

Applicant: **Stanworth, Andrew**  
Organisation: **Falklands Conservation**  
Funding Sought: **£499,991.00**

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# **DPR9S2\1007**

## **Advancing Falklands and region-scale management of globally important whale populations**

Recovering populations of southern right whales and endangered sei whales occur around the Falklands. Informed management decisions are hindered by lack of knowledge of their local and region-wide occurrence. This project uses telemetry to track individual whales, and boat/aerial surveys to address data gaps on distribution, abundance and ecology. Management outputs include a draft Species Action Plan, Key Biodiversity Area assessment, and recognition of Falklands' whale populations by regional regulators. Community and stakeholder engagement will optimise support of management recommendations.

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## Section 1 - Contact Details

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### PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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Title Dr  
Name Andrew  
Surname Stanworth  
Organisation Falklands Conservation  
Website (Work) www.falklandsconservation.co  
m  
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]  
Email (Work) [REDACTED]  
Address [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### GMS ORGANISATION

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Type	Organisation
Name	Falklands Conservation
Phone (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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## Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

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### Q3a. Project title

Advancing Falklands and region-scale management of globally important whale populations

### Q3b. What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DPR9S1\10008

DPR9S1\1046

### Q4. UKOT(s)

Which eligible UK Overseas Territory(ies) will your project be working in?

Falkland Islands (FI)

\* if you have indicated a territory group with an asterisk, please give detail on which territories you are working on here:

No Response

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

Yes

Please list below.

South Georgia

**Q5. Project dates**

**Start date:**

01 July 2021

**End date:**

30 June 2024

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

3 years

**Q6. Budget summary**

Year:	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total request
Darwin funding request (Apr - Mar)	£199,401.00	£119,188.00	£161,062.00	£20,340.00	<b>£</b> 499,991.00

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

Yes

**What matched funding arrangements are proposed?**

The proposed match funding includes:

- FC equipment for boat-based survey and biopsy work (£ [REDACTED])
- Provision of five whale tags from BAS (£ [REDACTED])
- Genetic sexing of whale samples by BAS (£ [REDACTED])
- Whale tagging equipment from Instituto Aqualie and NOAA (£ [REDACTED])
- UAV equipment for whale health assessments from Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies (£ [REDACTED])
- Salary in kind for project partners (£ [REDACTED])

**Q6b. Proposed matched funding as % of total project cost (total cost is the Darwin request plus other funding required to run the project).** [REDACTED]

**Section 3 - Project Summary and Conventions**

## 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.**

Recovering populations of southern right whales and endangered sei whales occur around the Falklands. Informed management decisions are hindered by lack of knowledge of their local and region-wide occurrence. This project uses telemetry to track individual whales, and boat/aerial surveys to address data gaps on distribution, abundance and ecology. Management outputs include a draft Species Action Plan, Key Biodiversity Area assessment, and recognition of Falklands' whale populations by regional regulators. Community and stakeholder engagement will optimise support of management recommendations.

## Q8. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

**Please detail how your project will contribute to the aims of the agreement(s) your project is targeting. What key OT Government priorities and themes will it address? You should refer to Articles or Programmes of Work here. You should also consider local, territory specific agreements and action plans here.**

This project addresses biodiversity goals identified in the most current, but recently outdated, Falkland Islands Ecoregions, Habitats, Species and Sites Strategy (2016–2020). The latter guides the implementation of the Falkland Islands Biodiversity Framework (2016-2030), which considers Falklands' delivery of the Aichi Targets identified by the Convention on Biological Diversity. Targets of specific relevance to whales include: (1) at least 10% of coastal and marine waters are conserved through effectively-managed protected areas and other area-based conservation measures; and (2) the conservation status of known threatened species has been improved and sustained. Relevant goals and indicators from these Targets include: (1) produce and implement Action Plans for 'Priority Species'; (2) implement legal and policy mechanisms to reduce threat levels to 'Priority Species'; and (3) conserve 'key sites', including site specific management plans. The list of 'Priority Species' covered by the Biodiversity Framework requires updating, but, as a globally endangered species, the sei whale would qualify. The definition of 'key sites', includes both legally protected areas and other designations, such as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) identified through the IUCN Standard. This project would work towards fulfilling the Biodiversity Framework obligations with regard to two baleen whale species. Currently, no Species Action Plans (SAPs) exist for cetaceans in the Falkland Islands (FI) since the expiry of the 2008-2018 SAP. A draft Action Plan would be produced for (at least) the sei whale, and recommended to Falkland Islands Government for potential adoption into policy. The telemetry data, aerial abundance survey, and boat survey data would be used, in combination with data collected 2017-2020, to assess key sites for baleen whales in the Falklands. This would include the first Key Biodiversity Area assessment for southern right whales, and a focus on site-based management of sei whales in Berkeley Sound where the greatest overlap occurs with human activities in the FI. The telemetry data should provide novel data on baleen whale occurrence in more pelagic habitats, which would inform an assessment of overlap with offshore activities.

In the wider Atlantic region, telemetry and health work on southern right whales in the FI will contribute to region-scale management initiatives for that species, including the International Whaling Commission (IWC) Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the south-west Atlantic right whale population (<https://iwc.int/south-atlantic-southern-right-whale>), and the IWC Southern Ocean Research Partnership (IWC-SORP) collaborative project addressing hemisphere-wide right whale recovery (<http://www.marinemammals.gov.au>)

/sorp/the-right-sentinel-for-climate-change). The IWC-CMP includes a telemetry programme in Argentina, which the proposed telemetry work in the FI would complement to address existing knowledge gaps on the movements of right whales outside of the winter calving grounds. Information on the foraging behaviour and feeding grounds of southern right whales is integral to understanding the high and widespread calf mortalities in recent years, and is the focus of both the IWC-CMP and the IWC-SORP. Correspondingly, telemetry work in the Falkland Islands was identified as a high priority by the IWC-SORP (Carroll et al., 2020), and will contribute to Atlantic- and hemisphere-wide conservation management of southern right whales.

## Section 4 - Lead Organisation Summary

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### Q9. 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
DPLUS115	Andrew Stanworth	Unlocking Falkland Islands Marine Management: Key Biodiversity Areas for Seabirds
DPLUS110	Andrew Stanworth	Recognise, protect, restore: driving sound stewardship of Falklands peat-wetlands.
DPLUS082	Andrew Stanworth	Conserving Falklands' whale populations: addressing data deficiencies for informed management
DPLUS017	Andrew Stanworth	Lower plants inventory and conservation in the Falkland Islands
DPLUS023	Andrew Stanworth	Building capacity for habitat restoration in the Falkland Islands
DPLUS003	Andrew Stanworth	Biodiversity action planning in the Falkland Islands

**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.**


Yes


**Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.**


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 [FI Signed Financial statements Dec20](#)


 25/01/2021


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 [Signed 2019 accounts~WK](#)

 25/01/2021

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## Section 5 - Project Partners

### Q10. 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:**

Falklands Conservation (FC)

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**Website address:**

<https://falklandsconservation.com/>

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

FC's Conservation Manager will be responsible for overall project management and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E). A full-time experienced Cetacean Ecologist will lead on the project implementation and delivery, including the planning of whale survey work, liaising with and coordinating project partners, equipment acquisition and maintenance, data analysis, and reporting.

FC has a proven track record in managing large budget projects and has successfully delivered multiple Darwin Plus projects in recent years. A range of staff will have supporting roles including in accounting, logistics, and media outputs. FC has been delivering conservation projects in the Falkland Islands for 40 years, and has good local relationships and community buy-in that will be used to benefit the project. FC regularly provides conservation advice to the Falkland Islands Government (FIG), and senior FC staff will relay project results regularly to the FIG MLAs ensuring good governmental support.

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**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:** Alex Zerbini

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**Website address:** <https://cicoes.uw.edu/research/principal-investigators/alex-zerbini/>

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

Alex Zerbini has extensive experience (20 years) developing and deploying satellite transmitters to whales. He will provide advice on the choice of transmitters for each species, transmitter program, tag deployment, data processing, analysis and interpretation. He would also collaborate in report and publication preparation. Finally, Alex would be key in fostering collaboration with scientists from other regions in the South Atlantic to facilitate integration of this project's data with those from other regions to better understand dynamics of whale populations at an ocean basin level.

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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

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**2. Partner Name:** Jen Jackson

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**Website address:** <https://www.bas.ac.uk/profile/jeck/>

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**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):** Providing equipment (whale tags) and the BAS right whale photographic dataset from South Georgia, with input in the analysis and interpretation of both components.

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

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**3. Partner Name:** Phil Hammond

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**Website address:** <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/biology/people/psh2>

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**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):** The Sea Mammal Research Unit at the University of St Andrews will contribute to this project by providing advice and guidance related to processing and analysis of photo-identification data using mark-recapture methods. Analysis will aim to provide robust estimates of the size of sei whale populations using key areas around the Falkland Islands. SMRU has wide experience of using these methods for many species (including blue, fin and humpback whales) worldwide, which should facilitate realizing the maximum potential from the data collected in this project.

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

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**4. Partner Name:** Fredrik Christiansen

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**Website address:** <https://aias.au.dk/aias-fellows/fredrik-christiansen>

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

Dr Fredrik Christiansen is an Assistant Professor at Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies in Denmark. He is an expert in large whale bioenergetics, and has developed novel non-invasive methods to measure the body condition (health) of free-living whales using unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) photogrammetry methods. Much of Dr Christiansen's research focuses on southern right whales (SRWs), which include ongoing projects to measure body condition on populations in Australia, Argentina and South Africa. These projects have resulted in the largest quantitative data set on right whale body condition in the world. Dr Christiansen's role in the current project will be to provide expertise, equipment (UAV) and experienced personnel for a pilot study to assess body condition of SRWs in the Falklands. All data on body condition of SRWs obtained through this project will be compared to Dr Christiansen's larger data set to evaluate the health and reproductive potential of SRWs in the Falklands.

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

Yes

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**5. Partner Name:**

Ted Cheeseman

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**Website address:**

<https://happywhale.com/home>

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

Happywhale is a research collaboration and citizen science web platform that has successfully gathered and crowd sourced large volumes of marine mammal photo ID images. The platform provides an efficient and standardized way for researchers to access citizen science data and, for the public, creates an engaging, educational experience of participatory science. Happywhale will solicit sei whale photo ID images from Falkland Islands and Southern Ocean tourist visitors (such as <https://happywhale.com/encounter/4875>) to increase the sample size available to the sei whale project, and will serve as a platform and channel of communication of results to the public.

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

Yes

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**6. Partner Name:**

Falkland Islands Government

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**Website address:**

[www.falklands.gov.fk](http://www.falklands.gov.fk)

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


Input on Action Plan and the development of management recommendations.


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


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.

 Stage 1 response and LoS

 02/02/2021

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## Section 6 - Project Staff

### Q11. Project Staff

Please identify the core staff on this project, their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project. Further information on who should be classified as core staff can be found in the guidance.

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?
Andrew Stanworth	Project Leader	10	Checked
Caroline Weir	Project Officer	100	Checked
to be appointed	Boat Driver	11	Unchecked
Alex Zerbini	tagging expert/tagging analysis/Steering Group	1	Checked

Do you require more fields?


Yes


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Alex Zerbini's team member to be confirmed	tagging expert	11	Unchecked
Jen Jackson	genetic analysis/Steering Group	1	Checked
Phil Hammond	Mark-recapture analysis/Steering Group	3	Checked
Fredrik Christianson	UAV researcher	4	Checked
Ted Cheeseman	Citizen Science Advisory/Steering Group	1	Checked
Denise Blake/Rachel Cooper	Government advisory/Steering Group	3	Checked
Pamela Jelbes	Financial Controller	8	Checked
Michelle Winnard	Communications/media	8	Checked

**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.**

 [Project staff CVs](#)

 02/02/2021

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

No

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

The job description/recruitment approach for the boat driver is not provided as it is so short. It will be a simple contract to appoint someone with suitable experience in operating small boats around cetaceans for 4 trips over 2 seasons in 2022 and 2023. The post will be filled by word of mouth, personal working experience and/or recommendation.

There is no job description as such, rather just associating a name with the position from Alex Zerbini's team i.e. the tagging expert will not be recruited but selected by Alex from his team of appropriately experienced taggers.

## Section 7 - Background & Methodology

### Q12. 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?**

**Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem (references can be listed in your additional attached PDF document which can be uploaded at the bottom of the page).**

The Falklands marine environment supports globally significant baleen whale populations. It also supports a significant portion of the Falkland Islands economy. Alongside a well-established fishing industry, development of aquaculture and hydrocarbon industries is being explored. A new port facility is being built to cater for increased commercial and tourist-related vessel traffic. In nearshore waters, there is broad-scale spatial and temporal overlap between some of these activities and whales, where threats potentially include vessel strike, entanglement and noise disturbance. In pelagic waters, the threat potential is still relatively unknown due to the constraints of surveying for whales in offshore environments.

Whilst there is very basic legal protection for cetaceans in the Falklands, there is no formal Marine Spatial Planning (MSP). Consequently, there is a lack of statutory area-based management mechanisms for cetaceans, such as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). In addition, there are no decision-making tools (e.g. Key Biodiversity Areas, or Action Plans) to guide threat mitigation or to facilitate population recovery of whales in the Islands. Consequently, the future of Falklands' globally significant whale populations remains vulnerable and uncertain.

This project aims to generate fine-scale movement datasets for baleen whales in the Falkland Islands via telemetry, to support Government development of MSP and other decision-making tools. It will increase understanding of potential overlap with human activities, particularly for animals moving into offshore areas, to inform mitigation. An abundance estimate of southern right whales will be generated to facilitate a Key Biodiversity Area assessment, which, if designated, would represent a 'key site' for conservation under the Falkland Islands Ecoregions, Habitats, Species and Sites Strategy (2016–2020). A draft Action Plan for endangered sei whales would be produced (given their likely inclusion as priority species on a revised National Red List), addressing currently incomplete goals of the Falkland Islands Biodiversity Framework.

## **Q13. 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)**

PREVIOUS INITIATIVES AND RATIONALE

FC has worked on Falklands' whales since 2017, including: (1) a pilot project on sei whales in Berkeley Sound during 2017 (Weir, 2017); (2) a survey of sei whale distribution and abundance off West Falkland during 2018 (Weir, 2018; Weir et al., In Press); and (3) targeted studies of sei and southern right whales at two sites in 2019 and 2020 (DPLUS082; Figure 1). Those projects provided valuable data on the ecology, distribution and abundance of Falklands' whales, but were limited (by platforms, logistics and weather) to relatively small, nearshore, study areas. A comprehensive data gap assessment was carried out in August 2020 to identify where information is still needed for the conservation management of Falklands' whales (Weir, 2020), recognising that whale occurrence beyond the small 2017–2020 study sites remains largely unknown, both with respect to Falklands-wide distribution (including more pelagic habitats) and linkage with other Atlantic regions that could inform basin-wide management.

The proposed project will build on, and add to, previous work, to generate comprehensive multi-year datasets that will address the Project Outcome of improving knowledge of, and making management recommendations for, baleen whales. New methodologies are additionally proposed to address data gaps regarding the fine-scale and region-wide movements of both species (i.e. telemetry) and the winter distribution and abundance of right whales (i.e. aerial survey).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

1. Small boat surveys. Work on telemetry, distribution, photo-identification, and a pilot Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) study of right whale health. Tags (see attached PDF for details) will be deployed by a specialist during two summer and two winter seasons.
2. Winter aerial survey of right whales. Line-transect surveys by aircraft to assess abundance and distribution outside of the small area surveyed by boat during DPLUS082.
3. Sei whale mark-recapture analysis. Use of the 2017–2023 dataset to generate an abundance estimate for Berkeley Sound, where management is most applicable.
4. Key Biodiversity Area assessments. Telemetry data will be analysed to identify important sites, including novel data on pelagic occurrence.
5. Right whale region-wide assessments. Multi-territory movements assessed via telemetry and photo-identification matches with South Georgia (via DPLUS057).
6. Analysis and interpretation. A Technical Report will present data analysis and maps, and make recommendations towards a sei whale Action Plan. An IWC paper presenting telemetry results and promoting inclusion of the Falklands in the IWC CMP for right whales.
7. Outreach. School involvement in telemetry tracking, boat trips to engage local children with whales, newspaper articles, and an educational poster/leaflet. Social media, scientific publications, and a conference presentation will additionally target international audiences.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The project will be co-led and delivered by two FC staff (Conservation Manager and Cetacean Ecologist). They will be responsible for the planning of fieldwork, meetings and outreach, liaising with partners, financial management and reporting. Project partners will input in their areas of expertise, via coordinated steering group meetings, participation in fieldwork, and collaborative analysis. FC staff will assist with financial management via established organisational software and internal auditing.

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

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## Section 8 - Stakeholders and Beneficiaries

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### Q14. 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.**

#### POLICY MAKERS AND GOVERNMENTS

The project outcome is wholly dependent on engagement with Falkland Islands Government (FIG), since management outputs requiring FIG engagement include applications for the potential designation of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), and the submission of a sei whale draft Species Action Plan. FIG is already confirmed as a project partner (see LoS), and engagement will include inclusion on the project steering group and collaborative input on all draft management recommendations. The FIG MLAs will also be updated on the project bi-annually during meetings with the FC CEO. This project additionally seeks to engage with regional policy makers, specifically the International Whaling Commission, to whom a report will be filed with the project findings.

#### MARINE USERS

Assessing and managing the overlap between marine users and baleen whales is a main driver for this project. Marine user stakeholders include the fishing (including support vessels), hydrocarbon and aquaculture industries, the Ministry of Defence, ferries, cruise vessels, ecotourism, and recreational craft (e.g. diving and yachts). Most of these stakeholders have already been engaged during DPLUS082, and those communications would continue with bi-annual updates and the opportunity to review and provide input to reports and draft management recommendations that will optimise their effectiveness.

#### FALKLANDS COMMUNITY

A school visit will introduce school children to the telemetry work (they can name and track the whales), and a FC Watch Group boat trip will introduce children to whales. Social media, Penguin News articles, and a talk will engage the wider community, and provide feedback opportunities.

### Q15. Institutional Capacity

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

Falklands Conservation (FC) has 40 years of experience in delivering environmental projects, including a strong track record with multiple Darwin Initiative and Darwin Plus projects. The latter includes DPLUS082 which successfully negotiated similar challenges (e.g. platform availability, adverse weather, reliability of whales) to those that may occur during the proposed project. The continuity of FC key staff (the Conservation Manager and the Cetacean Ecologist) should ensure that expertise gained and 'lessons learnt' during the past four seasons of Falklands' whale projects will optimize implementation of the proposed project.

Project partners include senior experts in whale research from the National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration (NOAA), the Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU), the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) and the Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS), all of whom have extensive experience with managing large project grants. Alex Zerbini (NOAA) brings vast practical experience of 'best practice' tagging of multiple whale species, and will assist with equipment, personnel and guidance. Jen Jackson (BAS) led the first tagging project on right whales in South Georgia, and will provide tags and first hand experience from another British OT. Phil Hammond (SMRU) has guided mark-recapture analyses on numerous cetacean species worldwide, and brings significant analytical expertise that will optimize photo-identification outputs. Fredrik Christiansen (AIAS) has analysed right whale body condition in other global wintering grounds, and brings experience, equipment and region-wide collaboration. Falkland Islands Government and HappyWhale, will greatly input into the delivery and ongoing legacy of the management recommendations, and citizen science outreach, respectively.

## Q16. 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.**

To progress sound environmental stewardship and meet international commitments, Falkland Islands Government (FIG) need evidence-based guidance for management decision-making. Identification of key sites (i.e. potential Key Biodiversity Areas) and the production of draft Action Plans would provide this for whales. In promoting the biodiversity of the Islands for tourism and national identity FIG will benefit from information by which to maintain post-whaling recoveries.

Information on mitigating potential impacts on whales will assist marine industries in demonstrating best practice and sustainable approaches to use of the marine environment

National and international bodies involved in global whale management and conservation will benefit, since the project outputs will increase region-wide knowledge of whale habitat use and movements. This will be of particular benefit to the wider South Atlantic, including adjacent OTs such as South Georgia, and the South American wintering and feeding grounds. The proposed collaborative approaches are expected to optimize the future conservation of migratory whales across Atlantic waters.

The Falklands community gain significant enjoyment from observing whales along their coasts and will benefit from sustained whale occurrence. That in turn will benefit the wider marine environment, as people increasingly value and seek to protect both whales and their habitats.

## Section 9 - Gender and Change Expected

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### Q17. 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?**

Falklands Conservation (FC) currently employs 9 female and 4 male part- or full-time staff. The FC co-leads on the proposed project are male (Conservation Manager) and female (Cetacean Ecologist) respectively.

While there are more named male (Zerbini, Hammond, Christiansen, Cheeseman) than female (Jackson, FIG) project partners, that is largely coincidental and their affiliated organisations have more representative gender balances overall.

There are no specific barriers to gender equality in the proposed project activities. School engagement will be by class, and therefore without previous knowledge of gender. FC Watch Group boat trips will be open to all children (notwithstanding any limitations around health and safety requirements on boats); currently the Watch Group has a roughly even gender ratio which would be expected to be reflected in the boat trip participants in practice. Females are well-represented in general in the Falklands and among the potential project stakeholders, including the FIG environmental planning department and MLAs. Additionally, most of the outreach (e.g. talks, social media outputs, HappyWhale collaboration, and scientific papers) would be openly available to all.

## Q18. 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.**

### WITHIN PROJECT LIFETIME:

Decisions on marine management by Falkland Islands Government (FIG) and marine users would be better informed by having knowledge (datasets) of the distribution and movements of baleen whales, improving spatial planning.

Development impact assessments and the mitigation of potential impacts from human activities on whales should be improved, aiding FIG and industry.

Clarity on whether the southern right whale population that winters around the Islands is sufficient to meet Key Biodiversity Area criteria. If appropriate, an application for a KBA would be submitted.

A draft sei whale Action Plan would be developed and submitted to FIG, helping to fulfil Biodiversity Framework commitments, and to target management, research and conservation activities.

The local community would receive increased exposure to information on Falklands' whales, their conservation and management, resulting in increased support for whale recovery.

### LONGER-TERM CHANGES:

Minimised impacts on whale populations facilitating their recovery.

The datasets, GIS files, and management outputs (i.e. KBA, Action Plan recommendations) from the project would guide decision-makers during continued development of Marine Spatial Planning and Marine Management in the Falkland Islands.

Outputs will comprise a firm evidence-led basis for the identification of important marine sites under international conventions. These include Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) and Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs). The South Atlantic region has yet to be evaluated for IMMAs, but these datasets would support their identification in the Falklands and wider Atlantic.

The International Whaling Commission would receive comprehensive information in support of incorporating the Falkland Islands into their current conservation management plan for southern right



whales in the south-west Atlantic. Advocacy would continue beyond the project lifespan to promote the inclusion of the Falklands in region-wide management plans.

The purchase of a survey boat represents an important asset for future Falklands marine conservation research.

## Q19. 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 four Project Outputs each contribute to the overall Outcome of assessing key habitats and developing Action Plans to inform the conservation management of baleen whales in the Falklands and wider south-west Atlantic. The fieldwork (Output 1) comprising telemetry, photo-identification and an aerial abundance survey will fill data gaps for identifying important whale sites, while the mark-recapture analysis (Output 2) will generate a site-based abundance estimate for sei whales. Those two Outputs combined form a basis for identifying important sites, including the first Falklands KBA assessment for southern right whales, and novel information on the use of pelagic habitats which should clarify the relevance of the KBA currently-proposed for sei whales in inshore waters. Both Outputs potentially also provide data on migratory corridors and connectivity, and will inform region-wide management plans such as the IWC CMP for right whales. Output 3 directly addresses FIG biodiversity commitments and the Project Outcome through the production of a draft Action Plan for sei whales. Finally, Output 4 works towards a broader conservation goal of increasing awareness of whales in the Falkland Islands community and internationally, which is fundamental to ensuring buy-in to the overall Project Impact of ensuring long-term recovery of whale populations.

## Q20. Exit strategy

**State how the project will reach a stable and sustainable end point, and explain how the outcomes will be sustained, either through a continuation of activities, funding and support from other sources or because the activities will be mainstreamed in to "business as usual". Where individuals receive advanced training, for example, what will happen should that individual leave?**

A platform ie boat, for whale research for the inshore, is much needed in the islands. Following the completion of the project, stakeholders will be engaged on making a plan for the future use of the boat to facilitate further marine work including community engagement.

Information generated during the project will all be reported and ultimately made publicly available. Peer review publications will be produced where possible. In final meetings and media releases stakeholders will be provided with outputs and made aware of data sources for future use.

FC intend to launch any successful KBA designation, which is likely to be post-project given designation time-frames, for southern right whales with media. There will be continued commitment from full-time FC staff to support the KBA concept and its use as a decision-making tool.

Marine Management is a priority area for FC. Existing capacity at the organisation should ensure that legacy components can be resourced, or further funding sought to support further advancement of this work as necessary. FC will also look to advance any conservation actions identified for recovering whale populations in the Islands.

## Section 10 - Funding and Budget

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### Q21. 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.


- [R9 D+ Budget form for projects under £100,000](#)
- [R9 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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 [R9 DPlus St2 FCwhale Budget](#)

 02/02/2021

 17:40:00

 xlsx 57.01 KB

### Q22. Funding

**Q22a. Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source)?**

- Development of existing work

**Please provide details:**

The proposed project is novel, but builds upon four previous seasons of baleen whale work in the Falkland Islands: (1) an EU BEST funded pilot project on sei whales in 2017 in Berkeley Sound; (2) an RSPB-FC-FIG funded project on sei whales on the west coast of the Falklands during 2018; and (3) a two year Darwin Plus project (DPLUS082) on sei whales and southern right whales at two sites during 2019 and 2020. The project represents a distinct entity with innovative components, following the completion of a full evaluation of the conservation-management data gaps that remain for baleen whales after the 2017-2020 work. Telemetry work has not been carried out on baleen whales in the Falklands previously, and forms the primary focus of the proposed project. Additionally, the right whale winter aerial abundance survey, the UAV work, and the mark-recapture analysis are all novel components. The collection of a further two seasons of photo-identification and distribution data, added to data from 2017-2020, will facilitate an assessment of inter-annual variation in whale occurrence, which is important given the dynamic movements of large marine predators.

**Q22b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying**

## for funding for similar work?

No

## Q23. Co-financing

### Are you proposing co-financing?

Yes

### Q23a. 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
Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies	██████	GBP	Salary and UAV equipment
Instituto Aqualie/NOAA	██████	<i>No Response</i>	Salary and tagging equipment. Currency rate applied (original values in USD).
British Antarctic Survey	██████	GBP	Salary, tags and genetic sexing
FC (£██████) FIG (£██████) SMRU (£██████) HappyWhale (£██████)	██████	GBP	Salary in kind (£██████) and travel for UAV pilot (£██████)

### Q23b. 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
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

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 11 - Finance

### Q24. 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?**

Falklands Conservation has both a UK Honorary Treasurer and a FI Honorary Treasurer who oversee our funds in the UK and FI respectively. The CEO is responsible for day-to-day financial management, overseen both by the UK and FI trustees (who are reported to on a quarterly basis) and our auditors (Azets based in London). Organisational accounts are audited annually.

FC uses the software TAS for tracking income and expenditure, which is reconciled on a monthly basis; the FI Technical Administration Officer is responsible for input in relation to FI income/expenditure, and the UK Executive Officer for UK income/expenditure.

Annual turnover is of the order of £0.5m, half of which is designated project funds. FC has successfully managed externally funded projects from Darwin, OTEP, Defra, RSPB, WWF and EU BEST.

### Q25. Financial Management Risk

**This question considers the financial risks to the project. Explain how you have considered the risks and threats that may be relevant to the successful financial delivery of this project. This includes risks such as fraud or bribery, but may also include the risk of fluctuating foreign exchange and internal financial processes such as storage of financial data.**

Fraud and bribery are not considered significant risks for FC or partners. Organisational contracts and staff policy clearly outline acceptable and unacceptable practices.

Having previously undertaken similar projects, the main risks identified are:

- Covid 19/ other pandemics - impacts are unpredictable but have included recruitment, fieldwork, engagement and travel.
- Changing relationship with partners and key stakeholders - poor engagement by landowners and lack of site access (95% of the Falklands is in private ownership);
- Adverse weather – limiting the available fieldwork time;
- Difficulty recruiting and retaining appropriate personnel –challenging role, remote conditions, short

contract;

- Changing decision-makers – short contracts (2 year) in the Falklands cause loss of continuity;

To minimise these risks, the project will:

- Apply lessons learnt already during Covid-19 to try to reduce impacts. Remain flexible and entertain alternative delivery methods
- Use its long developed experience of working with local landowners and partners and existing good relationships. Brief the new PO;
- Plan fieldwork allowing for periods of adverse weather;
- Recruit candidates of sufficient expertise, enthusiasm for the project, and proven ability to live in small, remote communities;
- Continually engage with decision-makers especially during periods of staff transition;

## Q26. Balance of budget spend

**Explain the thinking behind your budget in terms of where funds will be spent. What benefits will the Territory see from your budget? What level of the award to you expect will be spent locally? Please explain the decisions behind any funding that will not be spent locally and how those costs are important for the project.**

Of the £507,000.00 being requested from Darwin Plus, approximately two-thirds will be spent within the Falkland Islands and the remaining third will be spent internationally.

The two-thirds in the FI will include Falklands Conservation staff costs, vehicle use, overheads, auditing and M&E, aircraft charter for the aerial survey, fieldwork accommodation and subsistence, vessel fuel and servicing, and flight bookings for project staff. Local benefits will include support of local businesses (e.g. travel and accommodation, aircraft company), and support of FC which is the only conservation membership organisation in the Falkland Islands and implements a wide range of community awareness and educational work, as well as conservation work.

Of the international spend, all relates to components essential to the project but which are not available locally. Those include the purchase of a new, marine safety compliant, boat, which will remain within the FI for local use following project completion. They also include the tags and tagging equipment (~£[REDACTED] salary for tagging experts (~£[REDACTED] and costs related to tag data download (~£[REDACTED] It also includes £[REDACTED] for international boat driver salary; however, should a suitable boat driver become available in the FI then local personnel would be prioritised.

## Q27. Capital Items

**If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin Plus funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end. If you are requesting more than 10% capital costs, please provide your justification here.**

The project includes [REDACTED] capital costs. That includes £[REDACTED] on equipment necessary for tag deployments and biopsies, which will remain in the Falkland Islands (FI) and be available for future whale tagging projects in the FI or neighbouring OTs (e.g. South Georgia). The majority of the capital costs (£[REDACTED] comprises the cost of a new research boat and transportation trailer. Previously, FC has chartered a boat for whale work; however, that boat will not comply with new marine safety regulations being introduced in the FI. No alternative boats are available that would be suitable for tagging or biopsy

work in the challenging open water marine environment around the Falklands. The new boat is therefore fundamental to the success of this project. Following project completion, the boat would be a valuable resource for ongoing whale work and wider marine research in the Falklands and potentially also South Georgia.

## Q28. Value for Money

**Please describe why you consider your application to be good value for money including justification of why the measures you will adopt will secure value for money.**

Whale research is not possible without suitable platforms. The boat previously used by FC is nearing the end of its lifespan, will not comply with new FI regulations, and could not be guaranteed for the project. Consequently, a new boat had to be incorporated into the project budget. This boat will provide long-term value, greatly increasing capacity for marine work in the FI. Aircraft charter for the abundance survey also comprises a significant portion of the budget, but alternatives were not available given the limited resources and lack of fuelling facilities in the FI. While costly, boat and aerial surveys offer maximum return value in generating robust datasets on whale movements, abundance and distribution in this remote region. Those datasets are fundamental to the project outcome of developing evidence-based management of baleen whales in the FI.

Telemetry work involves costly equipment, and due to its invasive nature requires hiring international experts (with associated salary, travel and accommodation costs) to comply with research licensing. Project partners are providing significant 'in kind' donations of time and equipment (including unused tags from DPLUS057), offering excellent value for money. No cheaper alternatives exist for acquiring data on whale movements in the FI and wider Atlantic.

This project is inherently costly in nature, analogous with other marine work in geographically-remote regions. However, all possibilities to minimize cost have been incorporated. The project offers excellent overall value, resulting in demonstrable management outputs and receiving significant match funding from highly-experienced partners which will optimize outputs and value.

## Q29. 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.**

Falklands Conservation places high emphasis on outreach and awareness-raising both within the Falklands community and internationally. The organisation has an established website where reports on previous whale work are available for download (<https://falklandsconservation.com/downloads/>). Outputs from the proposed project, including the technical reports and KBA reports, would be added to the downloads page, and also publicised on social media including on a dedicated whale research page (<https://www.facebook.com/FalklandsWhale>).

Metadata summaries of all research data collected in the Falklands are submitted to the IMS-GIS data centre in Stanley, ensuring transparency and availability after the project timeframe.

Additionally, we have budgeted the following specific costs to optimize the availability of project outputs:

- A total of £ [REDACTED] to develop a webpage that would link to the satellite data system to show real-time tracks of the tagged whales on a map. The positions of the whales would be updated daily, ensuring that all

whale movement data are openly available to view;

- A total of £ [REDACTED] to facilitate an open access publication in a peer-reviewed journal, to ensure that scientific outputs are freely available online;
- A total of £ [REDACTED] for attendance of, and presentation at, a conference, likely the Society for Marine Mammalogy biennial conference which will be held in 2023. In addition to communicating the project outputs to attending international scientists, the presentation will be available online.
- A total of £ [REDACTED] for printed awareness posters/leaflets on Falklands' whales, which will also be freely available to download as PDFs.

## Section 12 - Safeguarding

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### Q30. 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 our commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse</b>	Checked
<b>We have attached a copy of our safeguarding policy to this application</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

**Please outline how you will implement your policies in practice and ensure that downstream partners apply the same standards as the lead organisation.**

We will expect all partners to confirm that they have read and will adhere to the above policies.

**Please upload the Lead Organisation's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF**

- 
-  [Policy 24 FC Safeguarding Policy 2020 MF incl recording&FAQ](#)
  -  25/01/2021
  -  17:36:19
  -  pdf 1.11 MB

## Section 13 - Logical Framework

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### Q31. Logical Framework





Darwin Plus projects will be required to monitor (and report against) their progress towards their expected Outputs and Outcome. 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.

- [Stage 2 Logframe Template](#)

Please complete your full logframe in the separate Word template and upload as a PDF using the file upload below. Copy your Impact, Outcome and Output statements and your activities below - these should be the same as in your uploaded logframe.

#### Please upload your logframe as a PDF document.

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-  [R9 DPlus St2 FCwhale Logframe 20200128](#)
-  02/02/2021
-  17:41:51
-  pdf 124.9 KB

#### Impact:

Long-term recovery of baleen whale populations is achieved through protection of key habitats, improved understanding of migratory movements, and implementation of management measures in the Falklands and wider south-west Atlantic

#### Outcome:

The conservation of two baleen whale species in the Falkland Islands and South Atlantic Ocean is better understood and management recommendations made to help secure their future

#### Project Outputs

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##### Output 1:

Data on whale distribution and movements are collected and used to identify and assess national and global key sites.

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##### Output 2:

Photo-identification mark-recapture analysis carried out to generate site-specific abundance estimates and seasonal/annual fidelity data to demonstrate persistent use of sites to fulfil protected area criteria (e.g. for KBAs).

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### Output 3:

A draft evidence-based Species Action Plan is produced for endangered sei whales in Falklands' waters and recommended to FIG.

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### Output 4:

Awareness of whales, and support for their conservation and management, is increased within local and international communities via dissemination of research outputs.

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### Output 5:

*No Response*

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## 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.

- 1.1 Recruit personnel, acquire relevant work permits, and make travel arrangements ahead of field seasons.
- 1.2 Ensure relevant research permits are in place for small boat, UAV and telemetry work.
- 1.3 produce risk assessment for small boat, aerial, UAV and telemetry work.
- 1.4 Complete list of project equipment requirements and ensure equipment is ordered and shipped in advance of fieldwork seasons. Produce equipment inventories on completion of field seasons.
- 1.5 Plan and execute small boat survey work at suitable sites in the Falkland Islands and around key considerations of platform availability, weather, and logistical constraints.
- 1.6 Plan and execute aerial survey, including transect survey design, equipment and aircraft availability planning.
- 1.7 Plan and execute UAV pilot study, including equipment and travel for personnel.
- 1.8 Develop and maintain spreadsheets of effort and sighting databases, photo-identification catalogues/databases, and QGIS mapping layers.
- 1.9 Produce a Technical Report that assesses southern right whale data against the global KBA criteria, and if sufficient to support and application then circulate to decision-makers, stakeholders and the IUCN KBA partnership for consultation.
- 1.10 Conduct a photographic comparison using side-on images of southern right whales taken during boat surveys in the Falkland Islands and South Georgia (the latter dataset managed by BAS).
- 1.11 Produce a final project Technical Report with relevant project partners, to include details of telemetry work, aerial abundance estimate, photo-identification and mark-recapture results, distribution maps, and recommendations for developing protected areas and related management.

### Output 2.

- 2.1 Standardised protocols for assigning criteria for image quality and animal distinctiveness are developed for sei whales (dorsal fin and flank) and southern right whales (side-on head images) respectively.
- 2.2 Photo-identification images are collected during all boat-based surveys in 2022 and 2023 alongside the telemetry deployment work and on days when tag deployments are not possible.
- 2.3 Photo-identification images from each boat survey in 2022 and 2023 are assigned to individual animals.

Each individual is cross-checked with other whales from within the same year, and if new then it is entered into the catalogue for that year.

2.4 Matching of individual animals from 2022 and 2023 is carried out with existing catalogues from 2017–2020. Mark-recapture analysis completed.

Output 3.

3.1 Organise meeting with FIG personnel in person or via Skype to define the scope and criteria of a draft AP for a cetacean species.

3.2 Compile relevant information on the occurrence and status of sei whales in the Falkland Islands, including distribution maps, abundance, and threats, and produce a draft AP.

3.3 Establish a list of key stakeholders to provide feedback on the draft AP.

Output 4.

4.1 A web page is developed (and publicised) that allows viewers to see the real-time tag locations of all sei whales and right whales that are tagged during the project.

4.2 Materials are developed for school engagement with the telemetry project including developing a naming competition for the tagged whales.

4.3 A school or Watch Group boat trip is organised to take children to see whales with educational commentary.

4.4 Engage in local outreach, including publishing both Penguin News and FC magazine articles in 2022 and 2023, a public talk in Stanley by the whale tag expert, and (at least) bi-monthly social media updates over the field seasons.

4.5 Establish list of local stakeholders and steering group members to whom project updates should be disseminated.

4.6 An educational poster and/or leaflet is produced on sei whales and southern right whales and distributed to the school, tourist board, whale-watch launches and other key community recipients.

4.7 Write and submit an IWC paper on tagging outputs by project completion.

4.8 Present tagging data and management relevance at an international conference.

## Section 14 - Implementation Timetable

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### **Q32. 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.**

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 [R9 DPlus St2 Timetable 20200119](#)  
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 13:55:27  
 xlsx 13.17 KB

## Section 15 - Monitoring and Evaluation

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### Q33. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

**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 Lead will have overall project accountability; however, project delivery will be overseen and managed by the establishment of a Steering Group. This will comprise the project Partners, who that each bring with them a wealth of expertise and experience to monitor and evaluate project progress against the logframe and timetable.

The Steering Group and Project Officer will meet at least bi-annually, but more often as appropriate to address any specific issues; however, the involvement of the partners in project elements will ensure they have more regular oversight. The Project Officer will provide Steering Group members with project updates including a budget summary from the FC's Technical Administration Officer (who will administer finance for the project). Any significant change-requests on budget, timing, or logframe will be agreed by the Steering Group and liaison with Darwin Initiative representatives will occur through the Project Officer to ensure complete oversight.

Within Falklands Conservation weekly meetings will be held between FC project staff to share updates on project progress. This will facilitate finer scale monitoring and evaluation of and by the Lead Organisation. Darwin M & E reporting (spend predictions and half-yearly and annual reports) will be delivered by the FC staff: Project Lead, Project Officer, Project Administrative Officer and Communications and Marketing Officer.

The Project Lead and Project Administrative Officer will communicate regularly to ensure appropriate tracking of budget lines and address any administrative challenges. Broader, external feedback on overall progress, or specific relevant elements of it, will be gained through communication with relevant stakeholders. Accounting will be managed as an auditable restricted fund.

<b>Total project budget for M&amp;E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)</b>	£ 
<b>Number of days planned for M&amp;E</b>	101.00
<b>Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&amp;E (%)</b>	

## Section 16 - Certification

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### Certification

**On behalf of the**

trustees

**of**

Falklands Conservation

**I apply for a grant of**

£499,991.00

**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** Esther Bertram

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**Position in the organisation** Chief Executive Officer

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**Signature (please upload e-signature)**  [Esther Bertram e-signature small](#)  
 02/02/2021  
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**Date** 02 February 2021

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## Section 17 - Submission Checklist

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### Checklist for submission

**Check**

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I have read the <b>Guidance documents, including the “Guidance Notes for Applicants” and “Finance Guidance”.</b>	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the <b>current Terms and Conditions for this fund.</b>	Checked
I have provided <b>actual start and end dates for this proposed project.</b>	Checked
I have provided a <b>budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.</b>	Checked
I have checked that the <b>budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.</b>	Checked
The application has been signed by a <b>suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).</b>	Checked
I have attached my completed <b>logframe and timeline as a PDF using the templates provided.</b>	Checked
I have included a <b>1 page CV or job description for all the Project staff identified at Question 11, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.</b>	Checked
I have included a <b>letter of support from the Lead Organisation and main partner organisation(s) identified at Question 10, or an explanation of why not.</b>	Checked
I have included a <b>cover letter from the Lead Organisation, outlining how any feedback at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant.</b>	Checked
I have included a <b>signed copy of the last 2 years annual report and accounts for the Lead Organisation, or provided an explanation if not.</b>	Checked
I have checked the Darwin Plus website <b>immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.</b>	Checked
I have read and understood the <b>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.**

Unchecked

#### **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).