

Applicant: **Reid Ford, Hannah**  
Organisation: **Ministry of Sustainability & Climate Resiliency**  
Funding Sought: **£49,407.77**

# **DPLR5\1094**

## **Establishing a Native Plant Nursery for Biodiversity Conservation**

In partnership with the Ministry of Sustainability & Climate Resiliency, the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park will enhance its Native Plant Nursery on Grand Cayman. The project will enable the increased use of native plants for conservation projects, landscaping needs, and other purposes, instead of using non-native and potentially invasive species. The project will achieve this goal by delivering strategic improvements to existing nursery facilities and growing a minimum of 250 plants comprised of a mix of 10 native species.

**CONTACT DETAILS**

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**Name** Hannah  
**Surname** Reid Ford  
**Organisation** Ministry of Sustainability & Climate Resiliency  
**Tel (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Email (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Address** [REDACTED]

**CONTACT DETAILS**

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**Name** Morgan  
**Surname** Golden-Ebanks  
**Organisation** Ministry of Sustainability & Climate Resiliency  
**Tel (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Email (Work)** [REDACTED]  
**Address** [REDACTED]

# DPLR5\1094

Establishing a Native Plant Nursery for Biodiversity Conservation

## Section 1 - Project Title & Contact Details

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### Q1. Project Title

Establishing a Native Plant Nursery for Biodiversity Conservation

### Q2. Please select whether you are applying as an organisation or as an individual (Guidance section 3 and Guidance Glossary)

Organisation

#### CONTACT DETAILS

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**Name** Hannah  
**Surname** Reid Ford  
**Organisation** Ministry of Sustainability & Climate Resiliency

**Tel (Work)**  
**Email (Work)**  
**Address**

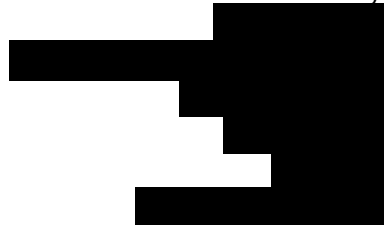


#### CONTACT DETAILS

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**Name** Morgan  
**Surname** Golden-Ebanks  
**Organisation** Ministry of Sustainability & Climate Resiliency

**Tel (Work)**  
**Email (Work)**  
**Address**



#### GMS ORGANISATION

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Type	Organisation
Name	Ministry of Sustainability & Climate Resiliency
Phone	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

## Section 2 - Overseas Territory(ies)

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**Q3.** Please state whether the same (or a similar) project proposal has previously been submitted (or you are planning to submit it) to the UK Government for funding. This includes through Darwin Plus Local, Defra's other Darwin Plus grant schemes or other UK Government funding mechanisms. Failure to share this information may result in the application being ineligible (see Guidance section 2.1.1).

No

### **Q4. Overseas Territory (Guidance section 1.3):**

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

Cayman Islands

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

*No Response*

In addition to the UKOT(s) you have indicated, will your project directly benefit any other UK OT(s) or country(ies)?

No

## Section 3 - Project Partners

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### **Q5. Project partners (Guidance section 3.2)**

In this section, please give details of all the partners involved (including the Lead Organisation) and provide a summary of their roles.

**Project Leader name:** Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park  
(Guidance section 3.1)

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**Lead Organisation name: (if applying as an organisation; Guidance section 3.1)** Ministry of Sustainability & Climate Resiliency

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**Lead Organisation Website (if applicable):** <https://www.gov.ky/sustainability/>

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**Is the Lead Organisation based in a UKOT where the project is working? (Guidance section 3.1)**  Yes

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**List other partners involved and where are they based:** All project partners (Ministry and the Park) are located on Grand Cayman.

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**Summary of roles and responsibilities of each partner in the project:**

Ministry of Sustainability & Climate Resiliency:

- Submission of grant application
- Manage the grant and its finances
- Assist with relevant government processes
- Corresponding with and reporting to Darwin
- Oversight of the project
- Supporting promotion of the project and stakeholder engagement

Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park:

- General management and execution of project
- Procurement of supplies
- Horticultural and botanical expertise
- Growth and maintenance of native plants until agreed timeframe
- Reporting to Ministry necessary information on expenditures (e.g., invoices) and progress





Both partners will work together to deliver a successful project and to ensure value for money.

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**I confirm that all listed partners are aware of this application and have indicated support:** Checked

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**Attach a Cover Letter for your application (Guidance section 4.2).**

-  [Cover Letter](#)
-  25/11/2024
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## Section 4 - Project Summary & Description

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### Q6. Project Summary (Guidance section 3.8)

Please provide a brief summary of your project. This may be used in communication activities and/or published online, if your application is successful.

In partnership with the Ministry of Sustainability & Climate Resiliency, the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park will enhance its Native Plant Nursery on Grand Cayman. The project will enable the increased use of native plants for conservation projects, landscaping needs, and other purposes, instead of using non-native and potentially invasive species. The project will achieve this goal by delivering strategic improvements to existing nursery facilities and growing a minimum of 250 plants comprised of a mix of 10 native species.

## Q7a. Description (Guidance section 2.1 and 6)

**Please provide a description of your project, including:**

- the overall objective
- the current situation and the problem the project is trying to address
- what success will look like and how you will measure it

**Please be as specific as possible when describing the project, using quantified data and evidence where available. You may wish to consider: what are the specific threats to the environment that the project will attempt to address, and what should we know about these threats? What does your successful project look like? And how will you demonstrate whether and how your project has been successful?**

The Cayman Islands is experiencing significant habitat and biodiversity loss. Many of the native and endemic plant species are threatened, with some being critically endangered. One of the most profound reasons for habitat and biodiversity loss is the high rate of physical development on the Islands. While native landscaping and reforestation efforts can mitigate some of these losses, native species are not currently required in landscaping plans, and they can be expensive and difficult to source on the local market. Consequently, many non-native and potentially invasive species are being used in landscaping. There are very few growers in the Cayman Islands that supply native or endemic plants, and those that do have limited variety and stock, and often lack botanical knowledge and experience with identifying and propagating native and endemic species.

The Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park ('Park') was established in 1994, and is the only institution in the Cayman Islands which has the level of expertise and capacity to take on this project. The Park's current nursery facilities are insufficient, hampering its ability to have a significant, positive impact on biodiversity conservation in the Cayman Islands. With restrictions on the importation of our endemic and native species, it is integral to the Park to enhance its native plant program to allow for access to a wider portion of the population.

The goal of this project is to bring the Park's Native Plant Nursery onto the local market and maintain its position as a trusted source for native and culturally important plant species. This will be achieved by 1.) improving existing facilities, and therefore increasing the capacity of long-term production, and 2.) growing a minimum of 250 native plants (comprised of a mix of 10 native and endemic species) to be sold and utilised locally. Some examples of culturally and historically important species that could be grown include the endemic, critically endangered Black Mastic (*Terminalia eriostachya* var. *margaretiae*) which was highly sought after by early Caymanian loggers, the endangered Pompero (*Hypelate trifoliata*) which was used in shipbuilding, and the endemic Broad Leaf (*Cordia sebestena* var. *caymanensis*) which was used medicinally.

The project will also support delivery of the Ministry of Sustainability & Climate Resiliency's National Tree Planting Programme (NTPP) which aims to promote the importance of and create demand for native and endemic species through yearly tree planting projects and public engagement initiatives. Out of the initial 250 plants, 100 plants will be reserved for and purchased by the Ministry for tree plantings as a part of the NTPP.

This project is underpinned by the Environmental Charter signed by the Cayman Islands and UK Government in 2001 to establish and agree guiding principles and commitments of both parties to protect the environment; and the National Conservation Act (2013) which provides the legislative framework and institutional mechanisms to more effectively promote and secure biological diversity and the sustainable use of natural resources in the Cayman Islands.

At the end of 12 months, this project will have been successful if:

- at least 250 plants are potted and growing;
- improvements to the existing nursery are completed, including construction of a propagation area;
- rainwater catchment has been established in the propagation area; and,
- controlled drip irrigation has been installed to reduce water costs and impacts on human resources.

The Park will develop a public engagement plan that will include educational workshops on how to propagate native plants, social media posts, and paid advertisements. These engagements will help to raise the profile of the Park in the local market and support the launch of the nursery.


## Q7b. Long-term sustainability (Guidance section 2.1 and 6)


**Please describe the long-term benefits of the project and the change it will bring about. How will the outcomes of the project be sustained after the funding is finished?**


A native plant nursery programme is crucial given the rapid changes the Cayman Islands are and likely will continue to face over the coming years. Over the long term, this project will help the Park's nursery develop the capacity to establish and sustain itself in the local market, increasing the availability of native species for use in conservation projects and landscaping needs. After the funding is finished, a combination of ongoing public engagement, including joint initiatives with the Ministry through the NTPP, will support the Park's native species propagation work. This project will also promote competition from other nurseries to shift towards selling native plants due to the increased demand.

**(Optional) Please upload any additional and supporting materials or files (such as maps of project sites, etc) below. Maximum of 5 sides of A4, and is combined as a single PDF:**

 [Supporting Docs.\(PDF\)](#)

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 pdf 1.46 MB

## Section 5 - Project Outcome(s)

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### Q8. Project Outcome(s) (Guidance section 1.2)

**Successful Darwin Plus Local projects must demonstrate measurable outcomes in at least one of the themes of Darwin Plus with a clear focus on biodiversity and the natural environment, either by the end of the project or soon after through a credible plan.**

**Please note: Any proposals including research or monitoring are required to demonstrate a clear link to tangible outcomes for conservation of biodiversity and the natural environment. Please explain how any new research will be applied to drive environmental outcomes on the ground.**

**Please confirm that your project has a clear focus on biodiversity and the natural environment.**

Checked **Biodiversity: improving and conserving biodiversity, and slowing or reversing biodiversity loss and degradation;**

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**Please tick which additional theme(s) of Darwin Plus your project contributes to (if relevant):**

Checked **Climate change: responding to, mitigating and adapting to climate change and its effects on the natural environment and local communities;**

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Checked **Environmental quality: improving the condition and protection of the natural environment**

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Checked **Capability and capacity building: enhancing the capacity within OTs, including through community engagement and awareness, to support the environment in the short- and long-term.**

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**Please justify your selection. Please use quantitative information where possible here.**

Biodiversity: increasing the supply of native and endemic trees to be planted for various purposes supports ecosystem conservation and restoration that benefits native species of fauna.

Climate change: the effects of climate change are mitigated by trees' ability to provide shade, absorb storm water, stabilise the soil, and store carbon.

Environmental quality: planting trees improves the air quality and aesthetics of an area, while providing green space for leisure and health.

Capacity building: enhancing the facilities and capacity of nursery helping it to become self-sustaining, as well as increasing the awareness of native species through public engagement initiatives.

## Section 6 - Workplan

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### Q9. Workplan (Guidance section 2.2)

**Please provide anticipated dates for the start and end of your planned project here. Please use the [Darwin Plus Local Project Workplan](https://darwinplus.org.uk/how-to-apply/local-applications/) (available at: <https://darwinplus.org.uk/how-to-apply/local-applications/>) to provide a list of the individual activities you have planned for this project, a brief description of what each activity entails, and the months in which the activities will be carried out. If the project involves only one activity (e.g. a purchase), please still provide project start and end dates (noting estimated times for procurement). Please note that your project must start after 1 April 2025 and be completed by 31 March 2026.**


Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 3 months):
01 April 2025	31 March 2026	12 months


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**Please upload the completed Darwin Plus Local Project Workplan with your proposed project activities here**

 [Darwin Plus Local - Grant Project Implementatio](#)



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## Section 7 - Costs

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## Q10. Costs (Guidance section 2.2 and please read the Finance Guidance)

Please provide a breakdown of costs to be funded through Darwin Plus Local (in GBP).

Are you seeking any matched funding for this project? (Please note that this is optional and there is no requirement to seek matched funding for Darwin Plus Local projects).

No

Budget line	Explanation	Cost in GBP
Staff costs:		
Consultancy costs:		
Overhead costs:		
Travel & subsistence costs:		
Operating costs:		
Capital equipment:		
Other Costs		
Total:		

This section provides more information on the budget to help evaluators understand how you will use the funds you are requesting. You do not need to list all costs, but please list and detail costs of more than £1,000 per item below, under the appropriate budget line.

### Details of staff costs over £1,000 (if relevant)

Not applicable

### Details of overhead costs over £1,000 (if relevant):

Not applicable

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**Details of travel and subsistence costs over £1,000 (if relevant):**

Not applicable (under £1,000)

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**Details of operating costs over £1,000 (if relevant):**

Not applicable

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**Details of capital equipment costs over £1,000 (if relevant):**

Design and build shaded nursery with corrugated roofing [REDACTED]  
- The design and construction of a shaded nursery measuring 24 feet by 24 feet, 8 feet high with corrugated roofing to be housed within the footprint of Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park. Includes labour and materials.

Bench, soil, pots, irrigation system - [REDACTED]  
- Provision and delivery of 21 nursery benches, soil and potting mix, pots of varying sizes, drip irrigation system.

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**Details of consultancy costs over £1,000 (if relevant):**

Not applicable

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**Details of other costs over £1,000 (if relevant)**

Rollout of public engagement plan - Paid advertising on social media. [REDACTED]  
Educational materials (e.g., worksheets on native plants for schools). [REDACTED]

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**If your project budget was prepared in another currency and converted to GBP, please provide the exchange rate, its source, and the date it was accessed:**

Other currency:	Exchange rate:	Source of this exchange rate:	Date exchange rate accessed:
KYD	1.000 KYD = 0.9631 GBP	<a href="https://wise.com/gb/currency-converter/kyd-to-gbp-rate">https://wise.com/gb/currency-converter/kyd-to-gbp-rate</a>	14 November 2024

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**Darwin Plus Local has been created to build capacity and contribute to local economies in-territory (Guidance section 2.1.1 and section 1.8.4 of the Finance Guidance).**

**In-territory spend is defined in Darwin Plus Local as including funding spent on:**

- Equipment purchased in-territory;
- Equipment that cannot be acquired in-territory and is therefore purchased abroad, but will remain and be used in-territory beyond the life of the proposed Darwin Plus Local project;
- Training or skills that cannot be acquired in-territory and are therefore purchased abroad, but will be used in-territory beyond the life of the proposed Darwin Plus Local project;
- Time for consultants or staff based in-territory.

**In-territory spend does not include:**

- Time for consultants or staff who are based abroad, even if they travel to the OT to undertake the work;
- Shipping and import costs for equipment purchased abroad;
- Travel and subsistence costs where they incur spend outside the OT.

What % of the total will be spent in-territory? 100

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**If less than 80% of the total project spend is to be spent in-territory, please explain why.**

Not applicable

## Section 8 - Local and National Priorities

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### Q11. Local and national priorities

**Please explain how this project aligns with local and national priorities? You may wish to consider the project in the context of national environmental laws, objectives, strategies, territory specific agreements, action plans or policies.**

This project aligns closely with the aims of the Environment Charter 2001 and National Conservation Act, 2013. In addition, the newly-approved Cayman Islands Climate Change Policy (2024-2050) has a section dedicated to strategies that address climate change issues with natural solutions like planting trees to mitigate the health effects of heat. Further, this project supports the objectives of the National Tree Planting Programme and will help ensure this programme is sustainable in the long-term.

The project aligns with the Cayman Islands Government Broad Outcomes:

Broad Outcome 1 - Improve the Quality of Life for Caymanians

Broad Outcome 3 - Future Proofing to Increase Resilience

Broad Outcome 5 - Protect and Promote Caymanian Culture, Heritage and Identity

This project supports the following strategic focus areas for the Ministry:

Focus Area 3 - Ensure the sustainable use of our natural resources and the preservation of our natural environment.

Focus Area 4 - Further expand protected areas and protection of endemic species.

Focus Area 5 - Increase sustainability and climate resiliency in our approach to development.

**Will the project...**

**Take place on Government owned land or water?**

Yes

**Involve biocontrol, invasive alien species control or eradication?**

No


**Require permit(s) from Government departments for completion of activities?**


No


**If you have answered yes to any of the questions above, please attach evidence that you have Government support for this project i.e. a Letter of Support. Applications which indicate that they do not take place on Government land or water, but which propose work that appears to the reviewers would be difficult/impossible to carry out without working on government land or waters may be ineligible if no Letter of Support is provided.**

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 [Cover Letter](#)

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## Section 9 - Project Risks

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## Q12. Project Risks

Please demonstrate your consideration of any risks involved in this project and how you intend to manage them. Please note the importance of health and safety and environmental risk assessment in the design of your project. If there is any possibility that your project may have negative impacts on the environment or human health, it is important that you provide a comprehensive analysis of potential environmental and human health risks, and the prevention measures you will take to ensure the work does not cause harm.

Depending on your project, you may wish to consider:

- Biosecurity risks – particularly for projects involving external equipment.
- Safeguarding risks – particularly for projects involving vulnerable groups such as children, older people or people with disabilities.  
For example, you should consider the ratio of vulnerable people or children to adults, ensuring there are appropriate background checks of all staff, and informing vulnerable groups and children of their right to safety and protection.

Risk	Mitigation
Damage from tropical storms/hurricanes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The location will be in secured area within QEII BP.</li> <li>• The new structure will be built to stronger specifications than current, older facilities.</li> <li>• As part of severe weather preparations, coverings will be removed to avoid damage/'sail' effect.</li> </ul>
Delayed shipment of materials	Confirm orders and delivery prior to start of Hurricane Season (June-Nov) / at the start of the grant period.
Other supply-chain issues	Local suppliers will be used as a priority.

Do you require more fields?

Yes

Risk	Mitigation
Increased costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing procurement processes require a minimum of 3 quotes to ensure best value for money.</li> <li>• Strong, existing relationships with local vendors can result in discounted prices.</li> </ul>
Threats to plant health (i.e. pests, disease)	Ensure high standards in horticulture and nursery management to prevent pest and disease.
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

## Section 10 - Terms & Conditions

## Q13. Terms and conditions (Guidance section 3.10)

By applying for Darwin Plus Local you are adhering in full to the grant Terms and Conditions in full (available at: <https://darwinplus.org.uk/how-to-apply/local-applications/> and as referenced in the Guidance at section 3.10). For information, the Terms and Conditions include requirements for all applicants to (amongst other requirements as per the full Terms and Conditions):

- Uphold a zero tolerance for inaction approach to tackling sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment.
- Where appropriate, make all reasonable and adequate efforts to address gender inequality and other power imbalances.
- Notify all cases of fraud and theft (whether proven or suspected) relating to the project to the Grant Administrator as soon as they identified.

Please indicate you have read, and understood, and will adhere to the Terms and Conditions.

Checked

### Supporting documents list (please have these ready to attach with application)

- Cover Letter of no more than two A4 pages. (Guidance section: 4.2 has information on what this cover letter should include).
- If the project takes place on public land or water, is addressing invasive alien species or includes activities requiring a permit, a Letter of support from OT Government.
- Project Workplan in the template provided for Darwin Plus Local (available at: <https://darwinplus.org.uk/how-to-apply/local-applications/>).
- Map and additional information (optional) maximum five additional pages.

### If your application is successful

-  
If your project application is successful, the Fund Administrator (NIRAS) will ask you to provide some financial evidence for due diligence checks before you receive your project grant. (Please see section 3.3 of the Darwin Plus Local Finance Guidance). Please be ready to provide this evidence promptly.

- **Financial evidence for organisations:** Year-end financial statements, the latest management accounts or audited accounts (if you have these).
- **Financial evidence for individuals:** Proof of identity such as a passport, ID card or driving licence and solvency (such as bank statements) and a police check.

## Section 11 - Certification

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### Certification

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the statements made in this application are true and the information provided is correct.

Checked

I have the authority to submit an application on behalf of my organisation.



Checked

Name: Nellie Pouchie

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Position in the organisation: Chief Officer  
(if applicable)

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Signature (please upload e-signature)  [Application Signature](#)  
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Date: 25 November 2024

## Section 12 - Submission Checklist

### Checklist for submission

	Check
I have read the Guidance documents, including the “Darwin Plus Local Guidance” and the “Darwin Plus Local Finance Guidance”.	Checked
If my proposed project takes place on public lands or water or is addressing alien invasive species, I have uploaded a Letter of Support from Government.	Checked
I have uploaded a cover letter that details the information requested in the guidance (Guidance section 4.2 has information on what this cover letter should include).	Checked
I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund (found at: <a href="https://darwinplus.org.uk/apply/local-applications/">https://darwinplus.org.uk/apply/local-applications/</a> ) for this fund.	Checked
I have provided actual start and end dates for my project that fit this Round.	Checked
I have provided my summary budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP in the application form.	Checked
I have uploaded my project workplan using the specific template provided (available at: <a href="https://darwinplus.org.uk/apply/local-applications/">https://darwinplus.org.uk/apply/local-applications/</a> ).	Checked
I have uploaded all supplementary documents if I have any.	Checked
(If copying and pasting into Flexi-Grant) I have checked that all my responses have been successfully copied into the online application form.	Checked
The application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable).	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 Darwin Plus. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share project news. 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 [Forms and Guidance Portal](#).

**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 Darwin Plus including project details (usually title, lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).**