Applicant: Schofield, Andy Organisation: RSPB

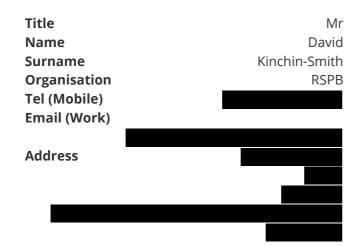
Funding Sought: £532,182.00

DPR11S2\1019

Enabling invasive plant eradications and long-term management in Tristan

Rapidly spreading invasive plant species threaten unique biodiversity values and community livelihoods in the Tristan archipelago. This project will eradicate all known New Zealand Flax plants on Inaccessible Island World Heritage Site, plus train and enable a Tristan-led eradication of all emergent Pōhutukawa trees and self-sown Monterey pine on Tristan itself. A comprehensive survey of all Tristan's other invasive plants will provide Tristan Conservation with a prioritised long-term management & eradication strategy, safeguarding natural habitats and vital agricultural land.

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

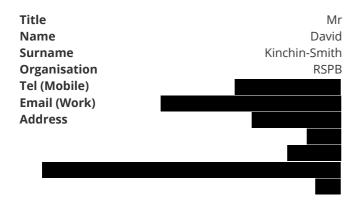


CONTACT DETAILS

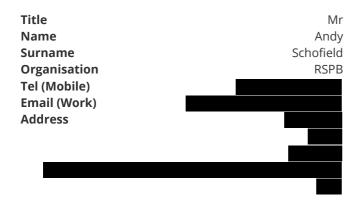


Section 1 - Contact Details

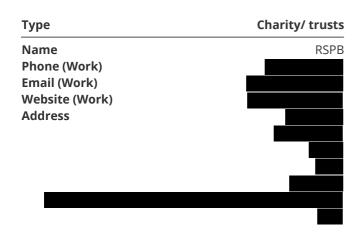
PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS



CONTACT DETAILS



GMS ORGANISATION



Section 2 - Title & Summary

Q3. Project Title:

Enabling invasive plant eradications and long-term management in Tristan

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DPR11S1\1123

DPR11S1\1046

Q4. Summary of project

Please provide a brief summary of your project: the problem it is trying to address, its aims, and the key activities you plan to undertake.

Successful Darwin Plus Main projects in Round 11 must demonstrate substantial measurable outcomes in at least one of the themes of Darwin Plus either by the end of the project's implementation or via evidenced mechanisms for post-project delivery.

Preference will be given to discrete projects implementing existing identified environmental solutions on the ground.

The broad themes of Darwin Plus Main are:

- Biodiversity: improving and conserving biodiversity, and slowing or reversing biodiversity loss and degradation;
- Climate change: responding to, mitigating and adapting to climate change and its effects on the natural environment and local communities;
- Environmental quality: improving the condition and protection of the natural environment;
- Capability and capacity building: enhancing the capacity within OTs to support the environment in the short- and long-term.

Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

Rapidly spreading invasive plant species threaten unique biodiversity values and community livelihoods in the Tristan archipelago. This project will eradicate all known New Zealand Flax plants on Inaccessible Island World Heritage Site, plus train and enable a Tristan-led eradication of all emergent Pōhutukawa trees and self-sown Monterey pine on Tristan itself. A comprehensive survey of all Tristan's other invasive plants will provide Tristan Conservation with a prioritised long-term management & eradication strategy, safeguarding natural habitats and vital agricultural land.

Section 3 - UKOT(s), Dates & Budget Summary

Q5. UKOT(s)

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

☑ St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha*

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

Tristan da Cunha

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

No

Q6. Project dates

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):
01 April 2023	31 March 2026	3 years

Q7. Budget summary

Year:	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total request
Amount:	£201,379.00	£119,807.00	£210,996.00	£
				532,182.00



Q9a. Do you have matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

The RSPB will provide match-funding of specific staff time and overheads, as well as a contribution towards accommodation and subsistence costs. The Tristan da Cunha Government Conservation Department will provide matchfunding of some staff time and overheads, as well as all boat fuel costs for travel between Tristan's northern islands. Indigena will provide discounted use of their proprietary Weed Management App and subsidised use of the Thinksafe health and safety management system to the Tristan Conservation Department.

Q9b. Total confirmed & unconfirmed matched funding (£)



Q9c. If you have a significant amount of unconfirmed matched funding, please clarify how you fund the project if you don't manage to secure this?

N/A - All match funding is confirmed.

Section 4 - Problem statement

Q10. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in the UKOTs, relating to at least one of the themes of Darwin Plus.

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).

The Tristan archipelago is one of the remotest in the world, home to 95+ unique species which have evolved in isolation. With the transport of people and goods across the globe, many plant species have been introduced into novel areas, with devastating and far-reaching consequences for the native biodiversity. A 2007/8 expert botanical survey identified 137 alien plant species on Tristan itself. Many of these species threaten to transform the island's ecosystems, driving biodiversity loss and impacting on livelihoods which heavily depend on subsistence agriculture via cattle-grazing on the highly limited pastureland and potato-growing. Of the 137 species identified, 17 were highlighted as of imminent concern, but competing urgent priorities and limited capacity meant little follow-up was undertaken. The subsequent rapid spread of two invasive tree species (Pōhutukawa (Metrosideros excelsa) & Monterey pine (Pinus radiata)) is now highly visible around both the settlement and on key pastureland, and they are starting to spread into natural sites. Pōhutukawa is currently estimated to be present over 100 ha (c.1% of the island's total area), and Monterey Pine 8ha (<0.1%), with the Pōhutukawa in particular now spreading very rapidly. The Tristan community have therefore formally asked the RSPB for urgent support in their management before the scale of the invasion renders eradication impossible and requires in-perpetuity control costs of these invasive species instead.

Introduced NZ Flax (Phormium tenax) meanwhile has long been recognised as a major threat to the ecosystems of the two uninhabited northern islands, where its unchecked spread could result in an impenetrable monoculture that would destroy the breeding sites of millions of seabirds. All emergent flax plants were successfully eradicated from Nightingale in 2004, and an extensive eradication effort began on Inaccessible in 2019. This has entailed 6-12 week-long eradication expeditions to Inaccessible every Tristan summer for the past four years, with a fifth scheduled for January-March 2023. In

2022 an exchange visit also occurred with St Helena, which has considerable expertise in NZ Flax control due to its position as the primary invasive on that island's fragile peaks. The eradication effort is progressing well, but momentum is key with such highly invasive species to ensure that total eradication is achieved, and the significant time and cost invested doesn't amount to nothing.

The project will support Tristanian-led efforts to eradicate the estimated 8-9k emergent Pōhutukawa which occur over a c.100ha area on Tristan. Tristanians will also lead on removal of all self-sown Monterey pine, a notorious invasive which is spreading from one planted timber stand into both pastureland and natural sites. A NZ-based invasive plant expert will provide in-person safe herbicide training and eradication protocol / strategy development support, plus work alongside Tristanians to re-map and strategise around the other invasive plant species previously identified on Tristan itself. The project will also complete the final three years of eradication effort estimated required to remove all emergent flax plants within the known invaded area on Inaccessible Island, delivering one of the primary conservation management objectives for this UK World Heritage Site.

Section 5 - Environmental Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q11. Environmental Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Please detail how your project will contribute to the aims of the national and/or international agreement(s) your project is targeting. What key OT Government priorities and themes will it address and how? You should also consider local, territory specific agreements and action plans here. Letters of support from UKOT Government partners/stakeholders should also make clear reference to the agreements/action plans your project is contributing towards.

Note: No additional significance will be ascribed for projects that report contributions to more than one agreement.

International Agreements:

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): This project will support Tristan and the UK's joint responsibilities under the CBD (Article 8(h) on alien species; Article 12 on research and training; and Article 13 on public education and awareness).

RAMSAR Convention: Will implement Tristan's responsibilities under Resolution V.III.18 'Invasive Species & Wetlands' via removing invasive NZ Flax from Inaccessible Island Ramsar site.

UNESCO World Heritage Convention: Will respond to the UNESCO site assessment which identifies NZ Flax as a threat to the integrity of Inaccessible Island World Heritage Site that needs to be addressed.

Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses & Petrels (ACAP), a sub-agreement of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS): Will deliver on Article III requirements to restore habitats and eradicate invasive species (at least 5 CMS Appendix-listed species breed on the two islands in habitats threatened by these invasive species).

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): The project will also deliver against SDGs 11 (Sustainable Communities), 15 (Life on Land: 'protect, restore...terrestrial ecosystems') and 17 (Partnerships).

Tristan Priorities & Commitments:

Tristan Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP): The project will galvanise work to deliver against a specific top-level objective in the BAP focussed on invasive plants - Objective 4.4 "Programme of control or removal of alien plants introduced". It will then deliver against the following underlying actions: Action 4.4.1 (control/eradication of invasive plants on Tristan), Action 4.4.4 (eradication of NZ Flax from Inaccessible), and Action 4.4.5 (prioritisation of alien plants for management).

Inaccessible Island Management Plan: Will deliver Priority Action A1- Eradicate NZ Flax.

Environment Charter: Will enable Tristan Government to deliver work against Commitment 2- 'Ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats... and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species' & Commitment 6- 'Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to Tristan'.

UK Government priorities:

Invasive non-native species are declared a primary threat to biodiversity in the UKOTs and their removal a priority in DEFRA's UKOTs Biodiversity Strategy (2014). The project will also deliver against the 25-Year Environment Plan (2018) target "to prevent human induced extinction or loss of known threatened species in England and the Overseas Territories", and strategic priorities i (baseline data) and ii (invasive species) of the UK Government's UK Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy (2010).

Section 6 - Method, Project Stakeholders, Gender, Change Expected, Pathway to Change & Exit Strategy

Q12. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome and contribute towards your Impact. Provide information on:

- How have you reflected on and incorporated evidence and lessons learnt from past and present activities and projects in the design of this project?
- The need for this work and a justification of your proposed approach.
- How you will undertake the work (materials and methods).
- How you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools, etc.).

The project will be led by the RSPB's dedicated UKOTs team, in partnership with the Tristan Government Conservation Department, with whom the RSPB has a very strong 20+ year relationship. It will engage two expert organisations: I-Rigging Solutions, South African rope-access specialists who have led the NZ flax eradication on Inaccessible's sheer cliffs since 2019, and invasive plant experts Indigena Biosecurity International, who have previously worked in both Tristan (Gough Island) and SGSSI.

Successful plant eradications have already taken place in the UKOTs, with six species officially eliminated from South Georgia last year by Indigena. We will emulate their successful strategy - aiming to reduce the population density of the targeted invasive plants to zero during the project's lifetime, and then providing the training and long-term support post-project to manage the species' soil seedbank. If all future new seedlings are removed before reproduction, so no further seed is added to the seedbank, eradication will ultimately result. The project will work to deliver the following four outputs:

Output 1: Experienced four-person team (three professional I-Rigging climbers & one Tristanian) will visit Inaccessible for three months each year, mapping and eradicating all emergent NZ Flax plants from areas of known presence. Flax will be cut out by hand and the stump/route system will then be treated with a Garlon herbicide. A minimum of four, 50m randomised transects (two plateau and two cliff) in cleared areas will monitor the effectiveness of control between years, and a 500m bordering buffer around the invasion area will be monitored to confirm flax absence. Training and fulfilment of 1000 'rope hours' will enable the Tristanian to achieve an internationally-recognised climbing certification (IRATA Level 2). The team will keep the Tristan community informed by carrying out several engagement sessions after each field season.

Output 2: Following training by experts in Pōhutukawa control, safe herbicide and chainsaw use, and use of a weed management recording app in Q3 of Year 1, a 5-person Tristanian-led team will remove all emergent Pōhutukawa trees by project end. Seedlings and juveniles will be foliar sprayed with a Metsulfuron-based herbicide whilst adults will be cut and stump treated. Large logs will be provided to community members as firewood, whilst the rest will decompose in situ. The areas covered by the trees will be mapped each year to show progress and to compare the spread with the 2007/8 baseline. All Year 1 and Year 2 clearings will be monitored and re-treated as required. Final re-surveys will occur in Year 3. The training in the safe use of agri-chemicals and chainsaws will be extended to all adults who want to be involved.

Output 3: Following similar training, a Tristanian-led team will remove all self-sown Monterey pine trees by the end of Year 2. Seedlings will be hand pulled or cut and stump treated with a Metsulfuron based herbicide. Juveniles and adults will be cut and stump treated, whilst large trees will have herbicide injected into their trunk and then be left to slowly decompose from vertical as per best practice to minimise disturbance footprint. The areas covered by the trees will be mapped each year to show progress and to compare the spread with the 2008 baseline. All Year 1 and Year 2 clearings will be monitored and re-treated as required. Final re-surveys will occur in Year 3.

Output 4: An invasive plant expert will visit Tristan in Years 1 and 3, enabling a reassessment of all invasive plant species via comprehensive ground surveys of all previous known invasion sites from original 2007/8 botanical fieldwork, and updating baseline maps for the 17 priority species. They will produce an Invasive Plant Strategy, guiding seedbank control of the two target species, plus other prioritised plants, for the next decade, and inform development of a Weed Control Manual focussing on at least five invasive species impacting agriculture - a key community desire. An RSPB visit in Years 1 and 3 will assist with face-to-face community engagement and long-term planning.

We are highly aware of limited local capacity so have carefully co-calculated the number of Tristanian days necessary to achieve the project's goals. Berth constraints have proven the most significant delivery challenge to previous Tristan Darwin projects (there are only c.140 berth spaces per year to/from this island of 240 people), so a yacht will be chartered in years 1 and 3 to assist with the 13 return journeys required.

Q13. Project Stakeholders

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

The Tristan da Cunha Administrator, Environmental Policy Officer and Island Council were all consulted as part of the project's development, with the Conservation Department co-designing the project at both stage 1 and stage 2. The Conservation Department will lead on practical mapping and eradication work of Pōhutukawa and Monterey Pine and assist in that of NZ Flax. They will work collaboratively with Indigena for an assessment of other invasives and co-lead all community consultation activities with the RSPB, as well as helping to coordinate engagement activities with the wider community including the local school.

Indigena Biosecurity International were consulted and involved at both stage 1 and 2 of project development by RSPB and the Tristan Conservation Department. They will lead on all wider invasive plant reassessment/long-term strategising/mapping work on Tristan as well as providing expert training in agri-chemical usage and plant eradication techniques. I-Rigging were also consulted by RSPB and Tristan at both stage 1 and 2. They will lead on the NZ Flax eradication on Inaccessible Island WHS, providing three professional climbers each year, and lead on training for the Tristanian team member.

Throughout the project all partners/contractors will participate in project management discussions, monitoring and evaluation meetings every six months, as well as providing project updates to Island Council on all aspects of the work. Partner meetings in September and March (pre- and post-field season) will be integral to guiding practical work and ascertaining whether any adjustments are needed to the project timetable.

Q14. Gender equality

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain how your understanding of gender equality within the context your project, and how is it reflected in your plans. Please summarise how your project will contribute to reducing gender inequality. Applicants should, at a minimum, ensure proposals will not increase inequality and are encouraged to design interventions that proactively contribute to increased gender equality.

Invasive species do not discriminate, negatively impacting biodiversity, public health and agricultural production; the whole Tristan community will benefit from their removal. Across all project partners, staffing decisions are made based on expertise and reflect a relatively even gender-split, which includes females in influential positions such as the flax team leader. Tristan Conservation Department consists of 3 males and 1 female - all 4 staff will be given the same training opportunities.

In Tristanian society, men have traditionally undertaken more of the outdoor fieldwork tasks whilst women more often lead on indoor and administrative tasks. All are heavily involved in subsistence agriculture however, especially potatogrowing. The project will therefore aim to contribute to reducing gender inequality via ensuring that at least 3 of the, at minimum, 8 Tristanian training participants are female; it will also include a focus on safe agro-chemical use around the potato patches as a primary training goal which is highly relevant to all. Trainings will also be so timed as to suit both

genders. All firewood obtained from clearing work would be equally distributed between genders.

Q15. Change expected

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

When talking about how people will benefit, please remember to give details of who will benefit, differences in benefits by gender or other layers of diversity within stakeholders, and the number of beneficiaries expected. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used.

The project will safeguard globally significant biodiversity: Tristan is recognised as a 'Key Biodiversity Area' and Inaccessible is both a World Heritage and RAMSAR Site. It will also benefit the local 270-person community, positively impacting the local economy by increasing pastureland yields and reducing long-term weed management costs. The community will be better informed as to the threats that non-native species can pose, and Tristan Conservation Department will be upskilled to deliver long-term and strategic invasive plant management.

Short-term:

- At least three highly invasive plant species reduced to zero population density at their known invasion sites via safe and best practice methodologies (thereby delivering priority on-the-ground actions in the Inaccessible Island World Heritage Site Management Plan and Tristan Biodiversity Action Plan);
- Tristan Conservation Department will have greatly improved knowledge of the distribution and abundance of invasive plants on-island, as identified in an expert reassessment report;
- an Invasive Plant Strategy will provide framework for future action for the next decade;
- at least eight Tristanians will have received training in invasive plant identification, App data recording, control techniques and safe use of chainsaws/herbicide;
- One Tristanian will be professionally qualified to IRATA Level 2, enabling community-lead rope-access training in future;
- a Weed Control Manual will provide practical guidelines for the management of at least ten invasive plant species posing the greatest a) agricultural and b) conservation threat to Tristan.

Long-term:

- Natural habitats restored on Inaccessible, seabird nesting habitat re-occupied following eradication of Pōhutukawa and pastureland re-used following removal of Monterey Pine;
- An invasive plant database, established during project and synched to android field devices, provides Conservation and Agriculture Departments with a platform for the long-term monitoring and management of non-native plant species;
- A more supportive and aware community will be less likely to introduce new invasive plant species or to facilitate the spread of existing ones;
- With greater community awareness, Tristan will be better able to detect and rapidly respond to new invasive plant incursions;
- Tristanians stop the loss of further 'potato patches' to invasive plant species and regain agricultural land via safe agro-chemical and mechanical means;
- Tristan recognised as a leader in community-led invasive plant management, collaboratively working with other regional UKOTs dealing with the same invasive plant species (e.g. St Helena and NZ flax).

Potential to scale:

- Tristan Conservation Department will have the framework and capacity to prioritise, plan and, with a wider trained workforce, implement eradications of other invasive plant species.

Q16. Pathway to change

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

All Project Outputs contribute towards the overall Outcome of reducing three invasive plant species to a zero population density, but also informing and upskilling Tristan Government to deliver long-term invasive plant management. In the absence of alien plant species, native biodiversity will be restored, and livelihoods will be safeguarded for the future.

Outputs 1-3 deal with species which can feasibly be removed given logistical challenges and limited personnel, and which will be substantially more challenging and costly if left un-checked. All outputs contribute towards building capacity and raising awareness in the local community, through engagement and training. The project will greatly enhance the skillset on the island, from the more practical: rope access (professional certification) and safe chainsaw / herbicide usage; to more theoretical: plant ID, mapping and data recording.

An Invasive Plant Strategy will guide soil seedbank control for the target species and other prioritised invasive plants, ensuring the long-term sustainability of invasive plant management on Tristan. Successful eradications will give the community the confidence to carry out similar work without direct support in the future, supported by a Weed Control Manual which will provide practical steps for the management of species of agricultural and conservation threat.

Q17. Exit Strategy

How will the project reach a sustainable point and continue to deliver benefits post-funding? Will the activities require funding and support from other sources, or will they be mainstreamed in to "business as usual"? How will the required knowledge and skills remain available to sustain the benefits? If relevant, how will your approach be scaled?

Non-native plant species and their impacts are well known within Tristan's Conservation and Agricultural Departments, with both already carrying out intermittent control work. There is a deep understanding in both teams that consistency of effort is key for eradications as otherwise the hours of hard work and significant costs involved can amount to nothing as species return to their former state.

This project has therefore been designed with a focus around long-term sustainability, with a significant training element to ensure multiple members of the community have the knowledge and skillset to continue the control work post-project. By clearing all emergent plants by project-end and leaving only the seedbanks to deal with, the aim is that eradication work required post-project will be more focussed and considerably less time-consuming, therefore fitting into the established work programmes of each department. Project documentation (Invasive Plant Strategy and Weed Control Manual) will provide a lasting resource, as will ongoing financial and technical support from the RSPB, a longstanding partner of 20+ years who provides core annual staff funding to the Tristan Conservation Department. Together this will ensure the community have the necessary guidance to continue effective plant management, as well as taking a lead in future eradications. The App and database set up by Indigena will also provide Tristan with a simple means to monitor and record control efforts during and post-project.

Another three years of NZ Flax eradication work on Inaccessible Island will ensure that the Tristanian member of the team gains enough hours to achieve an internationally recognised qualification. Having someone with IRATA Level 2 within the community will not only ensure that there is the capacity to continue monitoring flax presence on Inaccessible, but it will also mean that they can lead rope access training sessions locally.

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

No Response

Section 7 - Risk Management

Q18. Risk Management

Please outline the 6 key risks to achievement of your Project Outcome and how these risks will be managed and mitigated, referring to the <u>Risk Guidance</u>. This should include at least one Fiduciary, one Safeguarding, and one Delivery Chain Risk.

Projects should also draft their initial risk register using the <u>Risk Register Template</u> provided, and be prepared to submit this when requested if they are recommended for funding. Do not attach this to your application.

Risk Description	Impact	Prob.	Inherent Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Fiduciary (Financial) Tristan Government has limited financial management capacity and will be receiving and disbursing almost £70K for their direct delivery work. Risk of mishandling and incomplete accounting paperwork.	Moderate	Likely	Major	We have increased the % time of the RSPB Financial Officer on this project to enable greater support and assistance to the Tristan Government's financial teams. This officer has worked successfully with Tristan on three previous Darwin Plus projects so understands their challenges and has relationships in place.	Minor
Safeguarding The project will engage with schoolchildren and all members of this 270-person community.	Major	Rare	Moderate	RSPB has strong safeguarding, whistleblowing and reporting procedures in place which apply to all project partners. No engagement with schoolchildren will happen outside of the regular school day and without teachers being present.	Minor
Delivery Chain Tristan is the world's most remote inhabited island, with only c.140 berths available to-from the island per year. The project needs to bring in up to 5 staff in a year (3 professional climbers, invasive plant expert and project manager) via an unpredictable and over-subscribed shipping schedule.	Major	Likely	Severe	Regular consultation with TDC Government to ensure plenty of notice given for regular sailings, with Tristan Conservation Department leading on reservations. Project will also charter bespoke yacht transport in Years 1 and 3 to ferry project staff to-from the island and relieve some berth pressure.	Moderate
Risk 4 Poor weather conditions: Wet Spring/Summer months could have a significant impact on eradication work as herbicide treatment is essential for effective control and relies upon dry conditions. Rope work avoided on especially windy days.	Major	Possible	Major	Forecasts regularly checked (as already done so by the Conservation Dept.) and plant removal prioritised during dry spells; regular informal meetings to adapt work plans to weather conditions; physical removal can still take place during wet conditions – adjuvant makes target rainfast in 2-hours, giving more flexibility in herbicide treatment.	Moderate

Risk 5 Competing demands on Tristanian time: In this small community many people have multiple jobs and responsibilities to their families' subsistence agriculture. There are also other project demands on the Conservation Department.	Major	Possible	Major	Training extended to the community so more personnel available for control work; project work provides a good daily wage on the island so is desirable. This project timed for when Conservation Department only has one other active Darwin project, which has minimal fieldwork and finishes at end of Yr1.	Moderate
Risk 6 Negativity from community towards work: Community members could object to eradications or fear that the planted stand of Monterey pines will be removed.	Moderate	Unlikely	Moderate	Project responding to clear community & Council demand for eradication action (pohutakawa damage brickwork). 98% of the trees occur on crown, not private, land. Clear communications that the planted stand will be kept, led by Conservation Dept. Weed control training provided to all interested, providing hands-on engagement with project goals.	Minor

Section 8 - Implementation Timetable

Q19. 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 Word 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.

- 🕹 Timetable Tristan Invasive Plants
- O 16:49:06
- pdf 246.25 KB

Section 9 - Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Q20. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan

Describe how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, making reference to who is responsible for the project's M&E.

Darwin Plus projects will need 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. For more information, see Finance Guidance.

At the start of the project a detailed work plan (incorporating an M&E plan), co-ordinated by the RSPB project manager, will set out responsibility for activities according to the project implementation timetable and logframe performance indicators/MoVs, and mechanisms for financial control.

Regular project monitoring will be held through bi-monthly meetings between the four collaborating organisations via audio/video links that will use the work plan to monitor and evaluate progress against project outputs. This will be co-ordinated by the RSPB. More extensive M&E meetings will take place every six months, in line with the Darwin reporting schedule, so as to evaluate progress. Any changes in assumptions or risks, or new issues arising, will be noted and used to modify the workplan proactively, and in consultation with the Darwin Secretariat. Annual and final reports, as well as all published outputs, will be generated as collaborative activities, with responsibility shared equally between the four partner organisations.

Control and monitoring activities will inform subsequent work packages as well as identifying priorities for following years. A limited evaluation will therefore be conducted at the end of each year by the RSPB to review the next year's work programme and potentially adjust the methodology. Indigena's visit in Year 1 will be critical for reassessing the spread of species identified in the 2007/8 survey, providing a new baseline for Tristan. This visit will also confirm the level of interest from the community as to how many people are keen to receive training and assist with control work, which may impact the anticipated timeframe for Outputs 2 and 3. Drone surveys of a 500m buffer area on Inaccessible to the area of known flax presence will confirm our understanding of the full extent of the species, as well as directing the rope access team for the following years.

A major monitoring milestone will be the checking of Year 1 clearings of the three species in Year 2. This will indicate the effectiveness of control as well as the required effort to bring populations of target species to zero. By the end of the project, three years' worth of non-native plant control and monitoring work will have taken place. The team will be able to evaluate whether removal was as effective as anticipated or if, because of Tristan's unique environment, corrective actions with regards to any forward work planning by RSPB and Tristan Conservation beyond the life of this current project will be necessary.

RSPB will retain overall financial control over the project, and all partners (incl. delivery) will be sub-granted to account specifically for funds provided to them.

The final project report and any publications based on the results of this project will be peer reviewed, internally by senior scientists in the partner organisations before the scientific journal peer-review process.

Total project budget for M&E in GBP (this may include Staff, Travel and Subsistence costs)		
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E (%)	ı	
Number of days planned for M&E	65	

Section 10 - Logical Framework

Q21. Logical Framework (logframe)

Darwin Plus projects will be required to monitor and report against their progress towards their 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

The **logframe template** (N.B. there is a different template for Stage 1 and Stage 2) needs to be downloaded from Flexi-Grant, completed and uploaded as a PDF within your Flexi-Grant application – **please do not edit the logframe template structure (other than adding additional Outputs if needed) as this may make your application ineligible. On the application form, you will be asked to copy the Impact, Outcome and Output statements and activities - these should be the same as in your uploaded logframe.**

Please upload your logframe as a PDF document.

- & Logframe Tristan Invasive Plants
- © 16:28:41
- pdf 107.65 KB

Impact:

Native wildlife thrives on Inaccessible Island World Heritage Site in the absence of invasive plants, and Tristan's community and biodiversity benefit from successful eradications of all feasibly-removed invasive plant species.

Outcome:

All emergent NZ Flax, Pōhutukawa and self-sown Monterey pine are removed from known invasion sites, and Tristan Government is informed and upskilled to deliver long-term invasive plant eradications / management.

Project Outputs

Output 1:

All emergent New Zealand Flax plants eradicated from areas of known presence on Inaccessible Island World Heritage Site

Output 2:

All emergent Pohutukawa trees eradicated from Tristan

Output 3:

All emergent self-sown Monterey Pine eradicated from Tristan

Output 4:

Baseline knowledge and community understanding of existing priority invasive plant species improved through surveys, mapping and F2F discussion

Output 5:

No Response

Do you require more Output fields?

It is advised to have fewer 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, 1.3 are contributing to Output 1.

- 1.1.1 Experienced rope access team hired to travel to Inaccessible Island in Q3 of each year to carry out NZ Flax eradication and survey work
- 1.1.2 NZ Flax team Lead receives drone/GIS training in Q2 of Year 1 to guide eradication work and produce updated flax coverage maps each season
- 1.1.3 Inaccessible Island equipment/food airdrop takes place during the annual SA Agulhas II Gough Island relief voyage, in each project year
- 1.2.1 NZ Flax team are joined by a Tristanian with rope access experience during each field season
- 1.2.2 Tristanian flax team member receives training and attains 1000 rope hours during three field seasons to achieve IRATA Level 2 certification

- 1.3.1 NZ Flax team deliver engagement activities each year, culminating in an end-of-project presentation given to the Tristan community in the final year
- 1.4.1 NZ Flax team assess effectiveness of flax control in Year 2 & 3 by surveying a sample of 'cleared' areas findings presented in final report
- 2.1.1 Experienced invasive plant specialist hired to assess and map non-native plant species on Tristan, and to deliver plant control and safe herbicide usage training
- 2.1.2 RSPB community engagement lead delivers chainsaw training to 8 Tristanians in Year 1
- 2.1.3 Invasive plant specialist creates MS Access database and provides training to 8 Tristanians to use specialist App, so all plant eradication work is recorded
- 2.2.1 Invasive plant specialist uses drone/GIS software to create a revised map of Pōhutukawa coverage on Tristan
- 2.3.1 Tristanian invasive plant team recruited and trained in safe Pōhutukawa eradication techniques
- 2.3.2 Tristanian project team eradicate all emergent Pōhutukawa trees by project end
- 2.4.1 Numbers of new Pōhutukawa seedlings recorded in sample 'cleared' areas between years to assess effectiveness of eradication work
- 3.1.1 Tristan Conservation Department staff trained in safe Monterey Pine control including chainsaw/herbicide usage
- 3.2.1 Invasive plant specialist provides drone and GIS mapping training to Tristan Conservation Department staff revised coverage map created in partnership
- 3.3.1 Tristanian project team trained in safe Monterey Pine eradication techniques
- 3.3.2 Tristanian project team eradicate all self-sown Monterey Pines by end of Year 2
- 3.4.1 Numbers of new Monterey Pine seedlings recorded in sample 'cleared' areas between years to assess effectiveness of eradication work
- 4.1.1 Invasive plant specialist reassesses invasive plant species from 2008 report, feeding back in person to Tristan Government and producing a written report
- 4.1.2 Invasive plant specialist writes 'Invasive Plant Strategy' by project end to provide guidance to Conservation Department for future seedbank control of priority species
- 4.2.1 Invasive plant specialist produces up to date maps of species of concern from 2008 report
- 4.3.1 Invasive plant specialist and community engagement lead host annual invasive plant update meeting for the community in Q3
- 4.3.2 Annual plant eradication newsletter detailing work carried out that year written and compiled by project field teams and shared with all Tristan households
- 4.4.1 Community engagement lead visits Tristan in Q3 (annually) to engage Council, school children and community members via public meetings, informal discussions and classroom teaching
- 4.5.1 Invasive plant specialist works in partnership with Conservation and Agriculture Departments to identify plant species of concern and to write 'Weed Control Manual'
- 4.5.2 Council meeting held in Q4 of final year to review all control work and to decide future eradication priorities using Weed Control Manual as guidance

Section 11 - Budget and Funding

Q22. Budget

Please complete the template below which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.

Budget form for projects over £100k

Please ensure you include any co-financing figures in the Budget spreadsheet to clarify the full budget required to deliver this project.

NB: 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.

Please upload the Lead Partner's financial accounts at the certification page at the end of the application form.

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

- & Budget Tristan Invasive Plants
- ① 12:28:27
- xlsx 98.99 KB

Q23. Funding

Q23a. Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work?

New Initiative

Please provide details:

The eradication of all emergent Pōhutukawa and all self-sown Monterey pine is a new initiative, as is the upskilling of the Tristan community to take the lead in this and future invasive plant eradication attempts. NZ Flax eradication on Inaccessible Island has been ongoing since 2019, with the Darwin Plus Initiative funding the second year of control work from the island's plateau followed by a further two years funded by EU Best 2.0+. The additional three years of clearance for this project are necessary to achieve eradication of all known plants. Due to the logistical challenges of scaling the near-vertical cliffs and walking across the densely vegetated plateau, it is challenging to work on Inaccessible. I-Rigging have remained the delivery partner throughout due to the very specific skillset required for such work and the team's extensive experience of working for prolonged periods in remote and challenging environments. The previous seasons of work have given us a more accurate assessment of what is required for this proposed project and give the best possible chance of removing this highly invasive species from Inaccessible Island.

Q23b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work?

No

Q24. Balance of budget spend

Defra are keen to see as much Darwin Plus funding as possible directly benefiting OT communities and economies. While it is appreciated that this is not always possible every effort should be made for funds to remain in-Territory.

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

Tristan Conservation Department only has four full-time members of staff and does not have the capacity to manage a project of this size or complexity (their largest ever project was <100k). They have therefore asked RSPB to be the Lead Partner, which brings project and financial management costs in the UK (roughly of the grant). However, all practical work on Tristan itself will be led by Tristanians once they have received expert in-person training and technical support.

With regard to other off-Territory spending, we have carefully planned Indigena's project activities to maximise time & spending in Territory. For health and safety purposes, three professional climbers must be hired from off-island to work on Inaccessible's cliffs for three three-month stints (roughly of the grant), though one Tristanian will join that team.

Another significant off-Territory cost (roughly of the grant) will be spent on chartering a yacht for Years 1 and 3. Berth constraints have proven one of the most significant delivery challenges to previous Tristan Darwin projects.

In total, we expect of the grant will be spent in-Territory. All capital items and consumables will remain with the Tristan community post-project.

Q25. 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 drone (cost will be used post-project by Tristan Conservation Department to continue the surveying and mapping of flax and other invasive species across the islands. Chainsaws, spraying equipment and associated PPE will be a valuable resource for both Conservation and Agriculture Departments for invasive plant management works.

Q26. 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.

This project provides value for money by delivering a long-term and sustainable solution for invasive plant management on Tristan. The three target species are those which their spread is starting to have a significant impact on the islands' native biodiversity and natural resource dependent economy; if left unchecked these species, would be considerably more costly and difficult to remove. Eradications are expensive but can provide a permanent resolution to a major driver of biodiversity loss. The project also builds on considerable previous investment (roughly has been spent on NZ flax eradication over the past four years).

The RSPB is committing all Project Lead time to match funding (almost _______), and our 20+ year working relationship with Tristan Conservation means that we can cost-effectively build the project management deliverables into our existing partnership, plus guarantee long-term follow-up support to Tristan post-project. Our prior experience on Tristan also means that all travel is realistically costed at the lowest available price.

Tristan Conservation are committing all Project Lead time to match funding and have extensive experience of sourcing equipment at competitive rates. I-Rigging's experience of working on Inaccessible has enabled them to meticulously manage their budget to maximise efficiency whilst remaining cost effective. Indigena are world leading experts in invasive plant management with a proven track record in the UKOTs. They are committed to maximising the training element of the project to ensure future plant management work is sustainable and community led.

Section 12 - Safeguarding and Ethics

Q27. 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.

Open access to data and the products of research is a general policy of RSPB. All data, reports, leaflets, training materials, photographs, films and other outputs from the project will be free access, and available in digital form where possible and appropriate on the Darwin, RSPB and Tristan websites. All plant eradication data will be collected in Indigena's Weed Management App prior to being downloaded into a MS Access database established on island. This data will be made available in a digitised format through Tristan's data portal (hosted by British Antarctic Survey) as well as being included as an annex to the final project report, subsequently becoming accessible through the Darwin Initiative website. Annual and half-year reports to Darwin will also list project progress and the products available from them. All reports and recommendations will also be shared with the GB Non-Native Species Secretariat at the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA).

The Tristan da Cunha website will host story updates and photographs, whilst social media accounts from RSPB and Tristan Government will be used to promote photographs and stories arising. The lessons learnt from implementing an invasive plant eradication programme in Tristan will be applicable to all the UKOTs as they all contain invasive, non-native species. The results will be presented to RSPB partner NGOs across the Territories, with the potential to share them at any relevant

UK conference that occurs in the final year of the project.

Q28. 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 Partner has the following policies in place and that these can be available on request:

Please upload the lead partner's Safeguarding Policy as a PDF on the certification page.

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 (file upload on certification page)	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 all 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 for staff and volunteers that sets out clear expectations of behaviours - inside and outside 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 safeguarding policies in practice and ensure that all partners apply the same standards as the Lead Partner.

The RSPB has clear safeguarding policies and procedures which apply to our international work and includes appropriate training for all our staff members working internationally. All RSPB workforce and representatives must act in accordance with this policy without exception. An internal Global Safeguarding Subgroup meets quarterly and oversees and advises on our international safeguarding work. This group includes staff with extensive safeguarding experience as well as representation from staff posted overseas working with partners and local communities.

We have a strong commitment to work closely with all our partners to ensure they adhere to good safeguarding practices, and any subcontractors must adhere to safeguarding requirements. Sub-grants will include our standard Annex outlining the obligations of partners to safeguarding and how they report, record and mitigate any incidents. We will work closely with partners on safeguarding issues and can provide safeguarding advice for partners and have just produced a 'Safeguarding Good Practice Guide' for our key international partners which will assist them in strengthening their current policies and procedures. All RSPB workforce and other representatives are obliged to report any safeguarding concerns following the required RSPB procedure.

Q29. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the key ethical principles, as outlined in the guidance. Additionally, are there any human rights and/or international humanitarian law risks in relation to your project? If there are, have you carried out an assessment of the impact of those risks, and of measures that may be taken in order to mitigate them? Any risk

assessment and mitigation of human rights and/or international humanitarian law risks should be included in the Question 18 on Risk Management.

The project adheres to the requirements of the Tristan Conservation Ordinance 2006, and the principles enshrined in the Constitution of St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha. The project proposal was shared with, and approved by, the Chief Islander and democratically elected Island Council prior to submission of Stage 1, and has been co-developed at all stages with the Tristan Conservation Department. It delivers Tristan Government priorities as outlined in their Biodiversity Action Plan and Inaccessible Island Management Plan. The eradication work on Tristan will all be led by Tristanians. The project has also responded to local requests during this development stage, such as inclusion of a wider weed control manual for priority agricultural species and opening up the agro-chemical training to any interested Tristanians.

The health and safety of all project staff is a priority and will be informed by the relevant partner's health and safety guidelines and engaging with expert professional organisations: I-Rigging Solutions for rope-access climbing and Indigena Biosecurity International for safe herbicide and chainsaw use. As lead partner, the RSPB will assume responsibility of monitoring and upholding its own health and safety guidelines and policies (e.g., safety handling equipment, Safeguarding, Modern Slavery, Whistleblowing) across all partner activities. All data arising from the project will be shared with Tristan Conservation Department for their free and perpetual use.

Finally, the project's focus and impact are species-based, with human rights and international humanitarian law risks consequentially being very low.

Section 13 - Project Staff

Q30. Project staff

Please identify the core staff (identified in the budget), their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project.

Please provide 1-page CVs or job description, further information on who is considered core staff can be found in the <u>Finance Guidance</u>.

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Andy Schofield	Project Leader	20	Checked
Wendy Cain	Finance Support	10	Checked
TBC	Project Officer	67	Checked
Trevor Glass	Tristan Lead	30	Checked

Do you require more fields?

Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
TBC (x4)	Plant Eradication Officer - TDC	20	Checked

Kelvin Floyd	Invasive Plant Technical Expert - Indigena	19	Checked
Carmen Ferreira	Inaccessible Flax Lead - I-Rigging	60	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
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.

- & Tristan Project CVs and JDs
- © 19:00:30
- pdf 930.11 KB

Have you attached all project staff CVs?

Yes

Section 14 - Project Partners

Q31. Project partners

Please list all the Project Partners (including the Lead Partner – i.e. the partner who will administer the grant and coordinate the delivery of the project), clearly setting out their roles and responsibilities in the project including the extent of their engagement so far and planned.

This section should demonstrate the capability and capacity of the Project Partners to successfully deliver the project. Please provide Letters of Support for all project partners or explain why this has not been included.

The partners listed here should correspond to the Delivery Chain Risk Map (within the Risk Register template) which you will be asked to submit if your project is recommended for funding.

Lead partner name:	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Is the Lead Partner based in a UKOT where the project is working?	⊙ No
Please explain why this project is led from outside the UKOT	Capacity on Tristan is limited (pop. c.250) so Tristan Conservation Department has asked the RSPB to lead given its limitations in project/financial management for a Darwin of this scale. RSPB will continue its aim of providing project and financial management mentorship to enable Tristan to lead on bigger future projects.

Website address:

www.rspb.org.uk

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

The UK Overseas Territories are a major strategic priority for the RSPB, and we have a track record of successful project delivery in the OTs under both Darwin and BEST. The RSPB has been working with the OTs for over 20 years. The underlying principle of our work is to establish enduring relationships with local partners in order to help support the development of sustainable and locally-lead conservation programmes. We therefore helped establish the Tristan Conservation Department in 2009 and have been working closely in a successful partnership with them ever since.

The RSPB will lead and manage the project, being responsible for overall delivery. Specifically, the RSPB will co-lead on management, community engagement, partner support, project monitoring/evaluation and financial management, all in close liaison with the project delivery partners, steering group and stakeholders. Andy Schofield has seven years' experience working on the ground with the Tristan Conservation Department on project delivery, has already visited the project sites, and has excellent close-knit links with the wider community to deal with any sensitivities which may arise. Wendy Cain will provide financial management support and has five years of experience working with the Tristan Government.

Allocated budget (proportion or value):

Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure) Yes

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:

Tristan da Cunha Conservation Department

Website address:

www.tristandc.com

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

The Tristan da Cunha Island Government governs this small Territory, with responsibilities divided across a range of Government Departments. Several of these Departments have a history of successful involvement in Darwin Plus projects. The Administrator and Island Council have been briefed on this project application and given their approval as a top priority project.

The Tristan Conservation Department was established in 2009 and is lead by Trevor Glass with support from three on-island colleagues. Trevor has been closely involved throughout the development of this project. The Tristan Conservation Department will lead on practical mapping and eradication work of Pōhutukawa and Monterey Pine and assist in that of NZ Flax. They will work collaboratively with Indigena for an assessment of other invasives and co-lead all community consultation activities with the RSPB. The Department has limited capacity, but this application has been carefully designed and timed to ensure ability to deliver, with sufficient external support in place and demands on Conservation Department capacity limited as far as possible. Expert boat-handling skills will meanwhile safely enable visits to Inaccessible. Kirsty Repetto will bring experience in financial management and school children engagement.

Allocated budget (proportion or value):	
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	⊙ Yes
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⊙ Yes
2. Partner Name:	No Response
Website address:	No Response
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	No Response
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	£0.00
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	○ Yes ○ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	○ Yes ○ No

3. Partner Name:	No Response
Website address:	No Response
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	No Response
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	£0.00
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	○ Yes ○ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	○ Yes ○ No
4. Partner Name:	No Response
Website address:	No Response
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	No Response
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	£0.00
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	○ Yes ○ No
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

Allocated budget (proportion or value):	£0.00
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	○ Yes ○ No
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
Allocated budget (proportion or value):	£0.00
Representation on the Project Board (or other management structure)	○ Yes ○ No
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	○ Yes ○ No
No Response	er details regarding Partners involved in the project, please use the text field below. Donding to feedback received at Stage 1 if applicable and a combined PDF of all letters
 ♣ Combined letters of suppose ★ 17/10/2022 ♠ 16:42:47 ▶ pdf 661.34 KB 	ort - TDC
Section 15 - Lead Par	tner Capability and Capacity

Q32. Lead Partner Capability and Capacity

Has your organisation been awarded Darwin Plus, Darwin Initiative or Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund funding 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).

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Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts?

If yes, please upload these on the certification page. Note that this is not required from Government Agencies.

Yes

Section 16 - Certification

Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

I apply for a grant of



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, a cover letter, letters of support, a budget, logframe, Safeguarding Policy and project implementation timetable.
- Our last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report are also enclosed.

Checked

Name	Jonathan Hall
Position in the organisation	Head of UK Overseas Territories
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 ♣ JH Signature ★ 17/10/2022 ◆ 15:33:35 ♣ jpg 22.93 KB
Date	17 October 2022

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

	DCDD	A l ! l	A	2020 24
ᄉ	KZPB	Audited	Accounts	2020-21

- © 16:45:33
- pdf 1.45 MB

- © 16:45:32
- pdf 697.12 KB

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

- **A RSPB Safeguarding Policy**
- © 14:00:43
- pdf 956.1 KB

Section 17 - Submission Checklist

Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance, including the "Darwin Plus Guidance", "Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Guidance", "Risk Guidance" and "Financial 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 the project.	Checked
I have provided my budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP.	Checked
I have checked that our budget is complete, correctly adds up and I have included the correct final total at the start of the application.	Checked
The application 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 30, including the Project Leader, or provided an explanation of why not.	Checked

I have included a letter of support from the lead partner and main partner organisation(s), including relevant OT Governments, identified at Question 31, or an explanation of why not.	Checked
I have included a cover letter from the Lead Partner, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed where relevant.	Checked
I have included a copy of the Lead Partner's safeguarding policy, which covers the criteria listed in Question 28.	Checked
I have included a signed copy of the last 2 annual report and accounts for the Lead Partner, 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 the Darwin Plus website.	Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant (Flexi-Grant Account Holder) and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current application rounds under the Darwin Initiative 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 the application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the **Privacy Notice**, available from the <u>Forms and Guidance Portal</u>.

This **Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals** whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).

Guidance - please delete before submitting

Provide a **Project Implementation Timetable** that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the following table as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project. Quarters are based on UK FYs (1 April – 31 March - Q1 therefore starts April 2023).

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

This template covers multiple Biodiversity Challenge Funds schemes, so ensure you check the eligible dates/project length for the scheme you are applying to and feel free to delete later years if not applicable for your project.

	Activity	No. of	Y	ear 1	(23/2	4)	Y	ear 2	24/2	5)	Y	ear 3	(25/2	6)
	Activity	months	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1	All emergent New Zealand Flax plants eradicated from areas of known presence on Inaccessible Island World Heritage Site													
1.1.1	Experienced rope access team hired to travel to Inaccessible Island in Q3 of each year to carry out NZ Flax eradication and survey work	9												
1.1.2	NZ Flax team Lead receives drone/GIS training in Q2 of Year 1 to guide eradication work and produce updated flax coverage maps each season	1												
1.1.3	Inaccessible Island equipment/ food airdrop takes place during the annual SA Agulhas II Gough Island relief voyage, in each project year	1												

	Activity	No. of	Y	ear 1	(23/2	4)	Y	ear 2	(24/2	5)	Y	ear 3	(25/2	6)
	Activity	months	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1.2.1	NZ Flax team are joined by a Tristanian with rope access experience during each field season	9												
1.2.2	Tristanian flax team member receives training and attains 1000 rope hours during three field seasons to achieve IRATA Level 2 certification	9												
1.3.1	NZ Flax team deliver engagement activities each year, culminating in an end-of-project presentation given to the Tristan community in the final year	1												
1.4.1	NZ Flax team assess effectiveness of flax control in Years 2 & 3 by surveying a sample of 'cleared' areas – findings presented in final report	2												
Output 2	All emergent Põhutukawa trees eradicated from Tristan													
2.1.1	Experienced invasive plant specialist hired to assess and map non-native plant species on Tristan, and to deliver plant control and safe herbicide usage training	6												
2.1.2	RSPB community engagement lead delivers chainsaw training to 8 Tristanians in Year 1	1												

	Activity	No. of	Y	ear 1	(23/2	4)	Y	ear 2	(24/2	5)	Year 3 (25/26)			
	Activity	months	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2.1.3	Invasive plant specialist creates MS Access database and provides training to 8 Tristanians to use specialist App, so all plant eradication work is recorded	1												
2.2.1	Invasive plant specialist uses drone/GIS software to create a revised map of Pōhutukawa coverage on Tristan	1												
2.3.1	Tristanian invasive plant team recruited and trained in safe Pōhutukawa eradication techniques	1												
2.3.2	Tristanian project team eradicate all emergent Pōhutukawa trees by project end	12												
2.4.1	Numbers of new Pōhutukawa seedlings recorded in sample 'cleared' areas between years to assess effectiveness of eradication work	2												
Output 3	All emergent self-sown Monterey Pine eradicated from Tristan													
3.1.1	Tristan Conservation Department staff trained in safe Monterey Pine control - including chainsaw/herbicide usage	2												
3.2.1	Invasive plant specialist provides drone and GIS mapping training	1												

	A anti-view	No. of	Y	ear 1	(23/2	4)	Y	ear 2	(24/2	5)	Year 3 (25/26)				
	Activity	months	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
	to Tristan Conservation Department staff – revised coverage map created in partnership														
3.3.1	Tristanian project team trained in safe Monterey Pine eradication techniques	1													
3.3.2	Tristanian project team eradicate all self-sown Monterey Pines by end of Year 2	3													
3.4.1	Numbers of new Monterey Pine seedlings recorded in sample 'cleared' areas between years to assess effectiveness of eradication work	1													
Output 4	Baseline knowledge and community understanding of existing priority invasive plant species improved through surveys, mapping and F2F discussion														
4.1.1	Invasive plant specialist reassesses invasive plant species from 2008 report, feeding back in person to Tristan Government and producing a written report	8													
4.1.2	Invasive plant specialist writes 'Invasive Plant Strategy' by project end to provide guidance to Conservation Department for	6													

	A anti-vite v	No. of	Y	ear 1	(23/2	4)	Y	ear 2	(24/2	5)	Year 3 (25/26)				
	Activity	months	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
	future seedbank control of priority species														
4.2.1	Invasive plant specialist produces up to date maps of species of concern from 2008 report	3													
4.3.1	Invasive plant specialist and community engagement lead host annual invasive plant update meeting for the community in Q3	1													
4.3.2	Annual plant eradication newsletter detailing work carried out that year written and compiled by project field teams and shared with all Tristan households	1													
4.4.1	Community engagement lead visits Tristan in Q3 (annually) to engage Council, school children and community members via public meetings, informal discussions and classroom teaching	5													
4.5.1	Invasive plant specialist works in partnership with Conservation and Agriculture Departments to identify plant species of concern and to write 'Weed Control Manual'	3													
4.5.2	Council meeting held in Q4 of final year to review all control	1													

	Activity	No. of	Y	ear 1	(23/2	4)	Y	ear 2	(24/2	5)	Y	ear 3	(25/2	6)
		months	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	work and to decide future eradication priorities using Weed Control Manual as guidance													

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions	
Impact: Native wildlife thrives on Inaccessible Island World Heritage Site in the absence of invasive plants, and Tristan's community and biodiversity benefit from successful eradications of all feasibly-removed invasive plant species.				
Outcome: All emergent NZ Flax, Pōhutukawa and self-sown Monterey pine are removed from known invasion sites, and Tristan Government is informed and upskilled to deliver long-term invasive plant eradications / management.	 0.1 No emergent New Zealand Flax plants are recorded on the previously infested Inaccessible island plateau or cliffs by end of Year 3 0.2 Zero population density of Pōhutukawa trees achieved on Tristan by end of Year 3 0.3 By project end, 15% increase in available pastureland at Sandy Point post self-sown Monterey Pine removal 0.4 Tristan Conservation Department (1 female / 3 male) trained in invasive plant identification, control and mapping by project end. 0.5 By project end, Tristan Conservation Department formally adopts a Tristan Invasive Plant Strategy, which will guide seedbank control for the project's three 	 0.1 Flax assessment final report; updated flax presence maps; photographic evidence 0.2 Pōhutukawa presence maps updated annually; assessment report; photographic evidence 0.3 Monterey Pine maps updated annually; Photographic evidence 0.4 Monitoring app records; training reports; feedback forms; photographic evidence 0.5 Invasive Plant Strategy report; updated 'species of concern' list 	A goal of invasive plant eradication is not possible within the three-year timeframe of the project due to the uncertain size, distribution and longevity of these species' seedbank in the soil. The primary objective is therefore to reduce and then maintain invasive plant populations at 'zero density', whereby all individuals capable of reproduction are removed and no further seed is added to the seedbank. Ultimately this will result in eradication. Tristan Conservation Department and the RSPB will continue monitoring and control efforts beyond the life of the project. We have worked in partnership for almost 20 years, and RSPB funds a core staff salary in the Conservation Department, neither of which are dependent on further project-funding, so we will be able to deliver on this.	

	target species, plus other prioritised invasive plants.		New invasive plant introductions are likely to be much reduced as Tristan has a new biosecurity officer and legislation (2021), plus a bespoke new biosecurity facility (2022).
Outputs: 1. All emergent New Zealand Flax plants eradicated from areas of known presence on Inaccessible Island World Heritage Site	 1.1 NZ flax plants are mapped and removed from all known areas, and surveyed for presence throughout a 500m buffer, by Q4 in Year 3 1.2 One local Tristan trainee demonstrates year-on-year improvement in rope access skills, achieving internationally-recognised certification by project-end. 1.3 Annual Q4 flax eradication community newsletter produced, annual Q4 flax team Tristan school lesson delivered, and Q4 of Year 3 open-invite Tristan community presentation made. 1.4 Emergent plant eradication success monitoring completed via at least two random plateau transects and two random cliff transects in Q4 of Y2 and Y3 	 1.1 Control team reports; Waterfall Ridge transition to Salt Beach flax presence map; buffer survey report; drone training report; photographic evidence 1.2 Baseline skills assessment on rigging techniques, gear inspection and rope management; trainer's report; IRATA Level 2 certificate (project end) 1.3 TDC community flax update articles, school presentation ppt, community presentation ppt. 1.4 Monitoring SOPs; monitoring report; photographic evidence 	Prior to each field season, an airdrop is essential to transport equipment/supplies to the plateau to minimise time spent moving between base- and satellite-camps. This is highly achievable as it has occurred in the two years prior to this project. Team size: four-person team for each year is essential to achieve stated indicators. Injuries / unforeseen circumstances in team could have a significant impact on results but is highly unlikely as the team has been working safely on Inaccessible for the past three years and are experienced in all elements of the work. 8-12 week working period on Inaccessible essential for reaching control/mapping targets. Time on island not impacted by unpredictable shipping schedules/suitable weather conditions for drop-off and pick-

			up. Both elements mitigated against by carrying out work in summer months plus yacht charter.
2. All emergent Pōhutukawa trees eradicated from Tristan	 2.1 A minimum of 8 Tristanians (at least 3 female) are trained in aspects of Pōhutukawa control, safe herbicide use, safe chainsaw use and use of a specialist weed management app by Q4 of Year 1 2.2 Pōhutukawa coverage mapped and compared with 2008 baseline by Q3 of Year 1 2.3 All emergent trees eradicated by Q4 of Year 3 2.4 Year 1 and Year 2 clearings rechecked and re-treated as required in Qs 3 and 4 of Years 2 and 3 	 2.1 Pōhutukawa control training protocol; herbicide training report; photographic evidence 2.2 Updated Pōhutukawa coverage map 2.3 Timesheets; monitoring data from weed management app; photographic evidence 2.4 Monitoring report; weed management app data; photographic evidence 	Possible community fears about herbicide use can be allayed. This is highly likely as Tristan Conservation and Agriculture Departments already use herbicides widely on the island and will be given additional training in their safe use. The project will also always favour the least toxic herbicide that will get the job done. All required herbicides are available in South Africa. Highly likely as Tristan already source multiple varieties from SA. Sufficient personnel available to carry out the eradication work. Highly likely as Tristan Conservation Department are highly committed and all salary costs are covered. Community allows trees to be removed from gardens and other private land. Highly likely as 98% of the trees are on Crown land and Community have already stated their support for removal

			due to Pōhutukawa damaging brickwork and outcompeting native 'island tree' (Conservation Department regularly gets asked to remove Pōhutukawa from near homes).
3. All emergent self-sown Monterey Pine eradicated from Tristan	 3.1 A minimum of four Tristan Conservation Department staff (3 male: 1 female) are trained in aspects of Monterey Pine mapping, control and safe herbicide/chainsaw use by Q4 of Year 1 3.2 Monterey Pine coverage mapped, compared with 2008 baseline by Q4 of Year 1 3.3 All emergent trees spreading outside of planted stand felled/treated by Q4 of Year 2 3.4 Year 1 and Year 2 clearings rechecked and treated where necessary 	 3.1 Monterey Pine control training report (Indigena); chainsaw training report (RSPB); photographic evidence 3.2 Updated Monterey Pine coverage map; community meeting minutes/photographic evidence 3.3 Timesheets; monitoring data from weed management app; photographic evidence 3.4 Monitoring report; photographic evidence 	Possible community fears about removing pines can be allayed (the planted stand is a popular landmark from sea). This will be possible as the planted stand will remain untouched and the pines are encroaching into the highly valued yet limited available public pastureland. Tristan Conservation Department will be leading the work on the ground, with Indigena support, so visibly a locally-run project that can therefore better engage locals.
4. Baseline knowledge and community understanding of existing priority invasive plant species improved through surveys, mapping and F2F discussion	4.1 Reassessment of all 137 species highlighted in 2008 invasive plant report and any new species discovered by Q2 of Year 3	4.1 Reassessment of invasive plant species report 4.2 Updated alien plant maps	COVID-19 restrictions don't prevent plant specialist travelling to South Africa from New Zealand (both countries previously having some of the strictest measures put in place globally). Highly likely as

 4.2 2008 baseline maps of the 17 priority species updated, with detailed maps of priority species by Q2 of Year 2 4.3 Every household receives annual Q4 Tristan plant eradication community newsletter and at least 10% of community attend annual community update meeting 4.4 At least 75% of Tristan Council members, at least 75% of Tristan school children, and at least 50 Tristanians (equal male:female ratio) have faceto-face discussions with community engagement lead and plant specialist in Q3 of Years 1 and 3 4.5 Weed Control Manual, focussed on at least 5 priority species of agricultural threat and 5 of conservation threat, produced in partnership with Tristan community, Conservation and Agriculture Departments by Q4 of Year 3 	4.3 Newsletter; attendance register 4.4 Photographs from public meetings and school talks; educational resources for school; trip report 4.5 Weed Control Manual; Manual feedback 4.6 Training Report (Indigena)	prevalence of Covid less, vaccination rates high and travel will occur during spring/summer months when case rate significantly lower. Islanders will engage as invasive plants are an increasingly prominent issue. Significant demand in particular for weed control advice as some novel weeds are rendering some of the potato patches unviable.
Conservation and Agriculture Departments by Q4 of Year 3 4.6 By end of project, a minimum of 10 members of the Tristan		

training in safe agro-chemical herbicide use for their	
domestic agriculture.	

Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1. Each activity should start on a new line and be no more than approximately 25 words.)

- 1.1.1 Experienced rope access team hired to travel to Inaccessible Island in Q3 of each year to carry out NZ Flax eradication and survey work
- **1.1.2** NZ Flax team Lead receives drone/GIS training in Q2 of Year 1 to guide eradication work and produce updated flax coverage maps each season
- **1.1.3** Inaccessible Island equipment/food airdrop takes place during the annual SA Agulhas II Gough Island relief voyage, in each project year
- **1.2.1** NZ Flax team are joined by a Tristanian with rope access experience during each field season
- **1.2.2** Tristanian flax team member receives training and attains 1000 rope hours during three field seasons to achieve IRATA Level 2 certification
- **1.3.1** NZ Flax team deliver engagement activities each year, culminating in an end-of-project presentation given to the Tristan community in the final year
- **1.4.1** NZ Flax team assess effectiveness of flax control in Year 2 & 3 by surveying a sample of 'cleared' areas findings presented in final report
- **2.1.1** Experienced invasive plant specialist hired to assess and map non-native plant species on Tristan, and to deliver plant control and safe herbicide usage training
- 2.1.2 RSPB community engagement lead delivers chainsaw training to 8 Tristanians in Year 1
- **2.1.3** Invasive plant specialist creates MS Access database and provides training to 8 Tristanians to use specialist App, so all plant eradication work is recorded
- 2.2.1 Invasive plant specialist uses drone/GIS software to create a revised map of Pōhutukawa coverage on Tristan
- **2.3.1** Tristanian invasive plant team recruited and trained in safe Pōhutukawa eradication techniques
- 2.3.2 Tristanian project team eradicate all emergent Pōhutukawa trees by project end
- 2.4.1 Numbers of new Pōhutukawa seedlings recorded in sample 'cleared' areas between years to assess effectiveness of eradication work
- 3.1.1 Tristan Conservation Department staff trained in safe Monterey Pine control including chainsaw/herbicide usage
- **3.2.1** Invasive plant specialist provides drone and GIS mapping training to Tristan Conservation Department staff revised coverage map created in partnership
- 3.3.1 Tristanian project team trained in safe Monterey Pine eradication techniques
- 3.3.2 Tristanian project team eradicate all self-sown Monterey Pines by end of Year 2

- **3.4.1** Numbers of new Monterey Pine seedlings recorded in sample 'cleared' areas between years to assess effectiveness of eradication work
- **4.1.1** Invasive plant specialist reassesses invasive plant species from 2008 report, feeding back in person to Tristan Government and producing a written report
- **4.1.2** Invasive plant specialist writes 'Invasive Plant Strategy' by project end to provide guidance to Conservation Department for future seedbank control of priority species
- 4.2.1 Invasive plant specialist produces up to date maps of species of concern from 2008 report
- 4.3.1 Invasive plant specialist and community engagement lead host annual invasive plant update meeting for the community in Q3
- **4.3.2** Annual plant eradication newsletter detailing work carried out that year written and compiled by project field teams and shared with all Tristan households
- **4.4.1** Community engagement lead visits Tristan in Q3 (annually) to engage Council, school children and community members via public meetings, informal discussions and classroom teaching
- **4.5.1** Invasive plant specialist works in partnership with Conservation and Agriculture Departments to identify plant species of concern and to write 'Weed Control Manual'
- **4.5.2** Council meeting held in Q4 of final year to review all control work and to decide future eradication priorities using Weed Control Manual as guidance