



Submit by 21 January 2005

DARWIN INITIATIVE APPLICATION FOR GRANT ROUND 13 COMPETITION:STAGE 2

Please read the Guidance Notes before completing this form. Applications will be considered on the basis of information submitted on this form and you should give a full answer to each question. Please do not cross-refer to information in separate documents except where invited on this form. The space provided indicates the level of detail required. Please do not reduce the font size below 11pt or alter the paragraph spacing. Keep within word limits.

1. Name and address of organisation

Name: The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	Address: The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL
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2. Project title (not exceeding 10 words)

Strengthening the Indian Bird Conservation Network to safeguard key sites

3. Project dates, duration and total Darwin Initiative Grant requested

Proposed start date: April 2005		Duration of project: 3 years			
Darwin funding requested	Total	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
	£ 95,085	£28,752	£30,167	£36,166	£0

4. Define the purpose of the project in line with the logical framework

The purpose of this project is to enhance the capacity of the Indian Bird Conservation Network (IBCN) to safeguard Important Bird Areas (IBAs) throughout mainland India in the long term. By the end of the project, this conservation network will be working in a cohesive, sustainable and effective way to monitor and safeguard at least 50% of the 465 IBAs in India. The project will make a significant contribution to the delivery of India's NBSAP, and its impact will be reflected in India's regular reports to the CBD Secretariat.

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

Details	Project Leader	Other UK personnel (working more than 50% of their time on project)	Main project partner or co-ordinator in host country
Surname	Parr		Islam
Forename (s)	Stephen James		Zafar-ul
Post held	International Officer – Asia		IBA Project Manager
Institution	RSPB		Bombay Natural Nistory Society (BNHS)
Department	Global Programmes		Conservation Dept
Telephone			
Fax			
Email			

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

We have been awarded the following funding under the Initiative:

- £84,000 in Round 3 for a project to compile a directory of important ornithological sites in Tanzania (project completed successfully)
- £136,000 in Round 7 for a project entitled *Management planning for conservation of mesotrophic fen mire biodiversity in Belarus* (completed successfully)
- £158,000 in Round 9 for *Action plans for conservation of globally threatened birds in Africa* (completed successfully)
- £98,000 in Round 10 for *Kenyan Important Biodiversity Areas: improving monitoring, management and conservation action* (now in its third and final year)
- £231,975 in Round 11 for *Prediction and management of declines in Gyps species vultures* (in the second year of four)
- £154,117 in Round 11 for *Empowering the people of Tristan to implement the CBD* (in the second year of three)
- £109,889 in Round 11 for *Implementing urgent conservation actions in mesotrophic fen mires in Belarus* (in the second year of three)
- £78,770 in the first round of Post-Project Funding for *Enabling implementation of threatened bird Species Action Plans in Africa*, a follow-up to the Round 9 project described above (in the first year of two)
- £109,992 in Round 12 for *Gurney's Pitta research and conservation in Thailand and Myanmar* (in the first year of three)
- £133,556 in Round 12 for *Pioneering an innovative conservation approach in Sierra Leone's Gola Forest* (in the first year of three).

7. IF YOU ANSWERED NO TO QUESTION 6 describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of your organisation. (Large institutions please note that this should describe your unit or department)

Aims (50 words)

Activities (50 words)

Achievements (50 words)

8. Please list the overseas partners that will be involved in their project and explain their roles and responsibilities in the project. Describe the extent of their involvement at all stages, including project development. What steps have been taken to ensure the benefits of the project will continue despite any staff changes in these organisations? Please provide written evidence of partnerships.

Bombay Natural History Society (www.bnhs.org)

BNHS is one of the largest membership-based conservation NGOs in India and has a long-standing partnership with the RSPB. BNHS led the development and publication of the first Indian IBA inventory, which was launched by the Union Minister of Environment and Forests in November 2004, and established the IBCN to secure nationwide participation in this process. The Director and other senior staff of BNHS have been fully involved throughout the development of the proposed project.

BNHS will play the central role in implementing the project in India. Its IBCN Secretariat will be enlarged and provided with training, and will then take lead responsibility for growing and strengthening the IBCN, training and supporting IBCN members, and fundraising to secure the future of the network. The Secretariat will have three full-time staff, so staff changes (which we believe will be very infrequent) will not cause serious problems; in the event that one staff member leaves, two will remain to bring his or her replacement rapidly 'up to speed' (with the help of other BNHS staff if necessary). Moreover, BNHS is a large, stable organisation with a good reputation as an employer, and there is a large pool of skilled graduates in India, so recruitment will be straightforward.

Indian Bird Conservation Network (www.ibcnnetwork.org)

The IBCN is an India-wide network of more than 75 conservation NGOs and 800 individuals. It was established in 1998 and is formally constituted. A Network Officer and Assistant, employed by BNHS with funding from the RSPB, coordinate its activities via a network of 28 volunteer State Coordinators. The network was established to provide local input to the IBA directory, and participation surpassed expectations. The IBA inventory acknowledges over 1,000 individuals, and the engagement process was therefore as important as the product. The IBCN now acts principally to safeguard and monitor IBAs.

Several IBCN State Coordinators have been involved in the development of this project. During the implementation of the project, IBCN members will receive training in a wide range of relevant skills, and will then begin to apply these skills to further the conservation of their local IBAs. Examples of the tasks they will undertake will include setting up and implementing monitoring programmes at IBAs, contributing to management plans, advocating and lobbying for the protection of IBAs, and fundraising. They will be supported in all these tasks by the IBCN Secretariat at BNHS and by the network of IBCN State Coordinators, who will play a vital role in developing and supporting site-based initiatives in their states and in driving advocacy initiatives at state level.

Staff turnover will not be a significant issue within the IBCN, as many members of the network are volunteers and all are very strongly committed to their conservation work. In the unlikely event that important members of the network do leave, the increased capacity and cohesion the project will bring to the network will mean that its ability to function effectively will not be affected and that finding replacements will be straightforward.

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

The project has arisen out of an ongoing dialogue between the RSPB, BNHS and the IBCN, and has therefore been developed in a consultative manner throughout. Crucially, many of the features of the project reflect direct requests from members of the IBCN, who in many cases are leading members and representatives of their local communities.

The IBCN is comprised of local NGOs and individuals who focus their efforts on the IBAs closest to where they live and were instrumental in identifying the importance of their areas in the first place. These groups and individuals possess excellent local knowledge and understanding, as well as connections with both government and other stakeholders. IBCN NGOs are largely groups of volunteers or small, professionally staffed organisations working to conserve their local sites. The network of local and national organisations working together and sharing information on a common agenda is the strength of this conservation approach. Government officials, principally from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, are closely integrated with network activities through invitations to IBCN workshops and distribution of free copies of the network's quarterly newsletter 'Mistnet'.

PROJECT DETAILS

10. Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source?) Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations carrying out similar work, or of any completed or existing Darwin Initiative projects relevant to your work? If so, please give details explaining similarities and differences and showing how results of your work will be additional to any similar work and what attempts have/will be made to co-operate with and learn lessons from such work for mutual benefits.

The RSPB has been a Supporting BirdLife Partner to BNHS since the signing of a BirdLife Partnership agreement by BNHS in October 1998 after a first strategic planning workshop. The principal basis of our collaboration has been funding to produce a national inventory of IBAs and establish and grow the IBCN as a national bird conservation network. The RSPB expects to sign a second four-year contract in April 2005 on the basis of a second strategic planning workshop that was held in mid-February 2004. This support is expected to help develop BNHS's regional representation across India and to develop its membership base to provide a strong, national constituency. Work on IBAs and threatened species will be developed through further projects such as the recently completed Jerdon's courser conservation work (Darwin ref 9018). However, the RSPB will provide continued funding of the IBA/IBCN Project Manager position to ensure continuity and the ability to manage this project within a coherent programme.

There are many *ad hoc* site and species conservation initiatives across India but nothing of this scale that seeks to use a network approach to site conservation. Therefore, this BNHS and IBCN project will create a unique, novel and viable grassroots mechanism for applying a common approach to site condition monitoring and undertaking sound conservation action across this vast country. It is built on the successful BirdLife model of a network of international partner NGOs.

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 (see Annex C for list and worked example) and rank the relevance of the project to these by indicating percentages. 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.

The project will assist India in implementing, in particular, Articles 7 (identification and monitoring – 20%), 8 (*in situ* conservation – 20%), 12 (research and training – 30%), 13 (public education and awareness – 5%) and 14 (impact assessment and minimising adverse impacts – 25%) of the Biodiversity Convention. It will relate to all five Thematic Programmes, as IBAs are found within each of these biodiversity types across India. Key Cross-Cutting Issues addressed will be Impact Assessment, Protected Areas and Indicators. The latter will include the development of an early warning system for IBA site integrity such that a national standard might be applied to provide clearly and simply understood levels of threat to sites. This will also provide robust and comparable data available for reporting under the CBD.

BNHS has verbally discussed this project with Mr DD Verma, CBD focal point in the Ministry of Environment and Forests (with whom it has good working relations) as well as other senior Ministry of Environment and Forests staff, and the finalised application document will be forwarded for their information.

12. How does the work meet a clearly identifiable biodiversity need or priority defined by the host country? Please indicate how this work will fit in with National Biodiversity Strategies or Environmental Action Plans, if applicable.

The IBA inventory, comprising 465 sites, quantifies the range and severity of threats to IBAs across India and provides a rational basis for prioritising conservation action. Many IBAs are threatened, particularly by human pressures, and this project will deliver a sustainable and sound response to

the needs outlined in this landmark publication. Publication of the Indian NBSAP has been delayed until later this year but it will include a summary table of all 465 IBAs and advocate the need to conserve IBAs across India as a key site-based conservation mechanism. One of the lead organisations for the India NBSAP is the NGO Kalpavriksh, which is a member of the IBCN and provided chapters on 'burning issues' for the IBA inventory. Discussions regarding IBAs and their inclusion in the NBSAP have been ongoing since 2000 via various working groups and committees. BNHS and IBCN will advocate that IBAs should form part of the standard report to the CBD.

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

The environmental agenda at local, state and national levels will be enhanced significantly by this capacity development project. Many of the key threats to IBAs are related to people using them to sustain their livelihoods, as these areas are often richer in resources than the surrounding landscape. Work to find sustainable solutions will often require major local input and local IBCN NGOs will assist this process. Training during the project will include elements to assist interaction such as Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA). Furthermore, follow-up projects will often involve community-based activities that will help to deliver more sustainable local livelihoods.

A range of threats to specific IBAs arises from national development projects that often threaten not only the IBA but also local livelihoods. The national coalition of NGOs and individuals represented by IBCN will enable more effective lobbying to offset site-based threats arising from national development decisions.

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

The impact will be very significant in that the project will develop a common vision for conservation across India's network of important biodiversity sites through the employment of common conservation tools and techniques but built on the diversity of local NGOs with their intimate understanding of local sites and values. There is tremendous potential in India to build on the enthusiasm for the environment as evidenced by the large number of local and national NGOs. This energy needs to be harnessed via a coherent and well-informed network with clear goals. This will be achieved through the following means.

The capacity of the IBCN secretariat at BNHS will be increased through an enlargement in the Secretariat staff. This is the hub of the network and a resource for information and advice as well as access to BNHS' excellent national advocacy skills. The Secretariat will deliver training and support IBCN members in their work to save IBAs. The Secretariat will have to fundraise to ensure sustainability after the project, and the project will therefore build fundraising capacity.

IBCN size and cohesiveness will be increased by involving and engaging the State Coordinators as a key link in the network as well as marketing the IBCN to new NGOs. The State Coordinators play a central role in the IBCN by supporting site-based local action and advocacy. Fundraising capacity will be increased to enable these co-ordinators to undertake this work to best effect in the long-term.

The biodiversity monitoring, site management and advocacy skills of IBCN members will be enhanced through a programme of training courses across mainland India. These skills will enable NGOs and individuals close to each IBA to monitor change, instigate appropriate management, and detect adverse effects of activities rapidly, and to deploy sound and rational arguments to appropriate audiences at all levels.

The fundraising capacity of the IBCN will be enhanced at all levels to ensure long-term sustainability through the training courses to IBCN members and State Coordinators via the Secretariat. The RSPB will provide inputs to assist this process.

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

The nature of the project is inherently one of building a self-sustaining legacy once the project tasks are complete. The core legacy will be an active, skilled and motivated network of at least 1,500 individuals and 100 NGOs conserving their local IBAs, sharing their successes and failures and building their skills, supported by active secretariat staff and State Coordinators. This will in itself be highly sustainable because locally based activists and professional NGOs will build momentum and recruit further support at a local level over time. Sustainability will be further ensured through training to build IBCN's fundraising capacity, and because the project will engender support for the IBCN from government and other national and local actors. The RSPB will continue to support key network activities for as long as necessary after the project ends.

The project will be highly effective in helping India to implement the CBD, as it will make a major contribution to the conservation of IBAs, which have been included as a key component within India's NBSAP.

16. Please give details of a clear exit strategy and state what steps have been taken to identify and address potential problems in achieving impact and legacy.

An 'exit strategy' as such will not be necessary as the RSPB will be continuing its involvement with and support to BNHS and the IBCN in the long term. However, it will clearly be necessary to take steps to ensure that the legacy of the project is secured after Darwin funding ends. The whole project has been designed with this in mind, to leave a strong, largely self-sufficient network in place with a clearly defined strategy for the future. Perhaps the most important actions we will take to ensure sustainability, though, will be to provide high-quality training and support to enhance the fundraising capacity of IBCN members and State Coordinators and the IBCN Secretariat at BNHS. As indicated in the log frame, we expect that the network as a whole will be able to raise at least £20,000 per annum from external sources from the end of the project.

The log frame was developed jointly by BNHS and RSPB with inputs from key IBCN State Coordinators and has provided the foundation for the construction of this project. Potential problems were considered throughout. India is a rapidly developing country that urgently requires grassroots conservation action to be enhanced. It is predominantly a politically stable country and while there may be some regional problems with delivery, the project is expected to proceed as planned. There are often barriers to achieving sustainability that arise from the nature of short-term project funding but in this case the funds will enhance fundraising skills as a central project objective and deliver significant capacity development, thus acting as a springboard for action and organisational development. The RSPB's continued interest in supporting BNHS will ensure that the project outputs are long-lasting and new funding opportunities are seized upon to continue this process.

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

The project will be widely publicised here at the RSPB and on the BNHS and IBCN websites. We will seek to hold a further event in central London, ideally at the Indian High Commission's Nehru Centre (see www.nehrucentre.org) to follow a previous, successful event in February 2003 on the Indian vulture crisis.

BNHS has an active press department and good access to the media, for example through partnerships with National Geographic, and will actively promote media interest at the national level. IBCN member NGOs will be trained and encouraged to do the same at the local level.

The Darwin logo will be prominent on all published materials including newsletters (where a regular feature will highlight current activities) and will be displayed on the IBCN and BNHS websites.

Making an impact – Action Planning and next steps.

The courses will be based on the successful 'Building on Experience' model, designed for BirdLife International by the RSPB, and will be made up of exercises, case studies, group working, role-plays and practical work in the field.

Monitoring and evaluating the training inputs is a priority, as it is a core project objective. A common suite of indicators for IBCN growth and development and IBA site condition will measure the effectiveness of training and trainee outcomes. These will include the number of trained individuals still active after three years (and the number of trainees they themselves train as trainers), funds being raised internally as well as trends in condition of sample IBAs.

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

19. 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.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Goal: 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 benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources			
Purpose:			
To enhance the capacity of the IBCN to safeguard IBAs throughout mainland India in the long-term	IBCN actively working to safeguard $\geq 50\%$ of Indian IBAs	IBCN annual reports National reports to CBD	IBCN efforts to safeguard IBAs are not overwhelmed by political and societal pressures
Outputs:			
Capacity of IBCN secretariat at BNHS increased	2 additional staff recruited Training delivered to 3 staff	BNHS recruitment records Training records	Staff remain with BNHS throughout the project
IBCN size and cohesiveness increased	IBCN membership increased to ≥ 100 NGOs and $\geq 1,500$ individuals Strategic plan for IBCN agreed National meeting held successfully	IBCN membership records Plan document Meeting report	Turnover of State Coordinators remains low
Biodiversity monitoring, site management and advocacy skills of IBCN members enhanced	Biodiversity monitoring underway at $\geq 25\%$ of IBAs All IBA management plans have input from IBCN Advocacy and lobbying underway to protect $\geq 30\%$ of IBAs	Monitoring reports Management plans Advocacy materials	
Fundraising capacity of IBCN enhanced to ensure long-term sustainability	$\geq \text{£}10,000$ raised during project and $\geq \text{£}20,000$ per year from end of project	Income records	
Activities	Activity Milestones (Summary of Project Implementation Timetable)		
Capacity of IBCN secretariat at BNHS increased	Yr 1: Hire and resource 2 additional staff by Jul 05; train 3 staff at RSPB by Oct 05.		
IBCN size and cohesiveness increased	Yr 1: Consult on future strategy for IBCN by Mar 06; train at least 20 State Coordinators by Mar 06. Yr 2: Start marketing IBCN to new members by Apr 06; draft strategic plan and circulate to membership by Sept 06; develop indicators of IBCN effectiveness Mar 07. Yr 3: Hold first national network meeting, ratify and publish strategic plans by Apr 08.		

Biodiversity monitoring, site management and advocacy skills of IBCN members enhanced	Yr 1: Develop training programme and other resources at RSPB by Dec 05; pilot first training programme with at least 20 State Co-ordinators by Mar 06. Yr 2: Deliver training courses 1–5 in N India by Mar 07; place case studies on website for guidance by Mar 07. Yr 3: Deliver training courses 6–10 in S India by Mar 08; place further case studies on website by Mar 08.
Fundraising capacity of IBCN enhanced to ensure long-term sustainability	Yr 1: Develop marketing and fundraising strategy by Mar 06; seek long-term partners to support IBCN throughout. Yr 2: Continue to seek funds for IBCN throughout; provide fundraising training to IBCN members during training courses 1–5 by Mar 07; place fundraising resources on website by Mar 07. Yr 3: Continue to seek funds for IBCN throughout; provide fundraising training to IBCN members during training courses 6–10 by Mar 08; place additional fundraising resources on website by Mar 08.

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

Project implementation timetable		
Date	Financial year	Key milestones
Capacity of IBCN Secretariat at BNHS enhanced		
By July 05 By Oct 05	Apr-Mar 2005/6 “	Hire IBA advocacy and biodiversity officers UK training completed
IBCN size and cohesiveness increased		
By Mar 06 By Mar 06	Apr-Mar 2005/6 “	Consult IBCN membership Initial strategic planning meeting with State Coordinators, to include training on the Coordinators' role
By Sept 06 By Mar 07	Apr-Mar 2006/7 “	Draft strategic plan Draft indicators of IBCN effectiveness
By Apr 08 By Apr 08	Apr-Mar 2007/8 “	Hold first national IBCN meeting Ratify and publish IBCN strategic plan
Skills of IBCN enhanced		
By Dec 05 By Mar 06	Apr-Mar 2005/6 “	Training courses compiled in UK Pilot training programme at State Coordinators' meeting
By Sep 06 By Mar 07	Apr-Mar 2006/7 “	Place training course resources on web Deliver five 1-week training courses to IBCN across mainland India
By Mar 07	“	Place case studies on web
By Mar 08 By Mar 08	Apr-Mar 2007/8 ”	Deliver five 1-week training courses to IBCN across mainland India Place further case studies on web
Fundraising capacity of IBCN enhanced		
By Mar 06 By Mar 06	Apr-Mar 2005/6 “	Draft IBCN marketing and fundraising strategy via consultation and State Coordinators' meeting Sign up at least one long-term sponsor or supporting partner to sustain IBCN
By Mar 07 By Mar 07	Apr-Mar 2006/7 “	Provide fundraising training to IBCN Place fundraising resources on the web

By Mar 08	Apr-Mar 2007/8	Provide fundraising training to IBCN
By Mar 08	"	Put fundraising resources on the web
By Mar 08	"	Have a broad base of funding support in place to sustain IBCN

21. Set out the project's measurable outputs using the separate list of output measures.

PROJECT OUTPUTS		
Year/Month	Standard output number (see standard output list)	Description (include numbers of people involved, publications produced, days/weeks etc.)
Mar 06	6A, 6B	5 days training delivered to at least 20 State coordinators
May 06	6A, 6B	5 days training delivered to 20 IBCN members
Jul 06	6A, 6B	5 days training delivered to 20 IBCN members
Oct 06	6A, 6B	5 days training delivered to 20 IBCN members
Dec 06	6A, 6B	5 days training delivered to 20 IBCN members
Mar 07	6A, 6B	5 days training delivered to 20 IBCN members
May 06	6A, 6B	5 days training delivered to 20 IBCN members
Jul 06	6A, 6B	5 days training delivered to 20 IBCN members
Oct 06	6A, 6B	5 days training delivered to 20 IBCN members
Dec 06	6A, 6B	5 days training delivered to 20 IBCN members
Mar 07	6A, 6B	5 days training delivered to 20 IBCN members
Mar 06	7	Training manual first draft
Sep 06	7	Training manual put on web site
Dec 06	7	At least 20 local IBA posters/leaflets produced
By Mar 08	9	At least 20 IBA management plans enhanced
Dec 05	14A	IBCN State Coordinators' conference to discuss project
Apr 08	14A	First national network meeting
Apr 05–Mar 08	14B	6 national/regional meetings attended (2 per year)
Apr 05–Mar 08	15A	3 national press releases in India per year
Apr 05–Mar 08	15B	20 local press releases in India per year
Apr 05–Mar 08	15C	2 national press releases in the UK (year 1 and year 3)
Apr 05–Mar 08	16A	12 IBCN newsletters (4 per year) with project update
Apr 05–Mar 08	16B	300 copies of each newsletter issue in India
Apr 05–Mar 08	16C	20 copies of each newsletter issue in the UK
Apr 05–Mar 08	17B	IBCN significantly extended and enhanced
Apr 05–Mar 08	18A	2 national TV programmes in India
Apr 05–Mar 08	19A	6 national radio features in India (2 per year)
Apr 05–Mar 08	19C	60 local radio features in India (20 per year)
Apr 05–Mar 08	20	£5,000 invested in computer equipment and software
Apr 05–Mar 08	23	Co-funding of £76,487

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

22. Describe, referring to the Indicators in the Logical Framework, how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, including towards delivery of its outputs and in terms of achieving its overall purpose. This should be during the lifetime of the project and at its conclusion. Please include information on how host country partners will be included in the monitoring and evaluation.

A detailed Monitoring and Evaluation plan will be drawn up at the start of the project. This will be based on the log frame and project implementation timetable included in this application. We shall evaluate the success of the project mainly by reference to the indicators in the log frame and the milestones set out in answers 20 and 21. By the end of the project, we expect that IBCN membership will have increased to at least 100 NGOs and 1500 individuals; new site safeguard activities will have been initiated in at least 230 IBAs; and at least 15 funding proposals will have been submitted to donors.

A Project Steering Committee will be set up at the start of the project to oversee the monitoring and evaluation process. This committee will include representatives from the RSPB, BNHS and the IBCN, and will meet every 6 months throughout the project.