



EIDCF005

Submit by Friday 19 February 2010



DARWIN200

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

Please read the Guidance Notes before completing this form.

1. Name, postal address and contact details of applicant organisation and main individual: (notification of results will be by email to this individual) Iain Staniland, British Antarctic Survey, High Cross, Madingley Road, Cambridge, CB3 0ET	
E-mail address:	Phone
2. Working title/name of the proposed resulting Darwin project (not exceeding 10 words): Darwin Southern Sea Lion Programme	
3. Proposed UKOT(s) involved (in Challenge Fund award): Falkland Islands (Falklands Conservation)	Other collaborating country/ies (including metropolitan UK if appropriate) to be involved in the proposed resultant project: British Antarctic Survey

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	Staniland	
Forename(s)	Iain	
Post held	Senior Scientific Officer	
Department	British Antarctic Survey	
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	Main project partner	Other partners
Organisation	Falklands Conservation	
Function/ Purpose of Organisation	Falklands Conservation (FC) is a registered charity and is the key conservation organisation in the Falkland Islands.	
Name of Main Contact	Dr. Alastair Baylis	
Post Held	Conservation 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).**

One of the main hurdles facing conservation initiatives in the Falkland Islands is the lack of ecological data to inform decision makers and to direct initiatives. This is no-where more evident than in the decline of the southern sea lion (*Otaria flavescens*).

The Falklands southern sea lion population has declined by 97 %, from an estimated 80000 pups in 1938 to 2000 in 1995. Despite the cessation of sealing in 1962 the population continued to decline into the mid 90s. The factors limiting the recovery of this iconic predator are unknown. Currently we lack the basic ecological information necessary to conserve and protect the Falklands population of sea lions and to identify and mitigate potential impediments to their recovery.

The growing Falklands human population, oil exploration, intensive near shore fisheries and developing aquaculture, highlights the need to establish baseline information on key marine predators in order for accurate environmental impact assessments and effective and coherent conservation management.

The **Darwin Southern Sea Lion Programme** will provide baseline data on the critical foraging habitats and key dietary species of southern sea lions. This knowledge will provide an opportunity for the FIG, industry and non governmental agencies to more effectively manage current and future commercial activities which may adversely impact marine predators breeding in the Falklands.

Work carried out under the scoping award:

- Preliminary deployment of GPS units on lactating females at one (1) main breeding colony
- Preliminary study on key prey species
- Initiate a tussac grass restoration programme at key sites

Location and duration

- Falkland Islands, 1 year duration.

What will be achieved

- Identify key sites
- Establish methods for the capture and chemical immobilisation of sea lions
- Assess the ability for traditional dietary methods (i.e. scat analysis) to reconstruct diet (other methods include stable isotope and DNA analysis)
- Generate local support and awareness via presentations
- Community involvement through tussac grass planting (key breeding habitat for sea lions)

- Information will contribute to a Species Action Plan developed under a full Darwin award
- Enhance and further develop cooperation between UK and OT organisations
- Ensure that a resultant Darwin project would have a clear and viable exit strategy

Monitoring and evaluation

The project will be managed and overseen by a steering committee comprising one representative from each of Falkland Island Government Environmental Planning Department (EPD), BAS, Falkland Island Fisheries Department, and Falklands Conservation. Meetings will be quarterly to assess progress against outputs and manage cash flow expenditure. Targets and a timetable will be produced at the outset and reviewed quarterly to monitor the project's progress. This will ensure that outputs are delivered to stakeholders. A summary of quarterly progress reports will be provided to the EPD and summarised within the Darwin quarterly reports.

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**

(i) Purpose and outputs

The growing Falklands human population, oil exploration, intensive near shore fisheries and developing aquaculture, highlights the need for effective and coherent conservation initiatives. However, limited data is available to direct initiatives. The lack of data on the ecology of marine predators is one of eight key knowledge gaps that have been identified by the 'Falkland Islands State of the Environment Report 2008-2018' and is considered to be a major threat to biodiversity.

The **Darwin Southern Sea Lion Programme** will establish baseline data on the status and foraging ecology of sea lions, with which to assess their spatial and resource overlap with commercial operations and elucidate impediments to population recovery.

The Falklands population of sea lions should be considered as an umbrella species for the Island. Sea lions are characterised as coastal, near shore foragers and are likely to be susceptible to commercial operations such as oil exploration and fisheries. Elucidating critical foraging areas and potential interactions with commercial activities will encourage mitigation measures such as the creation of marine protected areas, which will protect other species and ultimately aid in the preservation of the islands biodiversity.

The project aims to redress critical knowledge gaps and assess impediments to population recovery through:

- (i) Population census
- (ii) Identifying critical foraging habitats and developing spatial habitat maps for breeding females and adult males from key colonies
- (iii) Quantifying the diet of breeding females, identify key prey species
- (iv) Developing spatial habitat maps for critical life history stages (juveniles)
- (v) Assessing spatial and resource overlap between sea lions and commercial activities and identify threatening processes
- (vi) Assessing threats associated with wildlife tourism
- (vii) Advising FIG on appropriate management policies through publication of a Species Action Plan
- (viii) Developing a long-term monitoring program
- (ix) Educating and involving the community
- (x) Enhance the capacity for FC to lead future conservation research

(ii) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

FIG is working towards ratifying the CBD. FIG has recently produced the Falkland Islands Biodiversity Strategy 2008-2018. The proposed programme will aid in implementing the biodiversity strategy by addressing key biodiversity threats:

Threat 1: Lack of awareness: results disseminated through public seminars, radio, newsletters, website. Species Action Plan prepared, database established.

Threat 2: Knowledge gaps of key species: Sea lion foraging ecology

Threat 3: Unsustainable extraction & Threat 15: Addition/removal of food: assess interaction resource overlap and operational interactions with commercial operations.

Threat 7: Impacts of visitors: visitor guidelines/education.

Threat 9: Climate change: predict how sea lions will respond to variability in ocean conditions

Threat 14: Physical changes to sea: sea lions equipped with GPS tags will concurrently collect temperature and depth data. In combination with remotely sensed oceanographic data we can examine seasonal and inter-annual variability in ocean conditions.

(iii) Evidence of partners' intentions to collaborate is provided in the attached letter of support.

(iv) The expected role of the OTs and UK individuals

The fieldwork components will be conducted by FC. Technical expertise in the analysis and presentation of results will be provided by BAS.

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)

Funding for conservation initiatives in UK Overseas Territories is restricted, highlighted in that an icon of the Falklands can undergo a 97% decline without any effort to assess the reasons. Falklands Conservation is a registered charity and is the key conservation organisation in the Falkland Islands. FC will provide matched funding of approximately £20,000 for this project (which includes the use of a vehicle and the costs of a project officers time). BAS will provide matched funding of approximately £19 000 (6 GPS units) and cover flight costs for Dr Iain Staniland to the Falklands Islands. We require additional support to purchase equipment and to cover field expenses.

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

Budget Line	Year 1	Year 2
Please complete those appropriate to your application – they may not all be relevant	Apr 2010 – Mar 2011	Apr 2011 – Mar 2012
Travel costs (airfares, sea travel, visas, travel documents) Field work will be conducted entirely by FC and no international flights are required		£
Subsistence costs		£
Overhead costs (including office costs)		£
Operating costs (fieldwork costs and consumables)		£
Capital costs Time Depth Recorders (£700 x 6) – able to be redeployed multiple times		£
Other		£
Salaries (specify by individual) Dr Iain Staniland (5% of salary) £5569 Dr Alastair Baylis (10% of salary) £3000		£
TOTAL REQUESTED FROM DARWIN INITIATIVE		£

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

Date	Key Milestone
August 2010	START
August - October	Purchase equipment, Recruit volunteers Tussac planting
Nov-Dec	Scats collected for dietary analysis Tussac planting
January – Feb 2011	Deployment of loggers Scats collected for dietary analysis Visit By Dr Iain Staniland
March – April	Analysis of satellite tracking data Analysis of scats
June – July	Public presentation and report preparation
July July 2011	Present results to FIG, FINISH
November 2011	Incorporate findings into a Darwin main project application

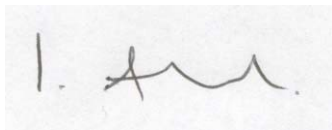
10. In what year would you expect to submit the full Darwin project application?

Round 19

I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made in this application are true and the information provided is correct.

Name (block capitals): Dr Iain Staniland

Position in organisation: Senior Scientific Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. Staniland', is placed over a light grey rectangular background.

Signed:

Dated: 12.03.2010

Challenge Fund Application - Checklist for submission

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

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

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

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

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