



Submit by Monday 24 October 2011

DARWIN INITIATIVE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FOR ROUND 18: 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 to the Project Leader)

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)

Saving the critically endangered spoon-billed sandpiper from global extinction
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3. Project dates, duration and total Darwin Initiative Grant requested, matched funding

Proposed start date: 1 April 2012		Duration of project: 3 years		End date: 31 March 2015		
Darwin funding requested	2011/12 £0	2012/13 £175,404	2013/2014 £58,833	2014/15 £61,200	2015/16 £0	Total £295,437
Proposed (confirmed and unconfirmed) matched funding as percentage of total Project cost: 41%						

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

To implement the highest-priority actions required to ensure the continued existence of spoon-billed sandpipers in the wild over the next 10 years and secure the longer-term future of this species' migratory flyway
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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 UK personnel or more than one project partner.

Details	Project Leader	Other UK personnel (working more than 50% of their time on project) [Please see note 1 below]	Other UK personnel [Please see note 2 below]
Surname	Sheldon	Jarrett	Zöckler
Forename (s)	Robert	Nigel	Christoph
Post held	Head, International Species Recovery	Head of Conservation Breeding	Coordinator
Institution (if different to above)	As above	The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT)	Spoon-Billed Sandpiper Task Force
Department	International Division	Conservation Programmes	N/A
Telephone			
Email			

Details	Other UK personnel [Please see note 2 below]	Main project partner and co-ordinator in host country/ies	Main project partner and co-ordinator in host country/ies
Surname	Crosby	Syroechovskiy	Hla
Forename (s)	Mike	Evgeny	Htin
Post held	Senior Conservation Officer	Director	Chairman
Institution (if different to above)	BirdLife International	Birds Russia	Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (Burma)
Department	Asia Division	N/A	N/A
Telephone			
Email			

Note 1: Nigel Jarrett will not spend more than 50% of his time on the project, but is named here because he will lead the input of WWT, the main UK partner.

Note 2: Christoph Zöckler and Mike Crosby are based in the UK, and are therefore listed as 'UK personnel'. However, both of them work for non-UK organisations – namely the Spoon-Billed Sandpiper Task Force, which is made up mainly of individuals from the species' home range, and the Asia Division of BirdLife International, which is currently based in Tokyo.

6. Has your organisation received funding under the Darwin Initiative before? If so, please provide details of the most recent (up to 6 examples).

The RSPB has received Darwin funding for a total of 28 Main Projects, 'Post-Projects' and Fellowships. The list below shows the six most recent Main Projects.

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
15-012	Dr Chris Magin	Protecting key South African biodiversity sites through community-based conservation
15-032	Dr Robert Sheldon	Conserving a flagship steppe species: the critically endangered sociable lapwing
16-005	Dr Jeremy Lindsay	Biodiversity inventory and monitoring for conservation of threatened Sumatran forest
18-004	Michael Brombacher	Altyn Dala: supporting ecosystem-scale conservation in Kazakhstan
18-008	Dr Juliet Vickery	Trans-boundary solutions to the Asian vulture crisis
18-017	Dr Richard Cuthbert	Developing knowledge to eradicate house mice from UK OT islands

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 partners involved (including the Lead Institution) , 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 partners to be involved in the project. Please provide written evidence of partnerships. Please copy/delete boxes for more or fewer partnerships.

<p>Applicant institution and website where available:</p> <p>The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)</p> <p>www.rspb.org.uk</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</p> <p>The RSPB will coordinate the project and provide technical support to all host country partners, drawing on its great experience of species conservation work both in the UK and internationally. It has led the development of this proposal, and will be the contact organisation for Darwin should it be successful.</p> <p>The RSPB is the largest wildlife conservation NGO in Europe, has an active and growing international programme, and has run a total of 28 previous Darwin projects. It is the UK member of BirdLife International, a unique partnership of independent national conservation NGOs that has a presence in well over 100 countries worldwide. It has made a major financial and technical contribution to the work that has already been done on the spoon-billed sandpiper.</p> <p>Please note that although several RSPB staff are likely to be involved in the project – specialising for example in management planning and policy advocacy – we have taken the conservative approach of including only the Project Leader in the budget.</p>
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<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT)</p> <p>www.wwt.org.uk</p> <p>[Please note: We have not identified a 'lead partner', as this project involves several partners of more or less equal importance]</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</p> <p>WWT will lead the conservation breeding component of the project, which as explained elsewhere in this proposal will build on successful initial work it has led in 2011. In addition, it will support project activities in the Gulf of Martaban in Burma, where it is already collaborating successfully with BANCA (see below).</p> <p>WWT is a world leader (and arguably <u>the</u> world leader) in the aviculture of wetland birds. In addition, it is involved in the <i>in situ</i> conservation of wetland habitats and species in developing countries all over the globe. It has played a major role in the preparation of this proposal, contributing in particular to the development of the concept note, log frame and budget.</p> <p>Letters of support from WWT, the other partners described below, and other relevant organisations are provided separately.</p>
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<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>Spoon-Billed Sandpiper Task Force</p> <p>(No website)</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</p> <p>The Spoon-Billed Sandpiper Task Force was created in December 2010 at the Fifth Meeting of the Parties of the East Asian–Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP). It is made up of representatives of relevant EAAFP governmental partners, a representative of the EAAFP Shorebird Working Group and experts from the main range states and selected external organisations. Its main aim is to coordinate the implementation of the conservation activities identified in the CMS Action Plan for the spoon-billed sandpiper.</p> <p>The EAAFP, under which the Task Force operates, is a voluntary initiative with close links to the CMS. Its aim is to protect migratory waterbirds, their habitats and the livelihoods of people dependent upon them along the East Asian–Australasian flyway. Current partners include 14 governments, three inter-governmental entities (including the CMS) and nine NGOs. It is recognised under the World Summit on Sustainable Development, but its decisions are not legally binding.</p> <p>The input of the Spoon-Billed Sandpiper Task Force into the proposed project will be led by Dr Christoph Zöckler, who coordinates the work of this group on behalf of Birds Russia. Dr Zöckler is one of the world’s leading experts on the spoon-billed sandpiper, and has worked extensively on this species in both Russia and Burma.</p> <p>Dr Zöckler will provide support and advice on all aspects of the project as needed, using his technical expertise and detailed knowledge of the various players involved in spoon-billed sandpiper work. He is based in Cambridge, close to the RSPB’s headquarters, and has been involved in all stages of the development of this proposal.</p>
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<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>Birds Russia</p> <p>(No website)</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</p> <p>Birds Russia is an NGO dedicated to conserving the avifauna of the Russian Federation. It has been heavily involved in previous spoon-billed sandpiper work in Russia, and will play a key role in the conservation breeding element of the proposed project. This role will involve taking charge of logistics within Russia to ensure that egg collection on the breeding grounds, other fieldwork there, avicultural work in Russia and travel within Russia all proceed smoothly, and also making an important operational contribution to this aspect of the project.</p> <p>Birds Russia leads the Spoon-Billed Sandpiper Task Force on behalf of the BirdLife International partnership, which is recognised by the East Asian–Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) as the official Lead Organisation for this group. The Director of Birds Russia, Dr Evgeny Syroechovskiy, chairs the Task Force in his capacity as a member of the Academy of Sciences, the Russian governmental partner in the EAAFP. Birds Russia has a strong existing relationship with both the RSPB and WWT, and has been consulted throughout the development of this proposal.</p>
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<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA)</p> <p>www.banca-env.org/index.htm</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</p> <p>BANCA is one of Burma's leading environmental NGOs, working in a variety of areas including biodiversity conservation, environmental education and sustainable livelihood development. It is the BirdLife Affiliate in Burma, and, like Birds Russia, has close links with both the RSPB and WWT.</p> <p>BANCA will lead work in Burma, building on important progress it has already made around the Gulf of Martaban. Again like Birds Russia, it has been consulted throughout the development of this proposal.</p>
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<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>BirdLife International Asia Division</p> <p>http://www.birdlife.org/regional/asia/index.html</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</p> <p>BirdLife International's Regional Office for Asia is currently located in Tokyo but is expected to move to Singapore shortly. The role of the staff in this office is to coordinate the work of the BirdLife partnership in Asia and to lead on multinational and pan-regional initiatives. As mentioned above, BirdLife is the official Lead Organisation for the Spoon-Billed Sandpiper Task Force.</p> <p>A dedicated, full-time Flyway Advocacy Officer based at 'BirdLife Asia' will carry out desk-based research to identify the drivers of habitat loss and threats to key sites along the East Asian–Australasian flyway, and will monitor these drivers and threats throughout the project period. In addition, they will coordinate and support awareness-raising, advocacy and site protection work along the flyway, making use of their research and monitoring findings, and will help to organise surveys to improve knowledge of which sites are used by migrating spoon-billed sandpipers. All of these activities will be done in close collaboration with the relevant BirdLife partner organisations, who will lead work at the national and sub-national levels.</p> <p>The Flyway Advocacy Officer will work alongside and in support of a more senior Conservation Manager, who will focus on strategy development and high-level negotiations. This latter individual is not included in the Darwin budget.</p> <p>As with BANCA and Birds Russia, we have consulted BirdLife Asia throughout the development of the proposal.</p>
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<p>9a. Have you consulted stakeholders not already mentioned above?</p> <p>If yes, please give details:</p> <p>Members of the project partnership are in regular contact with other organisations involved in the fight to save the spoon-billed sandpiper, and these other organisations are fully aware and supportive of the plans described in this proposal. They include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the All-Russia Research Institute for Nature Conservation (ARRINC), which has approved our plans for Russia • Moscow Zoo, which will play an important role in the conservation breeding part of the project, housing young spoon-billed sandpipers in transit from the breeding grounds in Chukotka, northeast Russia to WWT's headquarters at Slimbridge • the Chukotka Regional Authority for Game Management and Wildlife Conservation, the key government body in Chukotka 	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
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- the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Forestry in Burma, the key government body in this host country
- the World Conservation Union (IUCN), with which the RSPB and WWT have exchanged letters regarding work in the Yellow Sea
- Wetlands International
- the secretariats of the Convention on Migratory Species, the Ramsar Convention and the East Asian–Australasian Flyway Partnership
- the Oriental Bird Club.

9b. Do you intend to consult other stakeholders?

Yes No

If yes, please give details:

As mentioned above, the awareness-raising and advocacy work we plan to carry out along the East Asian–Australasian flyway will be undertaken in close collaboration with national BirdLife partners and, potentially, other relevant organisations. BirdLife Asia is in constant contact with all BirdLife partners in the region, and has good links with many other local conservation bodies. Liaison with these organisations will be a key duty of the Flyway Advocacy Officer whom we propose to employ for the duration of the project.

Similarly, survey work along the flyway will involve a number of ‘grassroots’ organisations, such as local and regional birdwatching societies. BirdLife Asia already has good links with many of these organisations – including those in mainland China, where it runs a ‘country programme’ in collaboration with the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (HKBWS). This programme was developed in part through an earlier Darwin project (project 14-044, *Building a bird conservation and environmental network in China*), and has been highly effective in strengthening conservation capacity and collaboration in this hugely important country.

9c. Have you had any (other) contact with the government not already stated?

Yes No

If yes, please give details:

All key governmental contacts are mentioned above. We have already initiated work throughout the area covered by the proposed, with the consent of the relevant government agencies where needed, and are confident that all of the work described in the proposal will be able to go ahead as planned.

An additional important point in this context is that the East Asian–Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP), the key body in coordinating conservation work along this flyway, includes governmental as well as non-governmental organisations. Therefore, the relevant governments are not only aware of this work but are also actively involved in it. The International Action Plan for the spoon-billed sandpiper, which was developed by Birdlife International with support and funding from CMS, was endorsed by the EAAFP at its Fifth Meeting of the Parties in December 2010.

9d. 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)

[Please note: Our answer to the Committee’s question at Stage 1 is provided in our cover note, as is an explanation of the minor change highlighted below in yellow.]

Problem

With a population that is thought to number approximately 100 pairs and has declined at approximately 25% per year in recent years, the critically endangered spoon-billed sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus* appears to be heading towards extinction faster than any other bird

species. Without emergency action, it will probably be gone within 10 to 20 years, and is likely to be beyond saving well before then. The loss of the spoon-billed sandpiper (SBS) would be particularly disastrous because it is evolutionarily distinct, and because it is a flagship species for the East Asian–Australasian flyway (EAAF).

The SBS nests on tundra shorelines in far eastern Russia, and migrates south along the Pacific seaboard to winter in intertidal areas in South Asia. The most acute current cause of decline is believed to be trapping and hunting, primarily on the wintering grounds, and above all in the Gulf of Martaban, Burma, where more than half of the world population appears to winter. In Martaban, poorer members of fishing communities capture waders as a source of protein and income.

In addition, the species' long-term future may be jeopardised by rapid infrastructure development along the EAAF. This problem affects not just SBS, but also many other birds and millions of people who depend on the region's natural resources. The precipitous decline of waterbirds along the EAAF is one of the gravest bird extinction crises on Earth. As well as SBS, at least 16 other globally threatened or near-threatened birds depend on intertidal areas in the region, together with a further nine that could soon also be red-listed.

Host country priority / MEAs

The project is a high priority for the host countries because it aims to avert the extinction of one of their rarest, most charismatic and most distinctive species. In addition, it will contribute to the protection of many other species, and will significantly increase capacity in both site and species conservation.

SBS is listed on Appendices I and II of the CMS, and the project will therefore make an important contribution under this convention (although we should note that, of the main range states, only Bangladesh is currently a CMS signatory). The CMS regards SBS as a high priority, and has spent €20,000 on this species, from its very modest budget, over the last two years.

The project will also help the host countries to meet their obligations under the CBD. In particular, work to promote the creation of a protected area in Martaban and the conservation of intertidal habitat along the flyway will support Article 8 (a) and (d); sustainable development work in Martaban will support Articles 8 (e) and 11; and establishment of a conservation breeding programme will support Article 9 (a) and (c). Moreover, the project will further progress towards Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11 and 12.

Community benefits

The project will deliver significant benefits to communities in the Gulf of Martaban. We will help bird trappers, who are usually very poor, to switch to alternative livelihoods. In addition, we will facilitate the creation of a **sustainable development strategy** for the gulf, designed to ensure that future work is maximally effective in improving the lives of community members as well as securing a long-term reduction in SBS mortality.

The project also has the potential to benefit coastal communities right along the EAAF, as it will include advocacy work targeting the habitat destruction that is jeopardising the livelihoods of many of these communities.

Strategy

The project will aim to mitigate the most acute current threat to SBS, address the broader issue of habitat destruction along the EAAF, and establish a captive population as an essential complement to *in situ* work. **It has developed from discussions held at the inaugural meeting of the SBS Task Force in December 2010.**

Building on successful pilot work in 2010–11, we will **encourage the development of alternative livelihood activities in Martaban** that reduce both trapping pressure and poverty. We will also

facilitate the development of a strategy to bring about sustainable, long-term socio-economic improvement and hunting mitigation; trial key actions identified in this strategy; establish Local Conservation Groups; advocate the establishment of a protected area; and develop a Zonation Plan for **critical parts** of the Burmese coastline.

At the flyway level, we will employ a dedicated Flyway Advocacy Officer, who will **identify and monitor drivers of habitat destruction and threats to key sites; coordinate awareness-raising, advocacy and site protection work, informed by this research and emphasising the importance of intertidal areas both for biodiversity and with respect to ecosystem services; and help to organise survey work to fill knowledge gaps about SBS distribution.** This person will work closely with relevant national BirdLife partners.

Finally, we will continue work instigated in 2011 to establish a conservation breeding programme to provide birds for augmentation of the wild population, in order to keep this population viable while *in situ* actions take effect. This programme will initially be based at WWT's headquarters in the UK, because neither capacity nor facilities currently exist in Russia. However, it will incorporate training to boost Russian capabilities, so that captive breeding work can be transferred to the species' home range as soon as possible.

Partners

- The RSPB will oversee the project and contribute expertise in project management, spatial planning, advocacy and awareness-raising.
- WWT has unrivalled expertise in wetland bird aviculture, and will lead the conservation breeding programme. It will also contribute to the livelihoods work at Martaban.
- The SBS Task Force, represented by Christoph Zöckler, will provide advice and support as needed, and will ensure coordination between the project team and other groups working on this species.
- BANCA is the leading conservation NGO in Burma and is already heavily involved in SBS work there. It will lead the Burmese component of the project.
- Birds Russia will oversee work in Russia, which will form a crucial part of the conservation breeding element of the project
- BirdLife Asia will host the Flyway Advocacy Officer whose role is described above.

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

Please give details:

The proposed project builds on previous work, as summarised below. However, we should emphasise that it will make a vital contribution in its own right to the effort to save the spoon-billed sandpiper: it will not simply be 'more of the same'.

- Project actions in Martaban will build on work that is already underway, and which has been funded by the Spoon-Billed Sandpiper Task Force, the CMS Secretariat and BirdLife International and through a grant from the BBC Wildlife Fund. This work has centred around the provision of microgrants to poor communities living around the gulf, to enable them to develop alternative livelihood activities such as fishing and thus reduce trapping pressure on spoon-billed sandpipers. Most of the relevant communities have now received grants and signed agreements to stop trapping birds, but it will be vital for us to carry out follow-up visits to provide technical support and ensure that the money is being used as effectively as possible. In addition, we need to move into 'phase 2' of our work in Martaban, which will involve developing a strategy to guide sustainable development work in the longer term; trialling selected approaches identified in this strategy; establishing Local Conservation Groups; fostering additional community links; and advocating the establishment of a Protected Area.
- Similarly, work along the flyway will build on previous work in the region, much of which has been funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. This work has been of great value,

but the appointment of a full-time Flyway Advocacy Officer using funding from Darwin will lead to a 'step change' in the intensity of activities along the flyway and will markedly increase the impact of these activities.

- More specifically, survey work along the parts of the flyway lying in mainland China will be integrated with the existing China Coastal Waterbird Census, which has been running since 2005, rather than being carried out as an entirely new, stand-alone initiative.
- Work in Russia will centre on an expedition in summer 2012 to collect eggs for a conservation breeding programme based (at least initially) at a purpose-built facility at the WWT's headquarters at Slimbridge. This programme is agreed by all key stakeholders to be an essential part of the overall conservation effort for the spoon-billed sandpiper, and the rationale for it is strengthened by the fact that (for reasons explained at the bottom of the log frame below) egg collection has a negligible effect on the wild population. The 2012 expedition will follow on from a first expedition in 2011, which was highly successful but which (as expected) yielded insufficient young birds to form a fully sustainable captive population. We had always anticipated that a second expedition would be necessary, and are very hopeful that this expedition will allow us to complete the establishment of a viable population *ex situ*.

11b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/ projects carrying out or applying for funding for 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:

11c. Are you applying for funding relating to the proposed project from other sources? Yes No

If yes, please give brief details including when you expect to hear the result. Please ensure you include the figures requested in the spreadsheet as Unconfirmed funding.

The spoon-billed sandpiper is a priority species for both the RSPB and WWT, and we are seeking funds for it from several external sources. However, it is also a very expensive species to work on, due to its huge range and the severity of the problems facing it, and even if all of our fundraising efforts are successful there is no risk of 'double funding'.

We have requested a grant of US\$200,319 from the Save Our Species (SOS) fund that has recently been established by the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the World Bank; we expect to hear whether this request has been successful by the end of November. The grant would cover work at a key wintering site in Bangladesh and 'head-starting' work in Russia (which will involve incubating eggs in a safe environment and releasing the resulting chicks when they fledge, and will significantly reduce mortality at the egg and nestling stages). In addition, it would help to co-fund some of the costs described in this proposal – namely the salary of the Flyway Advocacy Officer and WWT expenditure on the 2012 expedition to Chukotka.

We have also submitted a pre-proposal worth US\$100,000 to the ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation Migratory Bird Program, which is managed by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. We have not yet specified exactly what this money would be spent on, as this will depend on the outcome of our applications to Darwin and SOS. We expect to find out whether we have made it through to the full proposal stage some time in November, and (if we have) to hear whether we have been awarded a grant in early 2012.

Please see section 22 below for an explanation of how these proposals relate to the 'confirmed' and 'unconfirmed' match funding shown in our budget.

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

*If CMS please indicate whether it is the main Convention or one or more of the daughter agreements/MoUs (ACAP, AEWA etc)

The project will contribute to the main CMS, as the spoon-billed sandpiper is listed on both Appendix 1 and Appendix 2. In addition, it will be carried out under the auspices of the East Asian–Australasian Flyway Partnership, which is very closely linked to the CMS – as shown, for example, by the fact that the CMS is represented on its Management Board.

Is any liaison proposed with the CBD/CMS/CITES focal point in the host country? Yes No
If yes, please give details:

Evgeny Syroechovskiy at Birds Russia has good links to the CBD focal point in the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment via Natalya Vavilova, the Head of the International Conventions Group at the Department of International Relations – with whom he is in regular contact.

In addition, Nicola Crockford, the RSPB lead on the CMS, is planning to meet the Bangladeshi focal point for this convention at the 10th Conference of the Parties to CMS in Bergen in November 2011.

More generally, BirdLife International has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Secretariat of the CBD, expressing the desire of these two bodies to enhance their cooperation, especially with respect to the Strategic Plan for the CBD for 2011–2020 and the ‘Aichi targets’.

What specific issues covered by the Convention(s) will this project address and how were they identified? (150 words)

The project will contribute to the CMS by helping a species that is listed on Appendices 1 and 2 of this convention and is demonstrably a high priority for its secretariat. Moreover, it will further the elements of the CBD relating to protected areas (Article 8a and Aichi Target 11), species protection (Article 8d), sustainable development (8e), *ex situ* conservation (9a), reintroduction (9c), economic incentives (11) and extinction (Target 12).

The need for urgent conservation action for the spoon-billed sandpiper was described in the Species Action Plan produced by BirdLife for CMS in 2008, and underlined when this species was uplisted to Critically Endangered that same year. Subsequent research has shown that it is declining rapidly, that the cause is probably poor recruitment, that Martaban is vitally important, and that captive breeding is necessary and feasible. Task Force members have met frequently to assess these findings and identify priority actions.

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

The most important change that will come about as a result of the project will be that all of the main foundations will be put in place for the recovery of the spoon-billed sandpiper. At present, this species is declining rapidly towards extinction, and if current trends continue it is likely to be gone within one or at most two decades. By the end of the project, in contrast, we expect to have brought about a major, long-term reduction in mortality at the species' most important wintering site, significantly increased awareness among key decision-makers of the need to protect coastal wetlands along the East Asian–Australasian flyway, enhanced knowledge of the way the species uses this flyway and established a viable captive population to permit supplementation of the wild population. These achievements will prevent extinction in the short term and underpin subsequent work to arrest and reverse the species' decline.

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

The project is important for conservation for two main reasons.

Firstly, it will make a vital contribution to saving the spoon-billed sandpiper, a species that is not merely Critically Endangered but is almost uniquely close to extinction.

Secondly, it will have major benefits for many other species that use the East Asian–Australasian flyway, both directly through the advocacy and site protection work we will carry out along this flyway and indirectly via the 'flagship effect'. As mentioned in the concept note, the threat to these species is considered by many experts to be the gravest bird conservation crisis on Earth. Moreover, the habitats they use are among the most threatened on the planet. For example, 50% of the Yellow Sea's intertidal and coastal habitats were destroyed in the 40 years prior to 2002, and this loss has continued at a similar rate ever since.

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)

Information about the project will be disseminated using a wide variety of printed, digital and face-to-face channels. Examples will include the RSPB and WWT's membership magazines, which have a combined readership of approximately 1.5 million; the websites of these organisations, the host-country partners and the Flyway Partnership; papers in scientific journals; presentations at scientific meetings and other gatherings; technical reports prepared during the project; and print, broadcast and online media both in the UK and overseas. The Darwin name will be cited in all communications about the project, and the Darwin logo will be used whenever possible.

Information dissemination will be greatly facilitated by the fact that the RSPB and WWT are two of the largest conservation NGOs in Europe, with more than a million and more than 200,000 members respectively and excellent links within the conservation, scientific and media communities. In addition, the RSPB is the UK member of BirdLife International, which has a presence in more than 100 countries and a total membership of more than 2.5 million. Finally, both the RSPB (through BirdLife) and WWT are represented on the Spoon-Billed Sandpiper Task Force, and will therefore be able to disseminate information via this key group.

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

The project will have major long-term benefits for biodiversity because, as explained previously, it will lay essential foundations for the recovery of the spoon-billed sandpiper – and, by extension, the recovery of many other species using the East Asian flyway. Specific examples of project outputs that will leave a long-term legacy include the establishment of a viable captive population, the raising of conservation awareness down the flyway, and the development of sustainable alternative livelihood activities and a detailed proposal for a protected area at Martaban.

Several aspects of the project will bring long-term benefits to local communities as well as birds. Most notable among these are our sustainable development work in Burma and our advocacy and awareness-raising work along the flyway.

The main challenge relating to spoon-billed sandpiper conservation in the long term will be to ensure that enough intertidal habitat survives along the flyway. Destruction of this habitat is driven largely by national political and economic imperatives and is therefore far from easy to tackle. The project proposed here will make an initial but important contribution in this area, but much additional work will be needed both during and after the project period.

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)

The project is not a 'stand-alone' initiative, but is part of a longer-term programme with the ultimate aim of reversing the decline in spoon-billed sandpiper numbers and downlisting this species from Critically Endangered. However, many of the specific actions included in the project will be completed during its implementation and will not need to be continued afterwards. For example, we expect that the 2012 expedition to Chukotka will allow us to complete the establishment of a viable captive population, and that no further expeditions will be necessary. Similarly, we believe that three more years of livelihoods work at Martaban will be sufficient to make the situation there largely self-sustaining.

Work that does need to be carried out after the project will be overseen by the Task Force, which will continue to coordinate conservation activities and drive fundraising efforts. Crucially, the RSPB and WWT will continue to contribute expertise and resources in the long term, as spoon-billed sandpiper is a top priority for both. Key post-project tasks will include research on the best ways of releasing captive-bred birds into the wild, replication of the 'Martaban approach' at other important sites, and continued advocacy and site protection work along the flyway.

16. If your project includes capacity building in local communities in the host country, 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 you expect the beneficiaries to obtain and how these may be used beyond the life of the project and any wider application How will you measure training effectiveness. (max 300 words)

You should address each of these points.

A variety of training and capacity-building will take place within the framework of the project, or in parallel to it. The need for this training has been identified in discussions between the UK and host-country partners and the larger group of organisations involved in the Spoon-Billed Sandpiper Task Force.

Training activities during the project period will include the following.

- *Workshops to disseminate lessons from Martaban to other range states.* These will target governmental and non-governmental members of the Task Force; will be delivered by BANCA; and will enhance skills in livelihoods work and the integration of conservation and development, which will be applicable at other key sandpiper sites and potentially more widely. Effectiveness will be measured by monitoring subsequent livelihoods work.
- *Transfer of avicultural expertise from WWT.* This will target Moscow Zoo staff and conservationists in Siberia; will be delivered largely by active demonstration; and will enhance avicultural skills, particularly for small waders, which will be applicable to a range of threatened species. Effectiveness will be measured through expert assessment by the trainer.
- *Short courses in wader survey/monitoring and data management/analysis.* These will target Local Conservation Groups at Martaban and bird clubs etc down the flyway; will be delivered by local experts with support from UK partners as needed, and facilitated by the Task Force; and will enhance skills in the location, identification and counting of spoon-billed sandpipers and other waders, which will be applicable at any suitable site in the region. Effectiveness will again be measured through expert assessment by the trainers.

In addition, the Advocacy Officer based at BirdLife Asia will probably wish to deliver some training in advocacy and site protection to volunteer supporters in the region. Decisions about the exact nature of this training will be made once the officer is in post.

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK [Please note: The minor changes highlighted in yellow are explained in our cover letter]

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Goal: Effective contribution in support of the implementation of the objectives of the CBD, CITES, and the CMS, as well as related targets set by countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources.			
Sub-Goal: To improve the conservation status of the Critically Endangered spoon-billed sandpiper <i>Eurynorhynchus pygmeus</i> (SBS) so that it is no longer threatened with imminent extinction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBS increasing in the wild by 2025 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Species monitoring data for 2020 to 2025 	
Purpose To implement the highest-priority actions needed to ensure the continued existence of SBS in the wild over the next 10 years and secure the longer-term future of this species' migratory flyway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBS still extant in the wild at end of project (EOP) • Key breeding, passage and wintering sites still in useable condition by EOP • Wild population stable in 2020 and believed to be in excess of 100 adult birds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Species monitoring data for 2015 • Site monitoring data for 2015 • Species monitoring data for 2015 to 2020 	The diagnosis that mortality due to trapping in Martaban, which is a key focus for the project, is the most acute current threat to SBS is correct (as strongly indicated by recent scientific papers and fieldwork in Martaban)
Outputs 1. Mortality due to trapping in the Gulf of Martaban, Burma is further reduced (building on good progress made over the last year), and the reduction is made sustainable in the long term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up visits made to local communities that have received microgrants to provide support and monitor progress as they switch to alternative livelihood activities • Strategy developed in collaboration with communities to ensure sustainable use of the gulf's natural resources in the long term • Key actions identified in this strategy piloted 'on the ground' • Four Local Conservation Groups established and supported to carry out regular patrols and other conservation activities • Number of waders sold in local markets further reduced, so at least 75% below 2010 levels by EOP • Number of community members involved in trapping further reduced, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project reports and accounts • Strategy document • Project reports • Project reports • Market monitoring data • Reports from follow-up visits 	Local communities continue to be open to efforts to help them develop alternative livelihood activities, as has been the case to date

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	so close to zero by EOP		
2. Proposal developed for a protected area within the Gulf of Martaban, together with a Zonation Plan for critical parts of the Burmese coastline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed proposal and justification for a protected area in Martaban submitted to authorities by EOP Zonation Plan, specifying which areas can be developed and which should be protected, presented to authorities by EOP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal and justification documents, plus record of submission Plan document, plus record of submission 	No major assumptions: there are no external factors that are likely to stop us achieving this objective (although we cannot guarantee at this stage that the Burmese authorities will accept all of our arguments)
3. Knowledge of the distribution of SBS outside the breeding season enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [First indicator deleted] At least five potential stop-over and wintering sites surveyed for SBS by teams from local birding/conservation groups, based on information obtained through analysis of remotely sensed data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [First MoV deleted] Reports from survey visits 	No major assumptions: there are no external factors that are likely to stop us achieving this objective
4. Awareness raised among decision-makers and the public in relevant countries of the importance of intertidal habitats along the East Asian–Australasian flyway for SBS, other biodiversity and ecosystem services, and of the urgent need for key threats to these habitats to be tackled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desk-based studies carried out to identify and monitor the drivers of habitat destruction along the flyway and the threats to key sites Awareness-raising and advocacy work carried out in Russia, Korea, China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, Burma and Bangladesh, informed by this research and using all relevant legal, ecological and socio-economic arguments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research reports Awareness-raising and advocacy materials and reports 	Target audiences are receptive to our awareness-raising efforts
5. Robust captive population established to act as a source of birds for augmentation of the wild population, to prevent it falling below a critical level from which recovery is impossible (or for rapid reintroduction, if the worst happens and the wild population goes extinct) – and Russian capacity in this field significantly enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expedition to the breeding grounds in summer 2012 successfully collects at least five clutches of eggs, supplementing an initial expedition in 2011* At least 10 sub-adult or adult SBS healthy in captivity by end 2012 At least one pair of SBS attempts to breed in captivity in 2013 Russian colleagues involved in all avicultural tasks (e.g. incubation, chick rearing, transport) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expedition report, project reports Reports from breeding facility at Slimbridge Reports from breeding facility at Slimbridge Project reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBS proves to be amenable to captive breeding (as expected on the basis of extensive research and consultation and trials on other small waders at Slimbridge) Sufficient wild birds left in 2012 to allow collection of enough eggs (as expected from analysis of recent population trend) Russian authorities give permission for 2012 expedition (as they have for the 2011 expedition, due partly to Birds Russia's excellent links)
* Important note: Detailed modelling work has shown that egg collection will have a negligible impact on the wild population. This is partly because clutches are taken early to permit re-laying, and partly because year 1 survival rate in the wild is currently close to zero – meaning that eggs counter-intuitively have minimal demographic value.			

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Activities (details in workplan)			
<p>1.1. Carry out follow-up visits to communities around the Gulf of Martaban that have previously received microgrants, in order to provide technical support, ensure that the grants are being used effectively, and monitor the number of individuals involved in trapping (activity led by BANCA)</p> <p>1.2. In collaboration with local communities, develop a sustainable development strategy for the gulf</p> <p>1.3. Pilot the implementation 'on the ground' of key activities identified in this strategy</p> <p>1.4. Create four Local Conservation Groups around Martaban and provide them with the financial and technical support they need to become fully established</p> <p>1.5. Visit local markets on a regular basis to monitor the numbers of waders for sale</p> <p>2.1. Based on existing data and, if needed, additional fieldwork, determine where the boundaries of the protected area should be</p> <p>2.2. In consultation with UK and local experts, identify the best management regime for the area</p> <p>2.3. Prepare a detailed proposal explaining why a protected area is needed, where it should be and how it should be managed</p> <p>2.4. Submit this proposal to the Burmese authorities</p> <p>2.5. Prepare a Zonation Plan for critical parts of the Burmese coastline, based on a pre-existing analysis of which areas can be developed without causing undue damage to biodiversity and ecosystem services, and which should be protected</p> <p>2.6. Submit this plan to the Burmese authorities</p> <p>3.1. Identify the bird clubs or other groups that are best placed to survey potential unrecorded stop-over and wintering sites, taking full account of existing relationships and initiatives (e.g. the China Coastal Waterbird Census, which has been underway since 2005 and with which additional SBS survey work will be fully integrated)</p> <p>3.2. Provide these groups with the training and support they need to survey these sites and manage and analyse the resulting data</p> <p>3.3. Collate the findings and disseminate them throughout the SBS and flyway conservation communities, for example through a paper in a scientific journal</p> <p>4.1. Undertake research into and documentation of drivers of habitat loss and threats to key sites along the flyway, in collaboration with national and local colleagues</p> <p>4.2. Develop compelling messages, informed by this research, about bird migration and about the importance of intertidal habitats along the flyway both for biodiversity and with respect to ecosystem services</p> <p>4.3. Communicate these messages proactively and effectively to all relevant policy- and decision-makers in the region</p> <p>5.1. Travel to the breeding grounds in Chukotka in spring 2012 and establish expedition base, building on a successful first expedition carried out in 2011 (activity led by Bird Russia)</p> <p>5.2. Survey and carefully monitor each breeding territory to identify the optimal timing for egg collection, taking account of the desirability of permitting re-laying, and collect eggs accordingly</p> <p>5.3. Incubate the eggs collected, and (once they are old enough to move) transport the resulting chicks back to a purpose-built facility at Slimbridge via Anadyr (the nearest large town to the breeding grounds) and Moscow Zoo</p> <p>5.4. Care for these birds at Slimbridge, together with those obtained through the 2011 expedition, with the aim of encouraging breeding and thus generating additional birds for supplementation of the wild population.</p>			

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	No of Months	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1.1 Carry out follow-up visits to Martaban communities	18			Y	Y			Y	Y			Y	Y
1.2 Develop sustainable development strategy for Martaban	6			Y	Y								
1.3 Pilot key activities from this strategy	12							Y	Y			Y	Y
1.4 Develop and support Local Conservation Groups	6			Y	Y			Y	Y			Y	Y
1.5 Monitor local markets	18			Y	Y			Y	Y			Y	Y
2.1 Determine boundaries of Protected Area	9		Y	Y	Y								
2.2 Identify management regime	6			Y	Y								
2.3 Prepare detailed proposal for Protected Area	6					Y	Y						
2.4 Submit proposal to the authorities	6							Y	Y				
2.5 Prepare Zonation Plan	6					Y	Y						
2.6 Submit plan to the authorities	6							Y	Y				
3.1 Identify bird clubs etc	6	Y	Y										
3.2 Provide training and technical/financial support	18			Y	Y			Y	Y			Y	Y
3.3 Collate and disseminate findings	3												Y
4.1 Carry out research into drivers and threats	36	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4.2 Develop advocacy messages informed by this research	36	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4.3 Communicate these messages proactively and effectively	36	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5.1 Travel to Chukotka and establish expedition base	3	Y											
5.2 Survey and monitor breeding territories and collect eggs	3	Y	Y										
5.2 Hatch chicks and transport back to Slimbridge	6		Y	Y									
5.3 Maintain captive population at Slimbridge	36	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

19. Please indicate which of the following Standard Measures you expect to report against by providing indicative figures. These will help gauge project achievements if you receive funding. 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	Description	Estimate
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	20
4B	Number of training weeks to be provided	18
4C	Number of postgraduate students to receive training	10
4D	Number of training weeks to be provided	18
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)	10
6B	Number of training weeks to be provided	20
7	Number of (ie different types - not volume - of material produced) training materials to be produced for use by host country	2
8	Number of weeks to be spent by UK project staff on project work in the host country	22
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	3
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	5
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	1
14B	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops attended at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/ disseminated.	4
15A	Number of national press releases in host country(ies)	8
15B	Number of local press releases in host country(ies)	
15C	Number of national press releases in UK	4
15D	Number of local press releases in UK	
16A	Number of newsletters to be produced	6
16B	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the host country(ies)	500
16C	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the UK	500
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)	£10,000
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 work	£201,707

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 of project success will focus on the 'indicators of impact' in the log frame, and monitoring of project progress will focus on the 'indicators of progress'.

The key indicators of impact (or 'success criteria') in the short term are that SBS are still extant in the wild by the end of the project, and that key sites for this species are still in usable condition. In the slightly longer term, we hope that the wild population will be stable and in excess of 100 adults in 2020, and that this population will be clearly on the increase by 2025. Evaluation of our success in meeting the population-related goals will involve continuation of the annual monitoring work that is already underway, and in which the host country partners and other local organisations play a key role. Similarly, evaluation of success with respect to the site-related goal will involve continued observation of key wetlands throughout the range of the spoon-billed sandpiper, both directly by the host partners, other local organisations and visiting ornithologists, and indirectly using remote sensing.

Other important indicators of impact shown in the log frame include the following:

- that the number of waders sold in markets around the Gulf of Martaban, and the number of local people involved in trapping, are further reduced by EOP; and
- that at least 10 sub-adult or adult spoon-billed sandpipers are healthy in captivity by the end of 2012, and that at least one pair attempts to breed in captivity in 2013.

Evaluation relating to these two indicators will be led by BANCA and WWT respectively.

Monitoring of project progress will be carried out with reference to the indicators of impact (as noted above) and also the Gantt chart and output table provided above. Overall responsibility for ensuring that the project remains on track will lie with the Project Leader, Dr Robert Sheldon, who – as reflected in the budget – expects to spend at least a third of his time on the project and to travel to host countries at least twice per year. However, Dr Sheldon will of course be assisted in his monitoring work by colleagues in the partner organisations, which will update him on 'technical' progress at the same time as they submit their quarterly financial reports (and at other times if necessary). For example, BANCA will lead on the 'day to day' monitoring of the progress of the community-based and planning work in Burma; BirdLife Asia will lead on monitoring of advocacy, awareness-raising and survey work along the flyway; and WWT and Birds Russia will lead on monitoring and reporting linked to the Chukotka expedition and subsequent captive breeding work.

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 cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.

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

In 2000/11, the RSPB had a total gross income of £122.5 million. This was made up as follows.

Membership subscriptions:	39.2	32%
Legacies:	27.5	22%
Grants, commercial donations and trusts:	29.7	24%
Commercial trading:	20.9	17%
Land rents, farming and advisory	4.5	4%
Other income	0.7	1%

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 additional work during or beyond the project lifetime. Indicate those funding sources which are confirmed.

Confirmed:

As shown in the budget, the RSPB is committed to providing £89,165 to the project. This will be made up of the time of the Project Leader, overheads associated with this time, and payments to Christoph Zöckler and Evgency Syroechovskiy to cover the time that these individuals will put into the project.

Similarly, WWT is committed to contributing £71,698, in the form of staff time and overheads.

Both organisations will seek to raise funds from other external sources against these costs, but will cover them even if they are unsuccessful. If either of the proposals mentioned in section 11c are successful, a proportion the resulting income will be put towards this match funding commitment.

The match funding associated with work in Burma in 2012/13 (£22,300) will come from the BBC Wildlife Fund. This fund has awarded a grant to WWT and BANCA for a two-year programme of work at Martaban, the second year of which will coincide with the first year of the Darwin project.

Unconfirmed:

The 'unconfirmed' match funding shown in the budget will, we hope, come from the Save Our Species (SOS) fund and/or the Government of Singapore. This match funding is worth £18,545 and will cover 25% of the salary of the Flyway Advocacy Officer.

As mentioned in section 11c, we have asked SOS for just over US\$200,000, to cover a range of expenditure on spoon-billed sandpiper work including this cost. Similarly, BirdLife Asia has approached the Government of Singapore for support, as this government offers financial incentives such as salary contributions to organisations that are considering moving to Singapore. Neither grant is confirmed yet, but we are very hopeful that at least one of them will be.

Please note that even if we do not receive support from SOS or Singapore, and are unable to obtain this match funding anywhere else, we will still be able to employ the Flyway Advocacy Officer but may have to do so at a slightly lower salary or on a slightly less-than-full-time basis.

23. Please give details of any further resources (confirmed or unconfirmed) 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)

Possible additional financial resources (not yet applied for):

The RSPB and WWT will continue to seek funding both against their match funding for this project (as mentioned above) and for other aspects of the overall spoon-billed sandpiper conservation programme. At this stage, however, it is not possible to say exactly which funders we will approach.

Funding in kind:

Several UK staff other than the 'core' individuals included in the budget will contribute time to the project. Examples include Ian Barber, the RSPB's Partner Development Officer for South Asia; Geoff Hilton, WWT's Head of Species Research; Baz Hughes, WWT's Head of Species Conservation; and Mike Crosby at BirdLife.

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.



There are clearly 'political' issues related to the fact that the project will be implemented partly in Burma. However, we have consulted the Darwin secretariat about this, and have been advised that, because no grant money will be provided to the Burmese government, the project is eligible for Darwin funding.

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

Yes (no written advice)

Yes, advice attached

No



We have not contacted UK embassies or High Commissions about this specific project proposal. However, we have been working in the countries involved for some time, and are confident that there are currently no security issues that would prevent us from carrying out the project as planned. We will, of course, monitor FCO travel advice throughout the project, and will consult embassies and/or High Commissions if this becomes necessary.

CERTIFICATION 2011/12**Application Ref 1789:****Saving the critically endangered spoon-billed sandpiper from global extinction**

On behalf of the trustees* of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

(*delete as appropriate)

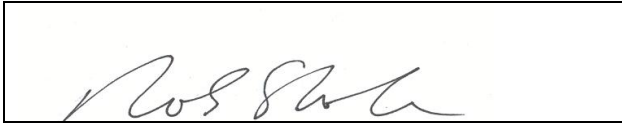
I apply for a grant of £295,437 in respect of all expenditure to be incurred during the lifetime of this project based on the activities and dates specified in the above application.

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 CVs for project principals and letters of support. Our most recent audited accounts and annual report can be found at http://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/annual_review_tcm9-291868.pdf (please see cover letter also).

Name (block capitals)	DR ROBERT SHELDON
Position in the organisation	Head of International Species Recovery

Signed



Date:

21 October 2011

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 3 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)	X
Have you included a 1 page CV for all the Principals identified at Question 5?	X
Have you included a letter of support from the <u>main</u> overseas partner(s) organisations identified at Question 5?	X
Have you checked with the FCO in the project country/ies and have you included any evidence of this?	See text
Have you included a copy of your most recent annual report and accounts? An electronic link to a website is acceptable.	X
Have you read the Guidance Notes ?	X
Have you checked the Darwin website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	X

Once you have answered Yes to the questions above, please submit the application, not later than midnight GMT on Monday **24 October 2011** 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 hard copy of the signature page should be submitted to Darwin Applications, c/o LTS International, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik EH26 0PL **postmarked** not later than Tuesday 25 October 2011.

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.