

Applicant: **Strong, James**
Organisation: **National Oceanography Centre**
Funding Sought: **£253,645.00**

DPR9S2\1027

Coastal Resource Atlas 2021 and Temporal Analysis for the BVI

Marine habitat maps provide vital information on 'what is where'. Consequently, marine habitat maps are necessary for understanding the distribution of impacts, the planning of sustainable human activities at sea and the placement of protected marine areas. This project will combine recent high-value surveys of the physical seabed with additional fieldwork to produce new and more extensive maps for the BVI's marine environment. The fieldwork will also examine the change in marine habitats over time and their current condition.

Section 1 - Contact Details

CONTACT DETAILS

Name James
Surname Strong
Tel (Work) [REDACTED]
Email (Work) [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Other
Name	National Oceanography Centre
Phone (Mobile)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Website	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q3a. Project title

Coastal Resource Atlas 2021 and Temporal Analysis for the BVI

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

DPR9S1\1057

Q4. UKOT(s)

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

British Virgin Islands (BVI)

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

No Response

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 2023

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

2 years

Q6. Budget summary

Year:	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total request
Darwin funding request (Apr - Mar)	£116,937.00	£124,705.00	£12,003.00	£0.00	£ 253,645.00

Q6a. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

The Government of the BVI will contribute 20 staff days to supporting this project as an in-kind contribution (£██████████). The ██████████ overhead allowance means that NOC will contribute £██████████ in terms of lost overhead. Equally, JNCC will also contribute £██████████ in matched funding to offset the loss of overhead. This contribution, with that of the Government of the BVI and NOC, provides a total of £██████████ as matched funding for the project. This represents an in-kind contribution of ██████████ based on a total project value of £██████████ (grant + contributions in kind).

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.

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

Marine habitat maps provide vital information on 'what is where'. Consequently, marine habitat maps are necessary for understanding the distribution of impacts, the planning of sustainable human activities at sea and the placement of protected marine areas. This project will combine recent high-value surveys of the physical seabed with additional fieldwork to produce new and more extensive maps for the BVI's marine environment surroundings. The fieldwork will also examine the change in marine habitats over time and their current condition.

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 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) requires parties to undertake a comprehensive list of actions to protect species and ecosystems. Effective MSP provides one of the primary routes for protection of habitats of conservation importance whilst balancing socio-economic needs (promotion of the Blue Economy). As such, effective MSP contributes to protected marine habitats, and therefore CBD, as well as other initiatives such as the Blue Charter and the Blue Belt project. As a spatial planning system, information on the distribution of marine habitats, as provided by a marine habitat map, is a critical foundation for MSP. This project seeks to support: (i) MSP; (ii) the extension of marine protected areas; and (iii) the facilitation of the Blue Economy through the provision of accurate and extensive maps of marine habitats in the BVI. This in-turn supports the wider policy objectives of the BVI. In the Virgin Islands Strategic Blue Economy Roadmap (2020–2025) states "A focus on spatial planning and cumulative environmental impact assessment should be adopted...as a high priority (short-term)". The collation and production of vital data spatial data sources, such as marine habitat maps, is an important contribution to fulfilling the MSP aspirations of the BVI.

The project will support; Sustainable Development Goal 14 contributing to the sustainable management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems, the Ramsar and Cartagena Convention. Associated with these ambitions, MSP is implicit in the Bill's objective of establishing a Natural Resources Inventory and addressing biodiversity conservation more generally. Effective MSP provides critical protection of habitats of conservation importance while balancing socio-economic needs across themes addressed in the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Blue Charter and the Blue Belt project and contributing to a sustainable Blue Economy.

This project is timely in view of the current BVI government Green Paper; Environmental Management Climate Adaptation and Sustainable Development. The Bill specifically identifies the need for "institutional structures and procedures" (such as MSP) to manage (amongst others), "biodiversity conservation" and "marine pollution" and meet "International commitments under multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)". These include the Nagoya Protocol and international agreements related to oil pollution.

Further Multilateral Environmental Agreements important to biodiversity are applicable to the BVI as a result of their ratification by the UK (e.g. Ramsar Convention, Cartagena Convention). Associated with these ambitions, MSP is implicit in the Bill's objective of establishing a Natural Resources Inventory and addressing biodiversity conservation more generally.

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)?

No

If no, please provide the below information on the lead organisation.

What year was your organisation established/ incorporated/registered?	1949 / 2019 (new status as a charity)
What is the legal status of your organisation?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NGO
How is your organisation currently funded?	The National Oceanography Centre is an independent self-governing organisation – a charitable company limited by guarantee. The NOC is funded by various sources. It receives funds from the UK Research and Innovation to work on National Capability programmes. It also secures large amounts of funding from National (e.g. NERC) and International (e.g. European money) sources. It has a turn-over of approximately £60m annually.

Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of your organisation. Large organisations please note that this should describe your unit or department.

Aims	Mission: to make sense of changing seas, upon which future human prosperity and wellbeing depends. Specific aims are: Undertaking and enabling world-class science and technology development; Providing large research facilities to UK science community Creating value and public benefit by supporting the development of policy, governance and sustainable development
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Activities

We undertake world leading research in large scale oceanography and ocean measurement technology innovation; working with government and business to turn great science and technology into advice and applications. We support scientists in universities and research institutes with facilities, research infrastructure and irreplaceable data assets.

Achievements

The NOC is one of the world's top oceanographic institutions. We provide the UK's National Capability needed to be a top global player, to lead and participate in international cooperations.

Provide details of 3 contracts/projects held by the lead organisation that demonstrate your credibility as an organisation and provide a track record relevant to the project proposed. These contracts/awards should have been held in the last 5 years and be of a similar size to the grant requested in your Darwin application.

Contract/Project 1 Title

Commonwealth Marine Economies Programme

Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)

Approx. £ [REDACTED]

Duration (e.g. 2 years 3 months)

Three years plus one year extension

Role of organisation in project

NOC deliver scientific research and capacity building. To sustainably manage and use marine resources it is vital to properly understand them. The programme at NOC has been collecting data, undertaking scientific research and delivering capacity building activities against a clear action plan developed from country requests.

Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project

The CME Programme seeks to help Commonwealth Small Island Developing States (SIDS) make the most of their natural maritime advantages, to enable sustainable economic growth and alleviate poverty.

The Programme aims to ensure marine resources that belong to Commonwealth SIDS are better understood and managed, with the aim of enabling sustainable and growing marine economies in Commonwealth SIDS that create jobs, drive national economic growth, reduce poverty, ensure food security and build resilience.

The Programme is being funded and delivered on behalf of the UK Government by a partnership of world-leading UK government marine expertise which includes NOC.

Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail) Foreign and Commonwealth Office
[REDACTED]

Contract/Project 2 Title Addressing Challenges of Coastal Communities through Ocean Research for Developing Economies

Contract Value/Project budget (include currency) Approx. £ [REDACTED]

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

Role of organisation in project NOC, with PML, is working to increase our understanding of the mechanisms and processes that determine the potential sensitivity or resilience of marine ecosystems to both globally and locally induced environmental change. This understanding will then be used to determine the environmental and societal consequences to inform mitigation strategies.

Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project

ACCORD focuses on the coastal and marine environments of South East Asia and the Western Indian Ocean, which are rich and diverse, possessing high levels of biodiversity and productivity. The programme addresses two big challenges for eight countries in these regions:

- Sustainable growth of, and resilience to change for, the Blue Economies of partner countries
- Resilience to natural hazards including impact-based, climate-proof coastal flood warning systems

Modelling, data collection, habitat maps and a wealth of other scientific work has been completed in nine locations throughout the world.

ACCORD is funded by NERC (National Capability, Official Development Assistance award).

Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail) ACCORD is funded by the NERC

Professor Kevin Horsburgh (Chief Scientist for International Development - [REDACTED]) can provide appropriate contacts within NERC ODA.

Contract/Project 3 Title Technical Assistance: Development of Data Framework and delivery of Capacity Building Activities related to Marine Spatial Planning in the BVI

Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	£ [REDACTED]
Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)	1 year
Role of organisation in project	Securing funds; lead on all stakeholder engagement; delivery of all work packages; management and monitoring of project progression; and all communication with clients.
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project.	<p>The main aims and outcome of the project are:</p> <p>Stakeholder engagement with key technical staff to understand and catalog existing scientific products and data sets that may support MSP.</p> <p>Assess the availability of survey and analysis skills needed to deliver MSP within primary BVI stakeholders</p> <p>Deliver survey, analysis and engagement skills capacity building that support MSP.</p>
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail).	<p>Joseph Smith Abbott Deputy Secretary Ministry of Natural Resources & Labour [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p>

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.

No

If no, please provide details.

NOC has been operating independently since 01/11/2019. It currently doesn't have a set of accounts for NOC's new status. See statement and letter attached.

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: National Oceanography Centre

Website address: <https://www.noc.ac.uk/>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): The NOC will lead and coordinate the collation and collection of data (seabed and water column data), as well as the production of the CRA. NOC will also supervise the temporal analysis and condition analysis. NOC will be the primary point of contact for in-country partners.

NOC has two sites, Southampton and Liverpool, and employs around 650 staff. It is co-located at both sites with leading UK Universities (Southampton and Liverpool), giving NOC a unique capacity and position in UK marine research. Based on the size of NOC, we have adequate amounts of resource to deliver this project and sufficient redundancy should key staff become unavailable. We also hold a large pool of survey hardware that ensures we have all the equipment required to deliver the fieldwork and sufficient redundancy in case of equipment failures. We also have dedicated in-house freight facility for the rapid dispatch of equipment throughout the world. NOC also have computing capabilities (high performance access, high-volume archiving, software licenses) to support the collation of the remotely sensed datasets. NOC has a dedicated group (Seafloor Ecosystems) of scientists that specialise in the collection of spatial data and the production of habitat maps.

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: The Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Website address: <https://jncc.gov.uk/>

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

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) - JNCC will provide a facilitation and coordination role so that the data and outputs from this project can support other initiatives. Specifically, JNCC will use their existing relationship with Vulcan and the Allen Coral Atlas (ACA) to facilitate the exchange of data to allow ACA validation and use of coral polygons in the CRA. JNCC already have staff that maintain the link between JNCC and Vulcan/ACA so the capacity to fulfil this role already exists in JNCC.

With regard to capacity, JNCC is the statutory adviser to UK Government and devolved administrations on UK and international nature conservation, and has an active OT Programme (<https://jncc.gov.uk/advice/sustainable-developmentoverseas/>). JNCC have extensive experience of being involved in and managing collaborative projects in the UK, EU and internationally. JNCC staff have a wide range of technical and project management skills will be available to deliver the project, including alternative staff with appropriate skills sets should there be a change in project personnel.

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: National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration

Website address: <https://bvi.gov.vg/departments/ministry-natural-resources-and-labour>

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

National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands (NPTVI) and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration (MNRLI) - NPTVI will assist in the collation of historical data and the collection of new in situ observations (provision of a survey vessel and crew). Both organisations will be assisting the production of final products (capacity building requested by in-country partners). The MNRLI and NPTVI will provide the specification of the CRA so that it is compatible with their MSP system and protected area strategies. Both organisations have dedicated marine staff that will provide the required capacity to deliver the project objectives. NOC have worked with both organisations on previous projects and have a good working relationship with them.

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

3. Partner Name: Coastal Management Consulting BVI

Website address: <https://www.cmcbvi.com/>

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): Dr Shannon Gore (BVI independent consultant) - Dr Gore will help plan and conduct the in-situ observations, and also help prepare the temporal analysis and condition assessment. Dr Gore is now an independent consultant but has previously worked in the MNRLI where she maintains good links with staff and the objectives of the Ministry. Based on here experience, detailed in both the letter of support and CV, it is evident that she is an experienced marine research in the BVI.

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.


 [NPTVI Letter of Support DPR9S2 1027](#)

 03/02/2021

 08:09:00

 pdf 335.47 KB

 [LoS CRA merged](#)

 01/02/2021

 18:26:12

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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?
James Strong	Project Leader	8	Checked
Tim Le Bas	Fieldwork and analyst for bathymetry data	4	Checked
Nils Piechard	Fieldwork and analyst for benthic data	14	Checked
Ian Fogler	Admin support and events management	12	Checked

Do you require more fields?


Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Shannon Gore	Local coordinator, fieldworker and analyst (independent marine scientist based in the BVI)	9	Checked
Finfun Peters	Fieldwork assistance and analyst (National Parks Trust Virgin Islands)	8	Unchecked
Bryony Meakins	Technical adviser and liaison (JNCC)	9	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
<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.

 [Finfun Peters CV DPR9S2 1027](#)

 03/02/2021

 08:09:13

 pdf 484.11 KB

 [CVs merged CRA](#)

 01/02/2021

 18:38:33

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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.

Finfun Peters was unable to provide a CV in time for the submission - it will be forwarded as soon as it is available.

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).

The British Virgin Islands are currently implementing an MSP system. A collation exercise of essential spatial data needed for the effective delivery of MSP has highlighted the existing Coastal Resource Atlas of the BVI (CRA-2006) as an important dataset that will underpin MSP.

As the distribution of marine habitats/resources is such an important dataset within an MSP system, it is important that it is fit-for-purpose. Consultation with the stakeholders that use the CRA-2006 and contractors that produced the CRA highlighted a critical shortcoming within the production of the CRA (failure to use the full ground-truthing data set during the calibration and validation phases of the CRA modelling) known to significantly undermine the accuracy and value of this product for many applications including MSP.

Furthermore, the CRA is now 15 years old and during that period there has been several extreme environmental challenges such as bleaching, coral diseases, non-native seagrass and several severe hurricanes. The extent of the CRA is also limited to the shallow coastal region (Figure 1) whereas the actual extent required for MSP is significantly greater (12 nm area and beyond – Figure 2 attached). Later efforts that have mapped changes in the shallow benthic habitats (JNCC 2017) have a limited coverage and use broad thematic habitat classes that do not meet the requirements for MSP.

Committing to an MSP based on inadequate information is highly likely to result in ineffective management and diminished conservation success. The first objective here is to create an updated CRA to support the new MSP system. The secondary objective is to include all historical ground-truthing stations visited in 1991, 2006 and 2016 within the ground-truthing campaign for the updated CRA. Revisiting the historical stations will provide an unprecedented opportunity to understand temporal change of coral assemblages within the BVI.

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)

Work Package 1: collation of remotely sensed data for the BVI. This will include sourcing the ship-based

bathymetry collected by CEFAS (35 km² of bathymetry and backscatter data delivered CEFAS in 2015 through a Darwin Plus project), the bathymetric LiDAR collected by the UKHO (~7,200 km² of bathymetric LiDAR and aerial imagery delivered by the UKHO in 2019), ~200 km² of satellite-derived bathymetry produced by various sources (e.g. NOC and NPTVI) and bathymetry based on satellite altimetry for all other areas. This will be merged into a single bathymetric surface that covers the entire Exclusive Fisheries Zone and uses the best-available data. NOC will lead this WP.

Work Package 2: collation of in-situ observations to generate a single repository for all historical (e.g. datasets for the coastal resources of the BVI (Blair Myers et al. 1992), the CRA (Pascoe et al., 2013), CEFAS ground-truthing (2015) and 2016 condition report (Fitzsimmons et al., 2016)) and future seabed observations in the BVI.

Work Package 3: fieldwork campaign to collection in-situ seabed observations in the BVI. This will include revisiting a high proportion of historically sampled locations and the selection of new locations so that the CRA can be extended into new areas and deeper waters. Drop down cameras will be used to collect video footage of the seabed and benthic assemblage. Photographs will be used to assess the prevalence of diseases such as stony coral tissue loss disease. The same dataset will be used for the temporal analysis and new coral condition assessment (WP5). Due to a specific request from the MNRL&I, the following water quality parameters will also be collected as a water column profile at each station: temperature, salinity, chlorophyll, turbidity and nitrate and Dissolved Organic Matter. These water quality observations will be used to provide a snapshot of water quality in the BVI.


Work Package 4: using standard derived terrain variables, imagery and backscatter products and machine learning based geostatistical methods, the new in situ observations/habitat classes will be extrapolated cross the remotely sensed surfaces to produce a marine habitat map and geomorphology map. To reduce duplication, the ACA mapped coral and seagrass classes will be nested within the updated CRA.


Work Package 5: coral condition and assemblage data will be compared between 1991, 2006 and 2021 so assess changes in coral health and the profile of coral assemblages over time. This WP will also produce a condition assessment for the coral based on the 2021 in situ survey.

There are clear synergies with proposal DPR9S1\1059 - Ecosystem Sensitivity and Climate Vulnerability for MSP in the BVI (led by NOC). If both are funded, the updated CRA will be nested within the finished ES-CV framework delivered by that project. This will greatly improve the immediate benefits of both projects, however neither project is dependent on the other. These two stand-alone projects have not been merged into one project due to perceived risk of rejection based on their combined value.

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

 [Figures 1 and 2](#)

 02/02/2021

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 pdf 231.58 KB


 [Head of Finance Letter](#)

 02/02/2021


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 [References and Hyperlinks CRA](#)

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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 primary stakeholders for this project are the MNRLI and the NPTVI - these organisations are collectively responsible for the management of protected areas and total management of the marine environment, respectively in the BVI. The relevant stakeholders were highlighted during an ongoing NOC project (commissioned by the MNRLI) that required stakeholder engagement with 11 in-country organisations to understand the availability of data and skills needed for implementing MSP in the BVI. It was during this engagement that the necessity for an update CRA was specifically highlighted by the two organisations.

The value of these stakeholders to this project is their ability to immediately use an updated CRA within their management practices to produce tangible outcomes in the forms of site recommendations for protection and the formation of marine spatial plans. The same stakeholders have also been involved with previous iterations of the CRA and are therefore:

-holders of valuable historical data sets;

-able to specify the required format for project deliverables to be of immediate value within the management processes;

-in a position to legally enact effective management measures based on the new information that will benefit a broad spectrum of marine users and policy objectives.

Both stakeholders will also provide staff and input during both the fieldwork and map production process. The combination of project members and stakeholder staff working on the project will provide additional opportunities for capacity building. Stakeholder involvement with the work will also maintain a sense of investment and ownership of the final products.

Q15. Institutional Capacity

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

NOC is the United Kingdom's centre of excellence for oceanographic research. The NOC is part-funded by UK Research and Innovation to work on National Capability programmes, and manages on its behalf, the National Marine Equipment Pool and two research ships. NOC has two sites, Southampton and Liverpool, and employs around 650 staff. It is co-located at both sites with leading UK Universities (Southampton and Liverpool), giving NOC a unique capacity and position in UK marine research.

Based on the size of NOC, we have adequate amounts of resource to deliver this project and sufficient redundancy should key staff become unavailable. We also hold a large pool of survey hardware that ensures we have all the equipment required to deliver the fieldwork and sufficient redundancy in case of equipment failures. We also have dedicated in-house freight facility for the rapid dispatch of equipment throughout the world. NOC also have computing capabilities (high performance access, high-volume archiving, software licenses) to support the collation of the remotely sensed datasets. NOC has a dedicated

group (Seafloor Ecosystems) of scientists that specialise in the collection of spatial data and the production of habitat maps. NOC has delivered several projects in the BVI already and therefore have practical experience in sourcing survey infrastructure (e.g. boats), survey logistics (freighting) and working in the BVI (key contacts for local maritime knowledge, permits and existing data). NOC also has similar projects currently being delivered in other countries such as the Commonwealth of Dominica and Belize.

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 are the competent authorities managing marine conservation and spatial planning in the BVI. The MNRLI are soon to implement MSP. The new CRA clearly provides the best basis for MSP. Effective MSP then indirectly benefits all marine stakeholders through the fair and considered use of the marine environment. The MNRLI are willing to adjust their timeline for MSP delivery so that the new CRA can be incorporated.

The Trust are responsible for recommending marine protected areas to the Ministry. This also is dependent on accurate maps with sufficient thematic detail to delineating features of conservation importance. The temporal analysis also provides insights into the effectiveness of existing management measures in the face of local and global threats. Additional beneficiaries include the Allen Coral Atlas project (WP1 data to be used for map validation) and the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (condition assessments).

The oceanography and water quality data set, specifically requested by the MNRLI, provides a generic resource suitable for numerous users. This information can also be used to validate satellite imagery, understand water quality locally and in relation to seabed habitats, planning water quality monitoring and calibrate future oceanographic models for the area.

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?

The gender balance of both the project team and the in-country partners is broadly equal. NOC are a participant in the Athena Swan Scheme (a charter encouraging and recognising commitment to advancing gender equality). NOC's previous capability building project in the BVI, which broadly included the same in-country partners, had a greater proportion of female participants than male. A robust and up-to-date evidence base to support MSP will provide benefits throughout BVI's coastal communities and across genders, this evidence allows for the most effective decision making to ensure the long-term sustainability of marine resources. Resources that are vital to supporting fisherfolk (predominantly male) and BVI's tourism industry and dependant sectors such as accommodation and food service, employing mostly women (65%) for example (UNDP, UNICEF and UN Women, 2020).

Q18. 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.

The adoption of accurate and contemporary marine habitat maps within the BVI MSP system ensures that the first tranche of plans will be based on the best available evidence. Subsequent management actions, mandated by the plans, are more likely to be appropriately placed and prioritised, trusted and effective. Reliance on outdated, broad-scale maps (that lack the required thematic resolution to label habitats by condition or conservation importance) is likely to lead to poor and ineffective planning, where the management outcomes cannot be assessed due to the confounding influences of poor spatial data.

High quality habitat maps facilitate other environmental assessments and management such as inventory investigations, assessing ecosystem services/natural capital, and the planning sampling and monitoring scheme. The updated CRA will benefit indicator-based assessments, such as the 25-year environment plan, that use habitat extent and condition (K4 indicator for the extent and condition of protected areas in OTs).

The initial marine spatial plans are likely to remain in place for many years and form the primary approach for marine management within the BVI. Given their longevity, a well-constructed set of plans are likely to provide the greatest protection for the marine environment. The updated CRA will also provide an appropriate baseline by which the long-term efficacy of management practices can be assessed.

The temporal analysis will provide a greater understanding of the gradual changes driven by climate change as well as step-changes driven by natural disasters. An awareness of these trajectories allows marine managers to account for these processes both when designing conservation measures and interpreting future condition assessments.

The outputs contribute to the first three of round 9 objectives:

- increase the coverage and effectiveness of marine protected areas;
- conservation and effective management of coral reefs and seagrass meadows; and
- non-native species – (e.g. non-native seagrass in the BVI).

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 your overall Outcome, and, longer term, your expected Impact.

Effective marine management is dependent on accurate, full-coverage spatial products depicting both marine resources and human activities. This project seeks to deliver an updated CRA and increase its extent. Having this information means that spatially based management will be correctly located and management efforts will prioritise by habitat requirements. The CRA will also contribute to the fledging MSP in the BVI. MSP, when based on accurate evidence and robust action, provides effective management, e.g. facilitating the holistic management of national waters, the selection of closed areas (the RMS Rhone Marine Park is the only marine designation in the BVI to date), and the promotion of a sustainable blue economy.

Repeat observations of historical stations will assess the temporal change in coral assemblages in the BVI over a prestigious period of environmental events and challenges in the Caribbean region. Knowing the temporal trajectories for benthic habitats imposed by CC and major environment disturbances can moderate expectations of management success. The combination of a new MSP system based both on new

maps, a contemporary condition assessment and an understanding of temporal change is likely to provide the Government of the BVI the best possible opportunity to make detailed, effective and realistic plans.

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 deliverables for this project are all finalised products will be available for immediate use by stakeholders and will require no further support after the project. Long-term and accessible storage for project products will be provided, at no cost, using online repositories (PANGAEA, Ocean Biodiversity Information System and potentially EMODnet).

The project will also provide derivatives, such as a unified depth surface and derived terrain variables such as slope and complexity. Following the recent surveys of the UKHO, CEFAS and NOC, it is not likely that additional bathymetry will be collected in the BVI in the foreseeable future - as such, these derivatives are unlikely to become outdated in the short-term.

The temporal analysis will provide a comparison of three time-points separated by 15 years each. It will clearly be of value to sustain this temporal analysis but this does not need to be revisited for another 15 years.

The new CRA can immediately replace the existing inaccurate and out-dated CRA within the BVI National GIS database. Potential parallel efforts with another Darwin Plus proposal will see the CRA integrated into a climate change vulnerability and MSP framework to support BVI led MS plans and climate change vulnerability assessments.

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 DPR9S11057](#)

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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:

New Initiative. The need for an update for the Coastal Resource Atlas was highlighted during the current 'Technical Assistance: Development of Data Framework and delivery of Capacity Building Activities that Support Marine Spatial Planning in the BVI' (a project commissioned by the BVI Gov and awarded to NOC). This project involved stakeholder engagement with:

the Governor's Office BVI
Virgin Islands Shipping Registry
National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands
Recovery and Development Agency
Town and Country Planning
Land and Survey Department
Ministry of Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration
Central Statistics Department
Port Authority of the British Virgin Islands
Dept of Agriculture and Fisheries
Joint Nature Conservation Committee (UK)
Department of Disaster Management

The need for a revision to the Coastal Resource Atlas was highlighted on numerous occasions during this engagement exercise

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

No

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
National Oceanography Centre	██████	£	In kind overhead wavier
JNCC	██████	<i>No Response</i>	In kind overhead wavier
MNRLI	██████	£	In kind contribution of staff time
<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
<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>
<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?

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?

NOC routinely manage large, million-pound plus research budgets with a typical turnover of approximately [REDACTED]. The NOC utilizes project management systems that require reporting of daily activity and spending. All funding that is received as grants is being managed by the Principle Investigator with facilitating by Science and Project Support Team. Senior Project Support Officer sets up a separate project code unique to the grant and allocates a budget as indicated in the award letter. Principle investigator is in control of the budget and expenses including labour and non-labour needs to be approved by him/her. Procurement and Legal Team are informed if the project requires external audit and make arrangement for that to happen. The support team check the project cost claim to make sure all internal processes and procedures have been met when incurring the costs and that only allowable expenses are claimed from the funder.

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.

NOC operates risk management procedures based on the risk profile of each project. These are required for internal decision-making purposes as well as used as a part of project management and quality assurance during project delivery. The principal investigator will be responsible for managing project risks and introducing contingency plans where needed to address perceived risks.

The use of external partners can present financial risks, particularly with regard to consistency of approaches between different organisations. NOC will prepare and maintain a project execution plan and risk register to ensure tasks involving one or more partners, are effectively managed from start to finish.

Fraud and bribery have also been identified as risks. NOC's Fraud and Bribery Policy describes what constitutes bribery, how to report bribery as well as specific actions to eliminate bribery. This policy document will be shared with all partners and form the minimum level of fraud and bribery safeguards within the project.

The current COVID-19 pandemic will create unique challenges for the project; NOC will continue to make all decisions on a risk-based approach, relying on expert guidance and advice, local jurisdiction and close engagement with and our local partners.

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.

It is estimated that approximately [REDACTED] % of the projects finances will be spent in-country (excluding the in-kind contributions). A sizeable amount of money is allocated to collection new seabed observations both at historical locations and at new, deeper water sites. This involves money for Trust staff (£[REDACTED] to assist at sea and to process information. Boat charter costs area also considerable (~£[REDACTED] and represent a significant input of money as a direct allocation to the NPTVI into either the local economy or – this sector of the economy has been especially impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic and the absence of tourism on within the BVI. During the fieldwork, the £[REDACTED] T&S budget needed for the visiting scientists will be spend locally. Dr Shannon Gore, a resident of the BVI, is also a project partner and will be receiving funds (~£[REDACTED]

from the project. As well as being in-country, Dr Gore has also worked on various marine projects locally and is best placed to lead on the temporal analysis. Additional resources are allocated for the printing maps which is ultimately be delivered, as out-reach materials, in the BVI.

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.

None.

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.

Significant savings are made as the project uses several existing, high-value datasets recently collected in the BVI. A typical habitat mapping exercise would require approximately two-thirds of any budget being spent on the collection of the remotely sensed dataset (e.g. ship-based multibeam or LiDAR). Even a satellite-derived bathymetry requires bathymetry from field observations for calibration. As the required remotely sensed data have recently been collected, costs for this project are substantially reduced.

Savings within the project mean that more ground-truthing can be collected. As a comparatively cheaper activity than the collection of remotely sensed data, this can be enhanced without substantially increasing costs. The improved ground-truthing enables us to: (i) extend the coverage of the CRA; (ii) conduct a temporal analysis of change within coral communities over the last 30 years; (iii) greatly increase the accuracy of the resulting CRA (replication is widely believed to be the factor limiting the quality of most habitat maps); (iv) help validate the Allen Coral Atlas map; and (v) contribute to the condition assessments provided to the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network.

The simultaneous collection of water quality information at all stations also represents a significant saving. The need for a spatially extensive water quality survey was specifically requested by the Ministry. By combining this survey with the benthic ground-truthing, boat charter costs are saved. Water quality data can also be used to calibrate satellite-based water quality data and thereby produce additional water quality products and useful predictor variables for the benthic habitat modelling.

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.

This project will deliver: a collate grounding truthing data set; a unified bathymetric surface for the BVI; a spatial survey of water quality and habitat maps for all seabed types. These products are 'foundation' datasets that can be reused for multiple purposes. As such, it is essential that after delivery to in-country stakeholders, the data are also made available to all. To achieve this, all of the data collected during the project will be made available through several online data archiving centres. The unified bathymetric surface, derived terrain variables, and final habitat maps will be stored on the PANGAEA website (free to

upload and free to access). Water quality data (surface water observations and 'profiles' through the water column) can also be hosted at PANGAEA. Biological observations and general descriptions of the ground-truthing (as well as contact for obtaining the actual footage on request) will be stored on the OBIS site (free to access).

It is important to also highlight the availability of the data for those outside the project. Ian Folger (NOC) will be responsible for delivering the project communications plan, which includes press releases for local media and extensive use of social media, as well as organising events within the project. The final product is a series of maps, we will also print a limited number of A0 display maps for distribution to various stakeholders and interested parties.

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.

All NOC employees are expected to promote an inclusive environment free from discrimination, harassment and bullying with a respectful approach to differences and an open attitude to collaboration. This protection is for both employees of NOC and those with whom they work or come in contact with through their work. Due to a number of international projects at NOC, we have both a stand set of safeguarding policies and a specific set for international work. This set of additional policies broadly places additional requirement on NOC, and its partners, during international work.

Both sets of policy documents have been shared with all of the project partners. In turn, all partners have provided written documentation that they will also abide by the same policies regulating NOC staff. An independent member of NOC staff based in the HR department, unconnected to the project and delivery research group, we be appointed as a point of contact for the reporting of safe-guarding infringement. This point of contact will be provided to NOC staff working on the project, partner staff, contractors (e.g. provided in the survey specification to the boat provider) and stakeholder contacts.

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

 [20200914 LGPRO03 Safeguarding Guidance and Reporting Procedure FINAL v1.0](#)
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 [NOC Safeguarding Code of Conduct NOC Safeguarding Guidance Appendix 2](#)
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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.

 [Logframe CRA](#)
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Impact:

Effective marine management based on accurate and up-to-date information on the distribution of marine habitats. Effective targeting and prioritisation of management activities. Provision of information for spatial assessments and research.

Outcome:

High-quality habitat maps made available for marine management, research, resource/inventory assessments, natural capital validations and the placement of protected sites etc. Improved management for a larger sea area (deeper waters).

Project Outputs

Output 1:

Collated database of historical biological and physical seabed observations

Output 2:

Dataset of in situ seabed (camera imagery) and water column (profiler) data for historical and new ground-truthing stations in the BVI.

Output 3:

Updated CRA covering the major habitats out to both the 12 nm area (predictive habitat maps) and EFZ (geomorphology maps/seascape).

Output 4:

Better understand of the temporal change and overall trajectories of the major marine habitats in the BVI. Updated condition assessment for coral habitat in the BVI.

Output 5:

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.

1.1 Collate historical surveys of the BVI seabed. Observations to collect include multibeam echosounder and LiDAR-based bathymetric datasets.

1.2 Habitat observations collected in 1991, 2005 and 2018 also need to be collated into a similar database to facilitate the temporal analysis.

2.1 Conduct a ground-truthing survey in 2022 to collect new drop-down video footage of the seabed habitats. Water quality profiles will also be collected at the same stations.

2.2 Delivery of the seabed imagery, profile data and GT interpretations to the MNRLI with report.

3.1 Merge bathymetric datasets to produce a new unified bathymetric surface for the BVI. Using this surface, additional terrain variables will be derived and geomorphological surfaces made. Use the terrain variables to model the distribution of observed seabed habitats throughout the waters of the BVI.

3.2 All activities will include a work-shadowing/capacity building component for MNRLI staff.

4.1 Examine temporal patterns and trajectories between historical observations to infer change over time for the major seabed habitats in the BVI.

4.2 Report temporal trends – potential scientific publication.

4.3 Use the most recent seabed observations (2022 survey) to assess the current condition of coral habitats within BVI waters.

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.

 [R9 DPlus Implementation Timetable Template](#)

[CRA FINAL](#)

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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 main forum for project supervision will be the Project Management Group (PMG) quarterly meetings. The PMG will include representatives from each partner (NOC, JNCC, Shannon Gore and the Trust). Within each meeting, the group will consider: (i) progress according to the timetable; (ii) the quality of the deliverables; (iii) how to troubleshoot any logistical or scientific issues; (iv) how to promote awareness and access to the project deliverables; and (v) other issues such as the identification of new beneficiaries and safeguarding issues.

The Stakeholder and Beneficiaries Group (SBG) meeting will follow the PMG consecutively. James Strong will chair the SBG meeting and both the NPTVI and the MNRLI will be present. The meeting will be open to any beneficiary (subject to stakeholder clearance) that may also wish to join the meeting. Both the PMG and SBG meetings will be minuted and these records included in the final report (March, 2023).

Overall responsibility for project monitoring and evaluation will fall to two people. Dr James Strong (NOC – lead organisation) will be the primary evaluator within the project. He will assess the progress made according to the indicators provided in the Log Frame. Dr Strong is an experienced scientist but also an experienced manager of science and has led habitat mapping at NOC on several large projects including Addressing Challenges of Coastal Communities through Ocean Research for Developing Economies and the Commonwealth Marine Economies Programme. Mr Joseph Smith Abbott will also assess progress to

provide an independent and stakeholder-focused perspective. Both assessments will be routinely reported to the Darwin Plus project office.

Specific indicators have been provided for each objective. The indicators typically relate to specific products that either stakeholders or beneficiaries have requested, e.g. delivery of ground-truthing data to Allen Coral Atlas by October 2021. An indicator will only be considered complete when a stakeholder provides confirmation to the PMG chair that the indicator conditions have been met (i.e. ensuring that finished products are where they need to be).

It is likely that weather (e.g. seasonal large swells and hurricanes), logistics (e.g. international travel, freighting equipment and boat availability) and staff or equipment availability (e.g. equipment failures) will modify dates stated here for the commencement of specific fieldwork components. Flexibility and redundancy have been already included in the time-frame and project resources to allow for this (e.g. a complete set of back-up cameras have been allocated within NOC to this proposal). What is important that any changes are rapidly communicated (to partners, stakeholders and the Darwin Initiative), realistically assessed and adequately acted upon. The Darwin Initiative will be informed of any complications immediately, should they arise, and any remedial actions will be discussed collectively prior to implementation. The highest risk component of the project is the collection of ground-truthing data. However, NOC were in the BVI in 2019 collecting ground-truthing data and as such, are familiar with the working environment, weather patterns, boat provides and have a good professional relationship with the primary stakeholders.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)	£ [REDACTED]
Number of days planned for M&E	20.00
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)	[REDACTED]

Section 16 - Certification

Certification

On behalf of the

trustees

of

National Oceanography Centre

I apply for a grant of





£253,645.00

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	Dr James Strong
Position in the organisation	Senior Marine Scientist
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 James Strong  02/02/2021  09:26:47  jpg 3.86 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).