

DARWIN INITIATIVE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FOR ROUND 19: STAGE 2

Please read the Guidance Notes before completing this form.

ELIGIBILITY**1. Name and address of organisation** (NB: Notification of results will be by post and email to the Project Leader)

Name: Prof Brendan Godley Dr Matthew Witt	Address: Centre for Ecology and Conservation University of Exeter, Cornwall Campus. Cornwall. UK TR10 9EZ
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2. Stage 1 reference and Project title**(max. 10 words)**

Ref 1999: Delivering an MPA network for fisheries and biodiversity of Gabon

Now entitled:***Delivering an MPA network for fisheries and biodiversity of Central Africa (Republic of Congo and Gabon)*****3. Project dates, duration and total Darwin Initiative Grant requested, matched funding****Proposed start date: April 2013 Duration of project: 30 months End date: Oct 2015**

Darwin request	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Total
	£112,458	£124,311	£57,457	£ -	£294,226
Proposed (confirmed and unconfirmed) matched funding as percentage of total Project cost: Significant matched funds are already secured from project partners in Congo, Gabon and the UK leading to 62% of project cost.					

4. Define the outcome of the project. This should be a summary statement derived from the answer given to question 14

Integrated management of marine ecosystems in Central Africa (Congo and Gabon) as a result of a network of interconnected and effectively managed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) that enhance ecological integrity while contributing to food security and poverty reduction in communities in the region.

5. Country(ies)**Which eligible host country(ies) will your project be working in. You may copy and paste this table if you need to provide details of more than four countries.**

Country 1: Republic of Congo (67%)	Country 2: Gabon (33%)
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6. Biodiversity Conventions

Which of the three conventions supported by the Darwin Initiative will your project be supporting? Note: projects supporting more than one convention will not achieve a higher scoring

Convention On Biological Diversity (CBD)	Yes
Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)	Yes
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)	Yes

6b. Biodiversity Conventions

Please detail how your project will contribute to the objectives of the convention(s) your project is targeting. You may wish to refer to Articles or Programmes of Work here. Note: No additional significance will be ascribed for projects that report contributions to more than one convention

(Max 200 words)

MEA Obligations: The project is designed with the **Ecosystem Approach** at its heart, helping **Republic of Congo (RoC) and Gabon** meet obligations under all three major biodiversity conventions:

CBD: (Articles 5-8,12-14).

CITES: A major focus being **Appendix I** species (marine turtles and marine mammals).

CMS: Obligations under **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Marine Turtles of Africa** and the **MoU Concerning the Conservation of Manatees and Small Cetaceans of West Africa ad Macronesia.**

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

In both Congo and Gabon, we have the collaborative support of the focal points though our work with the major governmental organisations dealing with biodiversity and protected areas:

Congo: Ministry of Forest Economy and Sustainable Development (**MEFDD**).

Gabon: Agence National des Parcs Nationaux (**ANPN**).

7. Principals in project. Please identify and 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 personnel or more than one project partner.

Details	Project Leader	Project Partner 1	Project Partner 2
Surname	Godley / Witt	Missilou Boukaka	White
Forename	Prof Brendan Dr Matthew	Mr Roland	Prof. Lee
Post held	Chair of Conservation Science/Lecturer in Natural Environment	Conservator of Conkuati-Douli National Park	Executive Secretary
Department	University of Exeter (UoE)	Ministry of Forest Economy and Sustainable Development(MEFDD)	Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux (ANPN)

Telephone			
Email			

Details	Project Partner 3	Project Partner 4	Project Partner 5
Surname	Vanleeuwe	Formia	Polsenberg
Forename	Dr Hilde	Dr Angela	Dr Johanna
Post held	Project Director	Coordinator	Coordinator
Department	WCS- Congo	Partnership for the Marine Turtles of Gabon (PTMG)	WCS Congo Basins Coast Programme
Telephone			
Email		<hr/>	

Details	Project Partner 6
Surname	Smith
Forename	Dr Robert
Post held	Independent Consultant
Department	GIS and Spatial Management
Telephone	
Email	

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

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
19-026	A.C. Broderick	Implementing a Darwin Initiative Biodiversity Action Plan for Ascension Island
18-001	B.J. Godley	Darwin Sustainable Artisanal Fisheries Initiative (Peru)
17-005	B.J. Godley	Darwin Marine Biodiversity Action Plan for Gabon
14-051	B.J. Godley	In Ivan's Wake: Darwin Initiative BAP for the Cayman Islands
12-023	B.J. Godley	Darwin Initiative Coastal Assessment of the Biodiversity of Anegada, BVI

9a. IF YOU ANSWERED 'NO' TO QUESTION 8 please complete Question 9.

Not applicable

10. 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>Lead institution and website: University of Exeter, UK (UoE)</p> <p>http://biosciences.exeter.ac.uk/cec/</p> <p>http://biosciences.exeter.ac.uk/cec/staff/index.php?web_id=brendan_godley</p> <p>http://www.exeter.ac.uk/esi/about/people/witt/</p> <p>http://www.exeter.ac.uk/esi/about/people/fisher/#d.en.208637</p> <p>http://www.exeter.ac.uk/esi/people/abernethy/</p>	<p>The UoE team working on this project include:</p> <p>Principal investigators: Prof Brendan Godley (Conservation Science), Dr Matthew Witt (Spatial Ecology),</p> <p>Co-Investigators: Dr Kirsten Abernethy (Fisheries), Dr Janet Fisher (Livelihoods). Dr Robert Smith (consultant) will contribute to training in MARXAN (CVs appended). As the lead partner, the team will oversee and manage the project and lead on fieldwork and training. Godley and Witt have been working on biodiversity in Central Africa since 2003. UoE successfully completed 17-005 Darwin Marine Biodiversity Action Plan for Gabon upon which the proposed project builds. We have an established track record of leading interdisciplinary projects elsewhere funded by Darwin, Defra, FCO, conservation and development charities. All investigators will be involved extensively throughout the project in the field and in the UK.</p> <p>Accounts available:</p> <p>http://www.exeter.ac.uk/about/facts/accounts/</p>
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<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>Ministry of Forest Economy and Sustainable Development(MEFDD)</p>	<p>MEFDD are the principle partner in RoC, who co-ordinate and manage all work in protected areas. Staff will be involved in training, workshops and research initiatives. We have their full support and staff were involved in designing the bid. See attached letter A.</p>
<p>Letter of Support from this institution?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>Agence National des Parcs Nationaux (ANPN)</p> <p>http://www.gabon-nature.com/index_en.php?m=3&s=0</p>	<p>ANPN co-ordinate and permit all research in protected areas and are the principal partner in Gabon. Staff will be involved in training, workshops and research initiatives. We have their full support and staff were involved in designing the bid. See attached letter C.</p>
<p>Letter of Support from this institution?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>Partenariat pour les Tortues Marines du Gabon (PTMG)</p> <p>http://www.seaturtle.org/groups/gabon/fr_accueil.html</p>	<p>The PTMG is a consortium of all the groups working for marine conservation in Gabon and throughout the Central African region using sea turtles as a flagship/umbrella species. Staff will be involved in training, workshops and research initiatives. The group has carried out work to build capacity in RoC. See attached letter D.</p>
<p>Letter of Support from this institution?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)</p> <p>http://www.wcs.org/</p>	<p>WCS has been working in Congo since 1991 and Gabon since 1985 and serves as technical advisor to both Governments for the management of their extensive network of protected areas (but only 3% of Congo and 1% of Gabon's marine EEZ, respectively). WCS will act as facilitator and fund administrator for the local side of the Darwin Project in both Congo and Gabon. See attached letters B, E and F.</p>
<p>Letter of Support from this institution?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

<p>11. Have you provided CVs for the senior team including the Project Leader</p>	<p>Yes</p>
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12. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address. For example, what biodiversity and development challenges will the project address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems?

(Max 200 words)

Congo and Gabon have significant natural resources with potential for poverty alleviation. Although substantial efforts have been focused on land, marine biodiversity has been neglected. The *Darwin Marine BAP (DI 1126)* recently outlined key priorities for Gabon: http://www.seaturtle.org/mtrg/projects/gabon/Priority_Marine_Conservation_Actions.pdf

Although capacity building in the **Republic of Congo** was supported in part by the Gabon project, it has become clear that additional work is needed to enhance management of marine resources to promote sustainable livelihoods and the conservation of marine vertebrates (many covered by **CITES** and **CMS**), for which the region is globally important. This follow-up project seeks to support the key stakeholders to take these priorities forward, support the development of a scientifically evidenced, representative MPA network across both **Congo and Gabon** that meet conservation targets, whilst maintaining fish stocks and minimising impacts on competing sectors. In particular, we will focus on the sustainable community fisheries across both nations, with increased focus on the region of MPA in Congo Konkouati Douli NP which reaches to the border of Gabon and its major MPA Mayumba NP, a complex that, if extended holds tremendous potential as being ecologically significant as well as forming an excellent study area for monitoring the success of extended MPA initiatives.

13. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended outcomes and impact. Provide information on how you will undertake the work (materials and methods) and how you will manage the work (roles and responsibilities, project management tools etc.).

(Max 500 words – repeat from Stage 1 with changes highlighted). **Note to reviewers.** *The project narrative has changed throughout based on reviewers' comments, which were to refocus the work as being a united Republic of Congo and Gabon project (67%:33%) with increased focus on livelihoods. The modes of work are similar and outputs and outcomes in logframe are now SMART.*

The project will work on three broad fronts:

A. Capacity building/training on areas highlighted in pre-bid consultation among partners.

To support **participatory research**: fisheries data collection (Darwin staff, fishers, fisheries/biodiversity professionals); livelihoods (Darwin staff, fisheries professionals); biodiversity monitoring (Darwin staff, fishers and biodiversity professionals); Marine Spatial Planning (Darwin staff, biodiversity and fisheries professionals).

To improve **fisheries profitability**: fisheries enhancement (fishers, fisheries professionals).

To enhance the potential long-term legacy: initiating fisheries **co-management** (fishers, fisheries, biodiversity professionals, government agencies).

B. Research:

Marine Fisheries: The generation of a detailed profile of the spatial distribution, fishing patterns and economics (including trade/markets and institutions) underlying the growing artisanal fisheries sector. This will help enact changes that will increase profitability (investing in simple technological solutions) and sustainability, reduce bycatch and also ensure that the needs of these stakeholders, among the poorest in the region, are incorporated into future marine spatial planning initiatives. Additionally, analysis of the industrial sector (trawling, purse-seining and longlining) will describe the spatio-temporal activities of these fisheries and their likely negative impact on artisanal fishers and species of conservation concern (marine mammals, sharks and turtles).

Marine Biodiversity Surveys and Mapping: To fill knowledge gaps with regard to abundance of key species of commercial and conservation concern. Data collection networks will be enhanced. Ecological modelling will be utilised to augment point data already gathered to help inform marine spatial planning at the national/regional scale. The Darwin Marine Biodiversity Atlas concept <http://www.seaturtle.org/mtrg/projects/gabon/MarineAtlas.pdf> will be extended to Congo.

Marine Spatial Planning Working with stakeholders we will identify the broad goals that the MPA network should achieve and translate these into quantitative targets for each important species and habitat type. We will engage with stakeholders to incorporate the relevant socio-economic and social data to develop realistic conservation scenarios and targets. We will use participatory research to understand spatial patterns of artisanal fisheries resource use, such that the MPA does not compromise the livelihoods of the poor. We will use *Marxan-with-Zones* to identify a MPA network that includes no-take and limited-take reserves to ensure the network meets both conservation and sustainable fisheries targets.

C. Engagement and environmental awareness-raising to build legitimacy of the MPA:

Our efforts in engagement through previous UoE Darwin projects have proved extremely successful, particularly in targeting engagement strategies according to user needs. We will engage with 1) **professional sectors** beyond the fisheries and biodiversity sectors (for instance tourism/oil) to incorporate their needs where possible and to explain the aims and functioning of MPAs; 2) members of **fishing communities** through participatory research (above), but also promote legitimacy of MPA and the co-management agreements through simple communications media and study tours.

Roles and Responsibility: A strong consortium with excellent matched funding has been assembled. Project Management will be co-ordinated by **UoE** with a Darwin Research Fellow being based between Congo and Gabon within **MEFDD** (Congo) and **ANPN** (Gabon) respectively, with logistics supported by **WCS** and **PTMG**. **Three Darwin FieldOfficers** will be employed/trained (2 in Congo; 1 in Gabon). The consortium project will be managed by a steering group comprised of representatives of all key project partners.

14. Outcome

Detail what the expected outcomes of this work will be. The outcome should identify what will change and who will benefit. The outcome should refer to how the project will contribute to reducing poverty while contributing to sustainable development and management of biodiversity and its products. A summary statement of this outcome should be provided in question 4.

(Max 250 words)

The outcome of this project will be the integrated management of marine ecosystems in Central Africa (Congo and Gabon) as a result of a network of interconnected and effectively managed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) that enhance ecological integrity and contribute to food security and poverty reduction in communities in the region. Currently less than 3% of Congo's EEZ and less than 1% of Gabon's EEZ are subject to conservation designation despite the increasing importance of fisheries (especially to poor coastal communities) and marine biodiversity of global significance. Through an integrated programme of capacity building, research and public engagement, this project seeks to transform the conservation seascape of Congo and Gabon, and fulfil global commitments (CBD - Aichi Target 11) of establishing MPAs that protect 10 to 20% of territorial seas. This will be based on state of the art analysis of data on artisanal and industrial fisheries as well as detailed analysis of enhanced biodiversity layers. This project has the potential to profoundly impact the livelihoods of thousands of poor fishers, and the food security of at least two nations as well as global species conservation. This will be facilitated by building on strong existing partnerships forged in both countries as part of a prior Darwin project in Gabon (17-005) allowing the generation of a lasting legacy for the people of the region.

15a. Is this a new initiative or a development of existing work (funded through any source)? Please give details (Max 200 words):

This is a new initiative that grows out of a previous Darwin project in Gabon lead by UoE, which also included Congo. It involved all of the member organisations of the current project consortium.

15b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/ projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work? Yes No

15c. Are you applying for funding relating to the proposed project from other sources? Yes No

As with previous Darwin Projects, we plan to apply to opportunities as they become available. There is, however, nothing pending. Extended matched funding is, however, already in place.

16. Value for money

Please describe why you consider your application to be good value for money including justification of why the measures you will adopt will secure value for money?

(Max 250 words)

The project has already secured significant matched funds (>60% match). This in large part is due to the extensive commitment of staff time and overhead from the Lead Organisation but also Project Partners. All matched funding is **secured**.

We have designed a project that performs well against the established criteria:

Technical Excellence: There is a clear outcome that is needed. We demonstrate a highly collaborative approach, with all the skills in the team to ensure scientific robustness and overcome any emerging logistical difficulties.

Pathways to Impact: Pathways and indicators having significant impact on poverty reduction will be explicitly established with project partners and stakeholders in order for the project to have direct impacts on poverty. The project will invest significant resources in equipping local partners for far more effective, equitable and legitimate management.

“Highly desirable” aspects of the project include the awareness raising elements, the insights into the linkage between MPA/livelihoods/biodiversity that will be obtained, the already proven leverage of funds as well as the innovative nature and scope of the work.

Some of the work (ca. 33%) will be carried out in neighbouring Gabon (now upper middle income), as based on ODA criteria. We feel that this work is synergistic, in particular giving scope for promoting learning between countries and allows us to:

- a. *“advance knowledge, evidence and impact”*
- b. *“strengthen our understanding of/evidence for global dimensions of biodiversity conservation/sustainable use and poverty reduction.”*
- c. *“make serious and unique research advancements on this critical issue”.*

17. Ethics

Outline your approach to meeting the Darwin Initiative’s key principles for research ethics as outlined in the guidance notes.

We can confirm that the project is highly ethical as outlined in the Guidance Notes.

All work will be subject to permissions and ethical review in the UK and Congo/Gabon.

The project has been conceived, designed and will be implemented within a strong collaborative framework.

Research will be participatory, involving fishers from key communities.

Rights, privacy and safety of communities are held as of great importance and will be carefully considered by ethical review.

Safety will be covered by risk assessment processes of the UoE and partner organisations.

All research will be carried out as objectively as possible and will be conducted within the context of poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use.

18. Legacy

Please describe what you expect will change as a result of this project with regards to biodiversity conservation/sustainable use and poverty alleviation. For example, what will be the long-term benefits (particularly for biodiversity and poor people) of the project in the host country or region and have you identified any potential problems to achieving these benefits?

We anticipate positive changes in biodiversity conservation/sustainable fisheries use and poverty alleviation. These will result from an enhanced network of interconnected and effectively managed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), which will improve ecological integrity and biodiversity and contribute to food security and poverty reduction for communities in the region, in the short to long term.

Underpinning this will be extensive increased capacity for fisheries management and much increased engagement between fishers and biodiversity/fisheries management professionals. Although there are no apparently immediate barriers to achieving these goals, we have explored the risks and assumptions as part of building the log frame and have built in monitoring and evaluation to the major work streams to help measure and ensure progress.

19. Pathway to poverty alleviation

Please describe how your project will benefit poor people living in low-income countries. Projects are required to show how positive impact on poverty alleviation will be generated from your project in low-income countries. All projects funded under the Darwin Initiative in Round 19 must be compliant with the Overseas Development Assistance criteria as set out by the OECD. The outcomes of your research must at the very least provide insight into issues of importance in achieving poverty alleviation.

The project will benefit poor people living in low income countries of Congo (and also Gabon) in five ways:

1. In the short term, through engagement with focal fishing communities, intervention to maximise profitability and sustainability will be explored and supported. Possibilities include identifying opportunities in the value chain and its institutions and technical interventions. For example, in Congo there are currently no co-operatives and little or no access to refrigeration.
2. More effective management of artisanal fisheries across both nations will be supported by the compilation of national artisanal fisheries action plans.
3. Fishers will be empowered through their engagement in the research that underpins the designation of MPAs, as well as through the development of potential co-management strategies for the functioning of the MPA.
4. Effective MPAs will enhance fish-stocks and the sustainability of future fisheries leading to enhanced income, more sustainable in the middle to long-term, especially safeguarding fish stocks from industrial overfishing.
5. Although we would not wish to over-emphasise the biodiversity tourism potential, MPAs will help secure important biodiversity such as e.g. humpback whales, leatherback turtles and sports fish, which are currently underutilised. Tourism may provide alternate revenue generation in the middle to long term.

20. Exit strategy

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 forms part of a progressive approach, building on our existing work. By the end of this project, there will be a much-improved knowledge base to support the planned legacy. The pilot work on enhancing fisheries livelihoods will be complete and at a point where national institutions (many of whom are project partners), equipped with improved artisanal fisheries management plans can develop the implementation. Our track record in sourcing additional finance to accompany Darwin finance puts us in a strong position for seeking further funding to support implementation. Additionally, the capacity, methodology and baseline data required for the on going monitoring of changes in both poverty status and ecological change will be in place in the form of an implementation, monitoring and evaluation plan.

Prior to project exit, research on fisheries, biodiversity and other stakeholders will be combined in a marine spatial plan, culminating in recommendations for candidate MPAs.

As evidenced by letters of support, there is strong political goodwill for the project and its objectives. It is likely that the pace of change towards the enhanced network will be faster in Gabon, given prevailing disparity in economy and capacity. This does, however, offer potential for south-south learning between institutions across national borders.

Sustainability will depend on the ongoing commitment of the organisations that currently make up the consortium. This is predictable, given the sustained efforts made to date, and the further capacity that will be built. We will invest significantly in three Darwin Field Officers, but the legacy is sufficiently wide-ranging and collaborative across institutions, such that it will not depend disproportionately on any one individual.

HIGHLY DESIRABLE

21. Raising awareness of the potential worth of biodiversity

If your project contains an element of communications, knowledge sharing and/or dissemination please provide a description of your intended audience, how you intend to engage them, what the expected products/materials there will be and what you expect to achieve as a result. For example, are you expecting to directly influence policy in your host country or is your project a community advocacy project to support better management of biodiversity?

Raising environmental awareness is an intrinsic part of the project.

We will focus on fishing communities in our participatory research on fisheries. However, for the wider project aims (importance of marine biodiversity of the region, role of MPA's) we will target a range of key stakeholders (government decision makers, biodiversity/planning professionals, fishers, tourist/oil sectors) and the general public, using targeted engagement strategies. Using a variety of media proved extremely successful in several previous UoE Darwin projects: project website; press releases and media; public meetings; school visits; seminars, project films. This will often see us embedding Darwin Project material in those of in-country project partners who have extensive knowledge of successful strategies within the host nations.

22. Importance of subject focus for this project

If your project is working on an area of biodiversity or biodiversity-development linkages that has had limited attention (both in the Darwin Initiative portfolio and in conservation in general) please give details.

This project has a particularly important subject focus as **Darwin projects** are:

1. Generally targeted towards terrestrial ecosystems.
2. In the marine sector, coral reef systems are over-represented.
3. Geographically, there is a bias to Anglophone nations in Africa.
4. Projects tend to orientate in relation to political borders. However, working in a transboundary manner allows us to focus on more biologically-relevant scales.

Fisheries contribute to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in West/Central Africa, and by promoting sustainable fisheries, the project supports:

1. Eradication of hunger and poverty (income to poor households through fish capture, processing, trade, allied industries).
2. Reduction of child mortality and improved maternal health (improved nutrition through fish consumption).
3. Promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women (women strongly engaged in artisanal processing, trade).
4. Good governance through regulation of the fisheries sector, leading to cross-sectoral learning.

23. Leverage

a) Secured

Provide details of all funding successfully levered (and identified in the Budget) towards the costs of the project, including any income from other public bodies, private sponsorship, donations, trusts, fees or trading activity.

Confirmed:

University of Exeter Salaries	£75, 519
University of Exeter Overheads	£147,883
University of Exeter Capital Items	£69,850
Partner Salaries	£112,753
Partner Overheads	£45,101
Partner Travel	£15,000
Partner Operating Costs	£3,000

b) Unsecured

We are pleased to say that **all matched funding** is already in place.

PROJECT MONITORING AND EVALUATION

MEASURING IMPACT

24. LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Impact

The Impact is not intended to be achieved solely by the project. This is a higher-level situation that the project will contribute towards achieving. All Darwin projects are expected to contribute to poverty alleviation and sustainable use of biodiversity and its products.

(Max 100 words)

Poverty alleviation, increased food security, and sustainable use of marine biodiversity through an effective marine protected area network in Congo and Gabon.

Outcome

There can only be one Outcome for the project. The Outcome should identify what will change, and who will benefit. The Outcome should refer to how the project will contribute to reducing poverty and contribute to the sustainable use/conservation of biodiversity and its products.

(Max 250 words)

Integrated and effective management of marine ecosystems in Central Africa (Congo and Gabon) as a result of a scientifically informed network of interconnected Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) that enhance ecological integrity while contributing to food security and poverty reduction in coastal communities in the region.

The **changes** will be as follows:

As a result of increased **knowledge** and a scientific planning process, the number and extent of MPA's will be increased in both nations leading to increased protection of biodiversity.

Increased **engagement** with a wide range of stakeholders will build capacity and legitimacy at different levels, promoting the successful functioning of the MPA network.

In focal communities, fishing **profitability** will be increased as a result of steps taken to enhance fisheries management, including analysing trade and markets and implementation of technical or marketing fixes

As a result of more effective fisheries **management** and increased **awareness**, bycatch of marine vertebrates will be reduced.

In all cases the **beneficiaries** are fishing communities/households, biodiversity stakeholders (national and international), and the wider public (through enhanced food security for the long term).

Biodiversity and livelihood impacts are likely to be synergistic and regional, **beyond the borders** of the nations in question.

Innovative MPA governance, fisheries management and research could serve as a model for the wider region; a stated objective of the Government of Gabon.

Measuring outcomes - indicators

Provide detail of what you will measure to assess your progress towards achieving this outcome. You should also be able to state what the change you expect to achieve as a result of this project i.e. the difference between the existing state and the expected end state. You may require multiple indicators to measure the outcome – if you have more than 3 indicators please just insert a row(s).

Indicator 1	MPA network increased to at least 10% of EEZ of Congo and Gabon by year 3 (currently 3% for Congo and 1% for Gabon).
Indicator 2	Fisher earnings by focal fishing communities (at least one in Gabon and at least 3 in Congo) increased by 10% by year 3 (based on baseline established and re-examined as part of the project).
Indicator 3	Marine vertebrate bycatch by focal fishing communities (at least one in Gabon and at least 3 in Congo) reduced by 20% by year 3 (based on baseline established and re-examined as part of the project).

Verifying outcomes

Identify the source material the Darwin Initiative (and you) can use to verify the indicators provided. These are generally recorded details such as publications, surveys, project notes, reports, tapes, videos etc.

Indicator 1	Maps, Publications, Media. Government reports/legislation relating to designation, Darwin project website and those of project partners.
Indicator 2	Data collection (household surveys to generate baseline and monitor effects of interventions) and analysis, peer-reviewed publication and reports.
Indicator 3	Data collection (fisher surveys and stranding records), peer-reviewed publication and reports.

Outcome risks and important assumptions

You will need to define the important assumptions, which are critical to the realisation of the *outcome and impact* of the project. It is important at this stage to ensure that these assumptions can be monitored since if these assumptions change, it may prevent you from achieving your expected outcome. If there are more than 3 assumptions please insert a row(s).

Assumption 1 (Indicator 1)	Government Departments remain amenable to MPA designation.
Assumption 2 (Indicators 1-3)	Fishing communities and host governments retain commitment to sustainable use of marine resources and both host nations remain politically stable.
Assumption 3 (Indicators 1-3)	Retention of key staff and/or ability to appoint replacements.
Assumption 4 (Indicator 2)	There are no major economic shocks, or anthropogenic or natural disasters affecting fish yield and community capacity to prioritise fisheries management.

Outputs

Outputs are the specific, direct deliverables of the project. These will provide the conditions necessary to achieve the Outcome. The logic of the chain from Output to Outcome therefore needs to be clear. If you have more than 3 outputs insert a row(s). It is advised to have less than 6 outputs since this level of detail can be provided at the activity level.

Output 1	Marine Protected Area networks extended to at least 10% of EEZ of Congo and Gabon based on robust research and participatory implementation.
Output 2	Distribution and modes of operation of artisanal fisheries understood across both nations and are improved as a result of more effective and sustainable fisheries practices, based on participatory research and implementation in focal communities.
Output 3	Marine vertebrate bycatch in focal fishing communities is reduced as a result of participatory research and raised awareness.

Measuring outputs

Provide detail of what you will measure to assess your progress towards achieving these outputs. You should also be able to state what the change you expect to achieve as a result of this project i.e. the difference between the existing state and the expected end state. You may require multiple indicators to measure each output – if you have more than 3 indicators please just insert a row(s).

Note to allow indicators to be SMART, they are temporally references by year and quarter (Q1-4) of delivery.

Output 1- Marine Protected Area networks extended to at least 10% of EEZ of Congo and Gabon based on robust research and participatory implementation.	
Indicator 1	Enhanced capacity for marine spatial planning via Darwin Marine Atlas (Congo) completed by end of year 1 with 10 biodiversity/fisheries professionals trained in its use. Baseline is zero and progress will be measured as number of individuals that can subsequently use the database.
Indicator 2	Enhanced capacity for marine spatial planning via improved Darwin Marine Atlas (Gabon) completed by end of year 1 with 10 biodiversity/fisheries professionals trained in its use. Although some individuals can utilise the basic product, the Atlas will be augmented and we will measure the number of new users and the number of users with enhanced capability.
Indicator 3	Increased evidence-base for Marine Spatial Planning in Congo based on best available information on biodiversity, artisanal fisheries, industrial fisheries and other uses facilitated by MARXAN analysis leading to candidate MPA network. A minimum of 20 data layers will be assembled and incorporated into the Atlas by the end of year 2.
Indicator 4	Increased evidence base for Marine Spatial Planning in Gabon based on best available information on biodiversity, artisanal fisheries, industrial fisheries and other uses facilitated by MARXAN analysis leading to candidate MPA network. A minimum of 20 data layers enhanced and incorporated into Atlas by the end of year 2.
Indicator 5	Increased synthetic knowledge of regional marine biodiversity highlights the project as a publishable case study in such an approach leading to a paper by year 3, Q1.
Indicator 6	As a result of research, awareness raising and increased capacity revised designation of some areas of EEZ will have begun by year 3, Q2 and the MPA network will begin to expand (baseline 3% EEZ Congo; 1% Gabon).

Output 2- Artisanal fisheries understood across both nations and are improved as a result of more effective and sustainable fisheries practices, based on participatory research and implementation in focal communities.	
Indicator 1	Fisher engagement in research facilitates multiple aspects of the project with participatory research underway in year 1, Q2 (minimum 10-20 fishers in each of 4 focal fishing communities). We will measure engagement by the number of fishers involved in research from the current zero baseline.
Indicator 2	As a result of participatory research, data for baselines and future comparison are assembled by end of year 1 (minimum 10-20 fishers in each of 4 focal fishing communities) and potential interventions are piloted to improve fisheries profitability. We will measure success by the number of datasets from the current zero baseline.
Indicator 3	Baseline knowledge of magnitude and spatiotemporal patterns of artisanal fisheries and linkage with industrial fisheries is greatly improved across nationwide in both countries, with data on 90% of vessels, fishing effort and landing sites by end year 1. The current quantitative baseline on knowledge is zero and we will measure success by the coverage obtained across both nations.
Indicator 4	Research leads to the development of a publishable case study in rapid assessment of artisanal fisheries and participatory research/interventions to help augment profitability. We will measure success by a resultant peer-reviewed paper by year 3, Q1.

Output 3- Marine vertebrate bycatch in focal fishing communities is reduced as a result of participatory research and raising awareness.	
Indicator 1	Fisher engagement in research facilitates multiple aspects of the project with participatory research underway in year 1, Q2 (minimum 10-20 fishers in each of 4 focal fishing communities). We will measure engagement by the number of fishers involved in research from the current zero baseline.
Indicator 2	As a result of participatory research baselines of bycatch levels for future comparison are assembled by end of year 1 (minimum 10-20 fishers in each of 4 focal fishing communities) and potential interventions are piloted to reduce bycatch. We will measure success by the number of datasets from the current zero baseline.
Indicator 3	Research and participatory mitigation results in a publishable case study in assessment and reduction of bycatch in artisanal fisheries with a paper by year 3, Q2.

Verifying outputs

Identify the source material the Darwin Initiative (and you) can use to verify the indicators provided. These are generally recorded details such as publications, surveys, project notes, reports, tapes, videos etc.

Output 1

Indicator 1	Darwin Marine Atlas Congo (Interim hardcopy and stored on Darwin project website).
Indicator 2	Darwin Marine Atlas Congo (Interim hardcopy and stored on Darwin project website).
Indicator 3	Spatial Planning Report on Candidate MPA sites (Congo).
Indicator 4	Spatial Planning Report on Candidate MPA sites (Gabon).
Indicator 5	Peer-reviewed publication on regional marine biodiversity.
Indicator 6	Maps, Media. Government reports/legislation relating to designation, Darwin project website and those of project partners.

Output 2

Indicator 1	Workshop reports, interim field reports, Darwin project website.
Indicator 2	Workshop reports, interim field reports, Darwin project website.
Indicator 3	Artisanal Fisheries Action Plan (Congo) by end year 2, Q3; Artisanal Fisheries Action Plan (Gabon) by year 2, Q4.
Indicator 4	Peer reviewed publication on fisheries by year 3, Q1.

Output 3

Indicator 1	Workshop reports, interim field reports, Darwin project website.
Indicator 2	Workshop reports, interim field reports, Darwin project website.
Indicator 3	Peer reviewed publication on assessment and mitigation of bycatch by year 3, Q2.

Output risks and important assumptions

You will need to define the important assumptions, which are critical to the realisation of the achievement of your outputs. It is important at this stage to ensure that these assumptions can be monitored since if these assumptions change, it may prevent you from achieving your expected outcome. If there are more than 3 assumptions please insert a row(s).

Assumption 1 (Output 1-3)	Project partners, especially fishing communities and host Governments, retain commitment to sustainable use of marine resources and both host nations remain politically stable
Assumption 2 (Output 1-3)	Retention of key staff and/or ability to appoint replacements.

Activities

Define the tasks to be undertaken by the research team to produce the outputs. Activities should be designed in a way that their completion should be sufficient and indicators should not be necessary. Any risks and assumptions should also be taken into account during project design.

Output 1: MPA's	
Activity 1.1	Training of local partners to augment field data collection.
Activity 1.2	Field data collection and data analysis of biodiversity from marine surveys, spatio-temporal patterns of industrial fisheries based on vessel monitoring system data, and artisanal fisheries and their spatio-temporal extent.
Activity 1.3	Awareness raising activities to promote the value of marine biodiversity and the multiple potential dividends from MPA's. This will include open meetings at all focal fishing communities where results can be disseminated allowing communities to own and identify with the process of redesigning governance of their marine resources, and connecting government with the reality on the ground in communities.
Activity 1.4	Assembling Darwin Marine Atlases.
Activity 1.5	Marine Spatial Planning using MARXAN including knowledge gained from 2 (below). Planning based on software tools will be at the project's core. Working with stakeholders we will identify the broad goals that the MPA network should achieve and translate these into quantitative targets for each important species and habitat type. We will engage with stakeholders to incorporate the relevant social and economic data to develop realistic conservation scenarios and targets for management. We will use Marxan-with-Zones to identify an MPA network that includes no-take and limited-take reserves to ensure the network meets both conservation and sustainable fisheries targets.
Activity 1.6	Policy Paper to each government.
Activity 1.7	Peer reviewed paper prepared on the importance of regional biodiversity.

Output 2- Improving Fisheries	
Activity 2.1	Engagement with fishing communities to gain permission and establish relationships in order to quantify and describe artisanal fisheries and their spatio-temporal extent.
Activity 2.2	Training of fishers and in country partners in data collection.
Activity 2.3	<p>Field data collection and analysis. Data collected will include mapping current use of fishing locations and gear types to identify areas of overlap with MPAs. In addition data will be collected to understand the processing and trade sector, institutions present, and livelihoods in fishing communities. A gender differentiated, and an approach ensuring inclusion of marginalised people will be used</p> <p>Vulnerability will also be explicitly examined in order to help identify community incentives for changing the governance system. Those implementing change must acknowledge that given the high level of poverty and vulnerability in coastal communities, it is unrealistic to expect fishers to take a long term sustainability view, at the expense of short term well-being. Understanding vulnerability at the community level is critical to this action, especially for marginalised groups.</p>
Activity 2.4	Fisheries Management Plans prepared for both nations. Detailed knowledge of artisanal fisheries sector with associated action plans to assess baseline capture, profitability and bycatch and promote sustainability (effective marketing, reduced bycatch). To include an analysis of future opportunities within the fisheries sector or outside (ecology, economics, social) based on existing research outputs and adapted to the local context of focal communities.
Activity 2.5	Establishing durable management institutions for fisheries in focal communities to increase fisher earnings, through a participatory approach.
Activity 2.6	Peer reviewed paper prepared on the artisanal fisheries of the region.

Output 3 – Reducing Bycatch	
Activity 3.1	Raising awareness regarding the importance of the region's marine vertebrates and the problems of bycatch.
Activity 3.2	Field data collection and analysis on the levels of bycatch to establish baselines and effectiveness of mitigation.
Activity 3.3	Participatory mitigation to reduce bycatch.
Activity 3.4	Peer reviewed paper prepared on bycatch mitigation in artisanal fisheries.

25. 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
Output 1 Increasing MPA's											
1.1 Training Darwin Field Officers in post (Year 1, month 2) Workshops on marine spatial planning (Year 1, month 6)	21	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
1.2 Field data collection 20 data layers assembled (Year 1, month 6)	12	■	■	■	■						
1.3 Awareness raising Darwin Project Website (Year 1, month 3) ≥4 dissemination events in each of Years 1-3	30	■		■		■		■		■	■
1.4 Preparation of Darwin Marine Atlases Darwin Marine Atlas Congo (Year 1, month 12) Darwin Marine Atlas Gabon (Year 1, month 12)	12	■	■	■	■						
1.5 Marine Spatial Planning MARXAN analysis completed (Year 1, month 9)	6						■	■			
1.6 Preparation of MPA Policy papers Policy Paper to Gov. of Congo (Year 2, month 12) Policy Paper to Gov. of Gabon (Year 2, month 12)	6							■	■		
1.7 Preparation of peer-reviewed paper Paper submitted (Year 3, month 3)	6								■	■	
Output 2 Improving Artisanal Fisheries											
2.1 Engagement with fishers ≥4 communities engaged in research (Year 1, month 6)	30	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
2.2 Training in data collection	12	■	■	■	■						

	≥4 training workshops on fisheries (Year 1, Month 6)											
2.3	Field data collection Required baseline data in place (Year 1, month 12)	24	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
2.4	Preparing Artisanal Fisheries Management Plan Fisheries Plan to Gov. of Congo (Year 2, month 12) Fisheries Plan to Gov. of Gabon (Year 2, month 12)	9					■	■	■			
2.5	Management Interventions Management interventions underway in >4 communities (Year 2, month 9)	30			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
2.6	Preparation of peer-reviewed paper Paper submitted (Year 3, month 6)	6									■	■
Output 3	Reducing Bycatch											
3.1	Awareness raising ≥4 dissemination events in each of Years 1-2	30	■		■		■		■		■	■
3.2	Field data collection Required baseline data in place (Year 1, month 12)	24	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
3.3	Participatory mitigation Mitigation interventions underway in >4 communities (Year 2, month 9)	24			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
3.4	Preparation of peer-reviewed paper Paper submitted (Year 3, month 6)	6									■	■

26. Project based monitoring and evaluation

Describe, referring to the Indicators above, how the progress of the project will be monitored and evaluated, making reference to who is responsible for the projects monitoring and evaluation. Darwin Initiative projects are expected to be adaptive and you should detail how the monitoring and evaluation will feed into the delivery of the project including its management. Monitoring and evaluation is expected to be built into the project and not an 'add' on. It is as important to measure for negative impacts as it is for positive impact.

The progress of the project against key milestones and indicators will be appraised by a Steering Group consisting of partner organisations that will meet twice each year. Minutes from these meetings will be circulated to all partners to articulate any actions necessary.

There will be regular communication among project partners, facilitated by e-mail (which is effective with all National Parks) and the field presence of the key Darwin Staff in Congo/Gabon i.e. the Darwin Fellow and Darwin FieldOfficers.

Although a necessarily ambitious project, there are a number of key milestones that will allow the progress of the project to be monitored efficiently by the Darwin Steering Group, and, where necessary, remedial action taken. All of these are clearly articulated and time bound.

FUNDING AND BUDGET

Please complete the separate Excel spreadsheet that provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.

NB: Please state all costs by financial year (1 April to 31 March) and in GBP. **Budgets submitted in other currencies will not be accepted.** 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.

27. Value for Money

Please explain how you worked out your budget and how you will provide value for money through managing a cost effective and efficient project. You should also discuss any significant assumptions you have made when working out your budget.

The project is by definition a cost-effective and efficient project, working across 2 nations and 2.5 years within the budget framework. Ambitious aims and objectives are only possible due to the very strong consortium and extensive commitment being made by partners (>**60% matched funding**).

There is a very low capital spend, with the budget being largely spent on human resources and travel/field costs to allow the scale of work planned.

Our budget was worked out in conjunction with finance departments of each of the partner organisations. Anticipated inflation of 3% was used to calculate partner salaries in subsequent years. Overhead of 40% was used for all salary calculations. Additional overheads and estates costs for UK partners are included as in kind.

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 details of any advice you have received from them.

Yes (no written advice received)

Yes, advice attached

No

CERTIFICATION 2013/14

On behalf of the University of Exeter

I apply for a grant of **£294,226** 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.

I enclose CVs for project principals and letters of support. Our most recent audited/independently verified accounts and annual report are also enclosed/can be found at

http://admin.exeter.ac.uk/finance/publications/financial_statements/index.shtml:

Name (block capitals)	Professor David Hosken
Position in the organisation	DIRECTOR, CENTRE FOR ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION

Signed



Date:

1st Dec 2012

Stage 2 Application - Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you provided actual start and end dates for your project?	Yes
Have you provided your budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP?	Yes
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?	Yes
Has your application been signed by a suitably authorised individual? (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable in the email)	Yes
Have you included a 1 page CV for all the Principals identified at Question 7?	Yes
Have you included a letter of support from the <u>main</u> partner(s) organisations identified at Question 10?	Yes
Have you checked with the FCO in the project country/ies and have you included any evidence of this?	Yes, awaiting response
Have you included a copy of the last 2 years annual report and accounts for the lead organisation? An electronic link to a website is acceptable.	Yes
Have you read the Guidance Notes?	Yes
Have you checked the Darwin website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	Yes

Once you have answered the questions above, please submit the application, not later than midnight GMT on Monday 3 December 2012 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**. 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). *You are not required to send a hard copy.*

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.

December 1st, 2012

Dear Eilidh,

1999: (Retitled) Delivering an MPA network for fisheries and biodiversity for Central Africa (Republic of Congo and Gabon)

Please find attached a signed copy of our Darwin Application. I can confirm that, as a result of suggestions from the Darwin Advisory Committee (DAC), the project has changed quite markedly since Stage 1. The overall budget and the amount requested, however, are the same.

The resultant stage 2 submission represents a more robust and ambitious proposal made possible by extended buy-in from partners in Congo and the University of Exeter. It is now a project much larger in scope but we have the additional required skills (fisheries and livelihoods) and logistical support required to deliver a project that fulfils ODA requirements while making a major contribution to biodiversity conservation. The following comments were offered on the Stage 1 proposal and below each one, we insert our responses:

“This year was the first year that we required projects to be ODA eligible. You might therefore find it helpful to know that your application was identified as currently not suitable for ODA funding because of the country focus.”

The original proposal was to look primarily at Gabon with significant synergistic activities with Republic of Congo and Equatorial Guinea. We have now refocused the project so that the **major focus of the project is now Congo (a lower middle income country)** and the biodiversity and conservation issues it shares with Gabon. We continue to build on our previous Darwin work in Gabon as it will have indirect livelihood benefits for Congo through better management of the common fisheries resource. This has involved the transformation of the proposal, with partners in Congo having a much more significant role as well as including co-Investigators with extensive socio-economics and community fisheries experience.

Resources for this change in project focus have come from reducing the scope of some planned capital intensive research and diverting them to more extensive on-the-ground work in Congo. The project is therefore very low in terms of capital intensity (6%), focussing on processes to:

1. Directly improve artisanal fishery management (profitability and sustainability).
2. Help achieve effective marine spatial planning that will conserve and augment biodiversity and artisanal fisher livelihoods.

“The indicators, outcomes and outputs all need to cover poverty alleviation more specifically to clarify the likely impact on that side.”

This has been undertaken with careful inclusion of SMART indicators.

“The project appears very ‘top down’ and there could be more emphasis on community participation/consultation in MPA planning to ensure community ‘buy-in’ and thus sustainable management and economic benefits”

This was an unfortunate miscommunication due to the brevity of Stage 1 and has been clearly elaborated in stage 2. We aim to work extensively with fisher communities to carry out participatory research with associated training and dissemination. These findings will feed into project M&E as well as the marine spatial planning and MPA design.

“The logframe needs some refining to fully incorporate this and to clarify the project outcome”

This has been undertaken.

“Further detail on the industrial fishing sector would be useful.”

More information is given but because of the change in focus, much more attention will be paid to the coastal artisanal sector.

“To become ODA eligible, the project would need to include meaningful plans to involve the neighbouring countries including identifying partners - potential spillover/indirect benefits are not enough justification to be ODA eligible.”

As detailed above, the project has been significantly refocused to ensure it is clearly ODA eligible. Where we originally were going to focus on Gabon, it has now changed to focus on Congo with some involvement in Gabon (**Spend: 67% Congo; 33% Gabon**). We seek to engage with fishing communities and other key stakeholders to develop artisanal fishery management plans, helping make fisheries more profitable and sustainable as well as carrying out participatory work that will underpin the design of a marine protected area network across both nations. We build on previous collaborations with experienced partners so will “hit the ground running”.

Although some of the work will be carried out in neighbouring Gabon (now upper middle income), as based on ODA criteria, we emphasise:

- a) Lessons learned using comparable methodologies in Gabon at the same time as they are being undertaken in Congo will be *“advancing knowledge, evidence and impact”* of that being carried out in its significantly less developed neighbour.
- b) By taking a more regional overview of biodiversity and patterns of industrial and artisanal fisheries, we will contribute to *“delivering global public goods benefits by strengthening our understanding of/evidence for global dimensions of biodiversity conservation/sustainable use and poverty reduction.”*
- c) Partly as a result of a past Darwin project, marine conservation in Gabon has gained prominence in the national policy agenda and is poised to change rapidly for the better. There is a tremendous will for radically extending the MPA network and thus improving fisheries management. If successful, this will likely have positive dividends for Congo. At this point we have a great opportunity for *“making serious and unique research advancements on this critical issue”*.

The **Darwin costing spreadsheet** is included along with the electronic version of this application and I also include:

Appendix I: CV's of key individuals

University of Exeter

Prof. Brendan Godley
Dr Kirsten Abernethy
Dr Janet Fisher
Dr Matthew Witt

Gabon

Prof. Lee White
Dr. Angela Formia
Dr Johanna Polsenberg

Republic of Congo

Mr. Roland Missilou Boukaka
Dr Hilde VanLeeuwe
Mr Tim Collins

UK

Dr. Robert Smith

Appendix II: Letters of support

Republic of Congo

- A. Conkouati-Douli National Park (**CDNP**)
- B. Wildlife Conservation Society, Congo Country Programme (**WCS**)

Gabon

- C. Agence National des Parcs Nationaux (**ANPN**)
- D. Partenariat pour les Tortues Marines du Gabon (**PTMG**)
- E. Wildlife Conservation Society, Gabon Country Programme (**WCS**)

USA

- F. Wildlife Conservation Society (**WCS**)

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information

Yours sincerely



Brendan Godley