Applicant: **Baum, Diane**
Organisation: **Ascension Island Government**
Funding Sought: **£261,894.00**
Funding Awarded: **£261,894.00**

DPR8S2\1028

DPLUS113 CRACAB- Climate Resiliance and Conservation of Ascension's Biodiversity

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name	Diane
Surname	Baum
Website	**ascension-island.gov.ac**
Tel (Work)	[redacted]
Email (Work)	[redacted]
Address	[redacted]

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name	Diane
Surname	Baum
Website	ascension-island.gov.ac
Tel (Work)	[redacted]
Email (Work)	[redacted]
Address	[redacted]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	**Organisation**
Name	Ascension Island Government
Phone (Work)	[redacted]
Email	[redacted]
Website	[redacted]
Address	[redacted]

Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q3a. Project title

DPLUS113 CRACAB- Climate Resiliance and Conservation of Ascension's Biodiversity

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

DPR8S1/1030

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.

☑ St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha*

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

⊙ No

Q5. Project dates

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):
01 April 2020	31 October 2022	2 years 7 months

Q6. Budget summary

Year:	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Total request
Darwin funding request (Apr - Mar)	£120,237.00	£106,687.00	£34,970.00	**£** 261,894.00

Q6a. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?

⊙ Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

AIG will provide a total of £[redacted] in match funding in the form of staff time to manage and deliver the project and accommodation for visiting partners.

The University of Exeter will provide an in-kind contribution of £[redacted] in staff time to supervise Masters students and provide guidance and oversight for the project.

INRA will provide £[redacted] of staff time to carry out measurements of plant physiology on Ascension and in their laboratory.

An unconfirmed contribution of £[redacted] from Blue Marine would cover the T&S and living costs of interns who would work on the turtle and plant strands of this project.

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). 31%

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.

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).

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
DPLUS096	Dr Diane Baum	Building Ascension's Biosceurity Capacity
DPLUS063	Dr Sam weber	The Ascension Island Ocean Sanctuary (ASIOS)
DPLUS047	Mike Haworth	Reduce, reuse, recycle - developing a waste management strategy forAscension
DPLUS046	Dr Sam Weber	Tracking marine megafauna at Ascension Island
DPLUS021	Dr Nicola/Dr Sam Weber	Ascension Island Marine Ssustainability (AIMS)
19-026	Dr AnnetteBroderick/Prof. Brendan Godley	Implementing a Darwin Initiative Biodiversity Action Plan for Ascension Island

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.

As a Government Agency we are not required to provide these

Section 4 - Project Partners

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:	Ascension Island Government
Website address:	www.ascension.gov.ac
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	The Ascension Island Governemnt Conservation and Fisheries Directorate (AIGCFD) will take responsibility for overall project management, delivery and public engagement of the project. AIGCFD is a multidisciplinary team, with core programmes in turtle and seabird monitoring, invasive species management, botanical conservation, marine and fisheries research and management, amongst others. We have experience of managing large projects that work in partnership with external organisations and incorporate research, management and public engagement. This project will be delivered by existing AIGCFD staff as addressing climate change is a high priority in our workplans with support from partners, external consultants, a dedicated plant project officer, MSc students and interns to provide the necessary additonal capacity to deliver this project. The Project Leader, Diane Baum, has extensive project management experience and AIG have a finance and procurement team who will assist with project budgeting and ordering.
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⦿ Yes
Have you provided a cover letter to address your Stage 1 feedback?	⦿ Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

⦿ Yes

1. Partner Name:	University of Exeter
Website address:	www.exeter.ac.uk
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	The University of Exeter (UoE) will provide project management through Dr Sam Weber, who will have responsibility for ensuring all workstreams are being delivered as well as leading on the production of outputs related to seabirds and green turtles. The green turtle workstreams will be partly delivered by an MSc student enrolled and supervised by Dr Nicola Weber at UoE. Dr Annette Broderick at UoE will provide ovrall guidance to the project. All members of UoE staff involved in this project have strong links ot Ascension and have successfully delivered Darwin projects in the territory before.
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⊙ Yes

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

⊙ Yes

2. Partner Name:	French Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA)
Website address:	http://institut.inra.fr/en
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	INRA will carry out direct measurements of water stress in endemic plants on Ascension to enable the impact of climate to be quantified. They are leading research into the use of cavitation as an indicator of water stress in plants. They have developed techniques for measuring this in the field and laboratory and have published a number of peer-reviewed papers articles.
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⊙ Yes

3. Partner Name:	*No Response*
Website address:	*No Response*
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	*No Response*

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

4. Partner Name:	*No Response*
Website address:	*No Response*
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	*No Response*
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	◯ Yes ◯ No

5. Partner Name:	*No Response*
Website address:	*No Response*
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	*No Response*
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	◯ Yes ◯ No

6. Partner Name:	*No Response*
Website address:	*No Response*
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	*No Response*
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	◯ Yes ◯ No

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.

Darwin Plus 8 - CRACAB-Letter responding to Stage 1 feedback
26/11/2019
15:31:17
pdf 121.01 KB

CRACAB letters of support
26/11/2019
15:29:12
pdf 117.29 KB

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.

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Diane Baum	**Project Leader**	10	Checked
Sam Weber	Project Manager	50	Checked
Victoria Knight	Plant restoration project lead	30	Checked
Laura Shearer	Seabird field scientist	15	Checked

Do you require more fields?

◉ Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?

Jose Torres-Ruiz	Plant physiologist	10	Checked
Herve Cochard	Plant physiologist	10	Checked
Nicola Weber	MSc supervisor	10	Checked
Annette Broderick	Project advisor	5	Checked
No Response	*No Response*	0	Unchecked
No Response	*No Response*	0	Unchecked
No Response	*No Response*	0	Unchecked
No Response	*No Response*	0	Unchecked

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

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

CRACAB combind cvs
26/11/2019
15:21:17
pdf 194.62 KB

Have you attached all Project staff CVs?

◉ Yes

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?

The UK Parliament has recently declared a climate emergency. Small oceanic islands are predicted to be highly vulnerable to climate change because of their size, isolation and relatively simple ecosystems. However, those same attributes also make small islands ideal microcosms in which to understand and manage its effects.

Climate change will have a profound impact on all aspects of Ascension's biodiversity and it is identified as the highest priority for Ascension's Conservation Department cutting across both marine and terrestrial ecosystems. It is recognised as a major threat in all but one of the 16 Species and Habitat Actions Plans prepared for the island's priority species through Darwin grant 19026; listed in the MPA Management Plan

produced by DPLUS063 as one of the few impacts that would continue to affect our seas once the MPA is designated, and is identified as posing a significant risk of extinction in the island's Endemic Plant Restoration Plan. We are already witnessing the rapid decline of some endemic plant species due to drought and this could lead to species extinction if no action is taken.

Actions taken on Ascension cannot prevent climate change, but this project will enable us to anticipate its major consequences and implement adaptation measures to lessen its effect on protected habitats and species.

The project will address Ascension's and the UK Government's commitments under the CBD and CMS to prevent biodiversity loss and protect threatened species, and its obligations under the UNFCCC to cooperate in preparing for adaptation to the impacts of climate change. It will deliver the Blue Belt objective of improving the evidence base to support marine protection strategies by tackling one of the main issues facing the Ascension MPA and so meet the Darwin Plus objectives of delivering the Blue Belt and implementing the Ascension NBAP.

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 initatives 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)

Local climate change predictions
Underpinning all aspects of this project will be the development of Ascension-specific forecasts for climate change and oceanographic processes. This will be done using regional models, existing data from Ascension and open-source data available for the Atlantic region. These models will be used to frame credible scenarios for future conditions on the island against which biological responses can be tested.

Biological responses
The project will focus on the following key indicator habitats and species:
- Endemic plants that face the challenge of adapting to increased frequency and severity of drought events in their ranges
- Green turtle nesting beaches subject to increase storm events, inundation and erosion
- Offshore areas of our MPA that support pelagic fish and seabird species dependent on existing currents and upwellings

Data will be collected on the relationships between temperature and turtle hatching success, soil moisture and stress in an endemic plant species and sea level and the availability of beach nesting habitat. With these we will be able to make quantitative predictions about how these protected species and habitats will react to different levels of climate change.

Seabirds are top predators of the offshore marine environments that conveniently breed on land, making them an excellent potential indicator of ocean health. However, robust methods for linking seabird productivity and diet data to ocean state variables have yet to be established. The project will evaluate this approach by analysing existing productivity and tracking data available for Ascension's seabirds alongside ocean state data collected remotely in the mid Atlantic.

The climate and oceanographic models will be combined with the biological data to create evidence-based scenarios of likely climate change impacts on Ascension.

Management measures
The impact scenarios described above will identify the most serious routes of impact and quantify the level of harm reduction required to be effective. We will trial practical adaptation measures including shading of turtle beaches, translocation of endemic plants and the use of artificial fog catchers to provide passive irrigation to endemic plant communities. Those that are shown to be effective and feasible within available resources will become part of AIGCFD management plans.

There are no practical fixes for larger scale impacts on coastal and ocean habitats. However, knowledge of the predicted effects will allow us to adjust the management of other factors such a fishing pressure or surrounding land use to account for cumulative impacts where possible.

Outreach and engagement
The impact scenarios will be shared with the island population through public meetings and presented to policy makers on the island. The results of the project will be distributed to the wider international community through a dedicated website and attendance at conferences. Animated films will be produced to illustrate the scenarios.

Project management
The project lead and manager will have cross-cutting responsibility for overseeing all workstreams, reporting and budgeting. Coordinators from the project partners will take responsibility for the climate modelling, plant, turtle and seabird strands of the project and work in collaboration with the relevant AIG teams.

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

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 most important stakeholders for this project are policy makers on Ascension Island, including the elected Council, Administrator and Governor of St Helena. It is they who can prioritise and allocate resources to address climate change. This project proposal has been developed on the island by AIGCFD and has the full support of the wider Ascension Island Government. The outputs of this project have been designed to meet the needs of policy makers by providing them with island-specific climate change

predictions in a form that is easy to understand along with potential solutions in the form of well-evidenced measures to reduce the biodiversity impacts.

The Ascension Island community will be involved throughout the project. Volunteers will assist with the data collection and the installation of adaptation measures. They will be an important audience for the project outputs since it is the island community who will gain most from understanding how Ascension will change in the future and what interventions we can make. Public meetings, school assemblies, the use of Ascension social media pages and the local press and radio will be used to promote the project and share its results.

Conservation efforts on Ascension receive international support from NGOs and individuals. This project will set out a clear programme for addressing climate change impacts that can be used to encourage donations and collaborations.

Q14. Institutional Capacity

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

AIGCFD is the government body responsible for developing local biodiversity policy and delivering commitments under domestic legislation and multinational agreements. It is based on Ascension and employs 13 members of staff with expertise in marine and terrestrial biology who carry out almost all conservation activity undertaken on the island. Over the past five years it has successfully completed externally-funded projects with a value in excess of £1million, including the recent Darwin-funded ASIOS project (DPLUS063), which has led to the successful designation of one of the world's largest MPAs around Ascension. Importantly, AIGCFD have local knowledge and have built strong relationships on the island, which will aid in the public engagement strand of the project.

The University of Exeter is a THE Global 100, Russell Group research institute and a centre of excellence in marine conservation science. UoE project lead, Dr Annette Broderick has worked on Ascension Island for 20 years and have a strong track record of delivering interdisciplinary conservation and research projects in the UKOTs and elsewhere. They will provide academic mentorship and supervision for project staff, as well as access to the wider research expertise and state-of-the-art facilities at the University.

INRA are leading research into the use of cavitation as an indicator of water stress in plants. They have developed techniques for measuring this in the field and laboratory and have published a number of peer-reviewed papers articles.

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 project will benefit the protected species and habitats on Ascension that are most vulnerable to climate change. In the case of endemic plants, the proposed adaptation measures may be crucial to prevent species extinction.

AIGCFD will be strengthened as a result of this project by the development of a clear direction to tackle climate change impacts. The current situation of not knowing what conditions to prepare for or how is

demotivating for AIGCFD staff, volunteers and the island community. This project will empower them to take practical steps to protect the natural heritage they are so passionate about.

Policy makers on Ascension will benefit from access to much more detailed and specific information on climate change impacts with which to make decisions. The focus of this project will be on tackling the biodiversity consequences of climate change, but the local climate and oceanographic predictions could also be used to forecast changes in living conditions and economic activity and stimulate new policies that will protect the island community.

The engagement work and publicity generated through this project will raise the profile of Ascension and encourage further climate change research on the island and in other OTs

Section 8 - Gender and Change Expected

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?

Climate change will affect everyone living on Ascension and so the problem is shared by all genders. The current make-up of the AIGCFD is 77% female, meaning that if this project went ahead it would see women taking a leading role in finding solutions. This is an important step on an island where two thirds of the population and a high proportion of senior managers are male.

Q17. Change expected

Detail the expected changed 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.

The major change brought about by this project will be a shift from treating climate change as a diffuse, unquantifiable threat to something that can be understood and tackled in a very real and practical way.

At present climate change is listed as a threat in almost all of AIGCFD's management plans for species, habitats and protected areas, but there are virtually no actions listed to counter it. Policy makers and managers on the island struggle to identify mitigation actions because we do not know the scale of impact we need to plan for or which receptors will be most vulnerable.

This project will change this:

A) In the short term by providing data and modeling to make meaningful, quantitative predictions about how the climate and ocean conditions will change around Ascension and what impact this will have on key species and habitats. These will be incorporated into policy decisions and management assessments and by defining the problem it can be prioritised against other threats with effort focused on the most vulnerable biodiversity features.

Adaptation actions will be established so that there is an effective response available to managers. These

will become part of management plans and not only increase the effectiveness of biodiversity protection but also empower AIGCFD staff.

B) In the long-term by moving to a position where climate change is treated like other pressures through standard impact assessment and mitigation techniques. The legacy of this project will not only be the ongoing maintenance of adaptation measures established during the course of the project, but also a change in attitude such that practical interventions to build the resilience of Ascension's ecosystems to climate change are sought and implemented.

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.

The threat of climate change is identified in all of Ascension Island Conservation's strategies and management plans, yet the likely impacts are never quantified. Climate change is not a diffuse threat, but a real and current problem facing Ascension's biodiversity and managers need to treat it with the same impact assessment approach as other pressures. This project will bring about such a paradigm shift by providing outputs that allow quantitative measures of risk and impact that can be incorporated into Ascension's strategies and management plans.

By trialling and introducing adaptation actions, we will enable an evidence-based response to climate change that becomes embedded as part of AIGCFD management plans. We will preferentially look for actions that require minimal intervention and ongoing resource as we want to retain the wild nature of the island and give our ecosystems the time and space to adapt naturally to changing conditions.

Some impact of climate change is unavoidable, but the scale can be lessened through understanding and adaptation. This project will demonstrate the ability of a small island nation to take ownership of the problem and, through an open policy of data sharing, peer-reviewed publication and engagement work, become an exemplar for other countries.

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?

This project has been designed by AIGCFD to address a pressing unmet need identified in existing management plans. That sense of ownership and high degree of involvement in carrying out the work will ensure that it is incorporated into the core work of AIGCFD once the project is completed.

The island requires external expertise to run local climate models and analyse biological responses, but at its heart this project's aim is to establish long-term adaptation measures within the current capacity of AIGCFD paid for by core government funding. There will be ongoing maintenance of the irrigation and shading systems, but this will replace current less efficient means of trying to prevent species extinction in the face of climate change, or time spent on less serious threats that we presently have a greater understanding of. Therefore, it will not be an additional burden but rather a refocusing and rationalisation of effort to address the major threat to our biodiversity.

Likewise ongoing monitoring resulting from this project will refine the monitoring already carried out by AIGCFD through the MPA Management Plan or Biodiversity Action Plan.

Section 9 - Funding and Budget

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.

Darwin R8 CRACAB Stage 2 Budget
25/11/2019
14:43:29
xlsx 67.23 KB

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
Ascension Island Government	[redacted]	GBP	Staff time and accommodation costs for partners
University of Exeter	[redacted]	£0.00	Staff time

INRA	[redacted]	GBP	Staff time
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.

Date applied for	Donor organisation	Amount	Currency code	Comments
No Response	Blue Marine Foundation	[redacted]	GBP	Donation to cover T&S costs of interns will be applied for during project
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?

Grant payments will be administered through Ascension Island Government's bank account, with project expenditures tracked by the AIG Finance Department. AIG has a fully dedicated financial accounting and management team. The Government currently manages capital and reserves of £17 million. The Finance and Conservation Departments have jointly managed many biodiversity conservation projects, large and small, over the last 10 years, including those funded by RSPB, OTEP, Blue Marine Foundation and the Darwin Initiative. AIG's accounts are also subject to an annual, independent financial audit.

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.

Ascension Island Government financial statements are audited annually which involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to Ascension Island Government's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, the auditors read all the financial and non-financial information in the Introduction to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by them in the course of performing the audit.

All externally funded projects are also managed under Ascension Island Governments financial regulations including the contract regulations for procuring, or tendering for works or goods, and the accounting officer is responsible for ensuring these regulations are followed.

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.

The major costs involved in this project are salary or consultancy costs and travel and subsistence, reflecting the need for external expertise and additional capacity to devise and initiate adaptation actions. 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. Where possible, MSc students and volunteers have been used to reduce staff costs. A considerable amount of staff time (£84,695) has been provided in kind by AIGCFD, UoE and INRA to deliver this project demonstrating the importance placed on this issue.

Travel and subsistence costs are high because it is difficult to access Ascension. Most meetings between the partners will be conducted remotely, but we feel it is important that project staff do have a knowledge of the island and that AIGCFD staff also have the opportunity to travel and disseminate the results of the project. The T&S costs have been calculated based on current airfare prices. If repairs to Ascension's runway are completed within the project timespan, then it is possible that T&S cost could be significantly reduced due to the resumption of direct flights between Ascension and the UK. However, it seemed sensible to take a precautionary approach and use current prices for budgeting purposes.

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.

Capital items purchased will be retained on Ascension by AIGCFD beyond the end of the project for ongoing management or monitoring of climate change impacts. Specifically:

Pressure chambers, nitrogen cylinders and soil moisture probes will continue to be used to refine further the relationship between soil moisture and stress in endemic plants and so identify optimal growing

conditions. AIGCFD staff will be trained to use the equipment during the field visit conducted by INRA. There is scope in the future to extend this to non-native plants and so help to predict the factors governing their spread and likely future distribution.

Shade netting will be installed to protect endemic plants and turtle beaches during the project. Where this is shown to be effective it will continue to be used and maintained by AIGCFD beyond the end of the project as part of their routine work.

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.

AIGCFD already operates an open access data management policy and will ensure that all outputs that are not commercially-sensitive are made accessible online through the project website and publicised through AIGCFD social media. AIGCFD is also part of a SAERI-hosted information network where data from the South Atlantic OTs can be easily discovered and accessed online by external users (http://www.south-atlantic-research.org/ims-gis). All data from this project will be documented within this online metadata system.

Section 11 - Safeguarding

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 safegaurding polices in place. Please confirm the lead organisation has the following policies in place and that these are available on request:

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	Checked
We keep a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with	Checked
We have clear investigation and disciplinary procedures to use when allegations and complaints are made, and have clear processes in place for when a disclosure is made	Checked
We share our safeguarding policy with downstream partners	Checked
We have a whistle-blowing policy which protects whistle-blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised	Checked

We have a Code of Conduct 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	Checked

Section 12 - Logical Framework

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:

A small island demonstrates leadership in tackling climate change by treating it as a current pressure and proactively introducing adaptation measures to protect the most vulnerable species and habitats.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Outcome: Ascension's response to climate change is transformed through detailed, evidence-based predictions of impact that are used to galvanise action, prepare an adaptation response and focus monitoring effort.	0.1 By Q2 of Year 3 Ascension's Biodiversity Action Plan and protected area management plans will include the specific local threats of climate change, new monitoring protocols and proposed adaptation actions. 0.2 By Q2 of Year 2 Adaptation actions (including irrigation and shading) are initiated to reduce climate change impacts on priority species and habitats 0.3 By Q2 of Year 3 Results of project presented to the Ascension Island Council and Administrator to inform future policy on areas such as coastal land use.	0.1 Text of Biodiversity Strategy and protected areas management plans 0.2 Results of adaptation action trials 0.3 Minutes of Council meetings	It is possible to produce climate and oceanographic projections and receptor-response curves with sufficient levels of certainty to generate meaningful scenarios At least some potential adaptation actions are shown to be effective and deliverable within available resources

Output 1: Ascension-specific predictions of future climate and ocean conditions produced and published	1.1 By Q4 of Year 1 climate model for Ascension created capable of predicting temperature and rainfall changes with measured degree of certainty (Using methods developed by UEA in the Falklands through the EU Best funded TEFRA project) 1.2 By Q4 Year 1 Map of climatic zones on Ascension produced based on altitude, aspect and distance from sea 1.3 By Q2 of Year 2 Oceanographic model for Ascension EEZ produced predicting future changes in current and upwelling systems	1.1 Climate model outputs made available on project website 1.2 Climate zone map made available on website 1.3 Oceanographic model outputs made available on project website	There is sufficient existing and available data to input into models

Output 2: Quantitative relationships between key habitats/species and climate variables established to allow greater detail on predicted impact of climate change on biodiversity.	2.1 By Q4 of Year 2 Response curves relating temperature to green turtle sex ratios, and soil moisture content to stress levels in an endemic plant species (Euphorbia origanoides) produced from experimental data 2.2 By Q4 of Year 2 Digital terrain maps of turtle nesting beach produced 2.3 By Q4 of Year 2 Maps predicting future availability of turtle nesting habitat produced from swell height data collected adjacent to turtle nesting beaches combined with output 2.2 2.4 By Q4 Year 2 Analysis of correlation between seabird productivity and ocean state variables completed and used to assess feasibility of using seabirds as indicators of ocean health.	2.1 Response curves published in peer-reviewed articles 2.2 Terrain models available on the project website 2.3 Maps of future turtle nesting habitat available on project website and published in peer-reviewed articles 2.4 Seabird productivity data and potential as indicators of ocean health published as a peer-reviewed article	Observed relationships between climate variables and biological indicators are sufficiently robust to allow meaningful predictions

Output 3: Evidence-based adaptation actions trialled and those demonstrated to be successful are implemented through core AIGCFD workplans	3.1 By Q3 Year 2 Trials of turtle nest shading, endemic plant shading and fog-catching irrigation systems carried out 3.2 By Q2 year 3 Digital terrain models of beaches presented to policy makers and planners to illustrate options for landward migration of beaches. 3.3 By Q2 Year 3 Identify sites on Ascension that have suitable climate conditions for Euphorbia origanoides. Transplant nursery grown stock to these areas and monitor success 3.4 By Q3 Year 3 Climate change adaptation measures shown to be successful are incorporated into AIGCFD management plans and implemented as part of core workplans.	3.1 Results of adaptation trials published in reports 3.2 Terrain models published on website and peer-reviewed article. Minutes of Council meetings. 3.3 Report and photographs of translocation programme 3.4 Reports and photographs of adaptation measures installed available on project website. Biodiversity Action Plan, MPA Management Plan and Endemic Species Restoration Plan available on AIGCFD website	At least some potential adaptation actions are shown to be effective and deliverable within available resources

Output 4: 4. Results of project and knowledge gained are widely shared to galvanise action on Ascension and encourage similar projects on other OTs and small islands	4.1 By Q3 Year 1 Create project website setting out scope of project and updated with project outputs 4.2 By Q3 Year 1 and Q3 Year 3 Hold public meetings on Ascension to initially outline the objectives of the project and later to showcase results of the project and illustrate climate scenarios for the island 4.3 By Q2 Year 3 Create animated films of future scenarios as visual tools for stakeholder engagement 4.4 By Q2 Year 3 Attend international conference to showcase how Ascension is addressing major threat to its biodiversity	4.1 Website available online 4.2 Photographs of public meetings and presentations distributed via project website 4.3 Films distributed online and at meetings and conferences 4.4 Conference proceedings and presentations available online	Outputs from the models and adaptation trials are sufficiently robust to warrant public interest
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.

1.1 Creation of climate model for Ascension capable of predicting temperature and rainfall changes with measured degree of certainty
1.2 Production of map showing climatic zones on Ascension based on altitude, aspect and distance from sea
1.3 Creation of oceanographic model for Ascension EEZ produced predicting future changes in current and upwelling systems
2.1 Production of response curves relating temperature to green turtle sex ratios, and soil moisture content

to stress levels in an endemic plant species (Euphorbia origanoides) from experimental data
2.2 Production of digital terrain maps of turtle nesting beach
2.3 Production of maps predicting future availability of turtle nesting habitat produced from swell height data collected adjacent to turtle nesting beaches combined with output 2.2
2.4 Analysis of correlation between seabird productivity and ocean state variables completed and used to assess feasibility of using seabirds as indicators of ocean health.
3.1 Trials of turtle nest shading, endemic plant shading and fog-catching irrigation systems carried out
3.2 Digital terrain models of beaches presented to policy makers and planners to illustrate options for landward migration of beaches.
3.3 Sites on Ascension that have suitable climate conditions for Euphorbia origanoides identified. Transplant nursery grown stock to these areas and monitor success
3.4 Climate change adaptation measures shown to be successful incorporated into AIGCFD management plans and implemented as part of core workplans.
4.1 Creation of project website setting out scope of project and updated with project outputs
4.2 Public meetings held on Ascension to initially outline the objectives of the project and later to showcase results of the project and illustrate climate scenarios for the island
4.3 Creation of animated films of future scenarios as visual tools for stakeholder engagement
4.4 Presentation of results at international conference to showcase how Ascension is addressing major threat to its biodiversity

Section 13 - Implementation Timetable

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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25/11/2019
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xlsx 18.87 KB

Section 14 - Monitoring and Evaluation

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 creation of an M&E framework will be a high priority at the beginning of the project. The AIGCFD project lead will be responsible for drawing up this framework and overall management of the M&E process with input from project partners on specific work packages.

M&E of project progress will be carried out quarterly to assess progress against specific activities shown in the project timetable. Where important milestones are missed, all relevant project partners will agree actions to regain the original timetable and prevent other outputs being delayed as a consequence.

An adaptive approach will be taken whereby actions that are failing to produce the required outputs and outcomes will be reviewed and revised during virtual meetings of the project partners. Dr Annette Broderick's experience will be vital in this regard and other external experts will be consulted if necessary to identify the causes of any failure.

The outputs of the project will be made publicly available and presented at an international conference to gather wider feedback from the scientific and conservation community and ensure the quality of the data and management responses.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)	£[redacted]
Number of days planned for M&E	20.00
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)	1.50

Section 15 - Certification

Q31. Certification

On behalf of the

company

of

Ascension Island Government

I apply for a grant of

£261,894.00

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

Name	Diane Baum
Position in the organisation	Director of Conservation and Fisheries
Signature (please upload e-signature)	Diane Baum signature 25/11/2019 13:56:03 jpg 16.3 KB
Date	25 November 2019

Section 16 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance documents, including the "Guidance Notes for Applicants**" and "**Finance Guidance**".**	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions **for this fund.**	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for this proposed project.	Checked
I have provided a budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
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.	Checked
The application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have included a 1 page CV or job description for all the Project staff identified at Question 14, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.	Checked

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.	Checked
I have included a cover letter from the Lead Organisation, outlining how any feedback at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant.	Checked
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.	Checked
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.	Checked
I have checked the Darwin website **immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.**	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on GOV.UK**.**	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).