

DPLR2\1016

Beyond The Reef BVI- Ghost Gear Cleanup

Our project objective is to reduce and prevent the damage that is currently happening to the marine ecosystem of the British Virgin Islands as a result of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (also referred to as ALDFG or "ghost gear") that continues to trap and kill marine species and smother coral reefs in an unregulated manner long after the fishing gears intended use.

DPLR2\1016

Beyond The Reef BVI- Ghost Gear Cleanup

Section 1 - Project Title & Contact Details

Q1. Project Title

Beyond The Reef BVI- Ghost Gear Cleanup

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	Kendyl
Surname	Berna
Organisation	Beyond The Reef
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Tel (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	Beyond The Reef
Phone	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Website	[REDACTED]
Address	[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 Virgin Islands (BVI)

* 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):** Kendyl Berna

**Lead Partner name (if
applying as an
organisation; Guidance
section 3.1):** Beyond The Reef

**Lead Partner Website (if
applicable):** www.1beyondthereef.com

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

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

Our key partnerships and stakeholders are the people of the British Virgin Islands, it's hard working fisherfolk, our marine tourism sector and the government including the Ministry of the Environment, Natural Resources & Climate Change.

Outside of Beyond The Reef, we will also contract Triple J trucking for garbage disposal services.

Each stakeholder will be involved from beginning to end and are based in the British Virgin Islands.

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

Since our main goal is to maintain healthy reefs and ecosystem balance, all people and marine life serve to benefit and we hope that this will generate new enthusiasm for conservation within our territory. As far as the specific responsibilities of each partner in the project, Beyond The Reef will be responsible for the boat, fuel, coordination, commercial scuba divers and collection of the ALDFG (ropes, pots, nets and other trash) back from the neighboring islands to Tortola for disposal. We will then hire Triple J Trucking to bring the garbage from the dock at Village Cay Marina on Tortola (where Beyond The Reef is based) to the island's incinerator or recycling if possible for disposal. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries will receive data from us as to how much debris is being collected and ensure that our project is seen through with the government's blessing.

The fisherfolk will be our eyes on the water, reporting any specifically large ropes or nets within the coral reefs and beaches as well as letting us know which specific parts of our territories 60 islands currently have the most abandoned fishing gear in need of removal.


Through creating collaborations between all stakeholders, we will increase awareness of the harm that "ghost gear" does to the environment and the fish stocks that the fisherfolk depend on. This will further education and awareness on this issue and be the first step in creating a reporting system moving forward.


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).

 [Darwin Local- Cover 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.

Our project objective is to reduce and prevent the damage that is currently happening to the marine ecosystem of the British Virgin Islands as a result of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (also referred to as ALDFG or "ghost gear") that continues to trap and kill marine species and smother coral reefs in an unregulated manner long after the fishing gears intended use.

Q6a. Description (Guidance section 2.1 and 6)

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?

Abandoned fishing gear is a massive global problem in that it is unregulated, incredibly harmful to marine life and has a very long lifespan that can bring it thousands of miles from its original place of use. It is responsible for smothering fragile coral, breaking down into microplastics, entangling large marine species such as sharks, whales, dolphins and turtles and being ingested by smaller animals such as fish and seabirds.

While the majority of discarded fishing gear and plastics that end up on our reefs and coastlines come from external sources outside of our territory, we now have the additional stress of thousands of abandoned local fishpots that went missing as a result of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017. These fishing pots now serve as "ghost pots" that have a continuous cycle of trapping and killing fish which then attracts and traps more fish in a continuous problematic cycle.

Our main objective is to identify, analyze and act upon all of the "ghost gear" that continues to cause harm to the marine ecosystem within the BVI. A significant portion of our cleanups will happen on the island of Anegada which boasts the 3rd largest barrier reef in the Eastern Caribbean region and is home to much of the BVI's biomass and biodiversity. Since Anegada's human population is only around 300 individuals, the people and animals of this island are very affected by the ghost gear that ends up on its shores. Additionally, Anegada's coral reefs are already under threat from Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease, so the smothering of fragile corals by ghost gear is particularly an issue here.

We have been working with the people of Anegada for the past several years to systematically remove ghost gear from its coastline and reefs with great success and would like to continue to both remove the ADLFG as it comes while doing all that we can to set up systems for future reporting, monitoring and eventually recycling programs.

We will start by using side scan sonar to survey multiple areas while also collaborating with the government and local fisherfolk who may have already identified areas in which the pots, ropes and nets have been identified. After surveying and collaborating information, we will analyze and act upon each potential hazard within the designated areas. We will do this by either removing the hazards entirely using

salvage equipment and commercial scuba divers, or in the case of metal pots that are embedded with coral, we will modify the object so that they are no longer hazardous and allow safe passage of marine species in and out. In addition to the removal of gear, we will also include a focus on ensuring strengthened collaborations between fisherfolk, government departments and other marine stakeholders.

Our quantitative results will include a survey of 17 proposed areas across the BVI and a subsequent removal of all hazardous materials.

We expect that we will get 1000-1500 pounds of gear each "cleanup day" with 50% of that being fishing related. Since we are proposing 17 cleanup days with an average of 1250 pounds a day, that will lead to 21,250 pounds removed from the ocean and coast. After each cleanup event we categorize the debris collected into pots, ropes, nets, plastics & other debris and record the volumes for each category.

Our qualitative results will include strengthened collaborations within the territory between all marine stakeholders. We plan to use these collaborations to educate stakeholders on the illegal and legal boundaries for fish pots and subsequently establish an official reporting system for hazardous marine debris within the country moving forward.

Q6b. Long-term sustainability (Guidance section 2.1 and 6)


Please describe the long-term benefits of the project and the change it will bring about. How will the outcomes of the project be sustained after the funding is finished?


This project will be a win-win for conservationists and fisherfolk alike both in the short and long term in that it will eliminate a substantial portion of the unnecessary "ghost killing" of marine species which is harmful to both the marine environment as well as to fishermen. By removing 21,250 lbs of debris from the ocean and coastline it will have a direct immediate and long-term effect in preventing additional damage to wildlife in the form of trapping, entanglement and digestion as well as smothering in the case of coral.


It will additionally bring enhanced awareness to this cause within our territory and help us to further establish our organization as a go-to resource for reporting particularly large lost and abandoned fishing gear as well as traps, nets and general areas on the backsides of islands that are in particular need of cleaning.


Furthermore, we will take detailed reporting notes and collect scientific data on the amounts and items that we are removing that will be useful data points for both our own government and community as well as the entire Caribbean and marine science industry for understanding types and quantities of ALDFG that circulates our waters.

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

 [Proposed Cleanup Locations 1-17](#)

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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 contributes to:

- Checked **Biodiversity: improving and conserving biodiversity, and slowing or reversing biodiversity loss and degradation;**
-
- Checked **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. Please use quantitative information where possible here.

Will conserve BIODIVERSITY and increase biomass of fish populations by halting the cycle of "ghost gear" and in particular the "ghost pots" that continue to attract and trap fish in a completely unregulated manner.

Corals are already affected by CLIMATE CHANGE so the harm to coral from ALDFG furthers that.

In general this will improve the BVI'S ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY.

CAPACITY BUILDING in that the project will involve both the government and fisherfolk as well as the general community for reporting. Whenever we do cleanup-up events we post into community board.


Section 6 - Workplan


Q8. Workplan (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 Workplan (available at: <https://darwinplus.org.uk/apply>) 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 must be completed by 31 March 2024.


Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 3 months):
01 October 2023	01 March 2024	6 months

Please upload the completed Darwin Plus Local Project Workplan with your proposed project activities here

 [R2 DPlus Local Project Workplan FINAL \(2\)](#)

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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
Staff costs:		
Consultancy costs:		
Overhead costs:		
Travel & subsistence costs:		
Operating costs:		
Capital equipment:		

Other Costs



Total: 46,395.00

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)

We will have 1 Captain and 4 crew/commercial scuba divers per boat during our cleanings.

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

No Response

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

We will be departing to and from the island of Tortola each day and going to neighboring islands within the BVI. The islands range from 6 to 26 miles away from our base, so we are taking an average of what we believe the fuel might be to and from each cleanup day.

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

In addition to the cost of the boat and its equipment (inclusive of all scuba equipment and tanks), we will also be outsourcing the disposal to Triple J Trucking which will cost us [redacted] GBP/day.

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

No Response

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

No Response

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

Miscellaneous items such as gloves, rope cutters, hacksaw blades, biodegradable trash bags etc: [redacted] GBP

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:
USD	0.79	Google	13 June 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? [redacted]

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

No Response

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.


As a United Kingdom overseas territory, the British Virgin Islands contribute greatly to the UK's ecosystem biomass and biodiversity. Additionally, the BVI has become very focused in the past several years on strengthening its "blue economy". For the BVI, that mostly comes in the form of tourism and more specifically "eco-tourism" in the marine sector via scuba diving and sailing vacationers. As a result, having a clean coastline and pristine reefs is of utmost importance to the territory and doing all that we can to preserve its natural beauty both for nature and tourism appeal is what will keep the BVI's current environmentally friendly economy viable.

Additionally, we hope that this project will continue to encourage conversations with the community and government on the need for establishing a registration system for fish pots so that if and when they become lost or abandoned, they can be reported and looked for as well as returned to their rightful owner upon finding.


Will the project take place on Government owned land or water or involve biocontrol, invasive alien species control or eradication?


Yes

Please attach evidence that you have Government support for this project i.e. a Letter of Support. Applications which indicate that they do not take place on Government land or water, but which propose work that appears to the reviewers would be difficult/impossible to carry out without working on government land or waters may be ineligible if no Letter of Support is provided.

 [DOAF Support Letter - Beyond the Reef Initiat](#)

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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. Please note the importance of health and safety and environmental risk assessment in the design of your project. If there is any possibility that your project may have negative impacts on the environment or human health, it is important that you provide a comprehensive analysis of potential environmental and human health risks, and the prevention measures you will take to

ensure the work does not cause harm.

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
Rough weather during side-scan surveys or cleanup days.	Daily monitoring of weather forecast Named storm within 50 miles of territory stop all operations Additional one month allocated to complete all boat works If weather deteriorates during the day, cease all operations until calmer.
Diver safety including: 1- Diver separation 2- Diver entanglement 3- Puncture wounds 4- Diver running out of air 5- Diver decompression illness	Pre dive safety checks. Pre dive briefing Sandby divers Regular servicing and maintenance of equipment Each diver has adequate safety equipment- knife and gloves Assessing sea, weather and tide each day before work is carried out Following safe diving practices code of conduct Stand-by diver Oxygen & First Aid kits
Vessel engine failure	Regular servicing and maintenance Pre and post engine checks. Re-fuel vessel when down to 1/3 tank

Do you require more fields?

Yes

Risk	Mitigation
Damage to side scan sonar tow fish	Qualified and experienced personnel only to work on the project. Check Navigational charts and ensure in shallow areas the tow fish depth is adjusted. Daily briefings to ensure all personnel know their roles
<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

Supporting documents list (please have these ready to attach with application)

- Cover Letter of no more than two A4 pages. (Guidance section: 4.2 has information on what this cover letter should include).
- If the project takes place on public land or water or is addressing invasive alien species, a Letter of support from OT Government.
- Project Workplan in the template provided for Darwin Plus Local (available at: <https://darwinplus.org.uk/apply>).
- Map and additional information (optional) maximum five additional pages.

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: Kendyl Berna

**Position in the organisation:
(if applicable)** Founder

Signature (please upload e-signature)

 [Signature](#)
 21/06/2023
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Date: 21 June 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 or is addressing alien invasive species, 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 my project that fit this Round.	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 workplan 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: Beyond The Reef BVI- Ghost Gear Cleanup

Darwin Plus Local

Provide a **Project Workplan** that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the following table as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project. Round 2 is for a **maximum of six months** with activities starting from 1 October 2023 and all projects must be completed by 31 March 2024.

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 Years 2023/24						
			Calendar Year 2023			Calendar Year 2024			
			Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	
Pre-Production	We will use this time to discuss the best 17 locations with the fishermen , government and community to fine-tune the exact spots we plan to focus on.	1	X						
Cleanup 1	Location: Anegada, West End	1	X						
Cleanup 2	Location: Anegada, Loblolly Bay	1	X						
Cleanup 3	Location: Anegada, East End	1	X						
Cleanup 4	Location: Anegada, South Reefs	1		X					
Cleanup 5	Location: Necker Island	1		X					
Cleanup 6	Location: Virgin Gorda- South Sound	1		X					
Cleanup 7	Location: Virgin Gorda- Joe Bay	1			X				

Project Title: Beyond The Reef BVI- Ghost Gear Cleanup

Activity #	Description (max 25 words)	No. of months	UK Financial Years 2023/24					
			Calendar Year 2023			Calendar Year 2024		
			Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Cleanup 8	Location: Virgin Gorda- Handsome Bay	1			X			
Cleanup 9	Location: Fallen Jerusalem	1			X			
Cleanup 10	Location: Ginger Island	1				X		
Cleanup 11	Location: Cooper Island East	1				X		
Cleanup 12	Location: Cooper Island South	1				X		
Cleanup 13	Location: Dead Chest Island						X	
Cleanup 14	Location: Norman Island	1					X	
Cleanup 15	Location: Great Thatch Island						X	
Cleanup 16	Location: Jost Van Dyck	1						X
Cleanup 17	Location: Jost Van Dyck	1						X