
DPR9S2\1002

Habitat restoration and wise use for Akrotiri and Cape Pyla

The project aims to restore key wildlife habitats within the Cyprus SBAs, focusing on Akrotiri wetlands and native scrub on Cape Pyla (Dhekelia), while also developing eco-tourism opportunities to support the local economy and encourage wise use.

On Cape Pyla, we focus on management to tackle invasive acacia and restore natural vegetation, while on Akrotiri peninsula the focus is on sustainable reed-bed management, including through cattle grazing, and implementing an access management plan to tackle the disturbance threat for wildlife.

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title Mr
Name Martin
Surname Hellicar
Organisation BIRDLIFE CYPRUS
Website (Work) www.birdlifecyprus.org
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
Email (Work) [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	BIRDLIFE CYPRUS
Phone (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Website (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q3a. Project title

Habitat restoration and wise use for Akrotiri and Cape Pyla

Q3b. What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DPR9S1\10008

DPR9S1\1071

Q4. UKOT(s)

Which eligible UK Overseas Territory(ies) will your project be working in?

Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia (on Cyprus)

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

working on here:

No Response

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

No

Q5. Project dates

Start date:

01 July 2021

End date:

30 June 2024

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

3 years

Q6. Budget summary

Year:	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total request
Darwin funding request (Apr - Mar)	£59,800.00	£135,250.00	£113,250.00	£33,850.00	£ 342,150.00

Q6a. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

Project partners will make contributions in the form of time devoted to the project by existing staff, funded from other sources:

1. Co-funding contribution from BirdLife Cyprus [REDACTED] of time of Director Martin Hellicar, as Project leader, [REDACTED] of the time of Research Coordinator Christina Ieronymidou, as Project Scientific Advisor and [REDACTED] of time of Accountant Myria Achilleos, as Project Finance officer. This contribution will be covered by funding support to BirdLife Cyprus from the Tasso Leventis Conservation Foundation.

2. Co-funding contribution from Terra Cypria [REDACTED] of the time of Executive Director Lefkios Sergides, who will be the Communications Lead for the project. This contribution will be covered by funding support to Terra Cypria from the A.G. Leventis Foundation.

3. Co-funding contribution from the RSPB: [REDACTED] of the time of Senior Sites Manager John Badley for 2022 and 2023. John Badley will be Site Management Advisor for the project, visiting the project from the UK in 2022 and 2023 .

Q6b. Proposed matched funding as % of total project cost ■
(total cost is the Darwin request plus other funding required to run the project).

Section 3 - Project Summary and Conventions

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](https://www.gov.uk).

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

The project aims to restore key wildlife habitats within the Cyprus SBAs, focusing on Akrotiri wetlands and native scrub on Cape Pyla (Dhekelia), while also developing eco-tourism opportunities to support the local economy and encourage wise use.

On Cape Pyla, we focus on management to tackle invasive acacia and restore natural vegetation, while on Akrotiri peninsula the focus is on sustainable reed-bed management, including through cattle grazing, and implementing an access management plan to tackle the disturbance threat for wildlife.

Q8. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Please detail how your project will contribute to the aims of the agreement(s) your project is targeting. What key OT Government priorities and themes will it address? You should refer to Articles or Programmes of Work here. You should also consider local, territory specific agreements and action plans here.

The project will contribute towards three Conventions:

1. Convention on Biological Diversity

The Akrotiri wetlands complex forms the most important wetland in Cyprus, rich in biodiversity and of unique importance for Cyprus. Several activities threaten its protection and management, including uncontrolled access to key habitats, expansion of reedbeds and disturbance of species. This project aims to improve the conservation status of key habitats and species by improving the management of these threats. It also aims to contribute to the local economy by helping support development of a more sustainable use of wetlands and promoting ecotourism opportunities within the area. In addition, management of Invasive Alien Species, one of the CBD aims, will take place at Cape Pyla with the eradication of *Acacia saligna*, which has taken over in the area.

2. Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Cyprus is within one of the major bird migration routes across the Mediterranean and Cape Pyla and Akrotiri, especially, are key migration stop-over points (indeed Akrotiri is a raptor migration 'bottleneck' site). The CMS convention specifically mentions the SBA areas of Cyprus as one of the OCT areas of the UK where the convention needs to be applied. 139 Annex I and II CMS species have been recorded in Cyprus

and most of them have been recorded within the two project focus areas. Through actions to reduce human disturbance through access management, to control reed expansion at Zakaki Marsh and to promote sustainable conservation cattle grazing, more good habitat and disturbance-free space will be made available for migrants to stop at Akrotiri. By improving Acacia saligna management, this proposal will build on a recent partnership approach and SBAA zero tolerance policy to illegal bird trapping of migratory species, while helping restore important habitats affected by this invasive species.

3. RAMSAR Convention

The Akrotiri Wetland complex is one of the two designated RAMSAR areas in Cyprus. We consider all the actions that will take place within the area as efforts to conserve and promote the wise use of the wetland thus working in parallel with the mission of the convention. The project will further contribute towards the implementation of RAMSAR Resolution XII.14 on Conservation of Mediterranean Basin island wetlands, which amongst others asks contracting parties to address urgently the significant human-induced pressures threatening island wetlands through effective and decisive legislative or executive measures and other actions which apply a precautionary approach that would prevent their destruction.

Regarding local legislation the project supports proper implementation of the provisions of the two nature SBAA ordinances: 'The Protection and Management of Nature and Wildlife Ordinance of 2007' and 'Game and Wild Birds Ordinance 2008'. Specifically, the project supports proper management of sites designated under the provisions of the 2007 and 2008 Ordinances: Akrotiri peninsula (Akrotiri) and Cape Pyla (Dhekelia). The project will also contribute towards delivery of both Cape Pyla and the Akrotiri Management Plans developed by the SBAA, contributing to the Administration's stated aim to "...to encourage good ecological and conservation practice".

Section 4 - Lead Organisation Summary

Q9. 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
DPLUS034	BirdLife Cyprus	Akrotiri Marsh restoration: a flagship wetland in the Cyprus SBAs
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>


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.

 BIRDLIFE CYPRUS 2018 audited account signed

 01/02/2021

 10:24:49

 pdf 1.76 MB

 Birdlife audited accounts2019

 01/02/2021

 10:18:03

 pdf 416.38 KB

Section 5 - Project Partners

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. 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:

BirdLife Cyprus

Website address:

www.birdlifecyprus.org

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

BirdLife Cyprus (BC) is the leading nature conservation NGO in Cyprus, working across the Republic of Cyprus (RoC) and the Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs) for the protection of birds and their habitats. BC maintains an office with 13 qualified staff and has successfully managed projects funded by the European Commission and the MAVA Foundation with total budgets in excess of € [REDACTED] (over 3 years) and successfully led project DPLUS034, ensuring local community support. BC has extensive experience of project financial management and reporting and BC accounts are audited by an independent auditor annually as required under the BC constitution. BC led on the preparation of the current proposal and will be responsible in particular for implementing activities relating to post-clearance Acacia management at Cape Pyla. reed management at Zakaki Marsh and the drawing up an access management plan for key sites on the Akrotiri Peninsula. BC will also be responsible for overseeing activities that will build on DPLUS034 successes, such as actions for sustainable conservation grazing and the marketing of wildlife-friendly Akrotiri beef. BC will provide overall project management and coordination and full overview of project implementation, while BC will also be responsible for overseeing project spending and finance.

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

Have you provided a cover letter to address your Stage 1 feedback? Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

Yes

1. Partner Name: Terra Cypria - The Cyprus Conservation Foundaion

Website address: www.terracypria.org

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

Terra Cypria Head Offices are in Limassol District ,close to the Akrotiri area. Through its long term involvement in wetland inventory and efforts for the protection of the island’s wetlands TC has gained great experience on the wetlands of the island and especially the most important ones, including Akrotiri. Also it has built very good relations with organisations working with wetlands at national, regional and international level.

As analysed in Paragraph Q22b, for the next 2 years TC will run a MAVA-funded project focusing on management actions on Akrotiri peninsula.

Since 1992 TC has been running an environmental education centre and has great knowledge and experience on communicating and promoting environmental awareness messages. Also through its past and current involvement in projects that require communication with stakeholders it has great experience in building bridges between environmental scientists and local communities.

Even though TC will have involvement is all actions of the project it will focus in communication and awareness raising and activities for the promotion of ecotourism in Akrotiri. It will promote the importance of the area and will identify means for new business opportunities based on the biodiversity and the traditional products of the area.

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: Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas Administration Environment Department (SBAA ED)

Website address: <https://www.sbaadministration.org/index.php/environmental>

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

The Sovereign Base Area Administration has the responsibility for some of the most unspoiled natural areas in Cyprus; including a substantial number of designated sites, with statutory obligations to protect and conserve. The SBAA Environmental Department provides advice and policy on all environmental matters within the Sovereign Base Areas in support of British Forces Cyprus and encourage good ecological and conservation practices in order to meet statutory requirements. Among other duties and responsibilities to our environment, we also manage the Akrotiri Education Environmental and Information Centre which is part of the Cyprus network for environmental education. The Environment Department will use its strong links with stakeholders to contribute to the project. Our teams' knowledge and ecological understanding of the local areas will aim to deliver good ecological practice within the legal, statutory and policy framework of the SBAs. We can draw on previous conservation projects, including those in collaboration with current partners to aid delivery of this project.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

3. Partner Name:

RSPB (BirdLife in the UK)

Website address:

www.rspb.org

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

The RSPB is the UK partner of BirdLife International and is Europe's largest conservation NGO with over 1.2 million members and more than 1200 full-time staff. It has a comprehensive programme of work in the Overseas Territories and internationally, and has managed many Darwin Projects, as well as numerous European projects. RSPB was also involved in the implementation of DPLUS034 together with BirdLife Cyprus and Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre (AEEC) and therefore has hands-on knowledge of the Akrotiri Peninsula and its habitats. The RSPB has worked closely with BirdLife Cyprus for the last 18 years, especially on the problem of illegal bird trapping. During this time, the RSPB has provided BirdLife Cyprus with an annual grant and technical support and advice. The RSPB has been actively involved in the preparation of this proposal. The RSPB role in the project will concern mainly provision of advice, guidance and expert input on habitat and visitor management. The RSPB has expertise in tackling IAS and will support actions aiming to restore natural scrub after acacia clearance on Cape Pyla. Wetland management, and reed-bed management especially, are further areas where the RSPB has considerable expertise to impart, supporting key project actions.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

4. 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
 No

5. 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
 No

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
 No

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

No Response

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

 [Cover letter DPR9S1.1017](#)
 02/02/2021
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 [support letters](#)
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 pdf 2.03 MB

Section 6 - Project Staff

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. Further information on who should be classified as core staff can be found in the guidance.

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?
Martin Hellicar	Project Leader	10	Checked
Christina Ieronymidou	Project Scientific advisor	10	Checked
Lefkios Sergides	Project Communications Lead	10	Checked
Myria Achilleos	Project Finance officer	10	Checked

Do you require more fields?


Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
to be hired	Project Coordinator	100	Checked
to be hired	Project Conservation & Communications officer	100	Checked
to be hired	Project Scientific officer	100	Checked
John Badley	Site Management Advisor	5	Checked


No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	0	Unchecked
No Response	No Response	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.

 [All staff CVs Darwin applic2021](#)

 02/02/2021

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Have you attached all Project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 7 - Background & Methodology

Q12. 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?

Please cite the evidence you are using to support your assessment of the problem (references can be listed in your additional attached PDF document which can be uploaded at the bottom of the page).

Akrotiri peninsula and Cape Pyla are recognized and (largely) designated for their biodiversity importance. The effective management of these areas - something this project is designed to significantly enhance - can make a significant contribution to efforts to conserve biodiversity in Cyprus. Akrotiri peninsula has been identified as an Important Bird Area (IBA), following recognized BirdLife International criteria, and the wetlands on the peninsula enjoy protected status under SBA Ordinances. Cape Pyla is designated for its habitat value and for key flora and fauna. The Akrotiri wetlands are also characterized as a RAMSAR site. Though enjoying legal protection, the reality on the ground is that both areas urgently need conservation action allied with management for wise use. Currently, there is increasing visitor pressure (especially at Akrotiri), insufficient practical conservation management and growing pressure for development. The need for sympathetic, balanced management is identified both in the BirdLife Cyprus 2014 IBA inventory and in SBAA management plans for the protected sites.

Though improved in recent years, on-site facilities for visitors do not yet fully enable impact-free wildlife watching at key sites. Most areas are heavily disturbed (including by vehicle traffic), while biodiversity value

and visitor experience at Akrotiri marshland sites has been undermined by reed expansion leading to habitat simplification. Cattle grazing is a key reed-bed management tool, but its economic viability needs to be enhanced, while threatened plant species need targeted actions to boost their populations. Invasive acacia remains hard-to-tackle, especially on Cape Pyla (where acacia thickets are also used by illegal bird trappers).

The project addresses these problems through targeted habitat and visitor management actions. An access management plan and promotional activities will help sustainable tourism develop. We will trial post-acacia-clearance restoration techniques and reed-bed management solutions, while enhancing economic viability of cattle grazing through beef marketing actions.

Q13. 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)

Project activities will address restoration and wise use issues at Akrotiri and Cape Pyla, as follows:

1. Trial habitat restoration on Cape Pyla following clearance of invasive *Acacia saligna*: this action will begin as a desk exercise to identify sustainable habitat restoration options based on current literature. The project will utilise areas of ongoing Acacia management to undertake trials of management and restoration methods. Engagement with stakeholders will enable development of a plan for habitat restoration at Cape Pyla to benefit biodiversity as well as the local communities.
2. The expansion of Reed within the marshes has been at the detriment of specialist wetland habitats and species. Management solutions for Zakaki Marsh will begin a process to address this alongside specialist mechanical reed clearance actions under a MAVA-funded project led by Terra Cypria (see section 12a, above), with the aim of identifying longer-term reed management strategies. Water quality and water flow (input-output) studies will pave the way for the drawing up of a set of recommendations for long-term reed control.
3. Sustainability of cattle grazing as conservation tool at Akrotiri Marsh: this will be achieved through expert input in grazing management (exchange visit to inform and support Akrotiri graziers), the commissioning of a study for the marketing of Akrotiri March 'eco-beef' and also through establishing actions for conservation of marsh flora as part of the wider habitat mosaic. This will involve identification of key sites for threatened plant species and the building of seed banks. These Akrotiri Marsh actions will build on progress achieved under the DPLUS034 project (2015-2017).
4. Reducing disturbance to key wildlife species through development and implementation of an access management plan for sensitive Akrotiri habitats: the mapping of sensitive wildlife sites will be the starting point, followed by the drawing up of a plan (agreed by all relevant stakeholders, including local communities and other users) for limiting human access to these sites. Limitation of access will be on a case-by-case basis and may be seasonal. This action will be carried out alongside actions to restrict existing road access to highly sensitive wildlife sites to be completed under a MAVA-funded project led by


TerraCypria (see section 12a, above).

5. Enhancement of eco-tourism opportunities within Akrotiri peninsula: by undertaking various activities to increase the number of visitors to Akrotiri in a safe way and encourages an understanding of the importance of the area for wildlife. The project will support the community to develop its eco-tourism potential by creating dedicated Akrotiri eco-tourism website, holding nature-based festivals and creating a wildlife guides for visitors to the peninsular. This will be in parallel with the instillation of wildlife cameras and creation of carefully designed walking routes in the area so visitors can experience the peninsular without risk of increasing disturbance.


6. Sustainability plan drawn up for project interventions/actions: clear recommendations and course of action for ensuring continuity of the partnership approach and the established management activities in perpetuity.

We attach a map showing the key focus areas for project actions.

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

 [MAPS SHOWING LOCATIONS OF PROJECT FOC US AREAS \(final\)](#)

 01/02/2021

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Section 8 - Stakeholders and Beneficiaries

Q14. 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 project stakeholders include the Sovereign Base Areas Administration (SBAA) in Cyprus, local communities on Akrotiri Peninsula and Cape Pyla and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus (especially the RoC Environment Department, which has responsibility for management of Natura 2000 areas). The RoC ED has been consulted on this project and has provided a support letter. A very important parameter is having the SBAA (OT Government in Cyprus) as partners in the project.

The project team will build on the existing relationship built with the Akrotiri Community, through DPLUS034. With the current proposal being much wider in scope and coverage, contacts with the Akrotiri community are on-going with the aim of securing full support (a support letter for new project is pending). The Akrotiri cattle graziers are a stakeholder group of particular importance for site management and very much 'on side' thanks to DPLUS034, and are keen to build economic viability for their nature-friendly operations.

The area where Acacia eradication and habitat restoration will take place falls within the land of Xylophagou community Council. Since it is the first time such activities will take place there, a first communication took place and a letter of support is attached.

The project partners will engage through regular project steering groups and other coordination meetings, plus regular ad hoc communication. This communication will ensure good progress towards goals, exchange of information and experience.

Other stakeholders will be engaged through consultation meetings as appropriate including birdwatchers, nature walkers, cyclists and photographers.

Q15. Institutional Capacity

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

BirdLife Cyprus (BC), the BirdLife International partner in Cyprus, employs 15 staff and has an annual turnover of around €[REDACTED]. BC has successfully managed projects funded by the EC and the MAVA Foundation with budgets of up to €[REDACTED]. BC successfully implemented DPLUS034 and is currently leading a LIFE-funded project with a budget of over €[REDACTED]. BC Director Martin Hellicar, with 18 years' experience of project management and conservation work, will oversee the project. BC has extensive experience of project financial management and employs an experienced accountant. An independent auditor audits BC accounts annually. The BC team includes additional project management experience to be drawn on for this project. In particular, our Research & Monitoring Coordinator, Christina Ieronymidou, with nine years' experience working in conservation science (including with BirdLife International), will be actively involved in advising on this project. The BC team of experienced monitoring volunteers will conduct bird surveys needed for the project.

Project partners also have very significant experience and expertise to contribute to the project. The SBAA ED has experience in conservation management, relevant policy and in working with local communities. Terra Cypria has successfully managed conservation projects and has extensive experience in environmental education and awareness-raising, as well as in working with local communities. The RSPB is Europe's largest conservation NGO with more than 1200 full-time staff and deep expertise in site and visitor management. RSPB has a comprehensive programme of work in the Overseas Territories and Cyprus experience through working closely with BC since 2001.

Q16. 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.

Beneficiaries from project actions are:

1. Local communities in key wildlife areas. Akrotiri village (Akrotiri) and Xylophagou village (Dhekelia) will benefit through improved management of their protected local wildlife areas. This enhanced management will have benefits in terms of the environment these communities reside. In the case of Akrotiri, there will also be economic benefits in terms of enhanced tourism income potential, thanks to the visitor facilities and access management put in place and also promotional activities.
2. Akrotiri cattle graziers: these key stakeholders will benefit through support for sustainable management of the Akrotiri marsh that their livestock live on and also economically, through the better marketing of the beef they produce.
3. Cypriot society as a whole: will derive benefits from sustainable management of key wildlife sites, which will help secure the ecosystem services these provide, including enhanced contact with nature (through visitor facilities and access management).
4. The government agencies and NGOs involved: will benefit through the progress made and experience and expertise gained through project implementation. The hiring of three new project officers to work on this project will provide invaluable additional experience to local conservation practitioners.

Section 9 - Gender and Change Expected

Q17. 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?

All project partners comply with relevant laws concerning equal opportunity for men and women and non-discrimination. Gender equality was considered through the development of the project and the actions related to local stakeholders. All studies, such as the beef marketing plan, will be gender balanced and will seek to benefit both men and women. The activities that will be promoted during festivals, on social media and under the broader project outreach strategy will target both women and men. All project indicators recording physical presence of people will also monitor gender; adjustments to following activities and their promotion will be made if significant bias towards one sex is observed. All contractors that we will be approached to collaborate with large scale work (such as catering events and reed cleaning) will be asked to prove their gender equality policy or practices. Gender equality criteria will apply during the process to select new project officers

Q18. Change expected

Detail the expected changed 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.

The project will deliver sustainable conservation management at two important biodiversity sites, including through facilitation of low-impact use by visitors. This will benefit biodiversity, ecosystems and Cyprus society in the long-term.

More specifically, the change expected can be broken down as:

1. Invasive *Acacia saligna*: A way forward identified for restoration of natural scrub on Cape Pyla. Improved practical management techniques for the restoration of natural habitats, with benefits for biodiversity. This action will also further help prevent the use of acacia thickets on Cape Pyla for the setting of mist nets for illegal bird trapping (with long-term benefits for migrant birds).
2. Reed management at Zakaki Marsh: both diversification of the site's habitat with biodiversity benefits in the short-term (including increased occurrence of *Aythya nyroca* and *Himantopus himantopus*) and identification of solutions for long-term management, helping to enhance the ecological value of the marsh in the long-term (with added benefits for human visitors).
3. Reduced disturbance at key wildlife sites on Akrotiri peninsula, with benefits for wildlife (breeding birds, nesting sea turtles, with increased occurrence of *Charadrius alexandrinus* and turtle nests) in both the short and long-term and also for local tourism, as an access management plan draw up under the project will facilitate disturbance-free enjoyment of wildlife by visitors.
4. Foundations established for sustainable long-term grazing management at Akrotiri Marsh: this will have benefits for the local economy (viability of traditional grazing at the marsh) in the medium-to-long-term and will build on and reinforce the biodiversity gains from the management regime set up under the DPLUS034 project, while broadening them to ensure priority marsh plants also benefit.
5. Increased eco-tourism opportunities on Akrotiri peninsula, with medium-to-long-term benefits for the local economy and knock-on benefits for nature conservation in the long-term (alternatives established to mass tourism and associated over-development).

Q19. 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 aims to support delivery of long-term sustainable management for key sites at Akrotiri and Cape Pyla and has been designed with clear and measurable objectives and indicators.

It will benefit local Akrotiri communities and the wider public in Cyprus, through biodiversity conservation actions allied to promotion of wildlife-friendly tourism on the peninsula (thus enhancing ecosystem services). It will also promote this alternative tourism to attract visitors during the quiet periods for sun & sea tourism, early spring and winter.

This project will enhance the conservation status of important parts of the Akrotiri wetlands and Cape Pyla, helping these sites realize their full potential to provide habitat for birds and other wildlife, with particular focus on key plant species. It will also increase opportunities for Akrotiri communities to benefit from living in a protected wildlife site, specifically through building the long-term economic viability of cattle grazing as a sustainable conservation tool and through promotion of the area as a wildlife-friendly tourism destination.

The after-project sustainability plan will help the SBAA maintain the targeted sites in their improved state and project partners BC, the RSPB and TC are also committed to providing on-going support after the end of the project.

Q20. Exit strategy

State how the project will reach a stable and sustainable end point, and explain how the outcomes will be sustained, either through a continuation of activities, funding and support from other sources or because the activities will be mainstreamed in to "business as usual". Where individuals receive advanced training, for example, what will happen should that individual leave?

The partnership approach is a key element in the legacy of this project, not only between partner organizations, but also with stakeholders and especially communities. The engagement with local communities aims to ensure that conservation of their landscape can benefit their economy by developing the tools to grow eco-tourism.

The outputs of this project are derived from current designated site objectives in the SBAs. This enables these outputs to form part of future management plans for these designated sites, to be delivered in partnership with our stakeholders.

The partnership group are committed to developing a sustainability plan to help ensure the long-term and ongoing development of stakeholder relationships is a legacy of this project.

Section 10 - Funding and Budget

Q21. 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.

- [R9 D+ Budget form for projects under £100,000](#)
- [R9 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.

 [Budget over 100K DPR9S11017 FINAL](#)

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Q22. Funding

Q22a. Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source)?

New initiative

Please provide details:

The project is a new initiative, with five entirely new outputs and a sixth that builds on the success of the 2015-2017 DPLUS034 project “Akrotiri Marsh Restoration: a flagship wetland in the Bases”. By revitalizing traditional cattle grazing on site, DPLUS034 transformed Akrotiri Marsh from an impoverished reed-dominated system to a mosaic of habitats including wet grassland, reed bed and shallow pools. The current project aims to reinforce the sustainability of this management success by building economic viability for cattle grazing on the marsh through development and implementation of a marketing plan for Akrotiri Marsh beef. With increased grazing on the marsh it has also become a priority to focus on management for rare flora on site, and this will be another focus of the relevant action under this project. The other aspects of this project are all new: habitat restoration after acacia clearance on Cape Pyla and further actions focusing on Akrotiri Peninsula. These are access management to reduce disturbance to wildlife, Zakaki Marsh reed management (here cattle grazing is not an option, so other solutions need be found), promotion of eco-tourism for the peninsula (here community relations built under DPLUS034 are invaluable) and preparation of a sustainability plan.

Q22b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work?

Yes

If yes, please give details explaining similarities and differences, and explaining how your work will be additional and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and learn lessons from such work for mutual benefits.

Terra Cypria is currently leading on a 30-month MAVA-funded project (2020-2023) focusing on management and restoration actions on Akrotiri peninsula. The project, called MedIsWetII, involves wetlands in nine Mediterranean countries. The actions in Cyprus include improving visitor facilities and information at key sites such as Zakaki Marsh and Lady's Mile, removal of fly-tipped waste and management actions to limit fly-tipping (including placement of surveillance cameras), actions to manage access to specific sensitive

wildlife areas and mechanical clearing of reeds at Zakaki Marsh. The two projects will act in a complementary manner since the MedIsWet actions will further promote the Akrotiri wetlands and also help towards the protection of sensitive habitats in the Lady's Mile area, which is not specifically targeted by the Darwin proposal. Also, the current project will expand the MedIsWet efforts towards reed management at Zakaki by identifying longer-term management solutions. MedIsWet actions to block access at specific points at Lady's Mile will be enhanced and broadened under the current project, through the preparation of the access management plan for sensitive habitats all over Akrotiri. The co-operation between the two projects is guaranteed since Terra Cypria is a partner organisation at this proposal.

Q23. Co-financing

Are you proposing co-financing?

Yes

Q23a. 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
BirdLife Cyprus	██████	GBP	This contribution will be covered by funding support to BirdLife Cyprus from the Tasso Leventis Conservation Foundation
Terra Cypria	██████	<i>No Response</i>	This contribution will be covered by funding support to Terra Cypria from the A.G.Leventis Foundation
RSPB	██████	GBP	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	0	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

Q23b. 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
No Response	No Response	0	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	0	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	0	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	0	No Response	No Response

Do you require more fields?

No

Section 11 - Finance

Q24. 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?

BirdLife Cyprus (BC) will be managing the project funds. BC has a turnover of around € [REDACTED] and has been running projects funded through grants or tenders since 2003. The last eight years BC has also been successfully running EU-funded projects. The total budget of the Oroklini project coordinated by BC was € [REDACTED] over 3 years and BC was responsible for producing the financial reports and for recording the financial expenditures of all five partners involved (including government departments). Moreover, BC was the project leader of DPLUS034 with a total fund of [REDACTED]. The finance of the project was audited as per contractual obligations with no issues arising. BC employs an experienced accountant who uses the SAGE accounting system to track expenses. The Director authorises all payments and the accountant ensures that invoices are properly labelled, regulations and project requirements adhered to. The yearly accounts are also audited by External Auditors.

Q25. Financial Management Risk

This question considers the financial risks to the project. Explain how you have considered the risks and threats that may be relevant to the successful financial delivery of this project. This includes risks such as fraud or bribery, but may also include the risk of fluctuating foreign exchange and internal financial processes such as storage of financial data.

Risk of fraud or bribery is low as BC, who will be managing project finance, is experienced in managing budgets with externally audited accounts. A relevant code of conduct for the project will none-the-less be set up.

Other relevant risks are:

(1) Value of GBP drops against EURO, affecting funding for actions

- (2) Suitable contractors cannot be found to carry out works / consultancy, or fail to perform
- (3) Covid pandemic delays works / actions

These risks will be managed as follows, respectively:

- (1) Budget set up on the basis of current, relatively low value of £ against € and BirdLife Cyprus (BC) covers exchange rate short-fall from own reserves.
- (2) Tender documents relating to the major expenditures will be prepared by lawyers in cooperation with experienced BC staff and tender processes will follow proven systems developed for previous projects. Also contracts will be monitored closely during and after performance.
- (3) Contracting processes will allow sufficient time for actions completion even if delays are necessary and relevant actions and budgets will be spread over the two project years to allow for such eventualities. Meetings and workshops can be completed remotely if needed.

Q26. Balance of budget spend

Explain the thinking behind your budget in terms of where funds will be spent. What benefits will the Territory see from your budget? What level of the award to you expect will be spent locally? Please explain the decisions behind any funding that will not be spent locally and how those costs are important for the project.

All requested funding will be spent locally and will benefit the Cyprus SBA areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia and habitat protecting and management in designated nature sites, plus local communities.

All external consultants to be contracted through the proposed project (for Hydrological study at Zakaki Marsh, Marketing study Akrotiri Marsh beef) will be local to Cyprus, following appropriate selection / tendering processes.

Similarly, all works to be contracted out under the project (Reed clearance at Zakaki Marsh, Akrotiri website and mobile app design, design and printing of maps and information boards, erection of Lady's Mile viewing screens, signposts for walking routes) will be done by local firms.

Only where a budget items cannot be sourced locally (e.g. specialized equipment such as wildlife camera) will it be sourced from abroad.

A key element of our budget balance is spending on three dedicated project officers, who will be hired to work solely on this project, under the guidance of the project team members drawn from project partners. This will provide the needed capacity for project completion. Project officers to be hired for the duration of the project will be selected from within the Island community, so gained experience will remain within Cyprus.

Q27. Capital Items

If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin Plus funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end. If you are requesting more than 10% capital costs, please provide your justification here.

The project does not request above ██████ of funding from capital costs.

The implementation of capital spend on items will be made following engagement with stakeholders during planning processes. The engagement process will aim to establish long-term management requirements prior to plans being finalized. Where this is not possible or feasible, then the partnership group, or individual partner, will undertake a commitment to long-term management of capital assets in agreement with stakeholder(s) involved. Where either of the above are not achievable, this would indicate that an alternative solution is required, and the plan(s) must be revised by the project partnership.

Q28. Value for Money

Please describe why you consider your application to be good value for money including justification of why the measures you will adopt will secure value for money.

Improving methods for the long-term management of *Acacia saligna* aims to reduce a significant resource legacy associated with the management of this species. By improving restoration techniques, we aim to reduce this species extent and improve prospects of restoring favorable condition or achieving native habitat types following removal. Improving *Acacia* removal also delivers the ongoing zero-tolerance policy to illegal bird trapping and will potentially reduce wider resource implications associated with this issue in the SBAs.

The combination approach of reed bed management and improving grazing methods within the wetlands will aim to significantly reduce cost of management interventions in future by providing support to develop sustainable grazing management.

The development of improved access management will reduce impacts of disturbance on species, while identifying and linking to activities that support wider eco-tourism, recreation and community requirements. Enabling future resources, such as wardens and site managers to shift from reactive to proactive management for the benefit of key habitats and species.

Significantly, the project aims to help establish tools to help local communities develop their green economy, such as local produce marketing and eco-tourist opportunities. A holistic approach that we hope enables the long-term sustainable and wise land management of our wetlands to flourish.

Q29. 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 project outputs will be made available online through the 'Visit Akrotiri' website proposed and where appropriate on the BirdLife Cyprus and Terra Cypria websites and the Akrotiri Marsh website (DPLUS034) so there is cross reference.

For example, the Access Management Plan, the wildlife guide application, the *Acacia* removal processes, information for reed management, records for bird occurrences, turtle nesting activities, photos of implemented works and the sustainability plan, will be made available on the 'Visit Akrotiri' website. BirdLife Cyprus and Terra Cypria will be sharing on their social media accounts for the project and inform about the project's actions and deliverables

Project contact details will also be visible on these websites in case users need further information on project context or project output. Furthermore, project progress will be regularly reported on in BirdLife Cyprus and Terra Cypria publications.

Information for all public events will be shared in advance to all available media and social media to inform and attract as many people as possible.

Related costs are ██████ GBP for the production of the website ██████ GDP for the app development and ██████ GDP for festivals.

Copies of all outputs, associated metadata and evidence of publication and of compliance with OTs research permitting systems will be provided to the Contracted Administrator along with the final report. All project outputs will be made freely and openly accessible in accordance with relevant Terms and Conditions.

Section 12 - Safeguarding

Q30. 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 our commitment to safeguarding and a zero tolerance statement on bullying, harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse	Checked
We have attached a copy of our safeguarding policy to this application	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

Please outline how you will implement your policies in practice and ensure that downstream partners apply the same standards as the lead organisation.

BirdLife Cyprus implements a Safeguarding Policy that has been approved by the organization's Council and forms part of the BC Employee's Handbook. The purpose of this policy, as stated within the relevant document (attached here) is to protect people, particularly children, vulnerable adults and beneficiaries of assistance, from any harm (psychological, physical and any other infringement of an individual's rights) that may be caused due to their coming into contact with BirdLife Cyprus.


The BC Safeguarding policy covers the organization's own employees and also all associated personnel whilst engaged with work or visits related to BirdLife Cyprus, including but not limited to the following: consultants, volunteers, contractors and programme visitors.

BC is committed to addressing safeguarding throughout its work, through the three pillars of prevention, reporting and response. In the context of this project, BC, as project leader, will ensure these safeguarding principles and practices are applied in all project actions and by all project partners. We add here that project partners Terra Cypria, the RSPB and the SBAA ED all have and follow safeguarding policies of their own, in line with that of BC.

Please upload the Lead Organisation's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF

 [BirdLife Cyprus SAFEGUARDING POLICY](#)

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Section 13 - Logical Framework


Q31. Logical Framework

Darwin Plus projects will be required to monitor (and report against) their progress towards their expected Outputs and Outcome. 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.

- [Stage 2 Logframe Template](#)

Please complete your full logframe in the separate Word template and upload as a PDF using the file upload below. Copy your Impact, Outcome and Output statements and your activities below - these should be the same as in your uploaded logframe.

Please upload your logframe as a PDF document.

 [final.R9 DPlus St2 Logical Framework Cyprus](#)

 02/02/2021

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Impact:

Improved conservation status for key habitats and priority species in Cyprus, with replicable management approaches developed and socio-economic gains through enhancement of alternative, sustainable tourism focusing on nature and wildlife.

Outcome:

Key wetland and scrub habitat restored in Cyprus SBAs, with long-term nature conservation gains secured through enhanced, low-impact visitor use, with associated gains for wildlife tourism and the local economy.

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Support for sustainable management of invasive *Acacia saligna*, with a focus on post clearance habitat restoration on Cape Pyla

Output 2:

Reed management solutions successfully piloted at Zakaki Marsh

Output 3:

Sustainability established for conservation cattle grazing at Akrotiri Marsh, through expert input on grazing levels, preparation of a marketing study for Akrotiri March 'eco-beef' and both in situ and ex situ conservation actions for key marsh flora species, building on progress achieved under the DPLUS034 project (2015-2017).

Output 4:

Reduced disturbance to key wildlife species, including birds and marine reptiles, through the implementation of an access management plan for sensitive Akrotiri habitats

Output 5:

Eco-tourism opportunities enhanced within Akrotiri peninsula

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

Output 6:

Long-term sustainability secured for project sites and interventions/actions undertaken under this project

Output 7:

No Response

Output 8:

No Response

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.

- 1.1 Review of methods for habitat restoration and preventing Acacia regrowth; selection of specific methods for practical trials on the ground on Cape Pyla, in areas cleared of acacia bushes
 - 1.2. The two selected restoration/acacia control trials each involve a pair of suitable, similar plots (treatment & control) of approx. 50x50m size for each method to be tested. The trials will then run for two years, with vegetation surveys to monitor progress.
 - 1.3. The results of the restoration/acacia control trials will be written up in a relevant report, which will include clear assessments of the efficacy of the methods and recommendations for replication and/or further work.
 - 1.4. Removal and control of acacia on Cape Pyla is important in the on-going effort to end illegal bird trapping, and continuation of monitoring of illegal mist netting levels will continue to confirm this.
-
- 2.1. Comprehensive review of water management issues at Zakaki Marsh to build a hydrological regime picture. Based on this, recommendations made for long-term reed management.
 - 2.2. Reed clearance undertaken by mechanical work with the target of reducing the extent of dense reeds by at least 25% in target areas by project end.
 - 2.3. Monthly bird counts at Zakaki Marsh to monitor the occurrence, numbers and breeding activity of the priority species *Aythya nyroca* and *Himantopus himantopus*.
-
- 3.1. Management of cattle grazing on Akrotiri Marsh, building on the work done under the DPLUS034 project (2015-2017) with target, by project end, for the number of Cyprus breed cattle on Akrotiri Marsh to be 1–1.75 Eurostat Livestock Units (LSU) per ha.
 - 3.2. Preparation of Marketing plan for wildlife-friendly Akrotiri Marsh beef; implementation in collaboration with the graziers.
 - 3.3. Establishment of ex-situ seed bank for key marsh plant species. Management actions focused on Red Book plants in the marsh.

3.4. Targeted fencing of key marsh areas on a permanent or seasonal basis to establish the required grazing regime for key plant species. Installing electric fence around sensitive areas to protect from grazing.

4.1. Development of Akrotiri Access Management Plan and consultation with key stakeholders to achieve consensus for its implementation. Plan to be implemented in a staggered manner, focusing first on reducing disturbance in most threatened sites.

4.2. Through staggered implementation of access management, numbers of key migrant and breeding bird species at key wetland sites are at least maintained in the short-term (project duration) and increase in medium-to-long term (after project end). Bird surveys to assess.

4.3. Again through staggered implementation of access management, numbers of marine turtle nests on key nesting beaches are at least maintained in the short-term (project duration) and increase in medium-to-long term (after project end). Turtle nest counts on key beaches to assess.

5.1. Monitoring of visitor numbers to Akrotiri wildlife facilities to assess effectiveness of project efforts to promote the area for eco-tourism. Use of automatic 'foot-fall' recording pads to record visits, with target of doubling visitor numbers.

5.2. Design and setting-up of a dedicated website promoting Akrotiri Peninsula as a wildlife-watching destination.

5.3. Wildlife camera set up in Akrotiri Salt Lake to provide close-up views of Flamingos other visiting waterbirds, with images sent to the eco-tourism website.

5.4. Planning, preparation, promotion and execution of two spring 'Akrotiri Festivals' to highlight the areas rich natural and cultural heritage.

5.5. Three Akrotiri walking routes established. Identification and sign-posting of three accessible and low-disturbance routes (for the wildlife) on the peninsula.

5.6. Viewing screens set up for Lady's Mile Pools. Screens with accompanying information signs set up at key points along the Eastern side of the lagoons.

5.7. Production of Akrotiri visitors' wildlife guide in form of a mobile application.

6.1. Preparation of comprehensive sustainability plan for target sites and continuation of project actions.

Section 14 - Implementation Timetable

Q32. 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.

📎 [submitted R9 DPlus Implementation Timetable Template FINAL-DPR9S11017](#)
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🕒 13:09:37
📄 xlsx 13.56 KB

Section 15 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q33. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

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](#)).

The project is set up with a set of clear and measurable indicators for delivery of all actions, in order to facilitate good monitoring and evaluation.

We have also set up our implementation timetable to ensure actions are carried out in a timely manner, while allowing a little bit of 'room' for 'catch-up' where factors such as the ongoing Covid pandemic cause delays (see under Q25).

A key part of the monitoring & evaluation process will be the establishment of a Project Steering Group. This will be done in the first two months of project implementation (in July - August 2021). The Steering Group will consist of the Project Leader, Project Scientific Officer, Project Communications Lead, Project Finance Officer, a representative from the SBAA Environment Department, plus the three project officers to be hired under the proposed project. The Project Coordinator (to be hired) will convene the Steering Group meetings, set the agenda and record meeting minutes and action points, while the Project Leader will chair the meetings. The project Site Management Advisor (RSPB) will join Steering Group meetings where appropriate according to the meeting agenda (and usually remotely, except when visiting the project). A representative from the RoC Environment Department will also be invited to observe Steering Group meetings in an advisory role.

The Steering Group will oversee progress on all actions, plan steps ahead, revise implementation timeframe as needed and review budget spending. The groups will meet at least every 3 months, and more regularly as needed, to ensure targets are being met and any problems arising are dealt with without compromising project delivery.

The project officers will report to the Steering Group on progress of project actions based on the indicators detailed in the project logframe and on the timeline of implementation.

Overall, about 12% of the time of the hired Project Coordinator and 10% of the time of the other two hired project officers will be devoted to gathering data against the progress indicators and to preparation for and attendance of Steering Group meetings, while about 30% of the other time of the project team members will be devoted to M & E. In addition, about 20% of the local travel and subsistence budget (under the Project Lead organization) will be allocated for Steering Group meetings.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)	£ [REDACTED]
Number of days planned for M&E	290.00
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)	[REDACTED]

Section 16 - Certification

Certification

On behalf of the

trustees

of

BirdLife Cyprus

I apply for a grant of





£342,150.00

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	Menelaos Charalambides
Position in the organisation	Chairman of the Council
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 Melis sign  01/02/2021  09:35:56  jpg 32.5 KB
Date	02 February 2021

Section 17 - 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 attached my completed logframe and timeline as a PDF using the templates provided .	Checked
I have included a 1 page CV or job description for all the Project staff identified at Question 11, 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 10, 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 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 Plus 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).