be tailored to account for different gender perceptions, using gender-separated groups where necessary. Training activities will be accessible equally to men and women to further gender integration and equity. Ensuring men also benefit from the project prevents backlash, encourages men to recognise how gender equity benefits the whole community, and ensures the project does not ask too much of women too soon (in terms of time spent on the project, additional responsibility, etc.).

Q17. 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 (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended).

Please describe the changes for biodiversity and for people in developing countries, and how they are linked. When talking about people, please remember to give details of who will benefit and the number of beneficiaries expected. 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.

The project will slow or stop declines in catches of key inshore fisheries encompassing 350 ha of managed coral reef and improve the livelihoods of 1,500 fishers (750 women) living in ten communities in three coastal areas on the northwest coast of Anjouan (Vassy, Dar Salama and Moya).

Unsustainable fishing practices in the Comoros are contributing to broadscale coral reef degradation and the loss of globally important marine biodiversity. As one of the most vulnerable countries to coral reef degradation, the proposed project will empower communities to manage their marine resources, scaling up the use of temporary fishery closures, encouraging increased nearshore area under protection, and strengthening local support for marine protection. This will lead to key reef biodiversity indicator populations (e.g. parrotfish, groupers) remaining stable or improving within managed areas. The benefits of closures and other management improvements will be reinforced through value-addition interventions and improved farming practices that diversify income.

Against a baseline of overfishing and chronic coastal poverty, this will bring about the following changes:

Short-term:

The project will strengthen local fisher associations and support periodic fishery closures, a proven effective approach for catalysing locally-led fisheries management to protect near-shore biodiversity, regenerate fisheries, and improve livelihoods.

Communities will take a lead in rebuilding fisheries through locally-led adaptive management measures and the creation of the Comoros' first LMMA. Key biodiversity indicators within the LMMA will remain stable or improve during the project, captured through catch and reef monitoring. Indicators sampled will include octopus, parrotfish, surgeonfish, and groupers.

Value-addition and enhanced agricultural practices will improve food security, diversify livelihoods, and result in 75% of targeted fishers (50% women) reporting livelihood improvements.

Learning exchanges and sharing best practices will promote expansion of the LMMA model and improve capacity to apply this work in the wider Comoros. The project will build Dahari's capacity to become the first strong civil society actor for marine management in the Comoros.

Long-term:

The project will improve the management of fisheries to a point where they are being fished sustainably, whilst maintaining healthy coral reefs and fish populations. Fishers will benefit from improved financial security, receiving more income for the seafood they catch and having alternative livelihood options. Improved marine management, including the creation of an LMMA, coupled with better agricultural practices will lead to conservation of threatened nearshore biodiversity, reducing direct threats to coral reefs from erosion and increasing communities' resilience to climate change.

Creating a network of fishing communities and implementing partners in the Comoros, including governmental institutions, will provide a platform for influencing policy with a view to creating an effective national fisheries management framework.

The target communities will act as exemplars within a growing Comorian learning network sharing best practices in locally led fisheries management and marine conservation.

The legacy of Darwin's support for this project will be the existence of an incentive-driven model for community-led marine conservation promoting human rights and gender equity that can be replicated elsewhere in Comoros.

Q18. Pathway to change

Please outline your project's expected pathway to change. This should be an overview of the overall project logic and outline how you expect your Outputs to contribute towards your overall Outcome and, longer term, your expected Impact.

The project's theory of change asserts that integrated community-based marine management coupled with alternative livelihood opportunities will secure marine biodiversity and improve food security and income. In turn a network will inspire communities and other actors in the Comoros to establish LMMAs, leading to more sustainable fishing practices that maintain healthy coral reefs and fish populations.

Output 1 supports local management by increasing understanding and adoption of sustainable fishing techniques. Locally-led fisheries management measures, such as temporary closures, can generate significant increases in landings and fishery earnings.

Training community members to collect, analyse, interpret and present on fisheries and reef data (output 2), will demonstrate impact and enable adaptive management towards biodiversity conservation and livelihood improvements.

Research, training and support to post-harvesting practices alongside agricultural training and inputs (output 3) will increase value per catch, improve and diversify livelihoods, reducing pressure on fisheries.

Output 4 will provide the local associations with the governance and management skills to design, implement and enforce fisheries management measures culminating in the successful implementation of an LMMA.

The creation of a fisheries management network and dissemination of best practices (output 5) will facilitate expansion of the LMMA model throughout the Comoros.

Q19. 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?

The project is part of a long-term approach to build local support, capacity, and leadership for gender-equitable community-based marine management across the Comoros.

The use of community-led monitoring and periodic fishery closures have proven to be effective catalysts for wider local engagement in marine management in diverse Indian Ocean contexts. Through the creation of Comoros' first LMMA, communities on Anjouan will be able to implement adaptive marine management. Value-addition initiatives will help to strengthen community support for fisheries management measures and create a strong incentive for sustainable fishing. An emphasis on local hiring and training will ensure skills remain within target communities.

The project will use village exchanges, training and other learning opportunities to create a network of communities and partners (including government) motivated to expand the work beyond the project term.

The development of Dahari's capacity to support communities for marine management is a cross-cutting component of this proposal with the aim that they will be largely independent of BV's support by the end of

the project.

BV and Dahari will then use their existing donor connections to fundraise for the next phase of the programme.

If necessary, please provide supporting documentation e.g. maps, diagrams, references etc., as a PDF using the File Upload below:

 [Theory of Change](#)

 05/12/2019

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 pdf 113.94 KB

 [Comoros map \(3\)](#)

 05/12/2019

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 pdf 117.44 KB

Section 9 - Existing works, Ethics & Safeguarding

Q20a. Harmonisation

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

Please give details.

This proposal builds on a longstanding collaboration between Dahari and BV, dating back to 2012, aiming to improve community-led marine management in Comoros. Initial BV scoping trips and subsequent exchanges led to pilot actions in the west of Anjouan in 2015. The partnership has received support from CEPF, Tusk Trust, WWF and the EU. Activities shifted to southwest Anjouan in 2016, with a focus on empowering communities to collect data on the status and exploitation of critical marine habitats and fisheries, as well as identifying and supporting community-centred opportunities for enhancing conservation, fisheries management and local livelihoods. In May 2018, this work culminated in three Anjouan fishing villages implementing the island's first temporary fishery closure, which was a resounding success.

This project aims to scale up marine management interventions along the Key Biodiversity Area of the southwest coast of Anjouan. Partnerships and collaboration with government, SWIOFish1, UNDP Protected Areas Network, and local conservation organisations will create a wider learning network of fishers and practitioners, which will facilitate broader replication of community-based marine management nationwide.

Q20b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work?

Yes

Please give details explaining similarities and differences. Explain how your work will be additional to this work and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and learn lessons from such work for mutual benefits.

-The national network of co-managed MPAs (MNP is a member) targets different regions of the archipelago to those included in this project.

-SWIOFish1 (2017-2022), financed by the World Bank and coordinated by the Fisheries Directorate (project partner), aims to improve fishers' livelihoods. Dahari supports the implementation of co-management agreements signed in 2017 in its intervention area.

-BV and Dahari maintain regular contact with CORDIO, which leads the Wildlands Conservation initiative.

Exchange visits and regular coordination meetings with these and other actors, including Comorian NGOs, will promote collaboration and shared learning to harmonise efforts to promote local management of marine resources.

Q21. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the Darwin Initiative's key principles for research ethics as outlined in the Guidance.

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

BV's work in Comoros explicitly promotes gender mainstreaming and local leadership in fisheries management, to ensure that the needs, perspectives, interests and livelihoods of coastal communities and other stakeholders affected by the project are properly addressed.

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

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

Dahari maintains internal rules and regulations that all personnel sign, and is working to integrate appropriate BV policies into its internal procedures.

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

Q22. Corruption

Explain how you have considered any risk of corruption that may affect the success of this project, and how you plan to manage this.

BV has been working in the Comoros since 2015 and so has a robust understanding of the political and economic context and the risk of corruption.

BV has rigorous governance and management systems and processes in place to reduce the risk of corruption. We have a strict code of conduct, whistleblowing policy and finance policy that stipulates expectations around delegation of authority, and specifies commitments and policies to counter fraud risks and corruption.

BV undertakes due diligence of partners, including consideration of corruption risk management systems,

such as internal controls and ethics. Dahari has strict internal rules and regulations that reduce the risk of corruption, which all employees sign when they start their contracts. It operates a zero-tolerance approach to bribery and corruption in relation to gifts and hospitality, facilitation payments and payments to government officials.

BV undertakes spot-check audits of our field programmes and partners when visiting the country to ensure a proper use of resources and prevent, detect and remedy corruption risks.

A project risk matrix will highlight key risks and mitigation measures associated with corruption, which will be reviewed and updated on a quarterly basis.

Q23. Safeguarding

Projects funded through the Darwin Initiative must fully protect vulnerable people all of the time, wherever they work. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have appropriate safeguarding policies in place. Please confirm the lead organisation has the following policies in place and that these can be available on request:

We have a safeguarding policy, which includes a statement of your commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse	Checked
We keep a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with	Checked
We have clear investigation and disciplinary procedures to use when allegations and complaints are made, and have clear processes in place for when a disclosure is made	Checked
We have shared our safeguarding policy with downstream partners	Checked
We have a whistle-blowing policy which protects whistle blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised	Checked
We have a Code of Conduct in place for staff and volunteers that sets out clear expectations of behaviours - inside and outside the work place - and make clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards	Checked

Section 10 - Funding and Budget

Q24. Funding and budget

Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet, which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet. Note that there are different templates for projects requesting over and under £100,000 from the Darwin budget.

- [Budget form for projects under £100,000](#)

- Budget form for projects over £100,000

-
Please refer to the Finance for Darwin/IWT Guidance for more information.

N.B: Please state all costs by financial year (1 April to 31 March) and in GBP. The Darwin Initiative cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.

Please upload your completed Darwin Budget Form Excel spreadsheet using the field below.

 Submitted Blue Ventures R26 Darwin Budget
over 100K FINAL

 05/12/2019

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Q25. 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.

Community-based approaches are proven to be cost effective and support local ownership. The budget has been developed with the following in mind:

- Firstly, to ensure that all activities are fully resourced in order to achieve the intended outcomes, including through recruitment of new field-based staff. Existing co-funding agreements concentrate on field expenditure, so Darwin resources have been allocated proportionately more to the costs of project staff. Investing in human resources is key to the project's overall mission - to build the capacity of the project partners and communities to independently manage marine resources in the long-term, rather than buying short-term support through handouts;

-Secondly, to support Dahari's management and overhead costs to ensure their financial security over the next three years as key to the success of the project. To this end BV have accessed co-funding to support much of their own management costs as well as minimise these costs where possible.

Both BV and Dahari set staff salaries at competitive rates that allow recruitment of those with the commitment, value and skillset to deliver the best results. Dahari staff costs are based on a salary grid drawn from an analysis of NGOs in the Comoros.

All other costs are set based on previous actual spends. Wherever possible, materials are purchased locally. BV's procurement policy ensures a clear and transparent path for all transactions and provides guidance on the most appropriate form of procurement for different types of spend.

BV works towards efficiency via strong financial management, good work-planning, staff support and supervision, and ongoing monitoring to keep activities on track and enable adaptive management. The project will have a grant manager assigned to track spending, with support from the Finance Manager, and output targets will be monitored by the Outreach Director, and Executive Director on a monthly basis.

Q26. 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.

The cameras, laptops and smartphones purchased, whilst 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 take care in use, storage and maintenance.

A vehicle with off-road capability is required for accessing the communities where project activities will be implemented. Given the planned expansion of this initiative from three to ten communities under this proposal, the current arrangement where the marine team shares cars with other Dahari departments will no longer be viable. All capital equipment will be transferred to Dahari at the end of project.

Q27. Match funding (co-financing)

Are you proposing co-financing?

Yes

Q27a. 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, as well as any your own organisation(s) will be committing.

Donor Organisation	Amount	Currency code	Comments
Oak Foundation	██████	GBP	This is a Blue Ventures' regional project supported by the Oak Foundation, which aims to support community engagement in fisheries management and bring about policy reform.
European Union	██████	GBP	Dahari has secured £ over 3 years from the European Development Fund towards agricultural activities.
Blue Ventures	██████	GBP	This constitutes Blue Ventures' contribution towards the salaries of staff working on this project.
<i>No Response</i>	0	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

Q27b. 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. This should also include any additional funds required where a donor has not yet been identified.

Date applied for	Donor Organisation	Amount	Currency code	Comments
01 July 2019	Tusk Trust		GBP	Blue Ventures applies for Tusk funding on an annual basis. Our current proposal under consideration totals \$. We anticipate applying for a similar amount for years 2 and 3 of this project.
20 January 2020	WWF Madagascar		GBP	Dahari applies for WWF Madagascar funding on an annual basis and plans to receive£ in year 1 and £ in year 2 towards this project.
No Response	No Response	0	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	0	No Response	No Response

Do you require more fields?

No

Section 11 - Open Access and Financial Risk Management

Q28. Outputs of the project and Open Access

Please describe the project's Open Access plan and detail any specific funds you are seeking from Darwin to fund this.

All research outputs (peer-reviewed academic journal articles, non peer-reviewed articles, conference papers, theses, films, book chapters, etc.) arising from the project will be published where possible in open access journals, as well as through other freely-available media, including self-archived on the BV website (<https://blueventures.org/impact/publications/>). Dissemination of the project to as wide an audience as possible will allow the various potential user groups (e.g. conservation, development, environmental, socio-economic, local associations, education, government) to be reached and to benefit, both during and after the project.

In addition, BV is currently trialling an online data portal for launch during the project term. This portal will allow free access to project data within one year of its collection (time delay to be decided during trial process), to allow time for open analysis and dissemination.

Data dashboards showing key information needed for fisheries management will be created and updated regularly. These will communicate the status/health of fisheries, and the level of success of any management measure with communities, ultimately to enable communities to make informed management decisions. These dashboards will also help us to report on project progress.

Research outputs 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 Comorian stakeholders, including through translation to French and Shindzuani. A film and manual of best practice in community-led marine management will be created as part of the project.

Q29. Financial Risk Management

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.

BV's approach to risk management is proactive and fully integrated into day-to-day working. BV maintains a comprehensive register of risks (governance, operational, financial, regulatory, environmental and external), and maintains mitigation controls and contingency plans, with designated responsibilities. Our board reviews and updates this register every quarter. Field risk assessments are carried out annually for our programme operations, and our policies are fully compliant with the highest standards of field operating protocols.

Specific risks include:

Exchange rate fluctuations: BV monitors exchange rates monthly and undertakes weekly assessments of country budget requirements to avoid having large quantities of local currency. Most of Dahari's costs (including staff salaries) are paid in the Comorian Franc (KMF), which is tied to the Euro. Our budget includes annual inflation of 3% and a protective exchange rate of GBP:KMF 530, based on the lowest GBP:KMF rate in the past 12 months to ensure the continued instability of the pound does not have an adverse effect on the project.

Fraud and bribery: BV has a Fraud Policy that details the steps that should be taken if staff, volunteers or contractors suspect fraud or financial irregularity. This policy is shared with new staff and partner organisations.

Section 12 - Logical Framework

Q30. Logical Framework

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

Impact:

Integrated local management of inshore coastal resources in the Comoros protects coral reef ecosystems whilst improving livelihoods for rural communities.

Project summary

Measurable Indicators

Means of verification

Important Assumptions

Outcome:

An integrated, replicable model for community-based marine management is developed, improving the livelihoods of 1,500 fishers and enabling effective management of 350 hectares of coral reefs, conserving marine biodiversity.

0.1 By end of project, ten communities from three coastal areas on Anjouan are actively implementing local marine and fisheries management initiatives encompassing 350 ha of coral reefs, including the establishment of a locally managed marine area (LMMA) of at least 70 ha.

0.2 By end of project, 75% of fishers report improvements in their livelihoods from fisheries management measures and/or value-addition/ agriculture activities, compared with project start.

0.3 By end of project, at least 20 participating communities and 5 partners (established and new partnerships) are engaged in sharing knowledge and best practices for community-led marine management in the wider Comoros.

0.4 Key biodiversity indicators (abundance and biomass of reef fish; reef benthic composition) within the LMMA remain stable or improve by the end of the project, and are monitored within the two other areas, including the abundance and biomass of day fishery targeted reef species, e.g parrotfish (*Scarus* sp.), surgeonfish

0.1a Village association activity logs;
0.1b Documents outlining community-determined governance (including rules, regulations, zoning maps) approved by local authorities.

0.2a Surveys at the start and end of project capturing key livelihood indicators;

0.2b KAP (Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices) surveys at the start and end of project;

0.2c Participatory fisheries monitoring of catches before and after temporary fishery closures (CPUE and individual octopus weight);

0.2d Annual qualitative focus groups with direct project participants to assess project progress.

0.3 Fisher learning exchanges and training workshop reports.

0.4 Bi-annual reef monitoring surveys (including key fish trophic group biomass (kg/ha) and benthic diversity (% cover of key benthic groups)).

Newly-engaged communities work together to implement collective marine management actions.

Livelihood improvements are not negated by natural disasters or other events out of project control.

Other donor-funded marine management projects respond to outreach and collaboration efforts.

Targeted reefs do not suffer heavily from extreme heating or other climatic events.

(Acanthurus and
Ctenochaetus sp.), key
grouper species blackfin
and tomato grouper
(Epinephelus fasciatus
and Cephalopholis
sonnerati)).

Output 1:

Locally-led fisheries management measures piloted in two new coastal areas (Dar Salama and Moya) and continued by communities in the coastal area of Vassy on Anjouan (ten communities in total), preserving marine resources and providing livelihood benefits.

1.1a 2,000 community members (half of whom are women) across three coastal areas have attended awareness-raising sessions on sustainable fishing practices and marine conservation by end of project;
1.1b 200 fishers (half of whom are women) have attended training on sustainable fishing techniques and management initiatives (e.g. temporary closures) by end of project.

1.2 Short-term fisheries management initiatives (e.g. temporary closures), repeated in one coastal area, and co-designed, agreed and piloted in another coastal area by the end of year one; repeated by two coastal areas and piloted in a third coastal area by the end of year two; repeated by all three coastal areas by end of project.

1.3 Foundations for long-term fisheries management strategies (e.g. gear restrictions) are in place with more than 50% of fishers (half of whom are women) abstaining from destructive fishing techniques in the first coastal area; and more than 25% in two other coastal areas, by end of project.

1.4a 50% of community

1.1a Attendance records and reports for awareness-raising activities;
1.1b Training records (attendance by gender) and photos.

1.2a Minutes and documents from community meetings on management decisions;
1.2b Participatory maps of fishing sites/closure zones and/or details of management measures;
1.2c Minutes and documents from consultations with relevant authorities for management decision approval.

1.3 Participatory catch monitoring results (which includes information on methods used) showing uptake of sustainable fishing techniques.

1.4a KAP surveys at the start and end of project.
1.4b Surveys at the start and end of project capturing key livelihood indicators.

Unsustainable and illegal fishing practices do not increase thus negating the benefits of local management initiatives.

members (half of whom are women) are aware of existing management measures by end of project;

1.4b 80% of fishers (half of whom are women) report improvements in their livelihoods from fisheries management initiatives and/or sustainable fishing techniques by end of project.

Output 2:

Ten communities from three coastal areas of Anjouan have access to data and improved knowledge for identifying key biodiversity hotspots and guiding adaptive management of local marine resources.

2.1 60 community members (half of whom are women) across three coastal areas are able to conduct fisheries monitoring activities by the end of year two.

2.2a Participatory mobile-based catch and reef monitoring operational in three coastal areas by mid-year two;

2.2b Participatory identification of key coral reef biodiversity hotspots in each coastal area in collaboration with fishers based on reef monitoring datasets by the end of year two.

2.3a By the end of year two, 60 management association members (half of whom are women) across three coastal areas have been trained to present catch and reef monitoring data to the wider community, and to use the data to guide adaptive management;

2.3b By end of project, 15 management association members across three coastal areas have presented catch/reef monitoring data to the wider community.

2.4 One management association in each coastal area has started to implement an adaptive management system, informed by at least one review of

2.1a Training records/attendance by gender, photos;
2.1b Number of people (and % of women) collecting fisheries data.

2.2a Catch and reef biodiversity monitoring datasets;
2.2b Maps created from reef monitoring datasets and participatory consultations.

2.3a Training records/attendance by gender, photos;

2.3b Simple data dashboards; records of outreach sessions sharing data (e.g. photos, notes, materials).

2.4 Meetings minutes and records of management changes.

Community members involved in monitoring engage in interpreting and presenting monitoring data for fellow community members.

participatory catch and
reef monitoring data by
end of project.

Output 3:

The livelihoods of 400 fishers (200 women) from ten communities are improved through the adoption of value-addition activities for marine products and/or complementary sustainable agriculture activities.

3.1a By the end of year one, a study into catch value improvement and market opportunities is completed;

3.1b Study results, with focus on applicable practical livelihood interventions that can leverage economic gains, are shared with the communities in one coastal area by the end of year one; by the end of project, this data will have been shared in all three areas.

3.2a By the end of year two, 200 fishers (half of whom are women) across three coastal areas are trained in value-addition activities (e.g. post-harvesting transformations);

3.2b By the end of project, 100 fishers (half of whom are women) across three coastal areas are conducting activities to increase income from their fisheries products.

3.3a By end of project, 400 fishers (half of whom are women) across three coastal areas are trained in market gardening and/or improved food crop production;

3.3b By end of project, 300 fishers (half of whom are women) are conducting new agricultural activities to diversify their income source.

3.1a Study report;
3.1b Meeting records from community consultations on market/value-addition options.

3.2a Records of trainings delivered;
3.2b Participatory records (photos) of actions implemented; number of people participating in value-addition activities.

3.3a Database of fisher participation in agricultural training;
3.3b Database of fishers conducting agricultural activities.

3.4a Surveys at start and end of project capturing key livelihood indicators;
3.4b Record of price/kg of fisheries products post value-addition activities.

No significant destruction of crops by natural disasters.

3.4 By end of project,
75% of fishers involved
in value-
addition/agriculture
activities (half of whom
are women) report
improvements in their
livelihoods as a result.

Output 4:

The first LMMA in the Comoros is established in one coastal area, with the foundations laid for additional LMMAs in two further areas, as a result of governance structures that are created and supported to design, implement and enforce adaptive fisheries management.

4.1 By end of year two, 60 community management association members (half of whom are women) are trained in technical management and governance skills required for the successful implementation of fisheries management measures (e.g. recording meetings, keeping surveillance logbooks, financial management, leadership/conflict resolution skills).

4.2 By end of project, 30 community management association members (half of whom are women) from each coastal area (90 in total) are trained on how to establish and govern an LMMA (e.g. description and benefits of LMMAs, consultative decision-making, teamwork, challenges).

4.3 Management associations are enforcing management measures and penalising 75% of infractions by end of project.

4.4 By end of project, a management plan outlining rules and regulations for one LMMA of at least 70 ha, informed by key biodiversity hotspots identified in 2.2b, is being implemented in

4.1a Minutes and documents from community/association meetings;
4.1b Training records/attendance by gender, photos;
4.1c Reports of monthly checks for a year after training to follow-up with association if management and governance tools are still in place (e.g. tracking finances, overseeing equipment etc.).

4.2a Minutes and attendance sheets from community/association meetings;
4.2b Training records/attendance by gender, photos.

4.3a Documents outlining enforcement measures;
4.3b List of infractions and those enforced.

4.4 Management plans/documents, including zoning maps, outlining community determined governance.

Sufficient local leadership and cohesion exists within the target communities for local management to be developed successfully and respected.

one coastal area.

Output 5:

A network of fishing communities and implementing partners in the Comoros shares best practices in local fisheries management and community conservation.

5.1 Partner organisations are sharing best practices and lessons learned via partner meetings, annual workshops, and at least six reciprocal trainings by end of project.

5.2 Six local and regional exchange visits (including training) for fishing communities across the Comoros (half of participants are women) on community-based marine management approaches by end of project.

5.3 Two articles are published per year to promote community-based fisheries management in the Comoros' media, and a film produced by end of project.

5.4 Manual documenting best practices in community-based marine management in the Comoros produced by end of project.

5.1a Minutes and attendance sheets from partner meetings;
5.1b Training records and photos.

5.2a Training records;
5.2b Exchange visit reports, photos.

5.3a Press articles published;
5.3b List of television and radio hits;
5.3c Film available online.

5.4 Picture-based manual of community-based marine management published.

Partners see the benefits of sharing experiences.

Do you require more Output fields?

It is advised to have less than 6 Outputs since this level of detail can be provided at the Activity level.

No

Activities

Each activity is numbered according to the Output that it will contribute towards, for example, 1.1,

1.2, 1.3 are contributing to Output 1.

- 1.1.1 Awareness-raising sessions to increase understanding of marine conservation, management measures and adoption of sustainable fishing techniques (e.g. movie nights, debates about threats to the reef, theatre plays on closures).
 - 1.1.2 Training in sustainable fishing techniques and management initiatives for 200 fishers (half of whom are women) across three coastal areas.
 - 1.2.1 Participatory analysis workshop of fisheries context (challenges and solutions) in each community included in the two new coastal areas, in gender split groups to empower women and taking into account existing associations.
 - 1.2.2 Community consultations to discuss fisheries management options, based on participatory monitoring data and participatory analysis results.
 - 1.2.3 Communities are supported to choose one fisheries management initiative to trial.
 - 1.2.4 Work plan agreed upon with community and relevant authorities – including relevant associations and women’s groups – for management initiative implementation (e.g. location, duration, rules).
 - 1.2.5 Monthly meetings to follow-up on implementation of management work plan and next steps advised by community feedback sessions (linked to 2.3.4).
 - 1.3 Follow-up visits to provide support and further awareness raising to encourage uptake of sustainable fishing techniques (continuous in-field presence with local technicians).
 - 1.4.1 Support to local associations in mobilising communities and spreading information on management initiatives, in collaboration with local authorities (linked with 1.1.1 awareness-raising sessions).
 - 1.4.2 Household livelihood and KAP surveys with targeted fishers before commencing activities in respective zones, and at the end of project (complemented with results of 3.4).
-
- 2.1 Training for 60 community members in fisheries monitoring methods (half of whom are women).
 - 2.2.1 Participatory fisheries monitoring carried out by community members and reef monitoring operational in each community of interest across three coastal areas (by end of year two).
 - 2.2.2 Participatory workshops to identify key biodiversity hotspots per coastal area in collaboration with fishers, supported by the reef monitoring datasets.
 - 2.3.1 Trial different feedback formats and methods with the community to determine the best way to disseminate fisheries and reef data.
 - 2.3.2 Training for 10 management association members in each coastal zone in simple analysis and presentation of catch (and reef) monitoring information back to their communities (half of whom are women).
 - 2.3.3 Training for 10 members of local management associations (half of whom are women) in each coastal zone in how to use data as a management decision-support tool (e.g. evaluating the impact of and adapting management measures).
 - 2.3.4 Dissemination of results of participatory fisheries monitoring and reef monitoring through quarterly feedback sessions to communities via management associations representatives (once trained).
 - 2.4 Support organisation of annual review by each management association to advise next actions.
-
- 3.1.1 Baseline study into catch value-addition opportunities focusing on the context of the coastal zones of interest and taking into account existing and potential markets.
 - 3.1.2 Participatory workshops to discuss the results of the study with communities including leaders, local management associations and women’s groups and select practical interventions to trial to leverage economic gains.
 - 3.2.1 Training for 200 fishers (half of whom are women) across three coastal areas in selected value-addition activities.
 - 3.2.2 Technical support to communities to implement value-addition activities (e.g. follow-up after training, necessary material/gear).
 - 3.3.1 Training for 400 fishers (half of whom are women) across three coastal areas in market gardening and/or improved crop production (different trainings taking place across the year depending on the

season).

3.3.2 Technical support to communities to implement sustainable agriculture practices (e.g. follow-up after training, material/gear, seed bank development).

3.4 Surveys at the start and end of project assessing progress against key livelihood indicators.

4.1.1 Participatory SWOT analysis workshop of existing management associations or where there is no existing association workshop to assess/discuss creating a new management association

4.1.2 Training sessions for new/existing management association to strengthen technical management and governance skills including recording meetings, keeping surveillance logbooks, financial management.

4.1.3 Monthly support visits to associations for capacity-building/tools in place.

4.2.1 Training sessions for management association members on LMMA establishment and management including description and benefits of LMMAs, consultative decision-making, teamwork, challenges (half of participants are women).

4.2.2 Learning exchange with another community managing an LMMA to witness management and discuss governance (national or international).

4.3 Support management associations to enforce measures and penalise infractions (linked with 4.1.3 and 1.2.4 fisheries management measures), including book keeping, surveillance scheduling.

4.4.1 Workshops with community and management associations to discuss the benefits of developing an LMMA (linked to 1.2.3 to 1.2.6, 4.2.1 and 4.2.2).

4.4.2 Workshops to decide on governance criteria (e.g. rules and regulations), informed by key biodiversity hotspots identified in 2.2.2, and gain consensus for a local management plan.

4.4.3 Support management associations to implement and enforce management plan (LMMA).

5.1.1 Scoping for and engaging partners and fishing communities (also through partners) to participate in workshops, trainings and exchange visits.

5.1.2 Annual partner workshops to share best practice and lessons learned in community-based fisheries management.

5.1.3 Regular bi-monthly meetings with authorities and other key actors and partners to advocate for community-based management and share results.

5.1.4 Training in methodologies and tools to support community-based management for partners (e.g. catch monitoring, participatory methods) at least once per year.

5.2 Exchange visits between fishing communities locally on Anjouan and between islands with Mohéli and Grande Comore communities to share experiences on community-based management.

5.3.1 Regular media outputs in Comoros, and on partner social media accounts and blogs.

5.3.2 Film produced in collaboration with communities to share learnings in community-based fisheries management.

5.4 Development and publication of a manual on experiences in community-based fisheries management in the Comoros developed in collaboration with partners.

Section 13 - Implementation Timetable

Q31. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities

Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the Excel spreadsheet template as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project.

Implementation Timetable Template

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

 [Darwin R26 - Stage 2 - Implementation Time](#)

[table FINAL \(2\)](#)

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Section 14 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q32. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan

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. Additionally, please indicate an approximate budget and level of effort (person days) to be spent on M&E (see [Finance Guidance for Darwin/IWT](#)).

The project's M&E system is designed to enable the project team to learn from, adapt and improve the project's performance, while ensuring accountability to communities, partner organisations and Darwin.

MEL tools, systems and processes, developed by BV in the Comoros and elsewhere, will include smartphone apps for participatory fisheries landings monitoring, desktop-based systems for double entry and data validation, and interactive data dashboards allowing access to the status of key indicators.

The ecological, social and fisheries assessment methods have been developed and tested by BV over the past 15 years in other tropical coastal contexts, and have already been piloted by project partners in the Comoros.

We intend to use a mixed methods approach to evaluating project progress:

Household surveys will include questions on key livelihood indicators (e.g. catch size, value per catch, income from value-addition activities, diversity of crops grown, % of produce used for household consumption versus market sales etc.), as well as capture aspects outside of monetary wealth (e.g. access to food; changes in expenditure behaviour; livelihood diversification as an indicator for income resilience).

KAP (Knowledge, Attitude and Practices) surveys will assess awareness and perceptions/support towards marine conservation (including fisheries management and sustainable fishing techniques), as well as changes in social well-being (e.g. improved social capital, empowered associations).

These combined livelihood and KAP surveys will target a sample of the total number of project participants (at least 20% of targeted groups), surveying the same participants/households at the start of activities in each area and at the end of the project to enable comparison.

Annual smaller qualitative focus groups with direct project participants will examine project progress (discussing successes, areas for improvement, and impact).

Community members and fishers will collect data on landings derived from gleaning and boat-based catches using smartphones. The data will be used to assess impacts of management on stocks, catches and landings and to inform adaptive management.

An ecological baseline with biological metrics will be established by gathering existing information and data from previous surveys, e.g. our 2018 Status Report on reef health. On-going reef monitoring, with in-water transects assessing reef fish abundance, size and diversity, as well as benthic cover of key trophic groups (hard coral, soft coral, algae, sponges etc.) will measure ecological health, and any change that could be attributed to project interventions. While the project aims to maintain reef fish abundance throughout the project period, the three-year duration isn't long enough to measure significant improvements (Babcock et al. 2010).

The project will track effectiveness of trainings, workshops, awareness raising sessions, etc. through reports, meeting minutes, attendance lists, feedback forms and photos. Records of media coverage and publications will track growth of national interest in LMMAs in the Comoros.

Evaluation at the outcome level will be performed by the project leader and project staff, with key support from BV's Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) team, using dashboarding technology where possible to accelerate and facilitate data turnaround/analysis for project staff.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)	£ [REDACTED]
Number of days planned for M&E	90
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)	12

Section 15 - FCO Notifications

Q33. FCO Notifications

Please state whether 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.

No

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 Notes](#)) and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

Yes, written advice

Please attach details of any advice you have received.

 [British High Commission letter of support](#)
 04/12/2019
 21:32:12
 pdf 510.41 KB

Section 16 - Certification

Q34. Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

Blue Ventures Conservation

I apply for a grant of

£342,142.00

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 have enclosed CVs for key project personnel, letters of support, budget and project implementation timetable (uploaded at appropriate points in application).
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report are also enclosed.

Checked

Name	Alasdair Harris
Position in the organisation	Executive Director
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 Signed certification  04/12/2019  21:40:22  pdf 90.92 KB
Date	04 December 2019

Section 17 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including "Guidance Notes for Applicants" and "Finance Guidance".	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.	Checked
I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April - 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have included a 1 page CV or job description for all the key project personnel identified at Question 10, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a letter of support from the the Lead Organisation and main partner organisation(s) identified at Question 9, or an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a cover letter from the Lead Organisation, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant.	Checked
I have been in contact with the FCO in the project country/ies and have included any evidence of this. If not, I have provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Organisation, or provided an explanation if not.	Checked
I have checked the Darwin website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on GOV.UK.	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant (Flexi-Grant Account Holder) and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current application rounds under the Darwin Initiative and our sister grant scheme, the IWT Challenge Fund. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share our quarterly project newsletter. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in this application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the latest copy of the Privacy Notice for Darwin, Darwin Plus and the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund available [here](#). This Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information, but not personal data, may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead organisation, location, and total grant value) on the GOV.UK and other websites.

Information relating to the project or its results may also be released on request, including under the 2004 Environmental Information Regulations and the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However, Defra will not permit any unwarranted breach of confidentiality nor will we act in contravention of our obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679).