

Applicant: **Hudson, Mike**
Organisation: **Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust**
Funding Sought: **£265,923.00**
Funding Awarded: **£265,923.00**

DPR8S2\1023

DPLUS105 Building capacity to make Montserrat a mountain chicken refuge

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title Mr
Name Jeff
Surname Dawson
Organisation Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
Email (Work) [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
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CONTACT DETAILS

Title Dr
Name Mike
Surname Hudson
Organisation Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
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Address [REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Charity/ trusts
Name	Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust
Phone (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q3a. Project title

DPLUS105 Building capacity to make Montserrat a mountain chicken refuge

Q3b. What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DPR8S1\10008

DPR8S1\1083

Q4. UKOT(s)

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

Montserrat

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

Yes

Please list below.

Dominica

Q5. Project dates

Start date:

01 July 2020

End date:

31 March 2023

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

2 years, 8 months

Q6. Budget summary

Year:	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Total request
Darwin funding request (Apr - Mar)	████████	████████	████████	£ 265,923.00

Q6a. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

Matched funding in the form of in-kind support in staff time from Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust for project management and support. This will also cover M&E activities. Durrell staff time will also be provided for training new Mountain Chicken Project Officers in mountain chicken project relevant skills and in

carrying out a Training Needs Assessment for DoE. Durrell will also fund aspects of the project through private donations committed to the project by members throughout the last 12 months of approximately £8000 across the project.

DoE staff time will be provided for co-managing the mountain chicken enclosure and live food facility, and in training of Mountain Chicken Project Officers in forestry skills. Finally, DoE will provide staff time for assisting in outreach activities, both in schools and in the wider community.

ZSL will provide staff time for a laboratory technician to conduct real-time PCR analyses of skin swabs taken during the project to determine chytrid fungus infection status of the semi-captive mountain chickens.

Staff time will also be provided as in-kind support from Zoological Society of London, Chester Zoo, NordensArk and Bristol Zoo. These zoos breed frogs in captivity for release and will also send staff to Montserrat to provide training to Mountain Chicken Project Officers in animal husbandry.

A grant application to a private foundation from which Durrell receives regular donations has been submitted to cover approximately £[REDACTED] a year for the first two years of this project. A result is expected in December.

The final year's funding from a National Geographic grant (c. £[REDACTED] will cover flights, vehicle maintenance and some running costs of the project in Year 1. Terrariet Reptile Zoo (£[REDACTED] and Paignton Zoo (£[REDACTED] will also provide support during Year 1 to support ongoing habitat manipulation trials within the semi wild enclosure. There is a possibility of this funding being extended reducing the deficit later in the project..

We are actively seeking £[REDACTED] of funding for the final year of the project through grants and private donors. Should we fail to raise this money, Durrell will cover the costs to ensure the project is delivered in full.

**Q6b. Proposed (confirmed & unconfirmed) 28%
matched funding as % of total project cost
(total cost is the Darwin request plus
other funding required to run the project).**

Section 3 - Lead Organisation Summary

Q7. Summary of Project

Please provide a brief summary of your project, its aims, and the key activities you plan to undertake. Please note that if you are successful, this working may be used by Defra in communications e.g. as a short description of the project on GOV.UK.

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

No Response

Q8. Lead organisation summary

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

Yes

If yes, please provide details of the most recent awards (up to 6 examples).


Reference No	Project Leader	Title
IWT074	Jeff Dawson	Cracking wildlife smuggling in Madagascar
IWT03	Andrew Terry	Breaking the chain: Combating the illegal trade in ploughshare tortoises.
18009	Dr Glyn Young	Saving the Madagascar Pochard: the world's most endangered duck
18018	Andrew Terry	Enabling Montserrat to save the mountain chicken
17025	Dr Richard Young	Building evidence and capacity to conserve Hispaniola's endemic land mammals
15505	Dr Glyn Young	Conservation of the Mangrove Finch (<i>Cactospiza heliobates</i>)


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.

Yes


Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.


 [DWCT Anti Bribery Policy 2017](#)


 26/11/2019


 18:37:42


 pdf 466.18 KB


 [DWCT 2018 Annual Report](#)

 26/11/2019


 17:43:38


 pdf 2.21 MB


 [DWCT 2017 Report and Financial Statement](#)

 26/11/2019


 13:30:25

 pdf 1.88 MB

 [DWCT 2018 Report and Financial Statement compressed \(1\)](#)

 26/11/2019

 13:21:22

 pdf 5.21 MB

Section 4 - Project Partners

Q9. 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. Please provide Letters of Support for the Lead Organisation and each partner or explain why this has not been included.

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

Lead Organisation name:	Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust
Website address:	https://www.durrell.org/wildlife/
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	Durrell has one full time staff member (Mountain Chicken Project Coordinator) on Montserrat who will be responsible for daily oversight of the project's activities and supervision of in-country project staff members who are embedded within DoE and MNT. Durrell's MCPC reports to a full-time staff member in the UK and is fully supported by Durrell's Field Programmes and Conservation Knowledge Teams in the UK, and the Herpetology teams at Jersey Zoo. In addition, Durrell has dedicated training, public engagement and M&E departments who will provide expert advice in these components of the project. Durrell has been actively involved with the recovery of the mountain chicken frog on Montserrat and Dominica for more than two decades and is fully committed to the MCRP partnership.
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Have you provided a cover letter to address your Stage 1 feedback?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Do you have partners involved in the Project?	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	
1. Partner Name:	Montserrat Department of Environment (DoE)

Website address: <http://www.gov.ms/ministries-and-departments/ministry-of-agriculture/>

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

- In-country host and long running partner of MCRP
- Provide support regarding; fieldwork, continued management of Insect breeding facility and MC SAFE haven field sites.
- Will be partially responsible for the training and development of MCRP Project Officers whilst they are seconded to them.
- Partner in all outreach and engagement activities.

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

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

Yes

2. Partner Name: Montserrat National Trust (MNT)

Website address: <http://montserratnationaltrust.ms/>

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

- Employing two Mountain Chicken Project Officers as full-time staff (seconded to DoE two days a week) over the course of the project.
- Part of the project officer's role will involve acting as the trusts environmental outreach officers all outreach will be a collaboration between all three on island partners.
- Host the outreach workshop at the start of the project to agree a unified outreach strategy across all partners.
- Host a workshop to develop the 5-year management plan at the end of the project
- Work alongside Durrell, DoE and the Board of Tourism to develop improved sign posting and nature connection opportunities along Montserrat's nature trails.

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

3. Partner Name: Montserrat Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports (MoEYAS)

Website address: <http://www.gov.ms/ministries-and-departments/ministry-of-health-education/>

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

- To provide support in organising outreach activities and events
- To facilitate the development of further youth programmes and volunteer opportunities with the MCRP (for example by supporting an environmental youth ambassador programme), all which feeds into creating an avenue for engagement and future succession into environmental roles on island
- Enable policy change in the following areas: 2020-2030 Youth Development Policy (focusing on areas such as Youth development, under employment and social development); Review of the National Curriculum Programme. Taking place between 2020-2023, this review aims to focus on incorporating four key areas into the national curriculum; Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change and Cultural Identity. The Mountain Chicken Project covers all four of these areas, and so the Ministry support the inclusion of the mountain chicken into the curriculum as a tool to enable the teaching of scientific process and skills and reclaiming species as part of the cultural identity of the island through literacy and art.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

4. Partner Name:

WildDominique

Website address:

No Response

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

WildDominique, the Mountain Chicken Project partners on Dominica, will take part in staff knowledge transfer trips between Dominica and Montserrat, ensuring this project has impact across the Caribbean. WildDominique carry out ongoing monitoring of the remnant wild population of mountain chickens on Dominica where chytridiomycosis and a series of devastating hurricanes have reduced the population to approximately 50 animals.

These exchanges will increase staff motivation on both islands, as well as providing novel skillsets to both organisations. WildDominique will gain knowledge and skillsets relevant to captive husbandry and intensive conservation management techniques. DoE staff and Mountain Chicken Project Officers will gain wild monitoring skills focussed on the population of mountain chickens on Dominica, as there are likely no wild animals left on Montserrat.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

5. Partner Name: ZSL, NordensArk, Chester Zoo & Bristol Zoo

Website address: *No Response*

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): ZSL, NordensArk, Chester Zoo and Bristol Zoo are partners in the captive breeding programme and are providing animals for future release on Montserrat. Animals released on Montserrat in July 2019 were bred at ZSL. Partner zoos also provide remote veterinary assistance and staff time to enable transfer of skills from the European captive managers to staff on Montserrat. At least one member of partner zoo staff will maintain a continuous presence on Montserrat to assist programme activities, with increased focus around future release efforts. Partner zoos will also provide emergency response staff/resources in the event of a future chytridiomycosis outbreak.

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

6. Partner Name: *No Response*

Website address: *No Response*





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





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

If you require more space to enter details regarding Partners involved in the Project, please use the text field below.

Letters of support are also included from Head of the Governor's Office (FCO) on Montserrat and the Programme Management Office within the Ministry of Finance.

Please provide a cover letter responding to feedback received at Stage 1 if applicable and a combined PDF of all Letters of Support.

 [DWCT Response to Stage 1 Feedback](#)
 26/11/2019
 18:51:35
 pdf 231.13 KB

 [DWCT Letters-of-support](#)
 26/11/2019
 17:40:45
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Section 5 - Project Staff

Q10. Project Staff

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

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

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Mike Hudson	Project Leader	30	Checked
Luke Jones	Project Coordinator	100	Checked
Richard Young	Scientific oversight	2	Checked
Jeff Dawson	Strategic and logistic support	2	Checked


Do you require more fields?

Yes


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Lloyd Martin	Field Expert	20	Checked
Calvin Fenton	Field Expert	15	Checked
Rachael Gerrie	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	3	Checked
To be hired	Mountain Chicken Project Officer x 2	100	Checked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	Unchecked

Please provide 1 page CVs (or job description if yet to be recruited) for the Project staff listed above as a combined PDF.

Ensure the file is named clearly, consistent with the named individual and role above.

 [DWCT Project-Staff-CVs](#)

 26/11/2019

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Have you attached all Project staff CVs?

No

If you cannot provide a CV or job description, please explain why not.

Terms of Reference have been developed for the two Mountain Chicken Project Officer Roles (to be recruited) and are attached.

We have attached a summary of experience for Calvin Fenton as he does not have a CV.

Section 6 - Background & Methodology

Q11. Problems the project is trying to address

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

For example, what are the specific threats to the environment that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems? How will your proposed project help? What key OT Government priorities and themes will it address?

This project aims to restore biodiversity on Montserrat. In the absence of native land mammals, the mountain chicken is the top terrestrial predator on Montserrat and its presence is vital to ecosystem functioning and crop-pest control. *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd) arrived on Dominica in 2002 and Montserrat in 2009, decimating both islands' mountain chicken populations. Bd persists in reservoir amphibian species on both islands rendering eradication impossible. Mechanisms are therefore required to enable the reintroduction of mountain chickens in the presence of Bd. The Mountain Chicken Recovery Programme (MCRP) aims to recover a species from the brink of extinction and, in doing so, act as a globally important case study in the fight against a disease threatening amphibian survival globally. This project addresses two UN Biodiversity goals; 15.5 by taking urgent and significant action to halt biodiversity loss and protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species; and 15.8 by introducing measures to reduce impact of invasive alien species (Bd) on ecosystems. Once a familiar sound – a generation have grown up without hearing a mountain chicken calling. Local connection to, and sense of responsibility for, nature has decreased as a result. Public/schools outreach and capacity-building components will contribute to the Government of Montserrat'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 project will also support a forthcoming national curriculum review (between 2020-2023), focusing on incorporating local environmental issues under four key areas: environment, sustainability, climate change and cultural identity. This project will enhance environmental

and scientific understanding among all students, not only encouraging take up of these subjects at the tertiary education level but also embedding sensitivity towards, and knowledge of, the local environment at all levels within the future workforce.

Q12. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and Impact.

Provide information on:

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

Please make sure you read the [Guidance Notes](#) before answering this question.

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

To re-establish a semi-wild, breeding population of mountain chickens on Montserrat and enable long-term protection of the species, this project combines groundbreaking habitat manipulation initiatives with in-country conservation capacity building and public/schools engagement activities. Knowledge of the efficacy of habitat manipulation in mitigating chytridiomycosis will be improved and disseminated to conservation practitioners globally.

The project will be managed according to Open Standards for Conservation with M&E coordinated by Durrell. Durrell's Conservation Scientist will manage the project, whilst the Durrell Project Coordinator delivers day-to-day activities, supported by partners. Partner responsibilities are included below. Durrell's Heads of Field Programmes and Conservation Knowledge will provide strategic, technical and logistical support.

Methodology

1) Research demonstrates microhabitat manipulation can increase temperatures outside those tolerated by Bd (Hudson, 2016). To test whether this can effectively mitigate chytridiomycosis in the wild (supported by literature e.g. Scheele et al. 2014) we have constructed an enclosure in mountain chicken habitat in Montserrat – a world first – within which we will artificially heat ponds and cut back vegetation to increase UV penetration and reduce prevalence of environmental Bd. Captive-bred frogs were released into the enclosure in 2019. We will track use of manipulated microhabitat for 24 months using an automated PIT tag detection system and camera traps, and combine with molecular diagnosis to determine individual Bd infection status. A multi-state mark-recapture framework will determine relationship between manipulated microhabitat use and infection status (e.g. Hudson et al. 2016). A second enclosure is planned for 2022, enabling another reintroduction and increasing immediate conservation impact. Guided by the project results, a workshop will be held with project stakeholders to develop a five-year conservation plan for the species on Montserrat.

II) Capacity building

Two Mountain Chicken Project Officers (MCPO) will be employed by MNT. They will receive training in all aspects of Mountain Chicken Project delivery and husbandry in addition to forestry training by senior DoE officers. A Training Needs Assessment will be undertaken for DoE to ensure training has the greatest


impact and ensure Montserrat's ability to conserve biodiversity is not compromised when current staff members retire. MPCOs will be integrated into DoE at project-end to ensure skills retention. Knowledge exchange visits between Montserrat and Dominica will facilitate replication and increase project impact.


III) Public engagement

Engaging young people is essential to this project as a generation have grown up on Montserrat without hearing a mountain chicken calling. We will reconnect children with their biological heritage through schools outreach and incorporating local environmental issues, including the mountain chicken, into the National Curriculum. As there is no clear route for graduating college students to forge an environmental career, we will work with DoE and MoEYAS to provide students with MCRP experience placements, college projects and mentoring. We will develop and deliver a strategy to maximise public engagement with biodiversity conservation and MCRP on Montserrat, in collaboration with MNT and DoE. The strategy will incorporate previously successful activities (e.g. radio broadcasts, local festivals) alongside new initiatives including bespoke walking trail signage.

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

 [DWCT References](#)

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Section 7 - Stakeholders and Beneficiaries

Q13. Project Stakeholders

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

This project has been co-developed with Montserrat Government Department of Environment and Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports to ensure genuine commitment to, and engagement with, the project. We have explicit partnerships with each, and letters of support are provided. A Training Needs Assessment will be undertaken with DoE and senior forestry members will provide training to newly recruited MCPOs. In collaboration with DoE, MoEYAS will ensure the representation of local environmental issues at the forthcoming national curriculum review. MoEYAS will also assist in the development of school resources and career guidance activities. It is vital that the proposed 5-year conservation plan is developed jointly with DoE and participatory workshops will ensure this is the case. DoE have committed verbally to implement the plan providing appropriate finances are available.

Montserrat National Trust will employ, and provide training for, MCPOs and will assist delivery of public engagement activities – Durrell and MNT have shared this responsibility since the 2000s. MNT also provide quarantine facilities for European captive bred frogs arriving on island. WildDominique have been working with Durrell since the outbreak of Chytrid on Dominica in 2002 and will participate in staff exchanges throughout the project.

European zoo partners will continue to breed frogs for release and will be consulted in the development of the conservation plan. Students and members of the public are also project stakeholders and to engage with these groups, the project will scale up outreach activities including increased regularity of school

sessions and volunteer opportunities.

Q14. Institutional Capacity

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

Durrell runs field programmes at 14 sites in 10 countries, each with a strong focus on local partner collaboration and evidence-based conservation action. We are leading experts on the mountain chicken frog, having been directly involved in the conservation of the species, both in- and ex- situ, since 1997. Durrell is also a key partner in a captive safety-net breeding programme in European zoos. We have had permanent staff presence in Montserrat since 2009, conducting research and undertaking public engagement activities and reintroductions. We now have one full-time Project Co-ordinator on Montserrat who is responsible for project delivery and supervision of project staff.

Dr Mike Hudson's PhD examined methods for mitigating chytridiomycosis in the mountain chicken in-situ. This novel research underpins the trials currently being undertaken in Montserrat and Dr Hudson provides management to MCRP from the UK, in addition to strategic and scientific support. Durrell has dedicated training, public engagement and M&E departments who will provide expert advice in these components of the project and has recently developed a competency register to improve skills training for conservation professionals worldwide. The project will be adaptively managed using the Open Standards for Conservation.

Montserrat National Trust will lead on the public engagement elements of the project (host festivals/create walking trail signage) and will provide office space and resources for the two newly recruited MCPOs. DoE will support school outreach activities and provides one field expert (25% time to project) for monitoring mountain chickens in the wild and post-release in the enclosures.

Q15. Project beneficiaries

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

This project will improve the Government of Montserrat and Montserrat National Trust's ability to act to save mountain chickens and other threatened species in the long-term by providing conservation training and institutional capacity building, with measures in place to ensure knowledge, skills and personnel are retained. Two Project Officers will benefit directly from full time employment and training.

Schools engagement activities will increase scientific and environmental knowledge through the inclusion of local environmental issues in the curriculum and outreach sessions across Montserrat's seven schools (reaching at least 75% of 700 students). These activities will highlight environmental career opportunities available to students and enhance nature connectedness. Benefits associated with nature connectedness include; improved physical and mental wellbeing (Richardson & McEwan, 2018); stronger relationships between students and teachers; and transferrable skills relevant to many areas of employment including priorities listed by Government of Montserrat. Public engagement activities outside of schools will use the mountain chicken as an ambassador to enhance community knowledge of, and connection to, nature and, by bringing communities together around conservation, improve social cohesion.

Through staff exchanges, WildDominique will gain knowledge in captive insect breeding and habitat

manipulation techniques enabling these practices to be implemented in Dominica if necessary.

Section 8 - Gender and Change Expected

Q16. Gender (optional)

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

Gender equality is a core value for the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust and our implementing partners, and we do not anticipate our project increasing gender inequality in any way. Recruitment of Mountain Chicken Project Officers and volunteers during the project will be open to female and male candidates and there will not be any discriminatory conditions placed on them that would restrict equality.

No increase in inequality between persons of different gender is expected as a result of schools and public engagement activities. Participation in schools outreach sessions and uptake of voluntary positions/MCRP projects by college students will be recorded and disaggregated by gender and we will aim for volunteer placements and college projects to be taken up equally by male and female students.

Both Sarita Francis, Director of MNT, and Ernestine Corbett, Director of DoE are strong female figures who will act as role models to young women interested in the MCRP and careers in the environmental sector.

Q17. Change expected

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

Short-term, this project aims to re-establish a semi-wild population of mountain chickens (*Leptodactylus fallax*) on the island of Montserrat (population increase from c.2 to c.50). Local partner capacity will be increased through training of two new Montserratian staff members in all aspects of MCRP including husbandry, habitat management and public engagement. This will ensure skills essential for conserving the island's unique biodiversity are not lost when current Forestry Officers retire. Knowledge exchange visits between Dominica and Montserrat will increase conservation capacity across the species range.

The project will deliver MCRP specific outreach alongside broader environmental and conservation-based messaging to local schools/colleges. The goal of student outreach is to build social/environmental responsibility and encourage uptake of environmental careers, using the mountain chicken as a familiar example. As a result of engagement initiatives, public and students will demonstrate increased knowledge of the status of and threats to mountain chicken and its prey, aiding future protection. By integrating the mountain chicken 'brand' into nature trails and tourist attractions, increased tourism opportunities will be provided.

Long-term, we aim to install a series of manipulated refuges across the historical range of the mountain chicken, modelled on New Zealand's mainland island concept. Restoring an island-wide population will reinstate lost environmental functions of an apex predator providing benefits to farmers, e.g. through crop-pest control. The species' presence will also reconnect Montserratians, particularly children, to the

island's environmental and cultural heritage. If successful, this project will provide the world's first effective method to manage amphibians, susceptible to chytridiomycosis, in their native environment from which the fungus cannot be eradicated. The interventions will be transferable to hundreds of species impacted by chytridiomycosis worldwide. Montserrat will be at the forefront of a conservation breakthrough, drawing attention from global scientific and conservation communities, in turn providing economic benefits to the island.

Q18. Pathway to change

Please outline your project's expected pathway to change. This should be an overview of the overall project logic and outline how you expect your Outputs to contribute towards you overall Outcome, and, longer term, your expected Impact.

This project will use environmental manipulation (heating beyond temperatures tolerated by Bd) to mitigate chytridiomycosis in a field setting. A second enclosure build and second release of captive bred frogs (first release July 2019) are planned by project-end. By project-end we hope to have released c.50 animals and observed evidence of breeding. If successful, this will increase the estimated mountain chicken population on Montserrat from c.2 to c.50 representing a milestone in this species' recovery. This project will establish feasibility of a series of interconnected chytrid-free enclosures across the species' historical range. If feasible, this will enable population expansion and associated ecosystem benefits, e.g. crop pest control, and provide a model for conserving threatened amphibian species worldwide. The co-development of a 5-year conservation plan will ensure efforts in the medium-term contribute directly to intended long-term impact.

Two Mountain Chicken Project Officers will be recruited and trained and integrated into Montserrat DoE at project end to ensure conservation capacity is retained into the future and change can be facilitated long-term. The project will scale up provision of schools and public engagement activities, increasing connection to and knowledge of MCRP and conservation more broadly, ultimately improving protection efforts for the species.

Q19. Sustainability

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

Durrell was a founding partner of the MCRP and key contributor to the IUCN Species Action Plan to 2034. The five year conservation plan (output 3) will be developed in line with the SAP, ensuring all proposed interventions contribute directly to agreed long-term goals. We will recruit and train two Montserratian Mountain Chicken Project Officers. Skills will remain on island and be retained longterm, as the two roles will be integrated into the DoE's nominal role post-project. Knowledge of, and responsibility toward, Montserrat's natural heritage will be increased further through student and public engagement activities. To encourage uptake of scientific subjects at degree level, access to environmental and scientific careers advice will be provided. If successful, this project will be the first step towards leaving a legacy of conservation-minded professionals in Montserrat.

To reinstate a viable population of mountain chicken frogs on Montserrat will require continued releases, maintenance and monitoring for a minimum of 5-10 years. DoE have the required funding in place for species monitoring. Durrell has a dedicated fundraising team, including two FTE grants fundraising officers, to ensure fundraising can meet the project's forecasted expenditure. Any shortfall is met by Durrell's core commercial revenue.

Section 9 - Funding and Budget

Q20. Budget


Please complete the appropriate Excel spreadsheet, which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet. Note that there are different templates for projects requesting over and under £100,000 from the Darwin Plus budget.

- [R8 D+ Budget form for projects under £100,000](#)
- [R8 D+ Budget form for projects over £100,000](#)


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

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

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.

 [DWCT Darwin-plus-budget R8FINAL](#)

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Q21. Co-financing

Are you proposing co-financing?

Yes

Q21a. 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 [Guidance Notes](#))

Donor organisation	Amount	Currency code	Comments
National Geographic	██████	USD	Secured for Year 1
Paignton Zoo (Whitley Wildlife Conservation Trust)	██████	£0.00	GBP

Terrariet Reptile Zoo	██████	DKK	<i>No Response</i>
Durrell in-kind contribution	██████	GBP	Staff salaries: Dr Mike Hudson, Dr Richard Young and Jeff Dawson

Q21b. Unsecured

Provide details of any matched funding where an application has been submitted, or that you intend applying for during the course of the project. This could include matched funding from the private sector, charitable organisations or other public sector schemes. This should also include any additional funds required where a donor has not yet been identified.

Date applied for	Donor organisation	Amount	Currency code	Comments
03 October 2019	Private donor	██████	GBP	Result expected in December 2019
<i>No Response</i>	Actively seeking	██████	GBP	We are actively engaging with Durrell donors and seeing grant funding opportunities to fulfil this need.
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	0	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

Do you require more fields?

Yes

Unsecured - Additional fields

Date applied for	Donor organisation	Amount	Currency code	Comments
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No Response	Montserrat DoE in-kind contribution	██████	XCD	SECURED - no remaining fields above: Lloyd Martin and Stephen Mendes salary contribution
No Response	ZSL in-kind contribution	██████	GBP	SECURED - no remaining fields above: Molecular technician salary contribution
No Response	No Response	0	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	0	No Response	No Response

Section 10 - Finance

Q22. 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?

Project funds will be received at our Headquarters in Jersey and be monitored by Durrell's Finance Department with overall responsibility lying with Rebecca Brewer, Head of Finance, who has more than a decade of experience in the corporate finance sector and reports directly to Durrell's CEO. Project disbursements will be made directly from there to the Montserrat National Trust, who will be responsible for distributing finances in Montserrat. Durrell project managers will hold regular meetings with MNT to monitor expenditure. All expenditure will be managed following our administrative handbook, which requires multiple quotes for large expenditures, management of receipts, monitoring of cash balances and bank account reconciliations. All project expenditure is audited as part of the lead partners' annual audit process, and the project expenditure will be audited specifically at the end of the project. Durrell's financial policy and control process documents are available on request.

Q23. Financial Management Risk

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.

Montserrat is primarily a cash-economy and as such, the risk of misappropriation of funds is higher than normal. To mitigate risks, Durrell will have a Memorandum of Understanding with Montserrat National Trust, which will establish how project funds are to be managed and put in place quarterly joint project account reviews to track project spend at regular intervals. MNT will require receipts for all expenditures including cash purchases.

In addition, there is strong internal scrutiny to mitigate the risk of fraud. Durrell has an anti-bribery policy

which all project members are required to have read and follow (attached).

Q24. 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.

Project staff costs are necessarily high, owing to the nature of proposed activities, e.g. capacity building/monitoring/husbandry/public engagement. Every effort has been to ensure our staff recruitment and training model is as cost-effective as possible. By end Y1, 2 additional FTE staff members will be employed explicitly for mountain chicken work on Montserrat (4 total). MCRP Officers will coordinate activities outside the normal purview of MNT/DoE, compensating for any areas that the two organisations do not have capacity for and increasing overall conservation-capacity on the island. Having highly skilled personnel on island allows us to restrict international flights to a minimum. A Training Needs Assessment combined with the use of Durrell's competency register will ensure training is targeted, representing value for money by filling knowledge and capacity gaps in DoE and MNT with a view to long term skills retention, which will benefit future projects and employees also.

The build of the first enclosure is already complete. Lessons learned from the first enclosure build will be used to ensure the second enclosure build is as cost-effective as possible. To provide supplementary feed to mountain chickens in the enclosure, insects are bred in newly built facilities on Montserrat, mitigating any costs that would otherwise be associated with importing prey items. Interested local people donate food for the insects so minimal costs are incurred here. We have a strong working relationship with in-country partners who provide existing office space/facilities etc. so that expensive infrastructure build and maintenance costs are not needed.

Q25. Capital Items

If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin Funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end.

The largest capital purchase is a project vehicle. The current project vehicle is exceptionally expensive to maintain due to its age, as such a new vehicle is required. Public transport on Montserrat is poor and local partners have already stretched vehicle requirements. To achieve the activities set out in this proposal, therefore, a project vehicle is essential. The vehicle purchased under this project will be owned by Montserrat National Trust and, after this project has come to an end, will be used for other conservation and public engagement activities. Signage will be hurricane proof and regularly maintained so it remains as a legacy for Darwin and MCRP, carrying the logos of both. The second enclosure (not Darwin funded) will remain with only maintenance required. Environmental monitoring kits will be used for the duration of this project and repurposed at project end to be useful to other conservation projects on Montserrat.

Q26. 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.

We have allocated £1050 in the project budget to enable one gold open-access publication in a

peer-reviewed journal based on the results of post-release monitoring and the habitat manipulation trials. In addition, we have requested £[REDACTED] from Darwin to enable us to present the findings at one international conservation conference to maximise dissemination to relevant parties. We will also publish one article in Amphibian Survival Alliance's 'Froglog' or similar, practitioner-focussed conservation publication. Teaching materials developed under this project, funded under 'outreach materials' in the Darwin budget will be freely available to other educational institutions through DoE and MNT and will be made available to schools on Dominica. We will raise awareness of their availability during exchange visits. The five-year conservation plan developed under this project will be published on the MCRP website and distributed through specialist amphibian conservation groups for the benefit of other organisations working with chytridiomycosis affected species. We have included costs for attending one UK conference in the project budget to disseminate project findings. Communications and media skills will be important aspects of the newly recruited Mountain Chicken Project Officer roles. Enhanced capacity in this area will mean we can increase project communications on the website and social media channels, as well as generate greater publicity around project outputs in the national and international media to increase project impact.

Section 11 - Safeguarding

Q27. Safeguarding

Projects funded through Darwin Plus must fully protect vulnerable people all of the time, wherever they work. In order to provide assurance of this, projects are required to have appropriate safeguarding policies in place. Please confirm the lead organisation has the following policies in place and that these are available on request:

We have a safeguarding policy, which includes a statement of your commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse	Checked
We keep a detailed register of safeguarding issues raised and how they were dealt with	Checked
We have clear investigation and disciplinary procedures to use when allegations and complaints are made, and have clear processes in place for when a disclosure is made	Checked
We share our safeguarding policy with downstream partners	Checked
We have a whistle-blowing policy which protects whistle-blowers from reprisals and includes clear processes for dealing with concerns raised	Checked
We have a Code of Conduct in place for staff and volunteers that sets out clear expectations of behaviors - inside and outside of the work place - and make clear what will happen in the event of non-compliance or breach of these standards	Checked

Section 12 - Logical Framework

Q28. 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.

Impact:

Viable mountain chicken populations persist and fulfil their ecological role across Montserrat by 2039. DoE's capacity to enact successful conservation interventions is improved by training a new generation forestry officers.

Project summary

Measurable Indicators

Means of verification

Important Assumptions

Outcome:

Montserratian conservation capacity is developed enabling the delivery of a 5-year conservation plan for mountain chickens using intensive management strategies and supported by an increased local connectedness with the species.

0.1 Two Mountain Chicken Project Officers are appointed and trained during the project are awarded full-time employment contracts by DoE at the end of the project enabling DoE to deliver mountain chicken conservation efforts independently.

0.2 Successful chytridiomycosis mitigation strategies are implemented which result in no chytridiomycosis related mortality of mountain chickens maintained within semi-wild enclosures by the end of Year 2.

0.3 Successful management strategies result in at least one successful mountain chicken breeding attempt in semi-wild enclosures on Montserrat by Year 2 Q2 representing the first successful breeding of the species on Montserrat in 10 years.

0.4 A five-year management plan to increase the population size and range of mountain chickens on Montserrat is agreed by project partners by Year 3 Q2, scoping strategies started, DoE workplans ratified and funding proposals developed.

0.5 Public

0.1a Training records maintained by the employees against the competency framework and signed by trainers.

0.1b Signed contract of employment between mountain chicken project officers and Government of Montserrat.

0.2 Health-reports and swab results submitted to project veterinarians.

0.3 Reports, photographs and video evidence of mountain chicken tadpoles in Montserrat.

0.4 A five-year management plan is printed and approved by all MCRP partners.

0.5.a Nature connectedness surveys using the Nature Connectedness Index over the lifespan of the project.

0.5.b Questionnaires of attitudes towards mountain chickens conducted under an experimental framework with groups using signed and unsigned National Trials.

0.1.a Suitable candidates are available on Montserrat and are retained until the project end.

0.1.b There are no financial or personnel constraints on DoE that prevent contracting permanent members of staff.

0.1.c There is no change in DoE management which results in project officers not being offered permanent roles at the end of the project.

0.2 Novel interventions are successful in preventing chytridiomycosis in the population.

0.2 No extreme weather events severely damage the enclosure or cause mortality in mountain chickens.

0.3 Conditions within the semi-wild enclosures experienced by mountain chickens during phase one and two do not negatively impact the likelihood of breeding.

0.4 Project partners remain engaged in the project long-term.

0.5 Schools remain willing to engage in outreach events.

0.6 Key project staff are

connectedness with mountain chickens and nature is increased compared to 2020 baseline levels in students and adults across Montserrat.

retained throughout the project ensuring continuity.

Output 1:

Enhanced capacity exists within Montserrat DoE to implement effective conservation actions through newly recruited and highly trained Project Officers.

1.1 A training needs assessment identifies the skills gaps and training needs of DOE staff in Year 1 Q1 and informs the design of a tailored training programme delivered to staff from Year 1 Q2.

1.2 By end of Year 1 Q2 two Mountain Chicken Project Officer roles in MNT are filled by Montserratians.

1.3 Mountain Chicken Project Officers demonstrate high level of competency in all required skills described in the Durrell Conservation Practitioner Competency Framework.

1.4 By project-end, Mountain Chicken Project Officers can manage the insect facility, the mountain chicken enclosures, run outreach project activities and are trained in data collection and management.

1.5 By project-end, Mountain Chicken Project Officers are trained in wildlife monitoring and forestry skills sufficient to independently carry out DoE's responsibilities.

1.6 Annual staff exchanges between DoE / MNT and

1.1 Training needs assessment reports completed and approved by local partners.

1.2 Two Mountain Chicken project Officers are employed by MNT.

1.3.a Training register confirms MCPOs have achieved all competencies outlined in the Durrell Conservation Practitioner Competency Framework.

1.4 Training reports produced and post-training evaluation completed.

1.5 Compilation of training progress reports by senior forestry staff from DoE demonstrating competency in required forestry skills.

1.6.a Report from staff involved in exchange visits highlight knowledge and skills transferred.

1.6.b Questionnaire shows increased motivation levels in staff taking part in exchanges.

1.1 Suitable training providers are identified and available should training needs assessment identify needs beyond existing internal training capacity.

1.2 Suitable candidates are identified on Montserrat and agree to be employed by MNT for the duration of the project.

1.4 Mountain Chicken Project Officers are retained throughout the project ensuring they receive a full schedule of training

1.6 There are no political or climatic issues that prevent travel between the islands for the duration of the project.

WildDominique
(Mountain Chicken
Project Dominica
partner), ensures
transfer of knowledge
and skills in mountain
chicken conservation
between both islands
and increasing staff
motivation.

Output 2:

Mountain chicken population established and surviving in a semi-wild managed environment with signs of breeding and carrying capacity of enclosures is increased to 50.

2.1 Habitat manipulation techniques are trailed for 24 months at enclosure site to determine efficacy in mitigating chytridiomycosis a field setting.

2.2 At least 800 swabs are taken and processed with real-time PCR to determine chytrid fungus infection status of mountain chickens within the enclosure.

2.3 No mortality from chytridiomycosis with optimal body condition indexes in mountain chickens one and two years after entering enclosure.

2.4 Breeding attempts recorded by end of Year 1 show captive-bred and reintroduced mountain chickens have successfully adapted to their wild environment.

2.5 A second enclosure is constructed in forest within the historical range of the mountain chicken on Montserrat by project end, increasing carrying capacity of enclosures to at least 50.

2.6 Second mountain chicken cohort released into new enclosure by project end bringing the enclosure population to at least 50.

2.7 Knowledge gained

2.1 Technical reports and recorded data.

2.2 Swab database and reports for partners on infection status.

2.3 Annual reports of mountain chicken survival, chytrid infection, treatment regimens and breeding based on monitoring data.

2.4 Reports and photographs of mountain chicken paired burrow use and / or foam nests.
2.5 Reports and photos on building of second enclosure.

2.6 Report on transport of MCs.

2.7.a Email confirmation of submission of a manuscript for peer-review, or online availability.

2.7.b Article in Froglog or similar practitioner-focussed conservation publication.

2.8 Inclusion of the project in conference programme.

2.1.a No mountain chicken mortality caused by disease within enclosure.

2.1.b The live food colony does not suffer a collapse in numbers, restricting project staff to providing wild insects collected on a regular basis.

2.2 All 27 mountain chickens survive the duration of the project, ensuring this number of swabs can be taken.

2.3 Extreme climatic events such as hurricanes do not damage enclosure or result in mortality of mountain chickens.

2.4 Trials within the first enclosure are successful in mitigating chytridiomycosis justifying the construction of a second enclosure.

2.5 Appropriate land is secured and agreements with landowners are achieved within project timeframe.

2.6.a Sufficient mountain chickens are available in captivity for release and animals survive the transport from Europe to Montserrat.

2.6.b No mountain chicken mortality caused by chytridiomycosis within the first enclosure

from the project is disseminated through a peer-reviewed paper and practitioner focussed literature by project end.

2.8 Project outcomes are presented at a conservation conference in Year 3 to maximise the international dissemination of results.

ensuring ethics approval will be awarded for the establishment of the second population.

2.6.c Sufficient funding is raised to enable the construction of the second enclosure and the transport of frogs.

2.7 Results from the project progress at the expected rate allowing publication by this date.

2.8 Presentation is accepted at a suitable conference.

Output 3:

5-year conservation management plan for mountain chickens on Montserrat is created based on the results of the trials in the semi-wild enclosure.

3.1 Results from trials in Output 2 are presented during a workshop attended by international programme partners and stakeholders in Year 3 Q1 and a five-year management plan is developed and ratified by Year 3 Q2.

3.2 Timescale and implementation plan for scaling up phase agreed by relevant stakeholders by Year 3 Q2.

3.3. Potential areas for future expansion of the mitigation strategies identified in the management plan identified by project end.

3.4 Funding opportunities have been identified and proposals developed to enable delivery of the actions agreed in the 5-year management plan by project end.

3.1 Workshop reports and minutes.

3.1.b Plan printed and disseminated to project partners.

3.2. MOU on the implementation of the management plan signed by all partners.

3.3 Report on sites identified.

3.4. Draft proposals and submission confirmations.

3.1 No political or extreme weather problems prevent the hosting of a workshop.

3.2 All stakeholders remain engaged in the project and agree with all activities in the management plan.

3.4 Suitable funding opportunities remain available or alternative funding sources are identified.

Output 4:

. Increased public engagement with nature in Montserrat using the mountain chicken as an ambassador through outreach events and schools engagement.

4.1 The public and schools engagement plan is agreed by Durrell, DoE, MNT, and MoEYAS activities are being implemented in each year of the project, starting Year 3 Q3.

4.2. At least one outreach activity is undertaken, annually, in every educational institution (five primary schools, one secondary school and one college), covering at least 75% of the 700 students on Montserrat by project end.

4.3 A month long internship is facilitated for at least two students per year within the mountain chicken project in collaboration with MoEYAS including mentoring for high school seniors and college enrollees interested in environment careers.

4.4 Mountain Chicken Day events are held in each year of the project engaging at least 5% of the Montserrat population (approx. 250 people) each year.

4.5 Project staff are interviewed on Montserrat's radio station (ZJB) at least three times per year in each project year.

4.6 At least 1000 unique individuals engage with

4.1 Outreach plan has been signed by each of the relevant project partners by Q4 2020

4.2 Monthly activity reports detailing e.g. number of activities delivered, summary of activity, number of participants, activity leader.

4.3 Report submitted by the students involved.

4.4 Annual mountain chicken day report.

4.5 Monthly activity reports.

4.6 Records of social media engagement.

4.7 Photographs of signage on hiking trails.

4.8.a Meeting reports produced by project staff members in attendance.

4.8.b Lesson plans reviewed with staff members of two schools delivering elements of the new curriculum.

4.1 There is no disruption to leadership of one of the relevant partners, which prevents agreement.

4.2 Schools want to participate in outreach sessions.

4.3 Sufficient students apply for the immersion experience each year.

4.4 Outreach activities attract expected audiences through radio exposure and word-of-mouth.

4.5 ZJB want interviews about the project at this frequency.

4.6 Peaks in project activity do not prevent creation of new material in any given month.

4.7 There is no change to the management of DoE which results in a refusal to allow the erection of signage on national trails.

4.8.a National curriculum review goes ahead.

4.8.b There is no change to staffing within the MoEYAS which is detrimental to the involvement of project staff in the national curriculum review process.

project social media posts in each year of the project.

4.7 Nature focussed signage is produced and erected on at least four hiking trails in the Centre Hills protected area by end of the first year of the project.

4.8 By project end, at least two national curriculum review workshops have been attended by project staff to promote inclusion of mountain chickens and local environmental issues into national curriculum.

Output 5:

No Response

No Response

No Response

No Response

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.

No

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.

Please note – in this section, we have indicated where an activity is co-funded in parentheses at the end of each relevant activity.

1.1 Training needs assessment conducted for DoE (co-funded)

1.2 Advertise and interview for two Mountain Chicken Project Officers

1.3 Appoint two Mountain Chicken Project Officers

1.4 Develop training schedule for Mountain Chicken Project Officers according to Durrell competency framework and training needs assessment for DoE

1.5 Training of Mountain Chicken Project Officers in Forestry skills and conservation management in-line with mountain chicken project activities

1.6 Monthly reports of activities and training progress by Mountain Chicken Project Officers

1.7 Mountain Chicken Project Officer attends DESMAN course in Jersey, Channel Islands

1.8 Exchange visits between Montserrat and Dominica mountain chicken staff (MCPOs, DoE staff,

WildDominique staff)

- 2.1 Monthly capture, skin swabbing for chytrid fungus DNA and morphometric measurement recording of all mountain chickens in the enclosure (co-funded)
- 2.2 Thrice-weekly feeding of all mountain chickens, including visual health check and enclosure integrity check (co-funded)
- 2.3 Weekly pond changes within the enclosure
- 2.4 Monthly data logger download (including pond use auto-PIT tag reader, camera traps and environmental data loggers) (co-funded)
- 2.5 Monthly health reports sent to project veterinary and husbandry experts
- 2.6 Analyse health and habitat use data to determine success of habitat manipulations
- 2.7 Report and manuscript production based on data from 2.6
- 2.8 Present results of study at an international conservation conference
- 2.9 Conduct survey of sites on Montserrat to assess suitability for the construction of a second enclosure
- 2.10 Request permission from landowner for construction of second enclosure
- 2.11 Oversee construction of second enclosure (co-funded)
- 2.12 Build boxes for transport of second release cohort of mountain chickens (co-funded)
- 2.13 Transport second cohort of frogs to Montserrat (co-funded)
- 2.14 Release second cohort of frogs to the second enclosure (co-funded)

- 3.1 Hold workshop with project staff and government and European Zoo partners to discuss results of trials and plans for scaling-up of conservation activities
- 3.2 Draft 5-year mountain chicken conservation management plan based on the workshop from 3.1
- 3.3 Project partners sign MOU to deliver activities in 5-year conservation management plan
- 3.4 Develop implementation plan for management plan along with timeline
- 3.5 Write report on recommended sites for expansion of the management interventions as part of the 5-year plan
- 3.6 Identify suitable funding sources for 5-year conservation management plan activities
- 3.7 Develop and submit proposals for the funding sources identified in 3.6

- 4.1 Hold workshop between Durrell, DoE, MNT and MoEYAS to agree an outreach strategy for the project on Montserrat covering annual activities and responsibilities (co-funded)
- 4.2 Draft outreach strategy based on the results of the workshop in 4.1
- 4.3 Produce outreach materials to facilitate schools and wider community outreach (co-funded)
- 4.4 Conduct baseline nature connectedness surveys in schools and in the wider community
- 4.5 Conduct outreach sessions in each educational facility in Montserrat in each year of the project
- 4.6 Host college students within the project for two weeks to provide experience in environmental careers (co-funded)
- 4.7 Host college student projects throughout the project
- 4.8 Conduct outreach activities on international Mountain Chicken Day in collaboration with local and international partners
- 4.9 Conduct interviews on Montserrat National Radio (ZJB) to discuss project progress
- 4.10 Post project information and activities on project social media channels
- 4.11 Design mountain chicken and nature-based signage for use on National Trails
- 4.12 Tender production of signs and deploy them on National Trails (co-funded)
- 4.13 Conduct surveys in an experimental framework to determine efficacy of signage in driving improved attitude towards mountain chickens
- 4.14 Conduct end of project nature connectedness surveys in schools and wider community
- 4.15 Attend National Curriculum review workshops to aid integration of mountain chickens and nature into curriculum
- 4.16 Support DoE and MNT in the production of curriculum resources
- 4.17 Review lesson plans with teachers to aid deployment of new National Curriculum elements into


Section 13 - Implementation Timetable

Q29. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities

Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the Excel spreadsheet template as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project.


[Implementation Timetable Template](#)


Please add/remove columns to reflect the length of your project. For each activity (add/remove rows as appropriate) indicate the number of months it will last, and fill/shade only the quarters in which an activity will be carried out. The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

 [DWCT Darwin-plus-R8-ImplementationSchedule](#)

[e](#)

 26/11/2019

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Section 14 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q30. 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. Additionally, please indicate an approximate budget and level of effort (person days) to be spent on M&E (see [Finance Guidance for Darwin/IWT](#)).

Durrell's UK-based M&E team will be responsible for the project monitoring and impact evaluation framework and Durrell's Head of Conservation Knowledge, reporting directly to the CEO, will have final responsibility for project M&E. In-country, Durrell's Mountain Chicken Programme Coordinator will be responsible for undertaking M&E activities, assisted by MCPOs and partner staff.

Specific techniques have been developed for monitoring mountain chickens post-release to test the efficacy of habitat manipulation in mitigating chytridiomycosis in-situ. Durrell and partner staff will track use of manipulated microhabitat for 24 months using an automated PIT tag detection system and camera trap imagery. Monthly skin swabs will be taken from released frogs to determine presence of chytrid fungus and

morphometric measurements will be recorded to assess and track body condition, and examine the frogs for signs of disease and injury. Data from PIT tag detected system and camera traps will be combined with monthly molecular diagnosis to determine individual Bd infection status. A multi-state mark recapture framework will determine relationship between manipulated microhabitat use and infection status (e.g. Hudson et al. 2016).

The MCPOs will anonymously log all interaction with the project over social media during the project time frame, e.g. number of reactions or shares on a post or number of tweets/posts shared about a mountain chicken event or festival. They will note whether these interactions were positive/negative/neutral to allow public attitudes towards the project to be tracked over time.

To evaluate the success of schools and public engagement activities, the project will use a combination of species attitude surveys and the Nature Connectedness Index (NCI), which has accredited National Statistic status in the UK. Using pre and post surveys, the NCI considers people's affective and experiential relationship with nature (Richardson et al., 2019). A weighted points index has been developed running from zero (low nature connectedness) to a maximum score of 100 (high nature connectedness). Based on our own trials at our international field sites, this index is the most robust to cultural variation as it includes no references to specific situations, objects or habitats. We will survey a sample of 200 students and 200 members of the public in 2020 to develop a baseline and expect to see an increase from this baseline in 2022 following participation in engagement activities, e.g. schools outreach sessions, volunteer placements and signed walking trails.

The project team, chaired by Dr Mike Hudson, will meet quarterly to review project progress against the M&E framework and ensure plans are put in place to address any elements that are behind schedule. The M&E framework itself will form part of the project plan, developed using the Opens Standards for conservation. The plan will be adaptively managed, with quarterly progress reviews and annual plan reviews.

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

Number of days planned for M&E 100.00

Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%) 7.00

Section 15 - Certification

Q31. Certification

On behalf of the

trustees

of

Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust

I apply for a grant of





£265,923.00

I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the project schedule should this application be successful.

(This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the applicant institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)

- I have enclosed CVs for project key project personnel, letters of support, budget and project implementation timetable (uploaded at appropriate points in application).
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report are also enclosed.

Checked

Name	Jeffrey Dawson
Position in the organisation	Acting Head of Field Programmes
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 Jeff Dawson e-signature  26/11/2019  14:44:44  png 9.25 KB
Date	26 November 2019

Section 16 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance documents, including the "Guidance Notes for Applicants" and "Finance Guidance".	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 this proposed project.	Checked
I have provided a budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April - 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that the budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	Checked
I have included a 1 page CV or job description for all the Project staff identified at Question 14, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.	Checked

I have included a letter of support from the Lead Organisation and main partner organisation(s) identified at Question 13, or an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a cover letter from the Lead Organisation, outlining how any feedback at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant.	Checked
I have been in contact with the FCO in the project country(ies) and have included any evidence of this. if not, I have provided an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a signed copy of the last 2 years annual report and accounts for the Lead Organisation, or provided an explanation if not.	Checked
I have checked the Darwin website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates.	Checked
I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on GOV.UK.	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant (Flexi-Grant Account Holder) and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current application rounds under the Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus and our sister grant scheme, the IWT Challenge Fund. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share our quarterly project newsletter. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

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

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