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Submit by Monday 30 January 2012

**DARWIN INITIATIVE APPLICATION FOR UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES CHALLENGE FUND:  
Round 18**

Please read the Guidance Notes before completing this form.

<b>1. Name, postal address and contact details of applicant organisation and main individual:</b> (notification of results will be by email to this individual)  <i>Dr Paul Brickle          Shallow Marine Surveys Group          Stanley Falkland Islands</i>	
<b>E-mail address:</b>	<b>Phone:</b>
<b>2. Working title/name of the proposed resulting Darwin project (not exceeding 10 words):</b>  <i>Assessing Ascension Islands Shallow Marine Biodiversity</i>	
<b>3. Proposed UKOT(s) involved</b> <i>Ascension Island, Falkland Islands</i>	<b>Other collaborating country/ies to be involved</b> <i>UK</i>

**4. Principals in Challenge Fund work**

(a) Please give the details of the main individuals who will be directly involved in the Challenge Fund award. Please copy the table if you require more space. CVs must be enclosed (max 1 page each).

Details	Main individual	2nd individual
<b>Surname</b>	<i>Brickle</i>	<i>Brewin</i>
<b>Forename(s)</b>	<i>Paul</i>	<i>Paul</i>
<b>Post held</b>	<i>Chairman, marine ecologist</i>	<i>Project Manager, marine ecologist</i>
<b>Department</b>	<i>Shallow Marine Surveys Group (SMSG), Stanley, Falkland Islands</i>	<i>Shallow Marine Surveys Group</i>
<b>Telephone</b>		
<b>Email</b>		

(b) Partners relevant to the Challenge Fund award. Please provide details below, plus letters of support. (These letters should express intention to collaborate, contribution to the Challenge Fund activity, endorsement of the proposed partnership, and the expected contribution of the proposed resultant Darwin project to the conservation of the biodiversity of the relevant UKOT(s).) If you are a UKOT applicant, with no partner, you should provide a letter from your own organisation addressing these issues as appropriate.

Details	Main project partner	Other partners
<b>Organisation</b>	<i>Ascension Island Government</i>	1) <i>Falkland Islands            Government Fisheries            Department</i>  2) <i>British Forces South            Atlantic Islands</i>  3) <i>British Antarctic Survey</i>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4) <i>National Museums of Northern Ireland</i></li> <li>5) <i>University of Aberdeen</i></li> <li>6) <i>Ascension Island Government</i></li> <li>7) <i>Ascension Island Dive Club</i></li> <li>8) <i>Computer Science Raytheon</i></li> </ul>
<b>Function/ Purpose of Organisation</b>	<i>Local ecological knowledge and lead in conservation priorities.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <i>Ichthyology, fisheries science, taxonomy, stock assessment</i></li> <li>2) <i>Logistics and diving support</i></li> <li>3) <i>Marine ecology, biogeography</i></li> <li>4) <i>Sponge Taxonomy</i></li> <li>5) <i>Algal biodiversity</i></li> <li>6) <i>Local ecological knowledge</i></li> <li>7) <i>Dive support</i></li> <li>8) <i>Dive consultant</i></li> </ul>
<b>Name of Main Contact</b>	<b><i>Mr Stedson Stroud MBE</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <b><i>Dr Alexander Arkhipkin</i></b></li> <li>2) <b><i>Lt Colonel Simon Browning</i></b></li> <li>3) <b><i>Dr David Barnes</i></b></li> <li>4) <b><i>Dr Claire Goodwin</i></b></li> <li>5) <b><i>Prof. Frithjof Kuepper</i></b></li> <li>6) <b><i>Miss Jolene Sim</i></b></li> <li>7) <b><i>Mrs Caroline Yon</i></b></li> <li>8) <b><i>Mr Jimmy Young</i></b></li> </ul>
<b>Post Held</b>	<i>Conservation Officer</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <i>Senior Scientist</i></li> <li>2) <i>Head of Logistics MPC, Falkland Islands</i></li> <li>3) <i>Marine Ecologist</i></li> <li>4) <i>Marine Biologist</i></li> <li>5) <i>Chair in Marine Biodiversity</i></li> <li>6) <i>Assistant Conservation Officer</i></li> <li>7) <i>Station Manager, Arian Tracking Station, Diver</i></li> <li>8) <i>Computer Science Raytheon, Diver and Project Consultant</i></li> </ul>

**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).**

*Ascension Island harbours globally important biodiversity, potentially representing a unique assemblage of western and eastern Atlantic flora and fauna. Previous biodiversity projects focused on sea-turtles, seabirds and plants (Darwin, RSPB, OTEP respectively). Marine biodiversity remains virtually unknown; a search on Google Scholar and Web of Science show few if any collective studies on the Island's benthic species, habitats or biogeography. A small Conservation Department comprising 3 core staff was created in 2001 and has carried out much work, however, critical work remains. The Island lacks a National Biodiversity Strategy.*

*Lacking are inventories of marine invertebrates, ichthyofauna and algae. Habitat inventories and mapping are needed to manage coastal zones. Additionally, corals and associated fauna are particularly sensitive to climate change. The status of marine endemic species is absent and redressing these will drive the formulation of species actions plans. We will generate baseline data, thus creating scope for future marine biodiversity conservation and management projects on the Island. We will train local divers and Conservation Professionals in sampling protocols such that the collection of baseline data and monitoring of key marine flora and fauna can continue.*

*The Challenge Fund will support a dedicated team of 16 local and international ecologists, taxonomists and divers. Many of the team have worked successfully together previously as project partners in the Falklands and South Georgia (SMSG, BAS, National Museums Northern Ireland). Logistics of transporting personnel and equipment is currently being developed with British Forces project partners. Stage One of the work will be a meta-analysis of existing information on Ascension marine biodiversity and establish literature and georeferenced databases. These data will be linked to globally important open access databases such as the Open Biogeographic Information System (OBIS). From this, a key deliverable, the first peer-reviewed article reviewing the shallow marine biodiversity around Ascension, will be produced. These data will form the basis of a three week (21 day) expedition to the Islands to survey the intertidal and sub-tidal down to 30m depth. We will adapt successful protocols from our previous work, (quantitative photo-quadrats, collections, macro-photography) and employ established methods specific to coral reef habitats (belt transects, fish counts). Georeferenced samples will be collected and identification by experts during and after the survey through taxonomy and barcoding. Qualitative and quantitative intertidal and subtidal surveys will be designed to capture diversity patterns over multiple horizontal and bathymetric spatial scales, and provide for rudimentary habitat classification schemes and mapping.*

*Results from the survey will result in faunal and floral species inventories, habitat descriptions and maps, a field guide to marine invertebrates, algae and fish, a report on the status of marine endemics, and a report on the potential impacts of climate change. These will inform Ascension Island Government of how they can fit their shallow marine environment into future biodiversity strategies and form CBD targets. At the onset of the project, milestones and output targets will be set and monitored by steering committee made up of P Brickle, S Stroud, J Sim and D Barnes.*

**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 UKOTs and other UK expertise in the resultant Darwin project**

*A full Darwin Initiative Project would provide sufficient integrated biological and physical data to fill data gaps needed for proposed Ascension Marine Protected Areas (MPA), and species action plans for endemic/rare species and habitats. Data collected on fish and fisheries in the scoping phase will feed into coastal fisheries research and assessment of line and spear fisheries impacts. These will provide critical data such that Ascension Islands Government can develop "ecosystems based" approaches to sustainable coastal fisheries management, including catch and effort statistics necessary for minimising impacts on associated species and habitats.*

*Full project outputs would include a greatly enhance species inventory, the identification of rare or vulnerable species and habitats, and a report on fisheries implications including relevant oceanographic data; these being key to the development of MPAs and fisheries management strategies. Establishing species and habitat inventories and potential threats is key for Ascension Island Government to protect and monitor their status, minimise biodiversity losses, and meet Convention on Biological Diversity targets. These will also establish whether any native marine species should be considered under the Convention of Migratory Species (CMS) or Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). This project will strengthen cross-territory information exchange and build research and policy capacity.*

*The project was first considered in November 2010 during a SMSG dive survey of South Georgia. Team members Drs Paul Brickle, Paul Brewin, and Claire Goodwin had dived Ascension and were struck by the high biodiversity for such a small oceanic island, and had discussed the potential for a Darwin Challenge Award. Subsequent communications with Dr Alexander Arkhipkin of the Falkland Islands Government Fisheries Dept and via e-mail with Dr David Barnes (BAS) secured their interest. Paul Brickle contacted Mr Stedson Stroud, Conservation Officer, in November 2011 about a potential project and reply was very positive 'We would be thrilled to work with The Shallow Marine Surveys Group to conduct a baseline survey of the Coastal Areas of Ascension. You are correct to say that your enquiry is timely due to it coinciding with our own on island drive to see the Coastal areas of Ascension surveyed with a view to setting up protected areas. One of the issues that have of course arisen is the lack of skilled man-power and funding needed to see through such a project. Consequently I would fully support any application for a Darwin Challenge award.....' Paul Brickle met with Mr Stroud, Miss Sim and the Islands Administrator, Mr Colin Wells in January 2012, who reaffirmed their support.*

*This project will bring together Falkland Islands, Ascension Island and UK expertise. The Ascension Island partners will bring insight into environmental legislation, conservation history, environmental priorities, and local knowledge of marine working conditions. SMSG are experts in research and analysis of shallow marine systems. Falkland Islands Government partners bring ichthyology and fisheries expertise, and UK partners bring expertise in marine ecology, sponge taxonomy, flora and faunal biodiversity.*

**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)**

*There is a clear need to establish baseline marine biodiversity data in Ascension Island. Currently there is no capacity to carry out this type of work on the Islands. This project will not only provide the means for Ascension Island Government to plan for future biodiversity monitoring and coastal management it will also provide the capacity for baseline and biodiversity monitoring to continue through training local conservation professionals and volunteers.*

*There is considerable matched funding for this project. Survey staff (all volunteers) time in kind amount to £40,000. SMSG personnel and volunteers will provide all of their own dive equipment and photographic equipment amounting to c. £18,000.*

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

<b>Budget Line</b> Please complete those appropriate to your application – they may not all be relevant	<b>Year 1</b> Apr 2012 – Mar 2013	<b>Year 2</b> Apr 2013 – Mar 2014
Travel costs (airfares, sea travel, visas, travel documents)		£
Subsistence costs (14 survey staff @ £15/day for 21 days)		£
Overhead costs (including office costs)		£
Operating costs (including conference/workshop/fieldwork costs)		£
Capital costs (Sample bottles and chemicals)		£
Other: Consultancy (please specify)		£
Other (please specify)		£
Salaries (specify by individual) 1.5 months Dr Paul Brewin		£
<b>Total per year</b>	£	£
<b>TOTAL REQUESTED FROM DARWIN INITIATIVE</b>		<b>£ 24,171.00</b>

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Key Milestone</b>
	<b>START</b>
May - June 2012 June 2012	Meta-analyses, collection of literature, establish georeferenced database Conference call with partners in Ascension with regards to local diving conditions and survey areas. We will consult Mr Jimmy Young who has had years of diving experience around Ascension.
July 2012 July 2012	Plan collate and ship survey material to Ascension Island Prepare a report/peer reviewed publication on the current state of knowledge of Ascension Island's marine biodiversity and its threats
July 2012 August 2012	Upload current data to an open access biodiversity database Undertake a 21 day marine biodiversity (Ascension Island)

August 2012	Marine survey methodology, taxonomy and sample processing workshop for Ascension Islands Conservation professionals and volunteers
August 2012	Collect DNA samples and tag Hawksbill turtles as requested by AIG
August 2012	Give a slide presentation to Two Boats School
August 2012	Prepare an article about the project for the Islander
September 2012	Taxonomically difficult specimens sent to specialists
September 2012	Prepare an article for Conservation Quarterly Magazine
September 2012	Survey report sent to Ascension Island Government and Darwin Initiative
January 2013	Faunal and flora species inventories,
February 2013	Habitat descriptions and maps, report on the status of marine endemic species
March 2013	Report on the potential impacts of climate change on the shallow marine communities
April - June 2013	Preparation and completion of a shallow water field guide
	<b>FINISH</b>

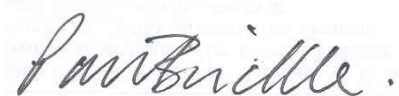
10. In what year would you expect to submit the full Darwin project application?

Round 20 Delete as applicable
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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):** *Dr Paul Brickle*

**Position in organisation:** *Chairman, Shallow Marine Surveys Group*



**Signed:**

**Dated:** *29/01/2012*

**Project title:** *Assessing Ascension Islands Shallow Marine Biodiversity*

## Challenge Fund Application - Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you provided anticipated start and end dates for your award?	✓
Are both 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? N.B. Jimmy Young was unable to supply a letter of support as he is away and does not have e-mail contact. He has expressed his enthusiasm for the project through Stedson Stroud and Caroline Yon and will be a real asset in terms of local diving knowledge.	✓
Have you checked the Darwin website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	✓

Once you have answered Yes to the questions above, please submit the application in Word format, not later than 2359h GMT on Monday 30 January 2012 to [Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk) using the title of the project (or first few words) as the subject of your email.

Please also send a hard copy of the signature page (only) to the Darwin Applications Unit, LTS International, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik EH26 0PL.

Applicants from UKOT institutions 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](mailto: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