

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 organization

CABI Bioscience

2. Principals in project

Details	Project leader	Other UK personnel (if working more than 50% of their time on project)	Main project partner or coordinator in host country
Surname	Minter		Isikov
Forename(s)	David William		Vladimir Pavlovich
Post held	Principal Scientist		Principal Scientist
Institution (if different to above)			Nikita Botanic Garden
Department			Department of Plant Protection
Telephone			
Fax			
E-mail			

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

3. Project title

Recovering Ukraine's lost steppe land - a unique opportunity

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

Background. Current conditions in Ukraine's **agriculture** and **military** sectors provide a unique opportunity to recover steppe.

Agriculture. Large areas (much originally steppe) lie derelict through economic stagnation and a declining but increasingly urbanized population. As part of Rio commitments, Ukraine's government favours restoration to natural landscapes: in Crimea alone, 37,000 ha are identified as suitable. This project would:

- gather Ukrainian scientists with appropriate restoration skills;
- give them practical experience (on problem areas of existing reserves);
- accumulate suitable materials, including seeds and seedlings of steppe plants;
- pass those skills and resources to villagers with suitable land adjacent to reserves;
- empower villagers to maintain and extend recreated natural landscapes, and use them sustainably.

Military. Training areas and other military lands are often important for nature. The UK Ministry of Defence routinely considers conservation when managing such areas, knowing its public relations value. Ukrainian military also has custody of many important natural landscapes, including large areas of steppe, but conservation is not a factor in their management. In September 2001, Ukrainian and UK Ministries of Defence signed a Memorandum of Understanding which, for the first time, included agreement to co-operate over ecology. The present proposal would:

- establish links between Ukrainian biologists, Ukrainian military administrators, and suitable UK personnel, through study trips and seminars explaining the importance of nature conservation, and its public relations value;
- (if possible) formalize those links into a national Joint Advisory Panel where Ukrainian scientists can advise military administrators about conservation issues, helping disseminate that advice, perhaps through further local panels.

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

April 2002. Three years

6. Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of your organization

Aims. CABI Bioscience is dedicated to improving human welfare worldwide through dissemination, application and generation of scientific knowledge in support of sustainable development, with emphasis on agriculture, forestry, human health and management of natural resources, and with particular attention to needs of developing countries.

Activities. Within CABI Bioscience, Dr Minter develops, maintains and enlarges relational computerized databases of the occurrence of living organisms, their scientific names, taxonomy, and other ancillary data. These are used to produce electronic and paper publications, including local, national and regional checklists, distribution maps, bibliographies, directories of scientists, websites, conservation strategies, nature reserve management plans, and local environmental plans. The databases are richest in records from former Soviet Union countries, the Caribbean and Latin America, and work in those countries is prioritized. A team of collaborators in those countries is now well established. In addition to scientific work and organization of scientific conferences, workshops and expeditions, freely donated computers, scientific literature, and other resources are collected and delivered to suitable scientific institutions, nature reserves and schools, particularly in Cuba and the former Soviet Union, with training in their use. In the last three years there has been considerable activity in environmental planning and practical conservation, particularly of steppe land in southern Ukraine.

Achievements. Practical conservation. Restoration of *Khomutovskiy Steppe* (Ukrainian National Steppe Reserve), a two-year project (1999-2001) funded by the FCO Environment Project Fund to control scrub encroachment. Objectives included clear cutting scrub, development and implementation of a new management plan, purchase of 10 horses for grazing, plus construction of stables and a corral. The reserve's museum was restored, and new exhibits are being prepared, with promotional pamphlets in Ukrainian and English. The reserve received computers and training in their use. **Environmental planning.** *Local Environmental Action Plan for Balaclava* (Crimea), an 18-month project (2001-2002) funded by DFID through the British Council (Ukraine). This famous, now largely decommissioned, Ukrainian naval base has severe pollution problems. Activities have included a study visit by the Mayor of Balaclava to Whitby, a town of similar size, with a similar harbour, and brand new sewage system. **Conservation strategies and management plans.** The national fungal conservation strategy for Cuba produced through *Fungi of the Caribbean*, an earlier Darwin Initiative project (1997-2000) was completed on schedule and is now being presented to the Cuban government. A current Darwin Initiative project involves preparing new management plans for Cuban nature reserves. See also the management plan produced for *Khomutovskiy Steppe* (above). Dr Minter authored chapters on Cuba and Ukraine for the *British Mycological Society's* millennium publication on fungal conservation. **Recycling equipment.** Over 250 computers, printers and accessories, literature, camcorders, cameras and field equipment, almost all freely donated, have been delivered. Most went to Ukraine and Cuba, but twelve other countries also received consignments. In addition, several workshops were held in Cuba, Kazakhstan and Ukraine on computerized databases for storing biodiversity information. A further 45 computers await transport to Ukraine. **Databases.** Since our first Darwin Initiative project began in 1993, numbers of computerized databases records have risen by over 1,000,000. **Publications.** The team has produced more than 100 publications in the last ten years. Key works include a "Who's Who in Biodiversity Sciences" of former Soviet Union countries, containing names and addresses of about 10,000 scientists (supported by the Darwin Initiative, published 2001), *Fungi of the Caribbean, an Annotated Checklist* (946 pp., supported by the Darwin Initiative, published 2001), *Information Technology in Biodiversity Research, Proceedings & Abstracts of the 2nd International Symposium, St Petersburg 2001* (176 pp., supported by the Darwin Initiative, published 2001), *Fungi of Ukraine, a Preliminary Checklist* (360 pp., supported by the Darwin Initiative, published 1996) and *Fungi on Eucalyptus* (376 pp., supported by the Darwin Initiative, published 1995). **Scientific Conferences & Workshops.** Since 1996, the team has participated in meetings in 15 countries, including the Royal Society's *10 Year Retrospective on Support for Science in Russia & Ukraine* (October 2001). They have organized or played a significant rôle in meetings or workshops in Almaty (2 workshops), Caracas, Havana (4 meetings), Kaniv (1 workshop, 1 meeting, <http://www.biodiversity.ac.psiweb.com/kaniv/index.htm>), Kiev (1 workshop), Novosibirsk (1 workshop, 2 meetings, <http://www.bionet.nsc.ru/meeting/bdne2001/sponsors.html>), St Petersburg (3 meetings, <http://www.zin.ru/conferences/itbd/index.html>). They are at present organizing further major meetings or sessions in Xalapa México (4th Congreso Latino-Americano de Micología, 2002), Oslo (7th International Mycological Congress, 2002) and Yalta Crimea (14th Congress of European Mycologists, 2003, <http://www.biodiversity.ac.psiweb.com/14cem/index.htm>). **Fieldwork.** In addition to leading the Royal Geographical Society's first Ralph Brown Expedition (northwest Ukraine, 1998, <http://www.minter.demon.co.uk/brown/index.htm>), Dr Minter and his team have been involved in fieldwork in a wide range of locations including Argentina, Australia, Cuba, Russia (Altai), Trinidad & Tobago, the UK, Ukraine (Crimea), USA and Venezuela, much funded through two earlier Darwin Initiative projects. **Websites.** A range of websites has been prepared by Dr Minter & his team. In addition to those already mentioned, the following are examples: Distribution Maps of Ukrainian Fungi & Plants (<http://www.biodiversity.ac.psiweb.com/royal/index.htm>); A Guide to Botany in St Petersburg (<http://binras.newmail.ru/>). **Publicity.** Publicity for this work has included television and radio programmes in Britain, Ukraine and Cuba, newspaper articles in Britain and Ukraine, and extensive coverage in several issues of *Zhiva Ukraina*, Ukraine's leading environmental newsletter.

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

Dr Minter leads the BioNET-INTERNATIONAL Darwin Projects *Darwin Initiative Biodiversity Conservation in Cuba* (2001-2004, Ref. 162/10/001) and *Biodiversity Information in the former Soviet Union* (1999-2002, Ref. 162/8/011) [drawing to a close with all objectives expected to be met or exceeded on or before schedule]. He has also led the CABI Darwin Projects *Fungi of the Caribbean* (1997-2000, Ref. 162/6/056) and *Fungi of Ukraine* (1994-1996, Ref. 162/3/54).

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

National Scientific Centre Nikitsky Botanic Gardens of the Ukrainian Agricultural Academy of Sciences [Nikita]. Co-ordination of project within Ukraine; organization of work on steppe reserves; gathering of seeds and transplants; establishment of seed banks; training of scientists and villagers; advice and support for villagers.

Master Consulting [MC]. Organization of seminars for military administrators and (if possible) the Joint Advisory Panel. MC is a Ukrainian limited company based in Kiev, specializing in information transfer through seminars. The Company's Director and other personnel have participated in previous (non Darwin-funded) projects led by Dr Minter in Ukraine. The public/private partnership of Nikita and MC is thought to be new for Darwin Initiative projects in the former Soviet Union.

PROJECT DETAILS

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

Recovery of lost steppe land. Huge areas of Ukraine were once covered by steppe, a landscape associated with cossacks, and thus of particular significance for the nation's collective psyche. Almost all vanished into **agriculture** with Krushchev's disastrous policy to plough virgin lands in the 1960s (much former steppe land is now derelict). Many remaining fragments were swallowed by the **military**. The present political and socio-economic climate in Ukraine favours restoration of steppe [see section 11 below], and the objective of this proposal is to grasp that unique opportunity.

Agriculture. To restore derelict agricultural land, experts with the right experience are needed. They must have resources (tools, seeds and seedlings, computers, printing equipment etc.) and skill to communicate their knowledge to villagers in areas suitable for steppe restoration. The villagers themselves need further resources, plus support to ensure resources are maintained and their work is sustainable, for example through ecotourism (which itself pre-supposes some infrastructure into which the village can fit). The present proposal seeks to assemble those experts (already identified [see section 10 below]), provide them with resources and experience (primarily through work on reserves of the Crimean Kerch Peninsula and Donetsk oblast') and assist them in setting up at least one village-based land restoration programme, ensuring the selected village can fit into an existing tourism infrastructure.

Military. A different approach is needed - transfer of British best practice. The UK Ministry of Defence has long understood the high public relations value of nature conservation in management of lands designated for military training. Although the Ukrainian military also has custody of many natural landscapes, including large areas of steppe, nature conservation is not a factor in their management. The present proposal aims to establish links between Ukrainian biologists, administrators of Ukrainian military land, and suitable UK personnel, to explain the importance of nature conservation, and its public relations value to the military. Later, if possible, links will be formalized into a national Joint Advisory Panel where Ukrainian scientists can advise military administrators about nature conservation issues on lands in their care, helping them disseminate that advice.

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

This is a new project, but is only possible because of the infrastructure set up by the previous Darwin Initiative project *Biodiversity Information in the former Soviet Union* (1999-2002), and through the FCO Environmental Project Fund *Khomutovskyi Steppe* project - which was itself only possible because of catalytic contacts provided through our first Darwin Initiative project *Fungi of Ukraine* (1994-1996).

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? Dr Minter has worked with Ukrainian scientists and conservationists for over ten years, visiting Ukraine many times, meeting two of the country's last three Ministers of Ecological Security. He knows proposed participants well, and the present proposal was developed jointly. Dr Isikov was in the scientific team which made the initial survey and developed the management plan of Opuk, the main reserve involved in this proposal. In April 2001, accompanied by Dr Isikov and Dr Hayova (a participant in the present proposal), Dr Minter visited that reserve. Dr Minter, Dr Hayova and Dr Andrianova (another participant in the present proposal) discussed the project with staff at the Ukrainian Embassy in London. Dr Minter and Dr Hayova discussed the proposal with Mr David Pert, Environmental Officer at the British Embassy in Kiev. Dr Hayova also discussed the proposal with Major Colin Bulleid, Military Attaché at the British Embassy in Kiev. Mr Pert and Major Bulleid both offered much practical advice about how this project could be taken forward in the event of it attracting funding.

How is the project related to conservation priorities in the host country? Restoring derelict agricultural land. A bilingual Ukrainian / English document entitled *A State Programme for Ukraine's National Environment Network Development for the years 2000-2015* sets out Ukraine's governmental policy relevant to the present project. This document specifically refers to withdrawal from agricultural use of degraded and no-longer profitable arable lands. It also mentions withdrawal of land plots which have lost their natural condition because of industrial use and which endanger preservation of the environment. In Crimea, 37000 ha of degraded and polluted lands have been earmarked for withdrawal. Dr Luda Vakarenko (who represented Ukraine in the Darwin Initiative project *Biodiversity Information in the former Soviet Union*, 1999-2002, and who has good contact with Ukraine's Ministry for Ecological Security) confirms that work in this area will be a priority for Ukraine in the next few years.

Advisory panels to manage military land. During meetings at Ukraine's London Embassy in mid-October 2001, Dr Minter and Dr Hayova were advised by Scientific Attaché Dr Sergii Kucherenko and Defence Attaché Colonel Olexander Chornohuz that, in September 2001, UK and Ukrainian Ministries of Defence signed a new Memorandum of Understanding on military co-operation. One clause covered the totally new topic of military co-operation on ecological issues. Both attachés believed the present proposal was timely and, while ground breaking, would be welcome as introducing British best practice in this new area. They furthermore felt that, if successful, advisory work could be extended to other land-holding national bodies of Ukraine, such as the border guards. Colonel Chornohuz provided Dr Minter & Dr Hayova with further British military contacts (now being followed up), suggesting that initial Darwin Initiative funding could trigger additional support from those sources. Dr Minter and Dr Andrianova discussed these ideas with Ukrainian politicians and diplomats attending the Royal Society's recent *10 Year Retrospective on Support for Science in Russia and Ukraine*, where it was suggested that such work could usefully be extended to military training areas in forested land near L'viv in western Ukraine. All this indicates positive support at a high level for work of this sort.

How will the project assist the host country meet its obligations under the Biodiversity Convention? The project [Article numbers in **bold**]: improves and may extend existing reserves, and transfers skills and resources particularly to local people (**1**); supports British-Ukrainian co-operation in managing military lands for conservation (**5**); helps Ukraine to implement an existing national strategy to restore derelict land (**6**); monitors and augments knowledge of existing reserves and, possibly, of other areas (**7**); enhances *in situ* conservation in and outside of reserves (**8c**), particularly through rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems (**8f**), and promotes compatibility between present uses and conservator (**8i**); strengthens *ex situ* conservation, particularly of rare steppe plants (**9**); supports local populations in improving degraded areas where biological diversity has been reduced (**10d**); contains a large element of appropriate scientific and technical education (**12**), and improvement of public awareness (**13**); will continue to facilitate information exchange (**17**) and will promote technical and scientific co-operation (**18**).

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?

Darwin principles. The project directly addresses many Rio Convention articles, and will be **run mainly by host country scientists**. It contains elements of **institutional capacity building, training, research, work to implement the Biodiversity Convention, and environmental education**, and relates specifically to the following Darwin criteria. **Rich in biodiversity but poor in resources.** Ukraine's steppe lands are rich in biodiversity, but many (and all included in the present proposal) are in poorest parts of the country. Opuk, the main reserve involved, is on Crimea's Kerch Peninsula, a region which the visitor may imagine has been forgotten by time, with dilapidated kolkhoz farms and a run-down smokestack industry. The reserve itself, however, is a main European breeding site of the rose coloured starling, and prime wintering ground for the great bustard, with an abundance of hoopoes, quails and rare larks, making it internationally significant for birds alone. **Helping to eliminate poverty.** Steppe flowers and birds offer enormous long-term potential for sustainable tourism to villages near reserves such as Opuk. The present project will help turn at least one such village in that direction. Dr Isikov and Dr Minter have both, separately, worked on pilot projects looking at sustainable tourism in Ukraine: in Dr Isikov's case this has centred on Crimea [see CV]. There is thus already some infrastructure into which these villages can be integrated. **Drawing on British expertise.** The present project relies heavily on British best practice in developing advisory panels to include conservation in management of Ukraine's military areas. **Collaborative.** All participants in the present proposal have a strong track record in collaboration. **Catalytic.** The present proposal provides the wherewithal to set in motion Ukraine's national policy for restoration of degraded agricultural lands; if successful, the catalytic effects of an advisory panel on managing Ukraine's military areas for conservation would be enormous. **Distinctive and innovative.** Transferring British best practice in managing military areas for conservation is a new idea. **Real and lasting impact.** Existing steppe land will experience long-term improvement; new areas of steppe will be created from derelict farmland; Ukraine's military areas may for the first time be managed with conservation in mind. **High quality and scientific excellence.** All participants in the present proposal are scientists with a good track record of high quality scientific work; publications in peer-group refereed journals will be produced from the present project. **Leverage of funding.** Darwin Initiative funding is likely to trigger more support [see sections 11 & 14]. **Additional.** The present work is not funded, and is unlikely to be funded elsewhere. **Educational.** All participants in this project will benefit from training, seminars, workshops, study visits, education or personal development [see section 15]. **Value for money.** Dr Minter's two completed Darwin Initiative projects and his third almost completed project have all exceeded all original promised outputs. His fourth project, begun in 2001, has already delivered more computers to Cuba than was promised for the whole project period. If successful, the present proposal will be approached with similar enthusiasm. **Publicity.** The interesting and unusual nature of the present project is likely to attract good publicity from national and local press, radio and television and from scientific and nature periodicals in both Ukraine and Britain, where the Darwin name and logo would be used wherever possible. **Advertising.** In addition to publicity through the media, the project will be presented to the scientific community through appropriate conferences and other meetings, and through published work and the internet. In all these cases, the Darwin name and logo will be used. The Darwin name and logo will also appear prominently on promotional material produced for participating reserves and villages.

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	Output Number	Description (include numbers of people involved, numbers of publications printed or produced and days/weeks where applicable)
2002 April	9	Project starts; e-mail communications between senior participants about implementation of project, existing management plan of Opuk reserve refined in response to support from Darwin Initiative; first contacts with Ukrainian Ministry of Defence through Embassy level introductions; objectives of project communicated to Ukrainian Ministry of Defence.
2002 May	15abcd 22	Website about project established; press releases about project.
	8, 21	Opuk reserve visited; land for living collection of Crimean steppe plants designated and checked [within the boundary of Opuk reserve there are at least 10 ha of land heavily encroached by couch (<i>Agropyron repens</i>), a noxious weed; part of this currently valueless land will be used]; clearance of that land begun.
		Villages adjacent to Opuk visited; relevant objectives of project explained to villagers; villagers taken on for project work; clearing [plastic and other rubbish] and well rehabilitation on the reserve begun [Opuk reserve is in a very dry area; water is extremely important for all work restoring the reserve; at present only one of the five wells on the reserve functions]; building suitable for a reserve office and visitors' centre identified [at present reserve staff are accommodated more than 50 km from the reserve; possible closer buildings suitable for use are known to exist on the reserve and in the nearby village, but the optimum way to use them has not yet been established]; trips to Ukraine by British partner begin.
2002 June	6ab, 22	Preparation of cleared land ready for sowing and planting [in the first year of the project, only a small area is likely to be used, increasing in future years]; surveying the reserve; study tour to see UK examples of alteration in farming practice for nature conservation.
2002 July	4ab, 4cd, 13a	Start of collecting seeds and transplants of steppe plants from suitable locations in Crimea by project participants and, after training , by students and local people from villages near reserve, leading to institutional capacity building at Nikita through establishment of a seed bank of Crimean steppe plants; sowing and planting to follow at times determined by steppe experts.
2002 September	6ab, 14ab	Quarterly seminars for Ukrainian Ministry of Defence administrators and invited members of the Ukrainian armed forces begin in Kiev, organized by MC (estimated 15 participants throughout project) [these may be publicized 15A, 15C].
2002 October	20, 21	Work rehabilitating the reserve office and visitors' centre building(s) starts.
2002 October	6ab, 22	Presentations about adapting agricultural practice for sustainable tourism organized for villages adjacent to the reserve; first non-reserve land to be used for restoration identified; villagers receive help and advice in establishing local "bed & breakfast"-(B&B) style accommodation.

PROJECT OUTPUTS [cont.]		
Year / Month	Output Number	Description (include numbers of people involved, numbers of publications printed or produced and days/weeks where applicable)
2002 November	12a, 20, 21	Computers supplied to Nikita and Opuk reserve; reserve staff trained in their use; database established for reserve; records from summer survey keyboarded; work on exhibits for new visitors' centre begins; work on website about Opuk reserve begins; pamphlets about the reserve and its environs drafted.
2002 December	6ab, 14ab	Second quarterly seminar in Kiev [timing of this and all subsequent seminars is approximate]; document proposing advisory panel drafted and circulated.
2003 January	16abc	Website about Opuk reserve established; pamphlets about the reserve and its environs produced and distributed.
2003 March	6ab, 14ab	Third quarterly seminar in Kiev; first meeting of advisory panel in Kiev [seminars may evolve naturally into advisory panels, so that distinctions between the activities may become less clear cut]; provision of target figures for monitoring second and third years of project.
2003 April		Villagers start to provide accommodation for visitors; project senior participants start to use this accommodation during visits, giving feedback on presentation of the product.
2003 May	22	Second year clearance of reserve land designated for living collection of Crimean steppe plants; restoration of first area of non-reserve land begins (starting to deliver sustainable use of land).
	6ab	Study visit for Ukrainian group to UK to see examples of conservation on military land / farming practices altered to support conservation.
2003 June	6ab, 14ab	Fourth quarterly seminar in Kiev.
	21	Reserve visitors' centre opens, promoting environmental education and awareness .
2003 July	13b, 22	Second year gathering of seeds and transplants; seed bank of Crimean steppe plants in Nikita enhanced; assistance to village with establishment of their own steppe seed collection (benefit sharing); second year sowing and planting to follow at times determined by steppe experts [sowing and planting of non-reserve land for first time].
2003 September		Field trip to reserve by mycologists from <i>14th Congress of European Mycology</i> ; villagers gain real experience of providing accommodation for foreign visitors.
	6ab, 14ab, 20	Fifth quarterly seminar in Kiev; second meeting of advisory panel in Kiev; presentations about adaptation of agricultural practice for sustainable tourism organized for villages adjacent to other reserves; more computers delivered.
2003 December	6ab, 14ab	Sixth quarterly seminar in Kiev.
2004 March	6ab, 14ab	Seventh quarterly seminar in Kiev; third meeting of advisory panel in Kiev.
2004 May	22	Third year clearance of reserve land designated for living collection of Crimean steppe plants; restoration of second area of non-reserve land begins [if project is progressing successfully, every attempt will be made to extend restoration of non-reserve land to villages adjacent to other reserves].
2004 June	6ab, 14ab	Eighth quarterly seminar in Kiev; review of progress of sustainable tourism and economics of local B&B-style accommodation; study visit for Ukrainian group to UK to see examples of conservation on military land / farming practices altered to support conservation.
2004 July	13b, 22	Third year gathering of seeds and transplants; seed bank of Crimean steppe plants in Nikita enhanced; third year sowing and planting to follow at times determined by steppe experts [sowing and planting of non-reserve land for second time].
2004 September	6ab, 14ab	Ninth quarterly seminar in Kiev; fourth meeting of advisory panel in Kiev.
	9, 11ab, 12b	By this point, Opuk reserve will have undergone a range of surveys with much research , and part of autumn 2004 and winter 2004/2005 will be spent writing scientific papers arising out of the work, and producing an updated management plan for the reserve.
2004 December	6ab, 14ab	Tenth quarterly seminar in Kiev.
2005 March	6ab, 14ab	Eleventh quarterly seminar in Kiev; fifth meeting of advisory panel in Kiev. Project ends; final report submitted.

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

Restoring derelict agricultural land. The present proposal gathers many of the main scientists interested in steppe conservation in Ukraine. Dr Minter's team has just finished work on the *Khomutovskiy Steppe* (Ukrainian National Steppe Reserve, Donetsk oblast'). Dr Heluta (a named participant in the present proposal) is actively involved in small-scale steppe recreation at Trakimyriiv Reserve, south of Kiev. Dr Isikov has many years experience of steppe ecology in Crimea. It is hoped that Dr V.S. Tkachenko (Chairman of the Ukrainian Steppe Conservation Forum, and a participant in the *Khomutovskiy Steppe* work) and Dr V.V. Novosad (an expert on Kerch Peninsula steppe ecosystems) will become involved in the present project. Mrs Tetiana Hardashuk (Ministry for Ecological Security) and Dr Viktor Furzov (an entomologist at the Schmalgausen Institute of Zoology, Kiev) are both separately exploring the possibility of steppe conservation work in Donetsk oblast', but have not yet obtained funding. In the event of the present proposal being supported, Dr Minter will seek to collaborate actively and imaginatively with them and with any others working on steppe conservation in Ukraine. In his previous Darwin Initiative project, *Biodiversity Information in the former Soviet Union*, a similar policy of imaginative and opportunistic collaboration worked very well.

Advisory panels to manage military land. The attachés at the British and Ukrainian Embassies were not aware of any other group working to advise the Ukrainian military about how to manage its training lands for nature conservation, and Dr Minter and his team have not been able to identify any such group. It seems most likely that none exists. There may be a team funded by the Netherlands Embassy working in Sebastopol' which may have some interest in this area. At the time of writing, efforts are being made to identify and contact them. If they exist and any of their work is similar, efforts will be made to collaborate in a way which ensures no duplication of effort. In the event of the present proposal being funded, an approach to TACIS, the European Union agency encouraging democratic practice in former Soviet Union public bodies, may be considered for further funding to develop this side of the project.

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.

<p>In a broad sense, this project has a very high educational component. All participants will receive some sort of training, education or personal development. Senior participants (i.e. those named in this proposal) will gain greater experience of managing ecological projects in general and steppe conservation activities in particular. Ukrainian senior participants will become more skilled in implementing management plans and in writing project proposals (to attract additional funding). Nature reserve staff will receive much training in practical skills relating to steppe restoration and, together with senior participants, will gain experience in passing on those skills to villagers. The organization of seminars and study trips for suitable administrators from the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence will necessitate development of new skills for senior participants, and could result in transmission of new ideas and attitudes to a wholly new stratum of decision makers.</p>		
Training Activity	Dates	Who will participate, how many will participate and for how long?
Practical skills in steppe restoration	Throughout life-time of project	Senior participants (Dr Heluta, Dr Isikov, Dr Minter, Dr Novosad, Dr Tkachenko), other scientists including postgraduates and students, nature reserve staff, local people.
Skills of conserving resources (seeds, seedlings etc.) for steppe restoration, and skills in managing steppeland	Throughout life-time of project	Scientists including postgraduates and students, nature reserve staff, local people.
Teaching experience to pass on skills	Later part of project	Nature reserve staff, local people.
Use of computers (databases, word-processing, internet, e-mails etc.)	Throughout life-time of project	Senior participants (Dr Heluta, Dr Isikov), Dr Novosad, Dr Tkachenko, other scientists including postgraduates and students, nature reserve staff, local people.
Project proposal writing	Sporadically during project	Dr Andrianova, Dr Hayova, Dr Heluta, Dr Isikov, Mrs Krivomaz (Director of MC).
Skills to develop sustainable tourism	Later part of project	Dr Hayova, Dr Isikov, Dr Minter, nature reserve staff, local people.
Study trips, and seminars for Ukrainian Ministry of Defence administrators	Study trips annually, seminars every 3 months	Senior participants, invited administrators from the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence and representatives of the Ukrainian armed forces.

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

<p>Collaboration between senior participants of the present proposal is well established and likely to continue in the long term. The personal development achieved by those participants should be evident long after the end of the project in the form of vigorous activity in addressing scientific issues important for nature conservation in Ukraine. This should be reflected in websites, scientific and other publications, representation of work at scientific and other meetings, successful acquisition of further funding, and an extension of the present work to other areas, not only of steppe land, but also, potentially, of other ecosystems, such as the forests of western Ukraine.</p> <p>The senior participants will themselves monitor use made by nature reserve staff and villagers of the skills imparted to them. It is in the interests of all that these skills are effectively applied and disseminated, and senior participants will seek to ensure that this happens. Enhanced e-mail and internet connexions provided through the present project will make this aspect of the monitoring easier.</p> <p>Successful establishment of an advisory panel for conservation management of military land will mean there is a joint body the existence of which is of interest not only to Ukrainian scientists, but also to the British Embassy. Future evaluations of how this advisory panel is functioning should be available through the scientists involved (at least some of whom will be senior participants of the present project), and through the Military Attaché of the British Embassy.</p>
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17. How is the work of the project expected to continue after the end of grant period? A clear exit strategy must be included

<p>Senior participants (Dr Andrianova, Dr Hayova, Dr Heluta, Dr Isikov) are established scientists with a long track record of professional commitment to their work. All have already had some success in attracting financial support for their work. As a result of this project, they will have greater experience of locating and attracting financial support, and greater skills to offer, particularly in steppe restoration. Those skills are likely to be in greater demand as the Ukrainian government's programme of land restoration gets under way. Successful completion of the present project will certainly facilitate further projects to extend restoration of steppe elsewhere in Crimea and beyond, and the senior participants of this project can be expected to play an important rôle in that work.</p> <p>Nature reserve staff and villagers trained during the present project will have resources and skills they will be able to use to develop their reserves and adjacent areas for sustainable tourism, and Dr Isikov's earlier work with sustainable tourism in Crimea will provide them with an infrastructure into which they can fit. Many of the senior participants are on the Organizing Committee of the <i>14th Congress of European Mycologists</i>, scheduled to be held in Yalta in September 2003. At least one of the post congress field trips will be to eastern Crimea, and will function partly as a practice run for new tourist facilities in the villages near Opuk reserve.</p> <p>Work during the present project is likely to generate substantial amounts of biological data which will be added to the existing databases of Dr Minter's team. Future electronic and paper outputs from these databases will provide further evidence of long-term activity derived from this project.</p> <p>The new advisory panel to introduce conservation to management of military lands, if successful, is likely to be self-maintaining, and to have an enormous influence in spreading good practice to these locations, with profound long-term effects. If the seminars and study trips are well-received, and the advisory panel functions well at a national level, further funding will be sought to extend such work to local panels.</p>
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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?

In general terms, problems with quality of work are not expected, as the senior participants from the host country are already known to be excellent. This collaboration has a long track record, and it expected to continue after the end of this project, so that monitoring and evaluating results subsequent to its completion should be part of the ongoing work.

Improving Opuk reserve, and restoring derelict agricultural land. Many aspects of this part of the project lend themselves to quantitative monitoring. The following are some examples. Number of wells renovated; area of Opuk reserve land cleared of couch each year; number of steppe plant species from which seeds collected; number of seeds from each of those species; number of transplants collected; area sown with seeds of steppe plants; area planted with transplant steppe plants; area of Opuk reserve cleared of rubbish; number of bags of rubbish removed; number of photos and other exhibits in visitors' centre; number of visitors to visitors' centre each year; number of visitors to village B&Bs each year; number of visitors to website; number of different types of leaflets produced; number of each type of leaflet printed; number of leaflets distributed; number of destinations to which leaflets distributed; number of meetings with villagers etc.

Throughout the lifetime of the project, suitable statistical information on these and other aspects will be collected to facilitate evaluation. Before the start of the project, however, for many of these aspects, it is very difficult to predict likely levels, so that meaningful targets will only emerge as the project develops. As a result, for March 2003 in section 13 above, one of the listed outputs is provision of numerical targets by which success of the second and third years of the project can be evaluated. The numerical information will be accompanied by qualitative information, including photographic evidence of changes to the appearance of Opuk reserve, surrounding village land and, where appropriate, other reserves.

Advisory panels to manage military land. Apart from simple statistics on numbers of personnel attending seminars or study visits, and apart from establishing (or failing to establish) an advisory panel, most of the evaluation of this part of the project is necessarily qualitative. Success may be very difficult to assess. In one sense, it can be seen in terms of what bodies are eventually represented on the advisory panel, whether there is a real exchange of information between its members, and whether conservation advice is heeded and transformed into real policy on the ground. Even if advisory panels do not result, however, or if their success in those terms is limited, the work may still have been successful within the context of Ukraine in that a new idea will have been implanted, ready to develop when times are more favourable. In writing this proposal, its authors are aware of the problems which one Darwin Initiative project experienced in western Ukraine a couple of years ago. Great care has been taken to ensure that there has been excellent military and political support in Ukraine for the present proposal, and it is stressed that the national advisory panel is expected to function in Kiev, and to be very distant from the work on Opuk and surrounding villages. Only if all indications are favourable would an attempt be made to add local advisory panels during the lifetime of this project.

Value for money. In the often chaotic conditions of former Soviet Union countries one often comes across other initiatives or projects unknown at the start of one's own project. The best way to avoid duplication of effort in such cases is frequently by opportunistic collaboration. This has worked well in previous Darwin Initiative projects run by the present team, and in all cases to date the results of such collaboration have enhanced rather than diminished value for money. If this new proposal is accepted, the same policy will apply. The team's involvement in producing a *Local Environmental Action Plan for Balaclava*, and in organizing the 14th Congress of European Mycologists, both current activities in Crimea, means that there will be opportunities for spreading some organizational loads across more than one project. The large number of mycologists anticipated to visit Crimea for the Congress is expected to result in excellent publicity for work on Opuk. Leads to contacts with the UK Ministry of Defence, provided by Colonel Chornohuz, Defence Attaché at the Ukrainian Embassy in London, are thought likely to provide further chances of opportunistic collaboration.

Arrangements for disseminating results. The work of this project, and specifically information about Opuk and surrounding villages, and the reserve's management plan will be advertised on the internet; regular surveying of the reserve, and the experience of recreating steppe are scientifically exciting projects, and results will be written up and presented to peer-group reviewed publications; popular articles will be prepared for popular Ukrainian and British publications. Possibilities include: *Zhiva Ukraina*, Ukraine's leading green newsletter (well supported by the previous Darwin Initiative project *Biodiversity Information in the Former Soviet Union*), *Panorama*, Ukrainian Air International's in-flight magazine; *Sanctuary*, the Conservation Journal of the UK Ministry of Defence.

19. Logical framework. Please enter 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>Steppe land in Ukraine increases in area, quality of Ukrainian steppe land improved, Ukrainian government supports further work on restoration of steppe and other ecosystems, with local people sharing benefits.</p>	<p>Policy statements by the Ukrainian government, reports from Ukrainian and other NGOs and external observers, reports in quality press and suitable scientific publications outside Ukraine.</p>	<p>Political and socio-economic conditions in Ukraine continue to favour a policy sympathetic to biodiversity conservation. No reversion to obsessive military suspicion, no military errors making work in such areas difficult.</p>
<p>Purpose</p> <p>The objective of this project is to increase steppe land in Ukraine by influencing the country's agriculture and military sectors. Agriculture. The project will support Ukraine's policy of restoring derelict agricultural land. Military. The project will try to establish a Joint Advisory Panel of Ukrainian scientists and administrators to facilitate conservation management of military land.</p>	<p>Agriculture. Experts in place with skills and resources; work communicating those skills and supplying resources to local people begun. Military. Regular meetings of Joint Advisory Panel, ideas generated at those meetings put into practice in management of military areas.</p>	<p>Agriculture. Reports in scientific and popular publications, and evidence on the internet. Military. Minutes of meetings, feedback at Ministerial level.</p>	<p>Agriculture. Experts remain in country (do not emigrate, for example), and remain in jobs where their new skills can be used, Ukrainian governmental policy continues to support steppe restoration. Military. Receptive to new ideas, advisory panel regarded as a priority, information does reach appropriate Ministers.</p>
<p>Outputs</p> <p>On and around Opuk and other reserves: restoration of reserves; establishment of field plots on the reserve and adjacent lands, a new visitors' centre for Opuk, steppe plant seed banks locally and in Nikita, village(s) prepared for sustainable tourism. In Kiev: increased awareness of public relations value of conservation management on military land; establishment of Joint Advisory Panel for Ukrainian scientists and military administrators.</p>	<p>On and around Opuk and other reserves: wells and field plots functioning, reserve with less rubbish, visitors' centre opened, seed banks in existence, B&B hostel opened, websites functioning. In Kiev: Joint Advisory Panel established and meeting regularly.</p>	<p>On and around Opuk and other reserves: video and photographic evidence, print-outs from websites, reports. In Kiev: reports, minutes of meetings.</p>	<p>On and around Opuk and other reserves: rubbish clearance does not constitute health hazard (eg asbestos), weedy areas can be cleared, sufficient seed stocks of steppe plants can be obtained, seeds and transplants will grow, weeds can be controlled, villagers and other local organizations willing to adapt to change. In Kiev: willingness to participate on part of military administrators.</p>
<p>Activities</p> <p>On and around Opuk and other reserves: restoration of wells, rubbish clearance, weed control, seed and plant collection and identification, sowing and transplanting on field plots, surveys, building renovation, preparation of an exhibition, accumulation of seeds in collections; preparation by villagers for tourists. In Kiev: study visits; seminars for military administrators.</p>	<p>On and around Opuk and other reserves: wells cleared of debris and producing clear freshwater, bags of rubbish removed from reserve, areas cleared of weeds, seeds and transplants collected and identified, seeds sown and planting carried out, surveys made, building renovated, exhibition prepared, collections established, B&B hostel set up. In Kiev: study visits made, seminars held.</p>	<p>On and around Opuk and other reserves: video and photographic evidence of well renovation, rubbish and weed clearance, of seed collection and planting, of building renovation and of new exhibition; reports and notes of these activities; advertisement of B&B hostel on internet. In Kiev: reports of study visits and seminars, minutes of meetings.</p>	<p>On and around Opuk and other reserves: rubbish clearance does not constitute health hazard (eg asbestos), weedy areas can be cleared, sufficient seed stocks of steppe plants can be obtained, seeds and transplants will grow, weeds can be controlled, villagers and other local organizations willing to adapt to change. In Kiev: interest in participation on the part of military administrators.</p>

FINANCIAL ASPECTS

20. Please state gross expenditure on the programme of work. Please work by financial year (defined as April to March) using 2001/2002 prices throughout - do not include any allowance for assumed future inflation. Indicate salary costs on Table A and total costs on Table B. For programmes of less than 3 years' duration, enter 'nil' as appropriate for future years. It would be helpful to highlight (by bold, italics or underlining) the areas for which Darwin funding is requested. Show Darwin funded items separately; do not include with other funding

Table A Salary costs

List each member of the team and their role in the project	2002/2003 (£)	2003/2004 (£)	2004/2005 (£)
a) UK			
Dr D.W. Minter			
b) collaborators			
Dr T.V. Andrianova			
Dr V.P. Hayova			
Dr V.P. Heluta			
Mrs T.I. Krivomaz			
Dr V.P. Isikov			
Dr V.V. Novosad			
Dr V.S. Tkachenko			
Show the % of time each person would spend on this work			
Dr T.V. Andrianova			
Dr V.P. Hayova			
Dr V.P. Heluta			
Dr V.P. Isikov			
Mrs T.I. Krivomaz			
Dr D.W. Minter			
Dr V.V. Novosad			
Dr V.S. Tkachenko			
Total cost of salaries			

Table B Other costs (Please highlight or underline the areas for which Darwin funding is requested)

	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005
Rents, rates, heating, lighting, cleaning or overheads - from Darwin Initiative - from CAB Bioscience - from Nikita & MC			
Office costs eg postage, telephone, stationery - from Darwin Initiative			
Travel and subsistence - from Darwin Initiative - from other sources			
Printing - from Darwin Initiative - from other sources			
Conferences, seminars etc. - from Darwin Initiative			
Capital items/equipment (please specify) - from Darwin Initiative (computers) - from other sources (computers)			
Other (please specify) - from Darwin Initiative (work on and near Opuk reserve) - from PSI Net (internet space)			
Sub-total			
Cost of salaries (from previous table) - from Darwin Initiative - from Nikita & MC			
Total of spend*			

* Grants may be limited to a percentage of the total cost of the project. The Department will look for balancing income from non-public sources (eg private sector funding, subscriptions, donations, fees)

21 How is your organization currently funded?

In 1998/1999 the income of CAB International (of which CABI Bioscience is part) was approximately £. Only about 2.8% of this was contributed as membership fees by its member countries, the remainder being earned primarily from sale of information and scientific products, and as fees for services. The organization is required by its 41 member governments (including the UK) to operate on a not-for-profit and fee-for-service basis, with a reducing demand on the resources of those governments. The UK, as a member country, currently contributes around £. CABI Bioscience is about 80% supported from special project funding, with the net operating costs (about in 1999) provided from central resources. Income is derived from a range of project, identification and training activities. In 1999, CABI Bioscience received support from 68 funding agencies for work in 43 different countries.

22. Please give details of resources you have sought from the host country partner institution(s) for this project. Include donations in kind eg accommodation with these costed where possible. Indicate any income or donations which are confirmed.

Host country partner institutions will cover the salary and overheads costs of Dr V.V. Novosad and Dr V.S. Tkachenko. They have also agreed to assimilate some of the other overheads costs that their participation in the present project will entail. These result in reductions in overheads charges larger than those provided by CABI Bioscience [see section 23]. As with previous Darwin Initiative projects run by the present team, costs of travel and subsistence, and of transportation of equipment will be kept to a minimum. Where possible, scientific staff will provide each other with hospitality to avoid hotel costs. Cheapest flights will be sought. Free donation of transport of equipment will be asked for from different sources, and every attempt will be made to make Darwin Initiative money go as far as possible.

23. Please state all other sources of income and amounts to be put towards the costs of the project (including any income from other public bodies, private sponsorship, trusts, fees or trading activity)

CAB International is obliged by its member governments (including that of the UK) to operate on a fee-for-service basis. To be financially viable under such conditions, it is necessary for CAB International to charge an overheads figure of 120%. CABI Bioscience (as part of CAB International) recognizes, however, that this project contributes towards its general mission of improving human welfare through dissemination of scientific knowledge in support of sustainable development. As a result, it is prepared to contribute to the present project in the form of a substantially reduced overheads charge of 80%.

Free internet space will be provided for this project by PSI Net.

Advice from Mr Pert at the British Embassy in Kiev is that there is a good chance of obtaining further modest funding for this work from the FCO Environment Project Fund (one small project on steppe conservation funded by this source has already been completed by the present team); there are also some indications that, if Darwin Initiative funding is forthcoming, further support may be gained from within the Ministry of Defence. While these additional awards could be synergistic to the aims of the present proposal, no overlap of funding is anticipated. In the event of success from either of these sources (which are currently being explored), the Darwin Initiative will be kept fully informed and, if appropriate, further advice will be sought from Darwin Initiative staff.

24. Please deduct any confirmed income or donations from elsewhere (where these may be costed) and indicate in Table C the amounts of grant requested under the Darwin Initiative

Table C Darwin funding requested

	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005
Income to be deducted	18400	18400	20700
Amount of Darwin Initiative funding requested	52000	54000	59600

FCO NOTIFICATION

25. Please tick the box if you think there are sensitivities that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise the project's success in the Darwin competition in the host country

CERTIFICATION

On behalf of the trustees/company (delete as appropriate) D.W. Minter I apply for a grant of £ 52000 in respect of expenditure to be incurred in the financial year ending 31 March 2003 on the activities specified in paragraph 13.

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 enclose a copy of the organization's most recent audited accounts and annual report.

Name (block capitals) Dr.D.W.Minter

Position in the organization Principal Scientist

Signed Date 26 October 2001

Please return completed form to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 4/A2 Ashdown House, 123 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6DE.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
August 2001-10-16