

Applicant: **Strong, James**
Organisation: **National Oceanography Centre**
Funding Sought: **£357,890.00**

DPR9S2\1004

Ecosystem Sensitivity and Climate Vulnerability for MSP in the BVI

The marine environment can be effectively managed using Marine Spatial Planning (MSP - similar in concept to planning on land). However, extra tools are required to consider the impacts of human activities on marine habitats. This project translates existing tools, which currently used to support MSP in Europe, for use in the BVI. The tools will be integrated into an existing framework used in the BVI and facilitate the production of marine spatial plans by the Government of the BVI.

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name	James
Surname	Strong
Tel (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	National Oceanography Centre
Phone (Mobile)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]

Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q3a. Project title

Ecosystem Sensitivity and Climate Vulnerability for MSP in the BVI

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

DPR9S1\1059

Q4. UKOT(s)

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

☒ British Virgin Islands (BVI)

* 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)?

☒ No

Q5. Project dates

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):
01 July 2021	30 June 2023	2 years

Q6. Budget summary

Year:	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total request
Darwin funding request (Apr - Mar)	£136,587.00	£191,796.00	£29,507.00	£0.00	£357,890.00

Q6a. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?

☒ Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

The Government of the BVI will contribute 20 staff days to supporting this project as an in-kind contribution (£ [REDACTED] (US\$ [REDACTED]). The [REDACTED] overhead allowance means that NOC will contribute £ [REDACTED] in terms of lost overhead. Equally, JNCC will also contribute £ [REDACTED] in matched funding to offset the loss of overhead. Wood have also opted to discount their standard rates ([REDACTED]) and include a proportion of non-billed time as an in-kind contribution to ensure the effective delivery of this project and for the direct benefit of the BVI Government – this equates to a contribution of £ [REDACTED] to the project. The total in-kind contribution is therefore £ [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) of the total budget of £ [REDACTED]. The project also makes significant savings through the reuse of existing products. The total cost to develop the original HCVA tool which underpins this project was approximately £ [REDACTED] and represents an indirect contribution from Wood.

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

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](https://www.gov.uk).

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

The marine environment can be effectively managed using Marine Spatial Planning (MSP - similar in concept to planning on land). However, extra tools are required to consider the impacts of human activities on marine habitats. This project translates existing tools, which currently used to support MSP in Europe, for use in the BVI. The tools will be integrated into an existing framework used in the BVI and facilitate the production of marine spatial plans by the Government of the BVI.

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.

Effective MSP provides critical protection of habitats of conservation importance while balancing socio-economic needs across themes addressed in the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Blue Charter and the Blue Belt project and contributing to a sustainable Blue Economy.

This project is timely in view of the current BVI government Green Paper; Environmental Management Climate Adaptation and Sustainable Development. The Bill specifically identifies the need for “institutional structures and procedures” (such as MSP) to manage (among others), “biodiversity conservation” and “marine pollution” and meet “International commitments under multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)”. These include the Nagoya Protocol and inter-national agreements related to oil pollution.

The project will support; Sustainable Development Goal 14 contributing to the sustainable management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems, the Ramsar and Cartagena Convention. Associated with these ambitions, MSP is implicit in the Bill’s objective of establishing a Natural Resources Inventory and addressing biodiversity conservation more generally.

Further Multilateral Environmental Agreements important to biodiversity are applicable to the BVI as a result of their ratification by the UK (e.g. Ramsar Convention, Cartagena Convention). Associated with these ambitions, MSP is implicit in the Bill’s objective of establishing a Natural Resources Inventory and addressing biodiversity conservation more generally.

Finally, the Virgin Islands Strategic Blue Economy Road map (2020–2025) states “A focus on spatial planning and cumulative environmental impact assessment should be adopted...” as a high priority (short term). This project will actively contribute to national policy development, supporting implementation of the BVI Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy, BVI National Physical Development Plan and BVI Natural Resources Strategy.

Section 4 - Lead Organisation Summary

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)?

☒ No

If no, please provide the below information on the lead organisation.

What year was your organisation established/ incorporated/registered?	1949 / 2019 (new status as a charity)
What is the legal status of your organisation?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NGO
How is your organisation currently funded?	The National Oceanography Centre is an independent self-governing organisation – a charitable company limited by guarantee. The NOC is funded by various sources. It receives funds from the UK Research and Innovation to work on National Capability programmes. It also secures large amounts of funding from National (e.g. NERC) and International (e.g. European money) sources. It has a turn-over of approximately £[REDACTED] annually.

Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of your organisation. Large organisations please note that this should describe your unit or department.

Aims	<p>Mission: to make sense of changing seas, upon which future human prosperity and wellbeing depends. Specific aims are:</p> <p>Undertaking and enabling world-class science and technology development;</p> <p>Providing large research facilities to UK science community</p> <p>Creating value and public benefit by supporting the development of policy, governance and sustainable development</p>
Activities	We undertake world leading research in large scale oceanography and ocean measurement technology innovation; working with government and business to turn great science and technology into advice and applications. We support scientists in universities and research institutes with facilities, research infrastructure and irreplaceable data assets.

Achievements

The NOC is one of the world's top oceanographic institutions. We provide the UK's National Capability needed to be a top global player, to lead and participate in international cooperations.

Provide details of 3 contracts/projects held by the lead organisation that demonstrate your credibility as an organisation and provide a track record relevant to the project proposed. These contracts/awards should have been held in the last 5 years and be of a similar size to the grant requested in your Darwin application.

Contract/Project 1 Title	Commonwealth Marine Economies (CME) Programme
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	Approx. [REDACTED]
Duration (e.g. 2 years 3 months)	Three years plus one year extension
Role of organisation in project	Scientific research and capacity building. To sustainably manage and use marine resources it is vital to properly understand them. The programme has been collecting data, undertaking scientific research and delivering capacity building activities against a clear action plan developed from country requests.
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	<p>The CME Programme seeks to help Commonwealth Small Island Developing States (SIDS) make the most of their natural maritime advantages, to enable sustainable economic growth and alleviate poverty.</p> <p>The Programme aims to ensure marine resources that belong to Commonwealth SIDS are better understood and managed, with the aim of enabling sustainable and growing marine economies in Commonwealth SIDS that create jobs, drive national economic growth, reduce poverty, ensure food security and build resilience.</p> <p>The Programme is being funded and delivered on behalf of the UK Government by a partnership of world-leading UK government marine expertise which includes NOC.</p>
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	Foreign and Commonwealth Office [REDACTED]

Contract/Project 2 Title	Addressing Challenges of Coastal Communities through Ocean Research for Developing Economies
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	£[REDACTED] approx.
Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)	Three years

Role of organisation in project	NOC, with PML, is working to increase our understanding of the mechanisms and processes that determine the potential sensitivity or resilience of marine ecosystems to both globally and locally induced environmental change. This understanding will then be used to determine the environmental and societal consequences to inform mitigation strategies.
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	<p>ACCORD focuses on the coastal and marine environments of South East Asia and the Western Indian Ocean, which are rich and diverse, possessing high levels of biodiversity and productivity. The programme addresses two big challenges for eight countries in these regions:</p> <p>Sustainable growth of, and resilience to change for, the Blue Economies of partner countries</p> <p>Resilience to natural hazards including impact-based, climate-proof coastal flood warning systems</p> <p>Modelling, data collection, habitat maps and a wealth of other scientific work has been completed in nine locations throughout the world.</p>
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail)	<p>ACCORD is funded by the NERC</p> <p>Professor Kevin Horsburgh (Chief Scientist for International Development - [REDACTED]) can provide appropriate contacts.</p>
Contract/Project 3 Title	Technical Assistance: Development of Data Framework and delivery of Capacity Building Activities related to Marine Spatial Planning in the BVI
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	£ [REDACTED]
Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)	1 year
Role of organisation in project	Securing funds; lead on all stakeholder engagement; delivery of all work packages; management and monitoring of project progression; and all communication with clients.

Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project.

The main aims and outcome of the project are:

Stakeholder engagement with key technical staff to understand and catalog existing scientific products and data sets that may support MSP.

Assess the availability of survey and analysis skills needed to deliver MSP within primary BVI stakeholders
Deliver survey, analysis and engagement skills capacity building that support MSP.

Recommend a framework and prioritization of data collection for MSP with the 3, 12 and 200 nautical mile zones in the short, medium and long term

Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail).

Joseph Smith Abbott
Deputy Secretary
Ministry of Natural Resources & Labour
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

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.

NOC has been operating independently since 01/11/2019. It currently doesn't have a set of accounts for NOC's new status. See statement and letter attached.

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:	National Oceanography Centre
Website address:	https://noc.ac.uk/
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	<p>The NOC will be the lead organisation and will be responsible for coordinating the work between the partners as well as monitoring the progress of the project. NOC and JNCC will be providing the required Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) structure for the planned Ecosystem Sensitivity & Climate Vulnerability (ES-CV) tool (modifications to be implemented by Wood) which will be developed through this project.</p> <p>NOC has two sites, Southampton and Liverpool, and employs around 650 staff. It is co-located with leading UK Universities (Southampton and Liverpool), giving NOC a unique position in UK marine research. Given this resource, it has a significant resource to deliver this project and sufficient redundancy should key staff become unavailable.</p> <p>All project partners have extensive practical experience working in the BVI and have previously collaborated to deliver a range of projects, indicators, tools and outputs on which this project will directly build.</p>
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Have you provided a cover letter to address your Stage 1 feedback?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

☒ Yes

1. Partner Name:	Ministry of Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration (BVI Gov)
Website address:	https://bvi.gov.vg/departments/ministry-natural-resources-and-labour

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

The Ministry are included as a partner but are in fact the main beneficiary for the project. They have kindly provided staff time as an in-kind contribution. This time is to provide the required specification and format for project outputs as well directly contributing to the production of specific deliverables. As moderately sized governmental department with many permanent and specialized staff, the capacity and experience of this partner to deliver within the project is high.

The combination of project members and stakeholder staff working on the project will provide additional opportunities for capacity building. MNRLI involvement with the work will also maintain a sense of investment and ownership of the final products.

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:

Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Website address:

<https://jncc.gov.uk/>

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

NOC and JNCC will translate the underpinning MSP linking tools for local conditions in the BVI and integration into the ES-CV planning tool (activities/pressures matrices (JNCC), sensitivity matrix (JNCC) and review impacts (NOC)). JNCC and NOC, will oversee the integration of the different work package tool into the Ecosystem Sensitivity & Climate Vulnerability (ES-CV) tool by Wood Environment and Infrastructure UK (sub-contractor). JNCC and Wood have previously collaborated to assess the value of marine-terrestrial ecosystem services across the BVI, both in terms of service provision and hazard mitigation, the learning of which will be directly incorporated within this project.

In terms of capacity, JNCC is the statutory adviser to UK Government and devolved administrations on UK and international nature conservation, and has an active OT Programme (<https://jncc.gov.uk/advice/sustainable-developmentoverseas/>). JNCC have extensive experience of being involved in and managing collaborative projects in the UK, EU and internationally. JNCC staff have a wide range of technical and project management skills will be available to deliver the project, including alternative staff with appropriate skills sets should there be a change in project personnel.

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.

 [Head of Finance Letter about accounts NOC](#)
 01/02/2021
 17:24:22
 pdf 135.83 KB

 [Xerox Scan 06012021170356](#)
 01/02/2021
 17:24:22
 pdf 17.76 KB

 [LoS ESCV merged](#)
 01/02/2021
 13:47:49
 pdf 461.37 KB

 [Cover Letter 1059](#)
 01/02/2021
 13:47:41
 pdf 117.11 KB

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?
Dr James Strong	Project Leader	12	Checked
Dr Nils Piechard	CI for WPs at NOC	17	Checked
Ian Fogler	Admin support and events management at NOC	11	Checked

Rozina Norris-Gumbs	In-country coordinator within MNRLI	2	Unchecked
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Do you require more fields?





☒ Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Amanda Gregory	Project coordination within JNCC	4	Checked
Jane Hawkrigde	Project oversight	2	Unchecked
Laura Robson	Marine Evidence lead	4	Checked
Marine Evidence H Grade	Marine Evidence technical input	11	Unchecked
Laura Pettit	Marine Ecosystems lead	2	Checked
Adam Britton	Marine Ecosystems technical input	2	Checked
Gwawr Jones	Ecosystems Analysis lead	2	Checked
Becky Trippier	Ecosystems Analysis technical input	7	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.

 [Rozina GumbsCV DPR9S2 1004](#)
 03/02/2021
 08:09:49
 pdf 179.55 KB

 [CVs merged](#)
 01/02/2021
 14:15:10
 pdf 1020.88 KB

Have you attached all Project staff CVs?

☒ No

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

As a minor supervisory role, Jane Hawkrigde's CV has not provided by JNCC.
Rozina Norris-Gumbs wasn't able to provide a CV in time for submission - when this arrives it will be forwarded to the Darwin Initiative.

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).

Despite its extensive coastline and significant Exclusive Fishing Zone of over 87,000 square km, the BVI has minimal Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in place, with only basic licensing provided in most areas. Implementing effective MSP, as required by the Proposed Environmental Management and Climate Adaption Bill for BVI, would address current and future pressures on sensitive ecosystems from activities previously shown to threaten several vulnerable species and habitats (e.g. coastal reef, mangrove forests) across the BVI.

Currently, human activities, combined with unprecedented levels of pressure from natural hazards and climate change, shown in work by Wood and JNCC, are significantly affecting the natural environment in the BVI and threatening lives and livelihoods. To protect the environment and realise sustainable blue economy opportunities, the BVI Government have prioritised MSP development, with the ministry responsible (identifying an immediate need for an information system to support balanced assessment of developments and activities with socio-economic and environmental impacts. The pressing need for a robust tool to facilitate effective MSP in the BVI was further confirmed to NOC during an on-going project delivering preparatory activities for the BVI Government.

This project will expand, integrate and enhance existing tools and outputs developed by the project partners to create a new ES-CV tool covering both the marine and terrestrial environment, including representation of human-environment interactions and impacts, and existing indicators to track change in the environment. MSP remains the most effective mechanism for managing damaging human activities and protecting vulnerable marine features. The proposed tool and process will enable MSP issues in the BVI to be addressed and allow the MNRL&I to produce marine spatial plans based on integrated datasets and more holistic planning considerations for the foreseeable future. The tools proposed here will greatly facilitate the production of marine spatial plans by in-country partners.

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)

The objective of this project is to further develop and adapt existing 'human activity to pressure matrices', 'habitat sensitivity matrices' and 'cumulative impact assessment methods' already established in other countries but are not currently available or suitable for use in-country. To support and enhance MSP capabilities in BVI, the proposed ES-CV tool will integrate and refine (for local conditions) these tools.

WP 1 (JNCC lead)

Following methods developed by JNCC Pressures and Impacts Team, identify and prioritise pressures affecting the marine environment in the BVI using literature, expert knowledge and workshops with stakeholders, to produce a summary spreadsheet and supporting methodological note (a future report section).

WP 2 (JNCC lead)

Review existing information and environmental classifications for characterising the BVI marine environment. Based on prioritised pressures, undertake a literature review on the sensitivity of these habitats. Adapt the MarESA method (integrating data but also expert judgement) to develop and implement an approach to assess marine habitat sensitivity and calculate confidence scores as a key output. Validate WP1 and WP2 outputs with partners and in-country experts, including experts from other Caribbean islands and regional institutions.

WP 3 (NOC lead)

Review available cumulative impact assessment methods and assess feasibility for use in the BVI, including approaches currently being evaluated in other territories to assess the impacts from pressures reporting any recommendations on approach and identifying preparatory work required to support the ES-CV process and tool development. Maintain the dialogue with stakeholders through workshops and structured review processes. In-country partners will be regularly consulted on the applicability of the tools – feedback will be used to refine the feasibility study.

WP 4 (NOC and Wood Plc)

Enhance the existing (HCVA) process and tool (Wood, 2020) to support MSP, drawing on its existing links with open access spatial datasets and information, and including functionality for (1) calculating direct and indirect impacts; (2) supporting planning requirements; (3) outputting estimates of spatial overlap of pressure and impact metrics and (4) linking human activity, pressures, habitat sensitivity and. In operation, the ESCV tool will combine scores and weightings to highlight geographic areas of importance and quantify current and future impacts. It will include a module to show the levels of uncertainty in the analysis pathway used within the ESCV.

WP 5 (NOC and Wood Plc)

Training conducted for stakeholders on the tool and the underlying ES-CV process will cover the modules enabling linking to outside databases after this work and so contribute to island self-reliance. This proposal has synergies with the proposal for 'Coastal Resource Atlas (CRA) 2021 and Temporal Analysis for the BVI' (DPR9S1\1057 - also led by NOC). If both are funded, the updated CRA will be nested within the ES-CV tool. The updated maps they use will lead to immediate and easily accessible benefits from both projects. Each is a necessary component of MSP. The combined proposal was split into two to reduce risk of a combined rejection of both parts as each also has independent value to MSP in the BVI.

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

Section 8 - Stakeholders and Beneficiaries

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.

The primary project stakeholders are MNRLI which is the central government department responsible for MSP in the BVI, with secondary stakeholders Town and Country Planning Department (TCPD) and the Department of Disaster Management (DDM), who are the governmental departments responsible for spatial planning and climate risk management respectively. Stakeholder interest was ascertained during an ongoing NOC project (MSP gap analysis commissioned by the MNRLI) and previous projects delivered by Wood Plc and JNCC, who have worked in the BVI since 2017. Over this time, the BVI departments highlighted the necessity for a MSP framework integrated with the existing terrestrial HCVA tool.

The same stakeholders were also partners in the previous Climate risk and vulnerability assessment project funded by the BVI Government and the Caribbean Development Bank that generated the original HCVA framework. The BVI Government are in a position to enact legally-enforceable and effective management measures using the project outputs which will benefit the development of in-country plans recommended by the Virgin Islands Strategic Blue Economy Road-map (2020 – 2025).

Q15. Institutional Capacity

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

NOC is the UK's centre of excellence for oceanographic research and is part-funded by UKRI to work on National Capability programmes, and manages the National Marine Equipment Pool including two research ships. NOC has two sites, Southampton and Liverpool, and employs around 650 staff. It is co-located with leading UK Universities (Southampton and Liverpool), giving NOC a unique position in UK marine research.

The NOC has significant resource to deliver this project and sufficient redundancy should key staff become unavailable. NOC was recently commissioned by the Government of the BVI to support the implementation of marine spatial planning (e.g. spatial data collection, gap analyses and capacity building for MSP). The ongoing Commonwealth Marine Economies programme at NOC continues to provide scientific products and advice to small island states on how to make the most of their maritime resources in order to catalyse sustainable economic development, while preserving the health of the ocean. Additional NOC projects related to sustainable management include: (i) SOSTICE project (funded under GCF) that addresses challenges of food security and sustainable livelihoods for coastal communities in the Western Indian Ocean; (ii) Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Coastal and Marine Environment Program (World Bank); (iii) ACCORD project that focuses on sustainable growth of, and resilience to change for, the Blue Economies of partner countries in South East Asia and the Western Indian Ocean (funded by UK Gov); and (iv) EO4SD (Earth Observation for Sustainable Development) project. This experience with other ODA-style projects provides

capability to deliver within NOC.

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.

Immediate beneficiaries are the BVI authorities responsible for managing and conserving the marine environment as well as those assessing vulnerability to natural disasters including climate change. For example, departments of the BVI government benefit from better characterised littoral habitats and infrastructure in relation to spatial planning policy. Effective MSP directly benefits marine stakeholders in the BVI and more widely through the fair and considered distribution of human activities to ensure future sustainability. The support provided by the ESVC tool aligns with the strategic objectives stated in the Virgin Islands Strategic Blue Economy Road-map and the Proposed Environmental Management and Climate Adaption Bill.

The general population also benefits directly (e.g. from better waste control policies) as do fishers and people dependent on marine tourism. Agencies such as the Virgin Islands National Parks Trust (and property developers and users) also benefit from better objectivity and characterisation of vulnerabilities from habitat sensitivity and human pressures at protected sites. The project also supports ongoing MNRLI procurement of the first MSP system for BVI which requires comprehensive and accurate information on the location and identity of marine resources (including species and habitats both common and of conservation value) which will be provided by the tool.

Section 9 - Gender and Change Expected

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?

Previous research has shown that women are affected disproportionately by natural hazards and climate change and the same is true for stakeholders living and working in the BVI who interact with the marine environment, whether as a source of income, recreation or wellbeing. We have formed a gender inclusive project delivery team that brings together leading expertise from research, consulting and NGO communities. Critical to the delivery of the project is the consideration of gender inclusive principles and approaches. The project team will undertake gender inclusive knowledge generation activities comprising workshops and seminars with a range of stakeholders including scientists, practitioners, policy makers and local communities to understand the current context, condition and priorities for MSP. We will ensure all engagement is gender inclusive and adheres to best practice social research techniques. Of particular importance is ensuring gender sensitivity in the identification and recognition of potential disparities among groups and to be aware of the potential need to adjust approaches in consultation to reflect potentially varying capacity and needs among different stakeholder groups. Practical guidance on designing and implementing gender inclusive engagement is provided by the International Association for Public Participation of which Wood is a member.

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.

Short-term benefits

This project will provide BVI Governmental departments with a comprehensive and holistic tool to support planning and conservation for decision-making, licensing and spatial planning. The immediate benefits include:

- Assistance assessing the indicators associated with the environmental strategy for sustainable development and conservation
- Improved conservation outcomes derived from evidence-based marine management;
- Consistency in management outcomes for different human activities;
- Transparency so that interested parties can understand the processes underpinning marine management decisions;
- Recognition of climatic vulnerability within marine management;
- Integration of terrestrial considerations with coastal considerations within the same framework; and
- Greater societal understanding of the impacts of human activities on the marine environment (via project consultations and communications).

Long-term benefits

Long-term benefits include an earlier implementation of MSP. Through this process, suitable blue economy objectives are more likely to be achieved and to a high standard. The components integrated into the ESCV will facilitate the linking of human pressures through to management advice (pathways typically only available in countries with more established MSP practices).

Agencies with marine management responsibilities have the ability to consider long-term changes within the environment. The inclusion of climate vulnerability (existing capability in the HVCA tool) within the ESCV tool along with the new human pressures and impacts components allows them to consider and integrate climate-driven change and human pressures within the same process in the BVI.

Across the BVI Government, the project will lead to increased understanding of the pressures and threats for the marine environment and the impacts of management actions. It will strengthen the evidence base, improve understanding of human interactions and impacts in the marine environment and enable the BVI Government to make better evidence-based planning and policy decisions. There are also benefits for BVI from presenting better information when participating in international forums.

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 your overall Outcome, and, longer term, your expected Impact.

The project team will work with the MNRLI and other departments to ensure the ESCV tool is compatible with existing marine management processes and delivers the capabilities required by the Government of the BVI. As the HCVA (ESCV precursor) has already been adopted by the Government of the BVI, we anticipate the rapid adoption and deployment of the ESCV tool to facilitate marine spatial planning and contribute to environmental protection in the short to medium term (3-5 years).

Furthermore, the project will promote greater collaboration between governmental departments responsible for marine and terrestrial spatial planning and management by integrating the terrestrial HCVA

tool used by DDM with the marine capabilities provided by the upgraded ESCV tool.

These outcomes align with key priorities for Darwin Plus (Round 9) and will be further reinforced through a dedicated training program to up-skill stakeholders in the delivery of marine spatial planning.

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?

The ES-CV tool will be available for immediate use by project stakeholders. Trained on how to use the ESCV tool and produce management-oriented products and vulnerability assessments will be offered to all primary stakeholders. The existing HCVA tool has been adopted and now maintained by DDM for the last 18 months, as such there is already an established exit strategy and capacity in-country. For additional robustness, the team will also develop a guide on how to use and maintain the ES-CV tool in case staff trained during the project leave MNRLI and other governmental departments.

The updating the information within the existing HVCA tool is an established practice and should be a familiar processes for the ESCV tool. As the precursor HCVA tool is currently in use, we anticipate that stakeholders are already familiar with this process. In the short-term, the linking tools will not require further maintenance. If funding is awarded, a parallel Darwin Plus proposal submitted by NOC results in a new Coastal Resource Atlas which would be used to provide new and updated datasets supporting the provision of best available evidence.

Section 10 - Funding and Budget

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.

 [Budget over 100K DPR9S11059 FINAL](#)
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Q22. Funding

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

☒ New initiative

Please provide details:

New initiative. NOC must acknowledge the MNRLI for providing the concept for this proposal, i.e. that MSP 'linking tools' are integrated within the existing HCVA framework and tools (which is widely used in the BVI) to make the new ESCV framework and tools. To be clear, this proposal will deliver tools, integrated into a familiar framework, for supporting the production of marine spatial plans (but the project will not be delivering marine spatial plans itself).

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
MNLR&I	██████	£	Staff cost in kind
JNCC	██████	No Response	Overhead wavier
NOC	██████	£	Overhead wavier

Wood have also opted to discount their standard rates () and include a proportion of non-billed time as an in-kind contribution to ensure the effective delivery of this project and for the direct benefit of the BVI Government.

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
No Response	No Response	0	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	0	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	0	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	0	No Response	No Response

Do you require more fields?

☒ No

Section 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?

NOC routinely manage large, million-pound plus research budgets with a typical turnover of approximately £ . The NOC utilizes project management systems that require reporting of daily activity and spending. All funding that is received as grants is being managed by the Principle Investigator with

facilitating by Science and Project Support Team. Senior Project Support Officer sets up a separate project code unique to the grant and allocates a budget as indicated in the award letter. Principle investigator is in control of the budget and expenses including labour and non-labour needs to be approved by him/her. Procurement and Legal Team are informed if the project requires external audit and make arrangement for that to happen. The support team check the project cost claim to make sure all internal processes and procedures have been met when incurring the costs and that only allowable expenses are claimed from the funder.

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.

NOC operates risk management procedures based on the risk profile of each project. These are required for internal decision-making purposes as well as used as a part of project management and quality assurance during project delivery. The principal investigator will be responsible for managing project risks and introducing contingency plans where needed to address perceived risks.

The use of external partners can present financial risks, particularly with regard to consistency of approaches between different organisations. NOC will prepare and maintain a project execution plan and risk register to ensure tasks involving one or more partners, are effectively managed from start to finish.

Fraud and bribery have also been identified as risks. NOC's Fraud and Bribery Policy describes what constitutes bribery, how to report bribery as well as specific actions to eliminate bribery. This policy document will be shared with all partners and form the minimum level of fraud and bribery safeguards within the project.

The current COVID-19 pandemic will create unique challenges for the project; NOC will continue to make all decisions on a risk-based approach, relying on expert guidance and advice, local jurisdiction and close engagement with and our local partners.

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.

NOC has a significant understanding of the MSP challenges in the BVI gained through delivery of the previously related projects. However, the majority of the expertise for the production of the linking tools within the ES-CV tool and the development of the framework itself lies with project partners. As such, most of the project funds are likely to be allocated to project partners, managed through NOC to ensure effective integration of project outputs. For example, Wood Plc were responsible for developing the original HCVA tool and therefore have the skills required to modify its structure to include the marine environment. Both JNCC and NOC have experience in developing linking tools. This process requires a level of previous experience in using existing tools (which are commonly used in the UK) as well as the time and ability to access and summarise large amounts of scientific literature. During initial discussions with our main stakeholders, it was apparent there was not sufficient capacity (typically in the form of time and expertise) within either organisation to take on this work themselves. As such, we feel that in this situation it is

justifiable that most of the funds are allocated to non in-country partners.

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.

None.

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.

This project makes substantial financial savings by augmenting established, high-value tools already in use in the BVI. The existing HCVA tool has proven effective in supporting vulnerability assessments for terrestrial settings. By expanding the existing HCVA tool to the marine environment, the majority of the structure and reporting front-end and back-end algorithms and processes for the ESCV tool already largely exist. Adding marine capabilities to the existing tool will also enhance capabilities to produce robust vulnerability assessments.

The linking tools that will also be transferred into the framework are mostly existing open-source products that have been generated for other locations or projects. Project resources are required for the modification of these products to suit local conditions (environment and habitats) and activity profiles (human activities at sea). However, significant elements of the structure and content can be transferred to apply to the BVI marine environment without significant modification. Many of these tools are the products of long and valuable projects. For example, the project that delivered the first set of sensitivity matrices (Marine Conservation Zones - MB0102 contract) had a total budget of £[REDACTED]. The MarESA sensitivity matrices have now been in constant development for the last nine years (Tillin and Hull, 2012).

The process of producing marine spatial plans and climate change vulnerability assessments is a lengthy and costly exercise. The proposed framework, developed using existing tools will greatly facilitate an effective process as well as reducing the resources required to produce these outputs and generating a substantial saving.

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.

All efforts within the project focus on the production of a robust and highly accessible ES-CV tool as the primary output of the project. The challenge here is to integrate several small components (work packages) into a unified deliverable. The development and integration of each WP component will be detailed in a project report, within which important assumptions and short-comings will be clearly described and justified. Each of the major components added to the ES-CV tool will also represent discrete projects outputs, designed to contribute to local capacity building.

A project report detailing the framework and the linking tools will be publicly available on completion of the project. The ES-CV tool itself is a management-focused tool and likely to have less public interest. As such, the level of public access will be left to the discretion of the Ministry noting that public trust is strengthened through transparency. We will provide all the linking tools via the JNCC website. As such, open access will be provided to methods and rule-sets that fundamentally underpin much of the decision making within MSP.

Public outputs (e.g. blogs, posters) will also be developed by Ian Folger (NOC) and shared via professional and social media channels to promote capacity building and knowledge sharing. Ian will coordinate all events (stakeholder engagement events as well as launch and close-out meetings) and communications (between the project and the stakeholders and the wide public) across the project (and for all partners). He will also develop e-posters, infographics and public material.

Section 12 - Safeguarding

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:

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	Checked
We have attached a copy of our safeguarding policy to this application	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


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


All NOC employees are expected to promote an inclusive environment free from discrimination, harassment and bullying with a respectful approach to differences and an open attitude to collaboration. This protection is for both employees of NOC and those with whom they work or come in contact with through their work. Due to number of international projects at NOC, we have both a standard set of safeguarding policies and a specific set for international work. This set of additional policies broadly places


additional requirements on NOC, and its partners, during international work.

Both sets of policy documents have been shared with all the project partners. In turn, all partners have provided written documentation that they will also abide by the same policies regulating NOC staff. An independent member of NOC staff based in the HR department, unconnected to the project and delivery research group, will be appointed as a point of contact for the re-reporting of safe-guarding infringements. This point of contact will be provided to NOC staff working on the project, partner staff, contractors and stakeholder contacts. Our project partners, JNCC and Wood, similarly maintain their own robust safeguarding policies and processes which will be adhered to throughout project delivery.


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


 [20200914 LGPRO03 Safeguarding Guidance and Reporting Procedure FINAL v1.0](#)


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 [NOC Safeguarding Code of Conduct NOC Safe guarding Guidance Appendix 2](#)

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Section 13 - Logical Framework

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.

 [Log frame ESCV for MSP](#)

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Impact:

Improved protection of marine living resources and sustainable management of human activities; the promotion of the Blue Economy; and improved transparency and understanding of marine management processes.

Outcome:

Step-change in the level sophistication and capability of marine management in the BVI along with an ability to integrate climate vulnerability and facilitation of MSP

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Pressures/ Activities Matrix developed for BVI

Output 2:

Sensitivity Assessment for Marine and Coastal habitats in BVI

Output 3:

Review available cumulative impact assessment methods and assess feasibility for use in the BVI

Output 4:

Translation and integration of existing marine management tools into the ES-CV tool (activity to pressures matrices; sensitivity matrices; and options for considering cumulative impacts).

Output 5:

Stakeholder engagement to understand: (i) the required format for the ES-CV tool to ensure its compatible with existing management measures; (ii) presence and intensity of human pressures; (iii) distribution of key habitats and the availability of information for estimating sensitivity; and (iv) the training requirements needed to maximise stakeholder use of the ES-CV tool.

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 List the human activities within the marine environment or directly influencing the marine environment.
- 1.2 Undertake literature review on sensitivity of BVI's marine and coastal habitats to pressures, following agreed assessment method.

- 2.1 Collate existing information and classifications for BVI marine environment.
- 2.2 Develop a sensitivity assessment method based on available information, using MarESA as a framework.
- 2.3 At the workshop held in WP2, agree the sensitivity assessment method with local stakeholders.
- 2.4 Consult with in-country experts to sense check outputs (in country meeting).

- 3.1 Review and assess the feasibility of incorporating a cumulative impact assessment method within the ESCV framework and tool.

- 4.1 Integrate the activity/pressure (WP1), sensitivity matrix (WP2) and cumulative impacts method, if possible, into the ESCV framework.
- 4.2 Produce ESCV tools for stakeholders.

- 5.1 Deliver training on the ESCV tool to all stakeholders.





Section 14 - Implementation Timetable

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.

 [R9 DPlus Implementation Timetable Template](#)
[Frame ESCV](#)
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Section 15 - Monitoring and Evaluation

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](#)).

A Project Management Group (PMG) will ensure project oversight, comprising quarterly meetings with project team representatives (NOC, Wood, JNCC, MNRLI, DDM and TCP). Considered at each meeting will be: (i) project progress; (ii) deliverable quality and consistency; (iii) potential to increase involvement of in-country stakeholders in the development and testing of the ES-CV tool; (iv) how to promote awareness and access to the project deliverables; and (v) other issues such as the identification of new beneficiaries and safeguarding issues.

The Stakeholder and Beneficiaries Group (SBG) meeting will follow the PMG meeting consecutively. James Strong will chair the SBG meeting and DDM, TCP and the MNRLI will be present. The meeting will be open to any beneficiary (subject to MNRLI and science team clearance) that may also wish to attend. All meetings will be minuted and summarised in the final report.

Overall responsibility for project monitoring and evaluation will fall on two people. The first is Dr James Strong (NOC – lead organisation) who will be the primary evaluator within the project and assess progress against the indicators in the Log Frame. Dr Strong is an experienced scientist and an experienced manager

of science. He led habitat mapping on several large NOC projects including Addressing Challenges of Coastal Communities through Ocean Research for Developing Economies (ACCORD) and the Commonwealth Marine Economies Programme (CMEP). The second is Mr Joseph Smith Abbott (Deputy Secretary at the Ministry of Natural Resources & Labour) who will provide an independent and complementary stakeholder-focused perspective. Their assessments will be routinely reported to the Darwin Plus project office.

This project has multiple components and parallel activities from different partners as well as significant dependencies on input from stakeholders. Resolving the range and complexity of issues requires significant attention and work package progress will have to be carefully monitored. To alleviate potential concerns, work package leads will generate both a mock-up product and specification for each component (e.g. linking tool) so that those working on the ES-CV tool are able to continue to produce and test the ES-CV tool without having to wait for each completed component.

Formal monitoring and evaluation will be addressed through the Environment Bill and DDM's CDM Strategy which the existing: (i) HCVA tool (Wood, 2020) - used to address environmental risk in planning and (ii) estimates of the value of natural capital (JNCC, 2019) are a component. Additionally, an ex-post assessment addressing the value for money of project outputs (comparing to the pre-existing situation) will be conducted in close collaboration with governmental departments. They will be consulted regularly on any aspects of monitoring and evaluation prescribed in existing policy commitments and any required actions to ensure effective project delivery.

Flexibility and redundancy have been included in the timeframe and project resources. It is important that any changes are rapidly communicated to partners, stakeholders and the Darwin Initiative, realistically assessed and adequately acted upon. The Darwin Initiative will be informed of any complications immediately and any remedial actions will be discussed collectively prior to implementation.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)	£ [REDACTED]
Number of days planned for M&E	44.00
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)	[REDACTED]

Section 16 - Certification

Certification

On behalf of the

trustees

of

National Oceanography Centre

I apply for a grant of

£357,891.00





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	James Strong
Position in the organisation	Senior Marine Scientist
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 <u>James Strong</u>  01/02/2021  17:16:49  jpg 3.86 KB
Date	01 February 2021

Section 17 - 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 attached my completed logframe and timeline as a PDF using the templates provided .	Checked

I have included a 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.	Checked
I have included a letter of support from the Lead Organisation and main partner organisation(s) identified at Question 10, 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 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 Plus 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).