



EIDCF002

Submit by Friday 19 February 2010



DARWIN200

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

Please read the Guidance Notes before completing this form.

1. Name, postal address and contact details of applicant organisation and main individual: Craig Dockrill Chief Executive Officer Falklands Conservation PO Box 26, 41 Ross Road East Stanley, Falkland Islands F1QQ1ZZ E-mail address:	
2. Working title/name of the proposed resulting Darwin project (not exceeding 10 words): <i>Conservation of Falkland Islands raptors – reducing conflicts with sheep farming.</i>	
3. Proposed UKOT(s) involved (in Challenge Fund award): Falkland Islands	Other collaborating country/ies (including metropolitan UK if appropriate) to be involved in the proposed resultant project: USA UK

4. Principals in Challenge Fund work

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

Details	Main individual	2nd individual
Surname	Dockrill	Woods, MBE FLS
Forename(s)	Craig	Robin
Post held	Chief Executive Officer	Technical Advisor
Telephone		
Email		

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

Details	Other partners	Main project partner
Organisation	Royal Society for Protection of Birds	Falkland Island Government – Department of Agriculture
Function/ Purpose of Organisation	Technical support on stakeholder engagement, raptor surveys, collaborative funding opportunities	Farmer engagement, economic valuation of raptor impacts on sheep farming
Name of Main Contact		Ian Campbell
Post Held		Agricultural Advisor

Details	Other partners	Other partners
Organisation	Hawk Mountain Sanctuary	Royal Zoological Society of Scotland
Function/ Purpose of Organisation	Surveys of raptor species and recommendation on appropriate methodology for capture, marking and tracking of selected species.	Expertise with tagging birds of prey and monitoring, plus public awareness and environmental education components.
Name of Main Contact	Dr. Keith Bildstein	Rob Thomas
Post Held	Sarkis Acopian Director of Conservation Science	Conservation and Research Manager
Details	Other partners	
Organisation	Falkland Islands Government – Environmental Planning Department	
Function/ Purpose of Organisation	Regulatory authority for wildlife management in the Falkland Islands, issuing of shooting permits for nuisance Birds of Prey.	
Name of Main Contact	Nick Rendell	
Post Held	Environment Officer	

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).**

Objective

To determine best practice and effective implementation for a programme to reduce conflicts between sheep farming and birds of prey in the Falkland Islands leading to an improvement in their status and production of a Species Action Plan for the rare Striated Caracara (Near threatened – BirdLife International/IUCN). Approximately 600 breeding pairs, and up to 80% of the global population of the near-threatened Striated Caracara reside in the Falkland Islands.

Project Purpose

To inform a Darwin Initiative Round 18 project application by scoping appropriate methods for the investigation of raptor-sheep interactions and the extent, timing and intensity of raptor impacts on sheep in the Falkland Islands. It is envisaged that this project will provide proof of concept that will facilitate the securing of funding for a three-year research programme to be conducted in collaboration with the Falkland Islands Government Department of Agriculture (DoA) and Environmental Planning Department (EPD), Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (HMS), Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). The findings from the Challenge Fund project will be instrumental in guiding development of the full research programme.

Project Location and Duration

All work will be carried out in the Falkland Islands. Study sites with various levels of perceived conflict between birds of prey and sheep will be chosen based upon consultations with farmers, the Department of Agriculture, Falklands Conservation, and local naturalists.

Project Activities

Questionnaire administered to a minimum of 10 farmers (~25%) to elicit their perception of lamb-sheep interactions on their farm, lamb loss levels, and conservation status of raptors.

Preliminary census of raptor abundance, to verify potential study sites with high and low raptors abundance based on reports from farmers, residents, and naturalists.

Collate historical reports and summarize economic impacts of raptors on sheep farming (results of predation during lambing season and over winter period).

Field test various capture, marking and tracking methods for potential study species, and make recommendations for most suitable methods for each target species to be studied in main project.

Prepare project application for Round 18 of Darwin Initiative, inclusive of logical framework, detailed budget and annotated work plan.

Project Monitoring and Evaluation

The project will be monitored in the first instance by the Falklands Conservation (FC) CEO in the Falkland Islands, to whom the implementing officer will report. Milestones will be incorporated into an implementation plan during project inception and progress assessed monthly. A steering committee consisting of one representative from each of Falklands Conservation (FC), Department of Agriculture (DoA), and Environmental Planning Department (EPD) will be established to receive quarterly progress reports.

Falklands Conservation accounts are run on a co-ordinated system between the Islands and the UK, and have approved financial controls that are reviewed by independent auditors (Wilkins Kennedy) on an annual basis in line with UK Company Law and UK Charity Commission SORP regulations.

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

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

Objective

To reduce conflicts between birds of prey and sheep farmers in the Falkland Islands.

Background and Context

Birds of prey are responsible for an unknown number of sheep deaths in the Falklands, resulting in an intense human-wildlife conflict. The number of birds killed annually by farmers to protect livestock is also uncertain. Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*), Southern Caracara (*Caracara plancus*), Southern Giant Petrel (*Macronectes giganteus*), and Striated Caracara (*Phalacrocorax australis*) are all perceived to be in conflict with sheep farming in some locations.

The economic and ecological extent of raptor interactions with sheep farming is poorly understood, constraining efforts to address the issue. Shooting of birds became illegal in 1999, but permits are still available for the lethal control of problem individuals. There is some doubt regarding the success of the permit system, confounding efforts to manage bird of prey populations. Unauthorized shooting of problem birds may limit the population and distribution of Striated Caracara.

Collaboration between conservation and agricultural stakeholders will encourage development of policies and non-lethal practices that reduce conflicts between predatory birds and sheep farmers. A multi-year study will improve our understanding of the social and ecological parameters of the issue, including distribution of birds and seasonal variations in perceived conflicts together with carefully quantified information regarding levels of predation.

The Falkland Islands Government (FIG) has ratified the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and the Convention on Migratory Species and is working towards ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity. This project will improve conservation efforts for 4 CITES listed species and contribute to the Falkland Islands Biodiversity Strategy by addressing identified priorities: shooting of raptors to protect livestock, and development of a species action plan for Striated Caracara.

Project Purpose

Provide a scientific basis for development of policies to manage interactions between birds of prey and sheep farmers, improve bird of prey conservation, and produce a Species Action Plan for Striated Caracara identifying constraints to population and range expansion.

Project Location and Duration

Falkland Islands; study sites with various levels of perceived conflict between birds of prey and sheep will be chosen following consultation with farmers, the Department of Agriculture, Falklands Conservation, and local naturalists.

Partner Roles and Contributions

Strategic oversight and project supervision – FC, supported by steering committee

Expertise in raptor biology and ecology – Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS), Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (HMS), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Investigating and resolving conflicts between raptors and livestock producers – RSPB, DoA

Awareness, outreach and education regarding wildlife-agriculture conflicts – RSPB, FC

Policy development –DoA, Environmental Planning Department (EPD), FC and RSPB.

Project Activities

Comprehensive survey of farmers to establish patterns of interactions between predatory birds and sheep, and evaluate economic impacts (DoA, FC, RSPB).

Census of target species (FC, RZSS, HMS).

Behavioural and diet studies of target species (HMS, RZSS, FC, RSPB).

Preparation of species action plans (FC, FIG-EPD).

“National Plan of Action for Managing Conflicts between Predatory Birds and Sheep Farmers” (FC, EPD, DoA, RSPB).

Develop/deliver education programme (FC, DoA, RSPB).

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)

Some farmers report considerable loss of sheep to Turkey Vultures, Southern Caracaras, Striated Caracaras and Southern Giant Petrels, thus the practice of killing of birds to protect livestock continues. The biological and economic impact of birds upon sheep and sheep farmers is poorly understood. Full investigation of the conflict between these four species and agricultural livelihoods requires sustained work over a number of years, including intensive consultation with landowners, biologists, and government officers. Successful management of this conflict in the future will require policies and tools that are practical and effective for reducing perceived conflicts and safeguarding Falkland Island birds of prey.

Determining the most appropriate means of undertaking this work requires considerable effort, therefore a project officer is sought to lead the scoping initiative necessary to support a full project. Expertise in survey methodology, capturing, marking and tracking of birds of prey is not available in the Falkland Islands thus FC is partnering with RZSS, HMS, and RSPB.

Falklands Conservation, a registered charity, does not have enough resources to undertake this work using its own funds. Funding for conservation initiatives in the UK Overseas Territories is very limited, as many EU programmes and UK granting agencies do not presently support work in the Overseas Territories. FC and its project partners will provide matched funding of approximately £30,000 for this project.

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

Budget Line

May – Dec 2010

Matched Funding

Please complete those appropriate to your application –

Travel costs

(airfares, sea travel, visas, travel documents)

Subsistence costs

(Project Officer 50 days at £50/ day)

(Project Assistant 50 days at £50/ day)

Overhead costs

(including office costs)

Operating costs

(including conference/workshop/fieldwork costs)

Capital costs

(banding equipment, tracking equipment, gps tags)

Other**Salaries** (Project Officer Darwin)

(Supervising Officer, Bookkeeper)

(Technical Advisors RSPB, RZSS HMS DoA, EPD)

TOTAL REQUESTED FROM DARWIN INITIATIVE**9. Provide anticipated dates of award activity (including start and finish dates) and any milestones where relevant.**

Date	Key Milestone
	START
May 1 2010	Award
May 1 2010	Project Start Date
May 15 2010	Farmer Surveys administered via Falkland Wool Press and post.
June 15 2010	Follow up with Farmers who have not responded to survey
June 30 2010	Project Officer in place and raptor surveys commence
July 30 2010	Report on raptor capture, marking and tracking techniques prepared.
Aug 15 2010	Darwin Stage 1 application prepared incorporating information from farmer surveys and raptor report
Sept 2010	Lambing surveys commence, tracking of raptors continues
Oct 2010	Lambing surveys continue, tracking of raptors continues
Oct 31 2010	Preparation of summary report, detailing areas where conflicts are most concentrated.
Nov 7 2010	Darwin Stage 2 application prepared, circulated for comment by stakeholders
Nov 25 2010	Darwin Stage 2 application submitted
	FINISH

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

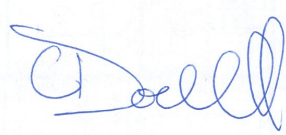
Round 18 – 2010

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): CRAIG DOCKRILL

Position in organisation: Chief Executive Officer

Signed:



Dated: 19 Feb 2010

Challenge Fund Application - Checklist for submission

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

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

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

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

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