



EIDCF006

Submit by Friday 19 February 2010



DARWIN200

**DARWIN INITIATIVE APPLICATION FOR OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CHALLENGE FUND:
Round 17**

Please read the Guidance Notes before completing this form.

1. Name, postal address and contact details of applicant organisation and main individual: (notification of results will be by email to this individual)	
MRAG Ltd and ZSL jointly submit this application:	
Dr Heather Koldewey, Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY (*Contracting partner)	
E-mail address:	Phone:
Dr Chris Mees, MRAG Ltd, 18 Queen Street, London W1J 5PN, UK	
E-mail address:	Phone:
2. Working title/name of the proposed resulting Darwin project (not exceeding 10 words):	
Strengthening management of the British Indian Ocean Territory marine area	
3. Proposed UKOT(s) involved (in Challenge Fund award):	Other collaborating country/ies (including metropolitan UK if appropriate) to be involved in the proposed resultant project:
British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT)	Metropolitan UK; Seychelles (tbc: Maldives, Mauritius, Sri Lanka)

4. Principals in Challenge Fund work

(a) Please give the details of the main individuals (max 2) from the applicant organisation who will be directly involved in the Challenge Fund award. CVs must be enclosed (max 2 pages each).

Details	Main individual	2nd individual
Surname	Koldewey	Mees
Forename(s)	Heather	Christopher
Post held	Marine and Freshwater Programme Manager	Development Director
Department	Conservation Programmes	
Telephone		
Email		

(b) Prospective collaborating partners relevant to the Challenge Fund award. Please provide details below, plus letters of support. (These letters should express their intention to collaborate, their contribution to the Challenge Fund activity, their endorsement of the proposed partnership, and the expect contribution of the proposed resultant Darwin project to the conservation of the biodiversity of the relevant UKOT(s).)

Details	Main project partner	Other partners
Organisation	BIOT Administration	<p>The award will be utilised to convene a workshop and working groups with wide participation. Invited partners in the process will include:</p> <p>Chairs of key Indian Ocean Tuna Commission working parties (tropical tunas, ecosystems and bycatch) and the Science Committee</p> <p>Fisheries and research organisations from neighbouring states (AFRC Mauritius, SFA Seychelles National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA) Sri Lanka, DoF Maldives)</p> <p>Specialist environmental science organisations (e.g. IUCN-SSC- shark specialist group; Southampton Oceanography Centre, UK Universities (Warwick, York), University of British Columbia.</p> <p>Fisheries organisations (OPAGAC, ANABAC, ORTHONGEL, JapanTuna, Taiwan DeepSea Fishing etc)</p> <p>Relevant existing projects: MADE (Mitigating ADverse Ecological impacts of open ocean fisheries); BIODIVERSITY (BIOdiversité Pélagique: Suivi par indicateurs écosystémiques); AMPED: (Aires Marines Protégées pour Espèces qui se Déplacent beaucoup)</p>
Function/ Purpose of Organisation	Administration of BIOT	<p>IOTC: management of tuna and tuna like species</p> <p>Neighbouring National organisations: resource management and conservation</p> <p>Specialist groups: ecology, research and conservation</p> <p>Fisheries organisations: Maintaining sustainable fishing practices.</p> <p>Relevant Projects: collecting information on bycatch of PET species, areas of high juvenile retention and biodiversity hotspots in the Indian Ocean Evaluation of Marine Protected Areas as a management strategy for valuable migratory marine resources in the Indian Ocean.</p>

Name of Main Contact	Joanne Yeadon	<p>MRAG and ZSL are well connected with all the above organisations all of whom have been contacted. Letters of collaboration received to date include:</p> <p><i>IOTC:</i></p> <p>Iago Mosquiera (Chair Working Party on Tropical Tunas, Fisheries Modeller, Cefas)</p> <p>Charles Anderson (Chair Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch)</p> <p><i>Neighbouring National organisations:</i></p> <p>Roy Clarisse (Deputy Managing Director, Seychelles Fishing Authority).</p> <p><i>Specialist groups:</i></p> <p>Professor Callum Roberts (University of York)</p> <p>Dr Nick Dulvy (IUCN Shark Specialist Group Co-chair, Simon Fraser University)</p> <p>Dr John Turner (Bangor University).</p> <p>Prof Charles Sheppard (Warwick University).</p> <p>Pew Environment Group.</p> <p><i>Fisheries organisations:</i></p> <p>Julio Moron (Director General, OPAGAC)</p> <p>Michel Goujon (Director, ORTHONGEL)</p> <p>Jose Angel Angulo (Managing Director, ANABAC)</p> <p><i>Relevant Projects:</i></p> <p>Alain Fonteneau (Programme Leader, AMPED)</p> <p>Laurent Dagorn (Project Manager, MADE)</p>
Post Held	BIOT Administrator	As above

5. Concept note for the Challenge Fund award (max 500 words). This question concentrates on what the current application is for and should demonstrate the objectives of the award including

- **what work will be carried out under the award;**
- **the location and duration of this work;**
- **what you expect to achieve from receiving the Challenge Fund award;**
- **details of how you will monitor and evaluate the work (reporting requirements for this fund are in the process of being finalised).**

This award will be utilised to develop a strategic research programme to deliver answers to key questions for strengthening management and conservation benefits from BIOT's management framework in the context of a marine protected area (MPA) with or without fishing. It will build linkages amongst organisations involved in fishing and those with expertise in conservation and research. It will engage key institutions in BIOT's neighbouring countries affected by the new management framework. This will be achieved through: establishing advisory and working groups; reviewing information on conservation and management, particularly in the context of pelagic systems; identifying key uncertainties using a Delphi approach that will inform a subsequent workshop to fully develop and prioritise feasible ideas; developing a full project proposal for submission to the next Darwin Initiative round.

In November 2009 the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office announced a consultation on whether to establish a MPA in BIOT. Whilst specific objectives were not given, anticipated benefits related to conservation, climate change, science and development. Social, economic and political dimensions were also described. Three options for a possible MPA management framework were presented ranging from a full no take MPA to zoned uses including fishing. The outcome of the consultation is expected in April 2010 and the management framework selected will be informed by the conservation benefits and socio-economic factors.

During the consultation, a number of important questions arose relating to the potential conservation benefits of pelagic MPAs to highly migratory species (tunas and sharks). Answers to these questions would contribute towards refining the MPA management framework selected and would identify what additional measures could be taken to enhance benefits within any selected framework. They will also contribute to protected area and fishery management in the wider Indian Ocean. Our general understanding of the benefits of pelagic MPAs is limited, and locally, we need to know what oceanographic and physical factors cause temporal changes in abundance of pelagic species in BIOT; whether there are resident populations of certain key species; whether 'hotspots' of protected, endangered or threatened species occur within BIOT and when; what the impacts of measures in BIOT might be for the wider Indian Ocean. While it was not possible to fully address these questions before the consultation there is value in addressing them now to refine whatever framework is selected and improve management.

The Challenge Fund will enable a wide range of interest groups to explore the best means of informing the MPA management framework. A multi-disciplinary approach will be required including modellers, oceanographers, fishers and fisheries experts, ecologists and specialist interest groups, such as those related to sharks or turtles. Outputs of this award will be a consortium and agreed management structure, a peer reviewed article (from the workshop) and workshop report; a research agenda and full funding proposal. Monitoring and evaluation occurs through involvement in the Delphi and workshop process and peer review to ensure the relevance of the research agenda. The advisory group will coordinate the process and full project proposal.

6. Concept note for resultant project (max 500 words). This question concentrates on the full Darwin application you intend to submit after the Challenge Fund award and should demonstrate:

- **Expected purpose and outputs of the resultant Darwin project**
- **How the resultant Darwin project would meet a need (and how this need was defined) in the UKOTs and help the territory/ies in its implementation of any or all of the following Conventions: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)/Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)/Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).**
- **Brief evidence of the proposed partners' intentions to collaborate in the Challenge Fund award and an outline of their expected role in the resultant Darwin project: include brief details of contact to date and planned ongoing collaboration. This would normally be supported by a letter or email of support, which may present the majority of this evidence.**
- **The expected role of the OTs and UK individuals in the resultant Darwin project**

Purpose: Informing and enhancing the BIOT MPA management framework in the pelagic zone

Outputs:

- a) A comprehensive assessment of the effects of a BIOT MPA, particularly for target fisheries species (including tuna), non-target bycatch species (including elasmobranchs) and wider ecosystem health;
- b) Associated management recommendations and future research priorities to enhance and monitor biodiversity conservation;
- c) Peer reviewed papers on identified knowledge gaps for highly migratory species and how this may influence pelagic MPA management.

The need for better understanding of the role of pelagic MPAs for biodiversity conservation was highlighted during the FCO BIOT MPA consultation. Additional knowledge is important whatever MPA framework is applied to inform management and monitor conservation outcomes. While there have been a number of field based and theoretical studies addressing the pros and cons of pelagic MPAs as a concept, there has been no comprehensive study in the WIO, specifically BIOT. Prioritised knowledge gaps (biodiversity, fisheries and MPA management identified from OTCF award) applicable to the MPA management framework selected will be addressed in the full application potentially including:

- Assessment of the effectiveness and value of pelagic MPAs for target and non-target highly migratory species in the region exploited both inside and outside BIOT.
- Estimates of abundance of top ocean predators in BIOT and identification of any key hotspots.
- Assessment of spatial and temporal variation in reproduction of tuna and important bycatch species in BIOT and the region.
- Assessment of the presence of different life-stages of highly migratory species.
- Assessment of movements, range and rates of residence of key highly migratory species in BIOT using satellite tags; how do they relate to bathymetric and oceanographic features; what explains significant seasonal and annual variations in abundance?
- Assessment of conservation benefits / impacts of closure on resources and on neighbours within IOTC.
- Assessment of risks from illegal unreported and unregulated fishing.

This information is not only required for a BIOT MPA but will inform pelagic MPAs globally. Large pelagic MPAs are being recognised as a potentially powerful tool in preserving marine biodiversity and with increasing pressure on the oceanic environment, it is essential we understand their benefits and limitations and how best to manage these.

ZSL and MRAG have been in close communication during the FCO consultation, and while the organisations have differing standpoints, have worked in a collegiate atmosphere. We are keen to employ a rigorous scientific approach to understanding the role of pelagic MPAs and how they are managed, and would jointly lead the implementation of the full research programme. Our associates who have provided letters of collaboration for the OTCF award and were also engaged in the FCO MPA consultation share these aspirations.

BIOT is uninhabited, apart from the US Navy base. The BIOT Administration in the UK has indicated support for our work. We would work closely with them to scrutinise our work and use the data and management recommendations to employ best practice in the BIOT MPA meeting the needs of the Administration.

7. Justification of need for a Challenge Fund award. Please provide details of why alternative funding is not available from within your own organisation or from other sources. Will matched funding be provided? (max 250 words)

Revenue from current fishing activities is fully accounted for in their management and enforcement. Currently the BIOT Authorities do not have sufficient resources to enable them to undertake this OTCF exercise nor the range of research activities that will be required, although have offered the use of the patrol vessel for match funding in the full proposal. The outputs of this research will be invaluable to informing and enhancing the future BIOT management framework.

MRAG is a Consultancy company and could not fund the proposed OTCF activities. However we note that the staff inputs required to achieve the OTCF outputs we have identified exceed the available funds and so MRAG will provide staff time in this phase to meet those additional requirements. We would seek to obtain additional matching funds during the development of the full proposal.

ZSL is a charity, and therefore not able to offer direct matched funding. However, the time of the lead scientists will be offered as match funding.

8. Costs. Provide a detailed breakdown of costs to be funded by the Darwin Initiative.

Budget Line	Year 1
Please complete those appropriate to your application – they may not all be relevant	Apr 2010 – Mar 2011
Travel costs (airfares, sea travel, visas, travel documents) Note: We have estimated 6 long distance flights at £900 and 6 from Europe at £350 each - travel costs will be billed on a reimbursable basis and we will maximise participation within the budget available. All UK participants are expected to make their own arrangements)	
Subsistence costs (specify by individual and number of days) Individuals will confirm availability at the time of organising the workshop - we have allowed 3 nights subsistence for 6 long distance participants and 2 nights for 6 European participants, all at £100 per night - Individuals are listed amongst the partners in Q 4b.)	
Overhead costs (including office costs) ZSL has a standard overhead rate of 15% of the total project budget. MRAG as a consultancy does not separately identify the cost of office overheads which are included within our staff fee rate.	
Operating costs (including conference/workshop/fieldwork costs) Costs for two day workshop	
Capital costs (please specify)	
Other (please specify)	
Salaries (specify by individual) Note for MRAG as a consultancy these relate to fee rates that include all overheads.	
MRAG Dr Chris Mees Dr Robert Arthur Mr Tim Davies	
ZSL Dr Heather Koldewey Dr Matthew Gollock David Curnick	
TOTAL REQUESTED FROM DARWIN INITIATIVE	

9. Provide anticipated dates of award activity (including start and finish dates) and any milestones where relevant.

Date	Key Milestone
1 July 2010	START
April 2010 May 2010	<i>FCO BIOT Authorities announce management framework Booking of workshop date with all established collaborators (see letters of support) and other stakeholders</i>
July 2010	Organise workshop materials and circulate Delphi questionnaire to all invited participants and a wider group of interested organisations. Analyse responses to inform content of working groups. Gather background papers from workshop participants.
Mid July 2010	Hold two full day workshop with working groups
August 2010	Draft workshop report completed; including prioritised list of knowledge gaps and research needs
August 2010	Full project proposal submitted to Darwin Initiative Round 18
Sept 2010	Completed workshop report
Oct 2010	Peer review paper submitted for publication. Darwin reporting requirements completed
31 October 2010	FINISH

10. In what year would you expect to submit the full Darwin project application?

Round 18 (2010)

We certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made in this application are true and the information provided is correct.

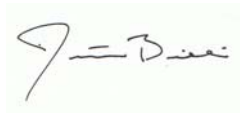
Name (block capitals): JONATHAN BAILLIE

CHRISTOPHER MEES

**Position in organisation: CONSERVATION PROGRAMMES
DIRECTOR**

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Signed:




Dated: 12th March 2010

Challenge Fund Application - Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you provided anticipated start and end dates for your award?	Yes
Are your concept notes within 500 words each?	Yes
Has your application been signed	Yes
Have you read the Guidance Notes and are you satisfied that your concept would be eligible for a main project application?	Yes
Have you included CVs and letters of support as required?	Yes

Once you have answered Yes to the questions above, please submit the application in Word format, not later than 2359h GMT on Friday 19 February 2010 to Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk using the title of the project (or first few words) as the subject of your email.

Metropolitan UK applicants should send a hard copy of a wet signature page to the Darwin Applications Unit, c/o LTS International, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik EH26 0PL.

Applicants from the UKOTs should fax a copy of the signature page to the Darwin Applications Unit on 0131 440 5501 or email a scanned original signature to Darwin-applications@ltsi.co.uk.

DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998: Applicants must agree to any disclosure or exchange of information supplied on the application form (including the content of a declaration or undertaking) which the Department considers necessary for the administration, evaluation, monitoring and publicising of the Darwin Initiative. Application form data will also be held by contractors dealing with Darwin Initiative monitoring and evaluation. It is the responsibility of applicants to ensure that personal data can be supplied to the Department for the uses described in this paragraph. A completed application form will be taken as an agreement by the applicant and the grant/award recipient also to the following:- putting certain details (ie name, contact details and location of project work) on the Darwin Initiative and Defra websites (details relating to financial awards will not be put on the websites if requested in writing by the grant/award recipient); using personal data for the Darwin Initiative postal circulation list; and sending data to Foreign and Commonwealth Office posts outside the United Kingdom, including posts outside the European Economic Area. Confidential information relating to the project or its results and any personal data may be released on request, including under the Environmental Information Regulations, the code of Practice on Access to Government Information and the Freedom of Information Act 2000