

**DP\100048**

**Securing endemic land-birds and  
their habitats at Tristan da Cunha**

**Herian, Katrine | Government of Tristan da Cunha, Conservation  
Department**

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**Funding sought**  
**Project start/end**

**£83,429.00**  
**1 Apr 2018 - 31 Mar 2021**

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## 1. Contact Details

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### Q1. Lead applicant contact details

Please enter the contact details for the lead application. The lead applicant is the same as the Flexi-Grant account holder. Please note that the Flexi-Grant account holder will be the only contact point for the application. Additionally, please add contact details for the Project Leader if this is different from the lead applicant.

Ms Katrine Herian

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Conservation Policy Officer  
Government of Tristan da Cunha,  
Conservation Department

Primary Applicant

11 Clarence Street, Penzance, Cornwall,  
TR18 2NU, United Kingdom

Mr Trevor Glass

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Head of Conservation, Government of  
Tristan da Cunha

Edinburgh of the Seven Seas, Tristan da  
Cunha, TDCU 1ZZ, United Kingdom

### Q2. Lead organisation contact details

Please enter the applicant organisation details

Government of Tristan da Cunha, Conservation Department

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Edinburgh of the Seven Seas, Tristan da  
Cunha, TDCU 1ZZ, United Kingdom

### **Q3. Lead organisation type**

Please select one of the below options.

OT Government

**Please add any 'Committee Feedback' to the field below:**

|

**Please add any 'Specific Ineligibility' feedback to the field below:**

|

**Please add any 'Conditions' to the field below:**

|

**Please add any 'Positive Feedback to the field below:**

|

## 2. Title, Dates & Budget Summary

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### Q4. Project title

Securing endemic land-birds and their habitats at Tristan da Cunha

### Q5. Project dates

|                                  |                                |  |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Start date:</b><br>01/04/2018 | <b>End date:</b><br>31/03/2021 | <b>Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):</b><br>3 years |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|

### Q6. UKOT(s)

(See Guidance Notes)

Which UK Overseas Territory(ies) will your project be working in? You may select more than one UKOT from the options below.

St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha\*

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

Tristan da Cunha

In addition to the UKOTs you have indicated above, will your project directly benefit any other country(ies)? If so, list here.

N/A

### Q7. Budget summary

| Year:          | 2018/19    | 2019/20    | 2020/21    | Total request |
|----------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| <b>Amount:</b> | £36,543.00 | £20,443.00 | £26,443.00 | £83,429.00    |

**Q7b. Proposed (confirmed and unconfirmed) co-financing as % of total project cost**

15

### 3. Lead Organisation Summary

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#### Q8. Lead organisation summary

Please provide the following information on the lead organisation

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>What year was your organisation established/ incorporated/ registered?</b>   | 2009 Conservation Department, as part of Tristan da Cunha Government  |
| <b>What is the legal status of your organisation?</b>   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Government   |
| <b>How is your organisation currently funded?</b>   | Tristan da Cunha Government is funded via revenue from an MSC certified fishery. The Conservation Department, 'Tristan Conservation', receives funding from government and from projects. |
| <b>Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts? If you select "yes" you will be able to upload these. Note that this is not required from Government Agencies.</b> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No   |

#### Please provide details:

In an email received on 03.10.2017, Eilidh Young confirmed that as a department of Tristan da Cunha Government, Tristan Conservation would be accepted as financially eligible to lead on a Darwin Plus project and therefore would not be required to provide accounts.

#### Q9. Has your organisation been awarded Darwin Initiative funding before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)?

No

If no, provide details of 3 contracts previously held by your institution that demonstrate your credibility as an implementing organisation. These contracts should have been held in the last 5 years and be of a similar size to the grant

requested in this application.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Contract/Project 1 Title</b>   | BEST 2.0 Small Grant: "Forest restoration and improved biosecurity on Nightingale Island "   |
| <b>Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)</b>                                   | 98,750 euros   |
| <b>Duration (e.g. 2 years 3 months)</b>   | 24 months  |
| <b>Role of organisation in project</b>  | Government of Tristan da Cunha Conservation Department ('Tristan Conservation') is Project Lead, responsible for planning and execution of the project, monitoring and evaluation, managing the budget and technical & financial reporting.  |
| <b>Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project</b>                  | Establish new areas of Phylica woodland upon which the island endemic Wilkins' bunting depend (IUCN: Endangered). Measure the distribution, survival and reproductive success of Wilkins' bunting, while ensuring that biosecurity and local capacity are adequate to protect the island from invasive species that negatively affect Phylica trees. |
| <b>Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail, address, phone number)</b> | Daniela Baigorri, BEST Administrator<br>bestadministrator@env.institute.ac.fk<br>South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI)<br>Falkland Islands, South Atlantic<br>+500 27374   |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Contract/Project 2 Title</b>                         | Otep TDC801: "Geo-referenced baseline vegetation survey of Tristan to allow future monitoring of environmental change" |
| <b>Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)</b> | £48,156  |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)</b>  | 12 months  |
| <b>Role of organisation in project</b>  | Government of Tristan da Cunha Conservation Department ('Tristan Conservation') was Project Lead, responsible for planning and execution of the project, monitoring and evaluation, managing the budget and technical & financial reporting.   |
| <b>Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project</b>                  | A systematic geo-referenced baseline vegetation survey of Tristan Island to map the distributions of native and introduced plants; to produce a photographic catalogue of Tristan's flora; to train Tristan Conservation staff in plant fieldwork skills; to inform conservation management strategy and to allow for future monitoring of environmental change. |
| <b>Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail, address, phone number)</b> | Fiona Hamilton (Programme Officer OTEP)<br>F-Hamilton@dfid.gov.uk<br>Department for International Development (DfID)<br>Abercrombie House, Eaglesham Road<br>East Kilbride, G75 8EA<br>01355 84 3883   |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Contract/Project 3 Title</b>                         | DPLUS028 Assessing the conservation status of the Atlantic Yellow-nosed albatross |
| <b>Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)</b> | £82,080   |
| <b>Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)</b>                | 2 years   |



|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Role of organisation in project</b></p>   | <p>Government of Tristan da Cunha Conservation Department, was a Project Partner on RSPB led project, and was involved in the project planning and execution, responsible for managing the budget on island and for submitting quarterly financial reports to RSPB.</p>                                       |
| <p><b>Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project.</b></p>                  | <p>To obtain robust estimates of Atlantic Yellow-nosed (AYNA) albatross on Tristan da Cunha and build capacity to provide standardised monitoring data on population trends. To provide a global population estimate for the AYNA and establish a Tristan da Cunha population trend monitoring programme.</p> |
| <p><b>Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail, address, phone number).</b></p> | <p>Eilidh Young<br/> eilidh-young@ltsi.co.uk<br/> Darwin Initiative, LTS International<br/> Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan,<br/> Penicuik, EH26 0PL<br/> 0131 440 5181</p>   |

## 4. Project Partners

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### Q10. Project partners

Please list all the partners involved (including the Lead Organisation) 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, and how local institutions, local communities, and technical specialists are involved as appropriate.

Please provide written evidence of partnerships. Please add fields for more partnerships, if required. Details on roles and responsibilities in this project must be given for the Lead Organisation and all project partners.

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Organisation name:</b> | Tristan da Cunha Government Conservation Department ('Tristan Conservation') |
|--------------------------------|--|

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

Tristan Conservation (TC) is a department of the Government of Tristan da Cunha, and headed by Trevor Glass. It was established in 2009 and employs three other permanent local staff.

The role of Tristan Conservation is outlined in the Conservation Ordinance 2006, which was developed to make provision for the conservation of native organisms and natural habitats of Tristan da Cunha. The role of TC in delivering the Ordinance includes: the protection of natural habitat, protection of native organisms, declaration of nature reserves, permits, records and enforcement of the provisions within the Ordinance.

TC staff have been resident on the islands all of their lives and have detailed knowledge of the study sites and familiarity with the land-bird species. TC has developed this proposal as a team and in close collaboration with RSPB.

TC will be responsible for project development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting, and feeding back to the local community, and will be supported by the Tristan Biodiversity Advisory Group.

Trevor has considerable experience of managing projects locally, leading on an EU BEST Wilkins' bunting and habitat restoration project, and as a partner on the Darwin funded first population estimate of endemic Atlantic Yellow-nosed albatrosses since 1973.

**Do you have partners involved in the Project?**

Yes

**The limit for any single file uploaded as supporting materials with your application is 6MB. Please ensure documents are saved in PDF form where possible in order to minimise size.**

**1. Partner Name:**

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Website address:</b>  | <a href="https://www.rspb.org.uk">https://www.rspb.org.uk</a>  |
| <b>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</b> | <p>The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) has been working in the UKOTs for over 20 years; this work is undertaken in partnership with local organisations. The underlying principle of the RSPB's engagement in the UKOTs is to establish enduring relationships with local partners and support their development to lead sustainable conservation programmes.</p> <p>The RSPB is Europe's largest conservation NGO and has successfully delivered and partnered on many Darwin projects that have provided high quality scientific information on conservation issues, as well as direct conservation action. It has a long history of leading the development of bird monitoring methods both in the UK and internationally.</p> <p>Andy Schofield (UKOTs Officer &amp; Partner Development Officer for TdC) has extensive experience of bird surveying and monitoring, capacity building and training local staff in bird-ringing practices to BTO standard. He was appointed as Tristan da Cunha's Biosecurity Inspection Officer for the SA Agulhas voyage to Tristan da Cunha in 2016 &amp; 2017 to work alongside TC staff in carrying out biosecurity inspections in port, on board ship and at the Gough Island World Heritage Site. He will provide on island training in bird survey and monitoring techniques, data management, and biosecurity practices.</p> |
| <b>Would you like to include a letter of support from this organisation?</b>                   | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes   |

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Letter of Support:</b> | <p><b>The limit for any single file uploaded as supporting materials with your application is 6MB. Please ensure documents are saved in PDF form where possible in order to minimise size.</b></p> <div data-bbox="564 282 1391 584"><hr/><hr/><hr/><hr/><hr/><hr/></div> |
|---------------------------|---|

**Do you have more than one partner involved in the Project?**

No

## 5. Project Staff

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### Q11. Project staff

Please identify the core staff on this project, their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project.

These should match the names and roles in the budget spreadsheet.

Please provide 1 page CVs for these staff.

| Name (First name, Surname) | Role                              | % time on project | CV attached below?                  |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Trevor Glass               | Project Leader (TC)               | 30                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Julian Repetto             | Project Fieldworker (TC)          | 30                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| George Swain               | Project Fieldworker (TC)          | 30                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Kirsty Green               | Project financial management (TC) | 10                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Do you require more fields?

Yes

| Name (First name, Surname) | Role   | % time on project | CV attached below?                  |
|----------------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Katrine Herian             | Project management support (TC)                | 5                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Andy Schofield             | Project Partner, deliver local training (RSPB) | 7                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

|              |   |   |                                     |
|--------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| Ruth Sharman | Project financial management support (RSPB) | 2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|              |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

**Please provide 1 page CVs (or job description if yet to be recruited) for the Project staff listed above. Ensure the file is named clearly, consistent with the named individual and role above.**

**The limit for any single file uploaded as supporting materials with your application is 6MB. Please ensure documents are saved in PDF form where possible in order to minimise size.**

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**Have you attached all Project staff CVs?**

Yes

## 6. Background & Methodology

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### Q12. Summary of Project

**Please provide a brief summary of your project, its aims, and the key activities you to undertake. Please note that if you are successful, this wording may be used by Defra in communications e.g. as a short description of the project on GOV.UK. Please bear this in mind, and write this summary for a non-technical audience.**

Strengthened local capacity for improving biosecurity and monitoring breeding land-bird populations and their habitats in the Tristan Group islands informs improved conservation management at Tristan da Cunha. Improved biosecurity for inter-island movement of people and goods and a robust rodent incursion plan for Inaccessible and Nightingale, will ensure these uninhabited islands home to threatened endemic land-birds and the smallest flightless bird in the world, remain rodent-free. Tristan Conservation will lead and manage a Darwin Plus project for the first time.

### Q13. Background

**What is the current situation and the problem that the project will address? How will it address this problem? What key OT Government priorities and themes will it address?**

Tristan, Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands, the Tristan Group, support six endemic land-birds: two rails, one thrush and three buntings. We have some data for Wilkins' bunting *Nesospiza wilkinsi* (IUCN Endangered), but no robust population estimates have been carried out for the other five species.

Inaccessible is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and home to the smallest flightless bird in the world, Inaccessible rail *Atlantisia rogersi* (IUCN Vulnerable). The uninhabited islands of Nightingale and Inaccessible are currently rodent-free but at very real risk of rodent incursion from shipwreck due to increased shipping in Tristan's EEZ (as illustrated by the grounding of MS Oliva at Nightingale in 2011), and native habitats are threatened by changes in vegetation due to invasive alien plant species.

Local capacity will be strengthened for low-effort baseline survey and monitoring of land-bird populations and their preferred habitats. Robust biosecurity measures will be put in place at Inaccessible and for all inter-island transfers of visitors and goods, and a rodent incursion plan implemented for the uninhabited islands.

This project addresses Tristan Biodiversity Action Plan priority 6.4.6: "Monitoring protocols.. put in place for breeding land-birds"; and Gough and Inaccessible Islands WHS Management Plan A1.5 "Eradicate NZ flax from Inaccessible".

### Q14. Methodology



**Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended outcomes and impact. Provide information on how you will undertake the work (materials and methods) and how you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools etc). Give details of any innovative techniques or methods.**

1) Population estimates for six land-bird species. Baseline survey and monitoring will employ low-effort repeatable counts using timed call playback at random GPS-marked fixed points for Tristan thrush (*Turdus eremita*) at Tristan, Nightingale and Inaccessible; Gough moorhen (*Gallinula comeri*) at Tristan; Wilkins and Nightingale buntings at Nightingale (*Nesospiza wilkinsi*, *Nesospiza questi*) and Inaccessible rail (*Atlantisia rogersi*) and bunting at Inaccessible (*Nesospiza acunhae*). Up to 12 Tristan thrush, believed to be island-specific endemic sub-species, will be colour-ringed at each of the islands; mark-recapture will be used to extrapolate the size of territories and population. A drone will assist with locating thrushes on Tristan.

2) Mapping land-bird habitat preferences and monitoring habitat changes. At population count fixed-points, key plant species will be recorded to give thumbnail sketches of habitat type, and fixed-point photography plots will be used to monitor longer-term changes in vegetation.

3) Habitat at Nightingale and Inaccessible improved through control and eradication of invasive plant species. Identified aggressive invasive alien plant species (eg. Soft rush *Juncus effusus*, Rat-tail grass *Sporobolus africanus*) at Nightingale and Inaccessible will be assessed as to the feasibility of their eradication and trials carried out. Two rope access experts will assist TC with removal of NZ flax *Phormium tenax* from the cliffs at Inaccessible contributing towards its eradication; follow up monitoring at Inaccessible and flax removal at Nightingale will be done by TC. Weed monitoring protocol for Inaccessible Island will build on an existing protocol established at Nightingale, and aid with mapping and monitoring new weeds along commonly travelled routes.

4 and 5) Improved biosecurity. Protocols for movement of all visitors and goods between Tristan and the uninhabited islands will be implemented using a novel biosecurity self-audit checklist, spot-checks and boot-wash stations. TC will ensure that all fieldworkers and visitors to the islands are briefed on biosecurity. Our visits to Nightingale and Inaccessible as part of this project will be used to trial a biosecurity protocol for Inaccessible and to refine practices at Nightingale and evaluate their practicalities. A robust Rodent Spill Response plan will be developed for Inaccessible and we will review and build on rodent monitoring and contingency work that has been initiated at Nightingale to ensure that both islands remain rodent-free.

6) Strengthened local capacity. The RSPB will provide training for local Tristan Conservation staff in novel fieldwork methods, bird-ringing to BTO Category C standard, data management and biosecurity practices. RSPB will host two TC staff for an exposure visit and further monitoring and data management training in the UK towards the end of the project. This will strengthen local capacity in scientific research, practical conservation and decision-making. Data will be shared globally. Tristan Conservation local staff will for the first time both lead on and manage a Darwin Plus

project, with support from the Conservation Policy Officer and RSPB's Financial Officer, building on experience of managing projects on-island and contributing to TC's longer-term vision of becoming more independent in the technical and financial management of projects.

**If necessary, please provide supporting documentation e.g. maps, diagrams etc., using the File Upload below. The limit for any single file uploaded as supporting materials with your application is 6MB. Please ensure documents are saved in PDF form where possible in order to minimise size.**

| File name | Date uploaded |
|-----------|---------------|
|-----------|---------------|

## 7. Objectives, Stakeholders & Sustainability

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### Q15. Project Objectives

#### How does this project:

- Deliver against the priority issues identified in the assessment criteria
- Demonstrate technical excellence in its delivery
- Demonstrate a clear pathway to impact in the OT(s)

a) Securing Tristan's land-birds will contribute to "developing data systems on biodiversity" by collecting novel "baseline survey and subsequent monitoring" data for six endemic land-bird species. These will contribute to BirdLife International's online databases to be shared globally. Narrow internet bandwidth means such databases are not easily accessible from Tristan, so a user-friendly Access system will be developed to inform local decision-making.

Our project will directly contribute to "dealing with invasive alien species including prevention through improved biosecurity and eradication/control where species have already become established". This will be achieved by assessing the feasibility of eradicating targeted invasive plant species; controlling targeted invasive plant species and monitoring new arrivals; by developing a rodent incursion plan and integrating it into Tristan Conservation's existing work programme; and by developing, implementing and improving protocols for inter-island movements of people and goods between Tristan, Nightingale and Inaccessible and contributing to biosecurity policy. Our project also addresses Articles 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 17 and 18 of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

b) We have a strong, committed team to deliver this project to the very highest standard. RSPB have been working with Tristan for more than 10 years and have productive and cordial relations through previous collaborations. The approaches we plan to use will allow high quality data to be collected for low effort; essential for long-term monitoring given the remote nature of the islands. The project will run over three fieldwork seasons to ensure sufficient data are collected allowing for the contingencies of bad weather for getting across by boat to Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands. Due to the constraints of getting to the uninhabited islands, the project will maximise the conservation benefits of these trips by integrating baseline surveying and monitoring work, habitat mapping work, invasive plant control work and improving biosecurity practices. Progress will be reviewed against the Log Frame and with support from the Tristan Biodiversity Advisory Group, made up of local islanders and off-island scientific expertise.

c) Securing Tristan Group land-birds has the full support and involvement of both the government and people of Tristan da Cunha. The findings will contribute to conservation priorities described in local conservation management plans (Gough and Inaccessible Islands World Heritage Site Management Plan, Tristan Environment Charter and Tristan Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)); specifically under Objective 4 of

the Tristan BAP: “The impact of alien species is reduced or eliminated”; 4.2 “Non-naturalised alien plants will be prevented from establishing populations in the wild”; 4.3 “The transfer of alien species between islands of the Tristan Group will be prevented”; 4.4 “The programme of control or removal of alien plants will be expanded”. Legacy of the project will be ensured through training, investment in equipment and creation of user-friendly data management systems on Tristan. The project will contribute to TC becoming more independent in developing, delivering, and reporting on a project ensuring the sustainability of conservation at Tristan da Cunha.

## **Q16. 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.**

The main stakeholders are the government and people of Tristan da Cunha. The Island Council and Administrator have been consulted and are fully supportive of the proposal, and have identified specific needs that will be addressed through the project. The TC team have discussed at length how the department would lead on and manage a Darwin Plus project.

TC’s role is fundamental to the project’s success and after training will ensure the legacy of the project. TC staff will be trained to carry out the fieldwork, data gathering and analysis. Project personnel will keep the Tristan people informed of project progress at regular intervals through presentations on island and via the Tristan da Cunha Association website and newsletter. Tristan Government will provide use of government RIBs to get project personnel to Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands.

The RSPB is a stakeholder and works closely with TC through their UKOT Officer providing technical advice and support on a range of technical and project management issues. RSPB will provide survey, monitoring and bird-ringing training and whilst on Tristan, the RSPB Officer will meet officials, engage with islanders and give talks at the school and village hall. RSPB will host two TC staff in the UK for further exposure and training in data management.

The Tristan Biodiversity Advisory Group (T-BAG) will provide oversight of the project fulfilling a steering group function. T-BAG is comprised of ten experts with an active interest in the conservation of biodiversity at Tristan da Cunha.

## **Q17. Institutional Capacity**

**Describe the lead organisation’s capacity (and that of partner organisations where relevant) to deliver the project.**

Tristan Conservation (TC) is a department of the Government of Tristan da Cunha, is

headed by Trevor Glass, and employs three other permanent local staff. The department is supported by a Conservation Policy Officer who works remotely from the UK, with 2-3 months on island each year.

TC became a discrete department in 2009 and is responsible for all conservation issues within the Tristan da Cunha archipelago, including management and monitoring of Tristan, Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands, the 'Tristan Group'. TC manages the eight nature reserves at Tristan and the Gough and Inaccessible Islands World Heritage Site.

TC staff have been resident on the islands all of their lives and have detailed knowledge of the study sites and species. This includes previous involvement in monitoring the Wilkins' bunting at Nightingale and habitat restoration of Phylica woodland, in partnership with RSPB under an EU-BEST project.

TC would be responsible for project development, procurement, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and technical and financial reporting. This would be the first time that TC had undertaken a Darwin Plus project as the lead organisation, and each of the department's staff would have a key role:

Project Leader Trevor Glass has been Head of Conservation on Tristan for 10 years. He has considerable experience of managing projects locally, including as a partner on a Darwin project helicopter survey for the first population estimate at Tristan since 1973 of endemic Atlantic Yellow-nosed albatrosses (2014-16; led by RSPB; total budget £82,000).

Kirsty Green has been Conservation Clerk for 8 years and is responsible for day-to-day financial management, record keeping, time sheets. She works closely with the Tristan Government Finance Officer and Finance Department and was Financial Assistant on the EU-BEST project.

George Swain and Julian Repetto, Conservation Assistants for 8 years, have considerable practical fieldwork experience of working with seabirds and of handling Wilkins' bunting.

Katrine Herian has worked as Conservation Policy Officer for two years, and prior to this was Project Officer on an OTEP Biodiversity Management Planning project at Tristan and Project Manager on a Darwin Initiative project on St Helena. With a botanical background she will assist TC staff with revision on identifying key plant species.

The RSPB have been working in the UKOTs for over 20 years; this work is undertaken in partnership with local organisations. The underlying principle of the RSPB's engagement in the UKOT's is to establish enduring relationships with local partners and support their development to lead sustainable conservation programmes. The RSPB will provide technical expertise and financial management support:

Andy Schofield is RSPB UK Overseas Territories Officer and Partner Development Officer for Tristan da Cunha. He has extensive experience of bird survey and

monitoring, a BTO ringing licence and has acted as Tristan Government's Environmental Inspection Officer for the SA Agulhas II voyages to Tristan da Cunha in 2016 & 2017, responsible for biosecurity inspections across the biosecurity continuum.

Ruth Sharman from RSPB has given financial management support to TC during previous conservation projects.

## **Q18. Sustainability**

**How will the project ensure benefits are sustained after the project has come to a close? If the project requires ongoing maintenance or monitoring, who will do this and how will it be funded?**

Previous projects have provided data and passed on valuable skills, but there has been little time to consolidate and develop these skills alongside a trainer to avoid falling out of use. This project will reinforce these skills, (eg. bird survey techniques, improved bird-ringing skills on land-birds, habitat mapping and data management) with full participation of the conservation team.

At the completion of this project TC will be at a stage where they can continue a regular programme of work, and adapt the skills to future needs. The greater emphasis of conservation training and data management in this project will also ensure benefits are sustained. The establishment and implementation of new biosecurity measures at Inaccessible will ensure that the potential for invasive species to arrive at the island will be minimised and the culture of biosecurity further established on Tristan da Cunha.

RSPB as Project Partner will retain an interest in and contact with Tristan after the end of the project, and be available to provide continuing advice if required, and through the Tristan Biodiversity Advisory Group (T-BAG) of which RSPB are members.

## 8. Funding and Budget

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### Q19. Budget

**Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet linked below, 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 templates for projects requesting over and under £100,000 Darwin Plus budget.**

**R6 D+ Budget form for projects under £100,000**

**R6 D+ Budget form for projects over £100,000**

**Please refer to the Finance Guidance for more information.**

**N.B.: Please state all costs by financial year (1 April to 31 March) and in GBP.**

**Budgets submitted in other currencies will not be accepted. Use current prices – and include anticipated inflation, as appropriate, up to 3% per annum. The Darwin Initiative cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.**

**Please upload your completed Darwin Plus Budget Form Excel spreadsheet using the field below.**

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

### Q20. Co-financing

**Are you proposing co-financing?**

Yes

#### **Secured**

**Provide details of all funding successfully levered (and identified in the Budget) towards the costs of the project, including any income from other public bodies, private sponsorship, donations, trusts, fees or trading activity, as well as any your own organisation(s) will be committing.**

**(See "Finance for Darwin & IWT" and the "Guidance for Applicants" documents)**

Tristan da Cunha Government will contribute £11,448 in co-financing, over 3 years. This will come from staff time input and overheads, and from the use of government crane and land rovers for launching RIBs for fieldwork to the outer islands and remote areas of Tristan.

RSPB will contribute £3,390 in co-financing over 3 years from staff time input.

**Unsecured**

**Provide details of any co-financing where an application has been submitted, or that you intend applying for during the course of the project. This could include co-financing from the private sector, charitable organisations or other public sector schemes.**

| <b>Date applied for</b> | <b>Donor Organisation</b> | <b>Amount</b> | <b>Currency code</b> | <b>Comments</b> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|
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|                         |                           |               |                      |                 |
|                         |                           |               |                      |                 |

**Please give brief details including when you expect to hear the result. Please ensure you include the figures requested in the Budget Spreadsheet as Unconfirmed funding.**

N/A

**Do you require more fields?**

No



## 9. Financial Controls, Value for Money & Open Access

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### Q21. 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?**

Tristan Conservation has experience of managing grant funding and of prioritising spending, and financial reporting as a project lead on the EU BEST Forest restoration project €98,750 and as a project partner on the Darwin Population estimate for Atlantic Yellow-nosed albatrosses at Tristan, £82,000 led by RSPB. The Head of Conservation and Conservation Clerk will be responsible for day to day management of the project funds.

Tristan da Cunha Government follows high standards of financial accountability and control overseen by the Tristan Finance Officer who will be available for on-island support. RSPB will offer off-island project financial management support. Tristan Conservation will keep on track by producing internal quarterly financial and technical reports.

### Q22. Financial Management Risks

**Explain how you have considered the risks and threats that may be relevant to the success of this project, including the risks of fraud or bribery.**

Tristan da Cunha Government has a zero tolerance approach to fraud, bribery and corruption. A discrete Darwin Plus project account will be set up and all financial payments for staff costs, equipment and project expenditure will have to be made through the finance department and approved and signed off by the Tristan Finance Officer.

RSPB have managed a number of Darwin projects and the Conservation Clerk will receive external mentoring through RSPB to ensure sound project financial management and compliance.

### Q23. Value for money

**Please explain how you worked out your budget and how you will provide value for money through managing a cost effective and efficient project. You should also discuss any significant assumptions you have made when working out your budget.**

Value for money will be enhanced through several means:

Procurement of supplies and equipment: Some equipment will be cheaper if purchased in South Africa or the UK; it will be purchased where most cost effective in terms of quality, price and transport considerations.

Project management process: The budget takes account of TC's experience acquired from running previous projects. On-island costs for local labour have been partially offset as a Tristan contribution to funding. Co-financing is 15% of the total project value which includes contributions from Tristan Government and the RSPB. Equipment bought under previous projects has reduced costs.

Unpredictable weather means that it can be difficult to get to Nightingale and Inaccessible by RIB to carry out fieldwork, even in summer. Taking an integrated approach to biodiversity conservation management by combining baseline survey and monitoring, habitat management, invasive plant control and improving biosecurity during fieldwork, will make each fieldwork trip to Nightingale and Inaccessible more cost-effective.

## **Q24. 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.**

All data, reports, photographs and other outputs from the project will be free of access, and available in digital form where possible and appropriate on the Darwin, Tristan da Cunha Association and RSPB websites.

Open access to data and the products of research is a general policy of RSPB.

Annual and half-year reports to Darwin will list project progress and the products available from them. Any papers arising from the project will be published online.

## 10. Logical Framework

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### Q25. Logical Framework

Darwin Plus projects will be required to report against their progress towards their expected outputs and outcome if funded. 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.

Annex D and Annex E in the Guidance Notes provides helpful guidance on completing a logical framework, including definitions of the key terms used below.

#### Impact:

Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands are kept free of invasive species, while securing the future of endemic breeding land-bird populations and their habitats at the Tristan Group islands.

| <b>Project Summary</b> | <b>Measurable Indicators</b> | <b>Means of Verification</b> | <b>Important Assumptions</b> |
|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|

**Outcome:**

Strengthened local capacity for managing biosecurity and the monitoring of breeding land-bird populations and their habitats informs improved conservation management in the Tristan da Cunha archipelago

0.1 Local managers making better-informed conservation management decisions regarding endemic land-bird species

0.2 Local staff continue collecting robust data to inform conservation management beyond project life

0.3 The impacts of new invasive species at Nightingale and Inaccessible are monitored

0.4 Practical biosecurity protocols developed and implemented within the Tristan Group

0.5 Robust rodent incursion plan developed for Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands

0.1.1 Report on land-bird populations and their habitats within the Tristan Group. This informs the Nightingale and Inaccessible management plans

0.2.1 Annual conservation monitoring report submitted to Tristan Government allowing priorities to be set annually

0.3.1 Annual Monitoring report of all invasive species within the Tristan Group islands

0.4.1 Record of interventions and biosecurity self-audit checklists completed within the Tristan Group islands

0.5.1 Record of rodent incursion plan

Capacity is retained on island (either by people staying or training being shared)

trialled and of annual practise

**Output 1:**

A programme for survey / monitoring populations of endemic land-birds at each of the Tristan Group islands implemented (Tristan, Nightingale, Inaccessible) and programme embedded in Tristan Conservation annual work plan

1.1 Logistical plan in place for carrying out all survey work required and equipment in place within the first 3 months of the project

1.2 Robust data sets collected and used to inform Tristan Conservation annual work programme

1.3 Population estimates established for each of the six endemic breeding land-bird species at each of the islands within the Tristan Group in Years 1-3

1.4 Data collected on Wilkins' Bunting helps generate a revised population estimate

1.1.1 Logistical plan and equipment inventory checked by project leader

1.2.1 Annual population data for each species

1.2.2 TC annual work plan and time sheets

1.3.1 Data sheets from annual point counts. Published report in Year 3 of population estimates and trend across 3 years for all endemic land birds within the Tristan Group islands

1.4.1 Annual data sheets on Wilkins' Bunting and new population estimate report

Sufficient project length allows adequate weather windows to get RIB across to Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands to carry out fieldwork, as well as to remoter parts of Tristan

**Output 2:**

Habitat preferences/niches or dependencies for each of the endemic land-bird species within the Tristan Group islands identified and quality of these habitats assessed

2.1 Maps of habitat preferences for Tristan thrush at each of the islands within the Tristan Group and for Gough moorhen at Tristan and the endemic buntings of Nightingale and Inaccessible islands collected in Years 1 & 2 and completed by Year 3

2.2 Fixed point photography plots established by Year 1 to see long term changes in vegetation, especially in association with grazing, human impacts and succession

2.1.1 Habitat maps produced

2.2.1 Habitat photographs collated

Tristan Conservation staff are able to identify key plant species

**Output 3:**

Habitat at Nightingale and Inaccessible islands improved by the control of invasive alien plant species at key sites for land-bird species and feasibility studies carried out on species not yet fully understood

3.1 All large plants of New Zealand Flax at Inaccessible removed in Year 1 and at Nightingale in Year 2, with monitoring in Year 3

3.2 Feasibility assessment for control of identified invasive alien plant species at each island completed by Year 2 and conduct trials in Year 3

3.3 Monitoring of landing sites at Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands to assess for new colonisations on each fieldwork visit.

3.1.1 Monitoring Report in Year 3 to confirm zero plants of NZ Flax can be detected on Inaccessible and Nightingale

3.2.1 Feasibility report on control for targeted species drawn up by Year 2, with report on control trials conducted for these lesser understood species, in Year 3

3.3.1 Weed monitoring protocol for Inaccessible Island for new weeds along commonly travelled routes

3.3.2 Weed monitoring Reports for Nightingale and Inaccessible

Weather conditions allow access to Nightingale and Inaccessible and for control/eradication work to take place

**Output 4:**

Improved biosecurity for inter-island movements of people and goods between Tristan, Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands

4.1 Review and report on current biosecurity policy and implementation by end of Q1 in Year 1

4.2 Inter-island biosecurity policy and protocols for all movement of Tristanians, visitors and goods between Tristan, Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands reviewed and developed by end of Year 1 and implemented through Years 2 & 3

4.3 Record of biosecurity interventions shows decrease over 3 years

4.1.1 Biosecurity policy review report

4.2.1 Biosecurity Protocol for Inaccessible by end of Year 1

4.2.2 Biosecurity self-audit checklists completed

4.3.1. Biosecurity interventions record

Engagement of Tristanians and visitors with biosecurity procedures and checks



|  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p><b>Output 5:</b></p> <p>Robust measures are in place to respond to potential rodent incursion at Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands</p> | <p>5.1 Rodent contingency monitoring work at Nightingale is reviewed and a robust Rodent Spill Response plan for Nightingale and Inaccessible islands is refined/developed and integrated into TC existing work programme by end of Year 1</p> <p>5.2 Rodent Spill Response kit equipment installed at Nightingale and Inaccessible islands by end Q2 in Year 2</p> | <p>5.1.1. Rodent Spill Response plan for Nightingale and Inaccessible islands</p> <p>5.1.2 Annual response plan review</p> <p>5.1.3. Report on refresher training to conservation staff</p> <p>5.2.1 Annual checklist of Rodent Spill Response equipment and visual guide</p> |  |
|--|---|---|--|

**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

| Project summary | Measurable Indicators | Means of verification | Important Assumptions |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|

**Output 6:**

Capacity of Tristan Conservation in fieldwork and data management is strengthened; data shared globally

6.1 Three TC staff trained in survey techniques for monitoring land-bird populations at Tristan, Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands by end of Q3 in Year 1

6.2 Three TC staff demonstrate ability to collect survey / monitoring data of sufficient standard by end of Q3 in Year 1

6.3 Three TC staff demonstrate data management skills post training

6.4 Three TC staff trained in ringing small land-birds to BTO standard and gain Category C permit qualification

6.5 Data shared globally on

6.1.1 TC staff can use equipment and carry out field procedures without supervision

6.2.1 Data collection verified by RSPB trainer's report

6.3.1 TC staff able to interrogate database without supervision

6.4.1 Copies of C permits of qualified staff.

6.5.1 Data are available to conservationists and researchers around the world via websites

Capacity building is retained on island (by either people staying or training being shared).

RSPB trainer secures berth on ship to Tristan

|                  |   |  |  |
|------------------|---|--|--|
|                  | BirdLife online database by end of Year 3 |  |  |
| <b>Output 7:</b> |   |  |  |
| <b>Output 8:</b> |   |  |  |

## 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. Each new activity should start on a new line.**

- 1.1 Organise fieldwork logistics (order equipment, ship it to Tristan, organise fieldwork team)
- 1.2 Carry out survey and monitoring of populations of endemic land-bird species within the Tristan Group
- 1.3 Carry out analysis of data to establish population estimates and trend
- 1.4 Produce revised population estimate for Wilkins' bunting
- 2.1 Record key vegetation species at fixed-point count locations and produce habitat maps
- 2.2 Set up GPS referenced fixed point photography plots and take photographs of vegetation
- 3.1 Carry out programme of removal of New Zealand Flax at Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands and monitor the efficacy of work carried out
- 3.2 Identify invasive alien species at each island for control feasibility assessment and conduct trials
- 3.3 Carry out checks for new colonisations at landing sites and commonly travelled routes on Nightingale and Inaccessible
- 4.1 Review current biosecurity policy and implementation plan, identifying strengths, weaknesses and gaps
- 4.2 Develop and implement biosecurity protocol for movement of vessels, visitors and goods between Tristan and Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands
- 4.3 Establish recording system for biosecurity interventions
- 5.1 Review rodent contingency monitoring work at Nightingale and build on this to develop and implement Rodent Spill Response plan for Inaccessible
- 5.2 Purchase Rodent Spill Response kit equipment and install at Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands
- 6.1 Provide training to TC staff in land-bird survey / monitoring techniques
- 6.2 Develop user-friendly data systems on Tristan and train TC in their use
- 6.3 Provide off-island data management training at RSPB for two TC staff
- 6.4 Provide training to TC staff in ringing small land-birds to Category C permit qualification requirements
- 6.5 Collate data and share with partner and internationally via websites

## 11. Implementation Timetable

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**Q26. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities**

**Please complete the Excel spreadsheet linked below to describe the intended workplan for your project.**

**[Darwin Plus Implementation Timetable XLS](#)**

**Please add 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.**

## 12. Monitoring and Evaluation

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### Q27. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan

**Describe, referring to the Indicators above, 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.**

The Project Leader Trevor Glass will be responsible for implementing M&E. The project will utilise the Logical Framework and Timetable of Activities as the basis of monitoring progress and reporting to Darwin. These will be reviewed regularly, evaluating progress against key aims and outputs.

Trevor will be assisted by the Conservation Policy Officer and a Monitoring & Evaluation plan will be developed at project start-up in consultation with the project partner and the Tristan Biodiversity Advisory Group (T-BAG). Project personnel will be in frequent contact over project progress, and priorities for output completion discussed and revised where necessary. Annual and half-year reports to Darwin will summarise progress against the planned outputs and activities.

Survey/Monitoring (Output 1): Nightingale and Inaccessible islands are difficult places to reach and work, and past experience has shown that it is necessary to be flexible and to adapt to changes of plan beyond the control of project personnel, therefore we plan for frequent M&E reviews to keep the project on track and provide early solutions to potential problems. Project Leader will ensure that data collection remains on track throughout. RSPB trainer will assist TC with the analysis of data to arrive at population estimates and trend.

Habitats assessment (Output 2): The Project Leader with assistance from RSPB and Conservation Policy Officer, will lead on collation and mapping of habitats and species preferences and updated as data comes in across the project. The long term monitoring plots will be set up in Year 1 and images taken in Years 1 & 3 of the project. Long term monitoring will be undertaken by TC staff.

Habitat Improvement (Output 3): Two Rope access experts will assist TC with the removal of large flax plants at Inaccessible; TC staff will carry out removal of flax at Nightingale, and the follow up monitoring at both islands in Year 3 to confirm zero plants detected. TC staff will conduct trials to control targeted invasive plants and monitor the effectiveness of methods.

Biosecurity (Outputs 4 and 5): Rodent Spill Response plan for Inaccessible will be informed by TC's review of rodent contingency monitoring at Nightingale, and with assistance from the RSPB trainer who has considerable experience of biosecurity monitoring. TC will be responsible for ensuring compliance with biosecurity self-audit

checklist procedures for all visitors to Nightingale and Inaccessible during the project and post-project, and will carry out spot checks of footwear and equipment.

Training (Output 6): RSPB trainer will lead 'on the job' training during visit to Tristan da Cunha. The performance of each trainee will be monitored and documented throughout and where necessary skills improved where shortcomings are uncovered. RSPB will also host two TC staff for an exposure visit and further monitoring and data management training in the UK towards the end of the project.

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Number of days planned for M&amp;E</b>   | 66        |
| <b>Total project budget for M&amp;E (this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)</b> | £7,966.00 |
| <b>Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&amp;E (%)</b>                               | 8         |

## 13. Certification

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### Q28. Certification

On behalf of the

trustees

of

Tristan da Cunha Government

I apply for a grant of

£83,429.00

in respect of all expenditure to be incurred during the lifetime of this project based on the activities and dates specified in the above application.


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 uploaded CVs for project principals and letters of support.
- I have uploaded our most recent signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report (if appropriate).



|                                     |                                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>                         | Sean Burns                     |
| <b>Position in the organisation</b> | Tristan da Cunha Administrator |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Signature (please upload e-signature)</b> |  |
| <b>Date</b>                                  | 09/10/2017   |

**If this section is incomplete the entire application will be rejected.**



## 14. Submission Checklist

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### Checklist for submission

|  | Check                               |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Have you read the Guidance documents, including the ' <u>Guidance Notes for Applicants</u> ' and ' <u>Finance Guidance</u> '?                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Have you read, and can you meet, the current <u>Terms and Conditions</u> for this fund?  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Have you provided actual start and end dates for your project?   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Have you provided your budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP?                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Have you checked that your budget is complete, correctly adds up and that you have included the correct final total at Q7?                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Has your application been signed by a suitably authorised individual?  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Have you uploaded a 1 page CV for all the Project Staff (listed at Q11) on this project, including the Project Leader?                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Have you included a letter of support from the applicant organisation, <u>main</u> partner(s) organisations and the relevant OT Government?  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Have you uploaded a signed copy of the last 2 years annual report and accounts for the lead organisation, or provided an explanation if not? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Have you checked the <u>Darwin Plus website</u> to ensure there are no late updates?   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |