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Submit by Monday 30 January 2012

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

Please read the Guidance Notes before completing this form.

1. Name, postal address and contact details of applicant organisation and main individual: (notification of results will be by email to this individual)	
Falklands Conservation, Ross Road, Stanley, Falkland Islands, FIQQ 1ZZ. James Fenton – Chief Executive Officer	
E-mail address:	Phone:
2. Working title/name of the proposed resulting Darwin project (not exceeding 10 words):	
Inshore Cetaceans of the Falkland Islands	
3. Proposed UKOT(s) involved Falkland Islands	Other collaborating country/ies to be involved United Kingdom

4. Principals in Challenge Fund work

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

Details	Main individual	2nd individual
Surname	Fenton	Munro
Forename(s)	James	Grant Mackintosh
Post held	Chief Executive Officer	Independent
Department	Falklands Conservation	Austral Biodiversity Consultancy
Telephone		
Email		

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

Details	Main project partner	Other partners / Support					
Organisation	Falklands Conservation (FI)	Shallow Marine Survey Group (FI)	FIG Environmental Planning Department	Sea Mammal Research Unit Scottish Oceans Institute University of St.Andrews	Lighthouse Field Station University of Aberdeen	Oceanlab University of Aberdeen	Whale & Dolphin Conservation Society
Function/ Purpose of Organisation	Conservation of the Falkland Islands biodiversity through environmental advocacy, education and research	Study and conservation of inshore marine habitats within the South Atlantic	Falkland Islands Government environmental planning & policy, EIA, environmental monitoring,	Marine mammal research, scientific training. Advice to governments, NGOs, and industry on conservation issues. Statutory monitoring functions.	Marine mammal research, scientific training. Advice to governments, NGOs, and industry on conservation issues. Statutory monitoring functions.	Marine mammal research, scientific training. Advice to governments, NGOs, and industry on conservation issues. Statutory monitoring functions.	Conservation and protection of cetaceans worldwide
Name of Main Contact	James Fenton	Dr Paul Brickle	Antony Payne	Dr Sonja Heinrich (Dr Ailsa Hall)	Prof Paul Thompson	Prof Graham Pierce	Nicola Hodgins
Post Held	Chief Executive Officer	Chairman	Environmental Planning Officer	Course Director Marine Mammal Science (SMRU Deputy Director)	Director Lighthouse Field Station Professor, Chair in Zoology	Professor	International Programme Coordinator CMS Lead

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).**

Cetacean research is intensive of both human and financial resources often requiring multiple trained observers and significant boat time. This has prohibited any opportunistic study of the inshore cetaceans within the Falklands. The prioritised cetaceans Species Action Plans (SAPs) within the Falkland Islands Biodiversity Strategy (FIBioS) recognise that this lack of information impedes accurate risk assessment and effective marine management.

A pilot study is essential to feed data into the programme development stages to ensure that future programme resources are used efficiently to target priority data gaps, that the scale and robustness of final survey are appropriate, and that survey design is matched to fundraising. To achieve an effective sampling design with sufficient transect repetitions the encounter rate and variance is required. In addition transects should be placed across known density contours, appropriate stratification units determined and if responsive movement occurs double platform sampling may be required. These data, unavailable at present, can be provided by a pilot study.

- Design of 10-day pilot line-transect survey with a GIS and the software "Distance" in Falkland Sound across a range of marine habitats
- Training of FC staff and volunteer observers to provide a legacy for full project
- Charter and execution of ship-board survey, November 2012.
- Initialize photo-ID of encounter cetacean species
- Analysis of results, highlighting encounter rates and initial abundance and distribution patterns
- Full report to Darwin and FIG Environment Committee
- Design and costing of full island-wide survey (March 2013) utilising pilot data

Furthermore no knowledge is available on seasonal variation in inshore cetacean occurrence and whether the timing of a transect abundance survey is critical, or whether repeat surveys should be conducted. Passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) provides a continuous and cost effective alternative to repeated visual surveys. A 12-month PAM deployment will highlight variations in occurrence and suggest whether a final programme should incorporate temporal components.

- Deployment of static acoustic monitoring units (e.g. C-PODs) at 2 locations.
- Analysis of seasonal variance in occurrence rates, April 2012 – March 2013.
- Full report to Darwin and FIG Environment Committee
- Advice on final programme design (March - July 2013).

To ensure that a final programme is established in a format that has the best chances for success extensive liaison with project partners in the design phase is essential. Falklands Conservation has extensive experience of project management, field logistics and access to local volunteers, whilst the project partners have a track record of inter-disciplinary research, government advocacy on marine policy, and trained staff and students with cross-sectoral experience. The meshing of partner skills will be required to ensure that potential time-lines, resources and aims can be successfully met. The development of effective partnership will be encompassed at all stages of the pilot study and design of the full programme.

The pilot studies and partner liaison will be led from the Falklands with one visit to the United Kingdom and 4-months of dedicated staff time over a 12-month period will be assigned.

- UK Partner visit April 2013

500 words

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

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

To improve understanding of the abundance, distribution, biology and habitat utilisation of inshore cetaceans in the Falkland Islands to meet requirements within adopted SAPs and to provide data to permit scientific ecosystem management and realistic impact assessments for developing industries and hydrocarbon exploration.

Knowledge of the cetaceans of the Falkland Islands is limited to sightings derived from offshore seabird surveys conducted over a decade ago. Almost no survey effort was conducted within near-shore environments. The project would focus on the resident sympatric inshore Commerson's and Peale's dolphins and the seasonally occurring Sei whale, whose known utilisation of inshore waters during autumn is poorly understood and not quantified.

The Sei Whale is listed as endangered by the IUCN, whilst both Commerson's and Peale's dolphins are listed as data-deficient. All species are listed under CITES and CMS and the two inshore dolphins are specifically mentioned within two CMS action plans where it is noted that no data and no threat assessments are available for the Falkland Islands. CMS SAPs recognise the lack of information on which to base management decisions as a major threat to effective conservation and prioritised the following areas of biological study;

- distribution, abundance and trends in dolphin populations
- stock identity of sub-populations
- natural history studies on population structure, diet and habitat utilisation to assess potential anthropogenic impacts.

This same lack of knowledge is identified as an impediment within the FIBioS where all 3 species are listed as priority species with specific SAPs, although to date no advance has been made in resolving identified data gaps. In 2011 the FIBioS Review Workshop prioritised coastal and marine species and ecosystems as the key priority data gap.

The project would undertake an island-wide inshore survey for the occurrence and distribution of cetacean species through line- transect sampling and hence target described areas of high occurrence for focal studies on the population structure, geographic range and seasonal occurrence of resident groups. Data acquisition would be used for public outreach and used to further develop existing species action plans, and advise on whale watching activities, community science initiatives and industry guidelines for expanding oil development and seismic survey.

The local expertise of Falklands Conservation (FC) will be supported by the Shallow Marine Survey Group (SMSG). UK expertise and support will be provided by the Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) at Saint Andrews University, the Lighthouse Field Station at Aberdeen University (AU), and the international Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS). The Falkland Islands has been responsible for the aims and genesis of the project and sought the collaborations of SMRU and AU who have both previously worked in successful partnership with FC and SMSG. The wide partnership brings a range of interdisciplinary research, strategic partnerships and cross sectorial experience to the project, ideally suited to provide not only the scientific skills and expertise but the local training and capacity building required to develop a strong equal partnership and remaining programme legacy.

491 Words

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)

Falklands Conservation as a relatively small NGO does not have the staff or funding capacity for project development or pilot study at this scale, as existing staff time is fully allocated to existing funded projects. The capital and survey costs of the pilot study cannot be assumed from charity restricted budgets, legally restricted to specific purposes, especially with the risk that resultant final project bids may not be successful.

However, significant in-kind contribution of approximately £8,000 will be made by Falklands Conservation in the use of vehicles, small boat usage, acoustic mooring equipment, and staff and volunteer time for the line-transect survey.

102 Words

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 2012 – Mar 2013	Apr 2013 – Mar 2014
Travel costs (UK airfare, FI ferry costs for site access to West Falkland)		
Subsistence costs (x1 indiv, x5 days for PAM deployments on West Falkland)		
Overhead costs (including office costs)		
Operating costs (x10 days survey vessel charter, PAM deployments)		
Capital costs (x2 Units e.g. C-PODs)		
Other: Consultancy (please specify)		
Other (please specify)		
Salaries (Pilot Project Officer)		
Total per year	£21,050	£3,900
TOTAL REQUESTED FROM DARWIN INITIATIVE		£24,950

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

Date	Key Milestone
April 2012	START
April / May 2012	Acquisition and deployment of C-PODs at two sites, retrieval of data at 3-month intervals. Initial liaison with project partners (ongoing)
July / Aug 2012	Design of pilot line- transect survey
Nov / Dec 2012	Completion of transect survey and photo-ID
Jan /Feb 2013	Analysis of transect survey and trial photo-ID - REPORT
March 2013	Final retrieval of C-PODs and analysis of results - REPORT
April – June 2013	Complete full transect survey design and detailed programme proposal. UK visit to all UK partners to confirm final programme responsibilities
July 2013	Final liaison with project partners and programme proposal - PROPOSAL
July 2013	FINISH

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

Round 19

<p>I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made in this application are true and the information provided is correct.</p> <p>Name (block capitals): JAMES FENTON</p> <p>Position in organisation: Chief Executive Officer</p> <p>Signed: </p> <p>Dated: 30 January 2012</p> <p>Project title: Inshore Cetaceans of the Falkland Islands</p>
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Challenge Fund Application - Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you provided anticipated start and end dates for your award?	✓
Are both your concept notes within 500 words each?	✓
Has your application been signed	✓
Have you read the Guidance Notes and are you satisfied that your concept would be eligible for a main project application?	✓
Have you included CVs and letters of support as required?	✓
Have you checked the Darwin website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	✓

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

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

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

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