
DIR27S2\1013

Securing Montserrat's threatened endemic species and natural capital through community-action

"Adopt a Home for Wildlife" (already successfully piloted) enables Montserratians to undertake informed decisions and actions on land they manage, via training and advice to 100 individuals, so Montserrat's unique wildlife and ecosystems thrive. Livelihoods, based on sustainable-use of natural resources (e.g. food-security, low-impact ecotourism), are demonstrated and promoted. A network of community-led managed conservation areas, covering 100ha, established, stimulating action and engagement among 3,000 Montserratians, addressing urgent challenges to the islands' biodiversity (e.g. invasive plants displacing native species).

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title Dr
Name Mike
Surname Pienkowski
Organisation UK Overseas Territories
Conservation Forum
Website (Work) www.ukotcf.org.uk
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
Tel (Home) [REDACTED]
Email (Work) [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
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CONTACT DETAILS

Title Mrs
Name Catherine
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Organisation UK Overseas Territories
Conservation Forum
Website (Work) www.ukotcf.org.uk
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[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum
Phone (Mobile)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q3. Project title:

Securing Montserrat's threatened endemic species and natural capital through community-action

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DIR27S1\100123

DIR27S1\1446

Q4. Country(ies)

Which eligible host country(ies) will your project be working in? Where there are more than 4 countries that your project will be working in, please add more boxes using the selection option below.

Country 1	Montserrat	Country 2	No Response
Country 3	No Response	Country 4	No Response

Do you require more fields?

No

Q5. Project dates

Start date: 01 July 2021	End date: 30 June 2024	Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months): 3 years
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Q6. Budget summary

Year:	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total request
Amount:	£88,537.00	£90,032.00	£85,582.00	£29,296.00	£ 293,447.00

Q6a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

Matched funding (£████████) consists mainly of audited in-kind contributions, secured on the basis of several partners providing personnel time and facilities to the project, together with current smaller funding proposals being considered at present. In-kind contributions are expected to be higher than stated here (DPLUS049 which ended in 2018, matched Darwin Plus contribution by ██████████). Both UKOTCF and community volunteers will be unpaid and will provide a large component of matched funding.

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

Section 3 - Project Summary

Q7. Summary of project

Please provide a brief summary of your project, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking. Please note that if you are successful, this wording 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.

“Adopt a Home for Wildlife” (already successfully piloted) enables Montserratians to undertake informed decisions and actions on land they manage, via training and advice to 100 individuals, so Montserrat’s unique wildlife and ecosystems thrive. Livelihoods, based on sustainable-use of natural resources (e.g. food-security, low-impact ecotourism), are demonstrated and promoted. A network of community-led managed conservation areas, covering 100ha, established, stimulating action and engagement among 3,000 Montserratians, addressing urgent challenges to the islands’ biodiversity (e.g. invasive plants displacing native species).

Section 4 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

Q8. Objectives for the Darwin Initiative

Please indicate which of the fund objectives (listed on p.8 of the guidance) you will be addressing.

- To address the multiple pressures driving freshwater habitats decline
- To understand and tackle impacts of agriculture practices on biodiversity, livelihoods and climate
- To promote the responsible stewardship of natural assets
- To promote the sharing of the benefits arising from the use of biodiversity
- Contributing towards reversing the increase in threats of extinction to the world’s flora and fauna

Q9. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q9a. Your project must support the commitments of one or more of the agreements listed below.

Please indicate which agreement(s) will be supported and describe which objectives your project will address.

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q9b. Biodiversity Conventions

Please detail how your project will contribute to the aims of the agreement(s) your project is targeting. You should refer to Articles or Programmes of Work here.

UK ratifies conventions for UK territories, including Montserrat, if requested. Montserrat, with high conservation aspirations, is included in several, and is moving towards CBD ratification – by enacting its Conservation and Environmental Management Act 2014. Although it has developed regulations to meet its statutory requirements, but not yet had resources to complete national environmental or biodiversity strategies, it has used opportunities to move towards this: ministers encouraged wide stakeholder-participation in successful workshops in DPLUS049, indicating that these should be treated as progressing such strategies (see Qs9,18).

The project supports convention-objectives:

CBD: (Aichi Targets numbers):

1. people aware of biodiversity-value and their potential steps to conserve/use it sustainably: through training and advice on site-management provided by project-team and communication materials developed;
5. halving natural-habitat loss-rate; degradation/fragmentation reduced: by communities restoring natural capital on land they manage;
7. agriculture/forestry areas ensuring biodiversity-conservation: through project's sustainable-agriculture developments with local small enterprises;
8. pollution to non-detrimental levels: by technical advice and natural-area restoration;
9. invasive alien species controlled: in areas under active community-management;
11. terrestrial/coastal/marine areas conserved and integrated into wider landscapes: through community protected-areas network (see below);
12. threatened-species-extinction prevented: by this network, and building community-appreciation, including through community information-recording system;
14. ecosystem-services restored/safeguarded especially for women, local communities, poor and vulnerable: at site-network, by benefitting food-supply and net income;
15. ecosystem-resilience and carbon-stocks-contribution enhanced: through degraded-ecosystem restoration particularly those areas left unmanaged since volcanic eruptions.
19. knowledge widely shared: through outreach activities.

Specifically, on target 11:

“By 2020 at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water, and 10% of coastal and marine areas... conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas, and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascape.”

The 2019 IUCN-published report from World Commission on Protected Areas Task Force on “other effective area-based conservation measures” (OECMs) acknowledges the contribution that many areas not legally designated as protected areas can contribute to effective conservation, and that OECMs are likely to play a significant role post-2020 Aichi targets

The Montserrat Centre Hills Protected Area, covering approximately 11km², is the islands' only statutory protected area. Previous UKOTCF-stakeholder meetings on island have concluded that the area to the south of the island, largely cut off by volcanic activity, has many opportunities for both biodiversity and ecotourism, but is unlikely to be a candidate OECM as it is, largely co-incidentally, being protected due to its remoteness from human-settlements. Yet, those sites managed under this project will act as a model for

how potential OECMs can contribute towards target 11, reducing biodiversity-loss as well as contribute towards improved livelihoods.

Ramsar

Montserrat's only proposed terrestrial Ramsar Site is UK46002

(Centre Hills & forested ghauts). Ghauts, steep stream-valleys linking the hills to other native habitats, are vulnerable because they cut through settlement areas. The local community has already proposed parts of these and the hills as project sites ("Wildlife-Homes"), achievable only with a local advisory officer supported by UKOTCF's wider network of voluntary specialists.

Q9c. Is any liaison proposed with the CBS / ABS / ITPGRFA / CITES / CMS / Ramsar / UNFCCC focal point in the host country?

No

If no, please explain why.

None (because UK handles). Within Montserrat's Ministry of Agriculture, Land, Housing and Environment (MAHLE), the Department of Environment is focal-point for international commitments. UKOTCF has a long-established relationship with the Department, lasting well over 25 years. A tri-party MOU exists between UKOTCF, Montserrat National Trust (MNT) and MALHE. Project outlines are always discussed with the Department in collaboration with MNT. This has withstood many changes in personnel within the Ministry. Recently, the former Permanent Secretary has been recruited by the Trust, which gives some additional capacity in ensuring that both government and NGOs are well informed of each other's work.

Q9d. Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Please detail how your project will contribute to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

The project contributes to SDGs:

3. Ensure healthy lives and well-being - as areas managed through the project are productive, pleasant and clean areas to live, visit and exercise in, contributing towards Montserratians' well-being. Livelihoods protected and improved, e.g. reduction in over-reliance on imported food (largely as a result of the major volcanic activity from 1995-2010, currently most goods are imported to the island, despite rich soil and traditions), and improved health with more fresh and nutritious produce;
4. Ensure inclusive education and lifelong learning - through training and outreach available online and via the newsletter ("Save our Special Nature" continued beyond DPLUS049 project, with 9 issues so far), and community-meetings at MNT.
8. Promote sustainable economic growth - productive work restored through small local enterprises, improvements at MNT's botanic gardens and encouraged low-impact tourism, particularly of the Montserratian diaspora (which, at over 7,000 from 2011 UK census, is twice as large as population remaining on Montserrat),
10. Reduce inequality - by encouraging small enterprises, e.g. low-impact eco-tourism particularly focused on UK diaspora, small-scale food production, medicinal-plant-selling and other products at MNT's botanic gardens;
11. Make human-settlements sustainable - mostly through activities of the community-groups and using them as demonstration sites to create positive change;
15. Promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems - reverse land-degradation and, where appropriate, natural regeneration through the development of site management-plans which are implemented;
17. Strengthen implementation ... for sustainable development - through a grassroots-movement encouraging and helping the community to act.

Section 5 - Lead Organisation Summary

Q10. Lead organisation summary

Has your organisation been awarded a Darwin Initiative or IWT Challenge Fund 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
DPLUS049	Dr Mike Pienkowski	Maximising long-term survival prospects of Montserrat's endemic species and ecosystem-services
8164	M Pienkowski & O Cheesman	Developing Biodiversity Management Capacity around the Ramsar-Site in the Turks&CaicosIslands
3032	Ms S Cross	Core Development of Forum and Support forNGOs in UK DependentTerritories
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>


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.

 [2018Accounts-FINALapproved2](#)


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 [2019Accounts_6withAudit_Final+sig](#)

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Section 6 - Project Partners

Q11. 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: UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (UKOTCF)

Website address: www.ukotcf.org.uk

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

UKOTCF has >35 years' experience co-running projects in UKOTs, >25 years on Montserrat (including by the PL, who earlier initiated and supervised for its first decade the British Red-Kite Reintroduction, described last year by UK Government's statutory advisor as "the biggest species success story in UK conservation history.") UKOTCF will undertake administration, management and specialist-guidance, and seek/coordinate local/outside partners via several meetings per year (Zoom and/or physical) to: (1) review progress against log-frame; (2) use this to produce half-yearly reports (3) provide materials for newsletters and partner-websites; (4) provide support to the Montserrat-based PO, with regular meetings, plus those of the wider team; (5) undertake some of the site-visits with the PO to facilitate management of community-sites and (6) organise training and workshop-sessions with the PO; (7) record all discussions and make reports available online (8) specialist technical advice including volunteers where appropriate.

UKOTCF has years of experience in working via remote communications and has long established flexible working hours (this has made it quite resilient to the immediate impacts of Covid-19). It makes good use of early- and late-career conservationists as volunteers, if additional capacity is needed, with a background in high level of retention of these.

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

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

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

1. Partner Name: Montserrat National Trust (MNT)

Website address: www.montserratnationaltrust.ms

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

MNT, established by statute in 1970, leads on preserving and conserving natural, cultural, historic and archaeological heritage. Objectives are to: conserve/enhance Montserrat's beauty; preserve/rehabilitate historical sites, including buildings, monuments, documents etc; preserve Montserrat's wildlife; make the public aware of the value and beauty of Montserrat's heritage; pursue a policy of preservation and act as advisor; acquire property for the benefit of Montserrat; attract funds for effective carrying-out of objectives; to compile photographic and architectural records of the above (UKOTCF helped secure a British Library grant in 2014 to archive historical documents).

Members include the local community, the vibrant Montserrat population now living overseas and friends of MNT making their home on Montserrat. This means it is well-placed to encourage and engage with the community.

MNT will be the most visible partner on Montserrat, implementing the project locally by focusing on community-engagement, guidance and plant-provision. MNT acknowledges that UKOTCF's role is key for them to take on new initiatives.

PO will be MNT-based and will liaise with community groups.

MNT's daily operations are run by an Executive Director, managing 7 staff, with oversight by an Executive Board. It relies on Member Volunteers, forming Committees working with Executive and staff.

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

2. Partner Name: Corkhill Reunion Committee 2016

Website address: Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/The-Cork-Hill-Reunion-Committee-2016-180894135706565/?ref=nf>

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

The Cork Hill Reunion Committee 2016 provides a forum for the gathering, sharing of ideas and making plans for former residents of Cork Hill area, an area in the volcano exclusion zone for many years, but now in the safe-zone.

Residents had to abandon their homes in 1997 due to the volcano. Quieting of this in recent years, has allowed a return to repair some of the damage. However, during these 20 years, some invasive species have taken over many of the gardens in Cork Hill.

Residents have made a start at clearing some of these, at the cricket ground, which has been used as a way to bring people back to the area, as well as some gardens.

Consultations between UKOTCF and the Cork Hill Committee, a key beneficiary of the project, have begun on what could be possible for the area in terms of restoration of tropical dry forest in and around the once residential area, which may be repopulated at some point and how this can have multiple benefits for people and nature (e.g. eco-tourism opportunities, food production). Any activities will be jointly planned between Cork Hill Committee, MNT and UKOTCF.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

3. Partner Name:

Fish 'N' Fins

Website address:

<https://www.aquafishnfins.com>

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

Fish 'N Fins is a non-profit organisation which enables Caribbean children to learn to swim, snorkel and protect our oceans. Conservation activities include: exploring tropical marine habitats, creating ocean art, community projects, internships, sea-safety skills and more.

Veta Wade is a passionate ocean advocate and outreach specialist, experienced in educating youth via empowerment, and adventure. Through her outreach work, Veta has been able to engage the community and volunteers of all ages and abilities in embracing marine conservation and ocean confidence. To date she has engaged over 1,000 children via Fish 'N Fins' programmes. Her goal is not only to educate and increase Caribbean youth awareness about the marine life, but also to immerse them and inspire them to be passionate ocean leaders. The project will make best use of her successfully demonstrated community work. Her role will be to assist with liaison with community groups and individuals providing assistance with the monitoring and evaluation of the project aims.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

4. Partner Name: Bass Consultancy Services (664 Connect)

Website address: www.664connect.com

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

Bass Consultancy Services (BCS) is a full-service marketing and business consultancy based on Montserrat. They provide business and marketing consultancy services which focus on each clients' most critical issues and opportunities: strategy marketing organisational development operations technology transformation digital and advanced analytics. They also provide supporting services like business branding graphic design and web design.

664Connect is an offshoot of BCS. It is a culture entertainment and .destination website about Montserrat and the Caribbean region 664Connect works with organisations to identify their USP differentiate their offering attract the right audience create content and provide an overarching strategic approach for them to adistribute content to their audiences. 664Connect is also a medi outlet that reaches nearly 100000 persons in Montserrat the region and internationally each month.

BCS will work with the Montserrat National Trust, UKOTCF and partners to develop and implement a communications strategy, online and face-to-face surveys in order for the project to meet its outcomes. Vernaine Bass volunteers as a board member of Montserrat National Trust.

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

5. Partner Name: Mr Tim Orton

Website address: Not applicable

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

Mr Orton lives in Montserrat adjacent to a substantial area of tropical-dry-forest, which he purchased when it was covered in volcanic ash-fall. He is strongly committed to its restoration, and discussions between him and UKOTCF in the exploratory project DPLUS49 were a major factor in designing "Adopt a Home for Wildlife" as an effective approach both to restoration of natural ecosystems and empowering of local people in leading conservation. Tim has been – and will be – a strong local advocate for people at all levels of society to join the project, as well as providing an educational facility for local school-children and potential new "Adopters," especially in view of his experimenting and developing better plant-establishment techniques. He is also providing the site in his Wildlife-Home for the experimental reintroduction of the Critically Endangered Mountain Chicken frog (and world-leading research on an approach to dealing with the chytrid fungus which has caused so many amphibian extinctions around the world (Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust: DPLUS105). In return, he looks to the project to provide a botanically trained PO to advise and help him and other local persons build up relevant botanical knowledge during the 3 years of the project.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

6. Partner Name:

Mr Dwayne Hixon

Website address:

Not applicable

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

Dwayne Hixon, a Montserratian running a local small building business employing a number of local people, has a long-term interest in the natural environment, and recognises the mutual benefits of working with it. During the pilot-project (within DPLUS49) he identified two possible Wildlife-Homes, implementing one of them: developing a golf-course on volcanic material which now covers the old one several feet deep. With botanical advice from the then Project Officer, Dwayne used natural ground-vegetation, rather than importing alien plants; he removed large areas of the alien invasive Australian pine (Casuarina), and kept or planted native trees for shade. The golf-course building is set back from the shore and its lighting arranged so as to avoid problems for nesting turtles. He has excavated some of the volcanic washout-material to recreate some of the coastal wetlands (previously almost lost on Montserrat because of the volcano and inappropriate development), which have now brought back some of the migrant wetland birds. He will further develop this wetland complex within the golf-course, add more Wildlife-Homes, bringing in more local people into these and their own schemes, and provide good models for new Adopters and the wider public, with the help of the PO.

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.

Partner Name: Gestina Frith, The "Tina Banana" Project (no current website)

At the start of 2019, Ms Gestina Frith embarked on a small venture. Her goal was to provide a small-scale, but constant, supply of yellow bananas to the island.


Tina Bananas are grown by a completely natural process; no fertilizers nor pesticides are used and irrigation occurs naturally through rainfall and dew run-offs. Throughout the year, the crops are maintained by weeding and cleaning in order for the plants to reach a healthy matured stage. 12 months on, the first shoot of banana burst; it was harvested about 3 months after and sold by retail on the local market. So far, Tina Bananas has been marketed on Facebook and has developed a small client base of local consumers. Plans going forward are to develop a wider customer framework by offering a delivery service, plant an additional number of trees and reduce the cost per pound as production increases.

The motto: "Buy local, eat local, support the Tina Banana project"

Supporting letter (received as email) attached. This is a small enterprise, but has been used as an example of the community partners the project will work with.


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


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Section 7 - Project Staff

Q12. 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 Mike Pienkowski	Project Leader	18	Checked
Mrs Catherine Wensink	Co-Project Leader: oversight administrative and some technical, advice and organisation	36	Checked
Mrs Sarita Francis OBE	Local oversight financial, employment and technical	6	Checked
Ms Veta Wade	M&E; local co-ordinator, communicator	11	Checked

Do you require more fields?


Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Ms Vernaire Barnes	M&E; local co-ordinator, communicator	10	Checked
Project Officer - to be recruited	Local lead, ecological management advice	100	Checked
Ms Vicky Wilkins	Invertebrate-conservation and island specialist advisor; trainer; M&E; capacity builder	10	Checked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked


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

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

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Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 8 - Problem statement

Q13. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of biodiversity and its relationship with poverty. For example, what are the drivers of loss of biodiversity that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems?

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 next page).

Montserrat, a small (102km²) UK Overseas Territory, population 4649, is exceptionally rich in endemic wildlife, with ecosystem-services underlying the economy, including sustainable tourism, water-supply, food-security etc.

During volcanic peak 1995-2010, Montserrat's flat areas, one holding the port, capital and only town (Plymouth), and the other the airport, were covered deeply in pyroclastic volcanic material. Volcano-damage and risk have restricted the human population to the island's northern third (and will for future decades), causing encroachment into globally threatened tropical dry-forest, and the few remaining wetlands and wet-forest, particularly the ghauts [ravines] that run down from Centre Hills (the islands' water-source). These areas are important also for wildlife on which much of the economy (and quality of life) depend, and the main opportunity of rebuilding the economy, once the immediate Covid-19 emergency is manageable. Most human activity takes place in or near tropical-dry-forest and wetlands, as shown in the islands' recently produced habitat-map (see uploads – undertaken by JNCC-funded Environment Systems, but with ground-truthing by MNT/UKOTCF, including a Montserratian trainee, during DPLUS049). There is significant pressure for housing on Centre Hills Protected-area's buffer-zone, and little to prevent 'death by 1000 cuts,' as small dwellings are exempt from environmental impact assessments. A tradition of small-scale food production (backyard-farming) exists, but there is huge potential for this to be expanded. Natural Capital assessment 2018 figures show base line [REDACTED] in crops but potential is [REDACTED] (Montserrat's Growth Strategy (2018) outlined the island's continued slow recovery and dependence on support from UK's DFID for a dominant government workforce.)

However, it is these little-protected areas which hold much of the endemic wildlife. Plants include endemic critically endangered Montserrat orchid, *Epidendrum montserratense*, and pribby, *Rondeletia buxifolia*; vulnerable red cedar, *Cedrela odorata*, and Hondouran mahogany, *Swietenia mahagoni*, Lesser Antilles broom-palm, *Coccothrinax barbabensis*, feather-palm, *Acrocomia aculeate*, and overtop-palm, *Syagrus amara*. Montserrat has over 1,200 species of invertebrates, many are endemic, including 80 beetle species, e.g. ant-loving bombardier beetle, *Eohomopterus* sp, although Red-Listing is not complete (some work to establish an online virtual museum for this and other information began under DPLUS049). Birds include: endemic endangered Montserrat oriole, *Icterus oberi*, endemic subspecies and vulnerable forest-thrush, *Turdus lherminieri*, and eight species endemic to Lesser Antilles which are not currently Red-List assessed. Non-native plants, some of which have become invasive, pose a major threat, resulting partly from major hurricanes and especially volcanic activity over 30 years, interacting with previous human activity. Invasive

species threaten native wildlife, although actions to remove them are limited. In 2008, an unpublished MSc thesis outlined the main non-native species found, and we have identified (DPLUS49, using satellite-imagery) invasive-species concentrations (e.g. Australian pine, *Casuarina equisetifolia*; black-berry, *Eugenia ligustrina*) in areas feasible to manage, via "Wildlife-Homes."

UKOTCF & MNT developed this proposal as a way to build on the pilot in collaboration with other partners, community-groups (e.g. Cork Hill Committee, private land-managers) and individuals to address these challenges. Activities planned are realistic and achievable; the log-frame has been adjusted several times to incorporate community views.

Section 9 - Method, Change Expected, Gender & Exit Strategy

Q14. 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 (roles and responsibilities, project management tools, etc.).

Communities taking action for conservation-management is not well-established in Montserratian society. Adopt-a-Home-for-Wildlife was piloted in 2017. It encouraged invasive-removal and replacement, achieving community conservation-management across 30 hectares released after 20 years from the remaining volcanic exclusion-zone, proving effective in achieving endemic/native biodiversity-restoration and community "ownership," its further development being a priority agreed by Montserrat Government. It resulted additionally in safe habitat for a Darwin-project reintroducing a critically endangered island-endemic.

This community-led approach works and it is inclusive, allowing community-groups not otherwise environmentally engaged to take part. Its expansion will increase the island's prosperity by fostering appreciation for its natural capital in restoring tourism, saving business-costs, farming, well-being etc (indirect benefits to poverty-alleviation) and provide opportunities to young Montserratians, vital to ensure they stay on the island.

Community members/groups have input into project-design.

Our theory of change is that, through community action (e.g. by removing invasive species), natural regeneration (where possible) and/or restoration of globally threatened ecosystems occurs, halting/reversing biodiversity-loss while providing multiple benefits for Montserratians.

This community-action relates to our outcome of creating a site-network under community-management. In section 9b we refer to IUCN "Other-Effective-Area-Based-Conservation-Measures" (OECMs) as a way of protecting terrestrial and inland water (Aichi target 11).

Any community conservation-measures on these sites is documented in a management-plan, appropriate to site-size and needs of the community-manager ('Adopter'), developed with the PO and other team-members. UKOTCF's team includes a botanist and entomologist, for technical support.

Progress against the outcome is measured in site-management reports and surveys.

Benefits to people are demonstrated through community-outreach and delivered through a communications strategy. In addition, two demonstration Wildlife-Homes will be created and accessible to the public. They will showcase techniques for landowners (e.g. rainwater-harvesting, traditional planting-methods, use of native flora to encourage native fauna), and ecosystem-services provided by nature: e.g. medicinal uses of native plants (such as mosquito-repellent and soothing-creams, particularly for tourists); potentially reduced costs (e.g. as an alternative to land-clearance and pesticide-use; scope for honey-

production from native bee *Melipona*; importance of native pollinators (pilot-work here will feed into a wider future activities).

Methods and materials

-Management plans and surveys will include information on: site-location and area, to demonstrate an increase in community-managed Wildlife-Homes; proposed actions. Surveys will be conducted by the PO (with assistance from trainees and/or undergraduate students), giving baselines and measuring increase in biodiversity and benefits to the 'Adopter' as a result of their activities.

They will include fixed-point photos, report-cards documenting the presence of invasive species, and native flora and fauna before-and-after management, demonstrating beginnings of regeneration and/or restoration of dry-tropical-forest and wetland habitats.

-Site Management

Land-managers, with advice from the PO (and project-team members), will: remove physically invasive plants detrimental to native wildlife (as in IUCN Guidelines for the Prevention of Biodiversity Loss Caused by Alien Invasive Species), but recognising sensitivities and uses if managed (e.g mango can be invasive, but is cherished on island as a food-source, other invasives used as anti-inflammatories); and encourage native plants, supplemented by planting native species not self-regenerating from the seed-bank, using local stock grown at the botanic garden. Restoration of native species assemblages either occurs naturally or with some assistance.

-Native plant nursery

Protocols for native plants, including endemic species, have been established, with successful propagation (as part of pilot-work in DPLUS049).

Plants provided to Adopters are of native/endemic plants species and, depending on the supply provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, appropriate food-plants (e.g. herbs, pumpkins, cucumbers). Plants will be labelled with information (particularly about native wildlife, including those that provide an ecosystem-service, e.g. native pollinators), care instructions (including information on doing this in an ecological way), their agricultural/cultural/traditional uses, medicinal properties, how they can contribute to human well-being, e.g. time spent in nature and a system to track where they are planted.

Roles and responsibilities

UKOTCF PLs undertake financial management and are responsible for drafting and submitting reports.

UKOTCF team includes technical specialists if needed.

MNT PO, guided by Executive Director, undertakes surveys and management-plans and liaison with 'Adopters'. Coordinates with PLs on activities and interacts fortnightly.

Project-team includes an experienced Community Officer, located on Montserrat, facilitating involvement of local community-groups and taking part in all project-activities and M&E. Communications and Marketing Officer resident on island to assist with outreach, education and conducting surveys.

Steering Group will include PLs, 2 MNT representatives, 2 Adopt-a-Home representatives, and one young Montserratian, to help provide advice to the team and to troubleshoot where necessary.

Meetings will take place via Zoom and meeting-records will be taken.

Q15. Raising awareness of the potential worth of biodiversity

If your project contains an element of communications, knowledge sharing and/or dissemination please provide a description of your intended audience, how you intend to engage them, what the expected products/materials will be and what you expect to achieve as a result.

For example, are you expecting to directly influence policy in your host country or is your project a community advocacy project to support better management of biodiversity?

Within Q1, a communications/outreach plan developed, a flexible document, making the most of opportunities as they arise.

Several key messages will be delivered:

- The island's biodiversity and threats to it;
- Links between biodiversity, natural capital and livelihoods;
- Opportunities for all genders and ages to be involved in livelihoods based around the island's natural capital.

2018 Census data indicates Montserratian households with ownership/access to information-devices: 90% own mobile-phones, 68% internet-access, 71% a radio. A mixture of online-content, radio-interviews, newspaper-articles, newsletters and physical materials will be used to ensure inclusivity.

Websites

UKOTCF and MNT both have dedicated website projects-areas. Pages will be added, providing for information to be accessed immediately.

Social media

Project-partners have active social-media accounts: MNT (Facebook: 1489 likes) posting bi-monthly, UKOTCF (Twitter: 1825 followers; Facebook: 756) weekly, 664 Connect (Facebook: 2,735 likes) daily, Fish'N'Fins (Facebook: 1,093 likes) daily.

Several other accounts, which have shared news from MNT and UKOTCF include: Governor's Office (Facebook: 3072 likes) posting at least weekly and Discover MNI (Facebook: 6,218 likes) daily.

The project will identify if young Montserratians are using other social-media such as TikTok, Instagram, so as not to exclude them.

Local media

Rose Willock's Saturday Culture Show (on ZJB-Radio) has long championed MNT's/UKOTCF's work (6 team-appearances 2016-2019) and will continue interviewing the project-team throughout. Radio is popular on Montserrat, and livestreams are available online, so that Montserratians abroad can listen too.

"Montserrat Reporter" newspaper is also engaged with conservation; interviews will be given with them throughout.

Newsletters

UKOTCF/MNT's newsletter "Save Our Special Nature of Montserrat" has 9 issues with regular circulation of 50 individuals/groups; circulation will be doubled, with articles too in UKOTCF's Forum News.

Public events

Three training sessions/workshops and two public events hosted by MNT or Governor.

Q16. Capacity building

If your project will support capacity building at institutional or individual levels, please provide details of what form this will take and how this capacity will be secured for the future.

It is fundamental that Montserrat has a strong civil society, which is able to lead on projects involving the community, enabling them to be part of solutions to many of the island's challenges.

Building individuals' and community-groups' capacity and support-framework, through MNT, are important project-elements.

Institutional: Montserrat National Trust

- Board-members: as part of the project-team, they will get first-hand experience in implementing a Darwin-Project, which can be fed into a funding-strategy for MNT (a 5-year strategic-plan is planned for 2021).

- MNT has 6 staff-members who will attend training-events/meetings, helping organise and run them where possible.

- MNT Project-Officer; there are, in the project-team, several highly-experienced individuals with over 30 years' experience each in the private-sector, government and non-government sectors. Knowledge and skill-transfer via close or remote mentoring will provide tools for delivering project-objectives in the short-term, but will be an asset to Montserrat post-project.

Individuals (Community)

- Community Officer will take part in all training opportunities, both as a way to increase capacity locally and to support. They will also attend events and, if requested, some mentoring (on grant-writing, financial management etc) will be provided to them.
- Land- managers: training/advice provided by PO to all 'Adopters' will embed natural capital as a tool for sustainable development. Information provided will be a national resource available in the long-term.
- Young Montserratians: this is an important element of future capacity-building as the project will provide opportunities for >50 young Montserratians to learn about their environment (school-groups, children's areas of the botanic garden) but also to get involved in practical implementation of the project, both administrative and outdoors at the Trust's offices. We will also be looking for a young Montserratian to join the Steering-group, so that they can provide representation of their age group.

Q17. Gender equality

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain how your project will collect sex disaggregated data and what impact your project will have in promoting gender equality.

Men hold 60% of public-sector leadership/decision-making positions, but the private sector has a slight female-lead (51%) [Country Gender Assessment (CGA), 2015].

MNT's Chair & CEO, and UKOTCF's Director & invertebrate-specialist are female. With its inclusive approach, participation in lectures, workshops and projects in our pilot-study were balanced (meeting-records).

MNT/UKOTCF will maintain this, using MNT's experience in methods positively engaging women in project-elements that could otherwise exclude them, e.g. workshop-timings/locations, advertising, and engaging directly, as needed.

All society-sectors will be encouraged to participate. CGA identified four sectors to drive the country's economy [referring to the island's Sustainable-Development Plan (2008-2020)]: agriculture, tourism/related services, renewable energy and innovative mining/manufacturing, with men dominating these – although local female leaders dispute this for the first two groups.

CGA focus-groups found bias in certain sectors, particularly in agriculture and tourism, but recognised that involvement of more women in agriculture-sector might help reduce the country's dependence on imports for fresh produce/vegetables (exports of food in 2016: \$ █████ XCD; imports: \$ █████ XCD). To address these, the project will contribute towards recommendations put forward for NGOs:

1. Introduce a gender-sensitive recruitment-process for training in the tourism-sector; ensure training sessions do not perpetuate current segregations.

Project-recruitment and training sessions will encourage diversity and will not discriminate on gender or other diversity-factor.

2. Develop innovative programmes and advocacy-campaigns for age-specific groups to deconstruct the established gender-biases and -norms.

The project will provide inclusive education/outreach events, and work with community-groups, to provide role-models via campaigns challenging gender-biases. Easy access, e.g. locations, a range of activities, will be paramount. A range of communication-methods and activities-timings will make these available and accessible to all community-members, ensuring no discrimination based on religion, sexual orientation or disability.

Q18. Change expected

Detail the expected changes this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who will benefit a) in the 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 biodiversity and for people in developing countries, and how they are linked. When talking about people, please remember to give details of who will benefit and the number of beneficiaries expected. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used. If possible, indicate the number of women who will be impacted.

The major threats to both biodiversity and poverty-alleviation in Montserrat result from severe volcanic damage (for 15 years from 1995), following a few years after a devastating hurricane, interacting with the removal of active management from previously relatively sustainable human-activities. Despite some releases, more than half the island remains long-term in the exclusion-zone, presenting conservation and general challenges.

At present, access-restrictions mean that whole-island removal of invasives is impracticable. Pilot-work provided the only demonstrated approach to effective control of invasive species: “Wildlife-Homes” for Montserrat’s endemic/native wildlife and ecosystem-services. At project-start, areas of potential work, with already recruited Adopters, means that after Y1 there will already be large measurable gains for biodiversity and the island-community.

Short-term, the project will establish a network of these community-managed protected-areas at 10 sites covering at least 100 ha, involving over 100 individuals (and provide the local community with the potential to rebuild the prime economic activity of sustainable tourism and small enterprises, as well as biodiversity-conservation). Yet, outreach is intended to engage with at least 60% of the island’s population (3,000) via social media and events. Montserratians are vulnerable to over-reliance on expensive imports; opportunities for low-impact tourism and increased food-production are outlined in the island’s Natural Capital Assessment. However, Sustainable Development Plan (2010-2020) suggests that expertise and knowledge in these is lacking. There is a huge amount of interest locally in environmental issues (for example, previous social-media posts online have regularly reached 2-4,000 views.) Incorporating environmental measures with benefits for Montserratians can be a way to accelerate recovery, ultimately, reducing poverty. (For Montserrat, this is not just measured in household-income, but other indicators such as employment-prospects, food-security, housing, etc., which are mostly a result of volcanic activity reducing the island’s self-sufficiency.)

The project will develop the expansion of this technique to conserve and boost native wildlife (for example native pollinators, to assist the development and cost-effectiveness of re-establishing small-scale farming (locally “backyard-farming”) – reducing reliance on expensive imported food, but incorporating nature-conservation too.

Because the costs of the actual conservation work on the ground are met (often in-kind) by local volunteers, this provision of managed-areas for native/endemic conservation, once established, is viable long-term, although (as normal for species-recovery and capacity-building programmes) some small capacity for ecological guidance will be needed for some time, as local capacity for this aspect is developed. In the medium term, as the volcanic outlook and invasive-removal techniques both evolve, it may be possible to eradicate some invasive species from the island, in which case the Wildlife-Homes will contribute to wider re-establishment. In any event, even if not, the areas will provide a sustainable solution in the long term. In addition, capacity at MNT’s botanic garden is increased and offerings are expanded (e.g. juices, lollies, incorporating some activities with ecotourism, be an ‘Adopter’ for the day, junior rangers, kids’ clubs), and embedded into their ongoing activities beyond project-end.

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.

“Adopt-a-Home-for-Wildlife” pilot-work demonstrated the efficacy of community-run restoration/ protection of terrestrial/wetland ecosystems, under ecologists’ guidance, with invasive-plant removal, and encouraging

native ones, supplemented by planting native stock, where needed.

Output 1 builds on pilot-developed tools, resourcing a key local PO, to facilitate creating an innovative community-managed site-network protecting the island's unique wildlife while providing benefits to people.

Output 2 develops techniques and training to extend this scheme conserving these endemic/native species and enhancing their potential to support livelihoods e.g. small-scale farming, low-volume tourism.

Output 3 engages the wider public in encouraging, and reducing threats to, native plants (and native animals they support), and developing local expertise and information-systems, to minimise progressively the need for external advice.

These will deliver the Outcome: By 2024, Montserrat's protected areas increased by 10% (100 ha), by community-managed "Wildlife-Homes" with site-specific plans delivered by site-"Adopters;" and increased recognition/use of livelihood-opportunities, while safeguarding globally important native/endemic biodiversity.

This will contribute significantly towards the Impact: Increasing Montserrat's globally important endemic/native plants and invertebrates, via decreasing invasive plants, through community-led site-restoration, enhancing biodiversity close-alongside people (overcoming volcano-caused increased human-density), sustainable small-enterprise opportunities and community-wellbeing.


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?

Records show the impossibility of achieving environmental restoration or capacity-building via a project limited to a single 3-year grant-cycle. However, one can enhance prospects for long-term continuance of positive initiatives, as here. Our approach works. With Montserratian partners, we developed a way for the local community to achieve practical conservation and piloted this successfully with 30 ha under community-management in a pilot-year (part of DPLUS049). Local community-members continued for 3 years since, even though lack of resources meant lack of local botanical advice, preventing building on this. This project will overcome this before momentum-loss, by 3 years developing a pool of local self-help expertise, not limited to a single individual, but a wider network, including young Montserratians, a core of the project. Various skills built during the project will enable MNT to begin rolling programmes, facilitated by all groups and particularly young Montserratians, enabling it to make best use of wider resources available to it in future. What if a problem crops up in the future? UKOTCF and partners in Montserrat (and other UKOTs) have managed to maintain long-term relationships for 30 years, whether or not a funded project was current there; these relationships will continue.

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

 [DIR27S1_1446_maps](#)

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Section 10 - Budget and Funding

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 budget.

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

Please refer to the Finance for Darwin/IWT Guidance for more information.

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

Please upload your completed Darwin Budget Form Excel spreadsheet using the field below.

 [DIR27S1_1446 Budget over £100K May 2020 rev Feb21](#)
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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:

A short pilot study (in DPLUS049), by UKOTCF and MNT, brought together stakeholders from government, NGOs, community-groups and individuals from across economic activities and other aspects, in a series of workshops which agreed visions for the future, and developed and tested pilot-approaches. The present proposal builds on one tested pilot, which demonstrated successfully (as outlined in Q10) an approach enhancing the prospects of humans and wildlife, now forced (by volcanic risk) to occupy the same small areas, and simultaneously providing the only approach identified so far (given the access restrictions to much of the island) providing for long-term survival of Montserrat's rich endemic and native wildlife, including by dealing with invasive species, by empowering local people on their land or land they manage. This project concluded in 2018, although some activities have continued or been supplemented elsewhere. For example, the support letter from Mr Orton provides an update on activities since the project ended, e.g. a three-year project from Durrell Conservation Trust to protect the critically endangered mountain chicken, on his land which was recruited as a Wildlife-Home in our pilot. In addition, he transitioned to a zero-carbon household. Opportunities to open the tropical-dry-forest to educational trips are being explored.

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.

Donor Organisation	Amount	Currency code	Comments
UKOTCF	██████	GBP	Personnel 'in-kind' donation to the project and overheads; some web-related costs; expert specialist advice from wide UKOTCF network
MNT	██████	GBP	Executive Director Involvement and local transport arrangements, e.g. use of vehicle.
<i>No Response</i>	0	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	0	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

Q23b. Unsecured

Provide details of any co-financing where an application has been submitted, or that you intend applying for during the course of the project. This could include co-financing 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
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UKOTCF was asked to provide further information to Trustees for its November 2020 meeting. There has been some delay in this decision being made [possibly relating to Covid measures]. Given the delay, there is uncertainty and we have not included this in the main budget. However, we are already aware of related aspects that local partners have called for and, if successful, this would be applied to those.

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 - Open Access and Financial Risk Management

Q24. Outputs of the project and Open Access

Please describe the project's open access plan and detail any specific funds you are seeking from Darwin to fund this.

Information-sharing and providing open access is a priority for project-partners.

First, a project-page will be created at www.ukotcf.org.uk. All materials produced within the project will be

made available there, as the main way information can be held in one place. The website costs are 'in-kind' donations to the project.

The communications-plan developed within the project will outline other ways the information is available, so that it has local Montserratian ownership. The PL will be responsible for output access and will report to the steering group on open access of disseminated outputs through the steering-group meetings.

Additionally, steering-group meeting-minutes and progress reports will be made accessible to all project-stakeholders. Part of this will be in M&E costs, a role we have shared out between partners.

All documents published will be freely available via www.ukotcf.org.uk, and partner websites, e.g. www.montserratnationaltrust.ms.

Hard copies will be printed and distributed on-island, with surplus copies retained in MNT offices for collection, online versions being available for reference by those on Montserrat and beyond.

Data from the project will be accessible through the system created to record information, as open-access (except for any which might risk vulnerable wildlife), but any personal information subject to individuals' consent.

For sharing outreach materials, see Q15.

Q25. Financial Risk Management

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.

UKOTCF has >25 years' experience in managing/overseeing successful projects throughout UKOTs. Policies follow Charity Commission.

The PL manages funds; in previous UK-Government posts, he negotiated and oversaw the largest conservation contracts issued then, and for the overall budget of a UK-Government agency; he chaired the finance-committee of a major international organisation, and since managed finances of NGOs. UKOTCF's Treasurer (qualified accountant; director of a major UK company) has oversight, as does UKOTCF's Council (many with financial-management experience). UKOTCF's annual independent audited accounts are supplied to member-organisations, Charity Commission and Companies House.

Partners will supply financial vouchers to PL, overseeing purchases, ensuring value-for-money, fit-for-purpose and within-budget.

Internal monitoring will ensure the project-budget is regularly tracked, highlighting potential over- or under-spend in good time.

With careful checking/reconciliation, UKOTCF alerted a finance-company's fraud-department of investigation-worthy activities within the company. UKOTCF's procedures have prevented a previous partner-organisation from grant-fund mis-use (whether by accident or design). UKOTCF personnel were also asked for advice by UK-Government-appointed investigators re alleged fraud in a territory-government. UKOTCF kept within DPLUS049 budget during 2016's challenging pound-devaluation despite costs being in US\$.

While Montserrat has remained Covid-free since July 2020, risks have been considered, including within the travel-budget.

Q26. Capital items

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

provide your justification here.

In order to support sustainable compost-supply to Adopters, the project budget includes acquisition of equipment, primarily a shredder, to complement the equipment Montserrat National Trust's botanic garden already holds. The equipment will stay with MNT after the grant, serving the same purpose in maintaining the initiative.

Q27. 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.

Using 25 years' experience managing projects, ensuring realistic costs, and careful budgeting, UKOTCF is well versed in projects where some activities take place in one geographic region and some in others. Throughout activities, UKOTCF/collaborators use much donated specialist-time, and a wealth of specialist expertise will help support the project. This will be utilised through remote-communication tools (e.g. Zoom) wherever possible to minimise costs, without undermining quality. See above for indication of substantial co-financing achieved, further increasing value for-money that the grant will achieve (DPLUS049 project achieved 245% of the grant-funding in matched funding – which is £2.50 for every £1 spent by Darwin. Promising this in advance would be a risk, and so we have not predicted it in the project budget. That said, we are confident we can secure comparable leverage to expand work. Travel-costs are minimised by electronic communications and training methods whenever possible. Arrangements are made well in advance of planned visits, booked through charity-specialists offering best fares. Equipment is carefully selected so that it is fit-for-purpose while still good value. Equipment will be sourced on-island wherever possible, simplifying supply, supporting the local economy and reducing additional shipping costs. However, where only overseas suppliers are available, for example specialist equipment, this is sourced from a reliable supplier providing value-for-money, after at least three quotes. Collaboration with other projects (e.g. DPLUS105, DPLUS106, with which UKOTCF is well connected, the latter resulting from preliminary discussions with Montserrat's Chief Fisheries Officer and UKOTCF) maximises local capacity and ensures best budget-use.

Section 12 - Ethics and Safeguarding

Q28. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting Darwin's key principles for ethics as outlined in the guidance note. Additionally, are there any human rights and/or international humanitarian law risks in relation to your project? If there are, have you carried out an assessment of the impact of those risks, and of measures that may be taken in order to mitigate them?

Research permits, where applicable, will be obtained from the Department of Environment. Experience has shown that these need to be made in good time to allow for local administrative process to be undertaken.

Respecting local rights privacy and safety.

Will be guided by the UK Government's Human Rights Obligations and values. There will be no violations of human rights or restrictions/limits placed on local access to traditional resources as a result of the project. Montserrat's local communities' wishes are at the heart of the project and they will be respected and observed at all times.

Prior and informed consent and strict data protection policies will be established with all community-groups that may not be themselves legal entities, as are UKOTCF (under the UK Charity Commission and

Companies House) and MNT (under the Montserrat National Trust Act).

Local actions will be implemented in partnership with MNT and other local groups, well established in the community. The leadership of these bodies include former top officials in government service and local organisations with responsibilities in these areas.

Q29. Corruption

This question specifically considers corruption. Explain how you have considered any risk of corruption that may affect the success of this project, and how you plan to manage this. This may include financial corruption, but may also deal with gifts or inducements, or other types of dishonesty or deceit.

The Board of UKOTCF is committed to ensuring all activities are carried out without bribery or corruption. In accordance with the UK Charities Commissions guidance on protecting charities from bribery and corruption, procedures and policies relating to these, and in accordance with the UK Bribery Act 2010, have been developed and are reviewed periodically.

UKOTCF provides copies of these to all partners it works with, including volunteers.

When carrying out project work, UKOTCF PLs assess the risk of potential bribery and corruption to that project and carry out due diligence on partners with whom it works. Our lead partner in Montserrat, MNT, has a strong board including former top government officials, who had responsibilities in these areas, and are familiar with local procedures in this regard.

When things go wrong, we know that we must report serious incidents to the Charity Commission and issues of corruption to the National Crime Agency, regardless of whether activity takes place in the UK or not.

Q30. Safeguarding

Projects funded through the Darwin Initiative 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 can be 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 (file upload below)	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 for staff and volunteers that sets out clear expectations of behaviours - inside and outside 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.

Our safeguarding policy sets out our commitment to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults. It covers child safeguarding, adult safeguarding, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. Other policies outline our expectations, how we handle complaints, how we store information and our zero tolerance to bullying and harassment.

Current list of policies:

Code of Conduct

Anti Bullying and Harassment policy

Whistleblower policy

Child, Young People and Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding policy

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by personnel policy


Reporting and response to safeguarding concerns


When someone joins the UKOTCF team, including our 'down-stream' partners they are required to review this policy and associated policies e.g. code of conduct, anti-bullying and harassment policy, whistleblower policy and they are given information on how to make a complaint and how we deal with those complaints.


Should we receive a complaint, we take this matter very seriously and it is referred to our safeguarding focal point. They keep a register of safeguarding issues and how they are dealt with. They have the necessary contact information for when complaints are of a serious or criminal nature and follow up accordingly.

Please upload the lead organisation's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF

 [Safeguarding policy UKOTCF 2021](#)

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Section 13 - Logical Framework

Q31. Logical Framework

Darwin Initiative 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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Impact:

Increasing Montserrat’s globally important endemic/native plants and invertebrates, via decreasing invasive plants, through community-led site-restoration; this will enhance biodiversity close-alongside people (overcoming volcano-caused increased human-density), sustainable small-enterprise opportunities and community-wellbeing

Outcome:

By 2024, Montserrat’s protected areas increased by 10% (100 ha), by community-managed “Wildlife-Homes” with site-specific plans delivered by site-“Adopters;” and increased recognition/use of livelihood-opportunities, while safeguarding globally important native/endemic biodiversity.

Project Outputs

Output 1:

By 2024, a network of Wildlife-Homes, with a target of 10% (100 ha) increase in protected areas across the island, are being managed actively for conservation while providing human-benefits, with ‘Adopters’ recruited; community-run restoration and protection of these Wildlife-Homes in place, and baseline plant and invertebrate data gathered and published.

Output 2:

By 2024, increased ability and confidence of ‘Adopters’ (1) to experiment and monitor Wildlife-Home quality in relation to the islands’ unique and native biodiversity; (2) to make choices which benefit native plant and pollinator species, leading to protecting and enhancing the wildlife (important also to the economy), despite the increased housing-density close to wildlife habitats due to volcanic displacement of the human population, and also providing food-security, as well as contributing towards well-being.

Output 3:

By 2024, opportunities for all sections of Montserrat’s community to contribute to, and express, a greater understanding of how a network of community-protected sites leads to both conservation benefits and improved livelihoods – demonstrated particularly by food-security, tourism opportunities, well-being, and safeguarding of, and reducing pressure on, Montserrat’s unique biodiversity (including endemic species) and globally threatened habitats (e.g. tropical dry forest and wetlands) within areas of volcano-caused increased human density.

Output 4:

No Response

Output 5:

No Response

Do you require more Output fields?

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

No

Activities

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

1.1 Project Officer recruited at Montserrat National Trust, and any supplementary training needed arranged, and other project team members have an introductory meeting via Zoom.

1.2 Advertises for Adopt a Home for Wildlife designed and distributed on-island, outlining project and welcoming new sites and 'Adopters,' as well as reinstating advice to those in the pilot; PO and local partners use also word of mouth, radio and social media.

1.3 PO and other members gather contacts and begin working with 'Adopters,' both in person and via remote means (depending on any Covid restrictions), to formulate site-plans, assistance required, joint management agreements and plan for action.

1.4 PO site-visits to record information and to survey Wildlife-Homes in areas already pre-identified as areas for action to provide baselines, e.g. at Cork Hill, other small enterprises identified with an interest, e.g. Tina Banana.

1.5 PO continues to visit Wildlife-Homes at times convenient to 'Adopters,' to facilitate activities and carry on continuous monitoring of the Wildlife-Homes.

1.6 Maps produced to ensure coverage of these community-managed protected areas meet 10% target across the island

1.7 Student and traineeship possibilities explored and, where appropriate, undertaken, to facilitate capacity-building and opportunities for young people to be involved with the project and gain experience.

1.8 Communications plan developed and implemented. This includes:

1.8.1 newsletters (built on wide circulation achieved in pilot-work) published every quarter by UKOTCF, with articles from other team members, and which outline progress and facilitate M&E

1.8.2 Social-media posts produced to outline project; profiles of 'Adopters' produced and published. These will be carried out by a Montserratian marketing group, 664 Connect, to undertake a variety of communications across all sections of society on-island and with Montserratian diaspora in UK, US (and elsewhere).

1.9 New works begin at the native-plant nursery at the Montserrat National Trust botanic garden. This includes:

1.9.1 Equipment and materials needed for the native plant nursery acquired.

1.9.2 Labelling system developed

1.9.3 Facility to record information on plants given to 'Adopters' (and for sale) is set up

1.9.4 Organic fertilisers produced and made available to 'Adopters' (and for sale)

1.10 Plans/improvements to demonstration Wildlife-Homes (including native plants, food securing plants and pollinators) developed and implemented.

1.11 Quarterly project team meeting to report on progress and any other aspects of M&E.

1.12 Annual stakeholder steering group meets at least one month in advance of year-end reporting, with specific updates on M&E and success stories from each year.

1.13 Half-year, first, second and third year reports produced and finalised by administration team with support from all team members particularly those involved in M&E

2.1 PO identifies with 'Adopters' if training (conservation and survey techniques and monitoring particularly in changes over time) is required for themselves or for others, based on their experience, either at Wildlife-Homes or as part of workshops organised by the Montserrat National Trust and taking place at their conference centre

- 2.2 Training reports, survey results and feedback produced, circulated to participants, and published online.
- 2.3 Report cards designed and used by PO annually to document activities at each Wildlife-Home in collaboration with the 'Adopters'. These will be conducted at times appropriate for 'Adopter', as most will have jobs and/or family or other commitments. They will be used to also record enhanced food-security, income and well-being benefits.
- 2.4 Technical specialists (part of the wider UKOTCF team) undertake periodically site visits to conduct M&E and facilitate further complementary work (e.g. on native pollinators not within the resources of the project; maintained advice to related conservation projects, to Montserrat National Trust and to the Governor).
- 2.5 Materials to facilitate this wider pool of knowledge and evidence developed and produced (including information on endemic and native species, invasive species, crops including cucumber, pumpkin etc)
- 2.6 Improvements to both UKOTCF and MNT's website (and other partners as applicable) making best use of information and data and recording systems
- 2.7 As 1.12 & 1.13

The reporting system set up in order for 'Adopters' or other members of the community to report or upload sightings and other information on rarely seen species and other key biodiversity information, in their own time, allowing flexibility especially for those unable to participate during fixed hours.

- 3.2 Training events planned and undertaken on habitat restoration and or natural regeneration at the MNT or on the Wildlife-Homes. Meeting reports/training notes are published online.
- 3.3 Plans developed to expand offerings at the botanic garden are developed and initiated, e.g. ecotourism, kids' holiday clubs
- 3.4 Demonstration Wildlife-Homes showcasing good practice and multiple benefits to nature and livelihoods (e.g. pollinator-friendly) planned and initiated with accessibility to community
- 3.5 Public event organised and held to celebrate 'Adopters' and to facilitate continuation of the initiative beyond project-end.
- 3.6 Other public events organised to highlight project and opportunities (including Rotary and similar groups, kids' clubs, school-visits, online materials, possibly village competitions)
- 3.7 Project team members (including some facilitated by young persons) undertake online and face-face surveys of local community, across all sections of the community providing a baseline of attitudes towards the projects aims in Year 1, which is then replicated at the end of the project in Y3 in order to confirm whether community protected areas (Wildlife-Homes) have been effective on island.
- 3.8 Profiles produced of 'Adopter' success stories and published in newsletters
- 3.9 Communications plan implemented, with newsletters produced with articles written by 'Adopters' and/or materials gathered from 'Adopters' or from the existing UKOTCF/MNT book and videos on Montserrat wildlife, particularly success stories and shared widely on social-media posts; links with Tourism. Community surveys conducted (as in Activity 3.7) before and after communications strategy is implemented will allow us to demonstrate that Output 3 (Indicator 3.5 has been achieved).
- 3.10. Radio-interviews, panel-discussions and other broadcasts take place on Montserrat (within project constraints and where possible, podcasts developed), and made available to regional and international media.
- 3.11 Plan for database produced and implemented to store information created as part of the project
- 3.12 As 1.12 & 1.13

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. The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

 [DIR27S1_14461446_R27_Darwin_St2_Implementation_Timetable3](#)

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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](#)).

At initiation of the project, a detailed M&E plan with milestones will be developed utilising the log-frame. They will indicate what is expected by each year-end (or other point) for each output to achieve the outcome. The co-Project Leader will be responsible for coordinating and developing this M&E plan, with project team-members undertaking M&E activities.

The project-team will meet quarterly (months 3, 6, 9, 12) via Zoom to review progress, identifying barriers to meeting outputs. Meeting-notes taken will be circulated within the team for comment before agreement. These will be supplemented by physical meetings whenever possible.

A wider steering-group will be established, chaired by the Project Leader. The steering-group will include two representatives from UKOTCF, 2 representatives from MNT, 2 representatives from the 'Adopt-a-Home' initiative and a young Montserratian.

The steering-group will meet bi-annually (month 5, month 11 of each year), at least one month before the half-year/year reports to Darwin, to assess progress against the plan, providing advice and problem-solving; as well as reacting and responding to project-results.

This will facilitate accurate annual reporting, as well as highlight and rapidly address any problems in achieving outputs and the outcomes; and allow for adaptive management.

Project outcomes will be monitored by:

- The areas community-managed, number of sites ("Wildlife-Homes"), and number of individual 'Adopters' (or community managers & assistants). The target is 10 sites with 100 individuals involved by 2024.
- The regeneration and growth of native plants occurring over time at Wildlife-Homes. The target is

achieved at least 100 ha at a minimum of 10 sites showing biodiversity-improvement.

- Demonstration Wildlife-Homes created; target: two created by 2024.
- 'Adopt-a-Home-for-Wildlife' increases awareness of the opportunities to engage in restoration/conservation efforts with human-benefits. Target is to increase community-awareness reaching >60% of Montserratian, via activities throughout.

Output 1, which is concerned with sites established managed and recruitment of Adopters. The main indicators are:

- Number of Wildlife-Homes created – target is 10 by 2024
- Individuals and groups become part of Adopt-a-Home, their sites are surveyed to measure baseline vegetation cover (invasive species vs native vs naturalised) and management-plans in place – target is 100 individuals involved by 2024 with 10 site-plans.
- active regeneration demonstrated at the ten Wildlife-Homes, covering an area of at least 100 ha by 2024, and positive outcomes for biodiversity and livelihoods recorded.
- assistance provided to the Adopters, e.g. number of saplings grown and supplied to Adopters and number of buckets of organic fertilisers provided.

Output 2, which is concerned with making information available, providing training and advice needed. The main indicators are:

- The number of information-sources made available via information-systems created; number of training opportunities held and attended; advice sessions.

Output 3, which is concerned with raising awareness of biodiversity and natural capital and opportunities for wider dissemination of successful work among the community. The indicators are:

- number of people attending community-events;
- development/launch of two demonstration-sites in order to lead by example;
- recruitment of project-Ambassadors from within the community
- establishment of community biodiversity-recording system.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)

£ [REDACTED]

Number of days planned for M&E

97

Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)

[REDACTED]

Section 16 - FCDO Notifications

Q34. FCDO Notifications

Please state whether there are sensitivities that the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise the project's success in the Darwin competition in the host country.

No

Please indicate whether you have contacted your Foreign Ministry or the local embassy or High Commission (or equivalent) directly to discuss security issues (see [Guidance Notes](#)) and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

No

If no, why not?

Note that, as Montserrat is a UK Overseas Territory (so that there is no embassy or high commission), contact has been with the Governor (who has expressed support and has welcomed UKOTCF involvement – see letters) and his Office, also supportive.

Please attach details of any advice you have received.

No Response

Section 17 - Certification

Q35. Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum

I apply for a grant of





£293,447.00

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 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	Dr Mike Pienkowski
Position in the organisation	Chairman
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 <u>MP2009</u>  06/02/2021  20:41:21  jpg 19.71 KB
Date	09 February 2021

Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including "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 the project.	Checked
I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have included a 1 page CV or job description for all the key project personnel identified at Question 12, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a letter of support from the the Lead Organisation and main partner organisation(s) identified at Question 11, or an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a cover letter from the Lead Organisation, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant.	Checked
I have included a copy of the lead organisation's safeguarding policy, which covers the criteria listed in Question 30.	Checked
I have been in contact with the FCDO in the project country/ies and have included any evidence of this. If not, I have provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Organisation, or provided an explanation if not.	Checked
I have checked the Darwin website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on GOV.UK.	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant (Flexi-Grant Account Holder) and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current application rounds under the Darwin Initiative 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).