

Sa\100090

**Restoration of Nu'utele and Nu'ulua
Islands (Aleipata Group), Samoa**

Griffiths, Richard | Island Conservation

Funding sought
Project start/end

£2,744.00
1 Jul 2018 - 8 Jul 2018

1. Contact Details

Q1. Lead applicant contact details

Please enter the contact details for the lead applicant. The lead applicant is the same as the Flexi-Grant account holder. Please note that the Flexi-Grant account holder will be the only contact point for the application.

Mr Richard Griffiths

Project Director

2100 Delaware Ave, Santa Cruz CA , USA,
95060, United States

Mrs Emily Haber

Primary Applicant

2100 Delaware Ave, Suite 1, Santa Cruz CA,
USA, 95060, United States

Q2. Lead organisation contact details

Please enter the applicant organisation details

Island Conservation

www.islandconservation.org

2100 Delaware Ave, Santa Cruz, USA, CA,
United States

Please add any 'Committee Feedback' to the field below:

|

Please add any 'Specific Ineligibility' feedback to the field below:

|

Please add any 'Conditions' to the field below:

|

Please add any 'Positive Feedback' to the field below:

|

2. Title & Location

Q3. Working title of the proposed Darwin project

Restoration of Nu'utele and Nu'ulua Islands (Aleipata Group), Samoa

Q4a. Host country (of proposed Scoping trip)

Samoa (formerly Western Samoa)

Q4b. Other collaborating country/ies

Q5. Is this a resubmission of a previous scoping application?

No

3. Scoping Principals & Lead Organisation Summary

Q6. Principals in Scoping work i.e. the travellers

Please give the details of the individuals (up to 2) from the lead organisation who would be directly involved in the Scoping work - i.e. making a visit to a host country. One page CVs must be provided.

Details	Main traveller	Second traveller
Surname	Griffiths	
Forename(s)	Richard	
Post held	Project Director	
Department	Conservation	
Telephone/Skype		
Email		
Country travelling from	New Zealand	
Please attach the traveller's CV		

Q7a. About the lead applicant organisation

Briefly discuss your expertise in sustainable use or conservation of biodiversity and/or development. Please refer to recent track record you have in this field. You may be asked to provide evidence of this track record.

Island Conservation (IC) works where the concentration of both biodiversity and species extinction is greatest - islands. Removing a primary threat - introduced alien vertebrates (IAV) – is one of the most critical interventions for saving threatened plants and animals and restoring island ecosystems. Working together with local communities, government agencies, and conservation organizations around the world,

we select islands that have the greatest potential for preventing the extinction of globally threatened species; we develop comprehensive and humane plans for the removal of IAV; we then remove the invasive species and study the ecosystem changes to inform future conservation action. The conservation projects that we undertake are backed by IC's recognized application of innovative conservation tools. As leaders in biodiversity-focused management of invasive species, we continue to refine and share our methods and results with the larger conservation community through workshops, publications (>100), and capacity-building activities. Since establishment as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in 1997, we have worked with partners to remove IAVs from 60 islands worldwide, benefitting 1090 populations of 399 species and subspecies.

Q7b. Would you like to include a letter of support from the lead applicant?

Yes

The limit for any single file uploaded as supporting materials with your application is 6MB. Please ensure documents are saved in PDF form where possible in order to minimise size.

5. Project Partners

Q8. About the partner organisation(s)

Please list all the partners involved and explain their roles and responsibilities in the Scoping work. Briefly discuss your partner's expertise in sustainable use or conservation of biodiversity and/or development. Please refer to recent track record they have in this field. You may be asked to provide evidence of this track record. If there is more than 1 partner organisation, you can enter the details of more partners below. Please specify which of the partners is new to the partnership.

1. Partner Name:	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE)
Website address:	https://www.mnre.gov.ws/
Details of anticipated roles and responsibilities:	Government agency charged with the management and protection of Samoa's natural resources and environment.
Expertise in sustainable use or conservation of biodiversity and/or development:	MNRE leads the management of Samoa's environment and natural resources. The organisation works across a diverse range of issues as reflected in its core functions; to advise, inform and support community and Government decision making and deliver services to the people and communities. MNRE has 16 different divisions who work in partnership with a number of resource management Boards (Land, Forestry, Spatial Information & Water). MNRE also works with Government ministries, NGOs and the private sector to ensure the sustainable use of Samoa's natural resources and that the benefits of the environment are shared, understood and enjoyed by present and future generations.
Name of main contact point and post held:	Moeumu Ulli
Would you like to include a letter of support from this organisation?	<input type="radio"/> No

Please explain why.

Ms. Ulli was out of the office while this application was being prepared. Ms. Ulli has indicated full support of this project.

Do you have more than one partner involved in the Scoping work?

No

Q9. Can you confirm that none of the partners (excluding the lead applicant) have led a Darwin Initiative Main Project before?

Yes

6. Justification & Concept Notes

Q10. Justification of need for a Scoping Award

Please provide written details of why alternative funding is not available from within your own organisation or from other sources. Will matched funding be provided?

The Aleipata islands, a group of four uninhabited islands off the eastern end of Samoa, are of great conservation significance. They hold some of the largest remaining populations of the threatened Friendly Ground Dove in the Samoan archipelago, nesting Hawksbill Turtles, several species of breeding seabird, and some of the most intact lowland coastal forest in Samoa. The biodiversity on both Nu'utele and Nu'ulua is threatened by the presences of introduced rats.

The Tooth billed pigeon (*Didunculus strigirostris*) is the closest living relative of the extinct Dodo (*Raphus cucullatus*). The species is Critically Endangered and on the brink of extinction. At present no habitat is available that is free of invasive vertebrates that are considered to be a key threat. The same is true for the Endangered Ma'oma'o (*Gymnomyza samoensis*). Removing rats from Nu'utele and Nu'ulua would provide a potential secure breeding site for both species, both of whom have been observed on the islands in the past.

Samoa is a developing country with a low income per capita and tourism now comprises 25% of the country's GDP. Restoration of the Aleipata Islands would increase their value for ecotourism, especially if rare birds such as the Ma'oma'o were present benefiting the local economy.

Presently Island Conservation has little funding to work in Samoa. Research has been undertaken but no funding opportunities have been identified. Should this Darwin Scoping Grant application be successful, Island Conservation will allocate its own unrestricted funds to cover the costs of staff salaries and associated overheads.

Q11. Concept note for the Scoping Award

This question concentrates on the scoping study work and should demonstrate the objectives of the Award including:

- objectives of the visit
- what work (including research, remote communications or other collaborations) has been carried out prior to applying for this Award
- what work will be carried out under the Award – please see the guidance for advice on what type of activity can be funded
- evidence of the proposed partners' intentions to collaborate in your Scoping work

The scoping trip aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Identify key local partners that should be involved in the project to remove rats from Nu'utele and Nu'ulua Islands.

- Establish an effective project partnership.
- Collect the site-specific data needed to complete a feasibility assessment.
- Determine a strategy for eradicating rats from Nu'utele and Nu'ulua Islands that will minimize risk to non-target animals while maximizing the probability of a successful outcome

The feasibility of eradicating rats from the islands was initially investigated in 2000 (Bell 2000). Following this there were a range of studies on the islands to inform operational planning and an eradication proposal was drafted in 2003. In 2009, an operation was undertaken to remove rats from Nu'utele and Nu'ulua Islands. Rats were not detected in subsequent trips to the islands suggesting the project had been successful, but in May 2011 rats were observed and later trapped. It is unknown if the operation failed or rats reinvaded.

The importance of the two sites for biodiversity and the local economy has long been identified. Nu'utele and Nu'ulua are the only uninhabited islands in Samoa that are large enough and far enough offshore to be considered as potential refuges for several of the country's species that are threatened by invasive vertebrates. Removing rats would create a safe area for two of Samoa's most threatened birds the Critically Endangered Manumea (*Didunculus strigirostris*) and the Endangered Ma'oma'o (*Gymnomyza samoensis*). Increased income from higher visitor numbers is also expected leading to improved livelihoods for the island's owners.

Under this award, Island Conservation staff will visit Samoa, consult with MNRE staff and the island's owners and if possible visit the islands. The scoping trip will allow aspects of the project's feasibility to be assessed; during consultation and formation of the project partnership the project's social acceptability will be assessed. Visiting the island would provide an opportunity to devise an operational strategy and the logistics of the project could be determined. Biosecurity risks could also be evaluated. A scoping report at the conclusion of the visit would be generated.

MNRE have already demonstrated their commitment to protecting the islands by their support of the previous rat eradication attempt and their management of the surrounding marine area which is now a Marine Protected Area.

Q12. Concept note for the resultant project

This question concentrates on the full Darwin application you intend to submit after the Scoping Award and should discuss:

- the expected outcome and outputs of the resultant Darwin project
- how the resultant Darwin project would meet a need in the host country (and the wider region if applicable e.g. if the proposed project would be based in a UMIC)
- how the project would contribute to any or all of the following Conventions: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS); the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA); the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- how the project will contribute to sustainable development in the country concerned

- briefly what the proposed partner's/s' expected role in the resultant Darwin project will be
- briefly the expected role of the Scoping travellers in the resultant Darwin project.

The expected outcomes and outputs of the resultant Darwin project include the following:

- Rats removed from Nu'utele and Nu'ulua Islands.
- Improved breeding success for the Manumea and Ma'oma'o leads to greater levels of population recruitment.
- Recovery of other fauna present on the island such as the Island Thrush (*Turdus poliocephalus*), the Samoan Whiteeye (*Zosterops samoensis*) and endemic land snails.
- Improved forest regeneration leads to gradual recovery of the island's original forest cover.
- Eventual return by burrowing seabirds formerly extirpated from the island.
- Increased numbers of local and foreign visitors travelling to the island.
- Documentation of benefits to both biodiversity and livelihoods that occur as a result of the project.

As a developing country Samoa, has few resources available to invest in restoration efforts to recover its most vulnerable species and MNRE does not have the resources to undertake a capitally intensive project such as the removal of rats from Nu'utele and Nu'ulua Islands.

The project will address three CBD Aichi Targets

Target 9 - An invasive vertebrate listed amongst the world's worst invasive alien species by the ISSG will be removed from the islands and protocols to prevent their reinvasion will be developed.

Target 12 - Removal of rats will alleviate a key threat to biodiversity including the Manumea and the Ma'oma'o and help stem the declining population trend for these endangered species.

Target 17 - Samoa has a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). Samoa's NBSAP identifies invasive species as a major threat and constraint to biodiversity conservation. The NBSAP also identifies invasive species as a threat to Samoa's natural communities, economy and way of life and specifically identifies rat control and public awareness as priorities.

This project will enable Samoa to implement its NBSAP in three ways. First it will remove an invasive species from an area within Samoa benefiting biodiversity. Second, it will raise local awareness of the threat of invasive species and the importance of biosecurity and third, it will develop capacity that can be used elsewhere within Samoa to advance implementation of its NBSAP.

The islands and surrounding marine areas are already viewed as a national treasure and this project will only serve to enhance this view. Ecotourism enterprises which are already in place on the islands is likely to benefit providing an avenue for sustainable

development. Publicity associated with the project is expected to increase the public's attention to the plight of two of Samoa's most threatened birds and it is hoped that it will catalyze conservation efforts on the main islands of Samoa. Long term benefits to biodiversity are also anticipated as a consequence of the capacity developed on the project.

MNRE will be the local lead for the project, will ensure the project meets Samoa's legal framework and provide staff for project implementation.

The travelling staff member would oversee the project on behalf of Island Conservation.

7. Costs

Q13. Costs

Provide a detailed breakdown of costs to be funded by the Darwin Initiative in GBP.

	Main traveller	Second traveller	Total
Airfare including travel to airport			770.00
Visas and other travel documents			0.00
Total daily subsistence claimed (please provide details below)			246.00
Workshop costs (please provide details below)			£548.00
Other costs (please provide details below)			£1,180.00
		Total request from Darwin (must not exceed £10,000)	2,744.00

Additional details to support the figures above

	Main traveller	Second traveller
Daily subsistence rate per day	£35.10	
Number of days subsistence claimed (max 30 days per traveller)	7	

Workshop costs

Please provide further details on your workshops costs.

In Apia: Meeting space (£260), Food (£158), Printed materials (£130)

Other costs

Please provide further details on your other costs.

Hotel accommodation and transport within Apia (£70 x 6 days)
Charter boat and fuel to access islands (£760)

8. Timetable & Activities

Q14. Activities and timings

Please complete the Scoping Award Timetable to include your anticipated dates of travel (start and finish) and activities to be undertaken on your trip. **N.B.:** this question is specifically about your travel plans – your dates and specific milestones during travel – NOT your timetable to Stage 1 application. Your application will be considered ineligible if this section does not specifically cover your planned scoping trip.

Date	Milestone
01/07/2018	START
02/07/2018	Travel from Auckland to Apia, Samoa
03/07/2018	Meet with MNRE leadership
04/07/2018	Workshop session with MNRE staff and Island owners and other key local partners.
05/07/2018	Site visit to the islands (weather dependent)
06/07/2018	Meet with MNRE staff to assess the project's feasibility.
07/07/2018	Write report with MNRE staff input.
08/07/2018	Travel from Apia to Auckland

08/07/2018

FINISH

Q15. In what year would you expect to submit the full Darwin project application?

Round 25

9. Certification

Q16. Certification

On behalf of the

company

of

Island Conservation

I apply for a grant of

£2,744.00

in respect of all expenditure to be incurred during the lifetime of this project based on the activities and dates specified in the above application.

I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the scoping 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 uploaded CVs for project principals
- I have uploaded letters of support from the lead application organisation and the partner(s)



Name	Emily Haber
Position in the organisation	Grants Manager
Signature (please upload e-signature)	

Date	02/02/2018
-------------	------------

If this section is incomplete the entire application will be rejected.

10. Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you provided anticipated start and end dates for your Scoping trip?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Has your application been signed by a suitably authorised individual?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Have you read the Guidance documents for both <u>Main projects</u> and <u>Scoping awards</u> , and are you satisfied that your concept would be eligible for a main project application?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Have you read the current <u>Terms and Conditions</u> for this fund and can you confirm you are willing to be bound by these if your application is successful?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Have you uploaded 1 page CVs and letters of support as required?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Have you checked the <u>Darwin website</u> immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>