

Applicant: **Stanworth, Andrew**
Organisation: **Falklands Conservation**
Funding Sought: **£266,119.00**

DPR10S2\1004

New Island: completing preparatory steps for restoration against invasive mammals

New Island National Nature Reserve is one of the most globally significant wildlife sites in the Falkland Islands and is in major need of restoration. Four invasive mammal species threaten the site's fauna and are degrading the Island's fragile habitats. Their removal is required for recovery and long-term climate resilience. This project would complete preparatory technical steps necessary for an ambitious four-species eradication programme and engage the Falkland Islands Government and community to secure support for New Island's long-term restoration.

CONTACT DETAILS

Title Dr
Name Andrew
Surname Stanworth
Website (Work) [REDACTED]
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
Email (Work) [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Section 1 - Contact Details

CONTACT DETAILS

Title Dr
Name Andrew
Surname Stanworth
Website (Work) [REDACTED]
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
Email (Work) [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

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

Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q3. Project title

New Island: completing preparatory steps for restoration against invasive mammals

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DPR10S1\1123

DPR10S1\1028

Q4. UKOT(s)

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

Falkland Islands (FI)

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

No Response

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

No

Q5. Project dates

Start date:

01 May 2022

End date:

31 March 2024

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

1 year 11 months

Q6. Budget summary

Year:	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total request
Darwin funding request (Apr - Mar)	£146,970.00	£119,149.00	£0.00	£ 266,119.00

Q6a. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

FC (confirmed) - [REDACTED] in equipment, uncharged OH and running costs, volunteer time

RSPB (confirmed) - [REDACTED] in uncharged staff time, GIS support, travel and overheads

FIG (confirmed) - [REDACTED] in uncharged staff time, and [REDACTED] funds for habitat restoration following gorse removal

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

Q6c. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you fund the project if you don't manage to secure this?

No Response

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 wording may be used by Defra in communications.

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

New Island National Nature Reserve is one of the most globally significant wildlife sites in the Falkland Islands and is in major need of restoration. Four invasive mammal species threaten the site's fauna and are degrading the Island's fragile habitats. Their removal is required for recovery and long-term climate resilience. This project would complete preparatory technical steps necessary for an ambitious four-species eradication programme and engage the Falkland Islands Government and community to secure support for New Island's long-term restoration.

Q8. Environmental 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 and how? You should refer to Articles or Programmes of Work here. You should also consider local, territory specific agreements and action plans here.

Letters of support from UKOT Government partners/stakeholders should also make clear reference to the agreements/action plans your project is contributing towards.

The project will advance delivery against a wide range of national and international biodiversity convention/policy objectives.

Key Falklands priorities / agreements / policy documents:

- Falkland Islands Environment Strategy 2021-2040: 'to protect and enhance our biodiversity (ecosystem integrity), reducing its loss through tackling threats', 'to work towards preventing the introduction of invasive species, reducing their spread and reducing, eliminating or appropriately managing them', and 'to mitigate for degradation and promote restoration of native ecosystems, where possible'
- Falkland Islands' Plan 2018-22 priorities: 'Implement control of invasive species', 'Biosecurity and eradication plans'; 'Encourage natural habitat restoration and preservation'.
- FIG Biodiversity Framework 2016-2030 - 'High Priority Threat': Invasive Species and Biosecurity'
- Biosecurity and Invasives Strategy 2016-2030: Delivery of Goal A: to contain and reduce the spread and populations of invasive species
- The project will also deliver priorities under the Falklands Islands' Environment Charter 2001 (specifically commitments 6 & 7).

Key international priorities:

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): support responsibilities under Article 8 (f) on restoring degraded ecosystems & (h) on alien species; Article 12 on research and training; and Article 14 on minimising adverse impacts.
- Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP): responsibilities to conserve and restore habitats of importance to albatrosses and petrels in ACAP, an agreement under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). New Island is a vital breeding site for two ACAP-listed species: Black-browed albatross and White-chinned petrel. It also holds the world's largest colony of thin-billed prions (a small petrel).
- Falkland Islands ACAP Implementation Plan: 'High priority - Complete the feasibility study for eradication of all introduced predators from New Island and use this to help develop the appropriate management approach'; 'High priority - Consider management options for local control of the Feral Cat population in the vicinity of the small White-chinned Petrel colony at New Island. Until a decision is made on how to manage all of the introduced predators, consideration should be given to interim measures aimed at reducing the predation impact by, for example, conducting regular trapping of cats in the vicinity of the White-chinned Petrel colony.'
- Sustainable Development Goals: delivery against SDGs 15 (Life on Land) and 17 (Partnerships).

Section 4 - Project Partners

Q9. Project Partners

Please list all the partners involved (including the Lead Partner) 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 partner 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 and all letters of support.

Lead Partner name: Falklands Conservation

Website address: www.falklandsconservation.com

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

FC's Conservation Manager will be responsible for overall project management and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E). A Project Officer will lead on the project implementation and delivery, including the planning of fieldwork, liaising with and coordinating project partners, equipment acquisition and maintenance, data analysis, and reporting. FC (incorporating New Island Conservation Trust) are the owners of New Island.

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

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:

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Website address:

rspb.org.uk

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

RSPB will provide technical advice and support on project delivery, building on their extensive experience of UKOT island eradication operations, including those with a significant non-target bird species mitigation component (Henderson & Gough) and others involving extensive community consultation (the inhabited island of Pine Cay, Turks & Caicos). They will also provide fieldwork staff via two sabbaticals, as well as communications support and M & E oversight.

RSPB is a fellow BirdLife International Partner of Falklands Conservation and has supported the organisation for over 20 years. RSPB also has an organisational strategic priority to support the restoration of at least 12 globally significant Territory sites, such as New Island, by 2030. Post-project, the RSPB is therefore committed to providing promotional / fundraising / technical support to Falklands Conservation for delivery of the eradication operation itself.

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

2. Partner Name: Falkland Islands Government

Website address: www.falklands.gov.fk

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): Falkland Islands Government administrates the Falklands Islands and provides services to the community. Their Head of the Environment Department provides capacity and expertise to support the project. Beyond this there is broader support for the project within FIG, including from the Directorate of Natural Resources where some of the biosecurity function is also housed.

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.

 [DPR10S2_1004 Response to Feedback](#)

 10/01/2022

 14:15:44

 pdf 138.35 KB

 [DPR10S2-1004 Letters of Support](#)

 10/01/2022

 14:15:35

 pdf 408.89 KB

Section 5 - Project Staff

Q10. Project Staff

Please identify the key 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 key project 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 key project 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	Organisation	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Andrew Stanworth	Project Leader	Falklands Conservation	10	Checked
tbc	Reserves Manager	Falklands Conservation	75	Checked
Jonathan Hall	Advisory	RSPB	2	Checked
Andrew Callender	Advisory	RSPB	5	Checked

Do you require more fields?

Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	Organisation	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Sorrel Pompert-Robertson	Comms and marketing Officer	Falklands Conservation	20	Checked
Jenni Sol	New Island Business and Logistics Officer	Falklands Conservation	20	Checked
Pame Quilodran Jelbes	Technical Administrative Officer	Falklands Conservation	5	Checked
Rachel Cooper	Advisory	Falkland Islands Government	4	Checked
No Response	No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked

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

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

 [DPR10S2-1004 CVs](#)
 08/01/2022
 08:38:05
 pdf 442.5 KB

Have you attached all Project staff CVs?

Section 6 - Background & Methodology

Q11. Problems the project is trying to address

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

For example, what are the specific threats to the environment that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems? How will your proposed project help?

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).

New Island (NI) is an approximately 2,000-hectare site owned and managed by Falklands Conservation, having incorporated the New Island Conservation Trust in 2020. It is a globally significant site for biodiversity, designated as an Important Bird Area, Key Biodiversity Area and a National Nature Reserve. It holds over two million seabirds, including the world's largest colony of thin-billed prions and two breeding ACAP-listed species, being one of only four locations in the Falklands for White-chinned petrel and holding c.13,000 pairs of Black-browed albatross.

NI has four introduced invasive mammals. Feral cats, rats and mice are globally recognised as significant threats to island biodiversity, whilst rabbits have major negative impacts on fragile habitats. These invasive predators have extirpated the endemic Cobb's wren from NI and prevent re-colonisation/re-introduction attempts. The iconic prion and petrel populations are also declining under predator pressure, with the small White-chinned petrel colony dwindling towards extirpation. Impacts on cryptic species and invertebrates are certain, albeit unrecorded. Rabbits, rats and mice meanwhile are hindering much-needed vegetative recovery. Following historic over-grazing all livestock was removed from NI in 1972. Large-scale habitat recovery has not been able to occur however due to ongoing mammalian pressure, and NI's exposed peatland soils continue to be blown away, frequently right down to bare bedrock. The presence of these invasive mammals on NI also poses a continuous threat of spread to surrounding rodent-free islands, including some of the Falklands few near-pristine sites.

New island was confirmed as the most important Falkland island for invasive mammal eradication in a Defra-funded prioritisation (Dawson et al., 2014). A 2013 feasibility assessment concluded that eradication was feasible but identified a number of data gaps/issues that first needed addressing. The key issue was mitigating the major non-target poisoning risk to NI's significant Striated caracara population (a Near-threatened raptor). Mitigation options need to be evaluated, and temporary captive management trialled, to ensure that an operation can safely proceed. This will need to take place in winter so as to mirror conditions during the eradication itself (which would be timed then so as to reduce non-target risks to other species). NI is currently closed in winter however, in-part due to the current airstrip to settlement track being unusable under winter conditions. Other information such as area mapping, bait availability and degradation trials are precursors to a well-planned baiting exercise and also need collecting.

NI restoration is a key goal in Falkland Conservation's 2021-2026 strategy and would support FIG's objectives to tackle invasive species. This project will complete all the preparatory research and feasibility work enabling FC to commence operational delivery. It will open an ongoing dialogue with the Islands' community regarding the proposals, deliver the immediate track upgrade required for winter-working and strengthen biosecurity. Given that any eradication is several years away, the project will also provide a much-needed interim reduction in pressure on the White-chinned petrel colony (as per the ACAP Implementation Plan) via targeted cat control and on native vegetation via reducing rabbit breeding habitat (invasive gorse).

Q12. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and contribute towards your 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.)

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

Invasive mammal eradication operations are a vital and well-developed tool in island conservation that enable long-term restoration with minimal ongoing cost. This project builds on a global movement of successful island eradications: over 800 for rodents, over 90 for feral cats and over 50 for rabbits. Most importantly, it aims to follow all international best practice in eradication preparations and learns lessons from islands which have removed numerous invasive mammals at once, in particular Macquarie Island (Australia), an island over six times larger than New where the same four species were removed, and Rangitoto/Motutapu Islands (NZ), on which eight invasive mammal species were concurrently eradicated (including the four of NI concern).

The project will assemble baseline data to inform baiting approaches and update the 2013 eradication feasibility study, deliver key site-preparation actions and introduce new biosecurity measures and targeted interim control measures to reduce invasive species pressure at the site. It will also investigate non-target risks to the Striated caracara population, trialling appropriate mitigation techniques during the midwinter operational window. To achieve this, it will also enable a key infrastructure upgrade necessary to make New Island operational in winter. Throughout delivery it will meanwhile engage the Falkland Islands Government, neighbouring landowners and wider community to secure in-principle and sustained support for New Island's much-needed restoration. Specifically:

Output 1- Obtaining technical information to inform final baiting planning:

- Establish precise area of New Island, including 3-D area and detailed gradient maps, using satellite imagery.
- Undertake bait availability/persistence and bait degradation trials in the winter to finalise required baiting density rate, number of applications, overall quantity and most suitable bait formulation (wetter or dryer depending on bait longevity in NI winter conditions). This will involve application of non-toxic bait.
- Update the 2013 feasibility assessment accordingly.

Output 2- Preparatory actions and interim control activities:

- Strengthen the track from the airstrip to the settlement to enable the required winter use
- Produce, publish and implement a NI biosecurity plan for all visitors to prevent any further introductions
- Invasive gorse management/removal to reduce extent of beneficial habitat for rabbit population
- Predator pressure alleviation for white-chinned petrel. Review the population estimate and extent of this dwindling colony and trial one of the remote and automated control technologies currently under development.
- Laboratory assessment of current rodent population genetics to improve understanding of invasive species distribution / movements in the Falklands and enable post-eradication analysis in case of rodent capture as to whether a re-introduction or operational failure is the cause.

Output 3- Striated caracara mitigation needs comprehensively assessed and trialled

- (Non-toxic) bait interaction trials to further understand risk of primary poisoning
- Population estimate update for Striated Caracara (breeding and non-breeding) on both NI and adjacent areas
- Informed by the above and a clear objectives assessment as to the desired number of captive Striated caracara, trial capture and captivity (using aviaries) of these birds. This would be conducted with an expert aviculturist and vet being present on-site to ensure the birds' well-being. An aviculture capture, holding and release plan draft would then be created.
- Complete a desk-based assessment of the feasibility of advance knockdown of rabbits ahead of an eradication. Rabbits are a potential food source of Striated caracara and could provide a potential source of secondary poisoning if not reduced in number in advance.

Output 4: Consultation, Approvals and next steps

- Initiate media campaign and public engagement, especially with adjacent island owners, to inform and develop restoration support
- Consult with Falklands Island Government regarding necessary licensing and submit appropriate application
- Build a communications and promotional material base for operational delivery (including preparation for further fundraising)
- Liaise with potential additional partners for operational delivery

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

No Response

Section 7 - Stakeholders and Beneficiaries

Q13. Project Stakeholders

Who are the stakeholders for this project and how have they been consulted (include local or host government support/engagement where relevant)? Briefly describe what support they will provide and how the project will engage with them.

Falkland Islands Government (FIG)

Whilst not the owners of the site, NI is globally important and any successful restoration attempt in the future would be significant nationally. National Nature Reserve status does not restrict any restoration/invasive species removal attempt, but jointly communicating any future operations and intentions of a project such as this will be vital to avoid misconceptions in national and international media and develop support. Furthermore, should a helicopter-based species removal attempt go ahead FIG would need to issue permits for the work to proceed. FIG have also indicated their overarching objectives to tackle invasive species at a national level and a restoration attempt on NI would certainly contribute. FIG will be a partner on the project and part of the steering group.

Local Community

The small Islands community are acutely aware of most activities in the Islands. Communicating clearly in advance of any activities and allowing opportunities for questions and opinions will be vital in gaining support for any invasive species removal attempt on NI. The community will be engaged through national and social media and opportunities to discuss the proposals will be provided.

International Community

There will be wider interest in any attempt on restoration due to the globally significant biodiversity at the site. External communications (wider media and targeted information) will be critical in engaging and informing international stakeholders.

Q14. Institutional Capacity

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

Falklands Conservation (FC) has 40 years of experience in delivering environmental projects, including a strong track record with multiple Darwin Initiative and Darwin Plus projects. FC has also been involved in several small island rodent removal programmes as well as feasibility studies for Steeple Jason in the Falkland Islands.

RSPB has over 25 years of experience of invasive mammal control and eradication, with successful projects completed to eradicate rodents and feral cats from numerous islands in both the UK and the Overseas Territories. Two of these projects (Henderson and Gough) have involved extensive aviculture components to mitigate the risk to non-target endemic bird species. RSPB also brings extensive expertise in project management, conservation communications and stakeholder engagement, and is committed to supporting Falklands Conservation in the operational delivery phase of the project as a core long-term organisational partner.

The Falkland Islands Government (FIG) has a long history of natural resource and environmental management and policy formulation. The FIG Directorate of Policy and Economic Development (DPED), Environment Department (ED), and Directorate of Natural Resources (DNR), are responsible for managing the natural environment and natural resources of the Falkland Islands and related policy development.

Both the ED and DNR have experience controlling invasive species, for the restoration of habitats, including both invasive plants and mammals, and developing associated policy. This Darwin project will provide insights that have relevance to other sites and ongoing and future restoration and invasive species management work by the FIG.

Q15. Project beneficiaries

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

The project will directly benefit FC as landowner and the Falklands' largest conservation NGO, working towards its strategic objectives. Indirectly, through policy objectives, it will benefit RSPB in working towards the realisation of very significant conservation objectives. FIG will benefit from progressing policy areas, both under national strategies, but also international commitments such as under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (a sub-agreement of the Convention on Migratory Species).

As an internationally important wildlife site, accessible by the local community and with historic interest, positive action in aiding biodiversity recovery and preservation for the site will be to the community's benefit. Some local community members will benefit financially by being involved in the work.

There will be some benefits to researchers working on some of the focal species, as the project will generate new information regarding species numbers and threats. The project would contribute to the growing knowledge to support future eradication attempts.

Section 8 - Gender and Change Expected

Q16. Gender (optional)

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

Falklands Conservation (FC) currently employs 9 female and 5 male part- or full-time staff. The organisations CEO is female. There are no specific barriers to gender equality in the proposed project activities or within the organisation.

Females are well-represented in general in the Falklands and among the potential project stakeholders, including the FIG Environment Department and Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Project activities will aim to equally involve female participants

Q17. Change expected

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

Short-term

- Critically, information generated by the project, should allow a feasible restoration proposal for invasive mammals on NI to proceed.
- Support amongst stakeholders for restoration work on NI would increase
- An updated NI striated caracara population estimate would also benefit Nature Reserve management
- Track improvement would enable the project work, but facilitate further habitat restoration work which would have to be undertaken in the winter.
- Reduction in gorse habitat is beneficial to the management of the site. This is primarily in reducing breeding locations for rabbits, but gorse is a wide spread issue, being difficult to tackle in remote locations and with the potential to spread and drastically out-compete and impact native habitats.
- Creation of a NI biosecurity plan would help prevent new non-native species introductions now, but also add long-term sustainability to a restoration attempt.
- Reduction of predation pressure on the small white-chinned petrel colony would increase chances of it persisting until a larger restoration attempt could be made. Updated information on the population size to inform site management and ACAP actions.

Long-term

- The project should lead to a number of significant benefits on NI including population recovery of key and threatened

species, habitat restoration, and reduced risk of invasives spread. All these have wider positive implications for species conservation status, climate change mitigation and reduction of threats from invasive species.

- Satellite imagery for NI will support long-term site management
- The knowledge developed through this project could have direct applicability to other key Falkland Island restoration attempts (such as Steeple Jason which also supports a similar sized population of Striated Caracara).

Q18. Pathway to change

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 the environment and, where relevant, for people in the OTs, and how they are linked.

In order to sustainably restore New Island National Nature Reserve for native species and habitats through the removal of invasive mammals, an eradication operation needs to be technically deliverable with the best possible chance of success, legally permitted, socially supported and do minimal environmental harm. This project comprehensively addresses all these issues, as identified in preliminary studies, and would enable FC to move to the operational phase of this programme.

Particularly, the baseline data collection will underpin delivery effectiveness by deriving NI-specific information for bait application techniques.

Maximising the likelihood of success is vital given the scale and costs of any restoration programme. Removal of beneficial habitat for non-native species and infrastructure improvements will positively affect success likelihood.

Minimising environmental impacts is key and non-target species studies are critical to developing mitigation options and achieving this.

Legal compliance and community support will be a prerequisite for any restoration programme. Government and community engagement will be important from preliminary stages, and engagement and support opportunities, can be identified and delivered through the project.

This project delivers in all the key areas to ensure best chances of progressing to a successful restoration of NI, a site with globally important biodiversity.

Q19. 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?

Information generated that relates specifically to an invasive mammal species removal from NI would be documented in publically available reports, such as the feasibility update. It would be utilised in progressing a restoration attempt, but could be available for decision-making regarding other similar projects in the Islands such as mice removal at Steeple Jason.

Information with further wider application, such as population estimates, would also be incorporated into NI site management, which is overseen by existing and continuous roles at Falklands Conservation, and into ACAP action planning and reporting.

The NI biosecurity plan would be implemented as part of ongoing site management of NI.

Gorse control/eradication would be maintained through actions in the site management plan

Support and materials relating to progressing a restoration attempt will be utilised by existing roles within both FC and RSPB to promote and progress a removal attempt after the project has completed. This is a priority area for both FC and RSPB, so further resource will be available.

Q20. 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?

The current project occurs on a site owned and managed by the applicant. It is predominantly led and delivered by members of the Falklands Community. It should not infringe any legal or ethical obligations within the Islands. There are

not considered any wider direct impacts from this project on others, or infringements of their rights, privacy or safety. The project itself aims to inform and engage the community and to seek consent/support. Falklands conservation has a health and safety policy to protect the health and safety of its staff.

Section 9 - Budget, Risk Management & 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 budget templates for grant requests under £100,000 and over £100,000.

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

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

Please ensure you include any co-financing figures in the Budget spreadsheet to clarify the full budget required to deliver this project.

NB: 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.

 [DPR10S2_1004_budget](#)

 10/01/2022

 14:16:48

 xlsx 50.9 KB

Q22. 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, bribery or corruption, but may also include the risk of fluctuating foreign exchange, delays in procurement or recruitment and internal financial processes such as storage of financial data.

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

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

- Covid 19/ other pandemics - impacts are unpredictable but have included recruitment, fieldwork, engagement and travel.
- Changing relationship with partners and key stakeholders
- Difficulty recruiting and retaining appropriate personnel –challenging role, remote conditions, short contract;
- Changing decision-makers – short contracts (2 year) in the Falklands cause loss of continuity;

To minimise these risks, the project will:

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

Q23. Funding

Q23a. Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source)?

Development of existing work

Please provide details:

A feasibility study for removal of invasive mammals was conducted in 2013 for New Island Conservation Trust. This project both updates this work and aims to fill gaps identified.

Q23b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work?

No

Section 10 - Finance

Q24. Financial Controls

Please demonstrate your capacity to manage the level of funds you are requesting. Who is responsible for managing the funds? What experience do they have? What arrangements are in place for auditing expenditure?

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

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

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

Q25. Balance of budget spend

Defra are keen to see as much Darwin Plus funding as possible directly benefiting OT communities and economies. While it is appreciated that this is not always possible every effort should be made for funds to remain in territory.

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

It is hoped that FC would be able to recruit a Project Officer from within the Islands. If recruitment has to occur from overseas, it may incur some small costs in the project officer country of origin, and there may be some capital items that will require to be bought and shipped. However, it is anticipated that over 80% of the project funds would be spent in the Falkland Islands and any capital items would remain in the Islands for the benefit of NI. The main costs incurred outside of the Falklands are through the contracting of an aviculturist and vet and their travel to the islands. Aviculturist resource is not available in the Islands and veterinary staff in the Islands are not resourced to spend the required time on the project. As both these roles are critical to successful delivery of the project, overseas expenditure in this case is unavoidable.

Q26. 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.

There may be purchase of newly developing cat control equipment through the project, if it becomes available in time. This capital items would remain in the Falkland Islands after purchase.

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.

When the global value of the site is acknowledged and the benefits of a successful eradication considered, this enabling project represents very good value. Delivering the project provides information, communications and generates support necessary to take forward any viable attempt at removal of invasive species, but will also provide useful site management data, on-the-ground site improvements to benefit site management and actual conservation delivery for this world class biodiversity site. The significant contribution to a wide range of global and national objectives, further strengthens the value in undertaking the work.

Working on remote Islands is inherently challenging, immediately elevating the overall costs of any activity through supply chain and logistical costs, all of which have increased significantly as a consequence of the Covid pandemic. Mobilising equipment to undertake ground works on such a site is costly, but the project aims to minimise costs by tackling track works and gorse removal at the same time whilst equipment and operators are on-site.

All partners are providing as much uncharged costs as possible, with RSPB bringing considerable expertise at very little cost due to this. Falkland Islands Government have provided additional finance to tackle post-gorse removal ground remediation and valuable staff-time in recognition of this project's significance.

Overall, the project aims to provide best value to achieve multiple benefits, in both the short and long-term, including supporting advancement of similar projects in the Falklands such as Steeple Jason (another globally significant site) where the same mitigation approaches would be required for striated caracara.

Q28. Outputs of the project and Open Access

All outputs from Darwin Plus projects should be made available on-line and free to users whenever possible. Please outline how you will achieve this and detail any specific costs you are seeking from Darwin Plus to fund this.

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

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

Section 11 - Safeguarding

Q29. 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:

Please upload the lead partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF on the certification page.

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.

Both Falkland Islands Government and RSPB have equivalent policies in place. Contracted downstream partners will be made aware of our policies through MOU or Contracts.

Section 12 - Logical Framework

Q30. 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 – **please do not edit the template structure other than adding additional Outputs if needed as a logframe submitted in a different format may make your application ineligible**. 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.

 [DPR10S2_1004 Logframe](#)
 08/01/2022
 10:06:19
 pdf 48.74 KB

Impact:

New Island is free from all introduced mammals, enabling the persistence and recovery of threatened fauna, large-scale native habitat restoration, greater climate resilience and enhanced protection of nearby rodent-free islands.

Outcome:

Final information, approaches and stakeholder support necessary to deliver an invasive non-native species restoration of New Island National Nature Reserve (NI) is secured, plus interim conservation measures introduced.

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Up-to-date technical information is obtained which enables final planning for an aerial baiting operation on New Island.

Output 2:

Preparatory actions and interim control activities on New Island advance operational readiness and ensure key natural feature persistence.

Output 3:

Striated caracara mitigation approaches and needs are comprehensively assessed, trialled and documented.

Output 4:

Stakeholder support, approvals and next steps

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 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1.

- 1.1 Obtain satellite imagery for NI that will allow relevant calculations and map outputs for the site
- 1.2 Undertake bait degradation trials during June-August 2022 using non-toxic bait.
- 1.3 Undertake bait availability trials during June-August 2022 using non-toxic bait
- 1.4 Contract specialist to undertake an update of the feasibility study for invasive mammal removal at NI
- 2.1. Mechanical reduction of gorse extent around the settlement.
- 2.2 Repairs to track between airstrip and settlement in May-June 2022.
- 2.3 White-chinned petrel colony population survey, monitoring of predator pressure and targeted feral cat control activities.
- 2.4 New Island biosecurity plan prepared, published and implemented by FC and all visitors.
- 2.5 Obtain rat, mouse and rabbit tissue samples from NI and undertake genetic analysis
- 3.1 Produce clear rationale and objectives for Striated Caracara captive-holding
- 3.2 Population survey of striated caracara on NI and adjacent areas during June-August 2022 (winter) and Oct 2022 - March 2023 (summer)
- 3.3 Striated caracara-bait interaction trial using non-toxic bait delivered during June-August 2022.
- 3.4 Aviary construction and striated caracara captivity trial under aviculturist supervision
- 3.5 Desk-based assessment of the feasibility of advance knockdown of rabbits that may provide source of secondary poisoning for non-target species
- 4.1 Communications Strategy produced and executed
- 4.2 Meetings arranged to discuss proposals and licence applications submitted to FIG
- 4.3 Assembly of a built communications and promotional material base for actual restoration attempt (including preparation for further fundraising)

Section 13 - Implementation Timetable

Q31. 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 Word template as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project, and upload as a PDF.

[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.

-  [DPR10S2 1004 Implementation timetable](#)
-  08/01/2022
-  10:09:26
-  pdf 36.69 KB

Section 14 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q32. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

Describe, referring to the Indicators, 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](#)).

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

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

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

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

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



Number of days planned for M&E



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



Section 15 - Lead Partner Track Record

Q33. Lead Partner track record

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

Yes

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

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
DPLUS126	Andrew Stanworth/Caroline Weir	Advancing Falklands and region-scale management of globally important whale populations
DPLUS115	Andrew Stanworth	Unlocking Falkland Islands Marine Management: Key Biodiversity Areas for Seabirds
DPLUS110	Andrew Stanworth	Recognise, protect, restore: driving sound stewardship of Falklands peat-wetlands.
DPLUS082	Andrew Stanworth	Conserving Falklands' whale populations: addressing data deficiencies for informed management
DPLUS017	Andrew Stanworth	Lower plants inventory and conservation in the Falkland Islands
DPLUS023	Andrew Stanworth	Building capacity for habitat restoration in the Falkland Islands

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts?

If yes, please upload these on the certification page. Note that this is not required from Government Agencies.

Yes

Section 16 - Certification

Certification

On behalf of the

trustees

of

Falklands Conservation

I apply for a grant of

██████████

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

Andrew Stanworth

Position in the organisation Conservation Manager

Signature (please upload e-signature)  [AJS Sig](#)
 06/01/2022
 14:12:58
 jpg 5.04 KB

Date 10 January 2022

Please upload the Lead Partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF.

 [Policy 24 FC Safeguarding Policy 2020 MF incl recor ding&FAQ](#)
 26/11/2021
 16:57:20
 pdf 1.11 MB

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

 [Signed 2020 accounts ~ Azets](#)
 26/11/2021
 16:56:49
 pdf 1.52 MB

 [Signed 2019 accounts-WK](#)
 26/11/2021
 16:56:43
 pdf 1.51 MB

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 Partner 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 Partner, 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 Partner, 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 the Darwin Plus website.	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 partner, 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).