
DIR28S2\1069

Safeguarding Rennell Island livelihoods and biodiversity from invasive species

Solomon Islands (SI) have greater species diversity and endemism than any Pacific Island nation (except PNG) and Rennell Island the highest endemism per hectare. East Rennell is a World Heritage Site (ERWHS), but its biodiversity and subsistence lifestyles of 900 villagers are threatened by introduced Black Rats and other invasive species. This project will model rodent control on ERWHS farms, establish island-wide biosecurity and inform national, and regional, invasives responses, enhance non-agricultural incomes and build capacity for long-term ERWHS protection.

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DIR28S1\1123

DIR28S1\1003

Q4. Key Ecosystems, Approaches and Threats

Select up to 3 biomes that are of focus, up to 3 conservation actions that characterise your approach, and up to 3 threats to biodiversity you intend to address, from dropdown lists.

Biome 1

Tropical-subtropical forests

Biome 2

Shrublands & shrubby woodlands

Biome 3

No Response

Conservation Action 1

Land/water management (area, invasive control, restoration)

Conservation Action 2

Education & awareness (incl. training)

Conservation Action 3

Law & policy (legislation, regulations, standards, codes, enforcement)

Threat 1

Invasive & other problematic species, genes & diseases

Threat 2

No Response

Threat 3

No Response

Q5. Summary

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 the website.

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

Solomon Islands (SI) have greater species diversity and endemism than any Pacific Island nation (except PNG) and Rennell Island the highest endemism per hectare. East Rennell is a World Heritage Site (ERWHS), but its biodiversity and subsistence lifestyles of 900 villagers are threatened by introduced Black Rats and other invasive species. This project will model rodent control on ERWHS farms, establish island-wide biosecurity and inform national, and regional, invasives responses, enhance non-agricultural incomes and build capacity for long-term ERWHS protection.

Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q6. Country(ies)

Which eligible host 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 Solomon Islands

Country 2 Fiji

Country 3 No Response

Country 4 No Response

Do you require more fields?

No

Q7. Project dates

Start date:

01 June 2022

End date:

31 March 2025

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

2 years 10 months

Q8. Budget summary

Year:	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total request
Amount:	£149,503.00	£144,715.00	£120,975.00	£415,193.00

Q9. Proportion of Darwin Initiative budget expected to be expended in eligible countries: %

Q10a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

Secured:

Live and Learn (L&L) – Honiara office space, support for social impact assessments and LTWWSA capacity building. In-kind (un-quantified) - L&L training for community rangers/coordinators in carbon monitoring, supporting long-term sustainability through PES payments, will complement BirdLife-led IAS management and biodiversity monitoring training to develop local expertise/capacity for ERWHS environmental management.

University of South Pacific - research support grant (██████████) and (██████████) Post-Graduate student supervision time; Solomon Islands National University - office space and (██████████) supervision time.

Biosecurity Queensland Australia – biosecurity planning, training, and IAS technical support services.

BirdLife staff time - sharing of project results and integration of learning into regional IAS management and conservation action networks and capacity building, fundraising support.



Q10c. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you fund the project if you don't manage to secure this?

No Response

Section 4 - Problem statement

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?

Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem (references can be listed in your additional attached PDF document which can be uploaded at the bottom of the methodology page).

East Rennell World Heritage Site (ERWHS), approximately 30% of Rennell Island, is representative of the Island's habitats and exceptionally high levels of endemism, including 13 birds and 7 land snail species. In 2013, ERWHS was declared 'in danger' from issues including: lack of Protected Area (PA) status; limited livelihood opportunities and low perceived benefit from WHS status risking future logging; inadequate capacity for ERWHS management and ecological monitoring; and IAS incursions associated with West Rennell mining and logging.

900 people (four ERWHS villages) subsist on food cultivation (shared between men and women) and fishing, with cash income opportunities limited to crop sales and small-scale handicraft production (basket, mat weaving) which local women wish to expand. A 2018 BirdLife-led study confirmed Black Rat (*Rattus rattus*) presence island-wide with associated impact on staple crops, coconut and taro, yams, kumara and papaya. An inability to prevent further IAS introductions was evident, with Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle and invasive plants identified as recently established, further threatening crops, livelihoods, and biodiversity, and signalling an urgent need for biosecurity.

Knowledge of IAS impacts on Rennell's native species remains anecdotal, but an assessment was made in 2018 of ERWHS bird species most vulnerable to Black rats, based on life history (especially nesting) and known effects elsewhere in the Pacific and worldwide. Six endemic birds alongside endemic snails were considered exceptionally vulnerable and selected as indicators for impact measurement and to inform biosecurity protocols and ongoing management and protection of ERWHS' natural values and associated eco-tourism potential.

LTWWSA, a community-based organisation, is the acknowledged ERWHS management authority, with a Committee including women and youth representatives elected biennially from the 4 villages and coordinated by a dynamic, well-respected Chairperson, one of 14 local chiefs. LTWWSA has requested support to strengthen institutional and individual capacity to contribute effectively to ongoing PA designation processes, monitor and report on state of conservation of ERWHS, fundraise towards sustainability and enhance community benefits, and support women's role in ERWHS management, in accordance with their fair gender representation resolution.

Complementary programs to improve livelihoods for ERWHS communities, through Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) by Live & Learn, and to strengthen the legal protection and management of ERWHS (IUCN) are underway. This project will address a critical issue (IAS) that threatens to undermine the value in these programs, and meet needs expressed by ERWHS communities and by UNESCO, by quantifying the effects of rats on food security/livelihoods and biodiversity indicators, evaluating the benefits of control, and establishing the capacity to sustain controls, island-wide biosecurity, and improved ecological monitoring and ERWHS management. Pending longer-term PES income, the project will enhance LTWWSA financial management and fundraising capacity to support ongoing rat control, alongside diversified community income through increased handicraft production, improved access to established domestic markets and establishment of women-led village Savings Clubs to a proven design. Results from this proof-of-concept project will inform nationally and regionally replicable models for IAS control and biosecurity and expand knowledge on mitigating IAS impacts on Pacific small-scale farmers' livelihoods and island biodiversity.

Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

Q12. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q12a. Your project must support the commitments 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.

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q12b. National and International Policy Alignment

Please detail how your project will contribute to national policy (including NBSAPs, NDCs, NAP etc.) and in turn international biodiversity and development conventions, treaties and agreements that the country is a signatory of.

The project will contribute to:

SI NBSAP (2016) targets (and corresponding Post-2020 Zero Draft Targets):

Strategic Goal C, Target 12 (Post-2020 Target 2)

- Effective management of ERWHS by initiating community-based conservation measures (rat control, biosecurity, monitoring)

Strategic Goal B, Target 10 (Post-2020 Target 5)

- Address priority pathways to IAS introduction and develop management solutions for established IAS threats

Strategic Goal B, Target 11 (Post-2020 Target 13)

- Development of Renbel Provincial Biosecurity Plan, protecting the island's biodiversity and enabling integration into the SI NISSAP.

Strategic Goal D (Post-2020 Targets 12 & 20)

- East Rennell communities' traditional values and knowledge are integral to project design. Knowledge in traditional Renbel handicrafts will inform livelihood development, while BLI technical knowledge shared, will support reduction in rodent impact, and highlight the importance of biosecurity to safeguarding natural resources.

SI National Development Strategy (NDS 2016-2035) Objectives, Medium-Term Strategies (MTS) and SDGs:

NDS Obj.1: Sustained and inclusive economic growth. MTS1&2, by contributing to the increased resilience of ERWHS' communities through improved understanding of IAS impacts on livelihoods and capacity to address them. Increased agricultural productivity/crop yields and diversified household income of small-scale producers, will contribute to food security, sustainable food production and poverty reduction. MTS4 by contributing to improved protection of natural resources and holistic management of ERWHS' forests, addressing IAS threats to biodiversity, building LTWWSA management and monitoring capacities, and helping mobilize financial resources to conserve and sustainably benefit from ERWHS resources. (SDG15)

NDS Obj.2: Poverty alleviated across SI, basic needs addressed and food security improved; benefits of development more equitably distributed. MTS5, by supporting sustainable crop production through addressing a recognised threat to yields and improved access to handicraft markets. (SDGs 1, 2, 12)

MTS7: by ensuring project activities enable full and effective participation of all community members. The project will empower women through increased market access for handicrafts, establishment of Savings Clubs and equity in LTWWSA representation and ERWHS management. (SDG5)

NDS Obj.3/MTS9 (access to quality education): through training in handicraft production and sales, supporting inter-generational knowledge transfer, safeguarding traditional skills; and training in field skills, biodiversity and IAS impact monitoring and rodent control. (SDG4)

NDS Obj.4: Resilient and environmentally sustainable development with effective disaster risk management, response and recovery. MTS11 contributing to climate change mitigation through controlling IAS that threaten climate resilience and food security. (SDG13)

NDS Obj.5: Unified nation with stable and effective governance and public order. MTS12, effective public service, through LTWWSA institutional capacity building and governance strengthening.

National Gender Equality and Women's Development Policy 2016–2020; Outcome 2: Improved Economic Status of Women, and SI National Strategy for the Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls or Women's Economic Empowerment Strategy – Strategic Area 2 Financial Inclusion (Financial competence); through enhanced handicraft production/marketing, and financial literacy through Savings Clubs.

UNFCCC:

By building capacity for IAS prevention and management, the project supports climate resilience and contributes to SI National Adaptation Plan (2008) which identifies agriculture and food security as most vulnerable sector, to which IAS are a priority threat.

Section 6 - Method, Change Expected, Gender & Exit Strategy

Q13. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and contribute towards your 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.).

Methodology draws on BirdLife's study, confirming Black Rats and crop impacts and Rennell/ERWHS biosecurity risks, and identifying species most vulnerable to rat predation, based on documented results elsewhere and characteristics (ie. nest accessibility). The analysis (Table 2 - Supplementary Information) highlighted endemic snails and birds (6) as vulnerable indicators: Rennell Whistler, R.Starling, R.Shrikebill, R.Parrot, R.Fantail and Bronze Ground-dove.

Rat control trials will be implemented in each of 4 ERWHS villages, according to an operational and monitoring plan; firstly, with communities agreeing/confirming indicators (biodiversity as above and crops Kumara, Taro, Yams, Papaya, Coconuts proposed), quantifying socio-economic/wellbeing baselines against which rat control effects are measured and delineating treatment and non-treatment plots. Trial design will be peer-reviewed and address rodenticide, human health and non-target species risks.

4 Rangers (1/village) will lead rat control and crop and biodiversity monitoring for all plots, overseen by the Project Coordinator and supported by trained community members. Proven rodenticides will be deployed from bait stations at 100x75m intervals across 4x100ha plots (1/village), complemented by habitat manipulation and other adaptive responses as appropriate. Trapping is not practical, as the presence of land crabs would result in significant non-target species effects, low trapping efficacy, and require frequent checks incurring unsustainable labour inputs.

Each plot will encompass virgin and regenerating forest and subsistence gardens, enabling assessment of rat control impact on biodiversity and livelihoods. Treatment and non-treatment plots (supporting endemic species) will be paired, providing comparative analysis of yields and bird breeding over the 2-year trial. Monitoring bait uptake and rat presence (tracking, chew blocks, trapping) will enable rat activity to be monitored throughout the treatment area and control adjusted as needed (eg frequency of bait application and/or spacing of bait stations). The outcome indicators will evidence rat control effectiveness, more so than rat activity, which can however inform future management through correlation of rat activity and outcomes.

The ability to reduce rat density through sustained control (rodenticide) with associated environmental outcomes has been documented for several Pacific Island sites/species. Rats will immigrate into the edges of treatment areas; countered through the scale and intensity of control. The combined 100ha treatment area, spacing of bait stations and monthly bait replenishment can be expected to sustain a suppressed rat population at low/potentially non-detectable levels, with impacts expected to be contained to an approximate 50-100m buffer.

BirdLife and Eco-Oceania will train the Rangers, Coordinator and community members in trial methodology and data collection (Y1Q4), to be cascaded to minimum 10 people/village, supported by written guidelines.

A postgraduate student will assess Black Rat impacts on endemic birds and agriculture using trial data and breeding success data for 7 indicator species: informing a cost/benefit evaluation and quantification of biodiversity impacts.

L&L/BirdLife will support LTWWSA in developing a Strategic Plan and strengthen institutional governance, project management and fundraising capacity, to support their role as ERWHS management authority (critical if PA designation secured) and their capacity to coordinate ERWHS community income/benefits from fundraising and planned PES scheme,

to sustain rodent control.

Rangers, Coordinator and LTWHSA members will be trained to implement an ERWHS environmental monitoring plan (within ERWHS Management Plan), tracking key indicators (including ERWHS taxa, forest cover, logging, mining, lake levels and water quality) annually from Y2, reporting results to the SIG and informing ERWHS condition and pathway to removal from 'in Danger' list.

A Renbel Province biosecurity plan will be developed in consultation with the communities, private sector and Biosecurity Solomon Islands, with 6 training and outreach workshops supporting IAS identification and response procedures to address established (including Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle), and potential/future IAS threats. Biosecurity Queensland and other technical support will enhance BSI and national capacity, and evaluation of the biosecurity pilot will inform application to other Provinces from Y3.

At the community's request, SIHA will provide handicraft training for 40-80 ERWHS men and women (10-20/village), and through access to established markets in Honiara and SI Provinces, support handicraft sales growth and household income diversification. L&L will support establishment and long-term monitoring of one Women's Savings Club (minimum 10 women) per ERWHS village in collaboration with LTWHSA, using a model successfully trialled in SI, Vanuatu and PNG. BirdLife's Project Manager will oversee project implementation, monitoring and reporting, supported by BirdLife technical specialists/colleagues, and coordinate the Project Steering Committee comprising project partners. LTWHSA Project Coordinator will lead in-country implementation, community and stakeholder engagement, supported by the Rangers. The logframe and implementation timetable will inform a detailed workplan and Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, agreed with project partners during the inception workshop (Y1Q2/3), formalising roles and responsibilities.

Q14. Capability and Capacity

How will you support the strengthening of capability and capacity in the project countries at organisational or individual levels, please provide details of what form this will take and the post-project value to the country.

Institutional:

A Capacity Needs Assessment will be undertaken with LTWHSA to confirm institutional capacity challenges in fulfilling their role as ERWHS management authority, and training plan agreed. Drawing on on-line ('capacityforconservation.org') and supplementary resources from BirdLife/L&L, training in project management, reporting, organisational governance, strategic planning and fundraising, alongside project implementation, will provide LTWHSA with practical project and financial management frameworks, strengthen their governance and ability to access, and manage, future grant and projected PES income. Training in rodent control and IAS management, biodiversity and agriculture impact assessment and ecological monitoring will support LTWHSA's ongoing management of ERWHS and crop protection. Biosecurity awareness and training for/with LTWHSA, RenBel communities, SIG Biosecurity Officers, key Rennell commercial sector stakeholders will build sustainable capacity to implement biosecurity guidelines/protocols (BSI responsibility), reducing threat from future incursions and informing national biosecurity policies/plans.

Individual:

Project Coordinator will be trained in financial, technical reporting and administration, cascading this capacity to LTWHSA members.

Minimum of 40 ERWHS community members will be trained in rodent control and crop impact monitoring, with four responsible for the demonstration plots and trained as Rangers in biodiversity/environmental monitoring, and will compile, alongside community members and the Master's student, monthly monitoring data, quarterly analysis and biannual reports on rodent impacts on biodiversity and agriculture. This generates the local capacity to sustain rodent control, implement the ERWHS Management and Monitoring Plans, UNESCO reporting, and commitments under the planned PES programme.

An additional 40 ERWHS villagers will receive handicraft training and ongoing support in market access and business development, sustaining traditional Rennell craftsmanship and SI cultural heritage through intergenerational skill sharing. Through 4 Women's Savings Clubs, c.40 women will benefit from enhanced financial literacy enabling them to maximise handicraft income benefits, improving access to financial resources and contributing to LTWHSA/ERWHS management.

Q15. Gender equality

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain how your understanding of gender equality within the context your project, and how is it reflected in your plans.

As part of its commitment to inclusiveness and equality, BirdLife is committed to integrating a gender perspective into all of its projects, in line with its policy and guidance on conservation and gender; and promoting gender equality in communities with whom we work. Women's empowerment, strengthening the rights of children and women, is also integral to project partner, L&L's mission and expertise, and this will guide their capacity building contribution. In SI, women and men both engage in subsistence agriculture but undertake different tasks and have different levels of access and control over their resources (FAO & SPC, 2019). Gender-differentiated data will be collated at project inception for socio-economic and wellbeing baselines. LTWWSA's Committee currently has 4 women representatives/members (1 from each village), who will help ensure full and effective participation of women from all villages in project-related community meetings, in assessing training needs and governance, and identifying rangers and community members to implement and monitor the rodent control and monitoring programs. The project will ensure that casual labour opportunities are open to women, through tasks easily integrated into regular activity, e.g., monitoring in gardens where women already work. Women typically play a greater role in domestic activities and based on BirdLife's 2018 survey and the UNESCO mission report (2019), women from ERWWS villages identify the making and selling of handicrafts as a viable source of income for them, compared to farming. To support this, the project will establish a Women's Savings Club in each village to enhance women's financial literacy and empower them to manage handicraft sales and future micro-enterprise activities. SIHA will conduct handicraft training and facilitate market access for both men (particularly carving) and women, to ensure equitable access and nurture the shared traditional knowledge and skills in distinct Rennell arts/crafts.

Q16. Awareness and understanding

How will you raise awareness and understanding of biodiversity-poverty issues in your stakeholders, including who are your stakeholders, what approaches/formats/products will you use, how you will ensure open and free access to all data, and how will you know that the messages are understood?

Community:

Project Inception Workshops with ERWWS communities and LTWWSA will communicate the value of rodent control to safeguarding crops and biodiversity, and methodology, through presentations that predominantly use visuals and graphic materials to aid accessibility/understanding. Progress and results of the control program will be shared throughout the project at village meetings. Understanding will be evidenced by LTWWSA monitoring and sustained implementation of the control in line with operational plan.

Rennell Island:

Biosecurity training workshops co-led with BSI for RenBel villagers, mining, logging and port/maritime sector will increase awareness/knowledge on IAS presence & risk. Workshops will lead to publication of the Rennell Biosecurity Plan and RenBel biosecurity guidelines and response procedures (posters, pamphlets). Renbel Provincial Office will coordinate dissemination of biosecurity information and siting of awareness raising materials across the two islands. Evidence of understanding will be through levels of IAS reporting across the communities.

National/SI:

Two case studies covering impacts of rodents on biodiversity and agriculture, and results of their control, will be shared with Government Ministries via Project Steering Committee meetings and will inform NISSAP development. Complementing targeted biosecurity training, project information and importance of IAS management/biosecurity will be communicated to national population via SI media and to travellers (domestic and international) via inflight magazine.

Regional: As per Communications Plan (Q4Y1), to support lesson sharing and replication, project outcomes and case study will be shared with the Pacific conservation and development communities through established networks (eg, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and PRISMSS, Pacific Islands Round Table for Nature Conservation, Pacific Islands Development Forum, Pacific Invasives Partnership, SPC-the Pacific Community) and BirdLife Partnership meetings, and with academia through USP/SINU.

Global: submission of case study/results to minimum one open access journal; results shared via BirdLife Partnership channels (e-news, magazine/newsletters, websites) and with relevant funding bodies through targeted proposals.

Q17. Change expected

Detail the expected changes to both biodiversity and poverty reduction, and links between them, 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).

When talking about how people will benefit, please remember to give details of who will benefit, differences in benefits by gender or other layers of diversity within stakeholders, and the number of beneficiaries expected. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used.

Short-Term/By EOP:

Rat control increases crop yields across 4x100ha plots, enabling reduction in proportion of household expenditure (participating households) on purchased/imported foods (measured by pre-and-post surveys) and/or increased cash income, contributing to increased livelihood security and wellbeing as defined at project inception.

900 ERWHS villagers (c.200 households) understand the benefits and methods for controlling Black Rats, with 40 people developing technical capacity to sustain controls, transferable to other community members, supported by written guidelines.

15 communities (c.3000 adults) understand the IAS risks and have capacity to implement ongoing biosecurity in accordance with the Renbel Biosecurity Plan (project output), responding to new incursions, and safeguarding livelihoods (including future ERWHS ecotourism value), food security and biodiversity.

Rennell case study, including Post-graduate research, contributes to National policies (NBSAP Implementation Framework, NISSAP development) and informs sustainable IAS management practices for socio-economic and biodiversity outcomes in similar settings nationally and Pacific-wide.

7 indicator species in rat control plots benefit from improved breeding success, compared to non-treatment plots.

Assessment of Black rat effects on these species informs ongoing ERWHS management for their protection. Local community capacity (Rangers, Project Coordinator, LTWHSA members) is established for sustained rat control, biosecurity and biodiversity monitoring (guided by Monitoring Plan), supporting LTWHSA's capacity to safeguard ERWHS' natural values.

LTWHSA's stronger institutional governance and increased capacity (all 12 members) for project, financial management and grant development, strengthens their ability to contribute to the development of, and coordinate benefit sharing from, the PES scheme and support sustained rodent control. By EOP, short-medium term funding sources for sustained/expanded control have been identified and requests submitted.

Minimum 50 ERWHS villagers benefit from increased monthly handicraft income, minimum 25% at village level (relative to Y1 baseline) through skills training and improved market access (domestic).

Forty women (10/village) benefit from, and are empowered by, improved financial literacy, managing handicraft (or other) income through village-level Savings Clubs, and participating equitably in ERWHS management. Skill in traditional RenBel handicrafts – particularly carving – retained through inter-generational knowledge transfer.

Ministry of Environment's annual ERWHS State of Conservation Report to UNESCO is informed by project outputs, addressing, in part, 2019 Monitoring Mission recommendations.

Longer-term/post-project:

Handicraft production and marketing capacity and improved financial literacy is supported by ongoing support and guidance from local partners SIHA and L&L.

Sustainable finance generated through diversified and more resilient household incomes (crop yields/handicrafts), LTWHSA fundraising capacity, access to PES income (carbon credits) and local financial literacy (LTWHSA training and Savings Clubs), support ongoing investment in IAS control across ERWHS villages (benefitting 900 villagers), and ERWHS monitoring and management. This in turn safeguards ERWHS' long-term tourism value and ecological integrity, contributing to removal from 'in danger' list and community support for WHS.

Improved food security (from increased yields) builds community resilience to threat from extreme weather events linked to climate change.

Financial literacy developed through Savings Clubs empowers women to input equitably to decision-making, in PES benefit sharing.

IAS management across SI is strengthened by ERWHS model and regionally, through IAS peer-to-peer and support networks.

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 will establish the conditions for improved social and biological resilience of ERWHS and local community

poverty alleviation by:

- quantifying/understanding the effects of Black rats on ERWHS biodiversity and crop yields and applying this knowledge to inform ERWHS management priorities and developing the local capacity to track and react to changes in biodiversity condition (skills transferable to future eco-tourism roles) to protect priority/vulnerable species.
 - building ERWHS communities' capacity to sustain rat control, and positively impact household food security and/or livelihood resilience from improved crop yields, alongside income diversification (handicrafts).
 - supporting (sustained locally post-project) diversified household incomes through increased handicraft production and sales, and skills transfer.
 - supporting long-term protection of Rennell's biodiversity, natural values (and eco-tourism potential) and livelihoods from IAS threats through implementing robust Province, inter-island and commercial sector-wide biosecurity protocols, guided by national invasive species priorities and policies informed by project results.
 - enhancing LTWHSA (institutional strengthening) and ERWHS communities' (Savings Clubs) capacity to access and equitably coordinate benefit-sharing from increased handicraft income and fundraising (supported by the project) and planned PES scheme.
- The project will, additionally, expand regional/global knowledge on effective IAS management in subsistence farming settings on inhabited, biodiversity-rich islands.

Q19. Exit Strategy

How the project will reach a sustainable point and continue to deliver benefits post-funding? Will the activities require funding and support from other sources, or will they be mainstreamed in to "business as usual"? How will the required knowledge and skills remain available to sustain the benefits? How will your approach, if proven, be scaled?

Capacity developed in LTWHSA and ERWHS communities in project leadership and implementation, effective governance, financial management and fundraising, will enable LTWHSA to develop/update their Strategic Plan and input to ERWHS management planning (through EREPA project), design, and source funding for, future projects (through short-medium term grant support, contribution from increased crop yields/handicrafts, and, longer-term, through PES income) to sustain IAS management and ERWHS monitoring and actively fulfil their role as ERWHS management authority. As LTWHSA members are elected from the communities, this capacity will be retained.

This increased capacity will leverage the outcomes of the concurrent IUCN-led EREPA project to secure PA designation for ERWHS and develop a business plan, for the long-term sustainable financing in support of implementation of PA management plan. The project complements L&L's capacity-building programme to enable LTWHSA to contribute to the development/implementation of the benefit sharing platform for the ERWHS PES scheme, income from which, alongside financing plans under EREPA, can assist ERWHS communities in sustaining IAS and ERWHS management long-term. Bridging short-term funding needs, SIHA will continue supporting growth in handicraft income, and L&L will continue monitoring the operation of the Women's Savings Clubs, which are expected to become self-sustaining. LTWHSA's increased fundraising capacity will facilitate grant applications, including to the GEF-Small Grants Programme. Ongoing implementation and monitoring of the Renbel Biosecurity Plan will become the responsibility of SIG (MALB), supported by local community capacity.

SINU and USP's involvement provides a platform for further IAS research in SI and Pacific Islands, to inform, alongside the Darwin project research results, responses to IAS threats to subsistence agriculture and native biodiversity Pacific-wide. Case studies and guidelines will enable knowledge transfer and application through BirdLife Partners (Fiji, Palau, French Polynesia, Cook Islands, New Caledonia) and established and planned regional invasives learning networks.

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

 [BirdLife EastRennell R28St2 Supp Info](#)

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Section 7 - Risk Management

Q20. Risk Management

Please outline the 6 key risks to achievement of your Project Outcome and how these risks will be managed and mitigated, referring to the [Risk Guidance](#). This should include at least one Fiduciary, one Safeguarding, and one Delivery Chain Risk.

Projects should also draft their initial risk register using the [Risk Assessment template](#) provided, and be prepared to submit this when requested if they are recommended for funding. Do not attach this to your application.

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation Header	Residual Risk
<p>Fiduciary</p> <p>Delay in use of project funds/reporting by LTWHSA. Ongoing village (deaths, marriages/school/church) commitments cause rescheduling of project activities (meetings/workshops). Delayed activities cause delayed disbursements from BL, leading to increased disbursements, higher bank charges, making it difficult for both LTHWSA & BL to manage.</p>	Moderate	Possible	Major	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LTWHSA Inception Workshop with all partners builds shared knowledge and ownership of key deliverables, timeframes. 2. LTWHSA Governance, project & financial management training & monitoring. 3. BL Project Funding Agreement, formalizing LTWHSA's commitment to use of funds. 4. Project Manager workplan monitoring, including annual visits and LTWHSA accounts audit. 	Minor
<p>Safeguarding</p> <p>SI COVID outbreak results in disruption/limited access to basic services (water, food, education, electricity). This poses a threat to the mental & physical health of the ERWHS communities LTHWSA, particularly the vulnerable (children & elderly), can increase stress for already low-income earners, reduces movement of people and delays project implementation.</p>	Major	Possible	Major	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BL meet individually (virtual) with LTWHSA, SI Govt & all Partners to assess situation. 2. PSC established virtually for regular updates. 3. Virtual project inception workshop. 4. Local Consultant and L&L engaged to conduct community assessment, consult with Govt (health, education, religious) sectors & recommend adaptive strategies for project. 	Major
<p>Delivery Chain</p> <p>Departure of LTWHSA Local Project Coordinator during project timeframe, may stall/delay the implementation of project locally, affect LTWHSA & community morale, affect timely request/delivery of funds to BL and delay overall delivery of project.</p>	Minor	Unlikely	Minor	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Immediate recruitment of Interim Project Coordinator, ideally from within the LTWHSA. 2. Local coordination role temporarily shared amongst LTWHSA Members, with LTWHSA Treasurer managing finances. 3. Capacity development, project management, development & governance training is conducted to all members of the LTWHSA so skills and knowledge are shared equitably. 	Minor

Risk 4	Moderate	Possible	Major	<p>1. BL project staff to stay informed through project partners, stakeholders and British High Commission, and assess ongoing travel and quarantine restrictions/requirements.</p> <p>2. Virtual meetings between LTWHSA and BL to provide project management capacity training and technical assistance.</p> <p>3. Delay rat control and biosecurity implementation activities to Y2.</p>	Moderate
Risk 5	Moderate	Possible	Major	<p>1. Check local delivery timeframe with local shipping and transportation network.</p> <p>2. Ship equipment and project materials two weeks in advance from delivery timeframe to prevent activity delays.</p> <p>3. Delay rodent control activities proposed in Y1Q1-Q2.</p>	Moderate
Risk 6	Minor	Unlikely	Minor	<p>1. Virtual meetings individually between BLI, LTWHSA & SIG to assess ongoing situation.</p> <p>2. Virtual meetings between BLI and British High Commission to assess risks prior to travel.</p> <p>3. BL project staff to monitor political changes.</p> <p>4. Virtual meetings with BLI, LTWHSA and BSI to ensure continuous support.</p>	Minor

Section 8 - Implementation Timetable

Q21. 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 Word 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.

Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q22. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

Describe 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](#)).

The Fiji-based Project Manager will have overall responsibility for monitoring project progress against the log-frame indicators and activities in the implementation plan, detailed further in a project workplan and M&E Plan agreed with Project Partners at project inception. The workplan will be reviewed annually with project partners, finalised by the Project Steering Committee, and progress reviewed and reported six-monthly.

In-country implementation, will be led by the LTWHSA Project Coordinator, supported by four Rangers, the workplan guiding local activities and supported by regular email and phone communication with the Project Manager to review progress, priorities and assistance needs. Baseline information will be gathered at the start of the project, specifically socio-economics, wellbeing and crop data to inform the effects of the rat control on livelihoods in Output 1, and similarly for Output 4, to establish the livelihood contribution of handicrafts to ERWHS communities, particularly for women. A capacity assessment of the LTWHSA will establish existing capability and identify priority needs to strengthen their organisational governance in fulfilling responsibilities under the ERWHS Management Plan, including preparation to support the delivery of a PES scheme under Output 3.

Data collected will evidence the project change to these baseline measures.

The implementation of the rat control trial replicated across the 4 ERWHS communities is founded on field data collection informed by an expert peer-reviewed monitoring plan (Y1Q2) guiding the assessment of biodiversity, crop yield and associated socio-economic outcomes. Crop indicators (5 proposed) will be informed/confirmed through community consultation (as part of the baseline socio-economic data gathering). A post-graduate research student will complement the socio-economic and biodiversity evidence base from the rat trials, drawing on the data collected by the Rangers and communities, but primarily focusing their research on the indicator bird species (6) and snails, considered most vulnerable to Black Rats. The research will be led by USP and co-supervised by SINU, and the results will evidence the effects of Black Rats on ERWHS birds and identify environmental indicators for monitoring under the ERWHS Management Plan and contribute to case studies on the livelihood and biodiversity effects of Black Rats and outcomes from their management/control in ERWHS.

Six-monthly and annual reports will be provided to the Darwin Initiative. Based on results, and feedback and advice received from the Project Steering Committee and/or Darwin reviewers, the project's design and/or implementation plan (activities) will be adapted. An end-of-project evaluation will measure the project's success against expected achievements (Outputs and Outcome) and identify best practices and lessons learned for wider dissemination and future use.

Establishment of an environmental monitoring plan for the ERWHS (Y1Q3) will enable the condition of the ERWHS to be tracked (through biodiversity, forest coverage, logging and mining, lake levels, water quality and salinity indicators) providing a pathway to its removal from the current WHA 'in Danger' list. Capacity to sustain the monitoring will be developed within the LTWHSA (Rangers) who will continue this beyond the project, supported by, and contributing to, the PES scheme long-term.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)



Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)



Section 10 - Logical Framework





Q23. Logical Framework

Darwin Initiative projects will be required to monitor and report against their progress towards their Outputs and Outcome. 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.

- [Stage 2 Logframe Template](#)

Please complete your full logframe in the separate Word template and upload as a PDF using the file upload below. – **please do not edit the template structure other than adding additional Outputs if needed as a logframe submitted in a different format may make your application ineligible.** Copy your Impact, Outcome and Output statements and your activities below - these should be the same as in your uploaded logframe.

Please upload your logframe as a PDF document.

 [BirdLife EastRennell R28St2-Logical-Framework](#)
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Impact:

The biological and social sustainability of East Rennell World Heritage Site (ERWHS) is secured and contributes to fulfilment of Solomon Islands' CBD commitments, and achievement of National Development Strategy objectives.

Outcome:

Evidence base and enabling conditions for sustained IAS/rodent control in 4 ERWHS communities and Province-wide biosecurity established, contributing to food security, livelihood resilience, endemic biodiversity protection and national/regional IAS responses.

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Impact on agricultural yields and at-risk endemic biodiversity of a model for community-based rodent control in 4 ERWHS villages quantified, and community-level value of control understood.

Output 2:

Rennell Island Biosecurity Plan, identifying all high-risk IAS pathways, completed, and adopted by Solomon Islands Government; and Province-wide awareness and capacity developed to monitor and respond to IAS incursions.

Output 3:

Increased capacity of Lake Tegano World Heritage Site Association (LTWWSA) to fulfil its role as local ERWHS management authority and inform/access benefits from the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) programme being developed for East Rennell (under complementary L&L project).

Output 4:

Long-term sustainability of rodent control outcomes supported through livelihood development and increased capacity of LTWWSA to access and coordinate community-level benefit sharing from PES and external funding sources.

Output 5:

Knowledge at national level and amongst Pacific Islands' IAS management authorities on mitigation methods to reduce the impact of IAS, specifically Black rats, on livelihoods, expanded, through dissemination of Rennell Island Case Studies to SI Government stakeholders and via regional and global networks.

Do you require more Output fields?

It is advised to have fewer 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. Project partner Inception Workshop (virtual July). LTWHSA/partner supported community consultation - control program, treatment/non-treatment locations, monitoring indicators (externally assisted Nov), socio-economic info, crop production and rat effects ensuring gender & social equity (externally assisted Nov).
 - 1.2. Formalise National Project Coordinator appointment (virtual Jul-Aug); Recruit Master's Student (virtual Jul-Aug); 4 LTWHSA Rangers and confirm process for selecting community support ensuring gender & social equity (virtual Aug).
 - 1.3. Procurement and delivery of equipment & supplies for rodent control program.
 - 1.4. Prepare expert peer-reviewed Rodent Control Operational & Monitoring Plan; Rangers (4), Coordinator (1) and community members (40) trained and technically supported in implementation of control and monitoring at treatment & control plots; data collated and shared monthly for each of 4 ERWHS sites.
 - 1.5. BirdLife to analyse and report biodiversity and socio-economic results to project stakeholders.
 - 1.6. USP Master's student research implemented, field data collected, and results inform agriculture and biodiversity case studies and learning.
-
- 2.1. Renbel Province biosecurity stakeholders identified and engaged in biosecurity planning process. Agree on plan scope and timelines; draft Renbel Biosecurity Plan developed through stakeholder consultation and finalised & endorsed by SIG.
 - 2.2. Biosecurity training workshops held with Rennell & Bellona communities, SIG, commercial mining, logging, maritime and airways sectors.
 - 2.3. Biosecurity communications plan (linked to 5.2) developed, and posters, transportation advisory and broadcasting information, IAS identification services & popular communications produced in support of IAS identification, detection & response procedures for ERWHS and Renbel Province.
 - 2.4. Biosecurity surveillance, identification, reporting and response procedures actioned by stakeholders (in accordance with Renbel Biosecurity Plan), compliance monitored, and the effectiveness of the biosecurity process evaluated, informing a model for replication.
-
- 3.1. BL & L&L SI conduct community participatory workshop to assess LTWHSA capacity needs and identify existing training and resource materials that can be adapted.
 - 3.2. Develop LTWHSA Capacity Development Plan, targets and outcomes and implement priorities (including project and financial management and grant development).
 - 3.3. LTWHA environmental monitoring plan developed, Rangers (4), Coordinator (1), SI Live & Learn personnel trained and collecting monitoring indicators, and reporting results annually to SIG. Finalise Plan with inputs from rat trials.
 - 3.4. Evaluate LTWHSA capacity development using 'Kirkpatrick' type evaluation model.
 - 3.5. Conduct LTWHSA strategic planning workshop and develop LTWHSA Strategic Plan.
-
- 4.1. Conduct baseline survey of handicraft production and assess development needs ensuring gender equity.
 - 4.2. Establish Women's Savings Clubs, develop benefit sharing agreements, including production targets, and conduct handicraft workshops at the ERWHS.
 - 4.3. Analyse & report on handicraft income and contribution to social and environmental outcomes for the ERWHS vs baseline.
 - 4.4. LTWHSA submit at least 2 grant applications with BirdLife assistance.
 - 4.5. LTWHSA contribute to identifying ERWHS landownership agreement and development of a PES business model.

- 5.1. Establish Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting with project partners and convene 6-monthly meetings to review progress, recommend adjustments and share results.
- 5.2. Communications plan developed for the dissemination of rodent control case studies, biosecurity model and associated knowledge products to national, regional and global audiences.
- 5.3. Scoping, documentation and dissemination of Biosecurity Model; Rennell Rat Control Case Study (agriculture and biodiversity) and Rat Control Best Practice Guidelines for subsistence farming communities.
- 5.4. Results from the ER rat control, research, Renbel biosecurity, capacity building and outcomes for women contribute to national policies (NISSAP, climate adaptation plan and NBSAP) and are shared through Solomon Island forums including SINU (and USP) lectures; Regionally, PILN network, PRISMSS and other information sharing networks including the BirdLife Partnership.

Section 11 - Budget and Funding

Q24. 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 all Darwin Main should be using the over £100,000 template. Please refer to the [Finance Guidance](#) for more information.


- [Budget form for projects over £100k](#)


Please ensure you include any co-financing figures in the Budget spreadsheet to clarify the full budget required to deliver this project.

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.

 [BirdLife_EastRennell_R28St2-Budget](#)

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Q25. Financial Risk Management

Explain how you have assessed the risks and threats that may be relevant to the successful financial delivery of this project. This includes risks such as fraud, bribery or corruption, but may also include the risk of fluctuating foreign exchange, delays in procurement or recruitment and internal financial processes such as storage of financial data.

BirdLife International has an established Anti-bribery and Corruption Policy that the project team will adhere to and cascade to project partners. (Project partner, L&L, has an Anti-corruption and Fraud Control Policy, and Counter Terrorism and Anti-Money Laundering Policy, in place.) Earlier British High Commission advice confirmed that while bribery/corruption does occur in the Solomon Islands, there is relatively low risk of any direct impact of this in implementing the project.

As a small community-based organisation, LTWHSA has limited financial management capacity, however it meets the basic requirements for processing project expenditure: a dedicated bank account, the requirement for three Committee signatures for financial transactions, and an appointed treasurer. Darwin funding will be managed predominantly by the BirdLife Secretariat in Fiji, releasing funds as required to LTWHSA for in-country implementation, subject to terms and conditions. A core project component is strengthening LTWHSA's financial management capacity and, alongside training needs identified at project outset, BirdLife will support LTWHSA in monitoring and reporting budgeted expenditure monthly/quarterly, with budget monitoring tools provided.

Potential weakness in the Solomon Islands Dollar has been identified as a risk, particularly in payments/salaries for local staff. This will be mitigated by phased payments and regular financial reviews.

Q26. Funding

Q26a. Is this a new initiative or does it build on existing work (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)?

New Initiative

Please provide details:

This is a new initiative, drawing on data and relationships developed under earlier BLI-led IAS survey of Rennell Island (2018). Development & recognition of the SI handicraft industry and establishment of SIHA was initiated by PHAMA+ (NZ & Australian Government-funded). SIHA will use resources & tools developed under PHAMA to train the men and women of ERWHS. The PHAMA-produced SI Vendor Guide will assist in ensuring appropriate access to local & national/provincial markets.

Project partner, L&L, is implementing the NZ Government-funded ERWHS PES project. This Darwin project will complement the PES financing mechanism, by building capacity to address an urgent ecosystem service threat (IAS), safeguarding ERWHS integrity and optimising carbon credits' market value - facilitating income reinvestment into ERWHS management (biodiversity monitoring, IAS management) alongside financial return for landowners. The latter helping to mitigate threat of future unsustainable resource extraction.

It will also complement concurrent investment in securing PA designation for ERWHS (IUCN/SIG GEF7), with the PES scheme contributing to sustainable financing for its ongoing management. Together, these three projects comprehensively address threats prompting the ERWHS 'In Danger' listing.

The project plugs a capacity and knowledge gap and supports improved livelihood resilience to strengthen community support for ERWHS.

Q26b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for similar work to the proposed project?

Yes

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

As outlined in Q26a above, we are aware of complementary programs that will benefit from, and enhance, the outcomes of this project. To our knowledge, there are no other planned programs focused on addressing the increasing threat of IAS on Rennell Island. The national focal point for IAS is supportive of this project, which will act as a catalyst for realising a national-level action plan to assess the scale of IAS risk in the Solomon Islands and build biosecurity protections to mitigate this risk over the long-term. While not under direct management of BirdLife, the complementary initiatives highlighted in this application, led by project partners/collaborators in the Solomon Islands, will provide significant investment that supports the long-term sustainability of this project's outcome and will in turn benefit from the learning and capacity developed under this project.

Improved food security and livelihood resilience from reduced crop damage (due to rat control) and income diversification through increased handicraft sales, will complement existing projects, funded by GEF-SGP, for the development of poultry and bee keeping.

Q27. 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. If you are requesting more than 10% capital costs, please provide your justification here.

Laptops and GPS devices purchased under the project will be retained by the Lake Tegano World Heritage Site Association (LTWHSA) and used for follow-on work. The LTWHSA, being the locally mandated organisation to manage the WHS, will be actively engaged in, and supporting, ongoing conservation work beyond the project. This includes implementation of the updated ERWHS Management Plan and the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) scheme. The availability of a laptop will ease the administration and project management challenges of the LTWHSA by providing an effective means of recording information, communicating and reporting.

Local rangers trained under the project will continue to use tablet devices for monitoring and recording invasive species and for ERWHS biodiversity data, to inform management and mitigation approaches and help prevent further invasive

introductions. Rangers will support the implementation of the PES project led by L&L, by providing carbon data through the Avenza mobile application.

Q28. Value for Money

Please describe why you consider your application to be good value for money including justification of why the measures you will adopt will secure value for money.

BirdLife operates robust financial management & legal procedures to ensure effective budget management and contract compliance, application of which in-country will be supported by financial management training for LTWHSA. While only 900 ERWHS villagers will be the direct short-term beneficiaries of the project, a successful ERWHS rodent control trial/model can potentially offer a scale-able solution to a livelihood and health problem faced across SI Provinces and Pacific Island communities.

Project results will inform ongoing management of ERWHS, including control of IAS (utilising equipment retained post-project), contributing to the long-term protection of its natural values, and the future eco-tourism potential of ERWHS. IAS threaten to undermine the outcomes of the complementary initiatives to secure Protected Area status for ERWHS (IUCN EREPA) and develop a PES scheme (L&L). The local monitoring, management and institutional capacity built under the project will help to protect and leverage the long-term value and livelihood benefits from these initiatives, increasing the project's impact beyond its targeted outcome/outputs.

The Province-wide understanding and capacity for implementation of biosecurity will contribute to preventing further IAS introductions, safeguarding biodiversity, food security and livelihoods for over 4,000 Renbel residents. Through integration of results into the NISSAP, the project will help to inform biosecurity across SI, delivering benefit at national level.

The income benefits from handicraft business development can be built upon and cascaded across ERWHS communities, supported by the financial literacy and women's empowerment promoted by the Savings Clubs and drawing as needed on ongoing support from L&L and SIHA.

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q29. 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 Partner has the following policies in place and that these can be available on request:

Please upload the lead partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF on the certification page.

We have a safeguarding policy, which includes a statement of our commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse	Checked
We have attached a copy of our safeguarding policy to this application (file upload on certification page)	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 share 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 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

Please outline how you will implement your safeguarding policies in practice and ensure that downstream partners apply the same standards as the Lead Partner. Please highlight any key safeguarding risks, including human rights issues, their assessment and measures to mitigate and manage them.

The BirdLife Partnership adopted a shared position on Conservation and Rights in 2011, reaffirming its commitment to support the basic and procedural rights of the individuals within its spheres of influence, and within a framework that secures the rights of local communities, and of other species. BirdLife's Safeguarding Policy, and associated Staff Code of Conduct, were updated in 2020. The Policy aims to protect people, particularly children and vulnerable adults, from any harm that may be caused due to their coming into contact with BirdLife. Similarly, our project partner, L&L, is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct (revised Jan 2019), whose principles include the safeguarding of children and vulnerable people.

These policies and principles will be shared with all partners at project inception and clearly defined procedures and systems put in place to facilitate the reporting (by project team members or those engaged through the project) and handling of any complaints and concerns arising during project implementation.

Staff members and volunteers will be required to sign a Code of Conduct before the commencement of the project, outlining their rights and responsibilities while working with BirdLife and its partners.

Q30. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the key ethical principles, as outlined in the guidance.

Organisational context:

BirdLife is a founder member of the Conservation Initiative on Human Rights and led development of INTRINSIC (Integrating Rights and Social Issues in Conservation) training materials. Through its Local Engagement and Empowerment programme, BirdLife has developed a framework for assessing socio-cultural impacts and establishing safeguards in programming/projects, incorporating the principle of Free, Prior & Informed Consent. L&L is signatory to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct.

Project implementation:

The project will adhere to these guidelines and policies and all relevant legal and ethical obligations applicable to the UK, Fiji, and Solomon Islands. The project leader and manager have considerable experience of working with Pacific island communities and are sensitive to the diversity of cultures, traditions and social structures. Project partners, particularly LTWHSA, will provide specific guidance and insight into the socio-cultural context of Rennell Island communities. The project is responding to expressed community needs, relating to addressing rodent impact on farm yields and supporting interest amongst female community members to increase production/sale of handicrafts. East Rennell communities will continue to be actively engaged in the design of the rodent control trial, site selection and impact monitoring.

Health & Safety (all project participants):

Project activities will be risk assessed in line with BirdLife's health and safety policies. Project implementation requires the use of rat bait/poison. The project leader has many years' experience in working with this product, and full training will be provided to local participating communities in safe storage, use and disposal (if necessary).

Section 13 - FCDO Notifications

Q31. FCDO Notifications


Please state whether there are sensitivities that the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise the project's success in the Darwin Initiative in any country.

No


Please indicate whether you have contacted FCDO Embassy or High Commission to discuss the project and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

Yes, advice attached

Please attach details of any advice you have received.

 [BritHighComm Sol Islands Support email](#)

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Section 14 - Project Staff

Q32. Project staff

Please identify the core staff (identified in the budget), their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project.

Please provide 1-page CVs or job description, further information on who is considered core staff can be found in the [Finance Guidance](#).

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Steve Cranwell	Project Leader	25	Checked
Miliana Ravuso	Project Manager	65	Checked
Melania Bulimaitoga	Project Officer	8	Checked
Billy Fairburn	Technical Advisor – Social Development & Gender Monitoring	5	Checked

Do you require more fields?


Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
George Tauika	National Project Coordinator	100	Checked
TBC - Master's Degree Student	Research – Impact of IAS on Biodiversity & Agriculture	100	Checked
TBC – x4 LTWHSAs Representatives	Rangers	67	Checked
Tamara Osborne	Supervisor for Master's Degree Student	12	Checked
John Fasi	Co-Supervisor for Master's Degree Student	6	Checked


Mere Ledua	Finance Officer	5	Checked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	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.

 [BirdLife EastRennell R28St2 Combined CVs](#)

 31/01/2022

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 pdf 569.77 KB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 15 - Project Partners

Q33. Project partners

Please list all the Project Partners (including the Lead Partner - i.e. the partner who will administer the grant and coordinate the delivery of the project), clearly setting out their roles and responsibilities in the project including the extent of their engagement so far and planned.

This section should demonstrate the capability and capacity of the Project Partners to successfully deliver the project. Please provide Letters of Support for all project partners or explain why this has not been included.

The partners listed here should correspond to the Delivery Chain Risk Map (within the Risk Register template) which you will be asked to submit if your project is recommended for funding.

Lead partner name: BirdLife International (BLI)

Website address: www.birdlife.org

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

BirdLife (BLI) has 15+ years' experience in working with diverse Pacific communities on the successful removal of invasive alien species (IAS) from threatened island ecosystems, benefitting biodiversity and people. BLI will be responsible for project development, management and oversight, including facilitating the Project Steering Committee, technical and financial reporting. Project Leader will guide & advise on the IAS management and rodent control program, including setup of demonstration plots, monitoring & impact assessment (agriculture and biodiversity) and associated research. In collaboration with stakeholders, Project Leader will support biosecurity and IAS management planning, including development of a National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP), and IAS response procedures for Rennell. The Project Manager will coordinate workplans, monitoring activities against timetable and budget, and lead on technical and financial reporting, including validating reports from the Lake Tegano World Heritage Site Association (LTWHSA). Additional BirdLife staff will support community engagement, communications, social impact and gender analysis, fundraising and financial management. BLI will develop institutional and individual capacity of the LTWHSA, in IAS management, monitoring, biosecurity, project management, governance & fundraising. BLI will also train representatives from the East Rennell World Heritage Site (ERWHS) communities in implementing and monitoring the rodent control program.

Allocated budget (proportion or value):



Represented on the Project Board

Yes

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:

Lake Tegano World Heritage Site Association (LTWHSA)

Website address:

No website available

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

LTWWSA, the in-country counterpart and lead partner for the project, is the State-mandated, community-led management body for the East Rennell World Heritage Site (ERWWS), operating since 2014. The LTWWSA comprises representatives from the four ERWWS villages, including two women's group representatives and four youth representatives. The Chairman of LTWWSA will be the national Project Coordinator, providing on-ground support, coordinating fieldwork and leading on all logistics and community involvement. He will provide technical and financial progress reports at agreed intervals to BirdLife. LTWWSA will elect one ranger from each village to lead on setup & monitoring of four rodent control demonstration plots and four comparison plots. The representatives will work with their village members to implement rodent management trials, impact measurement and monitoring, with a minimum of 40 members trained. LTWWSA will coordinate community participation in the Women's Clubs.

LTWWSA worked with BirdLife on a 2018 feasibility study assessing presence of rats at ERWWS, through which representatives were trained in biological surveys, species identification and survey methodologies. This capacity, and additional training provided through this project, will ensure that LTWWSA can sustain these activities beyond the project, and can cascade the skills and knowledge to other members of the ERWWS community.

Allocated budget:



Represented on the Project Board

Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

2. Partner Name: Solomon Islands Government (SIG): Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology (MECCDM), Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock & Biosecurity (MALB), Ministry of Education & Human Resources Development - National Commission for UNESCO (MEHRD)

Website address: <https://solomons.gov.sb/>

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

The SIG Ministries will be represented on the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and will facilitate coordination between initiatives at the East Rennell World Heritage Site (ERWWS). The SIG contributed to the project development & will be the key recipient of project learning/outputs, particularly the rodent control program results, enhanced ERWWS environmental management capacity and model for Provincial level biosecurity. MECCDM is the CBD focal point, responsible for fulfilment of Solomon Islands' CBD, and UNESCO World Heritage site commitments. MECCDM will ensure completion of the ERWWS Management Plan, working with BirdLife to integrate invasive species management, and development of a National Invasive Species Strategy & Action Plan (NISSAP), which this project will support through provision of IAS expertise. The Biosecurity Division of the MALB will support the design, planning and implementation of biosecurity activities for Rennell Island. Biosecurity officers on the ground will assist in facilitating biosecurity workshops and training for Rennell and Bellona communities and dissemination of IAS practices and guidelines. The SIG National Commission for UNESCO will work with the SIG Ministries and the LTWWSA to finalise the ERWWS Management Plan. The Commission will use findings & outputs from the project for its annual monitoring and reporting to UNESCO.

Allocated budget: ██████

Represented on the Project Board Yes

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

If no, please provide details Three SI government Ministries are involved as partners to the project. A letter has been received (and attached) from MECCDM, and letters from each of the two remaining Ministries (Biosecurity and SIG National Commission for UNESCO) are pending. Honiara is currently in COVID lockdown, hampering work and communications.

3. Partner Name: Live & Learn Solomon Islands (L&L)

Website address: <https://livelearn.org/>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): Operating since 1992, Live & Learn is a learning network of locally managed organisations, operating in 11 countries across the South Pacific, SE Asia and the Indian Ocean. Live & Learn Solomon Islands (L&L) will work with BirdLife to maximize synergies between this project and L&L's concurrent Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) Project for East Rennell. Areas of collaboration include livelihood and social impact baseline assessments for ERWHS communities, training of local guides/rangers, and LTWHS capacity development to strengthen governance & project management skills to facilitate access to, and administration of, future PES income. The SI PES project is part of a multi-country PES program being implemented by L&L, which, once established in East Rennell, is expected to support the long-term sustainability of rodent control, the wider conservation work in East Rennell and the sustainability of the ERWHS. Under the PES project, L&L will facilitate access for East Rennell communities to future income from certified carbon offsets. L&L previously worked with the LTWHS to draft the ERWHS Management Plan and will be instrumental in community/stakeholder consultations to review the Plan, integrating learning/results from this project. L&L will also provide LTWHS with use of a desk at its Honiara office.

Allocated budget: ██████

Represented on the Project Board Yes

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

4. Partner Name: University of the South Pacific (USP)

Website address: <https://www.usp.ac.fj/>

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

USP will support a local Postgraduate student to undertake a Master's degree with a research focus on assessing invasive species' impact on the biodiversity and agriculture of the East Rennell World Heritage Site (ERWHS). In collaboration with BirdLife and the Solomon Islands National University (SINU), an initial assessment will be undertaken for a portfolio of potential candidates before undergoing a thorough merit-based selection process with the Faculty Research Committee of USP.

Registered with the School of Biological and Chemical Sciences, under the Faculty of Science, Technology and Environment, the student will be supervised by Dr. Tamara Osborne. Dr. Osborne will oversee the development of a research proposal, data collection methodologies and validation & analysis of research results.

USP has had successful collaborations with BirdLife on previous national and regional conservation projects. It has also partnered with BirdLife previously to support Master's degree students in the field of bird ecology & behaviour in Fiji.

Allocated budget:



Represented on the Project Board

Yes

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

5. Partner Name:

Solomon Islands National University (SINU)

Website address:

<http://www.sinu.edu.sb/>

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

SINU will provide research and field support locally for the Post-graduate student in Honiara. In partnership with USP, SINU will provide technical advice in terms of fieldwork, data collation and validation and analysis of field results. SINU will support the presentation of research results and outcomes through various university forums and networks around the country, and experiences from this research project will be shared with local students from other territories and Provinces in the Solomon Islands. Project outcomes and results will be used by SINU to inform biodiversity curriculum and studies.

The student will be supported by Dr. John Fasi who is represented by the Faculty of Science & Technology and the Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries. Dr. Fasi has a strong background in invasive species in the Solomon Islands, having undertaken extensive research on the impacts of invasive ants on biota and agriculture.

Allocated budget:



Represented on the Project Board

Yes

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

6. Partner Name: Solomon Islands Handicraft Association (SIHA)

Website address: No website available

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): The Solomon Islands Handicraft Association (SIHA) was established under the PHAMA programme (Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access) as an Industry Working Group to coordinate the handicraft industry, and to support key areas requiring intervention, in order to boost the local handicraft industry and the national economy. In 2017/2018, a survey of handicraft producers was conducted by SIHA to collect primary data & information on handicrafts production in the Solomon Islands, to inform development of appropriate programmes to support the handicraft industry, in particular the local handicraft producers. In response to local community interest, SIHA will provide information, technical support and handicraft training to men and women in the East Rennell World Heritage Site (ERWHS) communities, to revive traditional knowledge & skills in Rennellese specialised crafts, support increased production, and facilitate market access and sale of handicrafts from East Rennell in Honiara and other Provincial/domestic markets.

Allocated budget: 

Represented on the Project Board Yes

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

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

IUCN-Oceania (IUCN-O) (<https://www.iucn.org/regions/oceania/about>)
Fiji-based IUCN-O is implementing a GEF6-funded project to develop and expand PAs in 4 SI provinces, including Renbel. With the SI Ministry of Environment, a mutual Project Partner, BirdLife and IUCN-O will coordinate workplans to maximise synergies in project implementation, particularly in socio-economic baseline setting and local capacity for implementation & monitoring of the ERWHS Management Plan.

Eco-Oceania PTY Limited (<http://www.raypiercepacific.com/>)
Dr Ray Pierce, Eco-Oceania Founder/Director, is a renowned ornithologist and IAS expert. Drawing on his extensive experience in SI, conducting bird and IAS surveys, assessing conservation opportunities and promoting biosecurity

measures to the SIG, Dr Ray will lead development of Renbel biosecurity planning processes and training workshops. With BirdLife, he will work closely with Biosecurity SI in developing a NISSAP. Allocated budget: [REDACTED]

Christina Nasiu


Christian is a Rennell-based consultant, fluent in the Pidgin language, with decades' experience in social and development issues of Renbel Province. As Provincial Capacity Development Advisor, she provides technical support, capacity building, advice, & mentoring to Renbel Provincial Assembly Members and Provincial Officers. She will support on socio-economic baseline setting, LTWWSA capacity needs assessment & development plan, project management, governance and strategic planning workshops and Savings Club establishment. Allocated budget: [REDACTED]

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

 [BirdLife EastRennell R28St2 Cover Letter](#)


 31/01/2022

 17:22:45

 pdf 298.88 KB

 [BirdLife EastRennell R28St2 Combined LOS](#)

 31/01/2022

 17:21:35

 pdf 2.99 MB

Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q34. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Has your organisation been awarded a Darwin Initiative funding 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
27-005	Jonathan C Eames	Organic livelihoods conserving Cambodia's big five
24-030	Paul Kariuki Nding'ang'a	Controlling an invasive aquatic plant for improved biodiversity and livelihoods
24-019	Ken Mwathe	Developing a Community Based Ecotourism Model at Lake Natron, Tanzania
23-016	Dr Nonie Coulthard	Yerba mate: a market-driven model for conserving Paraguay's Atlantic Forest
23-017	Elaine Marshall	Building resilient landscapes and livelihoods in Burkina Faso's shea parklands.
23-010	Coline Ganz	Piloting a model for PA buffer zone management in Cambodia

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts?

If yes, please upload these on the certification page. Note that this is not required from Government Agencies.

Yes

Section 17 - Certification

Q35. Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

BirdLife International

I apply for a grant of



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 project key project personnel, letters of support, budget, logframe, safeguarding policy 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	PATRICIA ZURITA
Position in the organisation	CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Signature (please upload e-signature)	BirdLife_EastRennell_R28St2_Certification_page_signed 31/01/2022 17:35:15 pdf 92.28 KB
Date	28 January 2022

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

- | | |
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| BirdLife International 2020 Signed Financial Statement
<u>S</u>
31/01/2022
17:41:14
pdf 1.9 MB | BirdLife International 2019 Annual Report - FINAL signed
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31/01/2022
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pdf 845.6 KB |
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Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF

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| BirdLife safeguarding policy ISSUE 1 9 December 2020
31/01/2022
17:36:40
pdf 254.36 KB |
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Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including the "Darwin Initiative Guidance", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Risk Guidance" and "Financial 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 Project Staff identified at Question 32, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a letter of support from the Lead Partner and partner(s) identified at Question 33, or an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant.	Checked
I have included a copy of the Lead Partner's safeguarding policy, which covers the criteria listed in Question 29.	Checked
I have been in contact with the FCDO 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 Partner, 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 the Darwin Initiative website.	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 the application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the **Privacy Notice**, available from the [Forms and Guidance Portal](#).

This **Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals** whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).