

## **DPLR1\1089**

### **Developing conservation practitioners to enable mountain chicken restoration in Montserrat**

The objectives of this project are twofold. Firstly, to collect essential evidence around the efficacy of conservation interventions to restore the mountain chicken frog to Montserrat, one of only two islands on which the species is found. Secondly, we will develop capacity in Montserrat to carry out intensive species recovery projects, as is required for range restricted globally threatened species such as those found in Montserrat.

At present, the mountain chicken is thought to have been extirpated from the wild in Montserrat following a devastating decline due to the global pandemic fungal disease, chytridiomycosis. A biosecure captive population was setup during the species' decline and used to conduct experimental 'hard' reintroductions of the frogs which were not successful due to the continued impact of the disease. We recently established a semi-wild, managed population of mountain chickens in a managed enclosure in Montserrat to determine whether manipulations of the environment (canopy clearance to boost solar exposure and pond heating) to replicate the conditions in which the species had survived best alongside the fungus in previous releases, could facilitate long-term coexistence. This would be a scalable intervention deliverable across the former range of the species. The infrastructure for this project is already in place and so the support of Darwin Plus Local will enable us to deliver our objectives with limited risk; generating data on whether this mitigation strategy is likely to be a scalable tool in the restoration of the species in Montserrat and provide training opportunities enabling us to develop the local skills required to lead endangered species recovery projects.

Success for the mountain chicken specific element of the project can be measured in two ways. Firstly, we will have infection, disease and habitat usage data which will allow us to assess the novel interventions, determining whether we can deploy them at scale across the former range of the species, enabling its restoration. We would also disseminate results through a peer-reviewed manuscript on the success of an intervention relevant to the over 500 species, globally, impacted by the disease. Secondly, we could successfully breed the species and produce the first semi-adult frogs, born in Montserrat since the 2009 outbreak. This would be a major milestone for the project and attract international media attention.

The presence of the semi-wild enclosure, and live-food facility required to produce the insect prey of the species, allows us to provide experience and training in endangered species recovery to practitioners in Montserrat, and give younger individuals a steppingstone into a biodiversity-related career. As anthropogenic threats expand around the world, the threatened species found in Montserrat are increasingly likely to need intensive management to ensure their survival, whether that be through captive breeding or management of wild populations. At present, there is no organisation on the island with the skills to enact such conservation actions and this project will ensure MNT can become a centre of excellence for species conservation in Montserrat.

Project staff will take part in formal and informal training in endangered species recovery, as determined suitable by a training needs assessment for MNT conducted by Durrell Training staff. They will take part in knowledge exchange visits with mountain chicken project staff in Dominica, increasing the impact of this project across the region. Project staff capability will be measured against the IUCN Conservation Practitioner

Competency Framework at project start and end. Interns will be set objectives at the project start, in line with elements of the competency framework, then assessed at project end.

## PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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**Name** Delmaude  
**Surname** Ryan  
**Organisation** Montserrat National Trust  
**Website (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Tel (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Email (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Address** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## CONTACT DETAILS

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**Title** Mrs  
**Name** Sarita  
**Surname** Francis  
**Organisation** Montserrat National Trust  
**Website (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Tel (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Tel (Fax)** [REDACTED]  
**Email (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Address** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

# DPLR1\1089

Developing conservation practitioners to enable mountain chicken restoration in Montserrat

## Section 1 - Project Title & Contact Details

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### Q1. Project Title

Developing conservation practitioners to enable mountain chicken restoration in Montserrat

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

Organisation

#### PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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<b>Name</b>	Delmaude
<b>Surname</b>	Ryan
<b>Organisation</b>	Montserrat National Trust
<b>Website (Work)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Tel (Work)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Email (Work)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Address</b>	[REDACTED]

#### CONTACT DETAILS

---

**Title** Mrs  
**Name** Sarita  
**Surname** Francis  
**Organisation** Montserrat National Trust  
**Website (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Tel (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Tel (Fax)** [REDACTED]  
**Email (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Address** [REDACTED]

## GMS ORGANISATION

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Type	Organisation
<b>Name</b>	Montserrat National Trust
<b>Phone (Work)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Email (Work)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Website (Work)</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Address</b>	[REDACTED]

## Section 2 - Overseas Territory(ies)

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### 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.

Montserrat

**\* 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)?

Yes

**Please list these below and describe how they will benefit:**

Dominica (the only other country in the world, where mountain chickens exist) will benefit from knowledge exchange visits from project staff who will share experience gained on the project. This will aid in the development of our project staff and improve their inter-Caribbean network of conservation practitioners.

## Section 3 - Project Partners

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### 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.

<b>Project Leader name (Guidance section 3.1):</b>	Delmaude C Ryan
<b>Lead Partner name (if applying as an organisation; Guidance section 3.1):</b>	Montserrat National Trust
<b>Lead Partner Website (if applicable):</b>	<a href="http://www.montserratnationaltrust.ms">http://www.montserratnationaltrust.ms</a>
<b>Is the Lead Partner based in a UKOT where the project is working (Guidance section 3.1)?</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
<b>List other partners involved and where are they based (Guidance section 3.2):</b>	Department of Environment, Montserrat Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Jersey UK

Montserrat National Trust – Project Leads. Managing project finances and overall project management. The Trust has the capacity to provide workstations, conference facilities for workshops, house important equipment and serve as a sick bay/hospital for sick frogs and haven for the Mountain Chickens in times of bad weather. The Trust is now 90% off the grid, through solar energy and has a reliable supply of electricity. Two project staff will be employed to provide supporting services to the project.

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

(1) Kaysie Ryan - a local who has attended a Durrell post-graduate Endangered Species Management course and is interested in building her knowledge and a career in wildlife conservation

(2) The recruitment of a Junior Project Officer from among cadets/interns who have been exposed to various aspects of conservation and biodiversity at the MNT.

Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust – Project implementation partners. Providing a Senior Project Staff member to serve as project coordinator, and undertake formal and informal training for local Project Staff and DoE implementation staff. Also provide technical knowledge of the monitoring systems and molecular diagnostics required to understand infection levels in mountain chickens in the semi-wild captive facility.


Department of Environment – Project implementation partners. Provide experienced staff members to assist in the management of the semi-wild enclosure and provide facility to serve as an insect facility for breeding food for the mountain chickens.


**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).**


 [Durrell Letter of Support](#)


 14/02/2023


 22:32:45


 pdf 398.05 KB


 [Cover Letter- Developing Conservation Practitioners-Mountain Chicken Restoration-Montserrat](#)


 14/02/2023


 22:27:32

 pdf 994.55 KB

 [Letter of Support - Department of the Environment](#)

 14/02/2023

 21:42:05

 pdf 481.3 KB

**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 project will build capacity in Montserrat to enable the intensive management of a semi-wild population of Critically Endangered Mountain chicken frogs, threatened by the fungal disease which drove them to near-extinction. It will test interventions designed to re-establish the species across its former range, whilst equipping staff and volunteers to address endangered species management more generally and increase regional expertise. Through internships and outreach events, we will raise awareness of our unique biodiversity and improve engagement in conservation activities.

## 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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intervention relevant to the over 500 species , globally, impacted by the disease. Secondly, we could successfully breed the species and produce the first semi-adult frogs, born in Montserrat since the 2009 outbreak. This would be a major milestone for the project and attract international media attention.

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

*No Response*

## Section 5 - Project Outcome(s)

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### 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	<b>Biodiversity: improving and conserving biodiversity, and slowing or reversing biodiversity loss and degradation;</b>
Unchecked	<b>Climate change: responding to, mitigating and adapting to climate change and its effects on the natural environment and local communities;</b>
Unchecked	<b>Environmental quality: improving the condition and protection of the natural environment</b>
Checked	<b>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.</b>

**Please justify your selection.**

**Biodiversity:**

Evidence on the success of interventions (canopy reduction to increase solar exposure, and heated ponds), in mitigating chytridiomycosis in wild mountain chickens, which could be scaled across the range of the species to aid recovery.

Successful breeding of mountain chicken frogs, with semi-adult frogs produced for the first time since 2009.

**Capability and capacity building:**

Two staff members trained in endangered species recovery and management, enabling MNT to become a centre of excellence for species conservation in Montserrat.

Outreach events in every school in Montserrat lead to increased nature connection on the island, and engagement with conservation initiatives.

**Section 6 - Project Timeline**





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**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 May 2023	31 March 2024	11 months

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

-  [R1-DPlus-Local-Implementation-Timetable-Template MOUNTAIN CHICKEN](#)
-  14/02/2023
-  22:30:59
-  pdf 165.62 KB

**Section 7 - Costs**

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**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).**

Yes

**How much matched funding are you seeking and where from?**

Yes, we have matched funding from Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. Currently, this funding stands at approximately £20,000. This will support the majority of the salary of a Durrell staff member to assist in the project.

Budget line	Explanation	Cost in GBP
<b>Staff costs:</b>	██████ contribution to Durrell staff member based in Montserrat, coordinating the project. Senior Project Officer ██████ Junior Project Officer ██████	██████
<b>Overhead costs:</b>	2,000 overheads for MNT – administrative support for the project, including finance, human resources and network support.	██████
<b>Travel &amp; subsistence costs:</b>	2 x return trips to Dominica for project staff – flights ██████, accommodation and subsistence 8 x ██████	██████
<b>Operating costs:</b>	Monthly fuel £█████ x 11 (██████) Car maintenance & tax £200 / month (██████) Monthly insect facility running costs ██████ x 11 (██████) Enclosure maintenance ██████ Anti-fungal drug itraconazole £█████ x 6 (██████) Nitrile gloves 4 boxes x 11 months x £█████ (██████) Swabs for molecular diagnostics of infection ██████ / box, every 3 months (██████)	██████
<b>Capital equipment:</b>	n/a	██████
<b>Consultancy costs:</b>	n/a	██████
<b>Total:</b>		██████

**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)**

Contribution of [REDACTED] to Luke Brannon, Programme Coordinator on loan to the project 11 months.

Kaysie Ryan, Project Officer – Full time for 11 months to delivery day-to-day activities. ([REDACTED]/month = [REDACTED]).

Junior Project Officer (to be recruited form among previous interns to MNT) – Full time for 11 months to support other staff on project, and undergo conservation training (formal and informal).

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

Overheads of [REDACTED] included. This will contribute to the administrative costs of the project as run by Montserrat National Trust including accounting and human resources, administrative and network support.

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

All individual items below [REDACTED].

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

Fuel: [REDACTED] / month = [REDACTED] – for the project vehicle to travel between Montserrat National Trust HQ, the enclosure site and the live food breeding facility. Vehicle already available. Vehicle maintenance & tax [REDACTED] / month ([REDACTED]) to ensure the vehicle is safe and roadworthy.

Live food facility consumables: [REDACTED] / month = [REDACTED]. Vegetables, fruit and cleaning supplies required to maintain populations of insects needed to feed the mountain chickens at the enclosure site.

Nitrile gloves 4 boxes x 11 months x [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]). To ensure aseptic handling of mountain chickens potentially infected with fungal disease.

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

n/a

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

n/a

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

n/a

**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:
XCD	3.27 XCD = 1 GBP	[ xe.com	09 February 2023

**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?

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

n/a

## **Section 8 - Local and National Priorities**

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### **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 aims to conserve the mountain chicken, the top terrestrial predator and important in ecosystem functioning and pest control. The Montserrat government, through DoE, is a contributor to the Mountain Chicken Long-Term Recovery Plan; a document describing the actions planned to enable the long-term restoration of the species. This project is a direct result and contributor to this plan.

Once a familiar sound – a generation have grown up not hearing a mountain chicken. Local connection to, and sense of responsibility for, nature has decreased as a result. Outreach components will contribute to the GoM's 2020-2030 Youth Development Policy – focusing on employment and social development through provision of teaching/careers advice in priority areas including biology, veterinary medicine and environmental science.

The Ministry of Education in Montserrat is in the process of redeveloping the national curriculum focussing on four key areas: environment, sustainability, climate change and cultural identity. This project will enhance environmental and scientific understanding among students, not only encouraging take up of these subjects but also enhancing sensitivity towards, and knowledge of, the local environment across the population. The mountain chicken is an important part of our heritage and with this project we hope, our future.

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

No

## **Section 9 - Project Risks**

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### **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
Safeguarding: Safeguarding risks during interactions between project staff, members of the public and schoolchildren.	All staff and volunteers of the MNT must sign a child safeguarding policy and abide by that policy in the interaction with children. No youth is left in the presence of one Adult only, Regular workshops are undertaken on child safeguarding matters as part of the Trust's employment policy. Staff is trained in basic first aid and first aid supplies present at all activities. Copies of these policies can be provided upon request.
Extreme weather: Extreme weather events (e.g. hurricanes) damage project infrastructure and place animals in semi-captive environment at risk	Potential hurricane events are closely monitored during the hurricane season. In the event of a hurricane, project staff members will follow local advice to ensure their safety. Quarantine facilities designed to temporarily hold sick animals are set up at MNT headquarters. Should an extreme weather event be anticipated we have the option to move animals on a temporary basis to ensure their safety.
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

**Do you require more fields?**

No

## 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

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### 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:** Sarita V Francis

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**Position in the organisation: (if applicable)** Executive Director

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**Signature (please upload e-signature)**  [S. Francis- E- signature](#)  
 14/02/2023  
 22:15:44  
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**Date:** 14 February 2023

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## Section 12 - Submission Checklist

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### Checklist for submission

	Check
<b>I have read the Guidance documents, including the “Darwin Plus Local Guidance” and the “Darwin Plus Local Finance Guidance”.</b>	Checked
<b>If my proposed project takes place on public lands or water, I have uploaded a Letter of Support from Government.</b>	Unchecked

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<b>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).</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 the project.</b>	Checked
<b>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.</b>	Checked
<b>I have uploaded my project implementation timetable using the specific template provided.</b>	Checked
<b>(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.</b>	Checked
<b>The application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).</b>	Checked
<b>I have checked the Darwin Plus website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.</b>	Checked
<b>I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Plus website.</b>	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: **Developing conservation practitioners to enable mountain chicken restoration in Montserrat**

### 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
1	Manage the live food facility to ensure sufficient prey items for semi-wild mountain chicken frogs	11												
2	Conduct thrice weekly health checks of mountain chickens including provision of feed	11												
3	Take monthly skin swabs of all mountain chicken frogs to determine infection status with chytrid fungus	11												
4	Collect data on the efficacy of environmental manipulations in reducing chytrid in semi-wild mountain chickens	11												
5	Analyse health and habitat use data to determine success of habitat manipulations in conserving the mountain chicken	3												
6	Draft manuscript to disseminate project results in peer-reviewed manuscript, and other press outlets	2												

Project Title: **Developing conservation practitioners to enable mountain chicken restoration in Montserrat**

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
7	Train new Junior Project Officer in the running of an endangered species recovery programme	11												
8	Undertake training needs assessment for project staff (Durrell) and create tailored training plan	2												
9	Provide place on Durrell Endangered Species Management online training course for Junior Project Officer (timing tbc)	1				?	?	?	?					
10	Before and after competency assessment of practitioner staff													
11	Provide placements for college students and internships for college leavers	11												
12	Conduct schools outreach sessions in all schools in Montserrat	8												
13	Hold outreach events including mountain chicken day and mountain chicken hike for the wider community	4												
14	Deliver sessions at Monty's Messengers, Montserrat National Trust youth club during holidays	4												
15	Before and after knowledge and nature connection surveys of outreach participants													
16	Regular project updates on ZJB radio and other press outlets in Montserrat	11												

Project Title: **Developing conservation practitioners to enable mountain chicken restoration in Montserrat**

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	
17	Knowledge exchange visits with Dominica mountain chicken conservation staff	1													