



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) Paul Watler Environmental Programmes Manager, National Trust for the Cayman Islands, PO BOX 31116 SMB, GRAND CAYMAN KY1-1205 CAYMAN ISLANDS  <b>E-mail address:</b> pwatler@nationaltrust.org.ky <b>Phone:</b>	
<b>2. Working title/name of the proposed resulting Darwin project (not exceeding 10 words):</b>  The threatened Cayman Brac Parrot: a flagship for conservation	
<b>3. Proposed UKOT(s) involved</b> Cayman Islands	<b>Other collaborating country/ies to be involved</b> United Kingdom

**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>	Watler	Vickery
<b>Forename(s)</b>	Paul	Juliet
<b>Post held</b>	Environmental Programmes Manager	Head of International Research
<b>Department</b>		
<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>	National Trust for the Cayman Islands	Royal society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) The Lodge, Sandy, Beds SG19 2DL
<b>Function/ Purpose of Organisation</b>	Historic and Environmental Conservation	Conservation of nature in the UK, UK Overseas Territories and Internationally
<b>Name of Main Contact</b>	Paul Watler	Juliet Vickery
<b>Post Held</b>	Environmental Programmes Manager	Head of international Research

**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).**

The Cayman Islands supports two distinct subspecies of the Near Threatened Cuban Amazon (*Amazona leucocephala*). The “Grand Cayman Parrot” *A. l. caymanensis* and the “Cayman Brac Parrot” *A. l. hesternus* (only found on the Island of Cayman Brac having been extirpated on Little Cayman).

The Cayman Brac Parrot population is tiny, less than 500 individuals with a range of 38sq km. The unprecedented loss and fragmentation of Cayman Brac’s forest from poorly planned development makes the parrot population extremely vulnerable to the impact of stochastic events such as the catastrophic hurricane damage in 2009. The species’ relatively recent extirpation from Little Cayman highlights the extinction risk. There have been some recent but not comprehensive or long-term studies on this species. The proposed work builds on existing, but fragmented, knowledge and expertise but there is now an urgent need for a systematic conservation framework that links breeding biology, habitat availability, threats, and potential solutions.

The National Trust for the Cayman Islands (NTC), a Cayman based NGO with 800 members, is responsible for preserving the natural environment. The Trust owns the Brac Parrot Reserve on the bluff on Cayman Brac, c. 120 hectares of dry forest. The Reserve protects the main nesting area, and only protected area for the parrot. This area however, offers the parrot population little resilience to changes in Cayman Brac’s remaining habitat caused by human modification or extreme weather conditions, while breeding birds outside the Reserve are also vulnerable to exploitation for the pet trade. NTC, assisted by technical support from the RSPB and Manchester University, will develop a project to safeguard the Cayman Brac Parrot and establish the bird as a conservation flagship for Cayman Brac.

The OTCF project will provide scientific information required to underpin a conservation strategy. Specifically, this will include:

- a full breeding season survey (April - December 2012), the first since the hurricane;
- monitoring breeding success at a randomly selected subset of nests in representative habitats
- locating foraging sites and food, identifying key food species
- updating mapping resources (nests and foraging areas), potential available habitat, and existing and future threats to habitat;
- mapping stakeholders and undertaking a public opinion survey on parrot conservation, the pet trade, and attitudes toward parrots on plantations;
- identify capacity needs for the implementation of an integrated, up-to-date conservation plan.

Monitoring Progress: a small steering committee will be established to monitor and advise upon the work including NTC, Cayman Islands Department of Environment, RSPB, Stuart Marsden at Manchester University, and Sister Islands District Administration. Monthly phone conferences of the steering group will monitor progress. A report mid-way through the project will evaluate the effectiveness of the methods used in detection and monitoring of nest sites and determine fledgling success. A final report will summarise the results and make recommendations for the development of a conservation plan.

**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**

The Purpose of the resultant project will be: develop an integrated programme of conservation on Cayman Brac using the emblematic Cayman Brac Parrot as a conservation flagship. Specific outcomes are expected to include:

1. Development of an updated, participatory conservation plan for the Cayman Brac Parrot using the information gathered relating to stakeholders and threats to the remaining population.
2. Development of a land conservation strategy based on updated mapping of remaining xeromorphic semi-deciduous forest and the distribution of parrot nests. Measures are expected to include establishing management agreements and the expansion of reserves.
3. The development and implementation of acquisition plans and management plans for nature reserves on the Brac.
4. Develop and implement a strategy for mainstreaming biodiversity and local livelihoods into the development of Cayman Brac using the parrot as a flagship species.
5. The development of capacity within the NTC, with the Government of Cayman Islands and the Cayman Brac community

The project has been identified by NTC's Environmental Programmes Committee in the Cayman Islands. The Cayman Islands were the last overseas territory to have an extinction of a bird (Cayman Thrush), and face a significant probability of being the next territory to lose a distinct subspecies. The risk to the Brac Parrot from habitat destruction, exploitation, and severe climatic events has been recognised by the NTC and Cayman Islands Government, and is supported by external organisations (including the RSPB and Manchester University).

The project will contribute to the implementation of the CBD, to which the Cayman Islands is a signatory; and with particular relevance to the Programme of Work on Protected Areas and the Programme of Work on Island Biological Diversity. It will contribute to CITES, as the Cuban Amazon is currently listed on Appendix 1 of CITES and the National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) declared the need to preserve this habitat type in 2009. The project will also support the principals in the Environmental Charter between the Cayman Islands Government and the UK Government. The Charter, signed in 2001, outlines a list of guiding principles and confirms a set of commitments between the UK and the Cayman Islands concerning the importance and safety of the latter's environment.

The NTC conceived the project from the need to find new approaches to conserving the natural environment, in the face of overwhelming development pressure and weak legislative frameworks and the need for conservation in the wider development of Cayman Brac. The project will be lead by the NTC. RSPB have offered to provide technical support for the project including a visit from a research scientist to assist in designing and implementing the field work programme, advice on land management planning, and educational and public awareness campaigns.

**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 NTC is a small territory based organisation with a key role and responsibility in the protection of the natural environment. The NTC is reliant on a limited number of funding streams including a small subvention, funds raised from personal giving, income from natural history tours, and variable unpredictable donations from financial institutions. Additional conservation actions and projects are reliant on grant funding. At this time grant funding is not available from within the Caymans. The RSPB will be providing in kind support and co-finance.

The project is designed to begin to identify conservation strategies including management planning for existing reserves on Cayman Brac and a reserve acquisition strategy. This will enhance the NTC capacity to raise funds in the Caymans for land acquisition.

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

<b>Budget Line</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>
Please complete those appropriate to your application – they may not all be relevant	Apr 2012 – Mar 2013	Apr 2013 – Mar 2014
Travel costs (roundtrip airfares: UK, Cayman Brac; work permit fees)		£
Subsistence costs (Room and board for RSPB assistant and field biologist)		£
Overhead costs (Administrative costs)		£
Operating costs (Hire car rental; fuel costs)		£
Capital costs (laptop, binoculars, specialized camera for viewing nests, GPS)		£
Other: Consultancy (please specify)		£
Other (please specify)		£
Salaries (Paul Watler, Environmental Programmes Manager, NTC)		£
<b>Total per year</b>	£21,350	£
<b>TOTAL REQUESTED FROM DARWIN INITIATIVE</b>	£21,350	

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Key Milestone</b>
15 April 2012	<b>START</b>
30 April	Steering Committee established; field work plan drafted; travel, accommodation, and other logistics booked or otherwise planned.
15 May	Field work programme initiated: full-time field worker in place; support visit by RSPB conservation scientist

1 Oct	completed.
1 Dec	Field work completed; data collation underway; initial drafts of reports circulated to Steering Committee members.
15 December 2012	Draft final reports circulated to Steering Committee members.
<b>FINISH</b>	

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

Round 20
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<p>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.</p> <p>Name (block capitals): PAUL WATLER</p> <p>Position in organisation: National Trust for the Cayman Islands</p> <p>Signed:</p> <p>Dated:</p> <p>Project title: The threatened Cayman Brac Parrot: a flagship for conservation</p>
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**Challenge Fund Application - Checklist for submission**

	Check
Have you provided anticipated start and end dates for your award?	Yes
Are both 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
Have you checked the Darwin website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	Yes

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