



EIDCF007

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) Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) Lower Bight Road, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos islands WESLEY CLERVEAUX E-mail address: Phone:	
2. Working title/name of the proposed resulting Darwin project (not exceeding 10 words): MANAGEMENT PLANS IMPLEMENTATION AND RAMSAR DESIGNATION EXPANSION IN THE TCI	
3. Proposed UKOT(s) involved (in Challenge Fund award): TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS (TCI)	Other collaborating country/ies (including metropolitan UK if appropriate) to be involved in the proposed resultant project: UK

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	Salamanca	Manco
Forename(s)	Eric	Bryan
Post held	Scientific Officer	Habitat Specialist
Department	Environment and Coastal Resources	Environment and Coastal Resources
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	Wildfowl & Wetland Trust (WWT) Consulting	Join Nature Conservation (JNCC)
Function/Purpose of Organisation	Conservation, saving wetlands for wildlife and people across the world	JNCC is the statutory adviser to Government on UK and international nature conservation., maintaining and enriching biological diversity, conserving geological features and sustaining natural systems.
Name of Main Contact	Dr. Matthew Simpson	David Stroud
Post Held	Associate Director	Senior Ornithological Adviser and Lead on Ramsar Convention's Scientific & Technical Review Panel

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).**

Aim

The project aim is to enhance the capability of the TCI Government (TCIG), particularly DECR, to better manage and protect wetland ecosystems. This scoping exercise will inform the biodiversity conservation policy framework of the TCIG and support the further designation and management of wetland areas as Ramsar sites of International Importance.

Background

Currently there is one TCI wetland area that has Ramsar designation. This is on North, Middle and East Caicos and covers 58,617ha. An earlier Darwin project developed a management plan entitled 'Plan for Biodiversity Management and Sustainable Development around the Turks & Caicos Ramsar site' (CABI Bioscience, 2003). Another project was initiated by the Commonwealth Foundation in 2009 to build civil society capacity in the Caribbean UK Overseas Territories. This specifically targets non-government organizations to strengthen biodiversity management across organizations. It has been recognised by DECR that these projects have provided important steps but effective management of wetland sites across TCI is currently limited and due to increasing threats from unsustainable tourism activities a comprehensive review is required.

It has also been recognised that there are a number of wetlands in TCI that would qualify as new Ramsar sites by virtue of their rare or unique wetland character for the biogeographic region, biodiversity composition or their potential as hosts for waterbirds, fish and other taxa. These wetlands would benefit from being designated as Ramsar sites and through the development and implementation of bespoke management plans.

Location and duration of work

The project will focus on the current Ramsar site in the North, Middle and East Caicos Islands and consider wetland sites in the Islands of East Caicos, South Caicos, Grand Turk, West Caicos and Providenciales. Project duration: August 2010 to July 2011.

Project objectives

To achieve the project aim the following main project activities will be undertaken:

- To review current policies, legislation and management plans related to wetlands in TCI;
- To build wetland management capacity within DECR;
- To identify suitable sites for Ramsar designation;
- To draft initial wise use management plans for the sites; and
- To develop a main fund Darwin Initiative proposal.

Project activities

Project activities will include the following:

1. Project start up meeting;
2. DECR staff visit to UK to receive training from WWT and JNCC;
3. UK Partner mission to TCI;
4. Review of current policies, legislation, conservation designations and management plans related to wetland sites;
5. Selection of potentially suitable sites;
6. Review of all data related to sites;
7. Consultation with stakeholders to assess current management issues, wetland wise use operations and potential conflicts;
8. Data collection if required to inform management plans;
9. Development of management plans;
10. Stakeholder forum to present project outcomes; and
11. Development of a proposal for funding to Darwin Round 18.

Reporting

Monthly activity and financial report - prepared by the Project Officer in coordination with the UK partners, to be noted by the Director of the TCIG, DECR.

Final report reflecting all project activities and finances.

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**

Project purpose

To successfully manage TCI's important wetland areas to fulfil local and international legislation, policy commitments and raise awareness of their importance

Project outputs

1. Biodiversity and management monitoring of wetland sites
2. Stakeholder consultation to determine livelihood use of wetland sites
3. Ecosystem services assessment of each wetland site in relation to climate change issues
4. Management planning and implementation training for DECR
5. Assessment of site specific wise use management plan implementation
6. Update of wise use management plans
7. Development of best practice guidelines for wetland management in TCI
8. Development of education and awareness material
9. Drafting of Ramsar Information Sheets for sites that fulfil Ramsar selection criteria prior to formal designation
10. Dissemination of management plans, best practice guidelines and education material

Impact of the proposed project

The project will directly support the implementation of the TCI Environment Charter and help met the UKOT's various environmental obligations in CBD, CMS and CITES. The Darwin project supports TCI's commitment in the Environmental Charter through the following activities:

- 1) Bringing together government departments, representatives of local industry and commerce, environment and heritage organizations, the Governor's office, individual environmental champions and other community representatives in a forum to formulate a detailed strategy for action. Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape;
- 2) Ensuring that environmental considerations are integrated within social and economic planning processes, promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within the Territory;
- 3) Reviewing the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity;
- 4) Encouraging teaching within schools to promote the value of our local environment (natural and built) and to explain its role within the regional and global environment; and
- 5) Promoting publications that spread public awareness of the special features of the environment in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

This project supports the three main goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity, namely: a) conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity); b) sustainable use of its components; and c) fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources. It also supports UK and TCI commitments under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The wetlands support several rare migratory bird species such that the designation of their habitats under Ramsar would also contribute to the implementation of the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species.

DECR expertise includes Natural Resources Management, Forestry, Plant Conservation, Coastal Engineering, Marine Science and Fisheries. DECR have successfully implemented various projects such as Coastal Resources Management Project (CRMP), DFID-funded Belonger Business Opportunity project, Protected Areas Review project, Protected Areas Mapping phase 1, 2, and 3, and presently implementing the Habitat Mapping Project funded by JNCC, and the Turtle Project of the Marine Conservation Centre and the University of Exeter.

WWT and JNCC will provide technical advice on wetland management not available in TCI. This will be achieved by short-term missions to UK by DECR staff and missions to TCI by UK partners.

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)

The TCIG, in spite of putting high importance to environmental conservation and management, is currently constrained by a drop in revenue as a result of the global economic crisis. Tourism and related activities constitute the major source of revenue but recently this has fallen significantly. As such, the TCI government is experiencing a fiscal crisis and has had to implement rigid controls on expenditure. Although the government would like to allocate funds for environmental management, the limited revenue available to TCIG has had to be directed to basic government activities.

TCIG and the UK government have an obligation to fulfil their commitments to international conventions such as the CBD and Ramsar but in the current financial situation TCIG are struggling to achieve these obligations. Wetland sites within TCI have important significance in terms of their rare or unique wetland character, their biodiversity composition or the species they support such as *Dendrocygna arborea*, *Egretta rufescens*, *Pelecanus occidentalis* (2% Caribbean); *Charadrius wilsonia* (1% Global); *Tringa melanoleuca* (1% G); *Tringa flavipes* (> 1% G); *Limnodromus griseus* (> 1% G); *Micropalama himantopus* (> 1% G); *Larus atricilla* (6% C); *Sterna maxima* (3% C); *Sterna sandvicensis* (> 1% C); *Sterna antillarum* (8% Caribbean) 400 (8%C) (anon., 2003). The Challenge Fund award would help support TCIG fulfil its obligations to international conventions and the protection of important TCI habitats and species.

The DECR will provide matched funding in the form of staff time, office space, office supplies, equipment and use of a DECR vehicle and boat.

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

Budget Line	Year 1	Year 2
Please complete those appropriate to your application – they may not all be relevant	Apr 2010 – Mar 2011	Apr 2011 – Mar 2012
Travel costs		
2 UK to TCI, flight return		
2 TCI to UK, flight return		
Transfers from PLS - GDT		
Transfers from PLS - NCA		
Visa for TCI travellers		
Local travel in UK for TCI partners		
Trip to UK Embassy, Jamaica for Visas		
Transport in UK for UK Partners		
Subsistence costs		
Rooms for TCI travellers in Jamaica		
Board for TCI travellers to Jamaica		
Room 8 days for 2 UK partners in TCI		
Room for 8 days for 2 TCI partners in UK		
Board for UK partners in TCI		
Board for TCI partners in UK		
Room for 3 days for 2 TCI partners in GDT		
Board for TCI partners in GDT		

Overhead costs

Telephone

Coupon Bond- A4

Printer Ink

Pens and Pencils

Photocopy related expenses (toner, service)

WWT office costs

Insurance (TCI travellers)

Operating costs

Vehicle rental (NCA-MDS) Field work

Fuel for Vehicle rental (NCA-MDS) Field work

Stakeholders meeting, GDT Room hire etc

Stakeholders meeting, NCA-MDS Room hire etc

Stakeholders meeting, PLS Room hire etc

Stakeholders meeting, XSC Room hire etc

Stakeholders meeting, Room hire etc

Stakeholder forum to present management

Capital costs

Laptop (1)

GPS (2)

GPS Accessories (for 2)

Laptop accessories (for 1)

Binocular (2)

Measuring tape (1)

Camera (1 Nikon D90)

Camera accessories (for 1, zoom lens, extra battery, SD)

Books

Shipment & taxes

Other**Salaries**

WWT Staff time Matthew Simpson

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
August 1, 2010	START
August 2010	Project start up meeting
September 2010	DECR staff mission to UK
October 2010 to January 2011	Wetland site review and site selection report
January 2011	UK Partner mission to TC1
February 2011 to March 2011	Stakeholder fora to assess current management issues
April 2011 to May 2011	Site management plans produced
June 2011	Stakeholder forum to present management plans
July 2011	Production of DARWIN Round 18 funding proposal
July 31, 2011	FINISH

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

Round 18 (2011)

Round 18

I 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): WESLEY CLERVEAUX

Position in organisation: Director, Department of Environment and Coastal Resources

Signed:

Dated: 12 March 2010

Challenge Fund Application - Checklist for submission

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

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