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# **DPR10S2\1012**

## **Conservation Actions for Seabirds on the Turks and Caicos Cays**

The Turk and Caicos Islands are a key breeding area for seabirds in the Caribbean, once supporting globally important numbers. Currently, almost nothing is known about the distribution, size, and health of populations. Coastal environments of TCI are under extreme pressure from rapid development, and improving our knowledge of seabirds is essential for their protection. This project will deliver population monitoring programmes to provide up-to-date seabird assessments, equipping local organisations with tools to monitor and manage seabirds, while engaging communities.



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## Section 1 - Contact Details

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### PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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Title Dr  
Name Rhiannon  
Surname Austin  
Organisation University of Liverpool, UK  
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]  
Email (Work) [REDACTED]  
Address [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### GMS ORGANISATION

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Type	Organisation
Name	University of Liverpool, UK
Phone (Mobile)	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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## Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

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### Q3. Project title

Conservation Actions for Seabirds on the Turks and Caicos Cays

### What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DPR10S1\1123

DPR10S1\1036

### Q4. UKOT(s)

Which UK Overseas Territory(ies) will your project be working in?

Turks & Caicos Islands (TCI)

\* if you have indicated a territory group with an asterisk, please give detail on which territories you are working on here:

*No Response*

Q4b. In addition to the UKOTs you have indicated, will your project directly benefit any other Territories or

country(ies)?

No

## Q5. Project dates

Start date:

01 May 2022

End date:

31 December 2024

Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):

2 years, 8 months

## Q6. Budget summary

Year:	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total request
Darwin funding request (Apr - Mar)	£214,433.00	£212,685.00	£89,280.00	£516,398.00

Q6a. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

Matched funding includes 1) UoL contributions for staff time and institutional overheads, including [redacted] time for Dr Green, 2) RSPB staff salaries for fieldwork assistance, project management, web support and overheads, 3) TCNT staff time for field and project support, 4) TCNT office facilities for visiting staff / meetings, administration and operational overheads, 5) BirdLife International 1:1 matched funding for staff involvement in IBA updates and 6) TCRF subsidized boat costs and staff time for public engagement activities. Additionally, although not formally partnering, the TCI Government (TCIG) will assist with development and implementation activities for management outputs in Y2-Y3.

Q6b. Proposed matched funding as % of total project cost (total cost is the [redacted] Darwin request plus other funding required to run the project).

Q6c. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you fund the project if you don't manage to secure this?

NA

## Section 3 - Project Summary and Conventions

### Q7. Summary of Project

Please provide a brief summary of your project, its aims, and the key activities you plan to undertake. Please note that if you are successful, this wording may be used by Defra in communications.

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

The Turk and Caicos Islands are a key breeding area for seabirds in the Caribbean, once supporting globally important numbers. Currently, almost nothing is known about the distribution, size, and health of populations. Coastal environments of TCI are under extreme pressure from rapid development, and improving our knowledge of seabirds is essential for their

protection. This project will deliver population monitoring programmes to provide up-to-date seabird assessments, equipping local organisations with tools to monitor and manage seabirds, while engaging communities.

## **Q8. Environmental Conventions, Treaties and Agreements**

**Please detail how your project will contribute to the aims of the agreement(s) your project is targeting. What key OT Government priorities and themes will it address and how? You should refer to Articles or Programmes of Work here. You should also consider local, territory specific agreements and action plans here.**

**Letters of support from UKOT Government partners/stakeholders should also make clear reference to the agreements/action plans your project is contributing towards.**

The project fits with national Government commitments under the Turks and Caicos Islands Environmental Charter (2001), including aligning with the overarching guiding principles to 1) use natural resources wisely, 2) recognise needs for a healthy environment for well-being and livelihoods, and 3) contribute towards protection and improvement of the global environment. A need for a holistic approach to management has been identified in TCI, following initiatives such as DPLUS094, which has developed strategies for adoption of a Marine Spatial Planning framework in TCI. At present seabirds are poorly considered in site management. Thus, a better understanding of seabirds as important components of coastal ecosystems is essential for, and will feed into, these developing integrated management practices.

In particular, this project will help TCIG meet charter commitment 2 (to 'ensure protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas policy, and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species'), aligning with R10 priorities of 'increasing the area coverage, effectiveness, and conditions of protected areas in pursuit of global targets' and 'implementing National Biodiversity and/or Environmental Action Plans'. Under charter commitment 2 and others (1,3-7,9-10), the TCIG's Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) are investing considerable effort to review and improve management of protected areas in and around TCI. This includes a goal of incorporating important seabird nesting cays into the existing protected area system, and better integration of environmental considerations into economic and social planning. These management objectives fall under a current review of the TCI National Parks Ordinance, which includes an aim of 'protecting, managing, improving and extending the Protected Area System' (charter commitment 2.I), in part through establishment of a new category of Critical Habitat Reserve. Incorporation of seabird data into this Protected Area programme, and its policies, is a vital step towards an integrated ecosystem-based management strategy, highlighting the timely nature of this project that aligns closely with OT Government and UK priorities. Knowledge of key seabird breeding sites will also help the TCIG with commitments to 'protect and restore key habitats including coastal areas, wetlands and salinas', which are important for seabirds (charter commitment 2.II), and 'protect important species' (commitment 2.III).

Furthermore, the project will contribute to multilateral environmental conventions by helping the TCI in the future to meet suggested Goals and Biodiversity Targets under review in the CBD's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2021-2030. These include to improve the status of biodiversity, expand and effectively manage protected areas, sustainably manage marine and coastal ecosystems, and improve the status of migratory species.

It will additionally help TCI meet commitments under the three pillars of the RAMSAR Convention (to work towards wise use of wetlands, designate and ensure effective management of suitable wetlands, and cooperate internationally on shared wetlands and species), strengthening the evidence base for appropriate safeguarding of protected sites on North, Middle, and East Caicos. It will thus support other Darwin Plus work being undertaken in this territory through projects including DPLUS129.

## **Section 4 - Project Partners**

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### **Q9. Project Partners**

**Please list all the partners involved (including the Lead Partner) and explain their roles and responsibilities in the project. Describe the extent of their involvement at all stages, including project development.**

**This section should illustrate the capacity of partners to be involved in the project. Please provide Letters of Support**

for the lead partner and each partner or explain why this has not been included.

**N.B:** There is a file upload button at the bottom of this page for the upload of a cover letter and all letters of support.

<b>Lead Partner name:</b>	University of Liverpool, UK (UoL)
<b>Website address:</b>	www.liverpool.ac.uk
<b>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</b>	<p>The University of Liverpool (UoL), who led the development of this collaborative project, will assume overall responsibility for its management and ensure its delivery. The project manager, Dr Austin, will coordinate activities, ensuring communication between national and regional partners, and manage field periods in the TCIs, where she has fostered strong working relationships with local stakeholders during previous DPLUS work. She will lead on production of outputs (e.g. reports, management documents), and oversee in-country staff at TCNT, RSPB and TCRF in their responsibilities, including providing training to TCNT officers and local volunteers (e.g. in monitoring, data management, mapping, and report writing).</p> <p>Dr Green will lead on project monitoring and evaluation, ensuring implementation of the M&amp;E plan, and will chair the Project Steering Group. He will also act in an advisory capacity to the project, providing additional expertise and support.</p> <p>Dr Austin will ensure that the project's financial obligations are met, supported by the finance team at the School of Environmental Sciences, and Research Support Office. The UoL holds a wealth of experience managing similar grants (including DPLUS projects 007, 044 and 097), and thus has capacity to ensure that project objectives are fully met in a timely and efficient manner.</p>
<b>Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Have you provided a cover letter to address your Stage 1 feedback?</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Do you have partners involved in the Project?</b>	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	
<b>1. Partner Name:</b>	Turks and Caicos National Trust (TCNT)
<b>Website address:</b>	www.nationaltrust.tc

**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):**

TCNT is a non-profit organisation whose goal is to protect, conserve and promote the TCI's cultural, historic and natural heritage. TCNT are responsible for managing key natural heritage sites including some offshore cays. They are the primary in-country partner, and have been instrumental in identifying TCI priorities and developing this proposal.

Through previous collaborative activities (under DPLUS097), the TCNT and UoL have built an effective working relationship and cross-organisational partnership. Building on this, and on local capacity that has begun to be developed in other Darwin projects (DPLUS055, 097, 121), TCNT will support the project and work with UoL to maximise on outputs.

TCNT currently has limited capacity for site monitoring. The project will provide 50% salary for a project officer (Aravna Lucsama), to help build capacity for monitoring, conservation and management on the TCI cays, and other key seabird sites, It will provide training in monitoring methods, data handling, reporting and ecological skills for TCNT staff and volunteers, who will assist in project activities. Della Higgs (Manager) and Winema Sanders-Penn (Director) will coordinate TCNT's project activities and led cross-working with the TCI Government to translate outputs into management strategies. TCNT will provide office space and lead in public engagement.

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**Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?**

Yes

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**2. Partner Name:**

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

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**Website address:**

[www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)

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**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):**

The RSPB has worked in the UK Overseas Territories for >20 years, and has a proven track record of successful project delivery under both the Darwin Plus and BEST schemes. The overarching principle of the RSPB's work is to establish long-lasting relationships with local partners to help support development of sustainable, locally-led conservation programmes in the UKOTs.

The RSPB has built effective working partnerships with both the TCNT and UoL, who together have successfully delivered on DPLUS projects with similarities to the proposed work. These include DPLUS055 and DPLUS121 in the TCIs, focused on improving protection, biosecurity and site management of TCI's Iguana cays, and DPLUS007 which helped establish locally-run seabird monitoring programmes on Anguilla and the BVIs.

The RSPB have a strong demonstrable capability to engage with and deliver on this project, and has been instrumental in its development. They will provide wide project and technical support in TCI (Simon Busuttill), assist with project management (Charlie Butt and RSPB support staff), provide sabbatical staff to support field activities, and partner on biosecurity outputs (linking to capacity built during DPLUS121). This project also aligns with a DPLUS proposal on East Caicos (DPR10S1/1032), with opportunities for cross-working and data maximisation.

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**Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?**

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Yes

**3. Partner Name:**

Turks and Caicos Reef Fund (TCRF)

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**Website address:**

[www.tcreef.org](http://www.tcreef.org)

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**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):**

The Turks and Caicos Reef Fund (TCRF) is a non-profit organisation established to help preserve and protect the environment of the Turks and Caicos Islands through education, research and advocacy. TCRF has a long history of working with partner organisations in the TCIs on conservation projects that feed into site management, including EU BEST grants on East Caicos. Thus, it has capacity to fully engage in this project as part of the dynamic partner group.

TCRF will provide subsidised boat time and crew support to the project, making it viable to conduct robust effort-based surveys in the remote offshore TCI cays. TCRF will also apply its wealth of experience in citizen science and education to engage local communities in the project. This will include involving its network of local volunteers in seabird counts and the planned 'remote monitoring citizen science project', as well as assisting with community events. Alizee Zimmermann (Executive director of TCRF) has a wealth of experience in marine survey work, and will act as the TCRF's main point-of-contact, including overseeing boat support and publicity.

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**Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?**

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Yes

**4. Partner Name:**

SAERI Falklands Limited (SFL)

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**Website address:**

[www.south-atlantic-research.org](http://www.south-atlantic-research.org)

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**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):**

SFL is an environmental research institute and consultancy, conducting scientific research with the aim of informing effective environmental stewardship through partnership working. They have a long history of effectively working with the TCI Government and other local stakeholders in the TCIs, including on past and present Darwin Plus projects (e.g. DPLUS094, DPLUS119) and have a wealth on local knowledge.

SFL will be involved in this project through Neil Golding who is their Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) expert, with experience in aerial surveying, habitat mapping, image processing, modelling and MPA network monitoring. Using capacity and local experience gained from past UAV work in TCI and further afield (e.g. DPLUS065), Neil will lead on the collection of aerial imagery of seabird colonies during planned field periods, will assist with data processing and analysis tasks, and will provide training to in-country partner staff (including the TCNT project officer) to ensure transfer of skills and local capacity building.

**Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?**

Yes

**5. Partner Name:**

BirdLife International

**Website address:**

www.birdlife.org

**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):**

BirdLife International is the world's largest bird and nature conservation partnerships, with partners in over 115 nations including those in the Americas and Caribbean. BirdLife leads in the design and designation of Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) on a global scale, and will engage in this project, working with partners, to undertake a formal update of the TCI IBAs using newly generated project data. BirdLife will then feed these outputs into regional conservation activities on a wider scale. This update will go on to inform plans for a regional Caribbean IBA review, as well as contribute to the broader Caribbean-wide Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) Initiative.

María Toscano, the BirdLife International IBA officer has worked on the IBA programme in the Americas since 2019. She will incorporate project data into the IBA programme, and will advise and work with the TCNT, wider partner team, and TCIG to help integrate updates into local management plans.

**Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?**

Yes

**6. Partner Name:**

*No Response*

**Website address:** *No Response*

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**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):** *No Response*

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





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**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 responding to feedback received at Stage 1 if applicable and a combined PDF of all Letters of Support.**

 [CoverLetter LettersOfSupport TCISEabirds DPR10S2 1012](#)  
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## Section 5 - Project Staff

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### Q10. Project Staff

**Please identify the key staff on this project, their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project. Further information on who should be classified as key project staff can be found in the guidance.**

**Please provide 1 page CVs for these staff, or a 1 page job description or Terms of Reference for roles yet to be filled. These should match the names and roles in the budget spreadsheet. If your team is larger than 12 people please review if they are key project staff, or whether you can merge roles (e.g. 'admin and finance support') below, but provide a full table based on this template in the PDF of CVs you provide.**

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	Organisation	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Dr Rhiannon Austin	Project Leader	University of Liverpool	80	Checked

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Dr Jonathan Green	Project Advisor	University of Liverpool	25	Checked
Winema Sanders-Penn	Director of TCNT. M&E of project activities, and development/review of management strategies with TCI Government.	Turks and Caicos National Trust	5	Checked
Dellareese Higgs	Project manager, finance, field support, coordination of TCNT staff.	Turks and Caicos National Trust	10	Checked





**Do you require more fields?**

Yes

<b>Name (First name, Surname)</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>% time on project</b>	<b>1 page CV or job description attached?</b>
Aravna Lucsama	Project conservation officer. Fieldwork, data handling and processing, administration, reporting, and volunteer co-ordination.	Turks and Caicos National Trust	50	Checked
Brianna Walcott	Field assistant. General support for project conservation officer.	Turks and Caicos National Trust	15	Checked
Simon Busuttil	TCI conservation supervisor. Field coordinator and sub-team leader, project reporting, and coordination with TCNT staff.	RSPB	15	Checked
RSPB Project Managers	Management of RSPB staff and project involvement.	RSPB	15	Checked
Wendy Cain	Financial administration for RSPB	RSPB	10	Checked
Alizee Zimmerman	Coordination, public engagement and education.	Turks and Caicos Reef Fund	2	Checked
Neil Golding	SFL drone pilot. Aerial survey lead and imagery analyst.	SAERI Falklands Ltd	7	Checked
María Gabriela Toscano Montero	BirdLife International IBA network coordinator.	BirdLife International	4	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.**

 [CVs TCISEabirds DPR10S21012](#)  
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**Have you attached all Project staff CVs?**

Yes

## Section 6 - Background & Methodology

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### Q11. Problems the project is trying to address

**Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of environment and climate issues in the UKOTs.**

**For example, what are the specific threats to the environment that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems? How will your proposed project help?**

**Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem (references can be listed in your additional attached PDF document which can be uploaded at the bottom of the page).**

Coastal development is taking place at an unprecedented rate in the TCIs, and has become a major concern for the environment in this UKOT, with a growing number of pressing wildlife and resource use conflicts. Furthermore, local tourism and associated human activity in coastal areas is growing at an unprecedented rate (EDSA et al. 2005; TCIG 2021). There are a wide range of stakeholders working in the TCIs, and development and resource extraction are predicted to intensify, at a time when climate change impacts are a pressing concern (Pienkowski, 2009). Knowledge of key ecosystem components and conservation threats is therefore essential for effective management of this complex suite of environmental issues, yet many data gaps remain. This is the case for seabirds, which play important roles in marine and coastal ecosystems on which island communities and economies rely, and represent valuable indicators of ecosystem health. This is particularly true in tropical environments through their connective role between reef and terrestrial systems (Graham et al. 2018).

The Cays and Islands of Turks and Caicos are believed to be one of the most important breeding areas for seabirds in the Caribbean, with 15 species thought to regularly use this territory (Pienkowski et al 2005). The main breeding sites are remote cays of the Caicos and Turks Banks (>25 sites; see additional PDF and Pienkowski 2008), where hundred thousands of seabirds are thought to nest (Pienkowski, 2009). The last effort-based assessment, undertaken in 2002, suggested that these islands hosted internationally and regionally important populations of at least 8 species, including ~5% of the global population of brown noddies and ~33% of the regional population of bridled terns (Pienkowski et al 2005). However, nearly 20 years on, these estimates are severely outdated, and information remains coarse and precautionary for most species, with formal confirmations of breeding in some species still not achieved.

Many known sites on which seabirds breed remain unprotected and are vulnerable to unregulated development, and there are no active management plans for seabirds nor their habitats (Pienkowski, 2008). Threats from predation by invasive species, and harvesting pressure, are completely unknown at most sites. Furthermore, knowledge of the current distribution of TCI's seabird populations is extremely poor, and any existing management is based on highly outdated information.

This project will develop and implement a range of population monitoring activities in TCI, improving understanding of the conservation significance of sites and key threats to seabirds, and enabling policy and management recommendations to be made. Since seabirds play key roles in multiple ecosystems, understanding them promotes development of novel ecosystem-based management initiatives for conservation, and sustainable use of wetlands and marine environments. Outputs will therefore feed into wider Marine Spatial Planning frameworks, and Protected Area programmes, that are

being developed and considered in accordance with Environmental Charters within TCI. The project will also build on-island capacity of local partners to run long-term monitoring schemes within adaptive management frameworks, and widen public awareness and support for conservation activities surrounding seabirds and their habitats.

## Q12. Methodology

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

- How you have analysed historical and existing initiatives and are building on or taking work already done into account in project design. Please cite evidence where appropriate.
- The rationale for carrying out this work and a justification of your proposed methodology.
- How you will undertake the work (materials and methods).
- How you will manage the work (role and responsibilities, project management tools etc.)

**(This may be a repeat from Stage 1 but you may update or refine as necessary)**

Historical initiatives:

Seabird populations in TCI have received some monitoring attention over the last 20 years, predominantly led by UKOTCF and TCIG (Pienkowski et al. 2005, Pienkowski, 2009). However, no systematic monitoring has taken place, existing population estimates are severely outdated, and many species are data deficient having received little to no attention, largely owing to exceptional costs of accessing remote offshore cays in TCI, and previous labour-intensive survey methods. The last extensive population surveys took place in 2002, and many data on which management decisions are made are based on this work (Pienkowski et al. 2005). Repeat surveys in 2011 visited a limited number of sites due to financial constraints, and methodologies and survey effort were inconsistent resulting in low confidence in generated data, which remain unanalysed. In 2021, DECR, TCNT and UoL undertook scoping activities funded by DPLUS097, aimed at 1) making preliminary assessments of the current state of seabird populations on TCI's cays, and 2) identifying priorities for future work. The activities and objectives outlined in the current proposal are a direct result of the knowledge gained and priorities identified from these collaborative scoping activities and previous combined efforts.

Materials and methods:

This project will be centred on tried-and-tested seabird population monitoring activities that our collaborative partners have collective expertise in, and which will be developed into locally driven monitoring programmes to be executed long-term by TCI partners. These involve:

WP1: Population monitoring programmes

Activity 1. Tailored seabird population surveys on cays and islands of TCI. Depending on site conditions and the focal species, counts of Apparently Occupied Nests and roosting seabirds will be undertaken via:

- 1) Land and/or boat-based surveys (target: all 15 species)
- 2) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) surveys, validated with ground-based counts using a double-sampling approach (target: 13 species)
- 3) Acoustic surveys using acoustic playback methods at accessible sites, and sound boxes at inaccessible sites (target: Audubon's shearwaters)

Best-practice methodologies will be identified, monitoring guidelines developed, and generated data managed within a centralised population database.

Activity 2. A remote monitoring network of time-lapse cameras will be deployed, collecting images that will provide longer-term data on productivity and survival in key seabird populations on remote cays. Images will be processed by a volunteer network through a citizen science project hosted on the online University of Oxford-run Zooniverse platform (<https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/penguintom79/seabirdwatch>). This will engage local and global communities in TCI's seabird monitoring and conservation efforts.

Activity 3. Biosecurity assessments will be undertaken during survey work on key offshore cays to assess the presence of predators. This will involve use of chew cards, tracking tunnels and the time-lapse camera array.

## WP2: Capacity building and community engagement

Activity 4. Capacity for environmental monitoring, conservation science and site management will be built through training of TCNT Project Conservation Officers and existing staff/volunteers of partner organisations, in monitoring, biosecurity, field skills, data collection/management, GIS/mapping, and report writing. We will recruit a team of 'seabird stewards' – a trained, dedicated group of local volunteers/stakeholders supervised by the TCNT to implement monitoring plans for seabirds long-term (see WP3). This is based on similar successful initiatives in other Caribbean Islands, where volunteer networks have successfully monitored seabird populations for many years (<http://epicislands.org/epic-news/spreading-their-wings-grenadines-seabird-guardians-unite-to-conduct-surveys-at-remote-islands>). Local communities will also be engaged through community events, school talks, dissemination of seabird ID guides and codes-of-conduct, and local media channels.

## WP3: IBAs and Management plans

Activity 5. An Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) update will be undertaken with WP1 data, using BirdLife International approaches. The existing IBA network will be re-assessed, and new IBAs identified, based on global criteria. Generated data will be added to the publicly accessible World Bird Database managed by BirdLife's technical team. An assessment of threats within IBAs will then be undertaken.


Activity 6. Project partners (with TCIG support) will collaboratively translate knowledge gained into conservation management by developing 1) a Seabird Cays Policy (outlining a 'monitoring implementation plan') and 2) draft Site Management Plans both for Protected Areas within existing IBAs, and new IBAs proposed for protection. Draft management plans will go through public consultation led by DECR, and be presented to the TCIG Cabinet for approval, with aim of inclusion under the revised National Parks Ordinance.

### Project Management:


Project and financial management will be conducted primarily by Dr Austin, with support from Dr Green and the UoL financial management team. A project steering group composed of partners and independent representatives will meet periodically to evaluate progress. Data will be catalogued and managed through secure partner data portals and platforms (e.g. TCI's data portal).

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

 [AdditionalDocument TCISEabirds DPR10S21012](#)

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## Section 7 - Stakeholders and Beneficiaries

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### Q13. Project Stakeholders

**Who are the stakeholders for this project and how have they been consulted (include local or host government support/engagement where relevant)? Briefly describe what support they will provide and how the project will engage with them.**

Our Letters of Support demonstrate high-level engagement and involvement in project development, at local and regional scales, of stakeholders tasked with spatial planning, environmental management strategies, and community involvement. Use of seabird data in these processes is well established and enthusiastically welcomed.

The TCIG's DECR are currently engaged in extending the Protected Area System, are keen project stakeholders, and were instrumental in project development since early stages, ensuring relevance to environmental priorities. TCIG will collaborate with partners to translate data outputs into management strategies.

The TCNT are the main in-country partner and consultee, having also engaged strongly in this application. They will assist

with project management and delivery on-the-ground, via staff, operational support, and sizable in-kind commitments. With support from UoL, and regional stakeholders RSPB and BirdLife International, they will work with DECR to advance plans for site management. Collectively, through training, and collection, sharing and processing of data, these stakeholders will build local capacity, knowledge, and public support for monitoring and conservation of seabirds and their habitats.

Local people of TCI represent key stakeholders due to the roles that healthy sustainably managed coastal environments make to economic activities and livelihoods. These include supporting tourism and fisheries, influencing health and wellbeing, and contributing to natural coastal defence. Public engagement will be delivered through meetings and focused 'seabird' events, talks to schools and youth groups, media activity and recruitment of a 'seabird stewards' volunteer network. Local community engagement in seabird monitoring will also be facilitated through the Zooniverse citizen science platform.

## **Q14. Institutional Capacity**

### **Describe the Lead Partner's capacity (and that of partner organisations where relevant) to deliver the project.**

The UoL is a leading centre for conservation science and applied ecology. The 'Ecology & Marine Biology' group has expertise in translating science into policy in areas including protected areas, ecosystem-based management, and fisheries. The Seabird Ecology Group focuses on the behaviour, ecology and physiology of seabirds. Drs Austin and Green conduct research in seabird ecology and conservation, and have relevant experience running similar international grants including Caribbean DPLUS projects (DPLUS007, 044, 097). Dr Austin also co-chairs the BirdsCaribbean Seabird Working Group. Thus, the UoL team have strong ties with local and regional Caribbean Governments and conservation organisations.

TCNT is one of the main conservation NGOs in the TCIs, and is responsible for managing key natural heritage sites here. The TCNT has a strong track record of successfully collaborating and delivering on DPLUS projects (DPLUS055, DPLUS121), and other large international grants, and has an effective working relationship with the RSPB. Together with the TCRF, the TCNT has notable capability to reach and engage local communities through their extensive network. Both the RSPB and BirdLife International are regional/global organisations with an extensive reach and capacity to maximise on data outputs and the information they provide. Lastly, project staff at SFL have considerable aerial survey experience, including within TCI, and are thus well-placed to effectively execute their project role while providing local training.

Together this highly experienced partner group hold the expertise, experience and local knowledge to fully deliver the project, making a lasting impact for seabirds in the TCIs.

## **Q15. Project beneficiaries**

### **Who will your project benefit? You should consider the direct benefits as a result of your project as well as the broader indirect benefits which may come about as a result of your project achieving its Outputs and Outcome. The measurement of any benefits should be included in your project logframe.**

TCIG's DECR will benefit from project data through an increased evidence base for appropriate management of the TCI Cays, and other protected TCI sites, including the North, Middle and East Caicos RAMSAR area. The project will allow identification of measures needed to effectively protect seabird populations, contributing to healthier environments in TCI.

It will also benefit the health and well-being of local people through indirect effects of increased site protection: Wiser use of land and improved knowledge of ecosystems should indirectly aid DECR's ongoing climate change and coastal defence planning. Healthily managed seabird populations and ecosystems will also better support the tourism and fisheries sectors in TCI, with potential to boost the economy and islander livelihoods, for example through seabird ecotourism.

Staff and volunteers of local non-Governmental organisations (TCNT, TCRF) will receive training and new knowledge, to develop their capacity for both delivering environmental projects (an R10 priority) and helping to monitor and conserve TCI environments.

Regional organisations will benefit from improved capacity to designate appropriate protected area networks, and collectively partners will benefit from the inter-organisational cooperation the project will foster. The UK Government will benefit by the project's contribution towards meeting commitments under multilateral environmental conventions.

## Section 8 - Gender and Change Expected

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### Q16. Gender (optional)

**How is your project working to reduce inequality between persons of different gender? At the very least, you should be able to provide reassurance that your proposed work is not increasing inequality. Have you analysed the context in which you are working to see how gender and other aspects of social inclusion might interact with the work you are proposing?**

All partner organisations take gender equality seriously, and both women and men are well represented amongst our partner personnel. Both genders rely on marine and coastal environments of the TCIs, and thus will benefit from project outcomes. All project community engagement activities will take place in accessible venues to allow participation by local people regardless of gender, age, race or ability. Should any gender inequalities or biases be identified through attendee recorded at community events, the project team will attempt to follow this up with targeted engagement activities better targeted to unrepresented genders and/or people groups.

### Q17. Change expected

**Detail the expected changes this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who will benefit a) in short-term (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended). Please describe the changes for the environment and, where relevant, for people in the OTs, and how they are linked.**

Short-term, the project will strengthen capacity within the TCNT and TCIG to improve monitoring, management, and protection of globally and regionally important seabird populations. The following changes are expected:

1. Enhanced knowledge of the status of TCI seabird populations and site importance will allow an assessment of key threats
2. Robust scientific evidence will enable a review of existing IBAs, and delineation of previously unidentified sites of importance as priorities for protection
3. Tailored seabird site management plans within protected areas will reduce current risks of disturbance and harm to seabird populations by encouraging effective mitigation appropriate to species and sites
4. Improved capacity of local partners/stakeholders through integrated training will empower them to drive monitoring and management efforts (e.g. biosecurity work, censuses, site management)
5. Public engagement activities and citizen science projects will increase awareness and support for conservation measures and increase compliance

Outputs will also aid regional initiatives, including BirdLife-led Caribbean IBA/KBA updates, providing insight for application in the wider region. Furthermore, 'best-practice guidelines' for monitoring seabirds will feed into regional coordinated censuses efforts.

Long-term, this project will embed capacity within local organisations to manage seabirds and coastal environments sustainably and effectively: it will leave a tried-and-tested population monitoring framework for TCI, which can be locally run and systematically applied under adaptive management. Thus, it will ensure that seabirds and their habitats are safeguarded into the future. By providing an evidence base for existing protected areas (e.g. the North, Middle and East Caicos RAMSAR site), and other unprotected sites, this project will support decision-making around the National Parks Ordinance Review, strengthening evidence for future site designation, and building on recent DPLUS conservation efforts (DPLUS081,094,097,098,119,121,129). Therefore, it will benefit seabird conservation long after its lifespan, supporting long-term TCIG commitments for environmental protection and improving environmental benefits for local people.

### Q18. Pathway to change

**Detail the expected changes this work will deliver. You should identify what will change 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). Please describe the changes for the environment and, where relevant, for people in the OTs, and how they are linked.**

There is an urgent need to better understand and protect TCI's seabird populations and their habitats. This will be achieved through improved capacity for monitoring, threat assessment and adaptive management across multiple stakeholder levels. This overall outcome will be delivered by firstly establishing the current baseline status of TCI seabird populations (Output 1). A partnership-led approach will identify best-practice monitoring approaches to establish monitoring



programmes, underpinned by training and capacity building to enable effective implementation (Output 2). Improved knowledge of the distribution and health of seabird populations will increase local capacity for undertaking threat assessments (Output 3), identify sites of importance for conservation (Output 4) and, using these combined streams of new knowledge, deliver pathways to improved management frameworks and practices (Output 5). Outputs 1- 4 will enable implementation of measurable priority actions for species and habitat protection in response to environmental commitments (Output 5), and enhance the capacity of local/regional managers to assess impacts of future environmental change, thus anticipating long-term conservation needs. Public engagement initiatives will ensure that local people benefit from an improved understanding of marine and coastal ecosystems (Output 6), as well as the enduring contribution that the project will make to ecosystem health.

## Q19. Exit strategy

**State how the project will reach a stable and sustainable end point, and explain how the outcomes will be sustained, either through a continuation of activities, funding and support from other sources or because the activities will be mainstreamed in to “business as usual”. Where individuals receive advanced training, for example, what will happen should that individual leave?**

Capacity building and retention is a central pillar of this project. Considerable effort will be made to train and embed skills within local partner organisations, ensuring that locally-run population monitoring programmes are in place by the project’s end. This will include a detailed plan for ongoing activity, supported by training materials, field guides, monitoring guidelines, and codes-of-conduct.

To mitigate against future skills loss, cross-organisational capacity will be built by training multiple TCNT staff, and volunteers operating under TCNT and TCRF, who themselves can provide future peer-to-peer training. Following initiatives in other Caribbean nations, a dedicated network of ‘seabird stewards’ will be recruited and trained in seabird monitoring skills to ensure ongoing long-term data collection (through systematic surveys and remote monitoring). This group, managed by TCNT, and composed of individuals from fisheries and tourism sectors and local communities, will ensure sustained momentum from the project.

TCIG have pressing commitments to improve environmental protection in TCI, particularly through expansion of the Protected Area System. They are securing longer-term funding and capacity to continue this task, including recent recruitment of dedicated staff. Developing and executing seabird and site management strategies will therefore remain a priority of local managers resulting in long-term project legacy.

## Q20. Ethics

**Outline your approach to meeting Darwin’s key principles for ethics as outlined in the guidance note. Additionally, are there any human rights and/or international humanitarian law risks in relation to your project? If there are, have you carried out an assessment of the impact of those risks, and of measures that may be taken in order to mitigate them?**

The partner team recognises the importance of good ethical practice during project work in the Caribbean UKOTs, as well as local ownership of resource management to protect the wellbeing and rights of island communities. Traditional knowledge and culture will be recognised and respected by the project team, which include local organisations run by Turks and Caicos nationals. This project benefits from strong in-country leadership of the TCNT, with input from partners TCRF and the supporting TCI Government. All of these organisations actively participated in the project’s development to ensure that local interests, knowledge and perspectives are upheld. Local knowledge of seabirds and the sites in which they nest will be drawn upon and highly valued during project activities.

Many of the field activities during this project will take place in remote uninhabited offshore areas and islands where impact to privacy and safety of local communities will be low to non-existent. Health and safety of project staff will be important, and will be assessed and protected through rigorous risk assessments and mitigation protocols of the University of Liverpool and partner organisations. All publicity, outreach and education activities involving local people will ensure prior informed consent principles are upheld, and that the rights, privacy and safety of people are respected. This will include ensuring that no information on individual’s identity will be disseminated without prior consent.

## Section 9 - Budget, Risk Management & Funding

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## 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 budget templates for grant requests under £100,000 and over £100,000.





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

Please refer to the [Finance Guidance](#) for more information.

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

**NB: Please state all costs by financial year (1 April to 31 March) and in GBP. Darwin Plus cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.**

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 [DPR10S2\\_1012 Budget Rev1](#)  
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## Q22. Financial Risk Management

**This question considers the financial risks to the project. Explain how you have considered the risks and threats that may be relevant to the successful financial delivery of this project. This includes risks such as fraud, bribery or corruption, but may also include the risk of fluctuating foreign exchange, delays in procurement or recruitment and internal financial processes such as storage of financial data.**

Our project comes with low financial management risk. A large proportion of the budget will support salaries, boat surveys using vessels operated by partners or trusted collaborators, and monitoring equipment for use by local partners during ongoing operations. The UoL has an unblemished record of financial management, and field equipment is supplied economically from trusted suppliers.

Project costings are based on in-country expertise, and include funds to account for bank conversion charges and fluctuating currency exchange, reducing risks of shortfall. Necessary staff have already been identified to mitigate delays in recruitment, allowing scheduled project activities to begin immediately.

While the risk of bribery attempts is possible during management plan development and consultation stages in the project, it will draw upon a strong network of existing partners, collaborators and colleagues, who have extensive experience and protocols for working effectively together and with local stakeholders without financial inducement (e.g. DPLUS121, DPLUS094). Our international partners (RSPB, SFL) have a long history of working in TCI, and do not assess fraud, bribery or corruption as a high risk.

The UoL will follow effective, transparent accounting and financial procedures: finances will be managed successfully by the finance team, and reported through monthly expense summaries.

## Q23. Funding

**Q23a. Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source)?**

New initiative

### **Please provide details:**

This project is a new initiative that builds on outputs from previous projects and surveys in the TCIs as follows:

DPLUS097 'Regional-scale marine conservation through multi-territory tracking of frigatebirds': Under this regional project the UoL, TCNT and TCIG collaboratively undertook preliminary surveys and site visits to seabird cays and other breeding sites on the main islands, identifying data and capacity gaps, which informed the need for this focused wider project.

UKOTCF-led project: The UKOTCF in combination with the TCIG undertook extensive surveys, largely in 2002, to gain population estimates for breeding seabirds in TCI, providing baseline data that has helped to focus this project during its development.

DPLUS121 'Strengthening biodiversity to protect Turks and Caicos' Iguana Islands': Through other Darwin Plus projects, capacity has been built within the TCNT for field survey work, providing local experience in working within remote habitats that will be monitored during the proposed work.

DPLUS094 'Developing Marine Spatial Planning Tools for the Turks and Caicos Islands': This project developed an MSP data portal that will be used during the current project, and provided prior experience to project partner SFL for conducting aerial surveys in TCI.

### **Q23b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work?**

Yes

### **If 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.**

There are currently no other direct attempts to collect data on TCI seabird populations. However, this project has synergies with other conservation initiatives.

The RSPB are leading a focused DPLUS proposal in round 10 centred on conservation actions in the East Caicos Wilderness Area. Whilst their activities do not overlap with those in our application, there will be opportunities for collaborative working on East Caicos, to maximise on data and impact.

The University of Oxford, an established collaborator of Dr Austin, are seeking funding for a multi-territory project aimed at enhancing time-lapse camera monitoring approaches in combination with drones. As we are using both methods during our TCI surveys, and collaborating with the University through their online Zooniverse citizen science programme. Thus, there is potential to cooperate through knowledge exchange.

Project partner BirdLife International are actively seeking funds for Caribbean-wide updates of IBA networks. Their role in this project serves as a first step toward this goal, and should feed into this wider initiative, The BirdsCaribbean Seabird Working Group, of which Dr Austin is a co-chair, are also seeking funds for a co-ordinated regional seabird census programme. Capacity generated through our project will feed into this ongoing initiative.

## **Section 10 - Finance**

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### **Q24. Financial Controls**

#### **Please demonstrate your capacity to manage the level of funds you are requesting. Who is responsible for managing the funds? What experience do they have? What arrangements are in place for auditing expenditure?**

Dr Austin will be assuming overall responsibility managing project funds, having been heavily involved in this task in similar projects (Darwin Plus: DPLUS007, DPLUS044). She will be supported by the UoL's finance team in the School of Environmental Sciences, who have extensive experience managing finances of large projects such as this. The University's Research Support Office, who holds overall responsibility for financial management of research grants and contracts, in turn advises the finance team at the School of Environmental Sciences. Should this project be funded, the finance team will provide Dr Austin with monthly statements of expenditure to ensure that spending is within the assigned budget for each Darwin+ cost category. Expenditure will also be reviewed every six months by the project steering group headed by Dr Green, and advice provided as necessary. An independent audit will be conducted at the end of the project.

## Q25. Balance of budget spend

**Defra are keen to see as much Darwin Plus funding as possible directly benefiting OT communities and economies. While it is appreciated that this is not always possible every effort should be made for funds to remain in territory.**

**Explain the thinking behind your budget in terms of where Darwin Plus funds will be spent. What benefits will the Territory/ies see from your budget? What level of the award do you expect will be spent locally? Please explain the decisions behind any Darwin Plus funding that will not be spent locally and how those costs are important for the project.**

Of the ██████ in Darwin-Plus funding requested, ██████ ██████ is going directly to partner organisations (█████ to TCNT, ██████ to TCRF). This includes ██████ for staff, and ██████ in operational and T&S costs for fieldwork, and to support local-led community and educational activities. Allocations include ██████ to RSPB who have in-country staff that will provide operational and project management support, ██████ to SFL to provide aerial survey expertise and training to OT staff, and ██████ (with 1:1 co-funding) to BirdLife enabling their role in IBA updates.

Of ██████ allocated to the lead, ██████ is for salaries and institutional overheads for UoL staff who will manage the project, leading its outputs and ensuring its successful delivery. A further ██████ is for local spending, including T&S managed by UoL during field periods in TCI (accommodation and subsistence), and ██████ in equipment for TCNT that will support long-term monitoring, and will thus be fed directly into the OT economy, supporting and benefiting in-country partners. The other ██████ is for producing cost-effective seabird training materials for use locally, and to cover bank conversion costs, attendance to international practitioner's conferences, online data hosting and audit costs that cannot be spent locally.

## Q26. Capital Items

**If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin Plus 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.**

The project will purchase a drone, 12x time-lapse cameras and mountings, acoustic monitoring equipment and a laptop. All these capital items are essential to enable effective monitoring on populations of seabirds in the TCIs. Importantly, this equipment will be used both during and after the project, as local stakeholders continue to execute repeatable population monitoring activities that will be developed and tested during the project over the long term. The drone (which TCNT staff and volunteers will be trained to use) will allow repeatable aerial surveys of breeding seabirds to be conducted following project completion. The camera network will allow ongoing remote monitoring of seabird survival and threats at key sites on the offshore cays, as well as continued engagement of the public in seabird conservation. The acoustic equipment will allow repeatable surveys of cliff and burrow-nesting seabirds, and the laptop will facilitate data handling and management by TCNT.

## Q27. 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.**

This project draws together the collective expertise, knowledge, staff effort and resources of a specialist team, with extensive experience working with local communities and vendors. It benefits from sizeable in-kind partner contributions totalling ██████, including ██████ from TCNT, which for a small organisation is notable.

Operational costs are extremely high in TCI, due to exceptionally high costs of living, This has previously hindered the capacity of local stakeholders to monitor and protect seabirds on the offshore cays, where most resident populations nest, driving the demand for this project and its funding. These constraints are reflected in the budget, however, partners have worked hard to mitigate costs, taking realistic measures to ensure best value for money.

Our local partner network has been used to form agreements for substantially subsidized boat costs, thus reducing this major budget expense. To minimise costs associated international shipping and limited supplier routes to TCI, UoL will procure specialist equipment that will remain with local partners.

The project builds upon existing in-country field and project management capacity generated during DPLUS projects in TCI (e.g. DPLUS121). For example, trained TCNT and RSPB staff will use their skills in biosecurity monitoring to assess invasive threats to seabird cays. To make the most of limited boat time, visual, acoustic and drone surveys for data collection and training will be run in conjunction with biosecurity activities. Existing volunteer networks of TCNT and TCRF, alongside new volunteers, will be recruited and trained to help this effort, strengthening capacity for ongoing population monitoring.

## Q28. Outputs of the project and Open Access

**All outputs from Darwin Plus projects should be made available on-line and free to users whenever possible. Please outline how you will achieve this and detail any specific costs you are seeking from Darwin Plus to fund this.**

Reports, presentations, maps and map layers, training documents and seabird education materials (seabird identification and monitoring guides, and codes-of-conduct) will all be made available via the project and partner websites, and on websites of TCIG agencies, and regional organisations that promote seabird monitoring (i.e. BirdsCaribbean Seabird Working Group webpages). Project activities and outputs will also be publicised through partner social media avenues, new channels, and a dedicated project twitter feed.

Data generated through this project will be made available online through appropriate data repositories. These will include 1) accessibility of time-lapse camera images from the seabird cays on the Zooniverse platform [REDACTED] for online hosting, data serving and maintenance of user accounts), and 2) availability of population estimates and survey data through the online eBird database of bird observations (<http://ebird.org>), the regional BirdsCaribbean Seabird population database (<https://www.birdscaribbean.org/caribbean-birds/seabirds/>), and the TCI data portal (<https://dataportal.gov.tc>).

New and updated IBA map layers and data will be made freely available on the BirdLife International Online Database (<http://datazone.birdlife.org>). Once approved by Government, the seabird policy and site management plans will be available to the public on TCIG and partner websites. Management strategies will also be presented to the public at TCIG-led community meetings.

## Section 11 - Safeguarding

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### Q29. Safeguarding

**Projects funded through Darwin Plus 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 organisation has the following policies in place and that these are available on request:**

**Please upload the lead partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF on the certification page.**

<b>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</b>	Checked
<b>We have attached a copy of our safeguarding policy to this application</b>	Checked
<b>We keep a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with</b>	Checked
<b>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</b>	Checked
<b>We share our safeguarding policy with downstream partners</b>	Checked
<b>We have a whistle-blowing policy which protects whistle-blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised</b>	Checked

**We have a Code of Conduct in place for staff and volunteers that sets out clear expectations of behaviors - inside and outside of the work place - and make clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards**

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Checked

**Please outline how you will implement your policies in practice and ensure that downstream partners apply the same standards as the lead organisation.**

The UoL has a policy on the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults that has been attached to this application (<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/media/livacuk/student-support/Policy,on,the,Safeguarding,Of,Children,APPROVED,September,2019.pdf>). The University aims to adopt the highest possible standards and to take all reasonable measures to ensure the risks of harm are minimised. There is a low risk of safeguarding issues in the UK-based offices. The main risks will occur during work in the TCIs, where the project team will come into contact with a range of stakeholders including staff and volunteers of local organisations and local communities.

As the lead institution and project leadership team, we will ensure that the project partners, and their staff and volunteer networks, are made fully aware of the need and requirement for safeguarding, and agree and comply with the safeguarding policies of the UoL demonstrated through formal contracts. The UoL safeguarding policy document will be made available to partner organisations. Procedures will be set in place (as outlined in the document) to ensure that any safeguarding concerns are firstly reported to the project management team, and that the guidelines to response outlined in the attached policy are followed and overseen by relevant trained safeguarding staff at the University.

## Section 12 - Logical Framework

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### Q30. Logical Framework

Darwin Plus projects will be required to monitor (and report against) their progress towards their expected Outputs and Outcome. This section sets out the expected Outputs and Outcome of your project, how you expect to measure progress against these and how we can verify this.

- [Stage 2 Logframe Template](#)

Please complete your full logframe in the separate Word template and upload as a PDF using the file upload below – **please do not edit the template structure other than adding additional Outputs if needed as a logframe submitted in a different format may make your application ineligible**. Copy your Impact, Outcome and Output statements and your activities below - these should be the same as in your uploaded logframe.

**Please upload your logframe as a PDF document.**

 [R10 DPlus St2 Logical Framework Template TCISea birds DPR10S21012](#)  
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#### Impact:

Internationally and regionally important seabird populations on the Turks and Caicos Islands will flourish following improved and sustainable capacity of local stakeholders to identify, assess and address conservation threats.

#### Outcome:

Improve the health of regionally important TCI seabird populations by establishing locally-driven monitoring programmes to determine the status of populations, tackle threats through increased stakeholder capacity, and allow targeted management

#### Project Outputs

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**Output 1:**

The size, distribution and health of breeding seabird populations identified on the cays and main islands of the TCI archipelago.

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**Output 2:**

Local NGOs, Government and community partners develop skills, knowledge and capacity to operate self-sustaining seabird monitoring programmes

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**Output 3:**

Knowledge of the main threats to key seabird populations is greatly improved, allowing identification of appropriate conservation strategies

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**Output 4:**

IBAs identified and delineated for seabird breeding sites on the cays and islands of TCI

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**Output 5:**

Development of a 'seabird cays policy' that will inform development of 'site management plans' for both Protected Areas within IBAs, and IBAs proposed for protection, and steps taken to initiate identified conservation actions

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**Do you require more Output fields?**

**It is advised to have less than 6 Outputs since this level of detail can be provided at the Activity level.**

Yes

**Output 6:**

Local communities and stakeholders, and more widely regional and global audiences, understand, support and engage with avian conservation actions on the TCIs

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**Output 7:**

*No Response*

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**Output 8:**

*No Response*

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**Activities**

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

Output 1. Population surveys and estimates

1.1 Boat-based, land-based, aerial and acoustic surveys undertaken on the seabird cays and main TCI islands, and population estimates obtained for 15 resident species

1.2 Non-technical report produced summarising population estimates and data

1.3 Array of 12 time-lapse cameras deployed on priority seabird cays (5-6 sites), and image data collected to feed into the citizen science programme

1.4 Biosecurity monitoring undertaken on key seabird cays, and biosecurity risk assessment undertaken and presented in non-technical report

Output 2. Capacity building for population monitoring

2.1 Population monitoring methods and data outputs assessed and compared, and best-practice guidelines written for ongoing monitoring of specific sites and species

2.2 Population database and associated guide for use created

2.3 Local partner staff trained in seabird identification, monitoring methods and data handling during survey work and

tailored training sessions

2.4 Wider volunteer 'seabird steward' network formed and trained in seabird identification and monitling at tailored training events, and during field periods

2.5 Seabird monitoring guide produced and distributed amongst local partners and stakeholders

Output 3. Seabird threat assessment

3.1 Threat assessment report produced outlining a threat assessment to seabird populations undertaken following population surveys

3.2 Seabird conservation strategy produced outlining threats and recommendations to address them

Output 4. IBA network identification

4.1 Key breeding and roosting sites of seabird species identified, and maps and map layers produced

4.2 Review and update of TCI's IBAs undertaken, and the BirdLife International IBA list updated

Output 5. Species and site management planning

5.1 Seabird Cays Policy (including a voluntary 'seabird code-of-conduct' and 'monitoring implementation plan') written in collaboration with the TCIG

5.2 Seabird code-of-conduct leaflets produced and disseminated amongst local ecotour operators and other stakeholders

5.3 Site management plans drafted for cays and protected areas in the main island chain

5.4 Draft management plans presented to local stakeholders in TCIG-led community meeting

Output 6. Community engagement and education

6.1 Time-lapse camera images of breeding seabirds processed through Zooniverse platform by volunteers, and a non-technical report written on productivity data outputs

6.2 Community meetings (minimum of 4) and school / youth group events (at least 6) run to engage local communities and young people (Y1 – Y3)

6.3 A 'TCI Seabird Fest' event run during the Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival in Y2 Q1

6.4 Dedicated project webpages created and maintained on the [www.caribbeanseabirds.weebly.com](http://www.caribbeanseabirds.weebly.com) website, and regular quarterly project updates given on this and other partner social media feeds

## Section 13 - Implementation Timetable

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### Q31. 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. Complete the Word template as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project, and upload as a PDF.**

[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.**

 [R10 DPlus Implementation Timetable TCISEabirds D](#)

[PR10S21012](#)

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 pdf 151.7 KB

## Section 14 - Monitoring and Evaluation

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### Q32. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

**Describe, referring to the Indicators, 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 [Finance Guidance](#)).**

Ongoing M&E

As project leader, Dr Austin will be responsible for ongoing M&E of project progress in her role coordinating the project activities and partner network. She will informally review progress versus Measurable Indicators and the Implementation Timetable each month, ensuring activities continue on schedule. Drawing on prior experience (e.g. DPLUS097), partners will follow adaptive and flexible approaches to project activities, allowing rapid and effective responses to changeable weather or other small-scale localised disruptions. These responses will be reported rapidly to the project leader (videoconference or email), making use of an online project management and document-sharing platform (basecamp). Ms Lucsama (project Conservation Officer) and Dr Austin will have bi-monthly meetings when Dr Austin is UK-based, with wider TCNT/RSPB/UoL monthly discussions as required. These communications will allow the core team to monitor and, if necessary, refine ongoing project activities.

Situations where unforeseen circumstances (major disturbance e.g. Covid-19, hurricanes) mean that project activities cannot be conducted or outputs may not be achieved will be discussed by the Project Steering Group and/or ad-hoc meetings between the project leader and M&E lead (see below).

Formal M&E

Following models adopted previously (e.g. DPLUS007), a Project Steering Group (PSG) will be formed, comprising the principles of each partner and independent members. The primary function of the PSG will be to formally monitor and evaluate project progress. Dr Jonathan Green will be the M&E lead and chair the PSG. During each PSG meeting, progress versus the Measurable Indicators and Implementation Timetable will be discussed. Expenditure against the budget will be reported and reviewed, and problems, lack of progress or other barriers will be discussed, and solutions agreed, to ensure project objectives are met and/or modified. PSG meetings will occur by videoconference, shortly after the project's start then at 6-monthly intervals before HYR, AR and FR deadlines, allowing progress assessments to be documented in meeting minutes and incorporated into reports. This process will be overseen by the M&E lead. Any required changes to the project resulting from unforeseen circumstances will be communicated to Darwin+, and formal changes requested if necessary. Independent members of the PSG will be drawn from relevant organisations (e.g. Marine Management Organisation, BirdsCaribbean – where in-principle agreement has been secured). Independent members will provide objective scrutiny of progress and assist in problem-solving.

Independent output review

Reports and management documents developed with TCIG will be sent to conservation scientists with relevant expertise for independent review of project outputs prior to adoption and dissemination, coordinated by the M&E lead. Preliminary outputs will be presented at practitioners' meetings (i.e. BirdsCaribbean conference), for additional external scrutiny. Any conservation plans drafted during the project will be assessed by the PSG and independent experts, and subjected to public consultation led by the TCIG, in strict accordance with National legislation.

Since M&E activities are comprised of time invested by project staff (meetings, document preparation and review, including in-kind contributions) costs are a portion of overall staff costs and % cost based on the total project budget.

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**Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)**



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**Number of days planned for M&E**



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**Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)**



## Section 15 - Lead Partner Track Record

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### Q33. Lead Partner track record

Has your organisation been awarded a Darwin Initiative award 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
DPLUS097	Dr Jonathan Green	Regional-scale marine conservation through multi-territory tracking of frigatebirds
DPLUS007	Dr Jonathan Green	Using Seabirds to Inform Caribbean Marine Planning
14-017	Prof. Edward Maltby	Tool-kits for sustainable management of Ghana's riverine biodiversity
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts?

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

Yes

## Section 16 - Certification

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### Certification

On behalf of the

trustees

of

University of Liverpool

I apply for a grant of







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 and project implementation timetable (uploaded at appropriate points in application).
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report are also enclosed.

Checked

<b>Name</b>	Dr RHIANNON AUSTIN
<b>Position in the organisation</b>	Research Associate
<b>Signature (please upload e-signature)</b>	 <a href="#">AustinSignature</a>  10/01/2022  19:17:45  jpg 229.69 KB
<b>Date</b>	10 January 2022

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

 [Policy,on,the,Safeguarding,Of,Children,APPROVED,September,2019 DPR10S21012](#)  
 10/01/2022  
 19:18:07  
 pdf 642.18 KB

**Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.**

 <a href="#">Annual,Accounts,20-21</a>  06/01/2022  17:44:44  pdf 4.38 MB	 <a href="#">Anunal,Accounts,2019-2020</a>  06/01/2022  17:44:44  pdf 3.06 MB
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## Section 17 - Submission Checklist

### Checklist for submission

	Check
<b>I have read the Guidance documents, including the “Guidance Notes for Applicants” and “Finance Guidance”.</b>	Checked
<b>I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.</b>	Checked
<b>I have provided actual start and end dates for this proposed project.</b>	Checked
<b>I have provided a budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.</b>	Checked
<b>I have checked that the budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.</b>	Checked
<b>The application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).</b>	Checked

I have attached my completed logframe and timeline as a PDF using the templates provided.	Checked
I have included a 1 page CV or job description for all the Project staff identified at Question 11, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a letter of support from the Lead Partner and main partner organisation(s) identified at Question 10, or an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant.	Checked
I have included a signed copy of the last 2 years annual report and accounts for the Lead Partner, or provided an explanation if not.	Checked
I have checked the Darwin Plus website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Plus 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, Darwin Plus 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.**

Checked

#### **Data protection and use of personal data**

Information supplied in this application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the latest copy of the Privacy Notice for Darwin, Darwin Plus and the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund available [here](#). This Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information, but not personal data, may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead partner, location, and total grant value) on the GOV.UK and other websites.

Information relating to the project or its results may also be released on request, including under the 2004 Environmental Information Regulations and the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However, Defra will not permit any unwarranted breach of confidentiality nor will we act in contravention of our obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679).