

John Ellerman Foundation

UK Overseas Territories Fund

The environments of the UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) are of global significance: they hold 94% of our unique species, pristine rainforests, vast coral reefs, a quarter of the world's penguins and the fifth largest marine estate on the planet. These small islands are at the forefront of our biodiversity and climate crises: three quarters of the world's known extinctions since 1500 have occurred on islands, while extreme weather events pose a potentially existential threat. In recognition of these extraordinary natural assets which far exceed those in the UK, we consider the biodiversity of the UKOTs to be of national and international importance. John Ellerman Foundation has been supporting land-based and marine-related work in the Territories since 2013.

Aim

John Ellerman Foundation has had the privilege of supporting transformative and locally-led change in the UKOTs over the last eight years, through our responsive environmental grantmaking. We have supported NGO capacity-building, policy work and practical conservation efforts, with partnerships and community empowerment playing a critical role in the success of these grants.

However, with relatively few UK funders currently active in this area, we know that more can and must be done. John Ellerman Foundation is therefore launching this special collaborative fund for the UKOTs as the centrepiece of our 50th Anniversary celebrations in 2021. The UK Overseas Territories Fund aims to provide a strategic response to environmental needs in the UKOTs, ensuring that the most urgent priorities are supported, and that joined-up implementation is achieved in these limited-capacity jurisdictions.

John Ellerman Foundation is contributing £800k to the UK Overseas Territories Fund, in addition to our regular grantmaking. We are in discussion with a number of other funders who are considering contributing directly or aligning to the UK Overseas Territories Fund, and we will announce commitments made in due course. We expect to make a variety of small, medium, and larger grants depending on funding need, size of organisation and the scale of the project. We will consider short-term grants as well as multi-year funding for periods of up to three years.

What we will fund

We are open to requests for project costs and core funding. Applicants should demonstrate a funding need and are not expected to hold excessive free reserves i.e. unspent and unrestricted funds.

We welcome funding applications for practical conservation activities in support of the protection and restoration of habitats and species on land and in the sea. We will also consider funding organisational capacity building, policy related work, acquisition of land with intrinsic conservation value, and advocacy for the creation and implementation of legislative

frameworks. Regardless of the specific nature of the funded work, we are always keen to fund work which has a legacy beyond the life of the grant.

What we don't fund

We will not fund:

- capital developments and individual items of equipment
- land acquisition for financial or speculative purposes
- one-off events, such as conferences, trips, or seminars
- environmental educational projects.

Who can apply

We welcome applications from UK charities working in partnership with local Territory-based NGOs and from charities based in the UKOTs. UKOTs-based charities can apply either directly or through a conduit in the UK. More detail about this is provided in the [FAQs](#) for this Fund. We are particularly interested in supporting organisations which:

- understand both the significance of habitats for human wellbeing and the impact of people on nature
- look for sustainable solutions by ensuring that the livelihoods and economic needs of local communities are integrated into their thinking and strategy
- work collaboratively with partners and other stakeholders in the Territories and/or the UK
- tackle causes as well as symptoms.

The organisation applying must also be able to demonstrate the following:

- commitment to excellence and learning
- awareness of its role and legitimacy to operate in the Territories
- strong leadership and commitment from senior management, Board or governing body
- effective financial management
- the difference a grant would make, to the organisation and other relevant stakeholders, the natural environment and local community, and/or policy and legislative frameworks.

Applying to the Fund

The online application portal for the UK Overseas Territories Fund will be open from Friday 1 October 2021. The application process is different from our main grantmaking process.

We are operating a one-stage written process. All applicants are expected to submit a three-page proposal with supporting financial documents. In some cases we will decide whether to award a grant based on the written application alone. However, for larger grants, or where we need further clarifying information, we will arrange a virtual follow-up meeting.

Written applications must be received by 12pm (UK time) on Monday 29 November 2021. We expect to make decisions between December 2021 and February 2022, and so you should plan for the work funded by a grant to start after that.

If you have any queries in the meantime about eligibility criteria or the application process, please refer to our [FAQs](#) in the first instance. You can also contact Philee Ang-Chen, Grants Assistant via philee@ellerman.org.uk prior to applying. A follow-up phone call with a member

of the Grants Team can be arranged for more in-depth queries. We will also hold virtual group consultations where the team will be on hand to answer questions from applicants and conduits.

Stage 1

Your written application should include:

1. A description of what you are seeking funding for, on no more than three sides of A4. Please include:
 - a brief description of your organisation, relevant track record, and your legitimacy to operate within the one or more Territories that the work relates to
 - background information about the nature and importance of the local environment
 - what you would like us to fund, including (where possible) a specific amount and number of years for which funding is sought
 - how your proposal matches what we fund and are looking for (see above).

2. Financial information:

If you are a charity, a copy of your most recent annual accounts. If you are part of a larger organisation (such as a university) please provide an income and expenditure statement for the running costs of your department or unit, and explain how its funds are kept distinct from those of the wider institution. If your accounts show a significant surplus or deficit, high or low reserves, please explain this briefly, including your policy on their future use/replenishment. If the year-end date of your accounts is more than 10 months old, please include your latest management accounts. If you are planning to apply through a conduit, please get in touch prior to applying so we can discuss the financial information required from both parties.

Stage 2 (for larger and/or grants where more information is required only)

If we require a follow-up conversation to discuss the proposal in more detail, we will arrange to meet with you and, where relevant, the conduit organisation. This meeting will take place virtually and is intended to find out more about you and your work. It will include representatives from John Ellerman Foundation and other potential funders.