

DARWIN INITIATIVE FOR THE SURVIVAL OF SPECIES: APPLICATION FOR GRANT FOR ROUND 10 COMPETITION

Please read the accompanying Guidance Note before completing this form. Give a full answer to each section; applications will be considered on the basis of information submitted on this form. Applicants are asked not to use the form supplied to cross-refer to information in separate documents except where this is invited on the form. The space provided indicates the level of detail required but you may provide additional information on a separate sheet if necessary. Copies of this form are available on disk or by e-mail on request. You are asked also to complete the summary sheet. Although you may reproduce this sheet in a reasonable font, you should not expand it beyond an A4 sheet (leaving the allocated space for DEFRA comments to be made) as additional information will not be taken into account.

1. Name and address of organisation

THE DURRELL INSTITUTE OF CONSERVATION AND ECOLOGY (DICE), UNIVERSITY OF KENT AT CANTERBURY, CT2 7NS

2. Principals in project

Details	Project leader	Other UK personnel (if working more than 50% of their time on project)	Main project partner or co-ordinator in host country
Surname	LEADER-WILLIAMS	HEARN	URI-KHOB
Forename(s)	Nigel	Michael Edmund	Simson
Post held	Professor	Research Associate	Director of Fieldwork
Institution (if different to above)			Save the Rhino Trust
Department	DICE	DICE	-
Telephone			
Fax			
Email			

Please provide a one page CV for each of these named individuals.

3. Project title (not exceeding 10 words)

Black Rhino Conservation and Ecotourism Impacts in North-western Namibia

4. Abstract of study (in no more than 750 characters)

Although 14% of Namibia's surface area is formally designated as protected areas, much biodiversity remains on communal land. This includes a key population of desert-dwelling black rhinos in Kunene. A community-based conservation approach in the early 1980's was balanced by intensive field operations and strong law enforcement carried out by both government and non-governmental organisations. These measures greatly reduced poaching and contributed to wider biodiversity conservation objectives. However, new challenges now face the area, particularly the need to secure the long-term sustainability of monitoring programmes and to further integrate tourism with conservation objectives. Local capacity will be enhanced and studies of habitat suitability and current tourism impacts will improve knowledge of both the biological and human-induced factors limiting the population growth and available range of the black rhino. Dissemination of information will allow integrated land use planning and development in the region.

5. Timing. Give the proposed starting date and duration of the project.

April 2002 until December 2004

6. Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of your organisation. (Please note that this should describe your unit, institute or department within a university.)

Aims

To integrate international conservation and development sustainably by combining natural and social sciences in designing measures to help conserve biological diversity.

Activities

The pursuit of research, training, advice, implementation and international partnership, with particular emphasis on building capacity in developing countries that are rich in biodiversity. These pursuits operate through:

- (1) Multidisciplinary postgraduate training: MSc/MPhil/PhD courses are run at DICE in Conservation Biology, Tourism and Conservation, Ethnobotany, and Biodiversity Management.
- (2) Research and Implementation: Activities are centred on two main research groups in Ecology and Conservation Biology and Biodiversity Management and Sustainable Conservation. Regions of operation have encompassed over 50 countries in Europe, Africa, Madagascar, SE Asia and Latin America.

Achievements

- (1) DICE is the only Institution in the British University sector that specialises in interdisciplinary postgraduate research and training in biodiversity management.
- (2) Over 200 students from some 50 countries worldwide trained to Masters level or above in Conservation Sciences.
- (3) Over £3.5 million raised for biodiversity projects from NGO's, charities, government agencies, and research councils.
- (4) The establishment of two endowed Chairs, one in Biodiversity Management, one in Biodiversity Law.

7. Has your organisation received funding under the Initiative before? If so, please give details.

Biodiversity Training (1993-96); In/ex situ training Tanzania, Zaire, Madagascar (1996-98); Biodiversity Management Training, Peru (1996-98); Chameleons, Conservation and Local Communities, Madagascar (1996-99); Wildlife and People: Conflict and Conservation in Masai Mara (1998-2000); Community-based conservation and ecotourism in the Masai Mara (2000-2003).

8. Which overseas institutions, if any, will be involved in the project? Please explain the responsibilities of these institutions.

The Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET): The project will be co-ordinated with the MET Rhino coordinator and other MET conservation scientists will provide technical advice. MET will issue permits for the project.

Save the Rhino Trust (SRT): This NGO has the mandate to implement the monitoring in Kunene, and will provide two local co-ordinator trainees for the project and 20 field-staff for ongoing training. SRT will provide the project with a vehicle, camels and an operating base in the field and in town.

The local communities and Conservancies: 10 registered or emerging conservancies will each have at least one member trained in the key requirements of efficient monitoring and evaluation of the growth and health of the black rhino population.

PROJECT DETAILS

9. Define the purpose (main objective) of the project in line with the logical framework.

The project will consist of three components. Firstly, an assessment of the habitat suitability and carrying capacity of the current and previously occupied range areas of the black rhino in North West Namibia. Secondly, an evaluation of the impact that human activities, especially tourism, are having on the distribution, movements and interactions of rhinos, in order to derive recommendations to better control access into the current range area; thirdly, to build capacity locally to co-ordinate wildlife monitoring and tourism development programmes that maximise community benefit and black rhino population growth in the region.

10. Is this a new project or the continuation of an existing one?

The analysis of demographic data, specific collection of data on habitat suitability and tourism disturbance, and enhancing local capacity are all new components of an existing monitoring programme started in 1982 by the NGO Save the Rhino Trust

11. What is the evidence for a demand or need for the work? How is the project related to conservation priorities in the host country(ies)? How would the project assist the host country with its obligations under the Biodiversity Convention?

How was the work identified?

The project is the product of a needs driven assessment from both community-based conservancies and the MET. SRT has been responsible for collecting long-term monitoring data for over a decade, but has lacked the capacity to analyse these data, to investigate emerging key questions or to train Namibian conservation professionals to ensure the long-term sustainability of its work. Hence, this project has been identified both as a way of capitalising on past efforts while also providing an exit strategy involving local rather than expatriate expertise.

How is the project related to conservation priorities in the host country?

The IUCN/SSC African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG) rates the Kunene population as a Key 1 Population, representing the only desert ecotype population of black rhino. In addition, the area supports the only viable black rhino population worldwide to have survived on communal land lacking any formal conservation status. The escarpment zone in Kunene Region and the Brandberg in Erongo Region are also recognised as endemic rich areas of Namibia. The findings will form a key component of a MET study mandated by Parliament to examine the feasibility of expanding Namibia's protected area network to include part of the rhino area. The MET's Directorate of Scientific Services is unable to carry out this work itself. The research findings from this project will contribute to the National and Kunene Region Rhino Action Plans, and to conservancy land use plans as part of CBNRM initiatives in the area.

How will the project assist the host country meet its obligations under the Biodiversity Convention?

The project addresses the following articles with the CBD:

- Article 5 & 18 - facilitating and providing scientific and technical co-operation between parties (UK and Namibia)
- Article 6 - Implementation of integrated conservation and development plans
- Article 7 - Monitoring priority components of biodiversity (ie black rhinos and their habitat)
- Article 8 - Aiding in situ conservation by promoting sustainable development in areas adjacent to protected areas
- Article 10 - Sustainable use of biodiversity (through tourism and appropriate land use planning)
- Article 11 - Providing incentives to local communities to conserve biodiversity
- Article 12 - Establishing research and training programmes

12. In what ways can this project be considered a Darwin project? How does the project relate to the Darwin principles? How would the project be advertised as a Darwin project and in what ways would the Darwin name and logo be used?

The project builds on an existing programme that combines a practical scientific conservation strategy, coupled with a community-based approach that is facilitated by active participation in the project. Enhancing this existing programme in the target area, especially through building local capacity, ensures sustainability beyond the proposed Darwin project period. In this document, the success of this initial conservation programme has already had far reaching implications for the conservation of wildlife resources and rural development in the region. This has made it a prime example of the role that a flagship species of megafauna can have as a strategic resource for both the conservation of biological diversity and improving livelihoods, though a growing tourism industry. Key areas of the project that can be highlighted as in line with Darwin principles are:

The existing programme already receives wide coverage in the international press, this includes the BBC Natural History Unit, German television, as well as southern African TV groups. Full recognition will be given to The Darwin Initiative during these visits and in all published articles and literature from this project. These will include project partner websites; scientific journals arising from specific studies undertaken as part of the project; local newspapers, TV and radio; and the project will advertise The Darwin Initiative using logos on project vehicles and equipment.

13. Set out the proposed timetable for the work, including the programme's measurable outputs using the attached list of output measures.

PROJECT OUTPUTS		
Year/Month (starting April)	Output Number (see standard output measures)	Description (include numbers of people involved, numbers of publications printed or produced and days/weeks where applicable)
April - Dec. '02	8, 15A&C, 19A&C, 5 17B	Project Officer, 20 weeks in host country, 1 x press release in the UK and in host country on the project and 1 x local and national radio interview in host country, start fieldwork with host partners (10 weeks). Project Officer, 24 weeks in host country, 20 weeks fieldwork/analysis carried out with host partners. Attendance of quarterly planning meetings. 30x field-staff to receive on-the-job training on monitoring requirements, 10 weeks
Jan. - April '03	8, 5, 17B 6A, 6B	Project Officer, 20 weeks in host country; Project Leader visits host country (2 weeks); 16 weeks of fieldwork/analysis carried out with host partners. Attendance of quarterly planning meetings. Project Officer begins detailed analysis of data in the UK at DICE alongside co-ordinators.
April - Dec. '03	8, 5, 17B 2, 6A, 6B	Project Officer, 6 weeks in host country, 10 weeks fieldwork by Co-ordinators in partial fulfillment of MSc. Project Leader visits host country (2 weeks). Complete black rhino management plan for Kunene Population. 5 papers submitted to peer reviewed journals
Jan. - April '04.	8, 5, 17B	
April - Dec. '04	8, 9, 5, 15A&C, 19A&C, 11B	

Key Milestones	
Year/Month (starting April)	Description (include travel dates, drafts and other processes that support the delivery of outputs)
April 2002	<p>PLANNING: Project Officer takes up position in host county, the steering committee will convene to initiate the project. Workplan will be drafted and the Project Officer will design methodologies with stakeholders. Implement on going training programme to improve monitoring practices</p> <p>Involving communities in collection of field data, training them on-the-job using SRT, MET and conservancy field-staff</p> <p>Project Officer liaises with partner NGO to continue collection of black rhino demographic data</p>
July 2002	
September 2003	<p>Identifying the key requirements from field-staff to ensure efficient monitoring and evaluation of the growth and health of the population</p> <p>Initiate collection of data on:</p> <p>Habitat suitability and preferred foodplants</p> <p>Tourism impacts</p> <p>Identify food plants used by rhino, and those preferred by rhino in arid areas</p> <p>Measure availability of preferred food plants across the entire range area and in previously populated areas</p> <p>Continued data collection, and begin detailed analysis of long-term demographic data:</p>
Jan - Aug. 2003	<p>Analyse productivity of the current range area and the suitability of areas previously populated by rhino</p> <p>Relate population demography to the productivity of the range area over time</p> <p>Project Officer liaises with partner NGO to continue collection of black rhino demographic data</p>
September 2003 - December 2004	<p>EXIT STRATEGY: Complete training of two co-ordinators to MSc level at DICE, complete analysis of data and draft management plans to present at final workshops</p>

14. Do you know of any other individual/organisation carrying out similar work? Give the details of the work, explaining the similarities and differences.

<p>This project is the only one of its kind looking at the biological sustainability of this unique population of black rhino living in the desert on communal land. The Rhino Management Group have been developing a User Guide for measuring black rhino carrying capacity across the sub-continent. This has used data from the Kunene Population of black rhino. However, this looks at a continental scale and does not address the need to define specific stocking rates in the region due to the disparity in density and breeding performance across the current range area of the black rhino in Kunene Region.</p>
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15. Will the project include training and development? Please indicate how many trainees will be involved, from which countries and what will be the criteria for selection. How will you measure the effectiveness of the training and will those trained then be able to train others? Where appropriate give the length of any training course.

Training Activity	Dates	Who will participate, how many will participate and for
Identifying the key requirements from field-staff to ensure efficient monitoring and evaluation of the growth and health of the black rhino population	April 2002 - September 2003	20 Field-staff from Save the Rhino Trust will be involved in ongoing training while undertaking their monitoring role, with special emphasis on small workshops on the use of rhino identification forms
Involving communities in collection of field data, training them on-the-job using both SRT field-staff and conservancy field-staff.	January 2003 - September 2003	10 field-staff from conservancies where rhino occur will be trained in the requirements of undertaking and co-ordinating monitoring on the black rhino in their areas
Conservation Biology and Tourism and Conservation programmes at DICE in the UK	September 2003 - October 2004	Two local coordinators, at least one from the partner NGO trained in the UK for the one year Msc programme at DICE

16. How will trainee outcomes/destinations be monitored after the end of the training?

Save the Rhino Trust will continually monitor the progress of trainees after the training period to ensure long-term sustainability. The involvement of this partner NGO provides a suitable exit strategy for the programme, in which the Darwin Initiative grant would be the catalyst for the continued long-term sustainability of the programme through ensuring fully-trained Namibians are in place to replace the current expatriates. During the project period community institutes, in the form of conservancies, will be developing through the initiatives of partner NGO's. Management plans will be drafted during this period and the project officer's involvement in this process will ensure the training and outputs of the project are endorsed in these plans and trained staff are accountable to conservancies and ultimately the MET beyond the project period. The National Action plan for black rhino is currently being redrafted. The partner NGO's involvement in this process ensures the appropriate framework is in place to evaluate the monitoring programme in the future. The drafting of the regional action plan for black rhino will be completed at the end of the project period. The project officer's involvement in this will ensure that accountability to an appropriate institute is in place during and after the project period.

17. How is the work of the project expected to continue after the end of grant period? A clear exit strategy must be included.

This project meets all of these requirements. Involving communities in collection of field data, training them on the job using SKT field staff and conservancy field staff will ensure efficient monitoring and evaluation of the growth and health of the population. Building capacity locally to co-ordinate monitoring and tourism development will mean communities will become key stakeholders in the conservation of the black rhino and its habitat. Conservancies are already identifying the black rhino as a key resource on which land use and development strategies are being based. This project ensures these plans will be based on informed decisions stemming from a scientific assessment of habitat suitability for black rhino and to make recommendations on optimal stocking rates. Linking black rhino conservation to regional development in this way provides a clear exit strategy that ensures continued emphasis on monitoring of the black rhino. In this way black rhino conservation and appropriate land use planning are clearly linked to well-planned tourism developments and provide a means for communities to benefit.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

18. Describe how progress on the project would be monitored and evaluated in terms of achieving its aims and objectives, both during the lifetime of the project and at its conclusion. How would you ensure that it achieves value for money? What arrangements will be made for disseminating results? If applicable, how would you seek the views of clients/customers?

The Project will be implemented on the ground by the project officer in full coordination with the MET Rhino coordinator and partner NGO Save the Rhino Trust. In this way all progress will be monitored and evaluated in terms of achieving its aims and objectives, both during the lifetime of the project and at its conclusion. How would you ensure that it achieves value for money? What arrangements will be made for disseminating results? If applicable, how would you seek the views of clients/customers?

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Logical framework. Please enter the details of your project onto the matrix using the note at Annex B of the Guidance Note.

Project summary	Measurable indicators	Means of verification	Important assumptions
<p>Goal</p> <p><i>To assist countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources with the conservation of biological diversity and implementation of the Biodiversity Convention</i></p>		<p>Legislation and policy in place to enable appropriate protection of areas rich in biodiversity in line with CBD criteria</p> <p>Management plans endorsed by government and local level institutes</p> <p>Increased resources made available by host county to reach conservation goals</p>	<p>Continued political stability in the country and support from government for the conservation of biological diversity</p> <p>Continued development of appropriate CBNRM programmes that ensure community commitment to sustainable natural resource management</p>
<p>Purpose</p> <p>The development of a MET and community-driven programme that contributes to improving livelihoods and conservation in the region</p> <p>Secure protection of mega fauna and optimise black rhino growth rates in line with metapopulation goals of the national population of black rhino.</p>	<p>An increase in wildlife numbers in the project area</p> <p>Increased benefits to communities to enrich livelihoods</p> <p>Land use plans that make provision for black rhino</p>	<p>Annual census and monitoring data captured and analysed</p> <p>Diversity of stakeholders is increased</p> <p>Social surveys to see that future benefits to stakeholders are increased and a value is placed on rhino by local communities</p>	<p>No increase in poaching</p> <p>Continued community support for conservation and tourism in the project area</p> <p>Continued support from regional government departments for mega fauna conservation</p>
<p>Outputs</p> <p>A sustainable monitoring programme for the black rhino co-ordinated and run by Namibian staff</p> <p>Capacity to make informed decisions regarding development of tourism and management of black rhino</p> <p>A better understanding of rhino conservation factors within the region</p>	<p>Established monitoring teams operating in the area</p> <p>Improved monitoring programme for black rhino</p> <p>Appropriate development of tourism enterprises that minimise the disturbance to black rhino</p> <p>Ongoing growth of the black rhino population</p>	<p>Measure number of days patrolled and catch per unit effort</p> <p>Number of recognisable animals recorded over one year</p> <p>Measures of tourism impact and of occupancy of lodges and campsites</p> <p>Indicators population health analysed and growth at least 5%</p>	<p>Commitment by all partners to implement project</p> <p>Provision of sufficient resources by partners</p> <p>Continued political stability in the region to allow maintain tourism growth</p> <p>No increase in poaching of black rhino</p>
<p>Activities</p> <p>Train two local coordinators to MSc level at DICE</p> <p>Train SRT, MET and conservancy field-staff</p> <p>Habitat suitability study</p> <p>Draft black rhino management plan</p> <p>Assist with ongoing land use planning at all levels</p> <p>Disseminate results</p>	<p>Agreed number of trainees complete training and have skills to implement</p> <p>Measured availability of preferred food plants, productivity, and tourism impacts, and these related to population demography data over time</p> <p>Land use plan drafted</p> <p>Workshops held</p>	<p>Staff reports, certificates, graduation of MSc students at DICE</p> <p>Data collected and analysed using a GIS and other investigative tools</p> <p>Documents drafted and results of workshops documented</p>	<p>Commitment from partners to supply project staff</p> <p>Data collected by project officer made available for analysis</p> <p>Commitment from partners during and after the project period</p>