



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office



Department  
for International  
Development



## DPLUS046

### Darwin Plus: Overseas Territories Environment and Climate Fund Project Application Form

Submit by **2359 GMT Monday 21 September 2015**

Please read the Guidance Notes before completing this form.

Information to be extracted to the database is highlighted blue. Blank cells may render your application ineligible

#### Basic Data

<b>1. Project Title</b> (max 10 words)	Tracking marine megafauna at Ascension Island: towards evidence-based 'blue belts'		
<b>2. UK OT(s) involved</b>	Ascension Island	<b>Letter of support from OT government attached?</b>	Yes
<b>3. Start Date:</b>	01/04/2016		
<b>4. End Date:</b>	31/06/2017		
<b>5. Duration of project (no longer than 24 months)</b>	15 months		

Summary of Costs	2016/17	2017/18	Total
<b>6. Budget requested from Darwin</b>	£44,793	£3,775	£48,568
<b>7. Total value of matched funding</b>	£39,527	£2,500	£42,027
<b>8. Total Project Budget (all funders)</b>	£84,220	£6,275	£90,595
<b>9. Names of Co-funders</b>	Zoological Society of London, Ascension Island Government, Ascension Island Fishing Charters, University of Windsor		

<b>10. Name, address and contact details of lead applicant organisation (responsible for delivering outputs, reporting and managing funds)*</b>	Ascension Island Government Conservation Department Conservation Office Georgetown Ascension Island ASCN 1ZZ
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\* Notification of results will be by email to the Project Leader named in Question 12

<b>11. Type of organisation of Lead applicant. Place an x in the relevant box.</b>								
OT GOVT	X	UK GOVT	UK NGO	Local NGO	International NGO	Commercial Company	Other (e.g. Academic)	

**12. Partners in project. Please provide details of the partners in this project and provide a CV for the individuals listed.** You may copy and paste this table if necessary

<b>Details</b>	<b>Project Leader</b>	<b>Project Leader</b>	<b>Project Partner 1</b>
<b>Surname</b>	Weber	Weber	Brown
<b>Forename(s)</b>	Sam	Nicola	Judith
<b>Post held</b>	Chief Conservation Scientist	Head of Conservation	Director of Fisheries
<b>Institution</b> (if different to above)	Ascension Island Government	Ascension Island Government	Ascension Island Government
<b>Department</b>	Conservation	Conservation	Fisheries
<b>Telephone/Skype</b>			
<b>Email</b>			
<b>Details</b>	<b>Project Partner 2</b>	<b>Project Partner 3</b>	<b>Project Partner 4</b>
<b>Surname</b>	Gollock	Chester	Hussey
<b>Forename(s)</b>	Matthew	Colin	Nigel
<b>Post held</b>	Marine & Freshwater Programme Manager	Manager/Owner	Research Fellow
<b>Institution</b> (if different to above)	Zoological Society of London	Ascension Island Fishing Charters	University of Windsor, Ontario
<b>Department</b>	Conservation Programmes		Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research
<b>Telephone/Skype</b>			
<b>Email</b>			
<b>Details</b>	<b>Project Partner 5</b>		
<b>Surname</b>	Brickle		
<b>Forename(s)</b>	Paul		
<b>Post held</b>	Director		
<b>Institution</b> (if different to above)	South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute		
<b>Department</b>			
<b>Telephone/Skype</b>			
<b>Email</b>			

**13. Has your organisation been awarded Darwin Initiative funding before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)? If yes, please provide details of the most recent awards (up to 6 examples).**

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
DPLUS021	AIG (N. Weber/ S. Weber)	Ascension Island Marine Sustainability (AIMS) – a fisheries and marine biodiversity project
DPLUS038	AIG (N. Weber/ S. Weber)	Mapping Ascension Island’s Terrestrial Ecosystem

**14. If your answer to Q13 was No, provide details of 3 contracts previously held by your institution that demonstrate your credibility as an implementing organisation.** These contracts should have been held in the last 5 years and be of a similar size to the grant requested in this application. (If your answer to Q13 was Yes, you may delete these boxes, but please leave Q14)

### 15. Key Project personnel

**Please identify the key project personnel on this project, their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project.** Please provide 1 page CVs for these staff, or a 1 page job description or Terms of Reference for roles yet to be filled. Please include more rows where necessary.

Name (First name, surname)	Role	Organisation	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Dr Sam Weber	Project leader; on-island scientific support	Ascension Island Government	10	Yes
Dr Nicola Weber	Project leader; local line management and budget handling	Ascension Island Government	5	Yes
AIG Project Officer	Project manager; fieldwork, data analysis and reporting.	Ascension Island Government	50	Yes
Dr Judith Brown	AIG marine policy lead.	Ascension Island Government	5	Yes
Dr Matthew Gollock	Fieldwork, training and project management.	Zoological Society of London	10	Yes
Fiona Llewellyn	Fieldwork and communications.	Zoological Society of London	5	Yes
Dr Nigel Hussey	Fieldwork, training and analytical support.	University of Windsor	5	No*
Colin Chester	Logistical support, (vessel and gear handling).	Ascension Island Fishing Charters	5	No**
Dr Paul Brickle	Analytical support and project steering.	South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute	5	Yes

\* Unavailable on Arctic fieldwork at the time of writing.

\*\* On leave in the UK at the time of writing, but see attached Letter of Support.

## Project Details

**16. Project Outcome Statement:** Describe what the project aims to achieve and what will change as a result. (30 words max). You can copy and paste from Q26.

By tracking the movements of taxa potentially at risk from fisheries by-catch, the project will contribute spatial data urgently needed to inform decisions concerning the management of Ascension's maritime zone.

**17. Background:** (What is the current situation and the problem that the project will address? How will it address this problem? What key OT Government priorities and themes will it address? (200 words max)

In its 2015 manifesto, the Conservative UK Government pledged to create "a Blue Belt around the UK's Overseas Territories", including "a protected area at Ascension Island, subject to the views of the local community". Currently, however, consensus on the most appropriate form of marine management for Ascension is lacking. Following the suspension of commercial tuna long-lining in 2014, several management options are being considered, ranging from an overhaul of fisheries licensing and enforcement to the designation of a 'no-take-zone' spanning some or all of the Territory's waters. With both economic and environmental interests at stake, Ascension Island Government is keen to ensure that informed decisions are made using appropriate biological information. Spatial data on the distribution of vulnerable species is fundamental to this discussion, but are currently lacking for key taxa such as sharks and billfish, despite these groups ranking as the most susceptible from fisheries by-catch in a recent review of marine management options for the Territory (Cefas, 2014). The current project aims to address this knowledge gap by using tracking technologies to describe the movements of selected shark and billfish species at a range of scales, thereby strengthening the evidence base for policy.

**18. Methodology:** Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended outcomes and impact. Provide information on how you will undertake the work (materials and methods) and how you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools etc). Give details of any innovative techniques or methods. (500 words max)

### Study species

Satellite telemetry will primarily focus on the shark and billfish species encountered most frequently within Ascension's near shore waters: tiger shark (*Galeocerdo cuvier*), Galapagos shark (*Carcharhinus galapagensis*) and Atlantic blue marlin (*Makaira nigricans*). Besides being accessible, these species are demonstrably vulnerable to tuna long-lining (IUCN Red List, 2015) and are expected to have contrasting behaviours with which to evaluate the effectiveness of different scales of marine management. Tiger sharks and marlin are known to be capable of extensive oceanic migrations, but may exhibit prolonged periods of residency in productive areas where they may benefit from spatial management. In comparison, Galapagos sharks tend to be more range-restricted and associated with areas surrounding islands and seamounts. However, they may make forays into deeper waters and their patchy distribution makes them vulnerable to fisheries-induced population collapses. Several other pelagic shark species, including mako, blue and hammerhead, are occasionally encountered inshore and may be opportunistically tagged if necessary (see Section 25).

### Tagging methodology

Fish will be captured with the support of a local fishing charter company (AIFC) using a combination of pelagic trolling and short, baited longlines. These are standard methods used in tagging applications and have been refined by project partners to ensure high standards of animal welfare that satisfy intuitional ethics policies (e.g. use of barbless circle hooks, continuous patrolling of longlines). Captured individuals will be brought alongside and immobilised by tail/body roping or hoisting them clear of the water in a custom harness so that they can be safely processed. In the latter case, a saltwater pump will be used to continuously irrigate the gills while tracking devices are applied. Fin-mounted SPOT (smart position or temperature) tags will be used to track horizontal movements. These devices are capable of transmitting

GPS-quality location data and have been successfully employed elsewhere to map the migrations of billfish and surface-orientated sharks (see Fig 1). Additionally, a subset of individuals will be fitted with popup satellite archival tags (PSATs) to characterise diving and foraging behaviour, which is important for predicting fisheries interactions.

### **Project management**

The project will be managed by a part-time, locally-based project officer (or two full-time, short-term positions, depending on availability) who will coordinate field work, analyse tracking data and lead on the production of peer-reviewed papers and reports. Training in tagging techniques will be provided during a two week expedition by ZSL/UoW scientists at the start of the project, ensuring that tag deployment can continue over subsequent months.

### **Data analysis**

Positional data will be analysed using standard spatial statistics (e.g. kernel methods) to describe habitat utilisation distributions and identify key foraging areas relative to maritime boundaries and historical patterns of fishing effort inferred from VMS data.

### **Communication**

Results will be disseminated in both scientific publications and a non-technical report to policy makers to ensure maximum impact. In addition, project activities will be used as a platform for raising awareness of marine management issues more generally through an expedition blog, social media, an online documentary and public talks.

## **19. How does this project:**

- a) Deliver against the priority issues identified in the assessment criteria
- b) Demonstrate technical excellence in its delivery
- c) Demonstrate a clear pathway to impact in the OT(s)

(500 words max)

### **a) Priority issues:**

- *Contribution to multilateral environmental agreements.* AIG has ratified the CBD and this project will contribute directly to Aichi Targets 2 (Environmental Mainstreaming), 6 (Sustainable Fisheries), 11 (Protected Areas), 12 (Prevention of Extinction of Threatened Species) and 19 (Biodiversity Knowledge Improved).
- *Contribution to national commitments.* The project will help AIG to meet commitments under the Ascension Island Environmental Charter, in particular commitments 2 (Protection of key habitats and species through management structures), 3 (Promote sustainable use of natural resources and integrate environmental considerations into economic planning) and 7 (Review the range and availability of data for natural resources and biodiversity).
- *Long-term strategic objectives and mainstreaming.* Marine management currently ranks amongst the most high-profile issues on Ascension Island, with both economic and environmental aspects, strong political engagement, and conflicting views on the most appropriate long term model. Nevertheless, there is a recognised need on all sides for science to underpin decision-making which is reflected in the current bid.
- *Priority areas:* The project directly contributes to two of the priority funding areas identified for the 2015 application round: improving the conservation, protection or management of the marine environment around the UK OTs, and; promoting sustainable fisheries within the UK Overseas Territories.

### **b) Technical excellence**

- *Environmental decision-making.* The project will use cutting-edge telemetry techniques to address a key knowledge gap relating to the sustainable management of marine living resources. Results will be reported in an accessible form and widely disseminated to ensure integration into decision-making in the Territory.

- *Project planning and value for money.* The project benefits from an exceptional level of matched funding that ensures excellent value for money relative to actual costs (see Section 33). The research plan is based on work successfully undertaken by project partners elsewhere but has been developed with considerable flexibility and contingency in mind (see Section 25)

- *Monitoring and evaluation.* See Section 30

**c) Impact:**

- *Local ownership.* The project is being driven from within the Territory in response to a direct policy need identified by Government. It is therefore assured of local impact and will make meaningful contributions towards evidence-based marine spatial planning on Ascension.
- *Institutional capacity.* The partnership assembled for the project brings together all of the necessary experience in wildlife tracking, data analysis, fisheries policy and local marine conditions to ensure that the work is delivered to a high standard. All partners have a proven track record of delivering high impact marine science to inform management.
- *Anticipated outcomes.* The project will leave a permanent legacy in terms of significantly enhanced understanding of vulnerable marine species at Ascension Island. All datasets, reports and publications generated will be made freely available through a variety of platforms to maximise the overall reach and impact of the work (see Section 28).
- *Sustainability.* See Section 29

**20.** Who are the **stakeholders** for this project and how have they been consulted (include local or host government support/engagement where relevant)? Briefly describe what support they will provide and how the project will engage with them. (250 words max)

The stakeholders for this project are the UK and Ascension Island Governments, local policy makers and marine users, international environmental NGOs and the wider scientific community.

As demonstrated by the breadth of partner organisations, the project benefits from the support of diverse stakeholders groups, highlighting a general commitment to ensuring that marine management decisions in the Territory are underpinned by strong science (see attached letters of support).

**AIG Conservation and Fisheries Departments** are ultimately responsible for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity on Ascension Island. The project concept was developed by AIG in response to an identified knowledge gap and has benefitted from substantial input from other project partners.

Conservation biologists at **ZSL** and the **University of Windsor** are international advocates for enhanced marine protection and have led the way in tracking marine megafauna at previously unstudied locations. They will undertake a two-week expedition to Ascension to launch the tagging programme and train the local Project Officer. Along with **SAERI**, they will also support data analysis and reporting.

**Ascension Island Fishing Charters** are the principle sports fishing operator within the Territory and have previously given their time freely to support marine research. They have once again committed to providing access to their vessels, skippers and considerable local knowledge to facilitate this project.

Project findings will be communicated to policy makers (**Island Council, Foreign & Commonwealth Office**), the **scientific community** and the **wider public** through a combination of non-technical reports, peer-reviewed publications and outreach activities.

**21. Institutional Capacity:** Describe the implementing organisation's capacity (and that of partner organisations where relevant) to deliver the project.  
(500 words max)

**Ascension Island Government Conservation Department** is the principle body responsible for implementing the Government's commitments under the National Biodiversity Action Plan and multilateral environmental commitments. Over the past 5 years AIGCD has been involved with externally-funded projects with a combined budget of more than £1 million. AIG project leads Drs Nicola and Sam Weber are postdoctoral ecologists who have lived and worked on Ascension Island for over 4 years. They have previously led projects that have tracked seabirds and marine turtles and are principle investigators on the Darwin-funded Ascension Island Marine Sustainability project which is currently tracking yellowfin tuna in the Territory's EEZ (ending June 2016).

**Ascension Island Government Fisheries Department** was founded in 2014 in response to a recognised need for more rigorous marine management in the Territory. Director, Dr Judith Brown, has more than 15 years' experience in fisheries policy and marine science gained throughout the South Atlantic UK Overseas Territories and is currently leading efforts to strengthen fisheries licensing and enforcement on Ascension Island. She brings the considerable expertise and political oversight needed to integrate project outputs into policy.

**The Zoological Society of London** is an international scientific, conservation and education charity whose mission is to promote and achieve the worldwide conservation of animals and their habitats. Founding member of the Marine Reserves Coalition, who are working to increase the proportion of ocean in protected areas and are advocating creation of a large-scale pelagic marine reserve in the waters around Ascension Island. ZSL Project Lead, Dr Matthew Gollock, has organised expeditions to track marine megafauna in the Chagos Marine Reserve and Kenya and along with his team will deliver tagging and training elements of project as well as supporting reporting.

**Dr Nigel Hussey** from the University of Windsor, Canada, brings with him over 14 years' experience of tagging sharks and many other species of fish. Recent projects have involved tagging Greenland sleeper sharks in the Canadian Arctic, manta rays in Sudan - as part of a Darwin-funded project - and tiger sharks in Kenya. He has recently published a synthesis of aquatic telemetry that was published in the journal *Science* (DOI: 10.1126/science.1255642).

**Ascension Island Fishing Charters** are the principle sports fishing providers in the Territory with more than 9 years' experience of operating in Ascension's waters. The company has a proven commitment to preserving the marine environment, and have previously volunteered time and resources to participate in marine research. They have a detailed knowledge of local fishing grounds and hold a number of local and international size records for pelagic species, making them ideally placed to provide logistical support for the current project.

The Falklands-based **South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute** is an academic organisation conducting research in the South Atlantic from the tropics down to the ice in Antarctica. SAERI's director, Dr Paul Brickle, is an established marine scientist with many years' experience managing and co-ordinating multi-institutional research projects, and was instrumental in kick-starting marine conservation on Ascension Island through the Darwin-funded Ascension Island Marine Sustainability Project.

**APPLICANTS SEEKING £100,000 OR OVER SHOULD PROCEED TO QUESTION 26**

<b>22. Expected Outputs</b>			
Output ( <i>what will be achieved e.g. capacity building, action plan produced, alien species controlled</i> )	Indicators of success ( <i>how we will know if its been achieved e.g. number of people trained/ trees planted</i> )	Status before project/baseline data ( <i>what is the situation before the project starts?</i> )	Source of information ( <i>where will you obtain the information to demonstrate if the indicator has been achieved?</i> )
<b>1. Local capacity established.</b>	Project Officer appointed to coordinate project activities.	Current funding for AIG marine scientists expires in June 2016 leaving no spare	AIG employment records; project updates on social media, blogs and in quarterly

	ZSL/UoW scientists lead a two-week training visit to Ascension Island.	capacity to deliver project objectives.	Conservation Department newsletters.
<b>2. Telemetry devices deployed on sharks and billfish.</b>	At least 15 individuals tagged.	There have been no previous attempts to track these species at Ascension Island.	Regular posts of tracks on an appropriate online forum (e.g. MoveBank); project updates on social media, blogs and in quarterly Conservation Department newsletters.
<b>3. Results and policy implications communicated to all relevant stakeholders</b>	Non-technical summary with recommendations for marine protection and fisheries management submitted to the Island Council, Ascension and UK Government's, NGOs and other stakeholders.  Peer-reviewed manuscript accepted for publication in a high impact scientific journal.	There is currently no published information, technical or general, relating to the migrations of sharks and billfish in Ascension waters.	Reports available on AIG website and widely disseminated.  Open access paper published in the scientific literature.
<b>4. Project activities widely publicised as a platform for awareness-raising.</b>	Short film(s) documenting tagging expeditions and results made available online.  Project activities reported in online blogs, social media posts and newsletters.  Public talks on shark research in the UKOTs and project findings are held on Ascension Island.	Previous projects on Ascension have used similar approaches and found them to be effective awareness raising tools with broad reach and appeal.  There is a proven local appetite for conservation interest stories delivered by visiting specialists.	AIG website and social media pages.  AIG have been commended in previous project reviews for their Darwin branding and publicity of project outputs and we intend to continue to apply this model to the present project.

**23. Expected change:** How will each of the outputs contribute to the overall outcome of the project? (100 words max)

Outputs 1-3 are fundamental to the overall goals of the project. Tracking of marine megafauna (Output 2) and reporting of results and recommendations in a form accessible to policy makers (Output 3) is urgently needed to strengthen the evidence base for marine management in the Territory. The appointment and training of a Project Officer (Output 1) is vital to ensure that these objectives are delivered effectively. While not essential to project outcomes, Output 4 has no cost and seeks to capitalise on the broad appeal of sharks and shark research to foster awareness of marine conservation issues more generally.

<b>24. Main Activities</b>	
<b>Output 1</b>	<b>Local capacity established.</b>
1.1	Appointment of a part-time Project Officer to oversee project delivery.
1.2	Two-week expedition by ZSL/UoW project team to launch the tagging campaign and train local Project Officer.
<b>Output 2</b>	<b>Telemetry devices deployed on sharks and billfish.</b>
2.1	Preparation of the tagging platform, including hoist and harness construction and assembly of longline rigs.
2.2	Deployment of satellite tags on focal sharks and billfish.
<b>Output 3</b>	<b>Results and policy implications communicated to key stakeholders.</b>
3.1	Spatial analysis of tracking data in relation to maritime boundaries and historical distributions of fishing effort.
3.2	Non-technical report with management implications submitted to policy-makers and other relevant stakeholders (e.g. NGOs).
3.3	Technical manuscript submitted for open access publication in the scientific literature.
<b>Output 4</b>	<b>Project activities widely publicised as a platform for awareness-raising.</b>
4.1	Production of project documentaries
4.2	Posting of project updates on blogs and social media
4.3	Public talks held on Ascension Island.
4.4	Scientific presentations given at ZSL, UoW and at appropriate international conferences.

<b>25. Risks</b>			
Description of the risk	Likelihood the event will happen (H/M/L)	Impact of the event on the project (H/M/L)	Steps the project will take to reduce or manage the risk
Sufficient target animals cannot be located for tag deployment.	M	H	While every effort has been made to set achievable goals, success is clearly dependent on capturing sufficient animals to deploy tags in the time allocated. The abundance of marine megafauna in Ascension's waters is known to vary within and between years and environmental drivers are still poorly understood. Tag deployment has been scheduled for June-August which has proven to be good for sharks in previous years. However, should this situation arise, project partners will work closely with Darwin to develop an alternative programme which still yields policy relevant information for the Territory. This could include postponing tag deployment, opportunistically tagging other pelagic shark and billfish species or focussing on just a single target species.
Telemetry devices fail	M	L	A certain level of tag failure/premature detachment is anticipated and this has been factored into aspirational sample sizes.
Project partners unable to fulfil their commitments.	L	M	All partners have stated their commitment to this project and we have no reason to expect that this will occur. Nevertheless, should extenuating circumstances mean that one or more partners are unable to deliver the AIG project leads will work to find suitable replacements (e.g. alternative vessels or scientific support).

**APPLICANTS SEEKING LESS THAN £100,000 YOU MAY SKIP QUESTION 26**

**26. LOGICAL FRAMEWORK**

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

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<b>Impact:</b> (Max 30 words)			
<b>Outcome:</b> (Max 30 words)	0.1 0.2 etc	0.1 0.2 etc	
<b>Outputs:</b> 1.	1.1 1.2 etc	1.1 1.2 etc	
2.			
3.			
4.			
<b>Activities</b> (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1) 1.1 1.2 1.3 etc			

**27. Sustainability:** How will the project ensure benefits are sustained after the project has come to a close? If the project requires ongoing maintenance or monitoring, who will do this? (200 words max)

The project will contribute to the long term, sustainable management of marine biodiversity by enabling the development of evidence-based policies that meaningfully take into account the biology of species impacted by fisheries. Datasets and reports generated during this work will be available to support decision-making in the Territory long after the project is completed and thus make a lasting impact on the evidence base for marine management (see Section 28 for details of data management). Although a timeframe of June 2017 has been set to ensure timely reporting of results, it is possible that some SPOT tags will continue to transmit beyond this date. If this should occur, the AIG project team will frequently monitor tag activity until transmissions cease to ensure that a final dataset is compiled and published.

**28. Open access:** All outputs from Darwin Plus projects should be made available on-line and free to users whenever possible. Please outline how you will achieve this. (200 words max)

Following the model adopted during previous wildlife tracking projects on Ascension Island, all datasets generated will be deposited in the MoveBank online repository where they can be made freely available to stakeholders and the wider research community at the end of the project. AIG already operates a MoveBank account which will be used to host the data. Metadata records will also be deposited in the South Atlantic IMS-GIS data centre, managed by SAERI, where they will be discoverable by users searching for environmental data pertaining to the South Atlantic UKOTs (<http://south-atlantic-research.org/ims-gis-data-centre-home>). All other relevant outputs, including final reports to policy makers, will be made available via AIG's website. Finally, in order to maximise impact and inclusiveness, a small amount of funding has been requested to enable open access publication of the project findings in the scientific literature. Given the global distribution of the study species and the growing interest in the management of pelagic ecosystems, the results are likely to be of value to a wide audience and will benefit from the broader readership that open access allows.

**29. Monitoring & Evaluation:** How will the project be monitored and who will be responsible? Will there be any independent assessment of progress and impact? When will this take place, and by whom? (250 words max)

A project steering group comprised of marine scientists from AIG, ZSL and SAERI will oversee project delivery and evaluate progress against key project milestones. The ZSL/UoW expedition at the outset of the project will form the first of these milestones and will be used to assess the feasibility of capturing target species, test alternative tagging and fishing approaches and refine methodologies as needed. This visit will also be used to train the local AIG Project Officer who will assume responsibility for additional tag deployments over subsequent weeks or months. Progress during this important phase will be continuously monitored by the AIG project leads and relayed to steering group members through frequent teleconferences and/or email discussions. Should it become apparent that focal species cannot be obtained in sufficient numbers, the steering group will rapidly coordinate with the Darwin Initiative to agree on an alternative course of action. These discussions will be shaped by conditions on the ground, but could include broadening the range of target species or extending/postponing tag deployments. Assuming that tags can be deployed within the timeframe allocated, quarterly steering group meetings will be held in January, April and July 2017 to review the data and begin planning analyses and interpretation. Final reports and manuscripts will be authored and agreed by all project partners prior to submission, and will be widely disseminated to other organisations and individuals with a stake in the management of the Territory's marine environment for independent comments and evaluation.

The project completion report is after the project is over and is linked to the final payment.

**30. Financial controls:** Please demonstrate your capacity to manage the level of funds you are requesting. (Who is responsible for managing the funds? What experience do they have? What arrangements are in place for auditing expenditure?)

Grant payments will be administered through Ascension Island Government's bank account, with project expenditures tracked by the AIG Finance Department. AIG has a fully dedicated financial accounting and management team, headed by a UK qualified Chartered accountant. The Government currently manages capital and reserves of £20 million. The Finance and Conservation Departments have jointly managed many biodiversity conservation projects large and small over the last 10 years, including those funded by RSPB, OTEP, JNCC and the Darwin Initiative. AIG's accounts are also subject to an annual, independent financial audit by Wilkins Kennedy LLP, based in London.

**Please complete the separate Excel spreadsheet which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet. If you are requesting over £100,000 from Darwin Plus, you must complete the full spreadsheet.**

**31. Value for Money**

Please explain how you worked out your budget and how you will provide value for money through managing a cost effective and efficient project. You should also discuss any significant assumptions you have made when working out your budget. (200 words max)

The considerable matched funding volunteered by partner organisations in terms of staff time, overheads, vessel charters and additional tracking devices means that the amount requested represents only half (54%) of the total cost of delivering the project objectives. The principle costs to be covered through Darwin funds are SPOT tags, Argos satellite time and the salary of a part-time local project officer to ensure that project activities are delivered efficiently and results are analysed and reported in a timely fashion. Funds are also requested to support the mobility of ZSL/University of Windsor partners, reimburse AIFC for fuel costs and purchase additional items of equipment. Every effort has been made to ensure that the budget is streamlined and realistic by basing costs on similar research projects undertaken by partner organisations. A 20% failure rate of SPOT tags is anticipated based on previous experiences and this is reflected in the number of devices requested. Argos satellite subscriptions and fuel expenses are also based on established costs incurred during previous projects. Non-salary costs associated with the Project Officer's employment on Ascension Island (insurance, medical, accommodation & utilities etc.) will be offered in kind by AIG.

**32. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the following table as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project**

	Activity	No of Months	Year 1												Year 2											
			A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
<b>Output 1</b>	<b>Local capacity established.</b>																									
1.1	Appointment of part-time Project Officer	1	X																							
1.2	ZSL and UoW training/tagging expedition	0.5				X																				
<b>Output 2</b>	<b>Telemetry devices deployed on focal sharks and billfish.</b>																									
2.1	Equipment ordering and preparation of tagging platform	0.5		X	X																					
2.2	Deployment of satellite tags on marine megafauna	3				X	X	X																		
<b>Output 3</b>	<b>Results and policy implications communicated to key stakeholders.</b>																									
3.1	Spatial analysis of tracking data	5												X	X	X	X	X								
3.2	Non-technical report submitted to policy makers	1																X								
3.3	Manuscript submitted to a peer-reviewed journal	1																X								
<b>Output 4</b>	<b>Project activities widely publicised as a platform for awareness-raising.</b>																									
4.1	Production of project documentaries	3					X	X																		
4.2	Posting of project updates on blogs and social media	14			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X								
4.3	Public talks held on Ascension Island	2			X													X								

**CERTIFICATION**

On behalf of the ~~trustees~~/company\* of Ascension Island Government  
(\*delete as appropriate)

I apply for a grant of **£48,568** in respect of **all expenditure** to be incurred during the lifetime of this project based on the activities and dates specified in the above application.

I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the project schedule should this application be successful. *(This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the lead institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)*

- I enclose CVs for key project personnel and letters of support.
- I enclose the most recent 2 years of signed and audited/independently verified accounts. **Final accounts for 2014/15 have not yet been approved by auditors so 2012/2013 accounts are also included.**

<b>Name (block capitals)</b>	NICOLA WEBER
<b>Position in the organisation</b>	HEAD OF CONSERVATION

Signed



Date:

21/09/2015

**If this section is incomplete the entire application will be rejected. You must provide a real (not typed) signature. You may include a pdf of the signature page for security reasons if you wish. Please write PDF in the signature section above if you do so.**

## Application Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you <b>read the Guidance Notes</b> ?	X
Have you <b>checked the Darwin Plus website</b> immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	X
Have you provided <b>actual start and end dates</b> for your project?	X
Have you provided your <b>budget based on UK government financial years</b> i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP?	X
Have you checked that your <b>budget is complete</b> , correctly adds up and that you have included the correct final total on the top page of the application?	X
Has your application been <b>signed by a suitably authorised individual</b> ? (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable in the email)	X
Have you included a <b>1 page CV for all the key project personnel</b> ?	X
Have you included a <b>letter of support from the applicant organisation, main partner(s) organisations and the relevant OT Government</b> ?	X
Have you included a <b>copy of the last 2 years' annual report and accounts</b> for the lead organisation?	X

Once you have answered the questions above, please submit the application, not later than midnight **2359 GMT Monday 21 September 2015** to [Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk) using the first few words of the project title **as the subject of your email**. If you are e-mailing supporting documentation separately please include in the subject line an indication of the number of e-mails you are sending (e.g. whether the e-mail is 1 of 2, 2 of 3 etc). You are not required to send a hard copy.

DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998: Applicants for grant funding must agree to any disclosure or exchange of information supplied on the application form (including the content of a declaration or undertaking) which the Department considers necessary for the administration, evaluation, monitoring and publicising of Darwin Plus. Application form data will also be held by contractors dealing with Darwin Plus monitoring and evaluation. It is the responsibility of applicants to ensure that personal data can be supplied to the Department for the uses described in this paragraph. A completed application form will be taken as an agreement by the applicant and the grant/award recipient also to the following:- putting certain details (i.e. name, contact details and location of project work) on the Darwin Initiative and Defra/FCO/DFID websites (details relating to financial awards will not be put on the websites if requested in writing by the grant/award recipient); using personal data for the Darwin Initiative postal circulation list; and sending data to Governor's Offices outside the UK, including posts outside the European Economic Area. Confidential information relating to the project or its results and any personal data may be released on request, including under the Environmental Information Regulations, the code of Practice on Access to Government Information and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.