



18-013



DARWIN200

Submit by Monday 30 November 2009

DARWIN INITIATIVE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FOR ROUND 17: STAGE 2

Please read the Guidance Notes before completing this form. Where no word limits are given, the size of the box is a guide to the amount of information required. Information to be extracted to the database is highlighted blue.

1. Name and address of organisation (NB: Notification of results will be by post)

Name: University of Oxford	Address: Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU), The Recanati-Kaplan Centre, Department of Zoology, Tubney House, Abingdon Road, Tubney, Oxfordshire, OX13 5QL
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2. Project title (not exceeding 10 words)

Building capacity for wild felid conservation in China
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3. Project dates, duration and total Darwin Initiative Grant requested

Proposed start date: 01/04/2010	Duration of project: 3 Years			End date: 31/03/13	
Darwin funding requested	2010/11 £125,260	2011/12 £75,824	2012/2013 £92,354	2013/14 £	Total £293,438

4. Define the purpose of the project (extracted from logframe)

Strengthened national and local capacity applied to the monitoring and conservation of wild felid species throughout China
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5. Principals in project. Please provide a one page CV for each of these named individuals. You may copy and paste this table if you need to provide details of more than one overseas project partner.

Details	Project Leader	Other UK personnel (working more than 50% of their time on project)	Main project partner and co-ordinator in host country/ies
Surname	Riordan		Shi
Forename (s)	Philip		Kun
Post held	Research Manager		Director
Institution (if different to above)			Beijing Forestry University
Department	Wildlife Conservation Research Unit		The Wildlife Institute

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

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
162/10/004	David W Macdonald and John Fa	Bushmeat study in the Sananga-Cross river region in Cameroon
162/7/137	David W Macdonald	Sanctuaries in Estonia and Belarus
162/4/072	David W Macdonald	Aquatic carnivores
162/12/018	David W Macdonald	Climate change and conservation of Galapagos endemic bird species
162/09/015	David W Macdonald and Andrew J Loveridge	Big cat conservation and sustainable use in southern Africa
162/09/015 (follow-up funding)	David W Macdonald and Andrew J Loveridge	The role of tourism in the sustainable use of big cats
162/13/016	David W Macdonald	Endangered otter and invasive mink in Patagonia, Argentina
13/028	David W Macdonald and Lynn Clayton	Establishment and Conservation of Nantu National Park, Gorontalo Province, Sulawesi
14/028	Claudio Sillero	Conservation of Pumas Andean Cat across national borders, Argentina, Bolivia and Chile
EIDP021	David W Macdonald	Implementing an otter action plan for marine environments of Tierra del Fuego, Patagonia
EIDPS016	Laura Fasola	Darwin Initiative - Fellowship
Application Ref: 1169	Andrew J. Loveridge	Ecological sustainability of leopard trophy hunting in Zimbabwe

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 all the institutions involved including the UK/collaborative (where there are partners in addition to the applicant organisation) and host country partners that will be involved, and explain their roles and responsibilities in the project. Describe the extent of their involvement at all stages, including project development. This section should illustrate the capacity of host country partners to be involved in the project. Please provide written evidence of partnerships. Please copy/delete boxes for more or fewer partnerships.

Lead UK institution and website where available:

The Wildlife Conservation Research Unit, Dept Zoology, University of Oxford
www.wildcru.org

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

The mission of the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU) is to achieve practical solutions to conservation problems through original scientific research. Part of the University of Oxford's Department of Zoology, WildCRU is a pioneering, inter-disciplinary research unit in a world-class academic centre. We underpin solutions to conservation problems through primary scientific research of the highest calibre. Our approach is empirical, interdisciplinary and collaborative, seeking to include all four elements of our 'Conservation Quartet': **research** to understand and address the problem; **education** to explain it; **community involvement** to ensure participation and acceptance; and **implementation** of long-term solutions. Our research is used worldwide to advise environmental policy-makers and draws on a wide range of natural and social science disciplines.

WildCRU is particularly renowned for its longstanding specialisation in wild carnivores, which are frequently at the sharp end of human-wildlife interactions. For 25 years we have provided a base for the IUCN Canid Specialist Group, originally chaired by David Macdonald and now by our Travers Research Fellow, Claudio Sillero. We have now also developed a special focus on felids, which fits synergistically alongside our wider conservation research portfolio. The development of our felid work has been in close collaboration with our partners in the Panthera Foundation. Currently, we are working on 17 felid species, with projects from African lions to Brazilian jaguars, Chilean pumas to Botswanan cheetah, Scottish wildcats to Mongolian manul, and clouded leopards in Borneo and snow leopards in China. During 2007, WildCRU organized and hosted an international conference on Felid Biology and Conservation, attended by some 300 delegates from around the world. At the same time, we organized two workshops: an IUCN red-listing session workshop; and a think tank on conflict and its resolution. Following the success of these meetings, we are currently applying the finishing touches on a book entitled *Biology and Conservation of Wild Felids*, edited by David W. Macdonald and Andrew J. Loveridge, to be published in early 2010.

WildCRU has trained to doctoral level over 60 conservation scientists from 30 plus countries, from Brazil to Bhutan, and Ecuador to Iceland. Our alumni include government chief scientists, chief executives of international conservation organizations, professors of conservation biology at leading universities and many other practicing, influential conservationists. Our new diploma course based at our Oxfordshire headquarters and supported by the Panthera Foundation, provides a focus for our training activities, by training conservationists from the developing world. They return to their home countries as qualified professionals and become leading agents of change and sound environmental practice. But educating local communities in the areas where we operate research projects has always been a crucial part of WildCRU's *Research Plus* contribution to conservation legacy. For example, we have provided training in conservation techniques for local university students and national park wardens in many areas such as the Galápagos Islands, Zimbabwe and Kalimantan. We have trained rural pastoralists in Mongolia as game rangers and provided them with equipment enabling them to manage their environment sustainably. In Bolivia we are training local people as parabiologists to facilitate trans-frontier guanaco conservation.

<p>Lead host country Partner and website where available:</p> <p>The Wildlife Institute, Beijing Forestry University (BFU)</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</p> <p>This is our principal collaborator, responsible for managing project activities in China and ensuring robust links between in-country partners. BFU has excellent links to the Chinese State Forestry Administration (SFA), providing training to SFA staff and providing responsive research facilities. Developing and managing collaborations in China is a delicate and time-consuming endeavour. To ensure this highly collaborative project is both welcome and well-founded our team have made several scoping visits to China and we have unusual capacity to develop collaborations with state and provincial government bodies. Mutual understanding within our UK-China team is strong, with Dr Shi Kun having spent almost one year with WildCRU and PR having spent a similar amount of time working in China (PR has been made a Visiting Research Fellow at BFU). Relations are further fortified by WildCRU's sponsorship of Bing (Eve) Li, an emerging Chinese tiger conservationist, to train at our centre for six months in 2008, and by a series of collaborations with other Chinese universities that have led to publications now in press, culminating in the Chinese funding Dr Youbing Zhou of the Chinese Academy of Sciences to visit WildCRU for 6 months in 2010.</p> <p>Through this project, we would recruit a Chinese assistant, to be based at BFU. This person would have qualifications and experience to undertake some of the training, particularly in the field and to develop the training programmes using resources from existing courses at BFU and WildCRU. Full training would be given to this person and they would visit WildCRU in Year 1 to become familiar with our Diploma course and also participate in our MSc unit on Conservation Biology.</p>
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<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>State Forestry Administration of China (SFA)</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</p> <p>SFA is the main national government body responsible for wildlife conservation and protected area management. SFA oversees the running of provincial Forestry Administration offices throughout China. SFA have granted the BFU / WildCRU collaboration 5-year permission to undertake wild felid projects in China, initially with reference to snow leopards, but now also including broader initiatives for wild felid species across China. Agreement has been reached with the Director of Protected Area Conservation, Mr Wang Wei, for the development of the network. Most unusually, our Chinese collaborators in SFA are actively soliciting this partnership.</p>
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9a. Have you consulted stakeholders not already mentioned above? Yes No

If yes, please give details:

IUCN Cat Specialist Group (CSG): CSG brings together more than 200 of the world's leading cat experts, including scientists, wildlife managers and conservationists from 50 countries who are dedicated to advancing the understanding and conservation of the world's 36 wild-living cat species. It is one of over 120 similar international specialist groups forming the Species Survival Commission (SSC) of the World Conservation Union (IUCN). The Specialist Groups perform species assessments for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and produce species action plans and policy guidelines. These groups also provide information for the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, which is hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and

advise governments that are Party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The Cat Specialist Group is active in many of its own initiatives as well, focusing on the development of tools for the assessment of the species' status, for the compilation and distribution of intelligence and for supporting the work of its members. A central concern is to promote the dialogue among scientists and practitioners throughout the world. The Cat Specialist Group believes that cooperation and knowledge sharing are critical for the conservation of the wild cats.

The proposed project will maintain close links with CSG, ensuring that monitoring data and species status reports are incorporated into IUCN, WCMC and CITES databases. CSG have been instrumental in initiating a network for wild cat conservation in China, which the project team have already been fully engaged with. We will use our collective links to Chinese conservation scientists, practitioners and policy makers to ensure the resultant network is robust and effective.

Provincial Forestry Administrations: The project team have established relationships with the forestry administrations of Sichuan, Xinjiang and Jilin. In addition to these provinces, we are also working to engage government leaders and protected area management in Yunnan, Guangxi, Guangzhou, Shanxi and Shaanxi. Drs Riordan and Shi are scheduled to meet with leaders in these provinces during a further scoping visit in November and December 2009, with the objective of securing letters of support. In combination, based on historic distributions, these provinces provide coverage for all 13 wild cat species in China. Other provinces may also be included, though the decisions regarding the final selection of provinces and protected areas (PAs) involved with the project will be made collaboratively within the network at the start of the project.

Institute of Zoology (IOZ), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS): is a government-funded research institution, concerned with biodiversity, ecology, agricultural biology, human health and reproductive biology. Whilst SFA are the lead governmental organisation concerned with biodiversity conservation, IOZ is comprised of numerous influential scientists many specialising in the ecosystems in which we will be working, and some specialising in wild felids species and ecosystems. Many of these scientists have already agreed to participate in the proposed network if our application is successful.

China Wildlife Conservation Association (CWCA): CWCA is a non-profit national organization under the framework of the China Science Association. As the largest ecological conservation organization in China, CWCA is the IUCN member organisation for China. CWCA has 31 provincial and 622 regional branches throughout China with over 200,000 members. Both PR and SK are proud to have been co-opted as board members to the Xinjiang branch in 2008 in response to their work on snow leopards in the Autonomous Region. CWCA forms an important assemblage of environmentally engaged individuals from across China, and we are well placed to use contacts within this network to focus efforts on wild felids.

Panthera: Panthera includes, and collaborates with, many of the world's leading cat specialists. We work closely with Panthera on other projects, and we anticipate linking with their valuable international network if this proposal is successful. In the event of success with this application, we intend to make funding applications to Panthera for additional satellite projects, particularly snow leopards. For smaller cat species, there is currently no mechanism within Panthera to offer funding on the scale required for our ecosystem approach within PAs. We continue to discuss funding mechanisms with Panthera, and will also encourage Chinese colleagues in our network to apply and support them with applications. DWM discussed our Darwin proposal in October 2009 with Panthera in New York and received enthusiastic support for the idea and their desire to be involved.

Snow Leopard Trust (SLT): As with Panthera, we work closely with SLT as one of the key organisations in the world concerned with the conservation of snow leopards. In this capacity, they are able to provide extensive international links for our project, ensuring the trans-frontier context of these particular cats is maintained.

WWF: WWF are well known for their activity in China over many years, with particular interest in

giant panda conservation. WWF China have numerous programmes, but of particular interest for this project is their work in the Amur-Heilong border region with Russia, which includes Amur leopard and tiger, and also their work on south China tiger. PR and SK have had initial meetings with WWF China in Beijing and PR has received positive feedback from WWF Director of Science, Dr Eric Dinerstein during a meeting in Oxford.

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS): WCS-China is working with multiple government and non-governmental partners on wildlife conservation and management across the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and Amur tiger conservation in north-eastern China's transboundary area. WCS is also particularly active in Primorsky Krai, Russia, which borders China, working for a number of years on Amur tiger and leopard. SK and PR have held constructive meetings with Dr Peter Zahler, WCS Asia Deputy-Director, and with Dr George Schaller, now Vice-President of Panthera.

9b. Do you intend to consult other stakeholders? Yes No

If yes, please give details:

The World Pheasant Association (WPA) is represented by Dr Wang Nan in Beijing Forestry University, a close colleague of SK. We have previously worked in the UK with WPA Council Member, Dr Stephen Browne, formerly of the GCT, now FFI-Asia. We will maintain these contacts to determine possibilities about collaborative work examining the relationships between pheasants and wild felids and also to examine possible collaborations with FFI more generally.

9c. Have you had any (other) contact with the government not already stated? Yes No

If yes, please give details:

Yes. In relation to developing projects to evaluate the restoration of rural ecosystems and their services in Jilin Province. We have excellent relations with the Jilin Forestry Administration, with SK being a former employee, and both PR and SK have had regular contact with the Secretary General, Mr Liu Yangchun. We anticipate that Jilin Province will be important for this project because of the government's desire to enhance and protect tiger and Amur leopard populations in transboundary areas with Russia.

The team have also been engaged with the monitoring and research of snow leopard in Xinjiang, for which we have received enthusiastic support from SFA and the Forestry Administration of Xinjiang Autonomous Region. The team currently have permission from SFA to work on snow leopard over a five-year period from 2008 – 2013 in the first instance and are being urged to include other provinces. SK and PR met with the Sichuan Forestry Administration and received letters of support for the snow leopard work initially, along with enthusiastic verbal support for the cat network. We envisage Sichuan being of vital importance to the project because of the diversity of cat species within the province and the experience of forestry managers with international conservation programs, principally for giant panda.

The team also have support in the form of a grant worth approximately £30,000 to SK from the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology.

9d. Is any liaison proposed with the CBD/CMS/CITES focal point in the host country? Yes No

If yes, please give details:

PR and SK have already had constructive contact and gained a letter of support for work on snow leopard with the CITES focal points in Sichuan (Mr Li Jian-Guo) and Xinjiang (formerly Mr Zhu Fude). SK is in regular contact with CITES focal point representatives within SFA in Beijing.

9e. Will your project support any work in the UK Overseas Territories? Yes No

If yes, please give brief details stating which Territory/ies will be involved.

PROJECT DETAILS

10. Please provide a Concept note (Max 1,000 words) (repeat from Stage 1, with changes highlighted)

Wild felids are both particularly threatened and particularly good umbrella species. Intensive IUCN/SSC International Red List assessments, hosted by WildCRU in 2008, highlighted the threats posed to wild felid species by habitat loss, with many larger species further endangered by conflict with humans. Dependence on often declining and imperilled prey exacerbates the risks, raising the serious prospects of extinction. Evaluating the magnitude of the risks and the effectiveness of conservation interventions is made difficult because wild felids are secretive, often in inaccessible areas. Yet surveying and monitoring their numbers and distributions is the foundation for their conservation. Recent technological advancements, in which WildCRU is expert, including camera trapping and faecal genetic analyses provide a breakthrough. These relatively inexpensive techniques, when supported by tailored capacity building for practitioners, can be efficiently applied to large scale, cost-effective, coordinated survey programmes. Capacity and expertise are often lacking within the countries containing the richest wild felid assemblages, and we propose here to deliver these for China.

China holds 13 of the world's 37 wild cat species, six of which are listed in CITES Appendix I (Asiatic golden cat, *Catopuma temminckii*; Marbled cat, *Pardofelis marmorata*; Clouded leopard, *Neofelis nebulosa*; Leopard, *Panthera pardus*; Tiger, *Panthera tigris*; Snow leopard, *Panthera uncia*), and seven listed in Appendix II (Chinese mountain cat, *Felis bieti*; Jungle cat, *Felis chaus*; Pallas' cat, *Felis manul*; Wildcat, *Felis silvestris*; Eurasian lynx, *Lynx lynx*; Leopard cat, *Prionailurus bengalensis*; Fishing cat, *Prionailurus viverrinus*). China represents a significant part of the global range of many felid species, and one species (*Felis bieti*) and several potential subspecies are endemic making it one of the most important countries for felid conservation.

The IUCN Cat Specialist Group (CSG) recently scoped the development of a network for cat conservation in China, culminating in a workshop at the SCB Conference in Beijing during July 2009 (attended by PR and SK). Preliminary assessment and subsequent discussions with stakeholders highlighted urgent priorities to enhance coordination of conservation effort across China, strengthen capacity and expertise to monitor and manage wild felid species and collate sparse data, for example from Chinese scientific publications and reports, and a diversity of institutions. Many recent species accounts for example, are from skins found in markets (e.g. Asiatic golden cat, Leopard cat; snow leopard, Eurasian lynx) or seizures made from traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) trade (e.g. Asiatic golden cat, leopard). Known hunting pressure on Leopard cat, for example, exceeds 200,000 cats per year being harvested during the 1980s. Currently in China no framework exists to collate these diverse information streams, nor is there sufficient capacity to use the data efficiently. However, relationships, enthusiasm and opportunities exist to create such a network.

In common with many countries, China has long since viewed protected area designation as a key mechanism for meeting its Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) targets. Between 1978 and 2007, the number of PAs in China increased from 34 to 2531 (SFA data). Capacity and expertise in China to manage these PAs has not kept pace with this rapid development. However, each PA has an available staff, for whom SFA are seeking opportunities to provide training – training that this project will provide. To scope the feasibility of our proposal, and at the request of SFA, we have already provided well-received basic field and classroom training for five staff members in Taxkurgan Nature Reserve which will contribute to snow leopard conservation in Xinjiang. In this initial node of our proposed distributed network, we therefore already have in place a field staff competent to undertake surveys.

Initially we will establish five regional centres across China, in PAs selected on the basis of felid communities and access to collaborating institutional partners. Preliminary workshops for PA staff at these centres and high-level meetings in Beijing will be held to determine current knowledge and identify training needs. Responsive field and class-based courses will be run at each centre, with specially customised programmes based on modules from the postgraduate Diploma in International Wildlife Conservation Practise run by WildCRU (www.wildcru.org/courses/diploma/) and graduate courses delivered at BFU. Training will target each stratum in the proposed network: field surveyors, survey planners, data collators, and analysts (ultimately coordinated by PR). The

emphasis will be to impart practical skills to ensure reliable data, and sufficient theoretical understanding to ensure proper programme design and interpretation. Graduate students from BFU will be encouraged to undertake dissertation work on wild felids, contributing to the network and gaining felid research skills. Wild felids as umbrella species will provide exemplars of conservation and monitoring issues relevant to wider conservation goals.

The WildCRU is arguably the foremost university centre for felid conservation, with projects on 17 species of wild felid and an accredited diploma course that heavily emphasises felid conservation. BFU has a strong teaching base, closely aligned with SFA. A major deliverable of this Darwin project will be customised 2-week field training modules, from which we will deliver training for up to 120 people in each region each year: a potential total of approximately 800 people trained in the 3 years of the project. These trainees will then continue to develop skills within their paid roles: for example, PA staff developing and implementing surveys, with data being collated through the developing network; or SFA staff conducting GIS analyses of wild felid hotspots. The developing network will act to both inform stakeholders of new discoveries and developments, improving engagement with felid conservation, and to provide support. Our team will offer targeted support for surveys and collaborations will be sought with other organisations with existing projects and expertise for particular species, such as tiger and Amur leopard. The vertical structure of the network will gather survey data, coordinated and integrated locally, creating a foundation for monitoring local trends. Horizontally, network hubs will be replicated across regions and landscapes, developing a wider organisation, akin to UK's National Biodiversity Network. Interim evaluations of participant experiences with the network, identifying on-going improvements, will progress towards hand-over to Chinese institutions as an enduring legacy of the Darwin project.

11a. Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source)?

Please give details:

This is a new initiative, but develops from two projects: the snow leopard conservation programme led by WildCRU and BFU; and the Cats in China project undertaken by the IUCN Cat Specialist Group (CSG - Dr. Urs Breitenmoser). WildCRU/BFU were consulted by IUCN CSG, with particular reference to snow leopard, but also in relation to SFA liaison and the successful working relationship between SFA and WildCRU/BFU. The IUCN CSG project sought to draw together current information about the status of wild felids in China, with a culminating workshop at the SCB 2009 conference in Beijing. At the time of writing the information is being collated and CSG hope to publish their findings in a special issue of their own publication, Cat News.

Discussions at the SCB workshop, with which both PR and SK were involved, highlighted the lack of information available for most species and also the lack of Chinese expertise to monitor adequately most wild felids. Where significant conservation programmes were being undertaken, these were typically led by international organisations such as WWF and WCS. Our own snow leopard work was one of few Chinese-led projects, with an international organisation (WildCRU) providing support. Based on local capacity building, our model was, and remains, attractive to SFA and they consequently requested we develop a network and training that could establish similar approaches for all wild cats in China.

11b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/Darwin Initiative projects carrying out similar work?

Yes No

If yes, please give details explaining similarities and differences, and explaining how your work will be additional to this work and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and learn lessons from such work for mutual benefits:

Where we are seeking to address conservation of all wild cats across China, as umbrellas and emblems of functioning ecosystems, other organisations have tended to specialise on particular charismatic species. For examples, WCS and WWF have focused on conservation of Amur tiger, South China tiger, Amur leopard and snow leopard. Snow Leopard Trust has focused on snow leopards, all often with the inclusion of training elements for local teams. Our approach will broaden both the species-base and the training elements, whilst including successful approaches adopted by these organisations into our network; establishing complementary and joint development of our project in the areas in which they still operate. The assured collaboration of

these organisations is an asset given their expertise, especially with the more charismatic flagship species.

As a team, we work closely with all of these organisations, both in China and at other locations around the globe. We are confident that we can continue to work with them and learn in a mutually constructive manner for the benefit of wild cat conservation in China. Our approach, however, is different, while complementary to theirs in that we are considering the entire guild of 13 species, including the less charismatic and smaller ones.

12. Please indicate which of the following biodiversity conventions your project will contribute to: -

At least one must be selected.

- Only indicate the conventions that your project is directly contributing to.

- No additional significance will be ascribed for projects that report contributions to more than one convention

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Yes No

CITES Yes No

Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Yes No

What problem is this project addressing and how was it identified? (150 words)

Despite the dramatic rise in the number of PAs in China, there are insufficient trained personnel to monitor effectively these PAs and implement informed conservation actions. This problem was identified through discussions with senior SFA officials in Beijing and with provincial forestry administration staff. Beijing Forestry University can only provide training to limited numbers of SFA staff through their degree programmes (3-5 people per year). There is thus a need to develop shorter-term, more targeted training. Wild felids in China are thought to be generally endangered, though for many species there is insufficient data to make accurate assessments and hence identify management needs. As well as being of conservation concern, as top predators wild felids are excellent indicators of ecosystem health and important umbrellas for conservation in general. Training that focuses on monitoring and management of wild felids will also enhance capacity for ecosystem monitoring more generally.

What will change as a result of this project? (150 words)

Firstly we will engage people in pivotal positions in Chinese GOs and NGOs with the conservation of their wild cats. Our network will include approximately 150 people involved with national-level conservation. At provincial level we will engage approximately 300 conservation managers through workshops and training in critical skills such as data management and analysis. At grassroots level we will provide a skills-base for wild felid research and conservation by training up to 120 PA staff per year at each of the Regional Centres (RCs). RCs will become demonstration sites, to be continued beyond the scope of this project. Trainees will deploy monitoring programmes in their home areas, with ongoing and follow-up support from our team and through the project network. We will train staff in approximately 300 PAs in 26 provinces. Within these PAs our trained network will establish felid and ecosystem databases, providing benchmarks for many globally important species.

Why is the project important for the conservation of biodiversity? (150 words)

China remains one of the world's most biodiverse nations, with a vast array of ecosystems and species, including 13 of the world's 36 wild felid species. The project will address China's lack of capacity and expertise to monitor and manage felid biodiversity within their expanding number of PAs. Wild felids are both particularly threatened and particularly good umbrella species, providing a charismatic model for conservation. By galvanizing interest in felids, benefits can cascade widely, and galvanise interest and expertise in biodiversity conservation in general. We will train approximately 800 people, from grassroots PA staff to SFA analysts in Beijing, leading to robust monitoring and informed management of wild felids and, importantly, their ecosystems. These will be the first such data for many of these species and ecosystems. Our five regional centres and

strong links through BFU and SFA will leave a long-lasting legacy to safeguard valuable biodiversity within China.

How does this relate to one or more of the biodiversity conventions? (150 words)

CBD Articles 5 (Cooperation) and 18 (Technical and Scientific Cooperation) will be addressed through linkages within our network, between managers, scientists and policy makers. This will improve capacity to make efficient, effective and timely use of reliable information for wild cat conservation and their supporting ecosystems.

CBD Articles 7 (Identification and Monitoring) and 8 (*In-situ* Conservation) will be addressed through the monitoring programmes established in approximately 300 PAs, which will generate fundamental status data for wild cats species and act as exemplars of field-based training case studies within each region. The latter outcome will also directly relate to CBD Article 12 (Research and Training).

CITES Articles II.1; III.2(a); III.3(a); IV.2(a) stipulate conditions regarding impacts that may be "detrimental to the survival of [a] species". By initiating fundamental population assessments and monitoring for wild cat species in China our project will provide essential databases from which to judge survival status.

13. How will the results of the project be disseminated; how will the project be advertised as a Darwin project and in what ways will the Darwin name and logo be used? (max 200 words)

Project materials (posters, papers leaflets, reports) will all carry the Darwin logo and acknowledge the Darwin Initiative. The Darwin Initiative will thus be positively highlighted both within the Chinese government at senior levels and more widely among the Chinese population. Our snow leopard work has received good publicity within China and internationally. Chinese national and regional TV networks have covered the project in news and science pieces, including a full documentary on Beijing TV (BTV) (11th June 2009 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QdISk1-LCAc>). The project has also been covered by international media, with PR being interviewed for BBC radio. Our team are networked with many media organisations in China and abroad and we will use these connections to benefit the Darwin project, whose support will be highlighted.

Our dynamic website will have publically accessible areas from which to present information for Chinese and international audiences. These will primarily be published in both Mandarin and English, and potentially other languages (e.g. Cantonese, Uygur and Tibetan). All internet material will acknowledge the Darwin Project and will contain its logo and links to the Darwin website. Scientific papers will be developed by members of the project and will acknowledge the support of the Darwin Initiative.

14. What will be the long term benefits of the project in the host country or region and have you identified any potential problems to achieving these benefits? (max 200 words)

Our project will provide training for approximately 800 people: from grassroots PA staff through provincial conservation managers to SFA staff in Beijing. Our team will implement monitoring for wild felids and their ecosystems in approximately 300 protected areas, initiating spatially-explicit baseline status information. We will establish five Regional Centres as lasting demonstration areas for surrounding provinces within the same ecotypes. Partnerships with BFU and SFA will ensure that these resources are utilised for future teaching and demonstration for the effective use of science and monitoring for wildlife conservation and management in China. The training units we develop will be continued by BFU. Particularly promising trainees may be identified for further and higher education, for example at BFU or on the WildCRU Diploma course. The resources and links established by this project will add to the teaching at BFU and other universities in China, and provide opportunities for international students.

The application of scientific methods to conservation management is an approach that China is

only recently appreciating though partnerships within western organisations, such as WildCRU. Our focus is wild felid species, but the approaches we demonstrate and the capacity we build will be placed in a wider context of PA management.

15. State whether or not the project will reach a stable and sustainable end point. If the project is not discrete, but is part of a progressive approach, give details of the exit strategy and show how relevant activities will be continued to secure the benefits from the project. Where individuals receive advanced training, for example, what will happen should that individual leave? (Max 200 words)

This is clearly a progressive project and we envisage a stable and sustainable end point at which the network of approximately 800 trained people established by this project value the data streams we will have established and are collectively competent to continue effective wild felid (and other) monitoring and conservation across China. The hand over process will include the identification of key members of the network, who can provide continuity. We will directly engage, through training and workshops, with nearly 300 people concerned with conservation management across China in governmental and non-governmental organisations. This provides a significant pool from which to identify mechanisms for continuation. Our host country partners at Beijing Forestry University will be critical to continuation and they will continue to provide training for SFA staff using our jointly developed modules. Within China, the culture ensures that the bonds that form between people through network development often become very strong. In this respect, people that leave their current positions continue to exert influence through these social and professional networks. Our project is therefore well placed to be able to beneficially use this aspect of Chinese culture.

16. If your project includes training and development, please indicate how you will assess the training needs in relation to the overall purpose of the project. Who are the target groups? How will the training be delivered? What skills and knowledge do you expect the beneficiaries to obtain. How will you measure training effectiveness. (max 300 words)

You should address each of these points.

Training needs will be assessed at each level within the vertical structure of the project (grassroots PA staff; PA managers; Provincial managers; SFA HQ). Workshops will be initially held with up to 40 GO and NGO officials in Beijing to determine requirements and evaluate Province-level needs. We will establish five Regional Centres (RCs) for workshops bringing together management level staff from surrounding provinces to assess their needs and develop integration both regionally and nationally. RCs will be based in provinces with felid assemblages characteristic of the surrounding ecotypes. For example, an RC in Jiangxi may serve southern provinces of predominantly tropical/subtropical moist broadleaf forest; Xinjiang may serve provinces with mountain grass/shrubland and xeric ecotypes. With our regional and national colleagues we will identify focal protected areas within each region and devise two-week intensive residential training for groups of 20 people, held at RCs. We anticipate holding seven training sessions during 2010, 11 during 2011 and 10 during 2012. In addition we will run similar numbers of single week workshop training sessions for senior managers from within each region. We anticipate participation from approximately 60 PAs in 2010; 110 PAs in 2011 and 100 PAs in 2012.

We will identify the linkages between training needs, ensuring that the skills developed throughout the hierarchy deliver robust data, feeding into effective analyses and presentation for policy. Conversely, we will ensure that management staff can identify information requirements and design or adjust monitoring programmes accordingly. Grassroots skills will include survey techniques, such as camera trapping, setting up grids and transects, sign identification and standardized enumeration. Training for higher level management within regions will include standardized survey design, data analysis and GIS. Within SFA we will provide training in data management, analysis, interpretation and presentation. Self-managed components will form part of the assessment process.

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

17. Please enter the details of your project onto the matrix using the note at Annex 3 of the Guidance Note. This should not have substantially changed from the Logical Framework submitted with your Stage 1 application. Please highlight any changes. (Use no smaller than Arial 10 pt)

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Goal: Effective contribution in support of the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), as well as related targets set by countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources.</p> <p>Sub-Goal: Effective conservation requirements identified and actions initiated for wild felid species throughout China.</p>	<p>Functioning network for felid conservation, with participants trained to deliver robust information in support of wild felid conservation and management</p> <p>Initial baseline status information for wild felids in China.</p> <p>Preliminary policy and management plans developed</p>	<p>Trained and engaged team of conservationist working across China</p> <p>Mutual exchange of information and ideas as indicated from activity on web-based network portal</p> <p>Data collated from monitoring programmes initiated within protected areas across China</p> <p>Status reports and management plans generated from network</p>	<p>National government policies remain supportive</p> <p>Provincial government and local Protected Area teams remain supportive</p> <p>Data access via internet protocols remains viable within China</p> <p>Inter-ethnic relations within regions of China remain peaceful</p>
<p>Purpose Strengthened national and local capacity for conservation and monitoring of wild felid species throughout China</p>	<p>An engaged and committed network for wild felid conservation and related issues, gathering and collating information</p> <p>Monitoring programmes established in protected areas across China and data collated in centralised databases</p> <p>Access to centralised database permitted to relevant stakeholders and data used to inform species management plans</p> <p>Protected areas managers and staff report improvements in effectiveness and efficiency of conservation efforts for wild cats and ecosystems.</p>	<p>Active network participation by conservation professionals throughout China</p> <p>Information flow from protected areas and database population</p> <p>Stakeholders report good access to database resources and demonstrable application to species management within PAs</p> <p>Local measures identified through monitoring process put in place by PA management and staff to improve wild cat conservation</p> <p>Conservation plans emerge that use our project outputs and would have been impossible or less effective with out it</p>	<p>National government policies remain supportive</p> <p>Provincial government and local Protected Area teams remain supportive</p> <p>Data access via internet protocols remains viable within China</p> <p>Inter-ethnic relations within regions of China remain peaceful</p>

	Our approach is applied to other species and/or habitats	<p>Trained personnel undertaking felid surveys in protected areas</p> <p>Training and workshop proceedings showing clear development</p> <p>Chinese students successfully undertaking dissertation studies</p>	<p>Surveys established (transects, camera traps deployed); new data emerging</p> <p>Training reports and educational materials. Workshop reports and follow-up outputs</p> <p>Reports of biannual project meetings</p> <p>High quality student theses</p> <p>Publications and reports</p> <p>Coverage on TV, radio and popular news publications</p> <p>Functioning and frequently accessed website</p> <p>Conference proceedings.</p>	<p>Individuals participating in training and workshops remain in position and maintain commitment to project and goals</p> <p>Dissertation options sufficiently attractive to high calibre students</p>
<p>Outputs (add or delete rows as necessary)</p> <p>1. Capacity strengthened for wild felid monitoring and conservation</p>	<p>Scientific and popular publications</p> <p>Media exposure highlighting wild cat conservation and the established network</p> <p>Annual reports</p> <p>Website content and accessibility</p> <p>International conference to be held by the end of year 3.</p>	<p>Publications and reports</p> <p>Coverage on TV, radio and popular news publications</p> <p>Functioning and frequently accessed website</p> <p>Conference proceedings.</p>	<p>Adequate species-specific data can be collected for sufficient species of wild felid</p> <p>Media interest can be developed and maintained</p> <p>Web access remains permissible within China</p>	
<p>3. Pathways collectively identified for conservation action plan developments for wild felid species in China</p>	<p>Preliminary action plan documents compiled and presented to government</p> <p>Project reports showing clear strategic directions for conservation plan developments</p> <p>Conference and workshop outputs showing clear commitment to process by participants</p>	<p>Preliminary action plan documents</p> <p>Project reports</p> <p>Conference and workshop outputs</p>	<p>Clear consensus can be arrived at for conservation plans</p> <p>Government continue to be supportive of future conservation plan developments</p> <p>Key champions within SFA remain supportive of project</p>	
<p>4. Participatory consultation process to elevate status of key Protected Areas</p>	<p>Nomination documents and key information compiled from within network</p>	<p>Documentation presented to policy makers within SFA to be championed at higher governmental levels</p>	<p>Policy makers remain committed to project and goals; and national policies remain supportive</p>	

Activities (details in workplan)

- 1.1 Recruit local project assistant (LPA) at Beijing Forestry University
- 1.2 Define monitoring programme concepts and principles
- 1.3 Define training programme principles and methods
- 1.4 Training for LPA (Beijing)
- 1.5 Team familiarisation with Diploma teaching (Oxford)
- 1.6 Training for LPA (Oxford)
- 2.1 Develop project information materials (Chinese and English)
- 2.2 Website portal development and publication – Chinese and English
- 2.3 Initiate and renew contacts with individuals to be brought into the CC network
- 3.1 Initial workshop in Beijing – identify five regional centres (RCs) in key PAs and high-level training needs
- 3.2 Workshops in RCs – identify training and monitoring needs
- 3.3 Develop training plans for personnel within each RC
- 4.1 Training within RCs – classroom and field-based
- 4.2 Develop monitoring plans within RC as part of training activities
- 4.3 Monitoring programmes implemented within each RC
- 4.4 Workshop assessments of monitoring progress and trouble-shooting
- 5.1 Analysis of wild felid populations from monitoring data
- 5.2 Assessments of impacts of current land-use and PA status on wild felid populations
- 5.3 Prepare and submit publications & reports
- 5.4 Maintaining and updating online databases
- 6.1 Workshop and briefing assessments for policy development
- 6.2 Establish protocols for continuing training and monitoring programmes
- 6.3 International conference on wild felid conservation

Monitoring activities:

- Indicator 1 Numbers and activities of visitors to project website
- Indicator 2 Numbers of trainees completing courses at RC
- Indicator 3 Network size and scope (numbers of people / organisations / countries)
- Indicator 4 Number of wild felid monitoring programmes in PAs performed by trainees
- Indicator 5 Number of national felid database records & QA
- Indicator 6 Repeat assessments of monitoring progress and outputs

18. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones in project activities. Complete the following table as appropriate to describe the intended workplan for your project.

Activity	Months	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1.1 Recruit local project assistant (LPA) at Beijing Forestry University (Process can be started ahead of project start date)		x											
1.2 Define monitoring programme concepts and principles			X										
1.3 Define training programme principles and methods			X										
1.4 Training for LPA (Beijing)			X										
1.5 Team familiarisation with Diploma teaching (Oxford)			x										
1.6 Training for LPA (Oxford)			x	X									
2.1 Develop project information materials (Chinese and English)				x									
2.2 Website portal development and publication – Chinese and English		x	x										
2.3 Initiate and renew contacts with individuals to be brought into the CC network		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
3.1 Initial workshop in Beijing – identify five regional project centres (RCs) in key PAs and high-level training needs			X										
3.2 Workshops in RCs – identify training and monitoring needs for region				x									
3.3 Develop training plans for personnel within each RC				x	X								
4.1 Training within RCs – classroom and field-based				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
4.2 Develop monitoring plans within RC as part of training activities					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
4.3 Monitoring programmes implemented within each RC					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
4.4 Workshop assessments of monitoring progress and trouble-shooting						x			x				
5.1 Analysis of wild felid populations from monitoring data							x			x			
5.2 Assessments of impacts of current land-use and PA status on wild felid populations									x				
5.3 Prepare and submit publications and reports												x	
5.4 Maintaining and updating online databases									x			x	
6.1 Workshop and briefing assessments for policy development													X
6.2 Establish protocols for continuing training and monitoring programmes and determine which organisations will lead on each component.													X
6.3 International conference on wild felid conservation													x

19. Please indicate which of the following Standard Measures you are likely to report against. You will not necessarily plan to cover all these Standard Measures in your project. Separate guidance on Standard Measures can be found at http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/resources/reporting/standard_measures/

Standard Measure No	Description	Tick if Relevant
1A	Number of people to submit thesis for PhD qualification (in host country)	
1B	Number of people to attain PhD qualification (in host country)	
2	Number of people to attain Masters qualification (MSc, MPhil etc)	√
3	Number of people to attain other qualifications (ie. Not outputs 1 or 2 above)	√
4A	Number of undergraduate students to receive training	√
4B	Number of training weeks to be provided	√
4C	Number of postgraduate students to receive training	√
4D	Number of training weeks to be provided	√
5	Number of people to receive at least one year of training (which does not fall into categories 1-4 above)	
6A	Number of people to receive other forms of education/training (which does not fall into categories 1-5 above)	√
6B	Number of training weeks to be provided	√
7	Number of (ie different types - not volume - of material produced) training materials to be produced for use by host country	√
8	Number of weeks to be spent by UK project staff on project work in the host country	√
9	Number of species/habitat management plans (or action plans) to be produced for Governments, public authorities, or other implementing agencies in the host country	√
10	Number of individual field guides/manuals to be produced to assist work related to species identification, classification and recording	√
11A	Number of papers to be published in peer reviewed journals	
11B	Number of papers to be submitted to peer reviewed journals	√
12A	Number of computer based databases to be established and handed over to host country	√
12B	Number of computer based databases to be enhanced and handed over to host country	
13A	Number of species reference collections to be established and handed over to host country(ies)	
13B	Number of species reference collections to be enhanced and handed over to host country(ies)	
14A	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops to be organised to present/disseminate findings	√
14B	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops attended at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/ disseminated.	√
15A	Number of national press releases in host country(ies)	√
15B	Number of local press releases in host country(ies)	√
15C	Number of national press releases in UK	√
15D	Number of local press releases in UK	√
16A	Number of newsletters to be produced	√
16B	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the host country(ies)	√
16C	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the UK	√
17A	Number of dissemination networks to be established	√
17B	Number of dissemination networks to be enhanced/ extended	
18A	Number of national TV programmes/features in host country(ies)	√
18B	Number of national TV programmes/features in UK	
18C	Number of local TV programmes/features in host country(ies)	√
18D	Number of local TV programmes/features in UK	
19A	Number of national radio interviews/features in host county(ies)	
19B	Number of national radio interviews/features in UK	
19C	Number of local radio interviews/features in host country(ies)	
19D	Number of local radio interviews/features in UK	√
20	Estimated value (£'s) of physical assets to be handed over to host country(ies)	
21	Number of permanent educational/training/research facilities or organisations to be established and then continued after Darwin funding has ceased	√
22	Number of permanent field plots to be established during the project and continued after Darwin funding has ceased	√
23	Value of resources raised from other sources (ie in addition to Darwin funding) for project	√

PROJECT BASED MONITORING AND EVALUATION

20. 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.

Evaluation at grass-roots level will principally be based on numbers of trainees successfully undertaking wild felid monitoring programmes in PAs throughout China. Resultant data generated for wild cat species will be carefully evaluated in terms of amount and quality of data emerging and the monitoring techniques being used, by establishing a centralised database in which emerging data and metadata will be stored.

Our plan to develop a functioning network for felid conservation in China will be assessed on the basis of active participation by network members. Members will occupy a variety of roles with respect to conservation in China and we expect their requirements of and contributions to the network to reflect this. Where members are tasked with analysing the data emerging from the project to produce reports, we will critically examine the penetration of these reports with respect to their stated aims. For example, reporting targeted at informing policy, national or local, can be traced through to inclusion in policy implementation; whereas public informational reports can be traced in terms of public accessibility, distribution and take-up (e.g. number of schools to which information is sent and number of classes in which the information is used; or media coverage). The challenges of tracing information flow in China are potentially significant and our Chinese colleagues will be vital for successful evaluations.

We expect to see developing management plans for wild felids in China at least by the end of the project and hopefully before. Local PA plans can be initiated relatively rapidly once basic species status information becomes known. National planning is obviously a longer-term process, but we anticipate that progress will be made as a result of this project and will be able to report on a strategic framework for the conservation of wild felids across China.

Workshops and conferences held throughout this project will have stated objectives (e.g. training needs analyses; monitoring evaluations and troubleshooting; species status assessments). We will evaluate the success of these meetings from participant feedback and critical assessment of the degree to which the outputs meet the aims. Where aims are tangible, such as training needs, we can assess the match between suite of needs identified and the training programmes developed in response. The consequential chain of events arising from these outputs (training – monitoring – species information – management planning – conservation strategy – policy instruments) can then also be assessed in light of these origins. Aims with more flexibility in interpretation, such as policy briefing and strategic planning, will be judged in the longer term, but we would expect at least to see initial developments during this project.

FUNDING AND BUDGET

Please complete the separate Excel spreadsheet which will provide the Budget information for this application. Some of the questions below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.

NB: Please state all costs by financial year (April to March). Use current prices – and include anticipated inflation, as appropriate up to 3% per annum. The Darwin Initiative will not be able to agree increases in grants to cover inflation on UK costs once grants are awarded.

21. How is your organisation currently funded? (max 100 words)

WildCRU is funded by a mixture of government and research council money, and charitable donations and endowments. Charitable funding comes from both individual benefactors and charitable trusts. As part of the University of Oxford, we are liable for overhead costs from the central university administration, which has experience of working with the Darwin Secretariat and LTC.

22. Provide details of all confirmed funding sources identified in the Budget 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 unconfirmed funding the project will attract to carry out addition work during or beyond the project lifetime. Indicate those funding sources which are confirmed.

Confirmed:

SFA are providing approximately £20,000 in 2010/11 for BFU in support of the work in PAs. This funding is primarily for developing management recommendations for key PAs in tran-frontier areas of NE China. SFA have agreed for us to merge these funds with this project if the Darwin application is successful.

The Ministry of Science and Technology of China is providing approximately £30,000 of funding to BFU for snow leopard genetic studies in China and has indicated to us that they would welcome the development of technical capacity in biodiversity conservation promised by our proposed project.

A philanthropic donor, in association with The Panthera Foundation USA, has guaranteed funding until the end of 2012 for the postgraduate Diploma in International Wildlife Conservation Practise run by WildCRU at Oxford University (www.wildcru.org/courses/diploma/). This guarantees the training foundation on which our capacity building courses in China will be based. A private benefactor has donated an endowment to fund at least two Chinese conservationists to undertake this Diploma in Oxford, at a cost of £15K each within scope of the proposed Darwin project. One of these positions has been earmarked (in hopeful anticipation of this Darwin project) for one of the Chinese assistants working with us on the snow leopard project. In conjunction with Panthera Foundation USA, the Snow Leopard Trust have also provided scoping funding (£5,000) for protected area training and surveying for snow leopards in Xinjiang which enabled us to formulate this application.

Unconfirmed:

The State Forestry Administration (SFA) of China has funding available for equipment to enhance effectiveness of protected areas. This includes provision for long term monitoring of wild felids and other species, and they have confirmed that we may submit applications until 2014 in the first instance. With BFU and forestry departments in Sichuan and Jilin we have made applications for approximately £50,000 in the first instance. We expect a decision by January 2010, with SFA possibly waiting to hear about the outcome of this Darwin application.

We are applying to the Snow Leopard Conservation Grants scheme and Panthera to additionally fund the snow leopard project. This is to conduct surveys in peripheral provinces, such as Sichuan, Ningxia and Inner Mongolia. If this Darwin application is successful, WildCRU can lever a further £20K pa towards PR's employment costs.

British Airways have donated international flights to WildCRU for nine years and we expect will continue to do so. The value of the flights available to this project will equate to £1,500 per year.

DWM recently presented this Darwin proposal to a gathering of philanthropists in California, with indications that several are minded to support the project if the Darwin Initiative approves it. A familiar situation is that each of several sources of funding is waiting to hear whether the core support of the Darwin Initiative is confirmed, and we anticipate that approval at the First Sift will strengthen our capacity to lever their commitments.

23. Please give details of any further funding resources (confirmed or unconfirmed) sought from the host country partner (s) or others for this project that are not already detailed in the Budget or Question 22. This will include donations in kind or un-costed support eg accommodation. (max 50 words per box)

Financial resources:

Funding in kind:

Accommodation is often offered by PAs and provincial Forestry Departments.

FCO NOTIFICATIONS

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.

Please indicate whether you have contacted the local UK embassy or High Commission directly to discuss security issues (see Guidance Notes) and attach any advice you have received from them.

Yes (no written advice)

Yes, advice attached

No

CERTIFICATION 2010/11

On behalf of the trustees/company* of The University of Oxford

(*delete as appropriate)

I apply for a grant of £125,260 in respect of expenditure to be incurred in the financial year ending 31 March 2011 on the activities specified in the above application.

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. (This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the lead UK institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)

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)	DANIEL BLAKEY
Position in the organisation	Research Funding Manager Research Services Science Area Office University of Oxford

Signed



Date:

30/11/09

For financial reports please see:

www.ox.ac.uk/about_the_university/facts_and_figures/financial-statements.html

Stage 2 Application - Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you provided actual start and end dates for your project?	x
Have you provided your budget based on UK government financial years ie 1 April – 31 March?	x
Have you checked that your budget is complete, correctly adds up and that you have included the correct final total on the top page of the application?	x
Is the concept note within 1,000 words?	x
Is the logframe no longer than 2 pages and have you highlighted any changes since Stage 1?	x
Has your application been signed by a suitably authorised individual? (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable in the email, but a wet signature should be provided in the hard copy version)	pending
Have you included a 1 page CV for the Project Leader, any other UK staff working 50%+ on this project, and for a main individual in each overseas partner organisation?	x
Have you included a letter of support from the main overseas partner organisations?	pending
Have you checked with the FCO in the project country/ies and have you included any evidence of this?	Written advice pending
Have you included a copy of your most recent annual report and accounts? An electronic link to a website is acceptable.	pending
Have you read the Guidance Notes ?	x

Once you have answered Yes to the questions above, please submit the application, not later than midnight GMT on **Monday 30 November 2009** to Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk using the application number (from your Stage 1 feedback letter) and the first few words of the project title **as the subject of your email**. However, if you are e-mailing supporting documentation separately please include in the subject line an indication of the number of e-mails you are sending (eg whether the e-mail is 1 of 2, 2 of 3 etc). **In addition**, a signed hard copy of the application and any supporting documents not available electronically should be submitted to the Darwin Applications, c/o LTS International, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik EH26 0PL **postmarked** not later than **Tuesday 1 December 2009**.

DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998: Applicants for grant funding must agree to any disclosure or exchange of information supplied on the application form (including the content of a declaration or undertaking) which the Department considers necessary for the administration, evaluation, monitoring and publicising of the Darwin Initiative. Application form data will also be held by contractors dealing with Darwin Initiative monitoring and evaluation. It is the responsibility of applicants to ensure that personal data can be supplied to the Department for the uses described in this paragraph. A completed application form will be taken as an agreement by the applicant and the grant/award recipient also to the following:- putting certain details (ie name, contact details and location of project work) on the Darwin Initiative and Defra websites (details relating to financial awards will not be put on the websites if requested in writing by the grant/award recipient); using personal data for the Darwin Initiative postal circulation list; and sending data to Foreign and Commonwealth Office posts outside the United Kingdom, including posts outside the European Economic Area. Confidential information relating to the project or its results and any personal data may be released on request, including under the Environmental Information Regulations, the code of Practice on Access to Government Information and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.