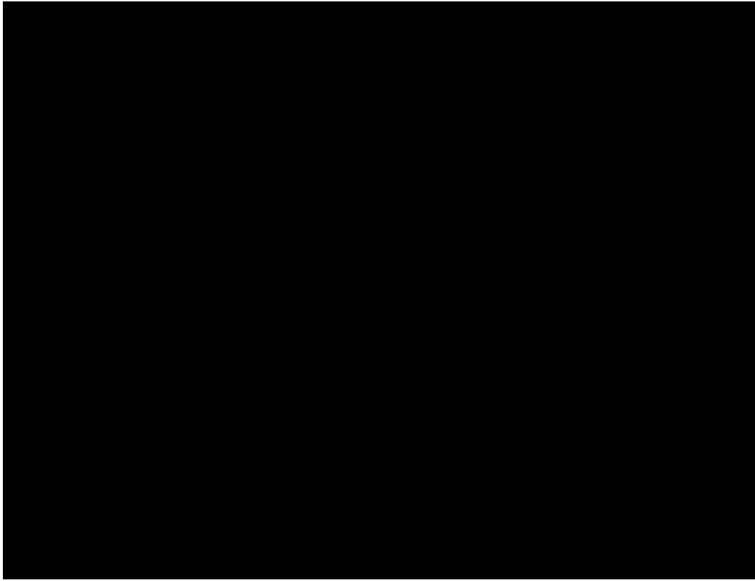

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Strengthening civil society engagement in conservation and fisheries governance, Belize

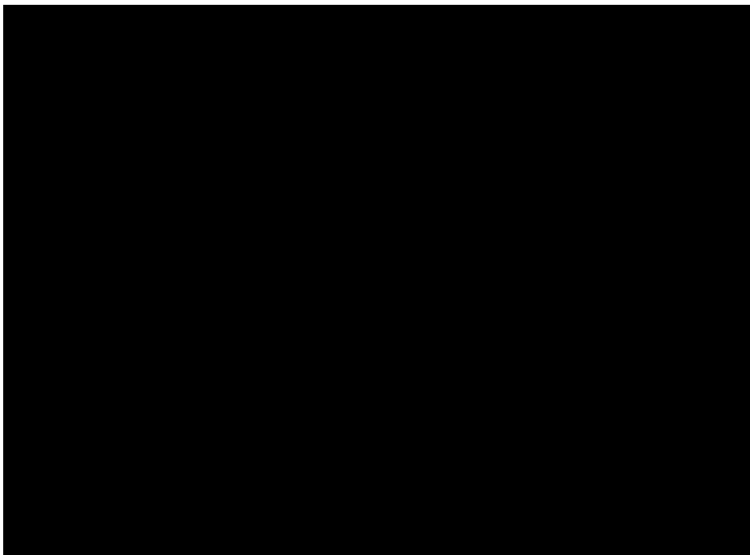
This project aims to strengthen civil society engagement in conservation and fisheries governance to promote transparency, inclusion and sustainability through increased fishers representation in fisheries decision-making.

By strengthening the institutional management of fisher-led civil society organisations (CSOs), supporting participation in decision making, increasing capacity to promote a human rights based marine management approach, and strengthening capacity for participatory marine management, this project will improve the livelihoods of around 1,500 small-scale fishers, fish stocks, coral reef system, and larger ecosystem.

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS



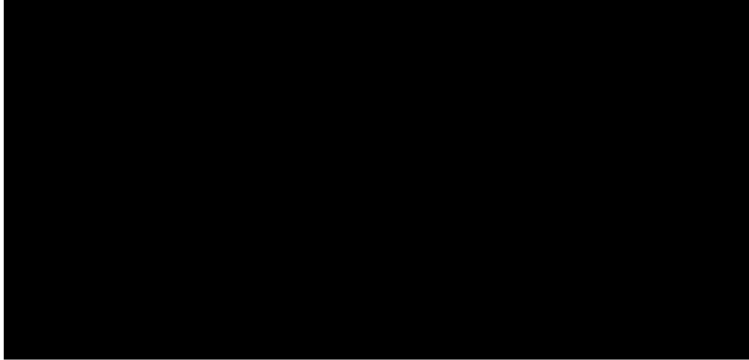
CONTACT DETAILS



Section 1 - Contact Details

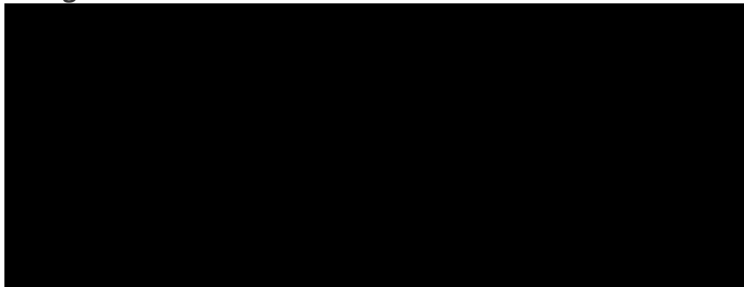
PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title Miss
Name Maja
Surname Carlton-Paterson
Organisation Blue Ventures Conservation



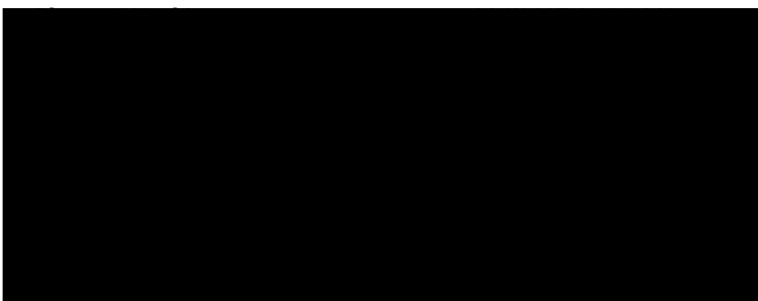
CONTACT DETAILS

Title Dr
Name Alasdair
Surname Harris
Organisation Blue Ventures Conservation



GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Delivery Partner
Name	Blue Ventures Conservation



Section 2 - Title & Summary

Q3. Title:

Strengthening civil society engagement in conservation and fisheries governance, Belize

Q4. Summary

Please provide a brief summary of your project, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking. Please note that if you are successful, this wording may be used by Defra in communications e.g. as a short description of the project on the website.

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

This project aims to strengthen civil society engagement in conservation and fisheries governance to promote transparency, inclusion and sustainability through increased fishers representation in fisheries decision-making.

By strengthening the institutional management of fisher-led civil society organisations (CSOs), supporting participation in decision making, increasing capacity to promote a human rights based marine management approach, and strengthening capacity for participatory marine management, this project will improve the livelihoods of around 1,500 small-scale fishers, fish stocks, coral reef system, and larger ecosystem.

Section 3 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q5. Project Country(ies)

Which eligible host country(ies) will your project be working in? Where there are more than 4 countries that your project will be working in, please add more boxes using the selection option below.

Country 1	Belize	Country 2	No Response
Country 3	No Response	Country 4	No Response

Do you require more fields?

No

Q6. Project dates

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):
01 April 2022	31 May 2023	1 year, 2 months

Q7. Budget summary

Year:	2022/23	2023/24	Total request
Amount:	£118,821.00	£49,039.00	£167,860.00

Q8. Proportion of Darwin Initiative budget expected to be expended in eligible countries: % 72

Q9a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

██████████ match funding has been secured from The Waterloo Foundation, The Summit Foundation towards supporting this work, and a further ██████████ is pledged from Blue Ventures unrestricted funds.

The remaining ██████████ of unconfirmed matched funding has been requested to the Belize Marine Fund (Mesoamerican Reef Fund) and a decision is expected Q1 2022. This funding is considered to have a high probability of success given it represents a continuation of work already funded previously by the Mesoamerican Reef Fund.

Q9b. Total confirmed & unconfirmed matched funding (£) ██████████

Q9c. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you will fund the project if you don't manage to secure this?

Should the application to the Mesoamerican Reef Fund be unsuccessful, we will continue our fundraising efforts and/or utilise BV unrestricted funds to fill the gap.

Section 4 - Project need

Q10. The need that the project is trying to address

Please describe evidence of the capability and capacity need your project is trying to address with reference to biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction. For example, how have you identified the need? Why should the need be addressed or what will be the value to the country?

Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the need (references can be listed in a separate attached PDF document).

Belize's marine environment encompasses globally important marine ecosystems. The vast majority of the world's second largest barrier reef, and three of the Caribbean's four coral atolls can be found in Belize, as well as extensive seagrass meadows, sand cayes, and countless patch reefs which support around 3,000 small-scale fishers.

Traditional fishing communities are facing a deepening environmental and humanitarian emergency. Climate breakdown, invasive species and mass extinction are changing our environment in ways species have never experienced.

Coastal communities in Belize stand on the front lines of these changes. The 2020 Atlantic hurricane season was the most active on record, and vulnerable marine ecosystems are facing unprecedented climate-related stresses. These challenges are set against a background of widespread social inequalities.

Over half of Belize's population still lives in poverty (1) and income inequality is growing. Fishers are often the victims (2) of violent crimes; for centuries, pirates have taken advantage of Belize's complex coastal geography to carry out illegal activities. Belize is also one of the world's most indebted nations (3), and with a high economic dependency on tourism, the Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact.

Since its independence in 1981, Belize has demonstrated progressive leadership for marine conservation and management, adopting conservation measures that are seen as exemplars across Central America and the Caribbean. Declaring its first Marine Protected Area (MPA) in 1987, Belize now boasts a network of 14 MPAs, covering 24% of the country's marine waters, seven of which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites (4).

Despite having a globally progressive legal framework for marine management, Belize's fisheries continue to face many challenges. The Belize Fisheries Department has already implemented a number of changes to address the falling size of lobsters (5) and the loss of multi-species fish spawning aggregation (6) sites, such as the increase of minimum size of lobster catch. However, there are still challenges (7) (8), including the communication and participation of fisher communities in decision making.

In February 2020, after a decade of negotiations, Belize passed a new Fisheries Act, mandating participatory fisheries management through a new Fisheries Advisory Council. As part of the Act's commitment to promoting a more inclusive management, five of the council's 12 person membership must represent a fisher association, fishing cooperative or local marine conservation body. The bill also creates a new mechanism for declaration of "fishing priority areas" and co-management of fisheries through community-based organisations, fisher associations or fishing cooperatives.

Despite sound frameworks for participatory management, meaningful community engagement has proved challenging. This has been compounded by the economic disruption from the pandemic. Covid related restrictions and limited technological capacity have meant that the Fisheries Department and communities alike have struggled to communicate directly to address pressing marine issues. Further, technological and communication capacity limitations among fisher communities make the bureaucratic regulatory environment difficult to engage with.

Our scoping assessment with stakeholder agencies, as well as our own experiences, clearly demonstrate that institutional support and targeted capacity building are needed to make participatory management a reality.

Section 5 - Darwin Objectives and Conventions

Q11. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q11a. Your project must support the commitments of one or more of the agreements listed below.

Please indicate which agreement(s) will be supported.

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Q11b. National and International Policy Alignment

Please detail how your project will contribute to national policy (including NBSAPs, NDCs, NAP etc.) and in turn international biodiversity and development conventions, treaties and agreements that the country is a signatory of.

The project's outcomes will contribute directly to Belize meeting its commitments to the Convention on Biological Diversity (ratified by Belize in 1993), in particular Articles 8 (In-situ Conservation), 10 (Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity) and 14 (Impact Assessment and Minimising Adverse Impacts).

By reinforcing the effective management of marine resources through community management, the project protects critical ecosystems and ensure local, low-income communities benefit sustainably from biodiversity; helping Belize achieve CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets 6 (sustainable fishing), 11 (effective conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services) and 14 (safeguarding health, livelihoods and wellbeing).

The project responds directly to Belize's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan targets submitted to the CBD in 2016. The approach and objectives contribute to the key targets: reduce the causes of biodiversity loss through integration into productive sectors; reduce direct pressures and encourage sustainable use; conserve ecosystems and species; and reinforce implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

Project activities will make a substantial contribution towards Belize's commitment to SDG 14 – conserve and sustainably use the ocean, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

As Belizean coastal communities are largely reliant on small-scale fisheries for their livelihoods, this work addresses SDG 1 (end poverty) by ensuring fair access and good management of marine resources.

The project addresses SDG 5 (gender equality) through our work with partner Wafabu, who currently have two women on its executive board. Through supporting them to build their capacity, they hope to recruit more women to increase female

participation in decision making. The project will use a similar approach for the second partner, once selected.

This project supports implementation of Belize's National Lionfish Management Strategy by strengthening capacity for lionfish control and monitoring in MPA fish replenishment zones, addressing a direct threat to coral reef fish community health.

Section 6 - Method, Change Expected, Gender & Exit Strategy

Q12. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and contribute towards your Impact. Provide information on:

- How have you reflected on and incorporated evidence and lessons learnt from past and present similar activities and projects in the design of this project?
- Justification of your proposed approach, and how you will undertake the work (materials and methods).
- What will be the main activities and where will these take place?
- How you will manage the work (governance, roles and responsibilities, project management tools, risks etc.).
- What practical elements will be included to embed new capabilities?

Blue Ventures (BV) will support two fisher associations in three key areas in order to strengthen their engagement in marine conservation: communications, governance and institutional management, and practical training in fisheries management. Many fisher associations in Belize are dormant, do not have basic equipment like laptops, and lack the organisational skills and experience to sign up to meetings and adequately represent members. Through improved communications and better organising, these associations will give fishers a collective voice and influence to defend and promote their rights, build their networks, and mobilise civil society support.

Goal 1: Enhance engagement between government and civil society through increased representation of fishers in existing participatory frameworks for natural resource governance and management in Belize, including the Caribbean Spiny Lobster Fishery Improvement Project, Managed Access Committees and Fisheries Advisory Council.

Objective 1.1: Strengthen institutional management

For fisher associations to formally participate in meetings, they must meet basic administrative and governance requirements, which in turn require management capacity. As fisher associations' operations tend to be dependent upon fixed-term projects, their administrative processes falter easily and for this reason, we will work with each executive committee to bring their organisations back into, and maintain, good standing - registered with the Belize International Business Companies Registry (Activity 1.1.1 and Activity 1.1.2). Pandemic-related limits to gathering sizes combined with unequal digital access and literacy amongst associations' members, have meant that associations have not successfully maintained engagement with their membership over the last year. Holding Annual General Meetings (Activity 1.1.4), with appropriate Covid-19 mitigation measures in place, will be an early priority for the project to re-engage membership. Through ongoing support, we will help the association to maintain important governance and management processes, including regular, quorum-led board meetings (Activity 1.1.5) and financial reporting (Activity 1.1.5)

Objective 1.2: Support participation, representation and community feedback

Irregular monitoring of email inboxes and variable fishing schedules are significant barriers to fisher association representatives attending meetings that can be overcome with ongoing administrative support that BV will provide through Partner Support Technicians (Activities 1.1.1, 1.1.2 and 1.2.1). Meaningful participation at these meetings is limited by low familiarity with subject matter (e.g. technical language) and international instruments (e.g. FAO's small scale fisheries guidelines). In addition, we will support fisher associations to hold regular community information sharing and feedback sessions, building knowledge and understanding of decisions - as well as the role of civil society (Activity 1.2.2).

Goal 2: Build the capacity of fisher-led civil society organisations in Belize to drive fisheries improvements and promote transparency.

Objective 2.1: Increase capacity for responsible marine management

One of our first activities with each fisher associations will be to jointly assess the capacity of each association to promote policy dialogue and serve as self advocates on key issues (Activity 2.1.1 and 2.1.5), serving as a baseline assessment for monitoring and evaluation, as well as enabling us to co-create bespoke plans with each association to address weaknesses (Activity 2.1.2 and 2.1.6). At project completion, we will collectively revisit Activity 2.1.1 and 2.1.5 outputs, and reassess each association to assess progress. We also already recognise a need for training on Safeguarding and Whistleblowing (Activity 2.1.3 and 2.1.7) and the FAO's small-scale fisheries guidelines (Activity 2.1.4), opening a pathway to address corruption and low transparency related to decision-making in fisheries harvest and post-harvest sectors.

Objective 2.2: Strengthen capacity for participatory marine management, monitoring and evaluation.

Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) and compliance are both critical performance indicators for fisheries, and useful tools and vital evidence to inform decision-making and policy. We will deliver training in the use of these indicators (Activity 2.2.1) and support fisher associations to conduct their own assessment of compliance (Activity 2.2.2). We will also share national CPUE data for priority fisheries (Activity 2.2.3), placing this knowledge into the hands of users. Catch monitoring data is not just about data. It is a way to engage people, foster collaboration and empower communities to come together. We will also deliver training in scuba diving and invasive lionfish management (Activity 2.2.4), directly addressing a threat to Belize's traditional fisheries, building transferable skills for marine management and increasing engagement between resource users and marine protected area management bodies.

Q13. How will you identify participants?

How did/will you identify and select the participants (individuals and organisations) to benefit from the capability and capacity building activities? What makes these the most suitable participants? How will you ensure that the selection process is fair and transparent?

In May and June 2021, BV interviewed stakeholder agencies to understand their perspectives of fisher associations across Belize, and completed interviews to obtain community-level perspectives for short-listed associations.

To carry out the partner selection process and ensure a fair and transparent process, BV hired an external social research consultant to conduct randomised interviews of community members which included both past and present members.

Fisher associations were selected following a scoping period that assesses fisher association values, goals and community perceptions. In 2021 BV started the process to select two fisher-led CSOs, from which we have selected to work with Wafabu Fishermen's Association and are in the process of selecting a second partner for the project. Once selected, both partners will receive training and support to increase their capacity and enable them to better engage in conservation and fisheries decision-making.

The CSOs are assessed for their value alignment with the following principles: Communities first; Marine conservation and small-scale fisheries focused; Operational efficiency; Passionate and capable. Wafabu recently voted in new leadership (2020) in an effort to reestablish themselves as an active association. Located in Dangriga, Wafabu's leadership includes female fishers and are predominantly Garinagu. As a historically underrepresented community, several members are very vocal and involved in national issues.

A detailed assessment of each association will be carried out, or in Wafabu's case has been carried out and demonstrates the existing challenges and weaknesses of these associations that the project aims to help address.

Our support will help the associations' leaders and members to improve their welfare; independently express their thoughts, opinions, and positions; enhance biodiversity conservation and utilisation using the principles of sustainability, inclusivity and equality; and support the empowerment of communities and other groups concerned with biodiversity conservation.

Q14. Gender equality

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain your understanding of gender equality within the context of your project, and how is it reflected in your plans.

BV staff work with local leaders and stakeholders to identify, encourage, and enable vulnerable and marginalised groups to participate in activities.

Women in Belize are traditionally absent from community-based resource management discussions where collective decision-making is often dominated by men, however women are often in charge of their households so they do have a say in the day to day working of small-scale fisheries in their communities. Activities will reinforce and strengthen gender integration in locally-led fisheries management by promoting the recruitment of already active female fishers and giving the women a greater voice to participate in their fisher association's objectives and goals.

All locally-led activities will be tailored to account for different gender perceptions, using gender-separated groups where necessary. Training activities will be accessible equally to men and women to further gender integration and equity. Ensuring men also benefit from the project prevents backlash, encourages men to recognise how gender equity benefits the whole community, and ensures the project does not ask too much of women too soon (in terms of time spent on the project, additional responsibility, etc.).

Finally, fisheries monitoring data, and all training and meeting attendance records will be disaggregated by gender to assess the extent of gender equity in participation.

Q15. Change expected

Detail the expected changes to in-country capability and capacity will deliver for both biodiversity and poverty reduction. You should identify what will change (the Outcome) 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).

When talking about how people will benefit, please remember to give details of who will benefit, differences in benefits by gender or other layers of diversity within stakeholders, and the number of beneficiaries expected. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used.

The project will increase representation of approximately 1,500 fishers in existing participatory frameworks for natural resource governance and management in Belize through working in close collaboration with the Belize Fisheries Department, marine protected area co-managers and participants of the Belize Spiny Lobster Fishery Improvement Project, including The Nature Conservancy, Belize National Fishermen Producers Cooperative Society Ltd., Northern Fishermen Co-operative Society, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), The Turneffe Atoll Sustainability Association (TASA), University of Belize, and the Belize Cooperatives Department.

Current bureaucratic regulations are difficult for the fisher associations to engage with, leading to unsustainable fishing practises that are contributing to coral reef degradation and the loss of globally important marine biodiversity, resulting in losses in fisher income and food security. Against this backdrop, the project will bring about the following changes:

Short term:

In the short term through training, financial support and mentoring, we will strengthen the capacity of two fisher-led CSOs to attend and actively engage in fisheries governance and management meetings with the stakeholders mentioned above - ensuring they are able to voice the concerns and needs of their members, drive fisheries improvements and promote transparency.

Through improved communications and better organising, these two associations will give approximately 1,500 fishers and their family members a collective voice and influence to defend and promote their rights and livelihoods, build their networks to coordinate and reinforce each other's actions, and mobilise support from civil society.

Long term:

Practising good governance and management will open doors for them in the long term to engage with regional networks and national fora, improving their ability to realise their goals – whether through participating in policy reform, building equitable supply chains, or taking collective action at the macro-level of fish stocks or seascapes.

Empowering fisher associations to actively engage in policy development and processes will ensure those policies respond

to the needs of the fishers and MPAs and therefore increase the likelihood that the policies will be respected and adhered to in the future. This will contribute to ensuring the sustainability of critical fisheries in Belize and subsequently the livelihoods and food security of approximately 15,000 Belizean small-scale fishers and their family members.

Scalability:

This strategy is built around serving fishers through local institutions that fully represent them. Supporting these institutions is an efficient way to deliver services and overcome the challenges of traditional 'top down' management or conservation approaches. It allows community management to scale by decoupling growth from project partners' own resources and multiplying impact through networks of community institutions.

Project legacy:

Building the capacity of these fishing communities empowers them to engage in future opportunities such as the new Conservation Fund for Belize which is expected to generate approximately [REDACTED] per year in support of marine protection. In turn ensuring that the voices of fishing communities are heard and that they are part of the decision making process that will significantly impact the future of their communities and fisheries.

Q16. Exit Strategy

How will the built capability and capacity be maintained in-country? How will the new capability and capacity be replicated to strengthen additional future environmental leaders beyond the project? How will the benefits be scaled? Are there any barriers to scaling and if so, how will these be addressed? How will the materials developed during the project be made more widely accessible during and after the project?

The project is part of a long-term approach to build local support, capacity, and leadership for equitable and transparent marine management across Belize. We will draw on BV's experience of supporting civil society organisations in the Coral Triangle and the Western Indian Ocean to support fishers' associations in Belize.

Building the capacity of fisher associations to collect and monitor data, ensuring it informs management plans and policies will put the data collection and analysis into the hands of the communities and will enable this level of monitoring to continue beyond the project lifetime, and ensure decision making is grounded in evidence.

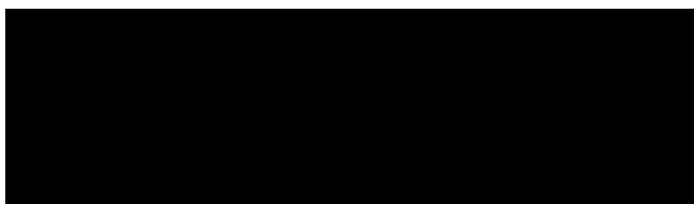
Empowering fisher associations to actively engage in policy development and processes will ensure those policies respond to the needs of the fishers and MPAs and therefore increase the likelihood that the policies will be respected and adhered to in the future. Many of the participants are part of multi generational fisher families, and we aim to increase involvement of younger fishers in order to extend the legacy of this capacity building.

The development of both Fisher Associations capacity to engage in conservation and fisheries governance is with the aim that they will be largely independent of BV's support by the end of the project.

BV plans to continue this programme beyond the grant period, ensuring ongoing support for the two fisher associations where needed and replicating the approach with a number of other fisher associations in Belize and beyond in the Latin America and Caribbean region.

A key barrier to scaling this approach is funding. BV will use their existing donor connections to fundraise for the scaling up of the programme in Belize, Latin America and the Caribbean.

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



Section 7 - Risk Management

Q17. Risk Management

Please outline the 6 key risks to achievement of your Project Outcome and how these risks will be managed and mitigated, referring to the [Risk Guidance](#). This should include at least one Fiduciary, one Safeguarding, and one Delivery Chain Risk.

Projects should also draft their initial [risk register](#), using the template provided, and be prepared to submit this when requested if they are recommended for funding. Do not attach this to your application.

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Gross Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Fiduciary Fraud and bribery.	Major	Unlikely	Major	BV has a Fraud Policy that details the steps that should be taken if staff, volunteers or contractors suspect fraud or financial irregularity. This policy is shared with all new staff and partner organisations.	Rare
Safeguarding Possibility of improper conduct towards children or vulnerable adults and injury to general welfare, which will cause loss in CSO and BV by participants	Major	Unlikely	Major	Training on Safeguarding and Whistleblowing, and establishment of policy at each CSO. BV Code of Conduct, Protection Policy for Children and Vulnerable Adults, and Ethical Photography Guidelines.	Rare
Delivery Chain CSO's are not interested in participating in policy discussions and to serve as watchdogs on key issues.	Major	Possible	Major	Thorough assessment of CSOs prior to the commencement of this project to ensure value-aligned and motivated leadership.	Unlikely
Risk 4 Covid case load prevents/postpones meetings from taking place.	Moderate	Possible	Major	BV reviews and updates its Covid-19 Policy for Belize monthly to maintain a safe workspace. BV requires all staff to have Covid test prior to each site visit, and for all participants of gatherings of 12 or more.	Unlikely
Risk 5 Fishing schedules and lack of reliable means of communication, fishers may lead to low engagement and attendance.	Moderate	Unlikely	Moderate	MOU between Fisher Association and BV to outline and agree processes and acceptable scenarios for rejecting meeting invitations, and low engagement consequences. Admin support will ensure opportunities not missed. BV staff embedded in community prior to meetings for outreach purposes. Meetings scheduled according to appropriate months based on seasonal closures.	Rare

Risk 6

Nepotism (intended or unintended) within the CSO may lead to the unfair selection of appropriate participants, causing loss of trust.

Moderate Possible Major

In collaboration with the CSO, BV will create a competitive, fair and transparent process for selection.

Rare

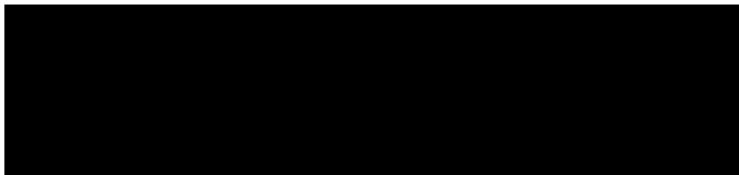
Section 8 - Implementation Timetable

Q18. 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, linking them to your Outputs. Complete the Word template as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project ready for upload on Flexi-Grant.

[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.



Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q19. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

Describe 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 [Financial Guidance](#)).

The project's integrated M&E system, carried out by BV's M&E Coordinator, is designed to enable the project to learn from, adapt and improve project performance, while ensuring accountability to communities, partners and Darwin.

Outcome (Key Performance) Indicators are:

- 1.Number of CSOs strengthened to promote policy dialogue. CSO capacity will be assessed in partnership with each CSO at the project start and end. The target for this project is 2 CSOs.
- 2.Number of CSOs receiving assistance that are engaged in policy discussions. This will be continuously monitored and evidenced through an engagement survey with CSO members at the project start and end. The target for this project is improved perceptions of engagement amongst members of 2 CSOs.
- 3.Change in compliance with fisheries and protected area regulations, measured using a likert scale derived from

qualitative interviews and/or quantitative data sourced from protected area managers. The project target is to establish a baseline for compliance against which future change can be compared.

4.Change in Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) for traditional fisheries, measured through landings records at the National Fishermen’s Cooperative Society Limited. The target for this project is for CPUE to be stable or improving against 2020 baselines for conch and lobster.

5.Area of Belize’s nearshore fishery with participatory and evidence-based invasive lionfish management. The target is to launch one area-based lionfish control plan through this project in a MPA covering 477 km². Specific lionfish population control and coral reef fish recovery targets linked to survey results.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)	[REDACTED]
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)	1
Number of days planned for M&E	45

Section 10 - Indicators of Success

Q20. Indicators of success

Please outline the Outcome and Outputs of the project and how will you show that they have been achieved by using SMART indicators and milestones.

See the [Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Guidance](#), and internet resources, for advice on SMART indicators and milestones.

Please note that the number of participants in training is not an output, please consider how to measure the success of the training rather than participation in training.

In the table below please outline your Outcome and between 1-4 Outputs. Each statement should have between 2-3 SMART indicators and end target (figure/state/quality) including how you would evidence achievement – i.e. “Means of Verification”.

	SMART Indicator	Means of Verification
Outcome Two partner CSOs are empowered actors in fisheries and conservation management in Belize.	Perceptions of engagement in marine resource governance held by members of two partner CSOs improve against a baseline established at the beginning of this project. Two partner CSOs increase their capacity to engage in policy discussions.	Engagement survey (pre- and post-action) with each CSO. Capacity assessment (pre- and post-action) facilitated with each CSO.

Output 1 Fisher association participation in governance bodies and their perception of this engagement improves, measured via surveys and meeting records.	Two partner CSOs are in Good Standing at the Belize Company Registry. Two partner CSOs regularly share information amongst leadership and with the broader community.	Certificate of Good Standing for each CSO. Annual Report for each CSO.
Output 2 Two CSOs equipped with the tools to effectively engage in Belize's marine conservation and fisheries management sectors.	Two partner CSOs have each developed an understanding of their members' and organisations' strengths, needs and priorities and have a plan to improve. Two partner CSOs increase their capacity to engage in marine management, monitoring and evaluation.	Five-year roadmaps to increased engagement and capacity for each CSO. Capacity assessment (pre- and post-action) for each CSO.
Output 3 <i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
Output 4 <i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

Activities

Each activity is numbered according to the Output that it will contribute towards, for example, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 are contributing to Output 1.

Output 1 - Fisher association participation in governance bodies and their perception of this engagement improves, measured via surveys and meeting records.

Activity 1.1.1 Meetings between BV and Wabafu (existing CSO partner)

Activity 1.1.2 Meetings between BV and potential new CSO partners

Activity 1.1.3 Decision on new CSO partner

Activity 1.1.4 CSO Annual General Meetings

Activity 1.1.5 Partner CSO board meetings

Activity 1.2.1 Partner CSOs attend meetings

Activity 1.2.2 Community engagement and feedback sessions

Output 2 - Two CSOs equipped with the tools to effectively engage in Belize's marine conservation and fisheries management sectors.

Activity 2.1.1 Wabafu capacity assessment (policy, participation)

Activity 2.1.2 Co-create priorities/plans with Wabafu

Activity 2.1.3 Safeguarding training with Wabafu

Activity 2.1.4 Training: SSF guidelines with two CSO partners

Activity 2.1.5 Capacity assessment (policy, participation) with new CSO partner

Activity 2.1.6 Co-create priorities/plans with new CSO partner

Activity 2.1.7 Safeguarding training new CSO partner

Activity 2.2.1 Training: using data and understanding indicators

Activity 2.2.2 Compliance review

Activity 2.2.3 Review national CPUE data

Important Assumptions:

Please describe up to 6 key assumptions that, if held true, will enable you to deliver your Outputs and Outcome.

1. Interest of CSO members to participate in policy discussions and marine management is maintained.

Section 11 - Budget and Funding

Q21. Budget

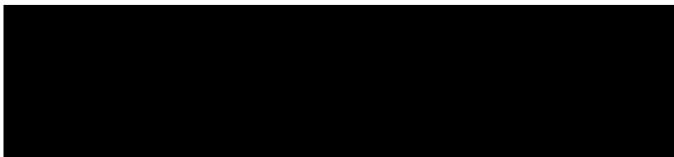
Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet, which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet. Note that there are different templates for projects requesting over and under £100,000 from the Darwin budget. Please refer to the [Finance Guidance](#) for more information.

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

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

N.B.: Please state all costs by financial year (1 April to 31 March) and in GBP. The Darwin Initiative cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.

Please upload your completed Darwin Budget Form Excel spreadsheet using the field below.



Q22. Funding

Q22a. Is this a new initiative or does it build on existing work (delivered by anyone and funded through any source)?

- Development of existing work

Please provide details:

BV has maintained a permanent presence in Belize since 2010, supporting diverse fisheries and conservation efforts from its base in Sarteneja. The focus of our work has been to support community, industry and government partners to develop targeted fishing of the invasive lionfish as a market-based solution to controlling this species. We also support communities with training in marine environmental education and sustainable fisheries. As well as leading a ten-year comprehensive MPA monitoring and evaluation programme in Bacalar Chico Marine Reserve, our work has included working with coastal stakeholders across the country to develop a national strategy for invasive lionfish management, and launching the multi-stakeholder National Lionfish Working Group, which coordinates the strategy's implementation. We have also more recently acted as the coordinator for Belize's Caribbean Spiny Lobster Fisheries Improvement Project. This project builds on BV's work to date in Belize.

Previously organisations have supported fisher associations in data collection by embedding staff within these organisations. We will build on this approach instead with the focused specific aim to build the capacity of these organisations, and with a clear exit strategy to ensure data collection continues beyond the lifetime of the project.

Q22b. Are you aware of any current or future plans for similar work to the proposed project?

Yes

Please give details explaining similarities and differences, and explaining how your work will be additional and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and learn lessons from such work for mutual benefits.

WCS-Belize and UNDP have both supported fisher associations in Belize to become more engaged in marine conservation management through assisting with Annual General Meetings. This project will build on that work, providing holistic support to enable fisher associations to build their capacity to engage management decision making. Our BV programme lead maintains regular contact with leads at both WCS and UNDP to ensure alignment and share best practices.

Q23. Capital items

If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin 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.

Capital items include a variety of scuba diving equipment, specific capital items will be decided based on capacity assessment. Following the end of the project, these items will be transferred to the partner fisher associations to ensure they continue to have the capacity to continue data collection and other activities beyond the lifetime of the project.

Q24. 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.

Community-based approaches are proven to be cost effective and support local ownership. The budget has been developed with the following in mind:

Firstly, to ensure that all activities are fully resourced to achieve the intended outcomes, including through new field-based staff recruitment. Existing co-funding agreements concentrate on field expenditure, so Darwin resources have been allocated proportionately more to project staff costs. Investing in human resources is key to the project's overall mission - to build project partners and communities' capacity to independently manage marine resources in the long-term, rather than buying short-term support through handouts.

Secondly, to support management and overhead costs to ensure their financial security over the project period as key to the success of the project.

BV set staff salaries at competitive rates that allow recruitment of those with the commitment, value and skillset to deliver the best results. Staff costs are based on a salary grid drawn from analysis of NGOs in Belize.

Other costs are set based on previous actual spends. Wherever possible, materials are purchased locally. BV's procurement policy ensures a clear and transparent path for all transactions and provides guidance on appropriate forms of procurement.

BV works towards efficiency via strong financial management, good work-planning, staff support and supervision, and ongoing monitoring to keep activities on track and enable adaptive management. The project implementation will be managed by the Fisheries and Livelihoods Manager, with support from the Country Director and Operations Manager, as well as monthly meetings with the UK-based Conservation Support team.

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q25. Safeguarding

Projects funded through the Darwin Initiative 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 Partner has the following policies in place and that these can be 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 (file upload on certification page)	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 for staff and volunteers that sets out clear expectations of behaviours - inside and outside 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 safeguarding policies in practice and ensure that downstream partners apply the same standards as the Lead Partner.

Our safeguarding documents have been shared with Wafabu Fishermen's Association, and will be shared with our second partner once selected. A key element of the proposal on safeguarding and will ensure that both partners taking part in the project understand and adhere to BV's safeguarding standards.

Section 13 - FCDO Notifications

Q26. FCDO Notifications

Please state whether there are sensitivities that the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise the project's success in the Darwin Initiative in any country.

No

Please indicate whether you have contacted FCDO Embassy or High Commission to discuss the project and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

No

If no, why not?

Decision to apply was delayed because of low grant capacity, and did not allow time to contact the High Commission in Belize. This has been resolved with a new role, Development and Grants Manager, which supports BV funding in Belize. We will contact the High Commission regarding the project shortly.

Section 14 - Project Staff

Q27. Project staff

Please identify the core staff (identified in the budget), their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project.

Please provide 1-page CVs or job description, further information on who is considered core staff can be found in the [Finance Guidance](#).

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Dr Alasdair Harris	Project Leader	5	Checked
Jennifer Chapman	BV Country Director - Belize	20	Checked
Breanna Conoquie	Operations Manager - Administration and financial reporting	75	Checked
Maritza Rodruiguez	Fisheries and Livelihoods Manager - Project management and lead implementation	50	Checked

Do you require more fields?

Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Ronalee McKenzie	Fisheries Coordinator- Project coordination and implementation support	100	Checked
TBC	Partner Support Technician	100	Checked
Galento Galvez	Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator	20	Checked
Fabian Kyne	Conservation Science Manager	30	Checked
Alexander Navarro	Science Officer & OWSI	50	Checked
Darling Ortega	Program Officer	100	Checked
Keri-Le Vaughn	Admin & Operations Officer	75	Checked
Celso Sho	Field Coordinator	50	Checked

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.



Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 15 - Project Partners

Q28. Project partners

Please list all the Project Partners (including the Lead Partner), clearly setting out their roles and responsibilities in the project including the extent of their engagement so far and planned.

This section should demonstrate the capability and capacity of the Project Partners to successfully deliver the project. Please provide Letters of Support for all project partners or explain why this has not been included.

The partners listed here should correspond to the Delivery Chain Risk Map (within the Risk Register template) which you will be asked to submit if your project is recommended for funding.

Lead partner name: Blue Ventures Conservation

Website address: www.blueventures.org

Why is this organisation the Lead Partner, and what value to they bring to the project?

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

Blue Ventures (BV) is a marine conservation charity registered in England and Wales, dedicated to rebuilding tropical fisheries with coastal communities. BV started collaborating with Dahari in the Comoros in 2015. This partnership aims to build local capacity for marine conservation and sustainable fisheries management, building on the successful conservation catalyst model of temporary fishery closures established in Madagascar. This model provides direct economic incentives to coastal communities to engage in marine management and conservation, leading to the establishment of Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs). Support to partners worldwide has led to replication of locally-led models for marine conservation in Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, India, Indonesia and Timor-Leste.

BV will coordinate the overall project, including providing technical support and training to the two selected Fishermens Association. BV will lead efforts to strengthen civil society engagement in conservation and fisheries governance to promote transparency, inclusion and sustainability.

In managing this project, BV will coordinate financial management and reporting, ensuring the involvement and inputs from all partners and stakeholders.

International/In-country Partner International

Allocated budget (proportion or value):



Represented on the Project Board	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
If no, please provide details	Providing cover letter which demonstrates organisations' support for, and belief in the impact of the project.
Have you provided a cover letter?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

1. Partner Name:	Wabafu Fishermens Association
Website address:	N/A
What value does this Partner bring to the project?	The Wabafu Fishermen Association was founded in Dangriga Town, Belize five to six years ago and has been led by three local fisherfolk throughout its lifetime.
(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	Wafabu will receive training from BV to improve their institutional capability and capacity and as a result be able to engage with Belize's legal framework for decision making.
International/In-country Partner	<input checked="" type="radio"/> In-country
Allocated budget:	£0.00
Represented on the Project Board	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes

2. Partner Name:	Second Fisher Association to be confirmed in early stages of the project.
Website address:	N/A
What value does this Partner bring to the project?	Will have same role as Wafabu in the Project.
(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):	

International/In-country Partner	<input checked="" type="radio"/> In-country
Allocated budget:	£0.00
Represented on the Project Board	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
If no, please provide details	Not yet chosen (this is an activity that will take place in the initial stages of the project). Once selected, an agreement will be drawn up between BV and partner.

3. Partner Name:	<i>No Response</i>
Website address:	<i>No Response</i>
What value does this Partner bring to the project?	<i>No Response</i>

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

International/In-country Partner	<input type="radio"/> International <input type="radio"/> In-country
Allocated budget:	£0.00
Represented on the Project Board	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

4. Partner Name:	<i>No Response</i>
Website address:	<i>No Response</i>
What value does this Partner bring to the project?	<i>No Response</i>

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

International/In-country Partner	<input type="radio"/> International <input type="radio"/> In-country
---	---

Allocated budget: £0.00

Represented on the Project Board Yes
 No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner? Yes
 No

5. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project? *No Response*

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

International/In-country Partner International
 In-country

Allocated budget: £0.00

Represented on the Project Board Yes
 No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner? Yes
 No

6. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*

What value does this Partner bring to the project? *No Response*

(including roles, responsibilities and capabilities and capacity):

International/In-country Partner International
 In-country

Allocated budget: £0.00

Represented on the Project Board Yes
 No

Have you included a Letter of Support from this partner? 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 and a combined PDF of all letters of support.



Section 16 - Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Q29. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Has your organisation been awarded a Darwin Initiative funding 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
27006	Dr Alasdair Harris	Developing an incentive-based model for community-led marine conservation in Comoros
19016	Dr Alasdair Harris	Leveraging markets to conserve mangrove biodiversity and alleviate poverty, Madagascar
21011	Dr Alasdair Harris	Securing livelihoods and conserving marine biodiversity through rights-based fisheries management-Madagascar
24012	Dr Alasdair Harris	Incentivising community-led marine biodiversity conservation on Atauro Island, Timor-Leste
EIDP0048	Dr Alasdair Harris	Securing definitive protection and co-management throughout the Barren Isles archipelago
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts (or other financial evidence - see Financial Guidance)?

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

Yes

Section 17 - Certification

Q30. Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

Alasdair Harris

I apply for a grant of

£167,860.00

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.)

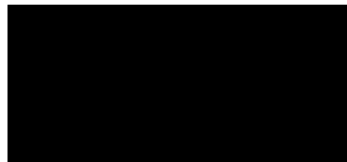
- I have enclosed CVs for project key project personnel, letters of support, budget, safeguarding policy and project implementation timetable (uploaded at appropriate points in application)
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report (or other financial evidence - see Financial Guidance) are also enclosed.

Checked

Name Dr Alasdair Harris

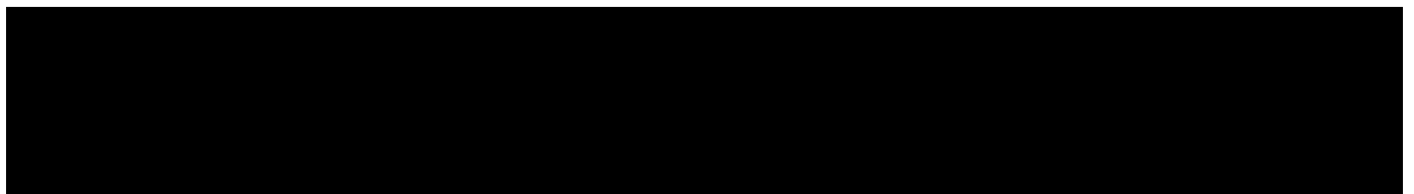
Position in the organisation Executive Director

Signature (please upload e-signature)

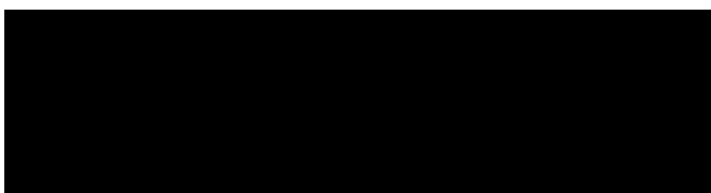


Date 04 December 2021

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.



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



Section 18 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including the “Darwin Initiative Guidance”, “Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance”, “Supplementary Guidance for Capability & Capacity Projects”, “Risk Management Guidance”, and “Financial 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 the project.	Checked
I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	Checked
I have included a 1 page CV or job description for all the Project Staff identified at Question 27, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a letter of support from the Lead Partner and partner(s) identified at Question 28, or an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant.	Checked
I have included a copy of the Lead Partner’s safeguarding policy, which covers the criteria listed in Question 25.	Checked
I have been in contact with the FCDO in the project country/ies and have included any evidence of this. If not, I have provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Partner (or other financial evidence – see Financial Guidance), or provided an explanation if not.	Checked
I have checked the Darwin Initiative website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Initiative 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 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.

Unchecked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in the application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the **Privacy Notice**, available from the [Forms and Guidance Portal](#).

This **Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals** whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).