



27

**DEFRA**Department for  
Environment,  
Food & Rural Affairs**DARWIN INITIATIVE****APPLICATION FOR GRANT FOR ROUND 11 COMPETITION: STAGE 2**

Please read the Guidance Notes before completing this form. Give a full answer to each section; applications will be considered on the basis of information submitted on this form. Please do not cross-refer to information in separate documents except where invited on the form. The space provided indicates the level of detail required but you may provide additional information on a separate A4 sheet if necessary. Do not reduce the font size below 10pt or the paragraph spacing.

**Submit by 13 January 2003****1. Name and address of organisation**

RSPB, [REDACTED]
------------------

**2. Project title (not exceeding 10 words)**

Prediction and management of potential declines in <i>Gyps</i> species vultures
---

**3. Principals in project. Please provide a one page CV for each of these named individuals.**

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
<b>Surname</b>	Pain	To be employed (March 2003)	Budieri
<b>Forename(s)</b>	Deborah Jean		Adnan
<b>Post held</b>	Head of International Research	Research Biologist	Head of Middle East and Central Asia Division
<b>Institution (if different to above)</b>			BirdLife International
<b>Department</b>	Conservation Science	Conservation Science	
<b>Telephone</b>	[REDACTED]		
<b>Fax</b>			
<b>Email</b>			

**4. Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of your organisation. (Large institutions please note that this should describe your unit or department)**

<p><b>Aims</b></p> <p>The RSPB champions the conservation of birds and other biodiversity in the UK and worldwide, for wildlife, the environment and people. The RSPB works for a healthy environment rich in birds and wildlife; it depends on the support and generosity of others to make a difference. It works with bird and habitat conservation organisations in a global partnership called 'BirdLife International' and our international vision is to maintain the numbers, diversity and geographic distribution of the world's most important sites, species and habitats.</p> <p><b>Activities</b></p> <p>All RSPB's work is underpinned by research and investigation carried out by our own scientists and specialist advisors. We have developed sophisticated site and species database management tools for our own internal use and for wider national and international use. We influence land use and economic policies and campaign for better wildlife protection nationally and internationally. We regularly brief and advise decision makers, political advisors, civil servants, parliamentary officials and journalists.</p>
--

## Achievements

All RSPB's work is underpinned by research and investigation carried out by our own scientists and specialist advisors. We have developed sophisticated site and species database management tools for our own internal use and for wider national and international use. We influence land use and economic policies and campaign for better wildlife protection nationally and internationally. We regularly brief and advise decision makers, political advisors, civil servants, parliamentary officials and journalists.

We protect the habitats of threatened birds and manage more than 176 nature reserves covering more than 121,082 hectares. 53% of this area is owned with the remainder leased or under management agreement. Our nature reserves are home to 80% of the rarest or most threatened bird species in the UK. Each year over 1 million visits are made to RSPB nature reserves. Local community involvement is an important aspect of our approach to nature conservation. *Birds*, our members' magazine has a readership of over 1.6 million.

RSPB has worked to encourage appreciation of the environment by ensuring that it is included in the National Curriculum. We also provide resources for children's classroom studies. Our education newsletters go to all sixth forms and colleges of further education. We run community programmes to raise local awareness of important habitats and bird species. We have more than 450 RSPB Wildlife Explorers' groups.

We work in partnership with industry, land managers, statutory and public bodies and other conservation organisations. Commercial partners include Tesco, Honda UK, Karrimor and Canon UK. The RSPB Visa credit card launched ten years ago with the Co-operative Bank has raised over [REDACTED]. We have teamed up with Scottish and Southern Energy to create RSPB Energy offering gas and electricity from renewable sources. We work with agricultural colleges and university departments to influence the farmland managers of tomorrow.

Internationally, as resources for conservation are very limited, RSPB and RSPB-supported scientists focus on identifying and conserving key habitats and species, working with other BirdLife Partners to set conservation priorities. As part of this work the Important Bird Area programme is a powerful tool to ensure that available resources are channelled to finding and protecting sites of global importance. The RSPB works with BirdLife Partners to influence decision makers including governments, businesses and donors. We seek to influence individual states worldwide and organisations such as the EU. Threats to the world's wetlands, to migratory species, and issues such as climate change are tackled through our work on international conventions. Our individually developed country programmes allow us to provide targeted financial and technical assistance when available. We work as the main supporting partner to BirdLife partners in 10 African countries (including Nature Kenya in Kenya) and 8 European countries as well as in India and Sri Lanka. We also support the BirdLife network in the Middle East, Asia and the Americas and we are active in the UK Overseas Territories.

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

Yes.

1. We received funding of [REDACTED] (awarded in the Third Round) for a project to identify and compile a "Directory of important ornithological sites in Tanzania". This project was successfully completed.
2. We currently manage a project in Belarus, supported by a Darwin grant of [REDACTED] (awarded in the Seventh Round). This is a 3-year project entitled "Management Planning for Conservation of Mesotrophic Fen Mire Biodiversity in Belarus". This project is near completion and the final report is being prepared.
3. We currently manage a project in Africa, part-funded by a Darwin grant of [REDACTED] (awarded in the Ninth Round). This is a 3-year project to develop "Actions plans for conservation of globally threatened birds in Africa". This project is now in its second year.
4. We currently manage a project in Kenya, part-funded by a Darwin grant of [REDACTED] (awarded in the Tenth Round). This is a 3-year project - 'Kenyan Important Biodiversity Areas: Improving monitoring, management and conservation action' will help Nature Kenya to establish and co-ordinate an effective, sustainable monitoring system at 60 Important Biodiversity Areas, to track the status of the IBA network and feedback directly into improved site management, conservation action and national reporting.

6. Please list the overseas partners that will be involved in the project and explain their role and responsibilities in the project. The extent of their involvement at all stages in the project should be detailed, including in project development. Please provide written evidence of this partnership.

**Project coordination from Jordan:** Mr Adnan Budieri; Head of the Middle East and Central Asia Division of BirdLife International; day to day advisory supervision. New staff member, Jordan; project officer, project coordination, logistical support for satellite tagging and monitoring, publicity and fundraising.

**Satellite tracking and colony monitoring:** As above plus Dr Sergei Sklyarenko, Institute of Zoology, Almaty, Kazakhstan; Dr Alexander Gavashelishvili, Georgian Centre for Conservation and Wildlife, Tbilisi, Georgia; Dr Omar Al Saghier, Wildlife Yemen; Dr Jamshid Mansoori, Tehran University, Iran; Dr Vibhu Prakash, Bombay Natural History Society, India.

**Management plan preparation:** As above plus; Kenya, Dr Munir Virani, Peregrine Fund Kenya; Zimbabwe, Dr Peter Mundy, Biodiversity Foundation for Africa; South Africa, Dr Mark Anderson, Department of Agriculture, Land Reform, Environment and Conservation, South African Government & Dr Aldo Beruti, BirdLife South Africa; Uganda, Prof Panta Kasoma, Makerere University; Ethiopia, Mr Mengista Wondafrash, Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society; Tanzania, Dr Charles Mlingwa, Tanzanian Wildlife Research Institute. Djibouti, Houssein Abdillahi.

7. What steps have been taken to (a) engage at all appropriate levels within the host country partner organisations to ensure full support for the project and its outcomes; and (b) ensure the benefits of the project continue despite staff changes in these organisations?

(a) The Middle East and Central Asian Division office of BirdLife are in a key position to coordinate the project, and have regular ongoing contact with BirdLife Partners, Representatives and individuals in all *Gyps* range states. All key people were contacted and consulted in advance of the Concept Note stage of this application.

(b) The involvement of CBD focal points in *Gyps* range states, and incorporation of the management plan within National Biodiversity Action Plans (where this is achieved) will help ensure that benefits continue. Identifying the possible impacts of vulture declines upon both biodiversity and human welfare and livelihoods will also help to define a clear role for government agencies in taking components of the management plan forwards.

8. What other consultation or co-operation will take place or has taken place already with other stakeholders such as local communities. Please include any contact with the government of the host country not already provided.

This is a multi-country project (15 countries) incorporating many *Gyps* range states. CBD focal points within these and any additional range states will be informed of, and consulted concerning the project at its inception. They will be provided with regular updates by the project coordinator in Jordan, and we will seek their input to and endorsement of the final management plan. Through consultation with CBD focal points and National Environment Ministries, we will encourage incorporation of the management plan within National Biodiversity Action Plans. Whilst vulture declines have significant impacts on local communities, consultation at this level is currently inappropriate for this project. Other stakeholders include organisations interested in or working on vultures in any range states. The project concept was discussed with and endorsed by an informal 'working group' on vulture declines including representatives of many of these organisations at the North American Ornithological Conference in New Orleans, October 2002.

## PROJECT DETAILS

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

The purpose of the project is to develop strategies and capacity to minimise spread of the *Gyps* disease across the Middle East & Central Asia into Africa and to manage the impacts of *Gyps* declines. We aim to meet the following objectives to achieve this.

- (1) Establish the current extent of the disease and predict future rates and routes of spread.
- (2) Produce a plan for the management of the spread of the disease from India.
- (3) Develop the capacity within *Gyps* range states to implement and monitor this plan.
- (4) Disseminate the knowledge gained from the project to governments, scientists and the media.
- (5) Develop a fundraising strategy.

10. Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source)?

Whilst this project itself is a new initiative, it is a logical step following on from a project on *Gyps* vulture declines in India, funded by the Darwin Initiative to the Institute of Zoology (collaboratively with RSPB and the Bombay Natural History Society). Please refer to Annexes 3 and 4, which contains recent publications regarding the results of this project.

**11. How will the project assist the host country in its implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity? Please make reference to the relevant article(s) of the CBD, thematic programmes and/or cross-cutting themes. Is any liaison proposed with the CBD national focal point in the host country? Further information about the CBD can be found on the Darwin website or CBD website.**

By developing the capacity to monitor disease spread, through training in monitoring of populations and health status of vultures (CBD Article 12), the project will enable recipient countries to identify when disease has reached their country. This will alert governments to the level of urgency of the need for action for the conservation of *Gyps* species (through, if appropriate, activities such as vaccination, captive management etc. - CBD Article 9). This will also, importantly, allow countries to alert neighbouring *Gyps* range states of the imminent threat of disease spread, so that preventative action can be taken where possible, and/or measures to reduce the impacts of vulture declines on other wildlife and humans can be addressed in advance (CBD Articles 5, 14 d & e). The international management plan developed will be relevant to 8 African and 11 Middle Eastern/Asian countries<sup>1</sup> that have ratified the CBD, of which 8<sup>2</sup> are signatories to the Bonn Convention. The Bonn Convention is relevant as disease could be transmitted across countries and continents by *G. fulvus*, a migratory species. This, along with a funding strategy to ensure its implementation, will facilitate technical and scientific cooperation between many *Gyps* range states Parties to the CBD (Article 18). We will seek endorsement of the plan from *Gyps* range-State CBD focal points, and encourage incorporation within National Biodiversity Action Plans.

<sup>1</sup> = Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda<sup>2</sup>, Kenya<sup>2</sup>, Tanzania, Botswana, Zimbabwe, South Africa<sup>2</sup>  
Jordan<sup>2</sup>, Yemen, Iran, Georgia<sup>2</sup> Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, India<sup>2</sup>, Pakistan, Nepal<sup>2</sup>, Egypt.<sup>2</sup>

**12. How does the work meet a clearly identifiable biodiversity need or priority within the host country?**

Preventing *Gyps* species from becoming 'Critically threatened', and possibly averting national or global extinction of these species, must be a priority for all *Gyps* range states. Within the Middle East-based coordinating country (Jordan) and other participating countries, the Eurasian griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*) and other *Gyps* species are not currently threatened (except *Gyps coprotheres* in southern Africa – 'Vulnerable'). However, if, or more likely when, the mortality factor affecting the three, now 'Critically threatened', *Gyps* species in Asia reaches these countries, all evidence suggests that all *Gyps* species may rapidly move on to the 'Critical' list, placing them amongst the world's most threatened birds.

The project also has significant implications for species other than *Gyps* vultures. These vultures are keystone species, especially in African savannah ecosystems, where they primarily scavenge large ungulates. The significance of this activity should not be underestimated; vultures in the Serengeti remove 64% of all dead ungulates, all mammals combined remove the remaining 36%. This activity helps maintain environmental health through preventing rotting and putrefaction of carcasses, the spread of diseases such as anthrax and other bacteria, and contamination of ground water. Should *Gyps* vultures disappear from Africa the ecosystem would be seriously disrupted, resulting in changes in populations of other scavengers and predators, and thus prey species, and likely increased risks of spread of diseases such as rabies (to wildlife and humans) and anthrax.

**13. If relevant, please explain how the work will contribute to sustainable livelihoods in the host country**

If *Gyps* vultures decline across range states, especially in Africa, we predict that the groups most likely to be affected will be subsistence farmers in savannah areas across a wide range of countries. Effects are very difficult to predict, but may include increased livestock and human disease, contaminated groundwater etc. In India, where vultures played a similar role, vulture declines have already resulted in major environmental, social, economic and cultural impacts. Should it prove possible to prevent or reduce vulture declines, these impacts will be averted. However, even if declines cannot be averted, it is important that options for minimising the impacts of declines on local communities are identified. This will be done during the management planning process. Such options may, for example, include alternative means of carcass disposal, disease management (such as feral dog control) etc.

**14. What will be the impact of the work, and how will this be achieved? Please include details of how the project outputs will be disseminated and put into effect to achieve this impact.**

The project will identify rates, routes and extent of disease spread and identify potential means of minimising the spread of the *Gyps* disease across the Middle East and Central Asia into Africa. Importantly, the project will also identify and alert governments to the problems that will need to be managed in places where it may not be possible to stop the declines. These include both the wildlife and human impacts likely to result from ecosystem disruption (particularly African savannahs), including changes in scavenger populations and increased risk from diseases such as rabies and anthrax. This will be achieved through a coordinated approach to monitoring and tracking of birds (coordinated in Jordan), appropriate training (from the UK), regular communication between project partners, including through a project website, and collaboration with CBD focal points and National governments. A management plan identifying means of arresting or minimising vulture declines and/or of managing the impacts of declines where it is impossible to arrest them, will involve experts in conservation and wildlife management from a wide range of Middle Eastern and African countries, including government representatives. Outputs (10 media events and an electronic newsletter annually, workshop proceedings, scientific and popular publications) will be regularly communicated to governments and CBD focal points in range States. CBD focal points will be contacted on at least an annual, and often a biannual, basis.

**15. How will the work leave a lasting legacy in the host country or region?**

If it proves possible to prevent or avert declines in *Gyps* vultures, and thus prevent the disruption of ecosystems, this will in itself be a lasting legacy. Where declines cannot be arrested, a structured, planned approach to managing the likely biodiversity and human impacts of declines will contribute to maintaining biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods of local people, especially subsistence farmers in African savannah ecosystems.

Training given in bird population and health status monitoring will be transferable to other avian and non-avian species, and thus the project will result in enhanced capacity for biodiversity conservation in a range of countries. The project will also build a network of conservationists from NGOs, universities and government agencies across the Middle East and Africa (see 6.). The fundraising strategy developed should enable the activities identified in the management plan to be implemented, and this will help maintain an international working group comprising committed and competent biologists across several continents.

**16. What steps have been taken to identify and address potential problems in achieving impact or legacy?**

The single largest potential problem is that it could potentially prove impossible to halt or arrest vulture declines (which probably result from a viral infectious disease). Until the causal agent has been identified, it is impossible to evaluate the probability of this happening. Major efforts to identify the causal agent are underway and, whilst progress has been made, the agent has not yet been identified. Thus, it is essential to evaluate options for minimising the biodiversity and human impacts of vulture declines should they happen. This is an important component of the recovery plan. Due to the significance of the project for both biodiversity and human health and welfare, we consider it unlikely that governments of *Gyps* range states will fail to respond to the problem.

Vultures can be very difficult to catch, and one potential problem is that it may not be possible to catch and satellite tag sufficient vultures to identify the most likely routes of disease spread, and key areas for monitoring. However, this is unlikely to be the case as we have taken expert advice from Israel, the only country where *Gyps fulvus* have previously been caught and satellite tracked, and we will be working with some of the most experienced raptor biologists. We will also be trialing this with the satellite tagging of a small number of vultures in India in January 2003. Should it prove impossible to trap sufficient vultures, we would use information gained from those trapped and satellite tagged, and request redeployment of some resources to allow for monitoring of numbers and health status at a wider geographical range and number of colonies along the most likely routes of transmission. This should also achieve our objective.

**17. How will the work be distinctive and innovative? How will the project be advertised as a Darwin project and in what ways would the Darwin name and logo be used?**

To the best of our knowledge, no multinational project of this type or scale has previously been undertaken for any avian genus. It will both document disease spread and declines, and predict future declines, thus allowing ameliorative action to be taken. The approach of both trying to minimize or prevent declines, and develop strategies to minimise the impacts of declines should they happen, is innovative. The project will be advertised as a Darwin project on a specially developed website, with the Darwin name and logo prominently displayed on the front page. It will also be flagged up as a Darwin project in all of the media outputs, workshops, scientific and popular articles, in lectures and seminars. In an ongoing Darwin-funded vulture project in India, we (IoZ, RSPB, BNHS) have achieved a substantial amount of (especially media) publicity for the project, and have flagged up the Darwin Initiative throughout. This has included six scientific publications, seven popular science articles, more than 30 newspaper articles, five radio interviews and 20 presentations in the first 18 months of the project. In addition, a major international television documentary will be filmed in India in January 2003.

- 18. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations carrying out similar work? Are there completed or existing Darwin Initiative projects which are relevant to your work? Please give details, explaining the similarities and differences. Show how the outputs and outcomes of this work will be additional to any similar work, and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with such work for mutual benefits.**

Three species of once common *Gyps* vulture face near extinction in India. An ongoing Darwin-funded project (run by the Institute of Zoology collaboratively with Bombay Natural History Society and the RSPB) has confirmed a genus specific infectious disease as the probable cause of declines, which have now spread to Pakistan and Nepal. Project monitoring work discovered that at carcass dumps in north-western India, resident *Gyps* vultures have been replaced in winter by thousands of previously uncommon migratory Eurasian griffon, *Gyps fulvus*, presumably due to food abundance. The likely Middle Eastern/Central Asian origins of these birds, and their migratory routes, are unknown. However, the most likely scenario is that *G. fulvus* could spread disease across Europe and through Africa, where it overlaps with African *Gyps* spp., including 3 African endemics, one of which is already globally threatened from other causes.

Consequently, the international implications of this project were realised as a result of the ongoing Darwin project in India. The ongoing project aims to monitor populations within India, identify the cause of the declines, set up aviaries and a captive care centre to investigate the progress of the disease and whether birds can be helped to recover, and develop a management plan for India. The proposed project is an obvious extension of the ongoing project, investigating routes and rates of spread outside India, and developing strategies to reduce these, and to reduce the impacts of vulture declines. Where the ongoing project is investigating causes of decline after the event, the proposed project aims to stem the spread of declines and to manage their impacts. The two projects are complementary, insofar as the results of the ongoing project will be used to inform the proposed project. The only area of overlap with an ongoing project involves satellite tracking of *Gyps* vultures in India. We have obtained funds (██████) from the British High Commission in India to tag six *Gyps fulvus* wintering in India to investigate their origins. India is also included within the current proposal as (1) there are two main wintering areas in India and with current resources we can only tag birds from one site and (2) it is important to maintain contact between the ongoing Darwin project in India and the proposed project, thus the project leader in India (Dr Vibhu Prakash) would participate in the proposed project. There would be one year of overlap between the two projects, but Dr Prakash would only spend 5% of his time on the proposed project, thus there would be no competition for time resources.

- 19. Will the project include training and development? Please indicate who the trainees will be and criteria for selection. How many will be involved, and from which countries? How will you measure the effectiveness of the training and will those trained then be able to train others? Where appropriate give the length and dates (if known) of any training course. How will trainee outcomes be monitored after the end of the training?**

25 participants from at least 10 *Gyps* range states in the Middle East, Africa and Asia will be trained for 1 week in vulture population and health status monitoring. Participants will be biologists from BirdLife Partner organisations, other NGOs or Universities, chosen because they are already involved in and committed to raptor conservation. Including amongst these will be the collaborators listed under item 6. Participants will subsequently be actively involved in vulture monitoring, and the effectiveness of the training and trainee outcomes will be evaluated by means of annual monitoring data and reports, which will be used both nationally, and fed into a central database.

10 participants from 6-8 countries will be trained in vulture capture, satellite tagging and data interpretation. This will either take place in the form of a workshop in one country, or will be in the field training in 4 countries, with participants from one neighbouring country. This will be determined by the ease of trapping vultures, which will be trialed in India in January 2002. Monitoring will be via field reports, and success of vulture capture.

3 staff will be trained in fundraising, and a funding strategy developed. This will largely be done through distance training (though a workshop or study tour may also be considered to augment this), and will take place over the course of the 3 years. Fundraising targets will be set and monitoring will be through an evaluation of completed application forms, and success in reaching fundraising targets.

20. How are the benefits and/or work of the project expected to continue after the end of grant period? Please provide a clear exit strategy.

The project will result in a management plan that will identify a range of priority actions. We will seek formal endorsement of this plan and commitment to its implementation from representatives of at least ten key *Gyps* range states. As part of the project, 3 staff will be trained in fundraising, and a fundraising strategy will be developed, specifically to fund the implementation of key activities, prioritised in the management plan. However, fundraising for obvious priority actions (such as long-term monitoring of vulture populations and health status in Africa) will start during the proposed project, before completion of the management plan. Funds will also be sought by 'Vulture Rescue'. This is a fundraising initiative between the IoZ, RSPB and BNHS to further vulture conservation both within and outside India. This initiative was started in order to ensure the sustainability of funding for the vulture project in India, subsequent to the ongoing Darwin-funded project.

The proposed international management plan is likely to result in a range of projects covering not only vulture conservation, but biodiversity, ecosystem stability, wildlife and human health, and mitigating the potential economic impacts of vulture declines, especially in Africa. Funding will need to be sought for additional research, and also the implementation of management solutions identified. Whilst the governments of many countries may have clear responsibility for supporting many of the management solutions, it seems highly probable that additional funding will be required for the majority of activities. This will need to be sought from diverse organisations including the World Health Organisation, the Global Environment Facility, US Trusts and others.

**21. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities.**

Project implementation timetable	
Date	Key milestones
<b>Training/research</b>	
By March 2004	10 people from 6-8 countries trained in vulture capture, satellite tagging and satellite data interpretation.
October 2003	25 people from 10 countries trained in vulture health status and population monitoring
July 2003-July 2004	20 vultures in 6 countries satellite tagged
October 2003	Preliminary colonies for monitoring (Stage 1) identified
Oct. 2003-Oct. 2004	Monitoring of vulture numbers and health status underway at Stage 1 colonies; serum bank established
October 2004	Key routes for disease spread identified. Additional colonies for monitoring (Stage 2) identified using satellite-tracking data
Oct. 2003-Mar. 2006	Monitoring of vulture numbers and health status underway at Stage 1 and Stage 2 colonies
December 2004	Database developed and populated with information on vulture movements, numbers and health status of vultures at selected colonies
September 2005	Predictive model of routes and rate of disease spread developed
<b>Management plan</b>	
March 2005	Participants list finalised, management plan approach and objectives agreed by all participants
October 2005	Management plan workshop run with 20 participants from Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Europe
December 2005	Management plan draft produced and sent to CBD focal points for comment and endorsement
March 2006	Management plan completed and circulated to government agencies
<b>Fundraising</b>	
By March 2005	3 staff trained in fundraising
June 2004	Fundraising strategy produced; additional funding obtained for colony monitoring
<b>Dissemination</b>	
July 2003	Project website established
July 2003	International communication network established between <i>Gyps</i> range states
March annually	Annual newsletter produced and distributed to CBD focal points, government representatives, universities, conservation bodies and other NGOs (via website, e-mail and post)
By March 2005	2 publications submitted to peer-reviewed scientific Journals
By March 2006	2 publications submitted to peer-reviewed scientific Journals
By March 2004	2 popular articles produced
Apr.2004-Mar. 2005	4 popular articles produced
Apr. 2005-Mar. 2006	4 popular articles produced

**22. How will the most significant outputs contribute towards achieving the purpose of the project? (This should be summarised in the Log Frame as Indicators at Purpose level)**

Results from the work undertaken during the 3 years of the project will be used to inform the management plan, and help decide upon priority actions and regions/countries. Involvement of CBD focal points in a wide range of *Gyps* range States throughout the project (through consultation and circulation of annual newsletters and other publications) will help to gain their endorsement for the final international management plan. By the end of the project we aim to have the management plan endorsed by representatives of at least 10 key *Gyps* range States. Subsequently, we will be encouraging incorporation of key elements of the management plan within national biodiversity strategies. Within 2 years of project completion, our aim is that 50% of the actions identified in the management plan will be underway. By close involvement of a range of organisations and individuals throughout the project, we hope that not only will strategies and capacity to minimise the spread of the *Gyps* disease, and manage the impacts of declines, have been developed, but also the will to do this at governmental level will have been secured.



23. Set out the project's measurable outputs using the attached list of output measures

<b>PROJECT OUTPUTS</b>		
<b>Year/Month (starting April)</b>	<b>Standard Output Number (see standard output list)</b>	<b>Description (include numbers of people involved, publications produced, days/weeks etc)</b>
<b>Training</b>		
2003	6A.1	10 people from 6-8 countries trained in vulture capture, satellite tagging and satellite data interpretation. 2-4 weeks training.
2003	6A.2	25 people from 10 countries trained in vulture health status and population monitoring. 1 weeks training. Workshop report.
2003-2005	6A.3	3 people trained in fundraising. Distance training. Fundraising strategy produced.
2003	6B.1	2-4 weeks
2003	6B.2	1 week
2003-2005	6B.3	Ongoing low level over 3 years
2003	7.1	One workshop report (monitoring training)
2005	7.2	One fundraising strategy.
<b>Research</b>		
2003	8	19 weeks total; RB 12 wks, MMG 3 weeks, DP 2 weeks, AC 2 weeks.
2004	8	16 weeks total; RB 12 weeks, MMG 2 weeks, DP 1 week, AC 1 week
2005	8	14 weeks total; RB 12 weeks, DP 1 week, AC 1 week
2005	9	1 – international management plan for government agencies in 19 countries
2004 & 2005	11A/B	4 (publication dates depend upon lead in times of scientific Journals)
2004	12A	2 – vulture movements and colony numbers and health status
<b>Dissemination</b>		
2003	14A	2 – satellite tagging and interpretation; health status and population monitoring
2005	14A	1 – Management planning workshop
2003-2005	14B	18 – approximately 6 per year
2003-2005	15A	33 total; 10 in 2003; 11 in 2004, 13 in 2005. Includes popular magazines.
2003-2005	15B	14 total; 6 in 2003, 4 in each of 2004 and 2005
2003-2005	15C	20 total; 6 in 2003, 7 in each of 2004 and 2005
2003-2005	16A	3 – 1 annually
2003-2005	16B	150 plus website circulation
2005	16C	30 (Vulture study groups, zoos, conservation organisations, Universities etc.)
2003	17A	2. E-mail dissemination network and project website
2003-2005	18A	1 - planned
	18B	1 - A documentary will be filmed in 2003 for release in at least 4 countries
	18C	2 - We anticipate at least 2 TV features in host countries, possibly many more
2003-2005	19A	6 – planned, every opportunity for publicity will be taken
	19B	3 – planned, every opportunity for publicity will be taken
	19C	6 – planned, every opportunity for publicity will be taken
<b>Physical</b>		
2003	20	Second hand vehicle for Caucuses; vehicle for Jordan; 6 pairs binoculars; Trapping equipment; climbing equipment

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- 24. Describe how the progress of the project, including towards delivery of outputs, will be monitored and evaluated in terms of achieving its overall purpose. This should be both during the lifetime of the project and at its conclusion. Please make reference to the indicators described in the Logistical Framework.**

The progress of the project will be monitored through regular supervisory visits from the UK, and assessed in terms of the success of the project at achieving the outputs described in 23 above. Success of training workshops and the scientific components of the work will be monitored through the production of training reports, annual reports and scientific papers. These will all be sent to the Darwin Initiative offices and will either be available, or referenced, on the project website. Media outputs will also be referenced on the website, and a media releases file will be kept at the office in Jordan and at RSPB. If we achieve or exceed the number of media outputs (including resulting coverage) indicated above, we will judge that we have met our objectives of raising awareness of this issue within Partner countries and internationally. The databases will be available via the website (password-protected) for limited users (project partners). The success of the project at communicating results to government and other agencies will be evaluated through a correspondence file, and, ultimately, through the incorporation of some or all of the actions recommended in the management plan in the biodiversity strategies of *Gyps* range states. We will seek to obtain a signed Memorandum of Understanding from representatives of at least 10 key *Gyps* range states, acknowledging the importance of the international (*Gyps*) management plan, and indicating commitment to undertake appropriate actions detailed within the plan.

- 25. How will host country partners be involved in monitoring and evaluation of the project?**

A BirdLife staff member will be employed full-time, based in Jordan, to co-ordinate many of the activities to be undertaken in the wide range of countries involved in this project. This person will act as a counterpart to the UK project manager (to be employed in March 2003), and will discuss progress and problems with the UK project manager. Progress in individual countries, and for many components of the project, will in the first instance be monitored and evaluated by the Jordanian project coordinator, who will have more regular contact with all of the project countries. However, training workshops will be evaluated largely by the UK project manager in the first instance, and then jointly. Progress will be discussed between the Jordanian project coordinator and the UK project manager at 3-monthly intervals, aimed to coincide with the Darwin reporting timetable. The UK project manager will write the progress reports to Darwin after these consultations.

- 26. How will you ensure that the project achieves value for money?**

As a charity and environment non-governmental organisation, RSPB is committed to ensuring value for money in all projects; we also pursue a policy of attempting to optimise the "green-ness" of all our operations, including minimising energy consumption. Travel will thus be kept to a minimum necessary for successful completion of the objectives of the project, and, where reasonable, meetings will be combined. Supervisory visits from the main RSPB project manager will involve a small number of longer visits to Partner countries rather than many short visits. Where possible communication will be via e-mail, and many of the project outputs (such as newsletters and reports) will be disseminated by e-mail rather than paper/post.

Regular monitoring and evaluation of the different project components will ensure that we focus on priorities (and avoid pursuing unnecessary lines of investigation) and, should certain project components should be deemed inefficient or no longer appropriate, then alternative plans will be made and proposed to the Darwin Initiative.

**27. Reporting Requirements.** All projects must submit six monthly reports (by 31 October each year) and annual reports (by 30 April each year). Please check the box for all reports that you will be submitting, dependent on the term of your project. You must ensure that you cover the full term of your project.

<b>Report type</b>	<b>Period covered</b>	<b>Due date</b>	<b>REQUIRED?</b>
Six month report	1 April 2003 – 30 September 2003	30 October 2003	Yes
Annual report	1 April 2003 – 31 March 2004	30 April 2004	Yes
Six month report	1 April 2004 – 30 September 2004	30 October 2004	Yes
Annual report	1 April 2004 – 31 March 2005	30 April 2005	Yes
Six month report	1 April 2005 – 30 September 2005	30 October 2005	Yes
Annual report	1 April 2005 – 31 March 2006	30 April 2006	Yes
Six month report	1 April 2006 – 30 September 2006	30 October 2006	Yes
<b>Final report</b>	1 April 2003 – 31 March 2007 (= project end date)	30 June 2007 (= 3 months after project completion)	Yes

## LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

28. Please enter the details of your project onto the matrix using the note at Annex B of the Guidance Note. This should not have substantially changed from the Logical Framework submitted with your Stage 1 application. Please highlight any changes.

<i>Project summary</i>	<i>Measurable indicators</i>	<i>Means of verification</i>	<i>Important assumptions</i>
<b>Goal:</b>			
To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve: the conservation of biological diversity; the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources			
<b>Purpose</b> Strategies and capacity developed to minimise spread of the <i>Gyps</i> disease across the Middle East & Central Asia into Africa and to manage the impacts of <i>Gyps</i> declines.	Representatives of at least 10 key <i>Gyps</i> range states endorse and agree to work towards implementation of management plan.  >50% of actions identified within the plan being implemented within 2 years.	Signed memorandum of Understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Countries retain commitment to CBD</li> <li>• Sufficient political stability to implement strategy</li> <li>• <i>Gyps</i> declines across the Middle East and Africa are not so rapid that management strategies to avert this cannot be produced</li> </ul>
<b>Outputs</b>			
Current extent of disease spread established & future rates & routes of spread predicted.	International scientific community endorses the results of the research.	Annual reports, 4 scientific papers published in peer-reviewed journals & sent to Darwin Initiative	
Plan for the management of the spread of the disease from India produced	Plan developed & produced collaboratively by participating organisations in the vulture's range states (20 participants).	Management Plan document published.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisations maintain collaboration</li> </ul>
Participants from 6 countries able to implement & monitor disease management plan.	10 staff from 6-8 countries trained in vulture satellite tagging; 25 biologists from 10 range states trained in monitoring; Two databases developed; a serum bank established; email network created.	Correspondence; Pre project training needs assessment; Participants attendance & assessment record; Training reports. Databases and serum bank exist. Email network accessible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trained staff sustain their involvement in the issues</li> </ul>
Knowledge gained from project disseminated to governments, scientists & media.	10 media events annually; 3 electronic newsletters; 9 presentations; 4 papers & 10 articles published	Media releases file; project web site report; copies of all publications sent to Darwin Initiative	
Funding strategy developed.	3 staff trained in fundraising, strategy agreed.	Strategy available on file at RSPB, ZSL & BirdLife Offices, Jordan.	

Activities – continued overleaf →

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Activity Milestones (Summary of Project Implementation Timetable)</b>	<b>Important Assumptions</b>
Research programme	Yrs 1 & 2: 20 vultures in 6 countries satellite tagged; movements important for disease spread identified. Yrs 1-3 health & population status of key vulture colonies in gateway countries identified. Yr 2 - interactive database developed & populated with information of vulture movements, numbers & health status – database available to & used by all partners; Yr 2/3 predictive model of routes & rates of likely disease spread developed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is sufficient political stability in the region to permit work to proceed</li> </ul>
Training programme	Yr 1 - training workshop held on vulture capture, satellite tagging & data interpretation with at least 10 participants from 6-8 Middle Eastern/Asian <i>Gyps</i> range states; Yr 1 - training workshop held on vulture health status & population monitoring with 25 participants from at least 10 <i>Gyps</i> range states in Asia, the Middle East and Africa.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governments of participating countries permit satellite tracking</li> </ul>
Management plan development	Yr 2; plan approach agreed; Yr 3 Management planning workshop run with 20 participants (NGO & governmental) from Asia, Middle East, Europe & Africa; options for prevention or management of disease spread identified; options for minimising impacts of vulture declines evaluated; Yr 3 - plan written under auspices of participating organisations & presented to governments of <i>Gyps</i> range states.	
Communication and project dissemination	Yr 1 - International communication network developed between vulture range states; constituency in support of vulture conservation developed in <i>Gyps</i> range states; Yr 1: project website established; Yrs 1-3 – annual newsletter produced & 200 copies disseminated; Yrs 1-3 – >10 Media events annually; 4 peer-reviewed papers & 10 popular articles.	
Project sustainability	Yr 3 - Fundraising strategy developed; funding obtained for long-term monitoring.	

## FINANCIAL ASPECTS

29. Please state costs by financial year (April to March). Use current prices - do not include any allowance for assumed future inflation. For programmes of less than 3 years' duration, enter 'nil' as appropriate for future years. Show Darwin funded items separately from those funded from other sources.

**Table A: Staff time.** List each member of the team, their role in the project rate and the percentage of time each would spend on the project each year.

	2002/2003 %	2003/2004 %	2004/2005 %
<b>United Kingdom project team members and role</b>			
(To be recruited) – Project Manager	100	100	100
Dr Debbie Pain – Project Leader	30	30	30
Dr Andrew Cunningham – Trainer, Avian Health	20	20	20
Dr Paul Donald – Trainer, Data Analysis	5	5	5
Adrian Oates – International Funding Officer	10	10	10
<b>Host Country/ies project team members and role</b>			
Project Coordinator – Jordan	100	100	100
Mike McGrady – Trainer, Vulture Capture and Satellite Tagging	4	4	0
Vulture Trappers (3 people)	16	0	0
Vulture Monitoring Staff (3 people)	25	25	25
Field Biologists (3 people)	25	16	16

**Table B: Salary costs.** List the project team members and show their salary costs for the project, separating those costs to be funded by the Darwin Initiative from those to be funded from other sources.

Project team member	2003/2004 £		2004/2005 £		2005/2006 £	
	Darwin	Other	Darwin	Other	Darwin	Other
Project Manager						
Dr Debbie Pain						
Dr Andrew Cunningham						
Dr Paul Donald						
Adrian Oates						
Project Coordinator – Jordan						
Mike McGrady						
Vulture Trappers (3 people)						
Vulture Monitoring Staff (3 people)						
Field Biologists (3 people)						
<b>TOTAL COST OF SALARIES</b>						

**Table C. Total costs. Please separate Darwin funding from other funding sources for every budget line.**

	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	TOTAL
<b>Rents, rates, heating, lighting, cleaning, overheads</b>				
• Darwin funding				
• other funding				
<b>Office costs e.g. postage, telephone, stationery</b>				
• Darwin funding				
• other funding				
<b>Travel and subsistence</b>				
• Darwin funding				
• other funding				
<b>Printing</b>				
• Darwin funding				
• other funding				
<b>Conferences, seminars etc</b>				
• Darwin funding				
• other funding				
<b>Capital items/equipment (please break down)</b>				
• Darwin funding				
Equipment for catching and monitoring vultures				
Vehicle (4x4)				
Vehicle (Lada)				
Climbing Equipment				
20 Satellite Tags				
• other funding				
N/A				
<b>Other costs (please specify and break down)</b>				
• Darwin funding				
Argos data from Satellite Tags				
Website design and maintenance				
• other funding				
N/A				
<b>Salaries (from previous table)</b>				
• Darwin funding				
• other funding				
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COSTS</b>				
<b>TOTAL DARWIN COSTS</b>				
<b>TOTAL COSTS FUNDED FROM OTHER SOURCES</b>				

**30. How is your organisation currently funded?**

<u>Statement of Incoming Resources</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
(extracted from Annual Accounts to 31 03 02)	(£'000)	(£'000)
Membership Subscriptions		
Legacies		
Fund-raising		
Grants		
Business support & Charitable Trusts		
Income from Land		
Financial (interest, dividends and profit from sale of fixed assets.)		
Films consultancy and incidental income		
<b>Total Incoming Resources (£'000)</b>		

**31. Provide details of all other funding sources identified in Question 29 that will be put towards the costs of the project, including any income from other public bodies, private sponsorship, donations, trusts, fees or trading activity. Please include any additional funding the project will lever in to carry out additional work during or beyond the project lifetime. Indicate those funding sources which are confirmed.**

- 1) Confirmed RSPB match funding contribution - [redacted] through in-kind donation of personnel time and overheads for all RSPB staff.
- 2) Confirmed Institute of Zoology match funding contribution - [redacted] through in-kind donation of personnel time and overheads.
- 3) Confirmed Natural Research (UK) match funding contribution - [redacted] through in-kind donation of personnel time, overheads, office costs and travel & subsistence.

**32. Please give details of any further resources sought from the host country partner institution(s) or others for this project that are not already detailed in Questions 29 and 31. This will include donations in kind and un-costed support e.g. accommodation.**

N/A

**33. Please separately indicate in Table D the amounts of grant requested under the Darwin Initiative and any confirmed funding/income from elsewhere (where these may be costed). Add together to show total project costs.**

**Table D Darwin funding request**

	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006
<b>Amount of Darwin Initiative funding requested</b>			
<b>+ Funding/Income from other sources</b>			
<b>= Total project cost</b>			



**34. FCO NOTIFICATION**

Please check the box if you think that 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 2003/04**

On behalf of the trustees/company (delete as appropriate) Royal Society For The Protection of Birds

I apply for a grant of [REDACTED] in respect of expenditure to be incurred in the financial year ending 31 March 2004 on the activities specified in paragraphs 21 and 23.

I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the project schedule should this application be successful.

I enclose a copy of the organisation's most recent audited accounts and annual report, CVs for project principals and letters of support.

Name (block capitals)	DR DEBORAH PAIN
Position in the organisation	Head of International Research

Signed



Date:

09/01/03

Please return completed form to Defra by 13 January 2003 by e-mail to [darwin@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:darwin@defra.gsi.gov.uk) or in paper form to Zone 4/A2 Ashdown House, 123 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6DE.

