



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office



Department  
for International  
Development



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

Submit by **2359 GMT Monday 29 August 2016**

Please read the [Guidance](#) 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><br>(max 10 words)                | Saving the Iguana Islands of Turks and Caicos |   |     |
| <b>2. UK OT(s) involved</b>                              | Turks and Caicos                              | <b>Letter of support from OT government attached?</b> | Yes |
| <b>3. Start Date:</b>                                    | April 2017                                    |   |     |
| <b>4. End Date:</b>                                      | March 2020                                    |   |     |
| <b>5. Duration of project (no longer than 36 months)</b> | 36 months                                     |   |     |

| Summary of Costs                             | 2017/18   | 2018/19  | 2019/20  | Total    |
|--|---|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>6. Budget requested from Darwin</b>       | £70,755   | £58,984  | £69,880  | £199,620 |
| <b>7. Total value of matched funding</b>     | £68,518   | £51,314  | £49,938  | £169,770 |
| <b>8. Total Project Budget (all funders)</b> | £139,273  | £110,298 | £119,818 | £369,390 |
| <b>9. Names of Co-funders</b>                | RSPB, San Diego Zoo Global (SDZG), Ambergris Cay Facilities Ltd |          |          |          |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>10. Name, address and contact details of lead applicant organisation (responsible for delivering outputs, reporting and managing funds)*</b> | Royal Society for the Protection of Birds<br>The Lodge<br>Sandy<br>Bedfordshire<br>SG19 2DL |
|---|---|

\* 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  | UK GOVT | UK NGO | x | 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**

| Details                             | Project Leader    | Project Partner 1                               | Project Partner 2   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---|---|
| Surname                             | Radford           | Salamanca                                       | Gerber  |
| Forename(s)                         | Elizabeth         | Eric  | Glenn   |
| Post held                           | Senior OT officer | Assistant Director for Research and Development | Caribbean Program Head / Scientist, Behavioral Ecology Division |
| Institution (if different to above) |                   | Turks and Caicos Islands Government             | San Diego Zoo Global  |
| Department                          | International     | Department of Environment and Coastal Resources | Institute for Conservation Research                             |
| Telephone/Skype                     |                   |   |   |
| Email                               |                   |   |   |

| Details                             | Project Partner 3         | Project Partner 4               | Project Partner 5            |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Surname                             | Kissoonsingh              | Gibbs Williams                  | Mahoney                      |
| Forename(s)                         | Wilhelmina                | Ethlyn                          | Paul                         |
| Post held                           | Director                  | Director                        | Project Supervisor           |
| Institution (if different to above) | Department of Agriculture | Turks and Caicos National Trust | Ambergris Cay Facilities Ltd |
| Department                          |                           |                                 |                              |
| Telephone/Skype                     |                           |                                 |                              |
| Email                               |                           |                                 |                              |

**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  |
|--------------|-------------------|--|
| DPLUS053     | Dr Alexander Bond | Project Pinnamin: conserving northern rockhopper penguins on Tristan da Cunha              |
| 22-015       | Dr Paul Donald    | Sustainable management of an Ethiopian rangeland for biodiversity and pastoralists         |
| DPLUS028     | Clare Stringer    | Assessing the conservation status of the Atlantic yellow-nosed albatross, Tristan da Cunha |
| DPLUS005     | Clare Stringer    | Sustainable management of the marine environment and resources of Tristan da Cunha         |
| 2031         | Nicolas Tubbs     | Enhancing habitat connectivity through sustainable development around the Gola Rainforest. |
| 19-011       | Ian Barber        | Conserving the critically endangered Bengal Florican - a Terai flagship species            |

**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)

N/a

#### 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.

| <b>Name (First name, surname)</b> | <b>Role</b>   | <b>Organisation</b>                                    | <b>% time on project</b> | <b>1 page CV or job description attached?</b> |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------|---|
| Elizabeth Radford                 | Project Leader/fieldwork support  | RSPB   | 8                        | Yes   |
| Karen Varnham                     | Lead biosecurity plan development Rodent monitoring and control /training | RSPB   | 13                       | Yes   |
| Sarah Havery                      | Rodent monitoring and control   | RSPB   | 13                       | Yes   |
| Glenn Gerber                      | Lead reptile, research, monitoring and training                           | San Diego Zoo Global (SDZG)                            | 13                       | Yes   |
| Giuliano Colosimo                 | Boa research monitoring and training                                      | San Diego Zoo Global (SDZG)                            | 10                       | Yes   |
| R. Graham Reynolds                | Iguana research monitoring and training                                   | SDZ team: University of North Carolina, Ashville       | 6                        | Yes   |
| Tarren Wagener                    | Iguana research monitoring and training                                   | SDZ team: Forth Worth Zoo                              | 8                        | Yes   |
| Eric Salamanca                    | Support field work on LWC/BAC   | Department of Environment and coastal Resources (DECR) | 4                        | Yes   |
| Weinland Crossman                 | Support fieldwork on LWC, BAC   | Department of Agriculture                              | 2                        | Yes   |
| Simon Busuttil                    | Oversee iguana/rodent survey on Little Water Cay                          | Turks and Caicos National Trust                        | 4                        | Yes   |
| Basilio Diaz Suriel               | Support field work on LWC (Warden)  | Turks and Caicos National Trust                        | 4                        | Yes   |

#### 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.

The critically endangered Turks and Caicos Iguana is secured through the establishment of effective biosecurity plans/invasive vertebrate control on two offshore islands, and the identification of islands for future restoration.

**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)

Invasive alien vertebrates (IAV) are one of the greatest threats to reptiles in the UK Overseas Territories; and biosecurity controls that prevent new arrivals are the most effective way of reducing this threat and sustaining any IAV control efforts. The project will address the need for effective biosecurity plans for two offshore islands in the Turks and Caicos where there is an urgent need to protect threatened native wildlife particularly the critically endangered Turks and Caicos Iguana (*Cyclura carinata*).

Two of the largest remaining populations of this iguana are found on Little Water Cay (LWC) and Big Ambergris Cay (BAC); where iguanas are at significant risk from rat and cat predation and rat incursion. LWC is already invaded by rats and is a significant tourist destination, whilst four individual IAV have been found and removed on BAC and the island is undergoing extensive tourist development. There is an urgent need for effective biosecurity and IAV control measures.

**The project will address the following TCI government priorities:**

- Revised National Parks Ordinance (2016); management of protected areas;
- The National Tourism Policy and Strategic Implementation Plan (2015); enhancing ecotourism;
- The Environment Charter (2001, principle 7); control invasive species.

**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)

A cross departmental/organisational team will implement this project with each being responsible for a different element, but all being involved in each one:

**Survey and monitoring of key native reptiles** (rock iguanas and boas) will be undertaken on Little Water Cay (LWC) and Big Ambergris Cay (BAC). This will provide a better understanding of population size and structure of iguanas and boas and their response to rat population control on LWC, (being undertaken through a different project). (*Responsible:* Lead SDZG for iguanas and boas, RSPB/DECR for critical plants/vegetation. Support: TCNT).

Iguanas and boas will be monitored using capture-mark-recapture techniques and transect surveys (day and night respectively).

**Survey and monitoring of cats** will be undertaken on LWC to evaluate the extent of population and level of trapping needed if feral cats are to be controlled (*Responsible:* Lead: RSPB & expert consultant for cats. Support: DoA, TCNT, DECR).

Cat monitoring: techniques will include camera traps, night lamping, sand tracking points, visual searches for scats and feeding signs.

**Development of rapid survey technique for rodents on offshore islands** using wax monitoring blocks, UV lamp urine detection, snap traps and tracking tunnels. (*Responsible* RSPB)

**Human impacts** on iguanas will be recorded on LWC (tourists) and BAC (road kill and irrigation) by comparing sub-populations on each island with and without human interaction. Data collected will include measuring flight distance of iguanas on approach, body size and condition (length to mass ratio), frequency and nature of tail breaks, forked tails, and wounds/scars, corticosterone levels (stress hormone) and blood chemistry profiles. In addition, frequency of road kills for iguanas and boas will be monitored on BAC (*Responsible:* Lea: SDZG. Support TCNT, Ambergris Cay Facilities Ltd)

**Biosecurity plans** will be developed using international best practice standards, based on a thorough analysis of all the potential pathways by which IAV could reach the islands and then developing multiple obstacles to put along those pathways. (*Responsible:* Lead RSPB. Support: Ambergris Cay Facilities Ltd, DECR, DOA).

**Rapid survey for iguanas, boas, other reptiles, rats, and other IAV** on at least 10 other offshore islands surrounding LWC and BAC will inform future island protection and restorations to be outlined in the revised Turks and Caicos Iguana management plan. The new rapid rat survey methodology will be deployed along with day and night surveys for reptiles (sightings, feces, tracks, retreats, skin sheds, etc.). Camera traps will also be used. (*Responsible:* Lead: SDZG and RSPB. Support: DECR)

**Training /capacity building** will be carried out during fieldwork as senior /experienced team members introduce team members to the methods and techniques required to undertake surveillance, monitoring and IAV control in the long term (*Responsible:* All, leaders for each topics as above)

**Project management;** RSPB will coordinate the project and all organisations involved; ensuring activities are delivered on time and to budget and the results shared between all participating organisations. Contracts will be made between RSPB and project partners to ensure proper management of project funds.

### 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) Assessment criteria:

The project will **address the threat from invasive species** on offshore cays in TCI by perfecting rodent and cat control and detection methods, and will **minimise the chances** of further/ new incursions of invasive vertebrates **through production and implementation of island-specific biosecurity plans**.

Detailed baseline monitoring of iguanas and boas will be established on two offshore cays as well as basic reptile and rodent datasets for numerous surrounding cays to identify future priorities for protection or restoration. All data will be deposited in country and used within the project to update site and species conservation management plans; thus the project will be **developing data systems of biodiversity to help policies and management plans**.

#### b) Technical excellence in delivery

The combined experience of senior members of the project team (see Qu. 15 above) provides the technical skills and knowledge to deliver this project (see CVs). This includes over 20 yrs working with reptiles, 18 years of rodent eradication and eradication in Caribbean and UK islands, knowledge of local habitats and seafaring, site management, site management planning, project management and considerable conservation training and capacity building in the Caribbean region. The organisations involved have all worked with one or more partners in the group, though this is the first time they have all been involved in one project. The one area where we lack direct experience and may need supplementary advice (cat detection and control for offshore islands) we have budgeted for a consultant. We are also using recent feasibility studies and technical advice written by an experienced consultant from New Zealand.

Where they exist per reviewed, published methodologies will be used to support all aspects of our project for example RSPB best practice toolkit (Thomas and Varnham 2016), Pacific Invasives Initiative protocols (<http://rce.pacificinvasivesinitiative.org/>), the IUCN Iguanas Specialist Group website <http://www.iucn-isg.org/publications/general-publications/1757-2/>; Animal population trapping manual approved by Dept.of Agriculture, TCI.

#### c) Clear pathway to impact

The management authorities of the target islands, the National Trust and Ambergris Cay Facilities, are committed to the project and using the results to improve invasive alien species management on their land. This will involve embedding improved predator control in annual management activities on Little Water Cay and implementing biosecurity surveillance, monitoring and, where needed, responding to IAV

incursions on Big Ambergris Cay.

Two government departments will be closely involved in the work and are committed to improving biosecurity policy and invasive vertebrate management in TCI. DECR intend to use the experience gained to draft a biosecurity policy for approval by Cabinet, alongside the approval of the biosecurity plans for Little Water and Big Ambergris Cays, potential models for use on other private and public offshore islands.

All team members, but particularly the more inexperienced members, will benefit from the cross team training and development, increasing the number of personnel in TCI who are able to carry out techniques required for implementing high quality biosecurity (monitoring, surveillance, analysis, adaptive management and action). This is an important outcome for all the teams involved.

**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 primary stakeholders are the project partners in TCI who have been fully consulted in the development of the project and are committed to implementing the resulting biosecurity plans which will assist in delivering priority actions in their work programmes: For example TCNT's strategic plan, for DECR the National Park Ordinance and for Ambergris Cay to uphold good environmental management standards for the island.

**The Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR):** in addition to participating staff members DECR are providing use of their boats and captains (from Providenciales and South Caicos) to transport project teams to the islands, and space at their HQ in Providenciales for project meetings.

**The Department of Agriculture (DoA):** in addition to participating staff members DoA will help with biosecurity plan development, loan of cat traps and provision of bait.

**National Trust for the Turks and Caicos (TCNT):** in addition to participating staff TCNT will provide use of their boat to ferry the team and/or equipment to and from Little Water Cay.

**Ambergris Cay Facilities Ltd.:** will provide travel to/from and accommodation on Big Ambergris Cay and use of boats to access other islands.

The project has implications for other stakeholders in TCI particularly the provision of biosecurity information to boat tour operators, as protection of these offshore cays and in particular the iguana is important in providing nature tourism destinations for medium and high end tourists (ref. National Tourism policy and Strategic implementation plan 2015)

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

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is Europe's largest conservation NGO and has successfully delivered many Darwin and OTEP projects that have provided high quality scientific information on conservation issues, as well as direct conservation action. Elizabeth Radford has over 16 years of experience leading multi-country multi-partner projects on 4 continents but most recently in the Caribbean, aside from management, her specialism is botany and Important Plant Areas, Karen Varnham has over 18 years experience in predator control in the UK, Caribbean and elsewhere and has already worked closely with the team on Little Water Cay.

San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research is the largest zoo-based conservation organization in the world and has been a leader in the conservation and research of Caribbean iguanas for 25 years. Glenn Gerber has over 20 years of experience in the TCI studying and conserving iguanas and boas, including the successful re-introduction of iguanas to five offshore cays, and maintains a fifty-foot live-aboard research boat and small field station on Providenciales dedicated to the preservation of biodiversity in the TCI. Members of his TCI field team come from zoos, universities, and government

agencies across the US and have an average of more than 10 years of experience working in the TCI.

The Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) is mandated to ensure the sustainable use of the natural resources of the Turks and Caicos Islands and to protect and promote biodiversity and economic prosperity through environmentally sustainable development and a Protected Areas system. The staff members involved in the project have worked for the department a total of 25 years and have considerable knowledge of the species and habitats of the cays as well as important local knowledge and connections essential for the smooth running of the project.

The Department of Agriculture (DoA) has considerable expertise in biosecurity policy and legislation at national level – providing import regulations for vet, public health and food safety reasons (including highly trained practitioners who trap feral animals when required). The Department also performs surveillance and monitoring functions.

The National Trust of the Turks and Caicos (TCNT) is a non profit organisation established in 1992 to protect, conserve and promote the cultural, historic and natural heritage of the Turks and Caicos Islands. TCNT is responsible for the management of a suite of natural and cultural heritage sites in TCI including Little Water Cay. The Trust is embarking on a programme to up skill existing wardens (4) in the areas of reserve management – both technical skills and visitor engagement. This project will enhance that work.

Ambergris Cay Facilities Ltd project supervisor Paul Mahoney has been working with San Diego Zoo and The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew to preserve the local flora and fauna native to the island for over ten years. Ambergris Cay naturalists have worked with San Diego Zoo to preserve and translocate populations of the native Turks & Caicos Rock Iguana for repopulation on uninhabited cays.

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

## 26. LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

| Project summary  | Measurable Indicators  | Means of verification  | Important Assumptions   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <p><b>Impact:</b> (Max 30 words)</p> <p>Improved implementation of Invasive Alien Vertebrate management in TCI and increased capacity to sustain the improvement, resulting in better protection of TCI's natural assets that support the tourist industry.</p>    |  |  |   |
| <p><b>Outcome:</b></p> <p>The critically endangered Turks and Caicos Iguana is secured through the establishment of effective biosecurity plans/invasive vertebrate control on two offshore islands, and the identification of islands for future restoration.</p> | <p>0.1 No. of iguanas is stable and/or increasing on two target cays from the baseline measured in the first year</p> <p>0.2 Big Ambergris Cay remains predator free</p> <p>0.3 Management plans IAV component strengthened with clear methodologies for ground staff and timetable for IAV control activities</p> <p>0.4 Biosecurity plans agreed by TCNT Council, BAC management, tourist operators and developers and approved by TCI Cabinet</p> <p>0.5 Strategy for priority island restoration/protection published with actions agreed by the project team.</p> | <p>0.1 Updated IUCN Conservation status assessment for Turks and Caicos. Iguana/boa/reptile database for TCI Government</p> <p>0.2 Biosecurity plan reports from Big Ambergris Cay.</p> <p>0.3 Revised site management plans, annual work plans and budgets</p> <p>0.4 TCNT Council meeting minutes, cabinet paper, attendance -at tourist and developers seminars and minutes of cabinet meeting</p> <p>0.5 Strategy contained within the updated IUCN TCI Iguana conservation management plan.</p> | <p>IAV control and Biosecurity plans are properly implemented by management authorities</p> <p>TCI Government continue to see importance of biosecurity to TCI's native wildlife and related industries</p> <p>Tour operators and developers ready to engage in discussions about biosecurity</p> |
| <p><b>Outputs:</b></p> <p>1. Baseline data established and short term trends identified for Little Water Cay and Big Ambergris Cay for iguanas, boas, humans and , predators</p>   | <p>1.1 Transect lines, capture-mark-recapture sites and camera networks in place on both islands and data collected for 3 consecutive years on selected reptile and predator species</p> <p>1.2 Affects of humans on iguanas is documented</p> <p>1.3 Recommendations for managing tourists accessing Little Water Cay from neighbouring unmanaged access points made to DECR</p> <p>1.4 Recommendations on conserving reptiles made to Ambergris Cay Facilities Ltd.</p>  | <p>1.1 Fieldwork reports, Iguana, boa and cat monitoring data</p> <p>1.2 Peer reviewed publications on iguana-human interactions.</p> <p>1.3 Tourism management recommendation report.</p> <p>1.4 Reptile conservation on Big Ambergris Cay - report</p>   | <p>Fieldwork is not rendered impossible through hurricanes or other natural phenomena</p> <p>DECR ,TCNT, Ambergris Cay developers adopt and implement management recommendations for Little Water Cay and Big Ambergris Cay</p>   |



| Project summary  | Measurable Indicators   | Means of verification   | Important Assumptions  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>2. Biosecurity/ IAV plans developed, approved and implemented for Little Water Cay and Big Ambergris Cay</p>  | <p>2.1 Cat populations are quantified by the end of the second year of fieldwork and trapping schedule approved in the third year</p> <p>2.2 Additional control and monitoring activities recommended in the biosecurity plans are undertaken by local staff on Little Water Cay</p> <p>2.3 Rodent incursion protocol in place as part of biosecurity plans on Big Ambergris Cay</p> <p>2.4 Rodent incursion protocol and biosecurity signage in place, and knowledge of importance of biosecurity increased amongst key stakeholder groups specifically tour operators on Little Water Cay</p> <p>2.5 Island biosecurity plans signed off by DECR and TCNT Council.</p> <p>2.6 Biosecurity policy drafted by DECR with input from the project team</p> | <p>2.1 Results from survey data. DECR/DoA approval letters for cat trapping</p> <p>2.2 Management plan, annual work plan, field officer log books</p> <p>2.3 Developers include biosecurity measures within applications.</p> <p>2.4 Tourist operators alert tourists to importance of biosecurity using signs, publicity materials and tour scripts as part of boat trips to Little Water Cay.</p> <p>2.5 MOU/statement of ongoing collaboration to maintain biosecurity DECR/TCNT/DoA</p> <p>2.6 DECR submits Cabinet paper and Council minutes</p> | <p>IAV control and Biosecurity plans are properly implemented by management authorities – i.e. local technical capacity is not lost</p> <p>Tourist and developers continue current engagement levels with project team</p> |
| <p>3. Restoration/protection strategy for offshore islands following 'rapid survey' for reptiles and rodents.</p>                                      | <p>3.1 Rapid survey methods devised by end of year 1</p> <p>3.2 Rapid survey implemented on 10 offshore cays through first, second and third project year and data shows extent of reptile and rodent populations.</p> <p>3.3. Updated IUCN TCI Iguana conservation management plan – to include the iguana restoration strategy agreed by DECR/TCNT/IUCN Iguana specialists group</p>  | <p>3.1 Iguana and rodent rapid survey methodology written and distributed to IAV community through IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group 'Aliens' list server and other similar distribution mechanisms/networks.</p> <p>3.2. Peer reviewed publication on effects of rodents on reptiles</p> <p>3.3. Published IUCN TCI iguana conservation plan</p>  | <p>Islands are accessible by project team</p> <p>Specialist group members (volunteers) willing to engage in plan development</p>   |
| <p>4. Capacity and efficacy of personnel with the project team (in TCI and the UK) to implement essential monitoring and biosecurity activities to</p> | <p>4.1 Project team members develop competencies outside areas of specialism at the beginning of project</p> <p>4.2 Project team members confidence to address IAV issues increases through them independently developing plans/applications</p>  | <p>4.1 Project team feedback forms on fieldwork</p> <p>4.2 Team member plans/applications for future work.</p> <p>4.3 Team leaders/line managers</p>  | <p>Team members are always available for fieldwork and willing to learn new techniques.</p> <p>Staff retention and progression allows them to implement and share skills</p>   |

| Project summary                              | Measurable Indicators   | Means of verification  | Important Assumptions |
|--|---|--|-----------------------|
| address invasive vertebrates increased       | for future work<br>4.3 Improved unsupervised performance of team members  | assessment and annual appraisals.  |                       |
| 5. Project managed and monitored effectively | 5.0. Project monitoring plan developed in first 3 months and reviewed biannually<br>5.1 Regular communication maintained between the team; biannual skype calls and annual visits and reports from managers<br>5.2 Annual face to face project meetings take action to address any challenges and maintain engagement of senior managers within project partners<br>5.3 Technical and financial reporting to RSPB and Darwin accurate and on time and to high standard. | 5.0 Monitoring plan and updates.<br>5.1 Skype meeting minutes and project manager's reports.<br>5.2 Meeting action points completed, attendance list for annual meetings.<br>5.3 Technical and financial reports and approval notes from Darwin. |                       |

**Activities** (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)

**1. Baseline and trend data for iguanas and boas, humans and predators**

- 1.1 Detailed surveys of iguanas on Little Water Cay: including setting up transects with camera traps
- 1.2 Survey of cat population on Little Water Cay, using a variety of detection methods (including motion cameras), establish residency/activity levels
- 1.3 Impact assessment of human activity on iguanas
- 1.4 annual survey of native iguanas and boas on Big Ambergris Cay: iguanas, boas, including setting up transects with monitoring cameras
- 1.5 Determine an appropriate trapping schedule for feral cats on Little Water Cay in consultation/conjunction with any action being undertaken on neighbouring cays
- 1.6 Management recommendations on tourist management and reptile conservation for LWC and BAC written and management plans updated
- 1.7 Research paper on human-iguana interactions

**2. Development of biosecurity plans**

- 2.1 Develop a biosecurity plan for Little Water Cay - a model for a publicly accessible island
- 2.2 Consultation on plan across the DECR and DoA with Ambergris Cay, planning and developers: modification as necessary and write up
- 2.3 Develop a biosecurity plan for Big Ambergris Cay – a model for private islands subject to development pressure
- 2.4 Consultation on plan, adaptation, modification, write up and sign off by DECR and Big Ambergris Cay management

- 2.5 Write cabinet paper for the approval of the biosecurity plans and a draft biosecurity policy with the aim of approval/sign off by TCI Government
- 2.6 Presentation of the biosecurity plans to Planning Department, tourist operators, boat captains, developers and home owners
- 2.7 Signage developed and installed for landing areas on LWC and BAC
- 2.8 Publicity materials on biosecurity produced for tour operators

### **3. Rapid survey of offshore cays**

- 3.1 Devise and deploy rapid survey methodology for rodents and iguanas to apply across at least 10 cays surrounding target sites (Donna, Mangrove, Lizard, Bird, Fort George, Grouper, Dellis, Water, Pine, Bush, Little Ambergris, Fish, Six Hills, Long, and Middleton)
- 3.2 Use the results to update the IUCN conservation management plan for TCI iguanas – to include consultation with the IUCN SSC Iguana Specialist Group
- 3.3 Research paper on effects of rats on iguanas

### **4. Training and capacity building**

- 4.1 Experts in each area above train others within the project team to undertake the tasks needed for successful implementation of biosecurity plans: monitoring (native wildlife and predators), ongoing surveillance, minimising the risk of introducing rodents through the transport of goods and people, and implementing incursion plans should rodents or other invasive alien vertebrates be detected on Big Ambergris Cay
- 4.2 Questionnaires for team members and line managers /collation of ad hoc performance feedback/ no. of new initiatives started

### **5. Project management/ Monitoring**

- 5.0. At project start-up develop and agree project monitoring plan and use it as a project management tool to monitor implementation progress.
- 5.1 Bi-annual skype or conference call for core project team to plan forthcoming work schedule ensuring boats and personnel availability coincide
- 5.2 Bi-annual internal (project team) technical and financial reporting to RSPB
- 5.4 3x annual meeting of project team and management in TCI (Providenciales) just prior to the spring fieldwork session (March/April each year) for planning and sharing of data between all project partners from subsequent years.
- 5.5 Mid term evaluation with project team
- 5.6 Final evaluation with external consultants

**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 TCI project partners are committed to implementing the biosecurity measures and invasive alien vertebrate controls after the project is completed – including ongoing surveillance and monitoring which will be integrated into existing management and research activities. This is possible because i) hardware to enable this will be purchased during the course of the project (bait renewal will be the only additional expense), ii) team members in TCI and within the research teams will be trained in essential techniques during the project, iii) new developments on Big Ambergris Cay will have specific biosecurity plans to follow as they progress on the island and iv) tourist operators on Little Water Cay will have readily available information and advice to share with their clients on the importance of biosecurity measures.

In addition this project is the first time such a cross government department/private-public partnership for IAV management has been attempted in TCI. If successful this will set a precedent for future collaboration of this nature as it potentially allows more cost effective use of government resources to achieve national conservation goals, which benefit the environment and tourism.

**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)

All project reports will be made available on the Darwin website along with data collected during this project.

Data collected on threatened species will be given to DECR in database format and available through them for conservation purposes.

A minimum of two research papers are envisaged as part of the project outputs– depending on the ‘accepting journal’ these will also be available on line.

The revised IUCN SCC iguana management plan will be publically available on line via the IUCN website (as is the case with the 2005 – 2009 document).

The biosecurity plans will be included within the Darwin reports but also integrated into the management plan for Little Water Cay and appended to TCI government cabinet paper (both are free publicly available documents)

The TC National Trust will host a web page on the project where reports and updates will be posted with links from various facebook pages and twitter feeds.

**29. Monitoring & Evaluation:**

Describe, referring to the Indicators above, how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, making reference to who is responsible for the project’s M&E. Darwin Initiative projects are expected to be adaptive and you should detail how the monitoring and evaluation will feed into the delivery of the project including its management. M&E is expected to be built into the project and not an ‘add’ on. It is as important to measure for negative impacts as it is for positive impact.

(Max 500 words)

Monitoring and evaluation of the Iguana project will be managed by the project manager Elizabeth Radford and will comprise internal and external evaluations as follows

#### **Internal monitoring and evaluation**

- Establishing responsibility for indicators:

At project start up the team will go through the indicators in the log frame and establish who will be responsible for ensuring the data for each indicator is collected and collated; meeting minutes, various datasets, reports, recommendations, records of meetings with stakeholders etc. These data will be presented to the group at each bi-annual meeting. The responsibility for the indicator will rest with the individual leading that element of the work who may then delegate. The data will be brought together by the project manager in close collaboration with responsible individuals.

- Regular project management meetings, bi-annual project skypes/conference calls:  
These will involve key operational personnel (planned for July and January each year) and the monitoring plan (above) will be assessed as progress against the log frame indicators is reported. Specific actions to address indicators that have not been achieved and the monitoring plan revised accordingly.

- Annual meetings:  
The second and third annual project meetings will include an internal evaluation of the project covering technical and financial aspects as official mid term reviews. Senior staff from participating organisations in TCI will be invited: John Claydon (DECR), Ethlyn Gibbs Williams and Council members (TCNT) and Wilhelmina Kisoosingh (Department of Agriculture, TCI). Not only will these individual be able to see progress, they will be able to assess the quality and efficacy of work undertaken to date and set it in the bigger picture of conservation priorities within TCI and also help develop solutions to any challenges the project team might be facing.

### External monitoring and evaluation

- TCI Iguana Conservation Management Plan  
An external facilitator, with experience of iguana conservation and TCI will be used to help the project team work with Iguana Specialists to develop the TCI Iguana Conservation and Management Plan in the third year of the project.

- External reviewer for final evaluation  
An external independent evaluator (budgeted) will be asked to review the project and its outputs in the final year, when project activities have been concluded.

### Costs of Monitoring and evaluation

#### Internal

Project manager: 80% of time and 100% of travel and subsistence = £9531  
Core field team: 5% of time =£3070  
Rest of team:1%= £651  
Meeting costs: £900

#### External

Facilitator 80% time = £1140  
External reviewer 100% of time, travel and subsistence = £3740

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Number of days planned for M&E                       | 252     |
| Total project budget for M&E                         | £19,032 |
| Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E | 5.15%   |

**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?)

Elizabeth Radford will be responsible for the financial management of the project supported by Ruth Sharman in the RSPB International Funding and Finance Unit. Ruth Sharman's role is dedicated to ensuring RSPB's financial reporting on projects is delivered according to the highest standards and she has worked with two of the TCI based partners on previous projects. Both individuals have extensive experience managing external international projects and associated budgets, including Darwin grants.

RSPB enters into contracts with partners when dispensing grant funds such as Darwin and technical and financial reports are required by RSPB from each partner at a minimum of every six months even if the

funder has an annual reporting cycle – and more frequently if required by the funder. All projects are given dedicated project codes within the RSPB financial system so that expenditure and balances are easy to track. Project finances will be reported at the biannual steering group meetings, annual project team meetings in TCI and in our progress reports to Darwin. The project finances will be independently audited at the end of the project.

**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 budget has been constructed using an exchange rate that reflects the new USD: GBP currency exchange normality following the recent referendum result, as TCI operational costs will be in USD which will likely remain low during Brexit negotiations. The budget includes known inflationary /cost of living increases as appropriate. Accommodation, food and equipment are budgeted as per recent projects and we have assumed these costs will not rise significantly. Travel costs have been taken from known costs (in TCI) and average internet prices for international flights.

Considerable match funding has been secured from partners for project management, US field staff time, use of boats and for travel and accommodation on Big Ambergris Cay; all are essential for the project to be a success and the latter are very expensive items in TCI. In addition, using San Diego Zoo's field station on Providenciales means accommodation costs have been reduced by >50% compared to regular low budget accommodation costs on islands – options for which are incredibly limited. Finally two volunteers (Waters and Burgess) from Jacksonville, Florida will work on the project for free for at least 4 weeks annually, receiving only travel and accommodation support, and laboratory analyses will be carried out by San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research at cost only.

**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**

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

| Activity  | No. of months | Year 1 |    |    |    | Year 2 |    |    |    | Year 3 |    |    |    |
|---|---------------|--------|----|----|----|--------|----|----|----|--------|----|----|----|
|   |               | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| <b>Output 1 Detailed survey and monitoring of native and predator species</b>   |               |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |
| 1.1 Detailed survey of iguanas on Little Water Cay: (including transects with monitoring cameras)   | 1.5           | ■      |    | ■  |    | ■      |    | ■  |    | ■      |    | ■  |    |
| 1.2 Survey of cat populations on Little Water Cay, using a variety of detection methods (including motion cameras)  | 1.5           | ■      |    |    |    | ■      |    |    |    | ■      |    |    |    |
| 1.3 Impact assessment of human activity on iguanas  | 1             |        |    | ■  | ■  |        |    | ■  | ■  |        |    | ■  | ■  |
| 1.4 Detailed survey of iguanas and boas on Big Ambergris Cay  | 1.5           | ■      |    | ■  |    | ■      |    | ■  |    | ■      |    | ■  |    |
| 1.5 Determine an appropriate trapping schedule for feral cats on Little Water Cay (in consultation/conjunction with any action being undertaken on neighbouring cays) |               |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    | ■      |    |    |    |
| 1.6 Management recommendations re tourist management and reptile conservation for LWC and BAC; management plans updated   |               |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    | ■  | ■  |
| 1.7 Research paper on human- iguana interactions drafted for submission   |               |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    | ■  | ■  |
| <b>Output 2 Development of biosecurity plans</b>  |               |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |
| 2.1 Develop a biosecurity plan for Little Water Cay - a model for a publically accessible islands   |               |        |    |    |    | ■      | ■  |    |    |        |    |    |    |
| 2.2 Consultation on plan: adaptation, modification, write up  | 0.5           |        |    |    |    |        | ■  | ■  |    |        |    |    |    |

| Activity | No. of months  | Year 1 |    |    |    | Year 2 |    |    |    | Year 3 |    |    |    |
|----------|--|--------|----|----|----|--------|----|----|----|--------|----|----|----|
|          |  | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| 2.3      | Develop a biosecurity plan for Big Ambergris Cay – a model for private islands subject to development pressure   |        |    |    |    | ■      | ■  |    |    |        |    |    |    |
| 2.4      | Consultation on plan, adaptation, modification, write up, sign off by DECR and Big Ambergris Cay management  |        |    |    |    |        | ■  | ■  |    |        |    |    |    |
| 2.5      | Write cabinet paper for the approval of the biosecurity plans and a draft biosecurity policy with the aim of approval/sign off by TCI Government       |        |    |    |    |        |    |    | ■  | ■      |    |    |    |
| 2.6      | Presentation of the biosecurity plans to Planning Department, tourist operators, boat captains, developers and home owners                             | 0.1    |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |
| 2.7      | Signage developed and installed for landing areas on LWC and BAC   |        |    |    |    |        | ■  | ■  |    |        |    |    |    |
| 2.8      | Publicity materials on biosecurity produced for tour operators.  |        |    |    |    |        | ■  | ■  |    |        |    |    |    |
| Output 3 | <b>Rapid survey of offshore cays</b>   |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |
| 3.1      | Devise and deploy rapid survey methodology for rodents and reptile species to apply across at least 10 cays near target islands                        |        | ■  |    | ■  |        | ■  |    | ■  |        | ■  |    |    |
| 3.2      | Use the results to update the IUCN conservation management plan for the TCI iguana – to include consultation with the IUCN SSC Iguana Specialist Group |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    | ■      |    |    |    |
| 3.3      | Research paper on effect of rodents on iguanas drafted for submission  |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    | ■  | ■  |
| Output 4 | <b>Training and capacity building</b>  |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |
| 4.1      | Experts in each area above train others within the project team to undertake the tasks needed for successful implementation of biosecurity plans       |        | ■  |    | ■  |        | ■  |    | ■  |        | ■  |    |    |
| 4.2      | Collation of questionnaires and related feedback from team members and managers  |        |    |    | ■  |        |    |    | ■  |        |    |    | ■  |
| Output 5 | <b>Project management/ Monitoring</b>  |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |
| 5.0      | At project start up develop and agree a monitoring plan and use it as a project management tool to monitor implementation of progress                  |        | ■  |    |    |        |    |    |    |        |    |    |    |
| 5.1      | Biannual skypes or conference calls for core project team to plan forthcoming work schedule ensuring availability of boats and                         |        |    | ■  |    | ■      |    | ■  |    | ■      |    | ■  |    |



DPLUS055 ref 4001

|     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|     | personnel coincide   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5.2 | Biannual internal (project team) technical and financial reporting to RSPB   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5.3 | 3x annual meetings of project team and management in TCI (Providenciales) just prior to the spring fieldwork session (c. March/April each year) for planning and sharing of data between all project partners from subsequent years. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5.4 | Mid term evaluation with project team  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5.5 | Final evaluation with external consultant  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

|                      |
|----------------------|
| <b>CERTIFICATION</b> |
|----------------------|

On behalf of the company of

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

I apply for a grant of £199,620.00 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 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.

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Name (block capitals)</b>        | Dieter Hoffmann  |
| <b>Position in the organisation</b> | Head of Country Programmes – International Directorate |

**Signed**

PDF

**Date:**

26 – 08- 2016

**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 read the <a href="#">Guidance</a> ?  | X     |
| Have you read the current <b>Terms and Conditions</b> for this fund?  | 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 29 August 2016** 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.