

Applicant: **Weber, Nicola**  
Organisation: **The University of Exeter**  
Funding Sought: **£268,741.00**  
Funding Awarded: **£268,741.00**

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# **DPR8S2\1003**

**DPLUS106 A Marine Turtle Action Plan for Montserrat**

## PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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Title Dr  
Name Nicola  
Surname Weber  
Organisation The University of Exeter  
Website (Work) [REDACTED]  
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Tel (Work) [REDACTED]  
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## CONTACT DETAILS

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Title Mr  
Name Alwyn  
Surname Ponteem  
Tel (Skype) [REDACTED]  
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]  
Email [REDACTED]  
Address [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## CONTACT DETAILS

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**Title** Prof  
**Name** Brendan  
**Surname** Godley  
**Organisation** The University of Exeter

**Website (Work)** [Redacted]  
[Redacted]

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[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

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## Section 1 - Contact Details

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### PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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**Title** Dr  
**Name** Nicola  
**Surname** Weber  
**Organisation** The University of Exeter  
**Website (Work)** [REDACTED]  
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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
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### CONTACT DETAILS

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**Title** Mr  
**Name** Alwyn  
**Surname** Ponteen  
**Tel (Skype)** [REDACTED]  
**Tel (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Email** [REDACTED]  
**Address** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### CONTACT DETAILS

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**Title** Prof  
**Name** Brendan  
**Surname** Godley  
**Organisation** The University of Exeter  
**Website (Work)** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Tel (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Email (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Address** [REDACTED]  
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## GMS ORGANISATION

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Type	Organisation
<b>Name</b>	The University of Exeter
<b>Phone (Work)</b>	01326 371829
<b>Email (Work)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Website (Work)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Address</b>	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

## Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

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### Q3a. Project title

DPLUS106 A Marine Turtle Action Plan for Montserrat

### Q3b. What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DPR8S1\10008

DPR8S1\1018

### Q4. UKOT(s)

**Which UK Overseas Territory(ies) will your project be working in? You may select more than one UKOT from the options below.**

Montserrat

**Q4b. In addition to the UKOTs you have indicated, will your project directly benefit any other Territories or country(ies)?**

Yes

**Please list below.**

Outputs will be relevant to other Caribbean UKOTs and representatives from some of these Territories will be invited to the workshop in Y2 of the project.

**Q5. Project dates**

**Start date:**

01 April 2020

**End date:**

31 March 2022

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

2 years

**Q6. Budget summary**

Year:	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Total request
Darwin funding request (Apr - Mar)	£ [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	£ 268,741.00

**Q6a. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?**

Yes

**What matched funding arrangements are proposed?**

Matched funding all stems from substantial salary costs contributed in-kind. Due to limited resources on-island, the lead Department has no access to vehicles and accommodation for visiting scientists and so they have been built into the grant as well as essential capital items that will remain with the team on Montserrat after project completion.

**Q6b. Proposed (confirmed & unconfirmed) matched funding as % of total project cost (total cost is the Darwin request plus other funding required to run the project).** 32%

**Section 3 - Lead Organisation Summary**

**Q7. Summary of Project**

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

**Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.**

*No Response*

## **Q8. Lead organisation summary**

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

Yes

**If yes, please provide details of the most recent awards (up to 6 examples).**

<b>Reference No</b>	<b>Project Leader</b>	<b>Title</b>
26-018	K. Hockings	Promoting public health in a biodiverse agroforest landscape in Guinea-Bissau
26-014	K. Metcalfe & B. Godley	Empowering Ivorian coastal communities to conserve biodiversity and secure livelihoods
25-001	F. Van Veen	Preventing Borneo's peatland fires to protect health, livelihoods and biodiversity
DARSC190	K. Metcalfe	Community managed protected areas for biodiversity and livelihoods (Cote d'Ivoire)
23-012	A.C. Broderick	Improving marine biodiversity and livelihoods of coastal communities in Principe
23-011	B.J. Godley	Transforming marine resource management in the Republic of Congo

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

No

**If no, please provide details.**

The University of Exeter's financial statements can be viewed and downloaded here:  
<http://www.exeter.ac.uk/finance/financialstatements/>

## Section 4 - Project Partners

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### Q9. Project Partners

**Please list all the partners involved (including the Lead Organisation) and explain their roles and responsibilities in the project. Describe the extent of their involvement at all stages, including project development.**

**This section should illustrate the capacity of partners to be involved in the project. Please provide Letters of Support for the Lead Organisation and each partner or explain why this has not been included.**

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

**Lead Organisation name:**

Government of Montserrat

**Website address:**

<http://www.gov.ms/ministries-and-departments/ministry-of-agriculture/>

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

The concept and need for the project was expressed by the GoM Chief Fisheries and Ocean Governance Officer (AP) who approached the overseas partners for their expert input to help develop and implement the project. While marine turtle monitoring and conservation is carried out routinely by the GoM, they do not have the capacity to carry out the comprehensive full-island survey required to review and update practices. The GoM team is the primary local contact point and will have oversight of the project to ensure it meets local needs. They will be responsible for recruiting and managing the local Project Officers in Y1 and Y2 and will provide guidance to the Darwin Fellow when they are on-island as part of the team collecting data. The GoM team will introduce MCS to potential Community Voice interviewees and the wider community to maximise participation and to demonstrate that the project has local ownership. The GoM team will engage with and involve all others with an interest in the project including the Tourism Department, local wildlife guides, dive centres and volunteers, schools and WIDECAS. The GoM team will be responsible for implementing the Species Action Plan at the end of the project.



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

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

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**Do you have partners involved in the Project?**

Yes

**1. Partner Name:** University of Exeter (Co-lead)

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**Website address:** <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/research/marine/>

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

The UoE team will lead on the science elements of the project, designing and assisting with the data collection procedures for Y1 in consultation with the GoM, analysis and interpretation to translate into actions for Y2 and the development of the Species Action Plan. At the request of the GoM, the UoE team will hold and administer the budget through their Finance Department. The UoE team will be responsible for reporting, coordinating international partners and their input and for the writing of the Species Action Plan in consultation with GoM and MCS and other stakeholders. They will also lead/ coordinate the preparation of at least 2 manuscripts for submission to peer-reviewed journals. They will be responsible for organising and facilitating the planned workshops, with input from GoM. The Project Leaders and Darwin Fellow will engage with the on-island public education work as appropriate, for example through attendance at public meetings, school visits and radio appearances during their time on Montserrat. All members of the UoE team have an established track record of successfully leading interdisciplinary projects in the UK OTs (and elsewhere) funded by Darwin, Defra, FCO, JNCC and Conservation Charities.

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

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**Do you have more than one partner involved in the Project?**

Yes

**2. Partner Name:** Marine Conservation Society

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**Website address:** <https://www.mcsuk.org/>

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

MCS will lead on community engagement and social science aspects of the project, informing the development of draft recommendations to update legislation. In Y1, MCS will use GoM's social capital in identifying key community members that can participate in semi-structured interviews to evaluate aspects of the turtle harvest along with trends in nesting and in-water populations. The MCS team will also carry out a start and end-of-project attitudinal survey to determine change of opinions towards marine turtles and marine conservation. To inform policy change recommendations, MCS will employ the Community Voice Method, leading on all aspects including participant filming, footage transcription and data analysis, film editing and screening of the CVM output at workshops across the island. They will also facilitate these workshop discussions, recording and analysing participants' responses towards increasing protection for marine turtles. These discussions along with the CVM film analysis will be factored into a draft recommendation document that will be presented to the Montserrat Legislative Council to update the Turtle Act (2002). All of the MCS team have extensive experience successfully working with UoE in the Caribbean UKOTs, having effectively employed the innovative CVM to update turtle fishery legislation in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

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

Yes

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**3. Partner Name:**

*No Response*

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**Website address:**

*No Response*

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

*No Response*

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

Yes  
 No

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**4. Partner Name:**

*No Response*

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**Website address:**

*No Response*

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

*No Response*

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

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**5. Partner Name:** *No Response*

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**Website address:** *No Response*

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

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

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**6. Partner Name:** *No Response*

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**Website address:** *No Response*

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

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

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


*No Response*

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

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 [Cover Letter DPR8S1 1018](#)


 26/11/2019


 14:38:26


 pdf 170.28 KB

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 [Letters of Support DPR8S1 1018](#)

 26/11/2019

 14:38:13

 pdf 4.74 MB

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## Section 5 - Project Staff

### Q10. Project Staff

**Please identify the key project personnel on this project, their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project.**

**Please provide 1 page CVs for these staff, or a 1 page job description or Terms of Reference for roles yet to be filled. These should match the names and roles in the budget spreadsheet. If your team is larger than 12 people please review if they are core staff, or whether you can merge roles (e.g. 'admin and finance support') below, but provide a full table based on this template in the pdf of CVs you provide.**

<b>Name (First name, Surname)</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>% time on project</b>	<b>1 page CV or job description attached?</b>
Nicola Weber	<b>Project Leader</b>	25	Checked
Brendan Godley	Co-Project Leader, oversight of the project management and all outputs (UK-based)	5	Checked
Alwyn Ponteen	Co-Project Leader (Montserrat-based), oversight of project outputs	20	Checked
Sam Weber	Postdoctoral Researcher, turtle fieldwork and data analysis/ management (&co-PL during NW maternity leave March-Oct 2020)	15	Checked

**Do you require more fields?**

Yes


<b>Name (First name, Surname)</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>% time on project</b>	<b>1 page CV or job description attached?</b>
TBC	Darwin Fellow/ Research Assistant, full-island turtle survey during the nesting season in Y1	100	Checked
TBC	Project Officer Y1 & Y2 (Montserrat)	100	Checked
Lyandra Lee, Javiere Adams, Chaz Lee	GoM Fisheries and Ocean Governance Observers	20	Checked
Amdeep Sanherra	Community Voice Method	11	Checked
Peter Richardson	Community Voice Method	6	Checked


Sue Ranger	Community Voice Method	13	Checked
TBC	Assistant Project Officer Y2 (Montserrat)	100	Checked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked


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

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

 [CVs DPR8S1\\_1018](#)

 26/11/2019

 22:59:52

 pdf 1.79 MB

**Have you attached all Project staff CVs?**

No

**If you cannot provide a CV or job description, please explain why not.**

We have attached all CVs apart from the currently employed GoM Fisheries and Ocean Governance Observers who do not all have CVs in a format that they wished to share. Instead, we have included their current Job Descriptions.

## Section 6 - Background & Methodology

### Q11. Problems the project is trying to address

**Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of environment and climate issues in the UKOTs.**

**For example, what are the specific threats to the environment that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems? How will your proposed project help? What key OT Government priorities and themes will it address?**

Small, yet regionally important nesting populations of hawksbill and green turtles occur in Montserrat, and there is occasional nesting by leatherback and loggerhead turtles. The island's waters support sea turtle foraging, although the extent to which this occurs is largely unquantified. Work is about to commence on improvements to Montserrat's port facilities as part of a drive to enhance revenue from tourism, which in itself may have implications for adjacent turtle nesting beaches. Additionally, anecdotal evidence of a significant reduction in the use of sea turtles as an extractive resource by the local community suggests that now is an opportune time to implement an evidence-based review of the status and management of these flagship species. Montserrat has been heavily impacted by natural disasters from extreme weather events to prolonged volcanic activities, all of which may have affected beach profiles, nesting distributions and productivity of marine turtles in as yet unquantified ways. Precautionary management to safeguard turtle nests during the hurricane season is being exercised on an ad hoc basis with some clutches being transplanted to a man-made hatchery. This practice has been implemented with no formal training or

evaluation of its effectiveness and is in urgent need of review. In addition to training provided as part of this project, a Marine Turtle Action Plan will be developed with key stakeholders to ensure that the programme is more evidence-based and transparent moving forward, while being suitable for the island's needs. Legislation relating to Montserrat's marine turtles is recognised by the GoM as being outdated and offers little practical protection with no mention of offences relating to the disturbance of turtles and no upper size limit for legal take. It is prudent that this is reviewed as a matter of urgency and that this is done with the extensive engagement of Montserratians.

## Q12. Methodology

**Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and Impact. Provide information on:**

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

**Please make sure you read the [Guidance Notes](#) before answering this question.**

**(This may be a repeat from Stage 1 but you may update or refine as necessary)**

The successful development and implementation of a Marine Turtle Species Action Plan (SAP) for Montserrat, will be evidence-based, community-led and appropriately legislated to ensure management and conservation actions align with international best practice.

### Scientific monitoring

An updated island-wide nesting turtle population survey (the previous being in 1999-2003) will be conducted in Y1 of the project during the turtle nesting season (June – September). It will be carried out by GoM staff including a locally employed PO and local volunteers, supported and guided as required by a DF from the UoE Marine Turtle Research Group. Due to the demanding nature of conducting nocturnal surveys on relatively remote beaches, the GoM team does not currently have the resources to assign this function to a core member of their team. In carrying out an exhaustive survey in Y1, as part of our exit strategy, we aim to design a programme that is robust and manageable for the GoM team in the future e.g. through the monitoring of index sites and stratified sampling. Nesting surveys will be supplemented by assessments of nest productivity and aerial beach profile mapping to quantitatively evaluate risks to turtle nests from storm surges/ sea level rise. Adult turtles will be fitted with remote tracking devices to evaluate core habitat use and inform current marine spatial planning exercises. A workshop will be held on-island prior to the Y2 nesting season that will bring together the team plus other international experts to share findings and evaluate threats and practices, resulting in the development of a Marine Turtle SAP.

### Outreach

A community outreach programme will be initiated in Y1. This will involve school/ community group visits and radio appearances to inform the local community about the project and to begin fostering an appreciation of the programme. Engagement tools such as 'Adopt a Tagged Turtle' that have been successfully applied elsewhere will be employed. A workshop will be held in Y1 for those working (or wishing to) in the tourism sector to assess the demand for 'turtle tours' for both the community and visitors and to develop agreed best practice guidelines.

## Legislation

The innovative CVM (<https://vimeo.com/150885111>) will be employed over Y1&2 by experienced MCS practitioners, having successfully applied this method in TCI, to facilitate stakeholder input into updating turtle fishery regulations. This method will be particularly important during public consultation on legislation (the Turtle Act 2002) to ensure it is fit for purpose, locally appropriate and endorsed, gender sensitive and consistent with international commitments.

At the request of the GoM, UoE experienced PIs will lead on administration including budget and report writing and will have oversight of the project to ensure that it is delivered on-time and on-budget. All PIs and partners have an established working relationship both with Montserrat and each other. Progress will be monitored by regular Skype meetings, email exchanges and visits. Locally, GoM have ownership of the project and will ensure that the scientific findings are translated into practical actions that are relevant to the island and its community.

**If necessary, please provide supporting documentation e.g. maps, diagrams, and references etc., as pdf using the File Upload below.**

*No Response*

## Section 7 - Stakeholders and Beneficiaries

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### Q13. Project Stakeholders

**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.**

The GoM, Fisheries and Ocean Governance Unit are primary stakeholders, responsible for sea turtle monitoring, management and conservation and will be engaged with the project throughout. The project team and proposal have been put together after being approached by their Chief Fisheries Officer, a well-respected individual both within the government and the local community including fishers, and so we are confident that the envisaged Outcome is driven by on-island needs and desires. The GoM team are fully supportive of all elements of the project and data that need to be collected to make evidence-based decisions. They are committed to ensuring the project is a success and they receive the training and guidance that they need to move their work programme forward (see Letters 1,4&5) and that their community is engaged and educated by the project (see Letters 6&7).

The Montserratian community are key stakeholders and with a number of marine management and conservation initiatives currently underway on-island, this project provides an opportunity to use charismatic marine species to further engage the local community on the sustainable use of marine biodiversity, including expanding its eco-tourism draw to contribute to livelihoods and self-sufficiency (see Letters 7-10).

The two UK-based partners (UoE as co-lead and MCS) have an on-going investment in the conservation of biodiversity in the UKOTs both professionally and personally and will lend their collective expertise to train GoM staff, to engage appropriately with the local community and ensure the long-term sustainability of the work (see Letters 2&3).

### Q14. Institutional Capacity

**Describe the lead organisation's capacity (and that of partner organisations where relevant) to deliver the project.**

The GoM Fisheries and Ocean Governance Unit (housed within the Department of Agriculture) operates under the Fisheries Act (revised 2013), which is currently being updated to the Fisheries, Aquaculture and Ocean Resources Management Act and Plan 2019 (under review for enactment and implementation) as well as a number of related pieces of environmental legislation. The team comprises of 5 dedicated individuals with a wide remit of work spanning data collection, enforcement and public engagement. The team are highly supportive of all training offered to them, and by providing it as part of their daily routine during the turtle nesting period will ensure maximum engagement.

The University of Exeter is a Russell Group research institute and a centre of excellence in marine conservation science. UoE Project Leads have a very strong track record of delivering interdisciplinary conservation and research projects in the UKOTs and elsewhere and have both been involved previously with successfully delivered projects in Montserrat.

The UK-based Marine Conservation Society has extensive experience of implementing successful community-based conservation initiatives in the Caribbean UKOTs. This is demonstrated through leading on and successfully delivering all outputs on the TCI Turtle Project, including using the CVM to inform the key outcome of draft turtle fishery regulations (enacted by the TCI government in 2014). Amdeep Sanghera brings long-term experience of living/working in Caribbean UKOT fishing communities to maximise community engagement opportunities, while Dr Peter Richardson will offer his substantial experience in creating and facilitating stakeholder mechanisms to inform legislative change.

## **Q15. Project beneficiaries**

**Who will your project benefit? You should consider the direct benefits as a result of your project as well as the broader indirect benefits which may come about as a result of your project achieving its Outputs and Outcome. The measurement of any benefits should be included in your project logframe.**

The GoM will benefit from having an evidence-based and SMART Marine Turtle SAP to guide their turtle monitoring, management and conservation efforts. Their programme will be given an 'energy-boost' and they will be left with the tools and training to ensure that it is properly implemented. The UK-based team will be on-hand to provide advice as needed during and after the lifetime of the project.

Senior decision makers within the GoM will benefit from the availability of robust data to inform decisions relating to e.g. the planned port construction for which an Environmental Impact Assessment has identified turtles as a species that may be significantly impacted, and to strengthen marine-resource legislation to bring it in-line with internationally recognised standards and meet their obligations under Multilateral Agreements.

The people of Montserrat will gain by engaging in a democratic process that acknowledges and enables their opinions to shape draft legislative recommendations; the GoM and marine stakeholders will also benefit more broadly through exposure to the Community Voice Method, a transferable approach to tackle Montserrat's other priority environmental issues. Locals and visitors to Montserrat will benefit from having more 'turtle tour' options available to them to witness this inspiring and charismatic marine species.

## **Section 8 - Gender and Change Expected**

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### **Q16. Gender (optional)**



**How is your project working to reduce inequality between persons of different gender? At the very least, you should be able to provide reassurance that your proposed work is not increasing inequality. Have you analysed the context in which you are working to see how gender and other aspects of social inclusion might interact with the work you are proposing?**

The Montserrat artisanal fishing sector is dominated by men, with minimal opportunities for women to participate in management discussions. Additionally, tourism occupations are heavily gender-segregated. The majority of women carry out roles associated with domestic duties and are predominantly in the service sector, while men mainly occupy management roles.

To overcome these barriers, initial community engagement meetings will be held at times and locations that maximise opportunities for women to attend. Semi-structured interviews will also be gender-balanced and will explore roles of men and women in extractive turtle use. Regarding the selection of CVM film interviewees, we will ensure women and girls are fairly represented, with the design of subsequent screenings and workshops aimed at mitigating gendered barriers to participation. Efforts will also be made to ensure interested women have access to the marine user workshop (output 4). Gender-disaggregated data will also be used in monitoring/reporting, while logframe indicators include gender metrics where necessary.

The Government of Montserrat is currently updating its legislative and policy framework both within the private and public sectors to address gender equality. This is currently being done within the context of Montserrat's international obligation under the Sustainable Development Goal 5, Gender Equality.

## **Q17. Change expected**

**Detail the expected changes this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who will benefit a) in short-term (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended). Please describe the changes for the environment and, where relevant, for people in the OTs, and how they are linked.**

Across both timescales, an appreciation of a more evidence-based and participatory approach to biodiversity management and conservation through action planning on Montserrat will be fostered through-out the project. In the short-term, the project will enable the GoM to review its current marine turtle work programme and update it in line with internationally-recognised best practice. The scientific data collected for these sentinel species will help to inform current marine spatial planning exercises and Environmental Impact Assessments relating to the rebuilding of the port. They will also contribute to an understanding of the state of Montserrat's coastal ecosystem more generally, feeding into UK Government Blue Belt extensions into the Caribbean. The team will design a turtle monitoring programme that is robust and manageable for the GoM team (as they have done previously on Ascension and Cayman Islands) to allow continuation in the long-term. The project will reinvigorate an interest in marine turtles among the people of Montserrat, the majority of whom have never seen a nesting turtle and will serve to increase eco-tourism interests which will contribute to livelihoods. In the long-term, the use of the Community Voice Method in meaningfully engaging stakeholders in policy decision-making will also demonstrate an innovative methodology that the GoM and partners can employ in tackling other environmental problems. The project will also help UK Government to meet some of its commitments under Multilateral Environmental Agreements, including the Convention on Migratory Species, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the GoM to meet some of its principles under its Conservation and Environmental Management Act (CEMA) 2014 and Environment Charter.

## Q18. Pathway to change

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

Output 1 provides the scientific data to underpin the development and implementation of the SAP. It will be carried out in a robust manner by the DF, overseen by the PLs who have successfully implemented similar projects in the UKOTs, with the full involvement and advice of the local PO to whom the skills will be transferred. Output 2 sees the development of the evidence-based action plan in consultation with regional and international expert practitioners who can advise on methods that will be appropriate for Montserrat. With Output 3 there will be strong emphasis on local ownership and public consultation, especially relating to suggestions for legislative change. This will be conducted through CVM that has proven to be an effective, participatory tool for implementing locally-driven change, including in the Turks and Caicos Islands and the UK. With Output 4, marine turtles will be a flagship to foster appreciation of marine natural capital, including enhancing livelihoods through eco-tourism. Collectively, this will pave the way to the successful management and conservation of Montserrat's marine turtles in a manner that is underpinned by a sound scientific evidence base, appropriately legislated, and valued by the local community and visitors to the island.

## Q19. Sustainability

**How will the project ensure benefits are sustained after the project have come to a close? If the project requires ongoing maintenance or monitoring, who will do this and how will it be funded?**

The GoM team will continue to carry out turtle monitoring as they have done in the past as part of their commitments in the Fisheries and Oceans Resources Management Plan. However, their efforts will be informed by the comprehensive data collected in this project translated into SMART targets documented in the SAP and the data storage and analysis tools left for them. This manageable, self-sustained monitoring protocol will facilitate the long-term continuation of the project. All members of the UK-based team have worked with colleagues in the UKOTs for at least a decade and are members of related Working Groups and so (as in the past) will be on hand to answer queries and support as required. The training given to the team and the injection of capacity and energy provided in the two years of this project will facilitate the continuation of a robust marine turtle monitoring programme provided that GoM maintains its previously demonstrable commitment to biodiversity conservation (see Letters 1,4&5). The legislative changes that the project aims to set in motion, and the community participation that it aims to encourage and facilitate will also leave a lasting legacy for the conservation of marine turtles on Montserrat.

## Section 9 - Funding and Budget

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### Q20. Budget

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





- [R8 D+ Budget form for projects under £100,000](#)
- [R8 D+ Budget form for projects over £100,000](#)

Please refer to the [Finance Guidance for Darwin/IWT](#) for more information.

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

**Budgets submitted in other currencies will not be accepted. Use current prices – and include anticipated inflation, as appropriate, up to 3% per annum. The Darwin Initiative cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.**

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## Q21. Co-financing

Are you proposing co-financing?

Yes

### Q21a. Secured

**Provide details of all funding successfully levered (and identified in the Budget) towards the costs of the project, including any income from other public bodies, private sponsorship, donations, trusts, fees or trading activity, as well as any your own organisation(s) will be committing.**

(See [Finance for Darwin/IWT](#) and [Guidance Notes](#))

Donor organisation	Amount	Currency code	Comments
University of Exeter	██████	£	Salary/ overhead in-kinds
Government of Montserrat	██████	£0.00	Salary/ overhead in-kinds
Marine Conservation Society	██████	£	Salary/ overhead in-kinds
No Response	0	No Response	No Response

### Q21b. Unsecured

**Provide details of any matched funding where an application has been submitted, or that you intend applying for during the course of the project. This could include matched funding from the private sector, charitable organisations or other public sector schemes. This should also include any additional funds required where a donor has not yet been identified.**

<b>Date applied for</b>	<b>Donor organisation</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Currency code</b>	<b>Comments</b>
No Response	No Response	0	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	0	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	0	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	0	No Response	No Response

### **Do you require more fields?**

No

## **Section 10 - Finance**

### **Q22. 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?**

The University of Exeter has a well-established Research Project Management team, systems and accounting procedures in place to manage a significant portfolio of Research grants. Darwin projects have been a consistent part of the University's Research portfolio for many years and we have staff members in the Research Finance Team who are experts in managing the Darwin awards. In terms of project management, the University implement separate account codes to capture the direct project costs on a new cloud based bespoke research accounting and finance system – Technology One. All Research Projects are managed through this system, which provides budget monitoring capabilities and access to a clear audit trail to evidence defrayal of project costs. The Research teams also have significant experience of managing the external audits required of Darwin projects.

### **Q23. Financial Management Risk**

**Explain how you have considered the risks and threats that may be relevant to the success of this project, including the risks of fraud or bribery.**

At the request of the GoM project leader, the UoE has agreed to hold and administer the budget for all of the agreed project expenditure to allow for closer monitoring. At the start of the project, a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations will be drawn up with agreed dates for invoicing for costs relating to e.g. local salaries, and for transferred ownership of the capital equipment to the Fisheries and Ocean Governance Unit.

### **Q24. 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.**

There is a strong desire and need for this project by the GoM, but the small department lacks both the capacity to carry out the arduous fieldwork, experience with the analytical methods, the budget for the capital equipment and experience with the methodology that can enable the collection of quantifiable public opinion. Thus Darwin Initiative funding is critical for the provision of capacity and resources to develop and implement a Marine Turtle Species Action Plan for Montserrat. While the project team are not able to bring considerable sums from government support and private donations, their significant in-kind salary contributions demonstrate their dedication to the project. Salaries have been calculated on institutional pay scales commensurate with the level of experience required and are therefore in-line with local and national norms. A number of visits by project staff to Montserrat are required to carry out the local training and assistance with fieldwork in Y1, the Community Voice film interviews and public engagement, and the expert workshop in Y2. We have factored the hire of vehicles into these visits too so as not to be a drain on the already tightly stretched Government vehicle allocations. These costs have been based on best-value quotations wherever possible, ensuring a realistic but efficient T&S budget.

## **Q25. Capital Items**

**If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin Funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end.**

All equipment (not attached to turtles) will be left in situ on Montserrat with the aim of further enhancing the long-term turtle monitoring on-island. A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed by the UoE and GoM to ensure that the equipment remains the property of the Fisheries and Oceans Governance Unit and is used for the purposes of marine turtle monitoring and associated tasks.

## **Q26. Outputs of the project and 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 and detail any specific costs you are seeking from Darwin Plus to fund this.**

A Marine Turtle Nesting Database, adapted from one previously created by the PLs for Ascension Island, will be created and populated with both historical data and that collected during this project. This database will be housed within the Montserrat Data Gateway for use on Montserrat and will be available for external use following the completion of a data request form (<http://landinfo.gov.ms/Metadata.aspx>). The marine turtle tracking dataset will be deposited in an online repository such as MoveBank, where they can be made freely available to the wider research community. During the lifetime of the project they will also be made available on a user-friendly platform such as 'Seaturtle.org' as part of the local community awareness and engagement campaign with competitions such as 'name that tagged turtle' and 'turtle races' to encourage the public to view this resource. The data collected through the Community Voice Method will be made into a video that will be shown in multiple venues around the island and also uploaded to an online video sharing platform e.g. YouTube for wider dissemination, subject to the permissions of those being interviewed. All other relevant outputs, including the Marine Turtle Species Action Plan will be made available online (or through an 'available on request' option). Finally, in order to maximise impact and inclusiveness, a small amount of funding has been requested to enable open access publication of two key papers resulting from the project in the scientific literature.

## Section 11 - Safeguarding

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### Q27. Safeguarding

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

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

## Section 12 - Logical Framework

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### Q28. 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.

#### Impact:

The successful management and conservation of Montserrat's marine turtles is underpinned by a sound scientific evidence base, appropriately legislated, and valued by the local community and visitors to the island.

<b>Project summary</b>	<b>Measurable Indicators</b>	<b>Means of verification</b>	<b>Important Assumptions</b>
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**Outcome:**

The development and implementation of an evidence-based Marine Turtle Species Action Plan (SAP) for Montserrat to ensure that management, monitoring and conservation actions align with international best practice.

0.1 By 2022, Species Action Plan for Montserrat's Marine Turtles has been developed and implemented (Outputs 1 and 2).

0.2 By 2022, recommendation document submitted to Montserrat Legislative Council for amendments to CAP 12.06 Turtle Act (2002) (Output 3)

0.3 At least n=20 people show 40% increase (using scored Likert scale) in opinions positive towards marine turtles and marine conservation through comparison between start and end-of-project attitudinal survey.

0.4 Public outreach campaign to improve public understanding and appreciation of the programme (Output 4). By 2022 'Turtle Tours' have become a recognised way for locals and visitors to view nesting turtles.

0.1 Online publication of document and tracking of activities in a marine turtle database.

0.2 Physical document and record of decision.

0.3 Attitudinal survey transcripts, database, attitudinal report

0.4 Online recordings of radio show appearances, newspaper and newsletter articles, social media and web pages. Community Voice Video.

As detailed in the assumptions of the Outputs, the project relies on a good working relationship being fostered with the GoM team to facilitate data collection and the design and implementation of a suitable Marine Turtle SAP for Montserrat, as well as buy-in and engagement from the local community to make the project a success. The methods being used, have been proven to be effective in similar circumstances in the past, the partners all have an established working relationship and the project is being driven by the Territory and its needs so we are confident that the outputs will be achieved.

**Output 1:**

An updated, island-wide status assessment of marine turtle nesting activity on Montserrat over two years.

1.1 By end of Y1Q1, 1x DF appointed by UoE. 1x PO appointed by GoM. In Y2Q1 1x Assistant PO appointed by GoM.

1.2 By Y1Q2, a user-friendly Microsoft Access database is created to house all data collected pertaining to Montserrat's marine turtles. Training in use is provided to at least 5 x GoM personnel by PL. Database housed on GoM server.

1.3 Counts of nesting turtles on each of Montserrat's beaches are conducted every night by DF and PO on accessible beaches (n=7) during the nesting season, and opportunistically on less accessible beaches (n=6), plus n=4 beaches previously un-surveyed in the Exclusion Zone (Y1Q2&Q3). Data inputted into turtle database.

1.4 A representative sample (n=20) of nests followed through the nesting season in Y1 and excavated following hatching to gather baseline data on productivity and to evaluate threats to nests. Data inputted into turtle database. Assessments made of the 'hatchery' facility to evaluate its use.

1.5 All turtles

1.1 UoE and GoM employment records.

1.2 Marine Turtle Nesting Database created, populated and housed within the Montserrat Data Gateway. Freely available on request.

1.3&1.4 Database entries, project reports, published paper.

1.5 As 1.3 Also, maps of tracks disseminated through social public outreach (Output 4) and in peer-reviewed literature.

1.6 As 1.3 and in peer-reviewed literature.

1.7 As per 1.3

1.8 GoM employment and training records

1.1 Suitable candidates apply and are selected for the positions. The Marine Turtle Research Group has a large network of collaborators and so advertisement reach and interest in the project will very likely facilitate the recruitment of a very capable DF. The training and suitable wage on offer for the local PO is also likely to facilitate interest for the position on Island and GoM has a thorough recruitment process.

1.2 The database will be adapted from a one previously developed by the PLs for Ascension Island, so there is negligible risk of this not being implemented. We rely on GoM staff engaging with the use of the database but as they have expressed an interest in improved data storage, this risk is minimised.

1.3 This is subject to the contracting of boats to survey the inaccessible beaches, and permissions being given to access the Exclusion Zone via boat. Initial discussions have implied that short periods of access will be possible, but if not then there is contingency for drone surveys.

1.4-1.7 Negligible risk – if a suitably experienced



encountered are individually marked with metal flipper tags to enable longitudinal population studies in Y1 and Y2. At least n=10 individuals fitted with GPS-tracking devices in Y1 to identify key inter-nesting habitat and regional migratory connectivity.

1.6 Coastline survey carried out in Y1Q2/Q3 by UoE PDRA using a drone to map key nesting beaches and evaluate risks from inundation by tidal surges and coastal erosion.

1.7 Following assessment in Y1, the mortality of turtle nests related to inundation, predation and potentially poaching, will be reduced by at least 50% in Y2 following the implementation of protective measures. Such measures will be incorporated into the SAP for continuation (and potential further reduction) in the future.

1.8 At least 8 local staff members trained in marine turtle research and monitoring methods through work shadowing in Y1 of the project.

DF is recruited then this is standard turtle nest monitoring and intervention procedure.

1.8 Local staff have initiated this project and have a desire to gain more training, so there is little risk here.

**Output 2:**

An updated sea turtle monitoring and management action plan.

2.1 International workshop held on Montserrat in Y2Q1/Q2, bringing together sea turtle experts and those working with sea turtles in the Caribbean region to critically evaluate threats and in situ and ex situ management actions for Montserrat's turtles based on data collected in 1 and additional local input.

2.2 Based on 1 and outputs of 2.1, a robust population monitoring protocol is developed in Y2Q1/Q2 that is consistent with local capacity and management needs. Protocol is trialled by PO and local RA in Y2 turtle nesting season and adjusted as necessary. Once on-the-ground, PLS and MCS will assess the potential for out-of-season landing record system for currently legal take harvest of adult turtles.

2.3 All elements of the project feed into the creation and implementation of an evidence-based and SMART-aligned Marine Turtle SAP for Montserrat.

2.1 Workshop report, media (local and social media) coverage.

2.2 Publication of document and data from Y2 in turtle database.

2.3 Publication of the document – available through the Montserrat Data Gateway.

2.1 Workshop is held in such a way that it engages those working on Montserrat so that any proposed changes to sea turtle monitoring programmes and conservation actions are realistic for the territory and readily and practically implemented (as will be detailed in the SAP). The GoM team is driving this project because of their desire to improve their marine turtle programme and so are likely to engage with insights from others. Experts will be invited based on their relevant work and expertise and their desire to facilitate positive and meaningful change.

2.2 & 2.3 This is dependent on the GoM adopting the SAP and taking it forward. As all elements of this project have been designed at the request of the GoM team and designed to foster local ownership of the project throughout it is highly unlikely that they will not engage with making the recommended adjustments.

**Output 3:**

Review and make recommendations to update the current legislation concerning the protection of marine turtles.

3.1 In Y1Q1, at least 100 local community members attend 2 community engagement meetings explaining project need and aims

3.2 In Q1Y1 face-to-face semi-structured interviews sensitively conducted with the local community to evaluate levels of current take of sea turtles, their eggs, socio-economic aspects, along with trends in nesting and in-water populations. Inclusion of attitudinal survey in interviews to determine opinions towards marine turtles and marine conservation. At least n=30 people interviewed ensuring gender balance. This will inform 3.3 Community Voice Method (CVM).

3.3 Y1Q3, as part of Community Voice Method n=30 participants sensitively interviewed and filmed on their attitudes towards turtles and their conservation, ensuring gender balance. Resulting video recordings transcribed, analysed, and edited into a CVM film.

3.4 Y2Q1, a public consultation campaign involving 10 island-wide screenings of the CVM film, with 5 screenings followed by structured workshops carried out with at least 100

3.1 Stakeholder engagement report, attendance register, photos

3.2 Audio recordings, transcriptions, report.

3.3 Documents and transcripts on responses received, finalised CVM film, summary report.

3.4 Workshop notes and photographs, participant register, social media posts.

3.5 Audio record of consultation interviews, completed consultation questionnaire forms, database.

3.6 Physical policy document

3.7 Audio recordings, transcriptions, final attitudinal report.

3.1 - 3.5 Local stakeholders agree to participate – MCS will be working with GoM partners to benefit from on-island social networks, and their experience and expertise developed in the Turks and Caicos Islands with CVM in 2010, and since then in the UK, will aid in facilitating local participation. Initial semi-structured interviews will highlight potential CVM film interviewees.

3.6 GoM will act on the recommendations – GoM have already expressed a need for reformed fisheries legislation and support a participatory democracy approach to developing new regulations.

participants to elicit responses on increasing protective measures afforded to marine turtles in the Turtle Act (2002)

3.5 Y2Q2 - Face to face consultation with 25 selected stakeholders on recommended draft amendments to the Turtle Act (2002)

3.6 Y2Q2 document presented to the Montserrat Legislative Council with recommendations for amendments to the CAP 12.06 Turtle Act (2002) to bring in line with internationally-recognised standards.

3.7 Y2Q4 – End-of-project attitudinal surveys with at least n=30 people from 3.1 to evaluate public perceptions of the project, and change in opinions towards marine turtles and marine conservation.

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**Output 4:**

Update signage at beaches relating to the disturbance of nesting turtles and methods of best practice for viewing turtles and launch a public outreach campaign to improve public understanding and appreciation of the programme.

4.1 By the end of Y1, n=3 informative and impactful weather-proof signage boards designed and installed at key beaches with a marine conservation focus and advice about minimising disturbance to nesting turtles. Boards display agreed best practice guidelines from 4.2.

4.2 Y1 Q2/Q3, a local marine user workshop held to bring together those interested in conducting turtle tours (at least n=10 people) for locals and visitors, to develop and agree on a set of guidelines aligned with best practice for viewing turtles. By Y2 nesting season, n=300 leaflets will have been created for dissemination to locals and visitors detailing these guidelines (as well as being available digitally on the GoM and Tourism Department Websites).

4.3 At least n=4 school visits, n=4 radio-interviews, n=2 public meetings and social media campaign to make outputs of the project widely available and disseminate findings to the local community.

4.1 Photos of signage in-situ.

4.2 Workshop report and publication of leaflet.

4.3 Online recordings of radio show appearances, newspaper and newsletter articles, social media.

4.1 We assume that signs will be well received at local marine beauty spots and that residents and visitors read them to find out more. Suppliers have been contacted who will provide all-weather boards made from sustainable materials and the team will work to make them as visually attractive and relevant as possible.

4.2-4.3 We assume that those working in the tourism industry will engage with the project. PLs and project partners have worked with some of these individuals before and have experienced their passion for Montserrat's natural history and its preservation so are confident that they will engage. Montserratians are resilient people who are still feeling the effects of the island's volcanic activity but are working hard to secure their livelihoods.

**Output 5:**

*No Response*

*No Response*

*No Response*

*No Response*

**Do you require more Output fields?**

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

No

## **Activities**

**Each activity is numbered according to the Output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1.**

Output 1: Marine Turtle Assessment

- 1.1 Recruitment and successful appointment of DF (Y1), PO (Y1) and Assistant PO (Y2).
- 1.2 Montserrat Turtle Monitoring Database created from existing template to fit local needs and local training provided for use to all relevant GoM staff and volunteers during the Y1 field season (for use into the future).
- 1.3 Turtle nesting counts undertaken on all beaches throughout the nesting season (Y1) following internationally recognised standard protocol and then subsequently as per targets in the SAP (Y2).
- 1.4 Turtle nest productivity assessment undertaken across all nesting beaches (nests marked at the start of the season & then followed through the season and excavated following (un)successful hatching.
- 1.5 Turtle flipper tagging of all females encountered nesting (Y1 & Y2) and satellite tag attachment during nesting (Y1) as per standard protocol.
- 1.6 Coastline drone survey and creation of beach profiles for all major nesting beaches (as determined by the nest count survey).
- 1.7 Following assessment in Y1, the implementation of protective measures for turtle nests in Y2 (in situ and ex situ options considered according to the threats found).
- 1.8 Local staff training through work shadowing throughout the field season and any additional dedicated elements as deemed necessary.

Output 2: Marine Turtle Species Action Plan

- 2.1 International workshop held on Montserrat for review of all available data, plan development and sharing of experiences between those in the Caribbean region.
- 2.2 Development and trial implementation of monitoring plan in Y2 nesting season (refinements made as necessary).
- 2.3 Finalisation and publication of Marine Turtle Species Action Plan with endorsement from the Minister of Agriculture and the Environment.
- 2.4 Writing and submission on 2 scientific articles to peer-reviewed journals.

Output 3: Review and make recommendations to update the current legislation concerning the protection of marine turtles

- 3.1 Implement at least 2 stakeholder engagement exercises introducing project need, aims and participatory mechanisms to fishing community and wider public.
  - 3.1.1 Gather community feedback on project design.
  - 3.1.2 Identify and contact appropriate community individuals for Activity 3.3.
- 3.2 Develop face-to-face semi-structured interview guide.
  - 3.2.1 Pilot semi-structured interview guide with project staff (including women) to ensure locally appropriate and gender sensitive.
- 3.3 Implement semi-structured interviews with the local community to evaluate levels of current take of sea turtles and trends and attitudinal survey to determine opinions towards marine turtles and marine conservation.
  - 3.3.1 Analyse interview data and write report.
- 3.4 Draft interviewee list of stakeholders for CVM filmed interviews (aided by Activity 3.1.2 & 3.3).
- 3.5 Develop CVM interview guide and consent form (aided by Activity 3.3.1).

- 3.5.1 Pilot CVM interview guide with project staff (including women) to ensure locally appropriate and gender sensitive.
- 3.6 Finalise list of interviewees for CVM filming and arrange filmed interviews.
- 3.7 Implement CVM filmed interviews ensuring gender balance.
- 3.8 Transcribe and analyse filmed CVM interview data, and write analysis summary report.
- 3.9 Produce CVM film output.
- 3.10 Arrange and promote CVM film screening/workshops.
- 3.11 Hold 10 CVM screenings, including 5 workshops across the island.
- 3.12 Input and analyse CVM workshop proceedings to produce draft document with recommendations for amendments to Turtle Act (2002).
- 3.13 Carry out consultations with selected stakeholders to gain feedback on recommended draft amendments to Turtle Act (2002).
- 3.14 Present finalised recommended amendments to Minister for approval.
- 3.15 End-of-project attitudinal survey with participants from 3.3 to evaluate public perceptions of the project, and change in opinions towards marine turtles and marine conservation in Montserrat.

#### Output 4: Public Outreach Campaign

- 4.1 Marine awareness signage boards for beaches designed, transported and installed to compliment those already in place.
- 4.2 Turtle tour workshop held, guidelines for best practice agreed upon and the creation and distribution of information leaflets for locals and visitors.
- 4.3 School visits, radio interviews and social media campaign launched and carried out throughout the project to disseminate findings and engage and enthuse the local community and those further afield who may be interested in visiting Montserrat.

## Section 13 - Implementation Timetable

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### **Q29. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities**

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

[Implementation Timetable Template](#)

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

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## Section 14 - Monitoring and Evaluation

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### Q30. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan

**Describe, referring to the Indicators above, how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, making reference to who is responsible for the project's M&E.**

**Darwin Initiative projects are expected to be adaptive and you should detail how the monitoring and evaluation will feed into the delivery of the project including its management. M&E is expected to be built into the project and not an 'add' on. It is as important to measure for negative impacts as it is for positive impact. Additionally, please indicate an approximate budget and level of effort (person days) to be spent on M&E (see [Finance Guidance for Darwin/IWT](#)).**

The project will be delivered by a team of experienced conservation practitioners. The team have all worked together before, have experience working in >8 of UK Overseas Territories and have successfully led and managed Darwin projects before. The close working relationship encourages a near-continuous and highly adaptive M&E process (hence no specific budget amount ring-fenced), but with the aspirations of the project to result in legislative change we recognise the need for a formal framework to ensure that the project remains on track. Progress will be monitored and evaluated using procedures that the different team members have used in the past and adapted over time through experience to be as effective as possible. The UoE PLs (NW as first point of contact and BG with oversight) will be responsible for management of the M&E process with input from the on-island PL and the project partner on specific work packages.

During the field work in Y1, M&E will be carried out weekly through short project meetings between those on-island (with a Skype connection to partners in the UK as often as possible/ necessary) to ensure that progress is on-track and to make amendments to plans as necessary.

Important milestones in Y1 include:

Q1: The appointment of a DF who will be an experienced turtle biologist and a local PO who will have a keen interest in Montserrat's biodiversity and advancing their own skills. Also, the successful initiation of the community engagement aspects of the project.

Q2: The successful initiation of a field campaign to monitor all turtle nesting activity on Montserrat with a daily routine for those involved in the field work, well-established.

Q3: The successful completion of the monitoring of turtle nesting activities and the deployment of all tracking devices. The establishment of 'Turtle Tours'. The successful completion of the CMV interviews.

Q4: Local staff feel confident that they can carry out the turtle monitoring activities in Y2. The completion of the CVM film.

In Y2, M&E will continue to be carried out and milestones include:

Q1: The recruitment of a local Assistant PO. Marine awareness signs erected at key beach locations in preparation for the start of the next nesting season. CVM film is well received by the local community and they offer their views on changes to the Turtle Act (2002). A successful international workshop is held on Montserrat and a draft SAP is produced.

Q2: The local team on Montserrat successfully begin the season's nesting turtle monitoring and implement protective measures based on Y1 findings and the draft SAP.

Q3: The Minister approves recommended amendments to the Turtle Act (2002) and the paper goes to Cabinet for consideration. Final draft of Montserrat's Turtle SAP is produced and agreed by partners and stakeholders.

Q4: Following the successful community engagement and social media campaign, a significant proportion of the local community have enhanced views towards the conservation of turtles/ the sustainable use of



the marine environment more generally. Research papers written and submitted to peer-reviewed journal(s).

<b>Total project budget for M&amp;E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)</b>	£0.00
<b>Number of days planned for M&amp;E</b>	52.00
<b>Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&amp;E (%)</b>	0.00

## Section 15 - Certification

### Q31. Certification

**On behalf of the**

company

**of**

University of Exeter

**I apply for a grant of**

£268,741.00

**I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the project schedule should this application be successful.**


(This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the applicant institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)

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


Checked


<b>Name</b>	PROF DAVID HODGSON
<b>Position in the organisation</b>	Head of Department

**Signature (please upload e-signature)**

 [D Hodgson Signature](#)

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**Date**

26 November 2019

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## Section 16 - Submission Checklist

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### Checklist for submission

	<b>Check</b>
<b>I have read the Guidance documents, including the "Guidance Notes for Applicants" and "Finance Guidance".</b>	Checked
<b>I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.</b>	Checked
<b>I have provided actual start and end dates for this proposed project.</b>	Checked
<b>I have provided a budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.</b>	Checked
<b>I have checked that the budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.</b>	Checked
<b>The application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).</b>	Checked
<b>I have included a 1 page CV or job description for all the Project staff identified at Question 14, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.</b>	Checked
<b>I have included a letter of support from the Lead Organisation and main partner organisation(s) identified at Question 13, or an explanation of why not.</b>	Checked
<b>I have included a cover letter from the Lead Organisation, outlining how any feedback at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant.</b>	Checked
<b>I have been in contact with the FCO in the project country(ies) and have included any evidence of this. if not, I have provided an explanation of why not.</b>	Checked
<b>I have included a signed copy of the last 2 years annual report and accounts for the Lead Organisation, or provided an explanation if not.</b>	Checked
<b>I have checked the Darwin website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.</b>	Checked
<b>I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on GOV.UK.</b>	Checked

**We would like to keep in touch!**

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

Checked

**Data protection and use of personal data**

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

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