

DPLR1\1009

Biodiversity Survey and Environmental Management Plan in Antarctica

Objective:

To study and implement new biodiversity protection measures around the Western Antarctic Peninsula, a proposed Marine Protection Area, to better understand and protect the flora and fauna of the sites in our care.

Current situation and the problem we are addressing

Responsibility for heritage is inextricably linked with a responsibility for the natural environment. However, rising temperatures (scientists recorded the hottest Antarctic temperature on record this year) and growth in the tourism industry are putting this special wilderness under increasing pressure. The Trust has identified an urgent need to survey the flora and fauna at its sites to respond to the challenges and ensure that a robust Environmental Management Plan (EMP) is in place. At present, no comprehensive species inventory exists, either terrestrial or marine, and we have limited data to work with.

We will be partnering with the British Antarctic Survey building on decades of successful collaboration. Activities will happen in stages across 2023 and into 2024. A team will complete field work and data collection for remote sites in early 2023, followed by analysis, active monitoring and creation of environmental management plans later in 2023. The Trust will then develop guidelines for visitors and conservation across its historical sites of international significance, based on these environmental and ecological findings, including the identification of key trigger-points for managerial intervention. During the field 2023-24 field season, the team will pilot new protective measures (visitor routes, ship resources, different heritage techniques etc) recommended by the EMP, and potentially how the EMP could be shared to benefit others. This project brings together the skills of two expert organisations to establish a long-term protective plan, and a UK public engagement programme to increase knowledge of Antarctica's special environment and ecosystems.

The Trust will then develop based on these environmental and ecological findings. This project brings together the skills of two expert organisations to establish a long-term protective plan, and a UK public engagement programme to increase knowledge of Antarctica's special environment and ecosystems.

What success looks like:

- Flora and fauna at each of our heritage sites will be surveyed to give a full picture of the current situation
- Provision of new biodiversity surveys and an Environmental Management Plan detailing the practical solutions to sustainable management
- A full list of recommendations will be produced to help manage the sites (in relation to both conservation field work and tourism) more sustainably with negligible impact on nature
- Data will be publicly available through the BAS and UKAHT bespoke data portal. Our aim is to ensure our guiding documents are publicly available.
- Delivery of a free online webinar with scientists for a global audience (previous webinars have attracted 1k+ attendees).
- Content for a UK-wide schools resource pack, delivered in partnership with British Science Association.

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name Camilla
Surname Johns
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
Email (Work) [REDACTED]

CONTACT DETAILS

Name Ruth
Surname Mullett
Tel [REDACTED]
Email (Work) [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]

DPLR1\1009

Biodiversity Survey and Environmental Management Plan in Antarctica

Section 1 - Project Title & Contact Details

Q1. Project Title

Biodiversity Survey and Environmental Management Plan in Antarctica

Q2. Please select whether you are applying as an organisation or as an individual (Guidance section 3 and Guidance Glossary)

Organisation

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name	Camilla
Surname	Johns
Tel (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]

CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Ruth
Surname	Mullett
Tel	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	UK Antarctic Heritage Trust
Phone	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Website	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]

Section 2 - Overseas Territory(ies)

Q3. Overseas Territory (Guidance section 1.3):

Which UK Overseas Territory(ies) will your project be working in? Please note that in case of a non-permanent resident population you need to demonstrate a clear, meaningful, long-term link to the territory.

British Antarctic Territory (BAT)

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

No Response

In addition to the UKOT(s) you have indicated, will your project directly benefit any other UK OT(s) or country(ies)?

No

Section 3 - Project Partners

Q4. Project partners (Guidance section 3.2)

In this section, please give details of all the partners involved (including the Lead Partner) and provide a summary of their roles.

Project Leader name (Guidance section 3.1): Ruth Mullett

Lead Partner name (if applying as an organisation; Guidance section 3.1): UK Antarctic Heritage Trust

Lead Partner Website (if applicable): www.ukaht.org

Is the Lead Partner based in a UKOT where the project is working (Guidance section 3.1)?

No

Please explain why this project is led from outside the UKOT:

The UK Antarctic Heritage Trust (UKAHT) works in a UKOT of British Antarctic Territory where it is not possible to be physically based all of the time. However, we are one of few organisations who does have a physical base on the continent in austral summer (November – March), and have proactively worked in Antarctica for over 25 years.

List other partners involved and where are they based (Guidance section 3.2):

British Antarctic Survey (BAS).
BAS has a UK Office in Cambridge. They also operate four research stations throughout the year in the Antarctic, and one during the summer.

Summary of roles and responsibilities of each partner in the project:

UKAHT: As lead partner, the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust will oversee the delivery and project management of the entire project, including the timeline, budget, personnel, operational logistics, reporting and implantation.


BAS: BAS are playing a supportive role in the creation and implantation of the Environmental Management Plan. Prof. Pete Convey, a BAS scientist, will provide contextual data for other nearby Antarctic sites, and provide expertise on the production of the final environmental management plan.


I confirm that all listed partners are aware of this application and have indicated support:


Checked

Attach a Cover Letter for your application (Guidance section 4.2).

 [UKAHT Covering Letter](#)

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Section 4 - Project Summary & Description

Q5. Project Summary (Guidance section 3.8)

Please provide a brief summary of your project. This may be used in communication activities and/or published online, if your application is successful.

The UK Antarctic Heritage Trust is seeking support to survey and implement new biodiversity protection measures around the Western Antarctic Peninsula, to better understand and protect the flora and fauna of the sites in our care. Funding will enable us to deliver a new biodiversity survey and Environmental

Management Plan in partnership with leading scientists, to enable us to respond to the challenges and increase protection.

Q6. Description (Guidance section 2.1)

Please provide a description of your project, including:

- the overall objective
- the current situation and the problem the project is trying to address
- what success will look like and how you will measure it

Please be as specific as possible when describing the project, using quantified data and evidence where available. You may wish to consider: what are the specific threats to the environment that the project will attempt to address, and what should we know about these threats? What does your successful project look like? And how will you demonstrate whether and how your project has been successful?

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Current situation and the problem we are addressing

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We will be partnering with the British Antarctic Survey building on decades of successful collaboration. Activities will happen in stages across 2023 and into 2024. A team will complete field work and data collection for remote sites in early 2023, followed by analysis, active monitoring and creation of environmental management plans later in 2023. The Trust will then develop guidelines for visitors and conservation across its historical sites of international significance, based on these environmental and ecological findings, including the identification of key trigger-points for managerial intervention. During the field 2023-24 field season, the team will pilot new protective measures (visitor routes, ship resources, different heritage techniques etc) recommended by the EMP, and potentially how the EMP could be shared to benefit others. This project brings together the skills of two expert organisations to establish a long-term protective plan, and a UK public engagement programme to increase knowledge of Antarctica's special environment and ecosystems.


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What success looks like:


- Flora and fauna at each of our heritage sites will be surveyed to give a full picture of the current situation
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- A full list of recommendations will be produced to help manage the sites (in relation to both conservation field work and tourism) more sustainably with negligible impact on nature


- Data will be publicly available through the BAS and UKAHT bespoke data portal. Our aim is to ensure our guiding documents are publicly available.
- Delivery of a free online webinar with scientists for a global audience (previous webinars have attracted 1k+ attendees).
- Content for a UK-wide schools resource pack, delivered in partnership with British Science Association.

(Optional) Please upload any additional and supporting materials or files (such as maps of project sites, etc) below. Maximum of 5 pages:

 [Antarctic Peninsula map and UKAHT sites](#)

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Section 5 - Project Outcome(s)

Q7. Project Outcome(s) (Guidance section 1.2)

Successful Darwin Plus Local projects must demonstrate measurable outcomes in at least one of the themes of Darwin Plus, either by the end of the project or soon after through a credible plan.

Please tick which theme(s) of Darwin Plus your project underpins:

Checked	Biodiversity: improving and conserving biodiversity, and slowing or reversing biodiversity loss and degradation;
Unchecked	Climate change: responding to, mitigating and adapting to climate change and its effects on the natural environment and local communities;
Checked	Environmental quality: improving the condition and protection of the natural environment
Checked	Capability and capacity building: enhancing the capacity within OTs, including through community engagement and awareness, to support the environment in the short- and long-term.

Please justify your selection.

Biodiversity: a new plan which will heighten knowledge, make recommendations and implement actions for protecting biodiversity.

Environmental quality: a new Environmental Management Plan (EMP) which will proactively guide way of improving and protecting environmental quality.

Capability and capacity building: enhanced knowledge and awareness of the biodiversity and natural environment. Our aim for conservation is to make all our guiding documents publicly available, through the website, including Conservation Management Plans (CMPs) and this EMP. The idea is that they can be

consulted by any interested.





Section 6 - Project Timeline

Q8. Project timeline (Guidance section 2.2)

Please provide anticipated dates for the start and end of your planned project here. Please use the Darwin Plus Local Project Implementation Timetable Template (which can be downloaded below) to provide a list of the individual activities you have planned for this project, a brief description of what each activity entails, and the months in which the activities will be carried out. If the project involves only one activity (e.g. a purchase), please still provide project start and end dates (noting estimated times for procurement). **Please note that your project will need to be completed by 31 March 2024.**

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 3 months):
01 April 2023	01 March 2024	11 months

Please upload the completed Darwin Plus Local Project Implementation Timetable template with your proposed project activities below.

-  [UKAHT Implementation Timetable](#)
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-  17:44:11
-  pdf 130.01 KB

Section 7 - Costs

Q9. Costs (Guidance section 2.2 and please read the Finance Guidance)

Please provide a breakdown of costs to be funded through Darwin Plus Local (in GBP).

Are you seeking any matched funding for this project? (Please note that this is optional and there is no requirement to seek matched funding for Darwin Plus Local projects).

No

Budget line	Explanation	Cost in GBP
-------------	-------------	-------------

	UKAHT team member on site (██████)	
Staff costs:	UKAHT project management in the UK (risk assessment, operations, planning) (██████)	██████
	Short-term contract for Dr Mairi Hilton (currently undertaking initial biodiversity survey at Port Lockroy) for 5 months (April – August) (██████)	
Overhead costs:	To support public webinar and outreach events.	██████
Travel & subsistence costs:	International travel to support 1x team member as part of field team to test recommendations of the EMP in the field at Detaille Island (work at Port Lockroy already supported through annual programming)	██████
Operating costs:	Biodiversity reports, bio data evaluation, and EMP write-up (covered in staff costs)	██████
Capital equipment:	Not applicable as equipment already purchased.	██████
Consultancy costs:	Fee for contribution from British Antarctic Survey Staff: - Mapping and Geographic Information Centre x 3 days - Scientist Professor Pete Convey x 14 days fee for contribution to work	██████
Total:		██████

This section provides more information on the budget to help evaluators understand how you will use the funds you are requesting. You do not need to list all costs, but please list and detail costs of more than £1,000 per item below, under the appropriate budget line.

Details of staff costs over £1,000 (if relevant)

- Ruth Mullett, Head of Buildings and Conservation, time for 14 days to manage the delivery of the project, including implementing and testing the new recommendations during the 2023-24 field season.
- Sophie Montagne, Head of Operations, time for 8 days to support the operational project management in the UK (risk assessment, operations, planning).
- Mairi Hilton, post-doc and environment consultant, time for 5 months to process data collection at 2 of our sites, and write the EMP.

Details of overhead costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

No Response

Details of travel and subsistence costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

- Flights for 1x UKAHT staff (UK – Stanley, Falkland Islands, on RAF airbridge)
- Accommodation in Stanley
- Travel to and from airports
- Subsistence

Details of operating costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

No Response

Details of capital equipment costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

No Response

Details of consultancy costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

- BAS Mapping and Geographic Information Centre x 3 days (to create maps for the sites, which will support the recommendations)
- BAS scientist Professor Pete Convey, for contribution to work for 14 days to provide data on other nearby sites, guide and lend expertise to Mairi Hilton on production of Antarctic EMPs, and to provide suggestions and corrections on the draft EMP.

Details of other costs over £1,000 (if relevant)

- Staff time for Lawrence Becko, UKAHT creative producer, to support organisation of webinar (5 days)
- Staff time for Jessie Norman, consultant producer, to produce the webinar (2 days)

If your project budget was prepared in another currency and converted to GBP, please provide the exchange rate, its source, and the date it was accessed:

Other currency:	Exchange rate:	Source of this exchange rate:	Date exchange rate accessed:
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response

Darwin Plus Local has been created to build capacity and contribute to local economies in-territory.

What % of the total will be spent in the OTs?

If less than 80% of the total project spend is to be spent within the OT(s), please explain why.

It is not possible to spend money IN the BAT in a conventional sense. But, all except 'overhead costs', which is to support public programming in the UK, will go towards supporting the project of direct benefit to the environment of the Antarctic British Overseas Territory.

Section 8 - Local and National Priorities

Q10. Local and national priorities

Please explain how this project aligns with local and national priorities? You may wish to consider the project in the context of national environmental laws, objectives, strategies, territory specific agreements, action plans or policies.

This project has been conceived in response to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty. Article 3 of the protocol states that:

'(c) activities in the Antarctic Treaty area shall be planned and conducted on the basis of information sufficient to allow prior assessments of, and informed judgments about, their possible impacts on the

Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems and on the value of Antarctica for the conduct of scientific research; such judgments shall take account of: [...]

(v) whether there exists the capacity to monitor key environmental parameters and ecosystem components so as to identify and provide early warning of any adverse effects of the activity and to provide for such modification of operating procedures as may be necessary in the light of the results of monitoring or increased knowledge of the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems; and (vi) whether there exists the capacity to respond promptly and effectively to accidents, particularly those with potential environmental effects.'

The output of this project, the creation of an Environmental Management Plan for our historic sites will set the parameters for monitoring and planning our conservation activities, and informing tourist activities, at our historic sites.


Will the project take place on Government owned land or water?


Yes


Please attach evidence that you have Government support i.e. Letter of Support.

 [Letter in support of UKAHT bid to Darwin Plus](#)

[FCDO](#)

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Section 9 - Project Risks

Q11. Project Risks

Please demonstrate your consideration of any risks involved in this project and how you intend to manage them. Depending on your project, you may wish to consider:

- Biosecurity risks – particularly for projects involving external equipment.
- Safeguarding risks – particularly for projects involving vulnerable groups such as children, older people or people with disabilities.

Risk	Mitigation
Biosecurity risk of a field camp in Antarctica	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ensure all equipment is disinfected with Vitron prior to shipment south.2. Repeat disinfection of equipment once on board the ship.3. Adhere to all guidance from IATTO and the ATS on managing biosecurity risks.

Avian flu reaching the southern hemisphere and resulting in the sudden cancellation, suspension of the field season

1. Monitor situation before departure, and adjust plans accordingly.
2. Provide training on spotting symptoms in wildlife, infection prevention and reaction.
3. If proceeding to base: Do not land if there are clear signs of infection; Use enhanced biosecurity measures before disembarkation and after re-embarkation; undertaken daily visual assessment of wildlife mortality; do not sit or lie down on ground; do not touch infected, sick or dead birds; strict hand sanitisation procedures; wear PPE and dispose of safely; Seasonal flu vaccination in the UK for all members of the PL and field teams; Remain vigilant for signs of avian flu.

Cancellation of field season due to ice conditions/ avian flu

1. Monitor situation prior to departure, and make early decisions
2. Provide a back-up plan for testing of EMP if conditions prevent landing at Detaille Island

Do you require more fields?

Yes

Risk	Mitigation
Outside Operations – adverse weather conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provision of appropriate clothing and sunglasses 2. Briefing about weather conditions and environmental risks 3. Provision of sun block 4. PPE for other associated activities 5. Briefing staff at training session and throughout season 6. Remote first aid training provided pre-deployment
<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>

Section 10 - Terms & Conditions

Q12. Terms and conditions (Guidance section 3.10)

By applying for Darwin Plus Local you are adhering in full to the grant Terms and Conditions in full (available at: <https://dplus.darwininitiative.org.uk/apply> and as referenced in the Guidance at section 3.10). For information, the Terms and Conditions include requirements for all applicants to (amongst other requirements as per the full Terms and Conditions):

- Uphold a zero tolerance for inaction approach to tackling sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment.
- Where appropriate, make all reasonable and adequate efforts to address gender inequality and other power imbalances.
- Notify all cases of fraud and theft (whether proven or suspected) relating to the project to the Grant Administrator as soon as they identified.

Please indicate you have read, and understood, and will adhere to the Terms and Conditions.

Checked

If your application is successful: If your project application is successful, the Fund Administrator (NIRAS) will ask you to provide some financial evidence for due diligence checks before you receive your project grant. (Please see section 3.3 of the Darwin Plus Local Finance Guidance). Please be ready to provide this evidence promptly.

Financial evidence for organisations: Year-end financial statements, the latest management accounts or audited accounts (if you have these).

Financial evidence for individuals: Proof of identity such as a passport, ID card or driving licence and solvency (such as bank statements) and a police check.

Section 11 - Certification

Certification

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





Checked

I have the authority to submit an application on behalf of my organisation.

Checked

Name: Ruth Mullett

**Position in the organisation:
(if applicable)** Head of Buildings and Conservation

Signature (please upload e-signature)  [IMG_20230213_175640](#)
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Date: 13 February 2023

Section 12 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance documents, including the “Darwin Plus Local Guidance” and the “Darwin Plus Local Finance Guidance”.	Checked
If my proposed project takes place on public lands or water, I have uploaded a Letter of Support from Government.	Checked
I have uploaded a cover letter that details the information requested in the guidance (Guidance section 4.2 has information on what this cover letter should include).	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for the project.	Checked
I have provided my summary budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP in the application form.	Checked
I have uploaded my project implementation timetable using the specific template provided.	Checked
(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	Checked
The application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	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 Darwin Plus. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share project news. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

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

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

Project Title:

Darwin Plus Local

Provide a **Project Implementation Timetable** that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the following table as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project. Projects are based on UK Financial Years (**1 April – 31 March** - therefore starts April 2023).

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 shade only the months in which an activity will be carried out. The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

Activity #	Description (max 25 words)	No. of months	UK Financial Year 2023/24											
			Calendar Year 2023									Calendar Year 2024		
			Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Data Gathering	Data collection at Port Lockroy and Damoy (undertaken prior to grant awards November 2022-March 2023).	NA												
Data Analysis	Data analysis following data collection at two Antarctic sites (Port Lockroy and Damoy).	2	X	X										
Write-Up	Write up of initial findings, including data from species survey at Port Lockroy and Damoy, by Dr Mairi Hilton.	3			X	X	X							
Production of an EMP	Production of an environmental management plan (EMP) in accordance with principles of Protocol for Environment Protection, in collaboration with Prof. Peter Convey from British Antarctic Survey.	2				X	X							
Review of EMP	Review of EMP by leaders in the field, including by experts from British Antarctic Survey, including Prof. Pete Convey and the Environment Office.	3						X	X	X				

Project Title:

Activity #	Description (max 25 words)	No. of months	UK Financial Year 2023/24												
			Calendar Year 2023									Calendar Year 2024			
			Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	
Testing of EMP in the field	Field team to implement recommendations of EMP during seasonal conservation work at Port Lockroy and Detaille Island, Antarctica.	2										X	X		
Adaptations to EMP	Following feedback from the field team, any necessary adaptations to list of recommendations to be implemented.	2												X	X