Submit by Monday 3 December 2012

DARWIN INITIATIVE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FOR ROUND 19: 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.

ELIGIBILITY

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

Name:	**Address:**
Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)	Tom Clements Wildlife Conservation Society, Cambodia Program PO Box 1620, Phnom Penh, Cambodia *Applicant Organisation Headquarters*: Wildlife Conservation Society 2300 Southern Blvd. Bronx, NY 10460, USA

2. Stage 1 reference and Project title

Reference: 1969
Conserving biodiversity and reducing poverty through wildlife-friendly farming in Cambodia

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

Proposed start date:1 April 2013 **Duration of project:** 3 years **End date:** 31 March 2016					
Darwin request	**2013/14** **£**	**2014/15** **£**	**2015/16** **£**	**2016/17**	**Total** **£**
Proposed (confirmed and unconfirmed) matched funding as percentage of total Project cost: 48%, 86% of which is confirmed.					

4. Define the outcome of the project. This should be a repetition of Question 24, Outcome Statement.

(max 100 words)
The outcome of the project will be to reduce deforestation rates across 300,000 hectares of three protected areas in Cambodia by 25-50%, protect globally significant populations of highly threatened species, support the livelihoods of up to 10,000 local residents through greater land security and greater incomes, increase understanding regarding how to integrate poverty reduction and conservation, and build the capacity of local partners to sustain the project outcomes. This will be achieved through the implementation of an innovative, payment for environmental services scheme that links poverty reduction to successful conservation of forests and critically endangered species through conditional agreements.

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: Cambodia	**Country 2:**

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	**No**
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)	**No**

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)

The project will assist Cambodia to fulfill its obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (Strategic Goals B, C, D and E). The project links with Aichi Targets 5, 7, 11 and 12. It is based around the principle of sustainably managed agriculture (rice) within a forest-mosaic. Forest loss will be reduced (Target 5) and agriculture managed sustainably for biodiversity (Target 7) through land-use planning and zoning of protected areas, which contributes to landscape-scale management (Target 11). Reductions in hunting will increase threatened species populations (Target 12).

The project also addresses Aichi Target 14 by safe-guarding access to essential ecosystem services for poor and vulnerable rural communities through transferring the monetary value of these services, such as water and economically valuable NTFPs such as resin, on to rice consumers. In doing so it integrates and protects the rights and knowledge of local communities (Aichi Target 18) into legislation and secures land tenure. The project demonstrates that economic gains for poor communities are possible in a context of sustainable use of natural resources.

The project will also help the Royal Government of Cambodia to achieve its stated intentions to conserve forests to mitigate climate-change (under the UNFCCC).

Is any liaison proposed with the CBD/CITES/CMS focal point in the host country?

☒ **Yes** ☐ **No** **if yes, please give details:**

One of the project partners is the Ministry of Environment (MoE) of the Royal Government, who is the CBD focal point for Cambodia. Through the collaboration with MoE the CBD focal point will be kept informed of the project activities, will be invited to participate in key events (workshops, etc.), and supported to present results at international meetings.

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**	**WCS Personnel**	**WCS Personnel**
Surname	Clements	John	Nielsen
Forename (s)	Tom	Ashish	Karen
Post held	Director	Community Conservation Advisor	Enterprise Planning Advisor
Institution (if different to above)	WCS	WCS	WCS
Department	Global Conservation Program - Cambodia	Global Conservation Program - Cambodia	Global Conservation Program - Cambodia

Details	Project Partner 1	Project Partner 2	Project Partner 3
Surname	Norng	Milner-Gulland	Sokha
Forename (s)	Chinda	E.J.	Ea
Post held	Operations Coordinator	Professor	Director of Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary, Preah Vihear section
Institution (if different to above)	Sansom Mlup Prey	Imperial College London	Ministry of Environment
Department		Conservation Science	Department of Wildlife Sanctuarys

Details	Project Partner 4
Surname	Setha
Forename (s)	Tan
Post held	Director of the Preah Vihear Protected Forest
Institution (if different to above)	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Department	Forestry Administration

8. Has your organisation received funding under the Darwin Initiative before? If so, please provide details of the most recent (up to 6 examples). NO.

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

What year was your organisation established/ incorporated/ registered?	**1895, as the New York Zoological Society** **1999 – WCS Cambodia Program**
What is the legal status of your organisation?	NGO Yes/No Government Yes/No University Yes/No Other (explain) Yes/No
Type of organisation (e.g. University, NGO, private sector, Government Department etc)	NGO
Have you unsuccessfully applied to the Darwin Initiative before? If yes please provide the application reference number(s)	No.
How is your organisation currently funded?	WCS receives support from a diverse group of government and private sources (individuals, foundations, corporations). Among our top

	government partners are the U.S. Agency for International Development, Norway's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Foundation supporters include the Liz Claiborne and Art Ortenberg Foundation, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. Corporate partners include Bank of America, Con Edison, Goldman, Sachs and Co., and the Tiffany and Co. Foundation.
Have you provided appropriate audited/independently examined accounts?	Yes/No Links are listed on Certification page.

9b. Provide detail of 3 contracts previously held by your institution that demonstrate your credibility as a research organisation and provide track record relevant to the project proposed. These contacts should have been held in the last 5 years and be of a similar size to the grant requested in your Darwin application.

Contract 1 Title	Scaling Up Conservation Success with SCAPES
Contract Value	$XX USD
Contract Duration	2009-2014
Role of institution in project	Lead Institution
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the contract.	Through this project, WCS is scaling up research findings and applying lessons learned over the past 20 years to conserve three transboundary conservation areas at the landscape level. Our overarching goal for this project is to conserve biodiversity and secure the livelihoods of the rural poor through targeted site-based and policy initiatives at globally important sites for biodiversity conservation. The three landscapes include Greater Madidi-Tambopata (Bolivia and Peru); the Daurian Steppe (Mongolia, Russia and China); and the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area, or KAZA TFCA (Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe). Building on sound field science, WCS's targeted actions have produced the following outcomes, among others: In Madidi-Tambopata, WCS has worked with 9 productive enterprises to improve indigenous communities' ability to manage natural resources for increased financial and ecological sustainability. In the Daurian Steppe, demand for sustainable resource use policies that secure ecosystem services for local livestock herders (30% of Mongolia's population) has grown, and a network of community-based conservation sites now covers 150,000 hectares of the Eastern Steppe region. The KAZA TFCA has been formally established as the world's largest conservation landscape, spanning 444,000 square kilometres.
Reference contact details (Name, e-mail, address, phone number).	Andrew Tobiason, USAID/EGAT/NRM, Ronald Reagan Building 3.08, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20523-3800.

Contract 2 Title	TransLinks: "Promoting Transformation: Linking Natural Resources, Economic Growth and Governance"
Contract Value	$XX
Contract Duration	2006-2012
Role of institution in project	Lead Institution

Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the contract.	While this project is at a much larger scale than the Darwin project we are requesting, this contract is included for its relevance to the proposed project, because it helped to fund the WCS and Imperial research programme during 2008-2012 into the design of PES programmes in Cambodia, which led to the development of the Ibis Rice concept (the focus of this proposal). TransLinks was a 5.5 year knowledge-building and expertise-sharing program to promote rural transformation by linking natural resources, economic growth, and good governance. The program strove to identify, develop, and disseminate lessons, best practices, and tools from the partners' projects around the world that have attempted to apply the new approaches of Payments for Ecosystem Services and Wildlife Friendly™ enterprise/value chain certification to support people living in threatened ecosystems, through conservation and sustainable use of the natural resource base upon which their livelihoods depend. Analysis of best practices through comparative case studies documented the effectiveness of different approaches for abating threats in landscapes/seascapes while enhancing livelihoods of local communities. Lessons learned from the case studies, meeting/workshop proceedings and toolkits were disseminated widely throughout the environment and development communities in a variety of formats to expand the reach for knowledge exchange and possibility for scaling up.
Reference contact details (Name, e-mail, address, phone number)	Michael Colby, USAID/EGAT/NRM, Ronald Reagan Building 2.11.92, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20523-3800.

Contract 3 Title	CALM: "Establishing Conservation Areas through Landscape Management in the Northern Plains of Cambodia"
Contract Value	$XX
Contract Duration	2006-2012
Role of institution in project	Implementing Agency
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the contract.	CALM was a 7-year United Nations Development Program (UNDP) - Global Environment Facility (GEF) project implemented by WCS with the Forestry Administration of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) and the Ministry of Environment of the Royal Government of Cambodia (PIMS 2177). The Project, consistent with the GEF Strategic Priority BD-2 (Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Production Landscapes and Sectors), was designed to address the problem of escalating biodiversity loss across the Northern Plains, caused by increasing human land and resource use. The project achieved three outcomes: (1) the introduction of biodiversity considerations into provincial level land use processes focusing; (2) the demonstration of specific mainstreaming interventions at three key sites (including community land-use tenure, as well as work to mainstream biodiversity into the forestry and tourism productive sectors); and (3) strengthened protected area management in Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary under the remit of the Ministry of Environment and Preah Vihear Protected Forest under the remit of the Forestry Administration. The project independent final evaluation (2012) assessed the project as Highly Satisfactory, the top rating possible. Less than 4.5% of GEF projects receive this rating. The performance report stated, "…not only has CALM achieved a great deal, those achievements are set to last well into the future and perhaps act as the foundation upon which to set the next building blocks." The proposed Darwin project directly builds upon

	the foundation established by CALM, by implementing one of the demonstration PES programmes recommended by CALM.
Reference contact details (Name, e-mail, address, phone number).	Khim Lay, Assistant Country Director, Environment and Energy Team Leader, UNDP Cambodia, No 53, Rue Pastuer, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

9c. 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) **WCS** saves wildlife and wild places by understanding critical issues, crafting science-based solutions, and taking conservation actions that benefit nature and humanity. WCS believes that addressing human needs and aspirations in the places where we work is essential if we are to conserve wild nature over the long term.
Activities (50 words) WCS Cambodia supports three landscape-level conservation programmes that focus on safeguarding and improving our understanding of key species, building capacity of local communities to engage in the conservation of natural resources, advising government agencies and developing sustainable funds for conservation and improved livelihoods of local people.
Achievements (50 words) WCS Cambodia led the development of two PES initiatives that have won international awards: UNDP's Equator Prize (for community-based ecotourism) and the World Bank Development Marketplace (for the Ibis Rice concept). The PES programmes provide significant cash incomes to local people and communities, contingent on protection of biodiversity and forests.

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.

Lead institution and website:	**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)**
Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Cambodia Program www.wcscambodia.org	WCS Cambodia has operated since 1999 under MoUs with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Ministry of Environment. WCS's track record at delivering on-the-ground projects in Cambodia is evidenced by the top rating given by the independent evaluation of CALM (see section 9b), which this project builds upon. The concept for the Ibis Rice PES programme has already won one international award (the World Bank Development Marketplace). The Darwin project is based upon the recommendations of a 4-year research programme conducted by the Project Leader, Tom Clements, during his PhD. Tom's research evaluated the viability of Ibis Rice, and identified ways that it could be improved. The results of this research have been extensively publicised in peer-reviewed journal articles, international conferences and is being used as models of benefit-sharing from REDD+ and PES. WCS Cambodia will oversee project management, coordinate partner inputs and ensure that it meets its biodiversity and poverty alleviation goals. Tom will take the overall lead, supported by Ashish John, who brings >13 years experience in Cambodia working with local people (both indigenous and Khmer). Karen Nielsen, who has successfully established one conservation enterprise in Cambodia, will be responsible for building the capacity of SMP.

Partner Name and website where available: Sansom Mlup Prey (SMP) www.smpcambodia.org	**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)** SMP is a Cambodian-run civil society organisation that works with farmers living within protected areas to reduce poverty in ways that are consistent with biodiversity conservation. Since 2009, SMP has developed the Ibis Rice concept, which provides farmers with financial benefits, contingent upon the farmers abiding by park regulations. SMP buys from Village Marketing Networks (VMNs), whose members are farmers who agree to abide by conservation rules and regulations, including wildlife protection and maintenance of land-use boundaries. These rules and regulations are developed by the local communities (some of whom are indigenous peoples) and approved by government. Compliant farmers are offered preferential prices, in some cases up to double what they previously would have received from the middlemen. VMNs target the poorer farmers, who are often not food secure and are more reliant on forest resources. Paddy rice purchased by VMNs is marketed as Wildlife Friendly™, a second-party certification provided by Wildlife Friendly Enterprise Network; it is sold in Siem Reap and Phnom Penh. Compliance is independently monitored by SMP, WCS and the government agencies. SMP will play a full and active role in the project, and will receive support to increase their capacity as their operations and impact grows.
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?	**Yes**

Partner Name and website where available: Forestry Administration, Royal Government of Cambodia	**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)** WCS has worked in partnership with the Forestry Administration of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), under our MoU, to protect project sites since 1999. WCS's collaboration with Forestry Administration counterpart staff will continue to play an active role in the management of project sites during this project. Our counterpart staff include Tan Setha, Director of Preah Vihear Protected Forest and one of Cambodia's leading ornithologists, and Hong Chamnan, whose passion for the Bengal Florican led to establishing a network of Conservation Areas for the species such as that at Stoung (a project target site). With support and oversight from WCS, Forestry Administration staff will take overall responsibility for implementation of site management activities in areas under their jurisdiction. Within these areas they will be responsible for protecting the forest, ensuring that land-use plans are adhered to and that the rights of local people to access resources within appropriate zones are respected. The technical support and oversight provided by WCS will ensure that these activities are completed to the highest standard possible, including respecting the rights of local people and their development aspirations.
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?	**Yes**

Partner Name and website where available:	**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)**
Ministry of Environment, Royal Government of Cambodia	WCS has worked in partnership with the Ministry of Environment to protect project sites since 1999, under our MoU. Ministry of Environment counterpart staff will continue to play an active role in the management of project sites during this project. Our counterpart staff include Ea Sokha, Director of the Preah Vihear section of Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary. With support and oversight from WCS, Ministry of Environment staff will take overall responsibility for implementation of site management activities in areas under their jurisdiction. Within these areas they will be responsible for protecting the forest, ensuring that land-use plans are adhered to and that the rights of local people to access resources within appropriate zones are respected. The technical support and oversight provided by WCS will ensure that these activities are completed to the highest standard possible, including respecting the rights of local people and their development aspirations.
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?	**Yes**

Partner Name and website where available:	**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)**
Imperial College London (Imperial)	Imperial College London has partnered with WCS, and in particular the project leader, Tom Clements, to design and implement high-quality research into the impacts of environment and development programmes in Cambodia since 2008. This research has included analysing the design of PES programmes (Clements et al., 2010), evaluating the conservation benefits of PES (Clements et al., 2013) and investigating the impacts of protected areas and PES on local poverty (Clements et al., in press). With its established Conservation Science research programme, Imperial is well-placed to ensure that research under this project is carried out to the highest standard possible, and to support building the capacity of the Cambodian university partner, the Royal University of Phnom Penh. Imperial has been involved in the development of the project design in order to ensure that outcomes will be monitored using scientifically rigorous indicators. They will transfer international standard research design and data collection skills to counterparts from Cambodia. Imperial will be responsible for preparation of at least one high-impact journal publication on the results of the research. Clements, T., et al. (in press) *World Development*. Clements, T., et al. (2013) *Biological Conservation*, 157, 50-59. Clements, T., et al. (2010) *Ecological Economics*, 69, 1283-1291.
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?	**Yes**

Partner Name and website where available: Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP) http://www.rupp.edu.kh/master/biodiversity/	**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)** The project will provide students of the RUPP Master of Science in Biodiversity Conservation program with an opportunity to learn practical skills and to gain experience by working alongside WCS and Imperial researchers. At least two RUPP MSc students will be part of the team responsible for collecting monitoring data on project implementation and impacts, as part of their final year thesis. This collaboration will continue as the results are written up for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. WCS has been collaborating with the RUPP Centre for Biodiversity Conservation Masters course in Biodiversity Conservation for >5 years, and several students have already completed their Masters theses on WCS projects.
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?	**Yes**

11. Have you provided CVs for the senior team including the Project Leader	**Yes**

TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE

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)

The forests and wetlands of northern Cambodia and the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve are of exceptional importance for biodiversity conservation, lying within the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot and including two of the Global 200 Ecoregions. The region supports over 30 Globally Threatened species, including 8 listed as Critically Endangered. The remaining populations of these species are found almost entirely within a complex of protected areas that cover the range of forested and wetland habitat types. These protected areas are heavily threatened by over-hunting and conversion to agriculture, driven by the local resident human population from existing villages (which pre-date the parks) and agro-industrial concessions. The local people are amongst the poorest in Cambodia, and are dependent upon the forest and land resources of the parks for their livelihoods. Cambodia's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper particularly prioritises these people who are stuck in a cycle of poverty owing to remoteness of location, limited market access and insecure land tenure. Reconciling the development needs of local people whilst meeting national and global objectives for biodiversity conservation is therefore a critical question in Cambodia. This project was identified based upon WCS's long-term work on-the-ground at the sites and our research programme with Imperial College.

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)

The project will implement a novel approach to linking biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction, based upon a concept piloted by WCS and its partners inside protected areas in Cambodia over the past three years. The approach is modelled on Payments for Environmental Services (PES). Under the Ibis Rice concept, SMP, a local NGO, will buy agricultural produce

from protected area residents at a price premium, contingent upon reductions in hunting and forest clearance. Produce will be marketed as 'Wildlife-Friendly™' to supermarkets, hotels and restaurants, with profits used to expand the programme. Extensive research undertaken by WCS and Imperial during the pilot showed that the 149 households (750 people) participants complied with agreed land-use boundaries, reducing local deforestation rates by 50%. Participants increased in wealth significantly faster than controls. A business plan developed in 2011 by the University of California, Berkeley, indicated the concept could become financially sustainable.

Having proven the viability of the concept, the next stage is to implement Ibis Rice to (i) reach as many farmers within Cambodian protected areas as possible, maximising the conservation and poverty reduction impact; and (ii) establish SMP as a financially sustainable, locally-managed organisation, able to manage Ibis Rice in perpetuity.

The project will work across three protected areas (Preah Vihear Protected Forest, Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary and Stoung Conservation Area), covering 450,000 hectares of forest and wetland that supports 20,000 people and over 30 globally threatened species, including Asian elephant and six Critically Endangered birds (e.g. Giant Ibis and Bengal Florican). The project will:

(a) Mainstream local human development goals into park management. Local people within the parks use natural resources and land for their livelihoods, and are impacted both by inappropriately designed park regulations and large-scale development initiatives that expropriate land without compensation. WCS will work with park authorities and government agencies to ensure that development plans and park management appropriately recognise local livelihood and biodiversity conservation priorities.

(b) Demonstrate a rights-based approach to local land-use planning that respects residents' needs (including indigenous people, using trained facilitators). Local people are constrained by lack of tenure over land and natural resources. Using participatory land-use planning, WCS and SMP facilitators work with government, park managers, and local people to demarcate land parcels for local use and biodiversity conservation. Agreed land-use boundaries provide the foundation for Ibis Rice.

(c) Implement Ibis Rice to provide more local residents with an alternative development pathway linked to biodiversity conservation. The programme will be voluntary, and implementation will include specific measures to target poor and vulnerable households. In each village and capacity-building activities to improve farmer knowledge both of the programme and growing produce for market. WCS will build SMP's capacity to manage the programme.

(d) Analyse livelihood and biodiversity impacts. Using the existing Imperial-WCS research as a baseline, we will evaluate the impact of Ibis Rice on livelihoods by comparing participating and non-participating households with matched control households. Biodiversity impacts will be assessed through monitoring bird populations. Results will be published in peer-reviewed journals.

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 and 24.

(Max 250 words)

The project will demonstrate a novel approach to linking biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction that will reduce deforestation rates across 300,000 hectares in the three protected areas by 25-50%, protect globally significant populations of highly threatened species, improve the livelihoods of up to 10,000 local residents through greater land security and financial incentives, and build the capacity of the local partner, SMP, to sustain the project outcomes. Ibis Rice will achieve this through a PES programme in which people who have signed conditional agreements will (1) receive a premium on their produce equivalent to at least 10-25% above market price; (2) reduce hunting and practice sustainable use of forest resources

based on agreed land-use plans; and (3) attain legalised customary land-rights within protected areas.

Independent monitoring of the programme will ensure that beneficiaries do comply with the conditions of the payments. Based upon existing research conducted by Imperial-WCS, we expect that participants incomes will increase by c.$100 annually (to >$500 per year; a 20% increase) and deforestation rates will be reduced by 25-50%, in comparison with similar forest areas where Ibis Rice is not implemented, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation. Biodiversity gains will be monitored using birds fledged from protected nests: by the end of the project we expect at least 1,151 chicks to fledge from 543 protected nests in 2015, a 10% increase per annum on 2012 data. Policy-makers and the global research community will benefit from evidence-based research outputs that address a critical policy question.

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

This project aims to implement an innovative PES initiative, based upon a concept that was developed during 2009-2012 by WCS and Imperial as part of a research programme into the design of PES. The research phase indicated that Ibis Rice could deliver substantial conservation and poverty reduction benefits by: (i) stabilising land-use thereby reducing deforestation; (ii) securing forest access rights for rural communities; (iii) improving the annual income of participants by at least 20%; and (iv) increasing populations of threatened large waterbirds. These results have been detailed in the peer-reviewed literature (see publications above). A critical concern during the design phase was that insufficient market demand would exist (to sell Ibis Rice) and/or farmers would have insufficient ability to meet this demand. Market and field surveys during the research phase showed that more than sufficient interest exists in Ibis Rice, both by farmers and retail outlets. The research phase recommended that Ibis Rice should be implemented across the entire landscape. This Darwin project has been specifically designed based upon the research recommendations. Whilst the Darwin project is therefore new, it is based upon an extensive research phase, the results of which give confidence that the Darwin project will be successful.

15b. 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:

The design of the Ibis Rice PES is highly innovative and we are not aware of any similar projects being proposed in the Southeast Asian region. The approach builds upon WCS's established experience with the Community Markets for Conservation (COMACO) programme in Zambia, but differs in that the financial incentives to farmers are directly linked to their individual behaviour, thereby making Ibis Rice a true example of PES. The Ibis Rice programme also differs from other examples of PES in the region because it will be implemented by a Cambodian-run civil-society organisation, rather than by national Governments or an international NGO. By being locally-based, Ibis Rice will ensure that implementation is grounded in the needs of the participating farmers and what is necessary to protect wildlife and wildlife habitats, an example of 'bottom-up' conservation and development planning.

15c. 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**.**

Cofinancing has been confirmed from the MacArthur Foundation and the Margaret A Cargill Foundation; and Imperial College London have confirmed funding for Professor E.J. Milner-Gulland's time. We submitted a proposal to the Acacia Conservation Foundation in November 2012 and expect to hear by the end of December 2012.

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)

WCS makes long-term, on-the-ground commitments. We leverage those commitments to provide value for money by building upon established partnerships in-country and applying the contextual knowledge and lessons learned to plan culturally-appropriate and feasible projects. In all the places where we work, WCS is an established partner of the host government, a trusted partner of local communities, and an integral leader in the conservation community—this positions us to deliver results and make significant impact. Our Cambodia program exemplifies this approach.

The evaluation of the Ibis Rice concept during 2009-2012 by Imperial and WCS demonstrated that Ibis Rice can protect globally threatened species and their habitats whilst reducing local poverty. The 2011 business plan states that by linking to existing premium markets, the Ibis Rice model will be financially sustainable. Thus, whilst ambitious, Ibis Rice is a low-risk, high impact project investment.

For only a modest investment, this project is expected to improve the livelihoods for 10,000 people. We will also secure 300,000 hectares of forest across three protected areas. This will safeguard up to 30 globally threatened species, for which the project areas represent some of the last remaining populations. By building the capacity of SMP, a Cambodian-run civil society organisation, and by establishing Ibis Rice as a financially sustainable operation, the project will ensure these results are maintained in perpetuity. We believe that these results would represent a significant achievement for the Darwin Initiative and the Royal Government of Cambodia.

17. Ethics

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

(Max 300 words)

WCS management systems ensure adherence to labour, finance, banking and registration regulations specific to each of the nearly 60 countries where we work, alongside US government regulations and donor compliance requirements. WCS is a legally registered charity in England and Wales and is legally registered in Cambodia, operating under MoUs with the Royal Government.

WCS participates in the Conservation Initiative on Human Rights (https://community.iucn.org/cihr/Pages/default.aspx), and has established best-practice guidance for FPIC in Cambodia as part of our work on REDD+. WCS has also initiated a review of human rights issues in the places where we work. Our Internal Review Board ensures that research carried out by our programs protects the rights of human subjects.

Our partnerships with local people strive to understand, value, and apply traditional knowledge to addressing biodiversity, resource management, and poverty alleviation challenges. This contributes to local efforts to improve human wellbeing by affirming cultural identity in the face of rapid change, while making explicit our shared interest in finding alternatives to dominant approaches to economic development. These principles apply to our engagement with community and government entities in Cambodia. In Cambodia, WCS has been at the forefront of efforts to help indigenous peoples, and other forest-dependent communities, to secure title over their lands and protect their livelihoods.

WCS has a Duty of Care policy that details obligations of employees and the institution to create an environment of safety and concern in the fulfilment our mission, including access to medical care; insurance policies; and crisis management procedures.

WCS is committed to building credible and independent science-based understanding of biological diversity and ecosystem integrity and their centrality to the quality of human life. WCS is a leading sponsor of scientific research, and our staff are among the world's most prolific from international conservation organisations in generating peer-reviewed publications.

PATHWAY TO IMPACT

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?

(Max 300 words)

Ibis Rice represents a highly innovative approach to promoting the sustainable use of biological resources and poverty reduction, and has the potential to have a transformative impact on the forests, wildlife and local people of Cambodia. Through implementing Ibis Rice and making it sustainable, the project will make a long-lasting contribution towards helping Cambodia to fulfil its obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity, particularly with regards to Aichi Targets 5 (reduction in forest loss), 7 (sustainable management of agriculture and forests for biodiversity) and 12 (species conservation). The project will also help the Royal Government of Cambodia to achieve its stated intentions to conserve forests to mitigate climate-change (under the UNFCCC). Implementation of Ibis Rice will benefit 50% of households across the target protected areas, or more, ensuring that Cambodia's protected areas have broad social and political support and are safeguarded for future generations. The project will also build the capacity of national researchers to undertake high-quality independent research to monitor and evaluate programme impacts, enhancing knowledge regarding the linkages between biodiversity and poverty alleviation. By building the capacity of a Cambodian civil society organization and local community groups to implement the programme, Ibis Rice will further support the efforts of Cambodian people and Cambodian institutions to manage their own resources sustainably.

In addition to delivering short-term financial benefits to marginalised communities, the project will use a participatory process to demarcate community zones within protected areas to guarantee long-term access to forest resources. Ibis Rice will secure land tenure for families participating in the scheme to build a sense of ownership and encourage sustainable use of forest resources. These structures will also improve the long-term financial prospects for local people through safeguarding against land grabbing by agro-industrial companies and elites.

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.

(Max 300 words)

The project will provide direct and indirect benefits to marginalised communities, improving people's economic situation in the short term whilst putting in place structures that will create conditions for longer-term financial security.

Extensive research conducted by Imperial and WCS has indicated that participating farmers will improve their incomes from the sale of rice by at least 10%. In addition, they will benefit through the use of honest scales to weigh rice, whereas the farmers universally believe that other traders cheat them on the weight by up to 30% (a perception that is almost certainly correct). As a consequence the benefit to the farmers of participating in the scheme will be significantly greater than the price premium. All households in the villages will benefit from the competition between Ibis Rice and local traders, which should lead to general increases in the farm gate price. Research conducted by Imperial and WCS suggests that a 20% increase in incomes is more likely. We anticipate that at least 10,000 people will receive these direct economic benefits.

Ibis Rice will also improve the prospects for impoverished communities by putting in place

structures that support their long-term economic and social aspirations. A critical step will be developing and agreeing on the land-use plans that will form the basis for the conditional agreements and the demarcation of community-use zones within protected areas. These zones will guarantee access to forest resources by participants. The project will secure land tenure for participating communities, reducing the risk that land is appropriated for development by agro-industrial plantations. It will also provide training to communities in improved agricultural practices, and support efforts to restore to local people land that has been illegally taken from them.

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 will establish Ibis Rice as a financially self-sustaining initiative that provides incentives and justification for social change. After this, WCS's long-term role is expected to be restricted to independent monitoring and oversight (which is relatively cheap), and eventual phase-out. The relatively simple institutional arrangements proposed for this initiative will have low administration costs and this enhances its potential to be sustained through market sales. From that point, we see the potential for growth to be significant, owing to the number of suitable villages for expansion, and a large and increasing market. Through providing capacity building to SMP and the VMNs, rather than to individuals, the project ensures that Ibis Rice will be maintained even if individuals leave.

Ibis Rice provides a self-financing sustainable strategy for landscape level conservation and livelihood improvement. It will lead to long-lasting change in farmer behaviour through conditional agreements that (i) reduce deforestation, (ii) empower the village land-use planning committees and therefore encourage self-enforcement (due to peer pressure), which affects all farmers in the village regardless of whether they are participating or not, and (iii) creates local political pressure to pushback against the allocation of large-scale agro-industrial developments.

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?

(Max 300 words)

The project will raise awareness amongst local people and local government of the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services for economic development through creating clear linkages that are reinforced throughout the project. The economic values provided by ecosystem services and biodiversity are typically not captured by the individuals or groups that provide those services. Ibis Rice will address this market failure by providing a link between the market and the ecosystem service, placing a monetary value on the services provided by intact ecosystems. As a consequence, Ibis Rice will increase general awareness within remote communities of the importance of biodiversity conservation. The conditional payments and annual monitoring of compliance will continually reinforce the importance of biodiversity conservation to local people, leading to a change in local opinion towards biodiversity.

The Ibis Rice concept is very popular with local and provincial authorities, and with national government line agencies. Villages that had previously rejected conservation activities have requested to join Ibis Rice when it is implemented, demonstrating the popularity of the project approach. Policymakers and provincial land-use planners will be engaged through consultation processes and formal government planning processes such as the development of the annual Commune Development Plans. By ensuring that policymakers and provincial land-use planners are aware of the project activities, we will minimise the risk that forest areas involved in Ibis Rice are appropriated for economic development by elites.

At the national level the sale of Ibis Rice will sensitise Cambodian consumers to the importance of wildlife conservation. Research and data collection, conducted by Cambodian and international researchers as part of the biological and social impact monitoring, will reinforce the project principles at the local level; they will also produce knowledge products that disseminate results nationally and internationally in the form of peer-reviewed scientific publications.

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.

(Max 250 words)

PES has been widely promoted as a new tool that has the potential to catalyse broad-based support for conservation; however, within Southeast Asia there are very few successful examples. Given the paucity of examples, there is also very little information to inform policymakers regarding how to design PES programmes. Ibis Rice is exciting because:

(1) The project is at the cutting-edge of protected area management in Cambodia and the region because it provides a mechanism for protected area residents to engage in conservation in a way that also supports their livelihoods. All protected areas in Cambodia contain local residents, and this is commonplace in many other countries in the region (Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam, etc). The project therefore represents an opportunity demonstrate a new model for protected area management that has broad application.

(2) The project is grounded in 4 years of extensive research into the appropriate design of PES programmes, conducted by Imperial and WCS. The results of this research have been widely published in the peer-reviewed literature, and provide a highly credible scientific baseline against which to measure the impact of Ibis Rice. Very little information is available on the impact of PES programmes globally, and this therefore represents a unique opportunity for conducting a before-after comparison.

(3) The project is based on collaborations with the key Government policymakers in Cambodia, and is therefore well-placed to influence future national policy. Research results will contribute to national policy debate regarding land development, protected area management and food production.

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:

Matched funding totalling £201,010 is secured from: the John D and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation and the Margaret A Cargill Foundation. Professor Milner-Gulland (Imperial College) will contribute 10% of her time over the three-year project, which is valued at £XX.

Investment from the Darwin Initiative will enable Ibis Rice to leverage additional funding in perpetuity; the business model projects that with this initial investment, Ibis Rice will become financially self-sustaining.

b) Unsecured

Provide details of any matched funding where an application has been submitted, or that you intend applying for during the course of the project. This could include matched funding from the private sector, charitable organisations or other public sector schemes.

Date applied for	Donor organisation	Amount	Comments
1 November 2012	Acacia Conservation Fund	£XX	Decision expected by December 2012

PROJECT MONITORING AND EVALUATION

MEASURING IMPACT

24. LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Darwin projects will be required to report against their progress towards their expected outputs and outcomes if funded. This section sets out the expected outputs and outcomes of your project, how you expect to measure progress against these and how we can verify this. Further detail is provided in Annex x of the guidance notes which you are encouraged to refer to. The information provided here will be transposed into a logframe should your project be successful in gaining funding from the Darwin Initiative. The use of the logframe is sometimes described in terms of the Logical Framework Approach, which is about applying clear, logical thought when seeking to tackle the complex and ever-changing challenges of poverty and need. In other words, it is about sensible planning.

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)

Ensuring the long-term conservation of biodiversity and maintenance of ecosystem services in Cambodia's protected areas, whilst contributing to the reduction of poverty in rural Cambodia with a focus on the hundreds of thousands of protected area residents. The project will contribute towards this by building on pre-existing linkages between natural and human systems in remote, forest dependent communities. It will secure land tenure for vulnerable communities and guarantee access to essential forest resources. Through payment mechanisms community incomes are increased, patterns of sustainable resource use are established and threatened species protected.

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. This should be a summary statement derived from the answer given to question 14.

(Max 100 words)

The outcome of the project will be to reduce deforestation rates across 300,000 hectares of three protected areas in Cambodia by 25-50%, protect globally significant populations of highly threatened species, support the livelihoods of up to 10,000 local residents through greater land security and greater incomes, increase understanding regarding how to integrate poverty reduction and conservation, and build the capacity of local partners to sustain the project outcomes. This will be achieved through the implementation of an innovative, payment for environmental services scheme that links poverty reduction to successful conservation of forests and critically endangered species through conditional agreements.

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	Improvements in the poverty status of participating households by 10-25%, against the 2011 baseline.
Indicator 2	The number of villages inside or adjacent to protected areas with signed land-use plans and conservation agreements increased to 15 from a baseline of 6 in 2011
Indicator 3	The number of people taking part in the Wildlife Friendly™ Ibis Rice scheme increased to 10,000 from a baseline of 750 in 2011
Indicator 4	The number of tonnes of Wildlife Friendly™ produce bought annually by SMP increased to at least 600 tonnes from a baseline of 141 tonnes in 2011.
Indicator 5	The population of birds of conservation concern increased by 10% from a baseline of 408 nests protected and 865 chicks fledged in 2011/2012
Indicator 6	25% reduction in incidences of illegal land clearance and hunting around participating villages from a baseline of 65 incidences in 2011.
Indicator 7	Capacity of SMP increased from a baseline of 53 in March 2012, as measured using the Civil Society Tracker Tool (developed by the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund).

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	Household poverty surveys conducted by Imperial College and WCS
Indicator 2	Signed land-use plans and conservation agreements
Indicator 3	VMN membership rosters
Indicator 4	Receipts for rice purchase and SMP ledger records
Indicator 5	Monitoring reports by WCS and community rangers
Indicator 6	Monitoring reports from WCS rangers and satellite images (e.g. LandSat)
Indicator 7	Civil Society Tracker Tool (developed by the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund)

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	The primary assumption of the project is that local communities will be receptive to the wildlife-friendly farming initiative “Ibis Rice”. Our field surveys have suggested the scheme is very popular and large numbers of people want to join. The local people understand that the programme will provide genuine benefits, in terms of increased incomes, stable land tenure and legal rights to sustainably harvest forest resources in protected areas. We are therefore confident that sufficient farmers will want to take part in the programme.
Assumption 2	The success of the Ibis Rice initiative depends on people keeping to the

	terms of signed agreements. Research conducted during the development of the Ibis Rice concept has shown that most people keep to the agreements because of the strong incentives for them to do so, and due to the independent monitoring of compliance (Clements et al. 2010). One key factor for success is local involvement in management of the programme, which promotes self-enforcement. PES research conducted by Imperial and WCS in Cambodia has shown that people who break the agreements in the first year will then apply to re-join the scheme and will keep to agreements in the following year after seeing the benefits that their neighbours received previously (Clements et al., unpublished). WCS and SMP will undertake specific capacity-building activities to ensure that local residents fully understand the PES programme.
Assumption 3	The project assumes that the populations of threatened bird species can be increased through simple low cost conservation measures linked to conservation agreements. Previous research has shown that nest collection by local people is the primary factor limiting populations (Clements et al. 2013). Nest collection brings marginal economic gain (birds have little value as food or in trade) and existing experience suggests that with increased awareness and the provision of cash incentives it is possible to change local behaviour (Clements et al. 2013).
Assumption 4	The project assumes that the local civil society partner SMP, government agencies, village authorities and local people responsible for implementing the project have the capacity to implement activities to a high standard. Project staff with experience in local level indigenous institutional analysis will select reliable staff, identify skills gaps and build their capacity where necessary.
Assumption 5	Project target areas within the protected areas are not allocated for large-scale concessions for agro-industrial development. Significant portions of Cambodia's protected areas network (10-15% or higher) have been allocated as concessions for economic development since 2008. In May 2012, the Royal Government announced a moratorium on all future concessions, however it is unclear the extent to which this moratorium will be enforced. Nevertheless, the evidence suggests that empowered local villages are able to advocate for their rights and can persuade local politicians and national ministries not to allocate lands for development, if alternatives (such as opportunities provided by Ibis Rice) are available. Although significant areas of some of the target protected areas have been allocated for development in the last two years, the villages engaged in PES programmes developed by WCS have been able to successfully persuade decision-makers not to place concessions on the lands around their villages. Implementing the Ibis Rice concept and helping the target communities to safeguard their rights to land and natural resources (through land-use plans, land titling and determining the Community Zone of each of the protected areas) will therefore have a strong impact on reducing the likelihood of land concessions. Under the law, the Community Zone is the area of the protected areas allocated for local use, which prohibits large-scale economic development activities.

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	2,000 households (10,000 people) receive payments for environmental

	services as a result of taking part in the Ibis Rice initiative.
Output 2	Land-use planning conducted in 9 additional villages, thereby securing land tenure, legalising access to forest resources and reducing additional habitat loss.
Output 3	Implementation of land-use plans by Government agencies (FA and MoE)
Output 4	Threatened bird populations monitored by community members and WCS rangers.
Output 5	Ibis Rice PES programme is self-financing and sustainable.
Output 6	Impacts of the Ibis Rice PES programme on poverty, land-use trends and threatened species populations are documented in at least two peer-reviewed papers published in scientific journals.

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).

Output 1: 2,000 households receive payments for environmental services as a result of taking part in the Ibis Rice initiative	
Indicator 1.1	The number of signed conditional agreements linked to agreed land-use plans between SMP, Village Marketing Networks and participating households: current: 707, expected: 2,000 households (10,000 people).
Indicator 1.2	Receipts and SMP ledger records of purchase of Ibis Rice from participating households: current: 140, expected: 2,000 households (10,000 people).
Indicator 1.3	Number of functioning VMNs: 2012: 4; expected: 15

Output 2: Land-use planning conducted in 9 additional villages, thereby securing land tenure, legalising access to forest resources and reducing additional habitat loss	
Indicator 2.1	The number of land-use plans developed and agreed: current: 6 villages, expected: 15 villages.
Indicator 2.2	Area of land under agreed contracts: 2012: 21,153 hectares; expected: 100,000 hectares.
Indicator 2.5	At least one protected area is zoned.

Output 3: Implementation of land-use plans by Government agencies (FA and MoE)	
Indicator 3.1	Rate of reduction in illegal land clearance and hunting around target villages from baseline: 2007: 166 incidences of land clearance; 2008: 138; 2009: 74; 2010: 61; 2011: 65; expected: <30.
Indicator 3.2	Deforestation rates around target villages. Baseline (2006-2010): 1.3%; Expected (2012-2015): 0.65-1%.

Output 4: Threatened bird populations increase	
Indicator 4.1	Number of birds nests protected: 2012: 408; expected 543 (10% increase per annum).
Indicator 4.2	Number of chicks fledged successfully from protected birds nests: 2012 865; expected 1,151 (10% increase per annum).

Output 5: Ibis Rice PES programme is self-financing and sustainable	
Indicator 5.1	Following the Ibis Rice business plan, Ibis Rice will be financially sustainable when it reaches 600 tonnes purchased per annum (expected by 2015/16): 2011 rice purchase 141 tonnes.

Output 6: Impacts of the Ibis Rice PES programme on poverty, land-use trends and threatened species monitored and documented.	
Indicator 6.1	Two peer-reviewed journal articles published in academic journals by WCS, Imperial and RUPP researchers.

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	Signed conditional agreements, receipts and ledger records documenting rice purchases from households, updated databases of participating households in each village.
Output 2	Land-use plans, protected area zonations, community protected area or community conservation forest areas declared.
Output 3	Illegal activity reports, deforestation rate analyses based upon analysis of remote-sensing images.
Output 3	Nest protection reports and data records
Output 4	SMP financial records, SMP annual reports, updated business plans
Output 5	Data on changes in household poverty. Peer-reviewed journal publications resulting from the project.

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	Villages value the premium paid for Ibis Rice paddy and it is sufficient to change villager behaviour.
Assumption 2	Land-use planning process continues to proceed in a timely manner, with villagers opting to participate in usual numbers.
Assumption 3	Financial incentives of the project are properly understood and sufficient to encourage the VMN members to abide by rules and regulations.
Assumption 4	The market for Wildlife Friendly™ Ibis Rice grows and can absorb the

	increased volume.
Assumption 5	Researchers from RUPP are sufficiently motivated to participate over the 3-year life of the project.

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: 2,000 households receive payments for environmental services as a result of taking part in the Ibis Rice initiative	
Activity 1.1	SMP inform target villages about Ibis Rice scheme
Activity 1.2	Village Marketing Networks (VMNs) established in target villages
Activity 1.3	Conditional agreements explained and new members join VMNs
Activity 1.4	Training and seed provided to farmers as necessary
Activity 1.5	VMNs identify eligible farmers with proper quality paddy
Activity 1.6	VMNs sell Ibis Rice paddy to SMP

Output 2: Land-use planning conducted in 9 additional villages, thereby securing land tenure, legalising access to forest resources and reducing additional habitat loss	
Activity 2.1	Participatory land-use planning conducted in target villages, including identification of community protected areas (community managed forest areas inside protected areas) and community conservation forests (community managed forest areas inside protected forests)
Activity 2.2	Land-use plans and zoning agreed by villagers
Activity 2.3	Land-use plans used to legalise Community Zones in protected areas, community protected areas, and community conservation forests

Output 3: Implementation of land-use plans by Government agencies (FA and MoE)	
Activity 3.1	Consultations with government agencies and provincial authorities regarding land-use planning decisions, including allocation of lands for largescale economic development within conservation areas
Activity 3.2	Monitoring of forest cover and land-use change by WCS using satellite images
Activity 3.3	Monitoring reports used as the basis of further discussion and consultation regarding activities causing deforestation and land-use planning decisions

Output 4: Threatened bird populations increase	
Activity 4.1	Community birds nest protectors are recruited through village consultation meetings
Activity 4.2	Community birds nest protectors protect nests of key species and report to birds nest protection coordinator
Activity 4.3	WCS Rangers monitor the results of nests protected by community members

Output 5: Ibis Rice PES programme is self-financing and sustainable	
Activity 5.1	Marketing activities conducted with potential retailers in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap
Activity 5.2	Ibis Rice is sold in more outlets (supermarkets, hotels and restaurants)
Activity 5.3	SMP business plans demonstrate that Ibis Rice has achieved financial sustainability

Output 6: Impacts of the Ibis Rice PES programme on poverty, land-use trends and threatened species monitored and documented.	
Activity 6.1	Data on poverty and land-use trends is collected from target villages and appropriate paired control villages, through analysis of satellite images and ground surveys
Activity 6.2	Data regularly synthesised and fed back to project team
Activity 6.3	At least two scientific papers written

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	Q3	Q4
Output 1	**2,000 households receive payments for environmental services as a result of taking part in the Ibis Rice initiative**													
1.1	SMP inform target villages about Ibis Rice scheme	12	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
1.2	Village Marketing Networks established in target villages	18	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x		x
1.3	Conditional agreements explained and signed	18	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x		x
1.4	Training and seed provided to farmers as necessary	9	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x		x
1.5	VMNs identify eligible farmers	3			x				x				x	
1.6	VMN sell Ibis Rice paddy to SMP	3			x				x				x	
Output 2	**Land-use planning conducted in 9 additional villages, thereby securing land tenure, legalising access to forest resources and reducing additional habitat loss.**													
2.1	Participatory land-use planning conducted in target villages	15	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
2.2	Land-use plans and zoning agreed by villagers	15	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
2.3	Land-use plans used to legalise Community Zones in protected areas	12	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Output 3	**Implementation of land-use plans by Government agencies (FA and MoE)**													
3.1	Consultations with government agencies and provincial authorities	36	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
3.2	Monitoring of forest cover and land-use change	12	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
3.3	Follow-up to monitoring reports	12	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Output 4	**Threatened bird populations increase.**													
4.1	Birds nest protectors recruited through village consultation	8	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

	meetings													
4.2	Birds nest protectors protect nests of key species and report to birds nest protection coordinator	24	x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x	
4.3	WCS Rangers monitor the results of nests protected by community members	24	x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x	
Output 5	**SMP Ibis Rice PES programme is self-financing and replicable throughout rural Cambodian protected landscapes.**													
5.1	Marketing activities conducted with potential retailers in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap	36	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
5.2	Ibis Rice is sold in more outlets (supermarkets, hotels and restaurants)	36	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
5.3	SMP business plans demonstrate that Ibis Rice has achieved financial sustainability	6							x	x	x	x	x	x
Output 6	**Impacts of the Ibis Rice PES programme on poverty, land-use trends and threatened species monitored and documented.**													
6.1	Data on poverty and land-use trends is collected from target villages and appropriate paired control villages, through analysis of satellite images and ground surveys	12	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
6.2	Data regularly synthesised and fed back to project team	12	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
6.3	At least two scientific papers written	3										x	x	x

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.

(Max 500 words)

WCS's success as one of the most effective international conservation NGOs relies on not just implementing conservation, but credibly measuring and reporting our conservation impacts over time. For this project we will measure three goals: (1) Poverty reduction, (2) Biodiversity and forest conservation; and (3) capacity building using the objectively verifiable indicators. Monitoring will be conducted by WCS, in collaboration with RUPP students and advisors from Imperial College. Data will be gathered by a range of stakeholders, under the supervision of WCS.

Poverty reduction

Data collated by WCS together with RUPP researchers will indicate the number of people involved in the project, their level of compliance with conditional agreements and the economic contribution that the project makes to their livelihoods. We will evaluate the project's impact on the development pathway of the target villages by comparing the livelihoods and poverty status of households in matched control villages (villages similar in all measurable ways to target villages) against a baseline established in 2008 and updated in 2011 using the Basic Necessities Survey. Socio-economic and human well-being parameters will be measured and compared between project and control villages.

Biodiversity and Forest Conservation

Project impacts on biodiversity will be monitored annually using bird nest protection data, records of illegal incidents (e.g. hunting, land clearance) and data on land-cover change (using satellite and ground-survey data). Data will be evaluated against a data series stretching back to 2002 prior to the initiation of conservation interventions in the project landscape. These data will also contribute towards the annual Red List assessment for birds.

Capacity Building

The project will monitor SMP's capacity to sustainably manage a PES-based business model that follows ethical principles and delivers clear, measurable poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation gains through use of the Civil Society Tracker Tool (developed in 2006 by CEPF to systematically monitor civil society development). SMP's baseline capacity was assessed using the tool in 2012. We will evaluate progress against growth and sustainability models in the SMP business plan.

RUPP researchers' capacity will be built through collaborations with international technical advisors at WCS and researchers from Imperial. Their progress will be assessed based upon the number of theses and peer-reviewed journal publications they successfully complete, and their participation in conferences and information exchange events. Through this, they will gain practical skills and experience that will enable them to become future conservation leaders within Cambodia.

Adaptive Management

WCS-Cambodia uses adaptive management practices when implementing all its projects. Results from monitoring activities (in particular forest cover monitoring, which can now be conducted very quickly) will be fed into management decisions, both by WCS (as the project manager) and the partner government agencies and SMP. Quarterly project meetings will be used to assess progress against the project indicators, develop workplans for the next quarter, and determine necessary changes to the overall strategy. Annual progress will be discussed with national and local authorities and community organisations through consultative meetings to solicit stakeholder input, and get confirmation that project achievements are accurate and valued.

FUNDING AND BUDGET

Please complete the separate Excel spreadsheet which 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.

(max 300 words)

WCS has been working in Cambodia for >13 years and consequently has considerable experience at delivering projects in remote areas in a cost-effective way. Based on existing experience the costs of implementing the various stages in the project: community consultation, land-use planning, household contracting and monitoring, are well known and can be calculated with accuracy.

Staff costs make up the most significant portion of the budget, given the need to have appropriate technical oversight of the Ibis Rice programme as it is implemented, in particular to build the capacity of SMP and to ensure that the community consultations over the land-use plans and household contracts are undertaken appropriately, and with respect to local peoples' rights and cultural sensitivities. As SMP becomes established and takes on more staff, SMP's operating revenues will cover these additional costs. Consequently SMP's own needs for funding to cover staff costs are not particularly significant and do not increase over time (even though SMP's staff will increase considerably). The budget also includes significant funding for fieldwork costs, village meetings, and biodiversity monitoring by community rangers. Funds are allocated for one international flight per year for Imperial researchers to support the monitoring and impact evaluation research.

WCS finance staff have considerable experience and expertise in managing large project budgets and meeting the reporting requirements of, for example USAID, UNDP and GEF. Sound financial practices are standard in the organisation. During project implementation field staff must also follow standard financial practices. These practices have been designed so that they are easy to follow for staff with limited accounting experience whilst ensuring that project funds are disbursed appropriately and efficiently. Standardised field costs for items such as accommodation and food that reflect real prices in rural Cambodia reduce administration time.

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) ☐ **Yes, advice attached** ☐ **No** ✓ ☐

Important Clarification: The FCO advises against all travel to the Preah Vihear temple area in Cambodia. Whilst the planned project activities are in Preah Vihear province, they are located far (>50km) from the Preah Vihear temple area. It should be noted that the Preah Vihear Protected Forest (one of our target areas) is in no way associated with or nearby the Preah Vihear temple area; they are very separate places.

CERTIFICATION 2013/14

On behalf of the Wildlife Conservation Society,

I apply for a grant of **£249,951** 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 institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)*

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

Audits (2010 and 2011):
http://www.wcs.org/files/pdfs/Audited-Financial-Statements-2010-WCS.pdf
http://www.wcs.org/files/pdfs/Audited-Financial-Statements-2011-WCS.pdf

Annual reports (2010 and 2011):
http://www.wcs.org/files/pdfs/wcs-2010-annual-report.pdf
http://www.wcs.org/files/pdfs/wcs-2011-annual-report.pdf

Name (block capitals)	JOSHUA GINSBERG, PHD
Position in the organisation	Senior Vice President, Global Conservation Program

Signed  **Date:** November 30, 2012

Stage 2 Application - Checklist for submission

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

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.