Submit by Monday 1 December 2014

DARWIN INITIATIVE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FOR ROUND 21: 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 email to the Project Leader in Question 7)

Applicant Organisation Name:	**Zoological Society of London (ZSL)**
Address:	**Regent's Park, Outer Circle**
City and Postcode:	**London NW1 4RY**
Country:	**UK**
Email:	
Phone:	

2. Stage 1 reference and Project title

Ref 2850	**Securing Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve's grasslands and wellbeing of local communities**

3. Project dates, and budget summary

Start date: 1 April 2015		**End date: 31 March 2018**		**Duration: 3 years**
Darwin request	**2015/16** **£112,038**	**2016/17** **£88,323**	**2017/18** **£84,056**	**Total request** **£284,417**
Proposed (confirmed and unconfirmed) matched funding as % of total Project cost: 30%				
Are you applying for DFID or Defra funding? (Note you **cannot** apply for both)		**DFID**		

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

(max 30 words)

Healthy grassland ecosystems in and around Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve improve the well-being for 2500 households through productive livestock, better access to veterinary services and more accessible fodder resources.

28 words

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: **NEPAL**	**Country 2:**

6. Biodiversity Conventions

Which of the 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**
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)	**No**
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)	**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)

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) are principal instruments for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at the national level (Article 6). Nepal's updated NBSAP (2014) identifies both overgrazing and inappropriate management as major causes of biodiversity decline in grasslands, and calls for '*sustainable management of at least five grasslands and five wetlands inside protected areas prepared and implemented by 2020*.' This project addresses overgrazing and creates grassland management guidelines for Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve (SWR) and supports local livelihood initiatives. It will help the government of Nepal meet the following Aichi Targets:

1. Target 1 – raising awareness of grassland ecosystems
2. Target 4,5,7,9 – creation of grassland management plan to guide sustainable use and biodiversity-friendly livestock management
3. Target 12 – improving the conservation status of the threatened species of SWR
4. Target 14 – increasing wellbeing through well managed ecosystem services and habitat restoration
5. Target 17,18,19 – robust data on grassland ecosystems and grassland dependent species to support national action planning

Additionally, this project supports the long-term conservation of several CITES and CMS listed species including the Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris*) and Hodgson's bushchat (*Saxicola insignis*).

187 words

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

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

The Environment Division, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal, is the focal point for the CBD in Nepal. ZSL has a working MoU with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), which also falls under the same ministry. ZSL is in touch with the CBD focal point, Mr. Braj Kishore Yadav, and will continue to liaise regularly with him throughout the project.

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	Baral	Bhattacharya	Shrestha
Forename (s)	Hem Sagar	Gitanjali	Rebati Man
Post held	Nepal Country Manager	South and Central Asia Programme Manager	Livestock Specialist (proposed project post)
Organisation (if different to above)	Zoological Society of London	Zoological Society of London	Zoological Society of London
Department	Conservation Programmes – Nepal Office	Conservation Programmes – UK Office	Conservation Programmes – Nepal Office
Telephone			
Email			

Details	Project Partner 3	Project Partner 4	Project Partner 5
Surname	Pant	Dhakal	Subedi
Forename (s)	Eshwar Raj	Bed Kumar	Naresh
Post held	Field Manager (proposed project post)	Chief Warden	Senior Conservation Officer
Organisation (if different to above)	Zoological Society of London	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation	National Trust for Nature Conservation
Department	Conservation Programmes – Nepal Office	Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve	Terai Conservation Programme
Telephone			
Email			

Details	Project Partner 6
Surname	Shah
Forename (s)	Karan Bahadur
Post held	Chairman
Organisation (if different to above)	Himalayan Nature
Department	NA
Telephone	
Email	

8. Has your organisation been awarded a Darwin Initiative award before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)**? If so, please provide details of the most recent awards (up to 6 examples).**

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
21-010	Heather Koldewey	Linking community resilience and sustainable coastal protection in the Philippines
21-017	Chris Ransom	Community-based conservation for livelihood development in Lake Ossa Manatee Reserve
21-020	Matthew Gollock	Eels – a flagship species for freshwater conservation in the Philippines
20-023	Nick Hill	An integrated approach to enhancing socio-ecological resilience in coastal Mozambique
19-003	Andrew Cunningham	A sustainable future for Chinese giant salamanders
19-006	Sarah Durant	The CUT plan for large carnivore management in Tanzania

9a. If you answered 'NO' to Question 8 please complete Question 9a, b and c.
If you answered 'YES', please go to Question 10 (and delete the boxes for Q9a, 9b and 9c)

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.

Lead institution and website:	Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)
Zoological Society of London **www.zsl.org**	The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) is a UK-registered charity founded in 1826. ZSL has extensive experience managing large field-based projects effectively to achieve the intended outcomes. Our Conservation Programmes department is currently working in over 50 countries worldwide. ZSL has a long history of working with communities, environmental organisations, government and NGOs in South Asia. ZSL has had projects in Nepal for over 20 years. We have been involved in the management of grasslands with the removal of invasive alien plants (IAPs) to improve the habitat of the greater one-horned rhinoceros and various other wild herbivores. We have also provided local communities with veterinary services in the buffer zones of Chitwan National Park. In 2014, we established a permanent office under a MoU with the DPNWC and Social Welfare Council. ZSL, through its Nepal country office and dedicated staff, will provide overall management of the project, including financial management. ZSL will work very closely with the Government of Nepal. ZSL staff will be responsible for field coordination, M&E, and reporting; providing technical support and training to project partners for biodiversity monitoring and veterinary services. **185 words**

Partner Name and website where available:	Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)
Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation **http://www.dnpwc.gov.np/**	The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) is the government authority responsible for the overall management of Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve (SWR). They are also working with local people to uplift their economic status and engage them in conservation of wildlife through their programmes in the buffer zone through the Buffer Zone Council (BZC), an elected body of User Groups (UG) living around the reserve. DNPWC is the main in-country partner and will facilitate cooperation between communities, NGOs and other GOs, including the CBD focal point. ZSL has supported the work of the DNPWC for nearly 20 years. DNPWC has been instrumental in the development of this project and are fully supportive of all proposed activities. DNPWC will ensure administrative collaborations and necessary permissions as well as provide rangers and game scouts to support work within the reserve. DNPWC will ensure that the grassland management guidelines and other recommendations produced by the project are put to best effect. **159 words**
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)
National Trust for Nature Conservation **www.ntnc.org.np**	The National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) was established in 1982 by a Legislative Act as an autonomous and not-for-profit organisation, mandated to work in the field of nature conservation in Nepal. For over three decades, NTNC has successfully undertaken over 200 small and large projects on nature conservation, biodiversity as well as cultural heritage protection, ecotourism and sustainable development. Integrated conservation and development programmes with active people's participation aimed at promoting local guardianship have been the focus of all NTNC activities. NTNC has been involved in diversification of livelihood options for people living in the edges of the protected areas for last 30 years. NTNC has a permanent office in SWR that has been operational for the last decade. ZSL and NTNC have worked together since the mid-1990s. They are involved in the design of this project and will facilitate the setting up of veterinary clinics based on their experience with ZSL in Chitwan. NTNC will set up the improved cattle programme, with support from the Livestock Specialist. NTNC will also lead on community engagement for the grassland management activities. **181 words**
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)
Himalayan Nature **www.himalayannature.org**	Founded in 2000, Himalayan Nature (HN) is a conservation research institute, initiating scientific research on Himalayan floral and faunal diversity and the broader environment. Based in Kathmandu, Nepal, it is an independent, not-for-profit organisation actively working on emerging issues related to the conservation of natural resources, and the improvement of living conditions of people. HN is a science-based organisation and takes an independent view of biodiversity conservation issues. HN provides scientific advice on aspects of environmental management to government authorities and other concerned nature conservation organisations. ZSL has been working with HN for over four years. HN has conducted successful grassland restoration work at Chitwan and Koshi. It has also conducted pioneering studies on the Critically Endangered Bengal florican (*Houbaropsis bengalensis*) populations of Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve and its suburbs. In this project, HN will support NTNC in the community engagement for grassland management activities and lead on the biodiversity monitoring programme supported by SWR and ZSL staff. **158 words**
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?	Yes

12. Problem the project is trying to address

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

(Max 200 words)

The SWR Management Plan identifies overgrazing in core and peripheral areas as a major cause of decline of grassland habitat and animals. Nearly 10,000 cattle, constituting 85% of the buffer zone population, graze freely within the core and peripheral area of SWR per day. The frequent and unregulated sharing of grazing land not only results in overgrazing, but also increases the risk of disease transmission between domestic ruminants and wild animals. For example, 20 swamp and hog deer died in a foot and mouth disease (FMD) outbreak in 2010-11.This failure to manage transmittable diseases poses a serious threat to wildlife.

Cattle, however, play a significant role in the local economy. Over 22000 households (143,395 people) reside in the buffer zone and are dependent on livestock for their income and nutritional needs. Cattle management is still based on traditional herding practices leading to low milk yields. There are inadequate veterinary facilities to address livestock health concerns, which often leads to severe economic losses. Women, typically responsible for fodder collection, sometimes suffer severe spinal injuries from falls from trees whilst collecting fodder in and around SWR. These concerns have been highlighted by communities and DNPWC during meetings with NTNC and ZSL.

199 words

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)

This project will protect the fragile grassland ecosystem and wildlife of SWR and support the livelihoods of buffer zone communities ~~by raising~~ to improve their wellbeing. We aim to do this by supporting farmers to raise productive breeds of cattle ~~for milking, providing easier~~, improving access to veterinary services and encouraging ~~stall feeding and rotational~~ improved grazing ~~practice for livestock~~ practices resulting in ~~private/community lands and at the same time protecting the fragile grassland ecosystem and the wildlife of SWR by reducing~~ reduced grazing pressure on grasslands and mitigated risks of disease transmission ~~from~~ between wild ruminants and domestic animals. SWR ~~is an area of~~(305 km²) represents the largest patch of ~~which one third is grasslands. A grassland~~ threatened *Terai* grasslands of global significance. The formulation of a grassland management plan ~~will be formulated~~ with proven methods ~~and tools~~ will support populations of several globally threatened species including the world's largest herd of swamp deer (*Rucervus duvaucelii*).

1. An assessment and community consultation will be performed by NTNC to ascertain socio-economic status, well-being indicators, and dependency of communities on the reserve's natural resources.
2. Community managed grasslands~~, and the establishment of fodder banks~~ will be initiated in prioritised communities based on initial community assessments. Rotational grazing,

introduction of multipurpose fodder trees and grass species suitable for improving pastures and other options will be explored. ~~Additionally,~~ Support will be provided to initiate rearing of more productive milk cattle with higher economic values and outputs. ~~Alternative sources of protein production such as managed fisheries and poultry farming will also be investigated~~. This will be led by a joint team of NTNC/DNPWC/ZSL in consultation with buffer zone user groups.

3. ~~A nursery~~ Existing plant nurseries will be ~~established for promoting~~ strengthened to promote the use of fodder for cattle by supplying fodder saplings to the buffer zone communities. This will be led by NTNC with support from DNPWC and ZSL.
4. Training will be made available to ~~increase~~ enhance capacity of all stakeholders on wise use of grassland resources and stall feeding of livestock. This will be led by a joint team of NTNC/DNPWC/HN/ZSL in consultation with buffer zone user groups.
5. Two ~~fully equipped~~ veterinary ~~stations~~ clinics will be ~~established~~ strengthened with the aim of providing animal health services to ~~more than 100000 people~~ at least 5,000 households by the end of the project. After the project is over the local government, with support from DNPWC/NTNC, will take responsibility for the ~~centres~~ self-sustaining clinics.
6. Field surveys will be carried out for population estimation and threat assessment of globally threatened species like the Hodgson's bushchat, Bengal florican, hog deer and swamp deer. Important baseline data on grassland assemblages will also be collected. Population estimates for further species e.g. tiger will be obtained. ZSL will provide technical assistance to NTNC, HN and DNPWC to carry out surveys.
7. Grassland management guidelines will be drafted by NTNC and HN with technical inputs from ZSL and DNPWC. In line with the proposed guidelines, ~~physical and biological control methods to reduce spread of IAP will be examined and their possible use in making bio-briquettes explored. Fire breaks and controlled burns to avoid repeated fires will be established.~~ experimental plots will be established in the reserve testing different techniques such as cutting and burning as well as controlled grazing for providing input into the final version of the guidelines.
8. Appropriate grassland management methods and awareness raising tools (e.g. talks, videos) will be developed and implemented by NTNC and ZSL. Grassland management guidelines will be ~~prepared~~ finalised with DNPWC leading.

~~ZSL will provide technical assistance to NTNC, HN, DNPWC to carry out these surveys~~ The project will be managed by ZSL but a local coordination committee for the project will be established including the main project partners and representatives from the Buffer Zone Council.

500 words

14. Change Expected

Detail what the expected changes this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who will benefit.

- If you are applying for Defra funding this should specifically focus on the changes expected for biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use.
- If you are applying for DFID funding you should in addition refer to how the project will contribute to reducing poverty. Q19 provides more space for elaboration on this.

(Max 250 words)

Grassland management guidelines effectively implemented by DNPWC and local communities will restore grassland habitats vital for globally threatened grassland dependant species and improve the wellbeing of local communities. Specifically:

- Fodder nurseries will help local residents to secure quality fodder (30% more than current levels) for the livestock, reducing the dependency of the local people on the reserve and the risk of injury from falls to fodder collectors (mostly women).
- At least 20 poor households supported to acquire improved breeds via a soft loan programme managed by women-run dairy cooperatives. Additional households who wish to acquire improved breeds will be supported by a community volunteer.
- The combination of more valuable livestock, accessible fodder, and proper grassland management protocols will increase the number of households practicing stall feeding.
- Increased awareness of disease transmission from wildlife will reduce level of free grazing in SWR and encourage people to manage the grasslands for their more valuable cattle. This motivation will potentially stop continued incursions of cattle into SWR.
- Households around SWR will be able to access veterinary services, such as vaccinations, artificial insemination, diagnostic services and information on livestock good health and hygiene practices. This will maximise economic returns and ensure nutrition by keeping livestock healthy and productive.
- A reduction in the interface between wildlife and domestic ruminants will reduce the potential transfer of diseases such as FMD and rabies.
- SWR acts as a demonstration site for replication of grassland management and biodiversity friendly livestock management practices throughout Nepal.

245 words

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. It is based on past successful projects initiated by ZSL in Nepal with DNPWC and NTNC taking into account key lessons learnt. From 1998-2001, ZSL led a project to establish four veterinary clinics around Chitwan National Park as well as encourage more sustainable grazing practices for local farmers. All of the clinics were handed over to the government upon completion of the project and three are still active today, nearly 15 years later.

There have been two post-project assessments conducted on the clinics – one by ZSL's former project leader Dr Jacques Flamand and the other as part of an MSc thesis in Wild Animal Health at RVC. Both these post-project reports have been analysed to ensure sustainability of the proposed project. The three operational clinics are in good shape; they receive funding via their local Buffer Zone Council and/or Village Development Council and revenues from services provided. The reports also state that there has been a reduction in outbreaks of FMD and haemorrhagic septicaemia and that illegal grazing has also virtually disappeared in the target areas.

181 words

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:

While there are no projects that have a similar scope of work – grassland management and livelihood support via improved cattle programmes, - there is an active Darwin Initiative project in Nepal which includes SWR as one of its four study sites in Nepal. We are in close touch with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds/Bird Conservation Nepal who initiated a DI project in the Terai aimed at addressing the gap in knowledge regarding the distribution and habitat requirements of Bengal florican, particularly outside the breeding season. One of the expected outcomes of the project is the identification of suitable grassland management techniques to promote favourable habitat for Bengal florican and benefit traditional pastoralists, which will be incorporated into the overall grassland management guidelines produced by this proposed project.

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**.**

All partners have committed matched funding in terms of in-kind cost share to cover contributions toward human resources, travel, and office/workshop spaces. No additional funds are needed.

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)

By providing enhanced well-being to over 2500 poor households in the buffer zone of SWR through proven, sustainable interventions, this project offers the Darwin Initiative very good value for money. More than 3000 animals will have benefitted during the life of the project, numbers that will only increase as the clinics start becoming self-sustaining enterprises. When designing this project, we have considered four dimensions of value for money: economy, reducing the cost of activities but still maintaining quality; efficiency, increasing the output of our activities; effectiveness, achieving our intended outcomes; and equity, ensuring that activities reach disadvantaged groups. For example, by adopting simple and inexpensive grassland management techniques for poor families, we will not only have a significant impact on the welfare of communities but will also reduce pressure on the protected area for little additional cost.

To track and monitor value for money, ZSL requires quarterly project and financial reporting. Prior to approval and release of funds, work plans and budgets will be evaluated by the Project Leader and UK Programme Managers. Project expenditures are checked and approved by the Project Leader and ZSL's Administrators to ensure that all costs are allowable. Additionally, ZSL has a dedicated procurement team to assist with selecting suppliers and sourcing project needs.

209 words

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)

ZSL has been working in Nepal for the last 20 years and has an excellent track record regarding working principles. All project activities will be subject to review by ZSL's Ethics Committee, an external body of experts, to ensure that they meet ZSL's established ethical standards, which also cover the key principles required by the Darwin Initiative.

ZSL has a full set of Health and Safety procedures, including requirements for risk assessments prior to initiating any activities. The Project Leader will ensure that all project personnel adhere to these principles. Our partners on this project also have high standards of health and safety requirements to which they are bound. Additionally, as a registered international entity in Nepal, every project we implement must be audited by the Nepal Social Welfare Council. This independent assessment looks not only at project effectiveness and finances, but also focuses on ethical and equitable engagement with local communities and user groups.

ZSL and our partners all have existing experience at the proposed project site (i.e. Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve and its buffer zone communities) and the support of the local community and government to undertake this project. When starting project activities, we will provide a full explanation of the principles and objectives behind the project and seek written Free, Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) from our target audiences, consulting the Social Welfare Council as appropriate. Prior to the collection of any socioeconomic/personal information, the aims of the project and confidentiality arrangements of resulting data will be explained to respondents. Respondents will be given the opportunity to opt out of the interview or survey should they desire. The Field Manager, with support from the Project Leader and Advisors, will ensure there are no adverse effects on any community members and that project interventions are pro-poor and gender aware.

299 words

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 DFID funded projects). 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)

Grasslands are important ecosystems to Nepal, home to many iconic and threatened species. They are a key resource supporting community livelihoods. This project will result the successful creation and implementation of grassland management guidelines for SWR and its buffer zone. Plans developed for SWR will serve as the basis for national grassland management guidelines for the entire Terai area. In time, this will enable the impacts of the project to be rolled out over a much greater area than just SWR.

The veterinary clinics will be handed over to the local government and will continue to serve the community beyond the lifetime of the project. Based on ZSL's experiences of the Chitwan clinics, it is possible that each of the clinics will grow to serve over 1000 households per year and treat over 2000 animals annually. Vaccination programmes will significantly reduce the risk of zoonotic disease outbreaks, protecting both livestock and wild animals. Additionally, as the

clinics are associated with the buffer zone and local government, the positive associations will help reduce park-people conflicts and instead work towards garnering additional community appreciation and support of the reserve.

Women will be empowered through strengthening of existing cooperatives by enabling them to take over the key decision making posts. The dairy cooperatives will continue to support local households to acquire and rear improved breeds of cattle. With the veterinary care provided by the clinics, these cows will continue to produce the much needed milk to support household nutrition and income. By promoting stall feeding of livestock and establishing fodder nurseries, the incidence of livestock transgressions into the reserve will be significantly reduced. Local women will have improved health by not putting their lives at risk for the fodder collection and use of bio-gas from cow-dung for cooking.

295 words

19. Pathway to poverty alleviation

Please describe how your project will benefit poor people living in low-income countries. All projects funded through DFID in Round 21 must be compliant with the OECD Overseas Development Assistance criteria. Projects are therefore required to indicate how they will have a positive impact on poverty alleviation in low-income countries.

(Max 300 words)

Nepal is ranked 145th out of 187 countries on the 2013 Human Development Index. Agriculture is a major industry, employing over 73% of the population. Dairy farming has been in practice in Nepal for centuries and rapid urbanisation is causing increased demand for dairy products. Traditional approaches to dairy farming are not meeting the growing demand for milk and milk products, resulting in billions of rupees annually importing dairy products. A recent value chain assessment of the dairy industry in the project area (Department of Livestock Services (DLS) 2012), revealed high potential for increasing not only local milk consumption and sales but also exports. To do this, the study recommended providing improved cattle, quality feed, and improved management practices. By establishing women-run dairy cooperatives – based on existing legal structures – this project will alleviate poverty in the following ways:

Increased assets and access to resources. Improved access to veterinary services will ensure the health of cattle, provide employment, but more importantly help insure investments made by the project by keeping cattle healthy and productive. By creating fodder nurseries, feed can be safely sourced closer to home, reducing the risk of injury during fodder collection. Community members will be engaged in sustainable use of grasslands and fodder trees, emphasizing which plants/trees to cut and when. Additionally, as the improved cattle are more valuable due to their increased milk production and the actual cost of acquisition, they are more likely to be stall-fed, reducing illegal grazing in SWR, mitigating human-wildlife conflicts and disease transmissions.

Increased nutrition and income. DLS estimates the average milk yield per lactation of a local cow is 340-400 litres compared to average of 2000 litres from improved cows. The additional milk can be consumed by the family or sold into existing dairy markets.

293 words

19a. Impact to beneficiaries

If applying to DFID funding, please indicate the number of beneficiaries who are expected to be impacted by your project. If possible, indicate the number of women who will be impacted.

Seven village development councils (VDC) border SWR and they can be demographically described as below:

VDC adjoining to SWR	Households	Male	Female	Total
Jhalari	4782	11,407	12,940	24,347
Pipladi	3243	8197	9482	17,679
Dekhatbhuli	3285	9056	9522	18,578
Shankarpur	1065	3549	3702	7251
Rampur-Bilaspur	2928	8773	9657	18,430
Beldandi	3022	8236	9334	17,570
Rauteli-Bichawa	738	2004	2375	4379
	19,063	**51,222**	**57,012**	**108,234**

Veterinary clinics*.* Based on the early years of the Chitwan clinics, we expect each clinic to see about 500 cases (households) per clinic per year, which would benefit approximately 1/20 of the total population each year. Approximately 1000 animals per clinic per year would benefit from veterinary services. By the end of the project, up to 2500 households and 3000 animals will have benefited from services.

Dairy cooperatives and improved cattle. A total of 20 households will be enabled to participate in the improved cattle programme, with a focus on women-led poor households. Additional families who can afford to get improved cows would be given advice and support to procure improved breeds of cows.

Community managed grasslands and fodder plantations. As women are traditionally, responsible for fodder collection, they will benefit most from this activity. Safer and more sustainable fodder resources would be available to more than 2000 women.

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)

ZSL has a permanent presence in Nepal. This provides a platform to implement the project and ensure its lasting legacy, providing ongoing technical advice and support when needed.

Biodiversity monitoring and grassland management. Within SWR, these activities will be taken over by SWR staff once the guidelines are developed and capacity training completed as per the 2014 NBSAP and the SWR Management Plan.

Community managed grasslands and dairy cooperatives. By adopting the successful cooperative model already present, community ownership will be strengthened before the project ends. The cooperatives will continue to be responsible for the soft loan programme, fodder nurseries and community-managed grassland areas. The benefits demonstrated by this project should encourage communities to continue these practices.

Veterinary clinics*.* ZSL will support operation of the clinics for the first three years of the project, providing training to staff. Users will pay a nominal fee that will increase as the services become valued. After three years, the clinics will be handed over to the local government, with ZSL still on hand to provide technical advice. ZSL will also commit £10,000 per year for another two years to support the transition to VDC funds and clinic revenues. **195 words**

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)

Communication and knowledge sharing, both internally within ZSL and externally, will play a key role in achieving our desired outcome. Specifically:

Intended audience: cattle-owning households in the buffer zone of SWR

Method of engagement: village meetings, radio broadcasts, grassland management skills sessions

Products/materials: grassland management guidelines, training materials, posters and radio advertisements

Intended results: local communities have increased awareness about the detrimental effects of overgrazing, potential disease transmission as well as the knowledge of how to sustainably manage grasslands for both biodiversity and community use

Intended audience: SWR staff and other grassland PA staff within DNPWC and NGO staff who directly implement grassland management activities

Method of engagement: regular project progress meetings, presentations, briefing documents

Products/materials: presentations, briefing documents

Intended results: grassland management guidelines adopted by SWR and a draft of a national grassland management guideline disseminated to other grassland PA staff and NGOs

Intended audience: local veterinary college students

Method of engagement: talks and information sessions

Products/materials: presentations, brochures

Intended results: increased knowledge of cattle and wildlife health interface, increased interest of students to get work experience in this area

Intended audience: other conservation and development NGOs/groups/GOs/embassies not directly involved in project implementation

Method of engagement: emails, workshops, conferences

Products/materials: project reports, peer reviewed publications

Intended results: increased data sharing and wider dissemination of project results

Intended audience: national and international media

Method of engagement: social media, press conferences

Products/materials: press releases, project pages on ZSL and partners' websites

Intended results: wider dissemination of project results and increased global awareness of SWR, grassland conservation, and the connections between cattle farms and grassland management

264 words

22. Access to project information

Please describe the project's open access plan and detail any specific costs you are seeking from Darwin to fund this.

(Max 250 words)

Internally, ZSL maintains an online database accessible to all staff which hosts project reports and outputs. Externally, all project outputs will be made available on ZSL and partner's websites and disseminated via social media (Facebook, Twitter, blogs). Content will be provided to ZSL and Darwin's press department for inclusion in newsletters and press releases. Any publications resulting from the project will be published through open access peer reviewed journals such as PLOS ONE. These costs are covered by the overhead contributions requested.

We will disseminate the information further afield through associated organisations such as the relevant IUCN specialist groups, other conservation and development agencies working in Nepal, and at related events held at ZSL's London headquarters. Data will be shared to feed into global conservation initiatives such as the Living Planet Index as well as national needs, such as the regular reporting to the CBD. The draft national Terai grassland guidelines will be handed over to the DNPWC to complete via the standard Ministry approval process. The approved guidelines will be available through standard government channels.

It is important that we share the project's outputs with those without access to digital media so we will provide Nepali language hard copies of reports to communities and other stakeholders. Results will also be communicated verbally to community members to ensure that everyone regardless of their literacy level has access to this information. Printing costs have been included in the budget requested to Darwin.

241 words

23. 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)

Located in the far west, SWR is the most remote of Nepal's Terai protected areas. It has received much less conservation attention than the more well-known and accessible Terai protected areas, such as Chitwan and Bardia. The Darwin Initiative has had only three projects focused on conserving subtropical grasslands, including ZSL's completed project #16009 (which focused on anti-poaching in Chitwan and Bardia). However based on its size, diversity and connectivity, SWR is the most important grassland reserve in Nepal. In fact, it represents the largest tract of threatened Terai grasslands in the world.

SWR constitutes habitat for the largest herd of threatened swamp deer in the world. It is also home to large populations of hog deer and hispid hare – all three prey species for the globally endangered Bengal tiger. At one time, SWR had the highest density of Bengal tigers in the world and it is considered an important area for tiger recovery. Additionally, SWR is an Important Bird Area with 18 species of globally threatened birds, 10 of which are grassland dependant. The marshlands have the highest density of pythons in Nepal as well as a key population of threatened marsh mugger crocodiles.

Additionally, the improved cattle programmes are usually conducted without significant exploration of their impact on biodiversity and how best to mitigate any negative impacts on the

local ecosystems. Understanding these impacts is incredibly important as the success of improved cattle programmes to alleviate poverty is resulting in multimillion pound, large-scale projects across Asia and Africa.

250 words

24. 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:

All partners will provide confirmed matched funding:

ZSL: salaries (£XXX), international travel (£2473), national travel (£5400), office space (£4965)

DNPWC: salaries (£XXX), local travel (£7000), office space (£3000), audit costs (£1200)

NTNC: salaries (£XXX), local travel (£10,000), office space (£8000), audit costs (£1200), conference (£6182)

HN: salaries (£XXX), local travel (£1000), office space (£1000), audit costs (£1200)

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
NA	NA	NA	NA

PROJECT MONITORING AND EVALUATION

MEASURING IMPACT

25. 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.

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 30 words)

This project will lead to improvement in Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve habitat with associated increases in grassland dependant wildlife, underpinned by a more sustainable livelihood base for communities.

27 words

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 30 words) Healthy grassland ecosystems in and around Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve contributes to the well-being for 2500 households through productive livestock, better access to veterinary services and more accessible fodder resources. 29 words

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	Two VDCs around SWR actively implementing community managed grassland guidelines covering at least 10 km2 of the buffer zone by year 3.
Indicator 2	DNPWC managing grasslands according to guidelines in at least 16 km2 of the PA by the end of year 3.
Indicator 3	Key biodiversity metrics stabilised or improved within SWR by year 3. Increase of tiger population from 15 to 20, swamp deer and hog deer populations stable, Hodgson's Bushchat and Bengal florican population increased by 10% from 2014 levels.
Indicator 4	80% reduction in zoonotic disease outbreaks by the end of year 3.
Indicator 5	Economic losses from lack of veterinary care reduced by 50% from year 1 baseline.
Indicator 6	At least 50% of households respondents (disaggregated by gender) report average improvement in wellbeing scores (using locally defined indicators and material style of life) by year 3 compared to Year 1 baseline.

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	VDC annual report, project reports
Indicator 2	SWR annual report, project reports
Indicator 3	SWR annual report, project reports
Indicator 4	SWR reports, clinic reports
Indicator 5	Veterinary clinics log book of service recipient in the clinic, project reports, household surveys
Indicator 6	Socioeconomic profile survey report of households; report of baseline and

	annual changes in wellbeing.

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	Nepal political situation remains conducive to work.
Assumption 2	Partners involved remain committed to the project.
Assumption 3	Communities recognise the benefits from management practices and adopt them.

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	Two fully functional veterinary clinics established within the SWR buffer zone. We will establish two clinics, one in the south eastern corner of the Reserve and the other in the Northeast, to enable access to the highest number of farmers and highest level of people-reserve interaction and highest number of cattle.
Output 2	Women-run dairy cooperatives in place facilitating more productive cattle farms around SWR.
Output 3	Grassland management guidelines in place and plan operational. The plan will be prepared for DNPWC to improve grassland habitat, which will also include sections on community managed grasslands.
Output 4	Annual biodiversity monitoring programme for SWR in place. Target species include Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris*), swamp deer (*Cervus duvaucelii*), hog deer (*Axis porcinus*), Bengal florican (*Houbaropsis bengalensis*) and Hodgson's bushchat (*Saxicola insignis)*

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: Two fully functional veterinary clinics established within the SWR buffer zone.	
Indicator 1	Two clinics refurbished and equipment procured by the end of year 1.
Indicator 2	Four veterinary staff recruited and trained by the end of year 1.
Indicator 3	Each veterinary clinic served at least 750 households by the end of year 2 and 1250 households by the end of year 3.
Indicator 4	Each clinic vaccinates at least 300 cows against FMD by the end of year 3.

Output 2: Women-run dairy cooperatives facilitating more productive cattle farms within the SWR buffer zone.	
Indicator 1	Two dairy cooperatives with 15-25 female members established through existing cooperative legal structures by year 1.
Indicator 2	Number (target = 20) of households with improved cows obtained with support from the project by the end of year 2.
Indicator 3	Increases in household annual milk yield, consumption and commercialisation from year 1 baselines.

Output 3: Grassland management guidelines in place and plan operational	
Indicator 1	10 reserve staff and 40 community members trained in grassland management techniques by the end of year 2.
Indicator 2	50% reduction of area of SWR experience illegal grazing from year 1 to year 3.
Indicator 3	Number of households planting fodder species increases by 20% from year 1 baseline by the end of year 3.
Indicator 4	Number of households practicing stall feeding increases by 30% from year 1 baseline by the end of year 3.

Output 4: Biodiversity monitoring programme for SWR in place.	
Indicator 1	Baselines for key indicator species established for year 1 of the project in consultation with other stakeholders
Indicator 2	Monitoring surveys carried out in year 2 and year 3 of the project
Indicator 3	Results are fed into SWR Management Plan and grassland management guidelines by the end of year 3

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.

Indicator 1	Grassland management guidelines
Indicator 2	Biological and socioeconomic survey reports
Indicator 2	Training manuals and evaluation reports
Indicator 3	Veterinary clinic records
Indicator 4	GIS and satellite maps of grassland areas
Indicator 5	Project progress reports
Indicator 6	Peer-reviewed papers
Indicator 7	Website information, blogs, social media, images and videos
Indicator 8	Department of Agriculture and Cooperatives records
Indicator 9	Department of Livestock Services records and reports

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	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Government of Nepal continues promoting improved cow breeds to increase milk yields
Assumption 2	Existing dairy value chains and markets remain in place during and after the project.
Assumption 3	Appropriate grassland management, fodder plantations and introduction of stall feeding are sufficient to support the food needs of the improved cows

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. Risks and assumptions should also be taken into account during project design.

Output 1: Two fully functional veterinary clinics established within the SWR buffer zone.	
Activity 1.1	Hold community meetings to discuss clinic set up, benefits and needs.
Activity 1.2	Conduct survey on current levels and use of veterinary services.
Activity 1.3	Choose and agree the location to ensure maximum benefit with DNPWC and VDCs
Activity 1.4	Set up the veterinary clinics, refurbishing as needed and procuring equipment
Activity 1.5	Recruitment and training of vets, technicians and support staff, especially on new cattle breeds and other needs as determined by Activity 1.1
Activity 1.6	Encourage gradual handover to the DNPWC via regular joint monitoring visits
Activity 1.7	Clinics handed over to DNPWC
Activity 1.8	Reporting

Output 2: Women-run dairy cooperatives facilitating more productive cattle farms within the SWR buffer zone.	
Activity 2.1	Assessment of current livestock holdings in the 4 VDCs adjacent to SWR and identify potential farmers interested in adopting an improved cow(s), using FPIC
Activity 2.2	Familiarisation visit for interested farmers to area where improved cattle farming is in place
Activity 2.3	Facilitate purchase of improved breed of cows – e.g. via soft loans, facilitating access to existing government loan programmes
Activity 2.4	Promote and link to existing livestock insurance schemes for households investing in improved breeds of cows
Activity 2.5	Facilitate increased milk commercialisation through regional/national milk traders in local markets
Activity 2.6	Reporting and preparation of a peer-reviewed paper

Output 3 - Grassland management guidelines in place and plan operational

Activity 3.1	Meeting with DNPWC with relevant stakeholders to discuss grassland management plan as per the SWR management plan. Set up core committee to draft management guidelines and lead activities. Director General of DNPWC will be head of the committee.
Activity 3.2	Meeting with VDC leaders and buffer zone user groups to discuss community needs in terms of grassland use. Set up committees for community managed grasslands/make use of existing forest user groups.
Activity 3.3	Conduct literature review, field visits, villager perception surveys to be reflected in the management plan
Activity 3.4	Draft management plan and review meetings with committee and other stakeholders.
Activity 3.5	DNPWC publish grassland management guidelines for SWR, including community managed areas
Activity 3.6	Provide training for capacity building on grassland management (10 DNPWCs staff and 40 community members)
Activity 3.7	Identify areas for nurseries and/or existing nurseries to strengthen and plant fodder species
Activity 3.8	Implement grassland management awareness and teaching programme in the 4 VDCs
Activity 3.9	Set up grassland management plots and provide tools to SWR to be used by community and DNPWC
Activity 3.10	Support DNPWC to draft national Terai grassland management guidelines to be finalised after the completion of this project

Output 4 – Annual biodiversity monitoring programme for SWR in place. Target species include hog deer (*Axis porcinus*), swamp deer (*Cervus duvaucelii*), Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris*), Bengal florican (*Houbaropsis bengalensis*) and Hodgson's bushchat (*Saxicola insignis*).	
Activity 4.1	Hold discussions with relevant conservation agencies (e.g. DNPWC, NTNC, WWF, BCN) working in SWR to encourage data sharing and cooperation and agree on monitoring protocols
Activity 4.2	Provide technical and logistic support for annual monitoring surveys for target species. The project will conduct some surveys – e.g. Hodgson's bushchat and hog deer – and will liaise with other NGOs/SWR to get survey results on other target species (i.e. tigers and Bengal floricans), providing technical advice wherever needed.
Activity 4.3	Collate information and publish yearly monitoring reports

26. 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	**Two fully functional veterinary clinics established within the SWR buffer zone.**													
1.1	Hold community meetings to discuss clinic set up, benefits and needs.	2												
1.2	Conduct survey on current levels and use of veterinary services.	3												
1.3	Choose and agree the location to ensure maximum benefit with DNPWC and VDCs	2												
1.4	Set up the veterinary clinics, refurbishing as needed and procuring equipment	6												
1.5	Recruitment and training of vets, technicians and support staff, especially on new cattle breeds and other needs as determined by Activity 1.1	6												
1.6	Encourage gradual handover to the DNPWC via regular joint monitoring visits	3												
1.7	Clinics handed over to DNPWC	1												
1.8	Reporting	3												
Output 2	**Women-run dairy cooperatives facilitating more productive cattle farms within the SWR buffer zone.**													
2.1	Assessment of current livestock holdings in the 4 VDCs adjacent to SWR and identify potential farmers interested in adopting an improved cow(s), using FPIC	3												
2.2	Familiarisation visit for interested farmers to area where improved cattle farming is in place	2												
2.3	Facilitate purchase of improved breed of cows – e.g. via soft	6												

	loans, facilitating access to existing government loan programmes													
2.4	Promote and link to existing livestock insurance schemes for households investing in improved breeds of cows	4												
2.5	Facilitate increased milk commercialisation through regional/national milk traders in local markets	3												
2.6	Reporting and preparation of a peer-reviewed paper	3												
Output 3	**Grassland management guidelines in place and plan operational**													
3.1	Meeting with DNPWC with relevant stakeholders to discuss grassland management plan as per the SWR management plan. Set up core committee to draft management guidelines and lead activities. Director General of DNPWC will be head of the committee.	2												
3.2	Meeting with VDC leaders and buffer zone user groups to discuss community needs in terms of grassland use. Set up committees for community managed grasslands/make use of existing forest user groups.	2												
3.3	Conduct literature review, field visits, villager perception surveys to be reflected in the management plan	3												
3.4	Draft management plan and review meetings with committee and other stakeholders.	2												
3.5	DNPWC publish grassland management guidelines for SWR, including community managed areas	1												
3.6	Provide training for capacity building on grassland management (10 DNPWCs staff and 40 community members)	6												
3.7	Identify areas for nurseries and/or existing nurseries to strengthen and plant fodder species	2												
3.8	Implement grassland management awareness and teaching programme in the 4 VDCs	10												
3.9	Set up grassland management plots and provide tools to	6												

	SWR to be used by community and DNPWC													
3.10	Support DNPWC to draft national Terai grassland management guidelines to be finalised after the completion of this project	3												
Output 4	**Output 4 – Annual biodiversity monitoring programme for SWR in place. Target species include hog deer (*Axis porcinus*), swamp deer (*Cervus duvaucelii*), Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris*), Bengal florican (*Houbaropsis bengalensis*) and Hodgson's bushchat (*Saxicola insignis*).**													
4.1	Hold discussions with relevant conservation agencies (e.g. DNPWC, NTNC, WWF, BCN) working in SWR to encourage data sharing and cooperation and agree on monitoring protocols	2												
4.2	Provide technical and logistic support for annual monitoring surveys for target species. The project will conduct some surveys – e.g. Hodgson's bushchat and hog deer – and will liaise with other NGOs/SWR to get survey results on other target species (i.e. tigers and Bengal floricans), providing technical advice wherever needed.	12												
4.3	Collate information and publish yearly monitoring reports	4												

27. Project based monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

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 M&E. 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. M&E 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)

The project design is structured around adaptive management as part of the monitoring and evaluation plan. A project steering committee, consisting of the Project Leader and one representative from each partner organisation, will hold biannual meetings to evaluate progress towards indicators in terms of impact, relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability, adjusting work plans as needed. Communications will be maintained with monthly meetings and communications via email and Skype/phone between ZSL Nepal and ZSL HQ. Completion of milestones will be monitored through monthly reports submitted using ZSL's web-based system.

Output 1. At the end of year 1, an assessment of the clinics will be performed by Dr Shrestha. Veterinary records on number of households served and number of cows vaccinated will be obtained from the veterinary staff by Dr Shrestha who will compile the annual reports for years 2 and 3.

Output 2. The progress towards establishment of the two cooperatives will be formally assessed at month 6 and month 9. The number of improved cow breeds obtained will be monitored every 6 months by NTNC. A year 1 baseline for milk yield, use, and sales will be obtained from surveys. Those same households will be surveyed again in years 2 and 3. NTNC, specifically Mr Yadav, will coordinate these surveys and compile the reports for the steering committee.

Output 3. SWR staff and community members will be trained in grassland management techniques. Success of the training will be assessed through a practical examination by NTNC at intervals throughout years 1 and 2. Reduction of grazing will be monitored through field surveys by DNPWC. A baseline will be obtained in month 6 and monitoring will take place in years 2 and 3 thereafter. The number of households planting fodder species and practicing stall feeding will be assessed by NTNC in year 1 through community surveys and annually thereafter.

Output 4. HN will provide annual reports on the progress of species monitoring surveys compiled by a dedicated field researcher. Mr Dhakal will report on the inclusion of yearly surveys into the SWR/DNPWC management plan to the project steering committee.

Outcome. VDCs will be consulted on the uptake of grassland guidelines every 6 months by NTNC. DNPWC will provide updates on use of grassland guidelines in SWR every six months as well. Trends in biodiversity indicator species will be analysed and modelled by HN with ZSL support at the end of the project using the annual monitoring data. Reduction of zoonotic disease outbreaks will be assessed by ZSL based on SWR's records (historical records to set the baseline) and veterinary clinic records at the end of year 3. NTNC will look at economic losses from lack of veterinary services using DLS records and household surveys, comparing years 1 and 3. Well-being will be assessed by NTNC in year 1 using household surveys to determine locally defined indicators (e.g. access to power supply back-ups, girls attending secondary school) and repeated in year 3 to determine the change.

493 words

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.

28. Cost Effectiveness

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)

ZSL has been working in Nepal for over twenty years. As such, we are very familiar with local costs and developing allowable, cost-effective budgets. This budget was calculated using the pre-existing knowledge and experience of ZSL and partners. Care has been taken to ensure the budget requested offers excellent value, providing tangible benefits to 2500 households and the biodiversity of SWR.

Staff Costs*.* The majority of roles will be filled by local members of staff and 42% of total staffing needs will be provided in-kind by ZSL or our partners.

Consultancy Costs. This is a key role as Dr Shrestha provides much needed knowledge and experience regarding the dairy sector and livestock improvement programmes.

Overhead Costs**.** By using existing infrastructure and only including contributions where necessary, administrative costs are kept to a minimum but still allow the project to be implemented. The total cost of overheads is <20%.

Travel & Subsistence. Fuel is expensive in Nepal and costs have been carefully estimated based on past experience. DNPWC will provide the use of park vehicles for activities conducted within SWR and buffer zone and NTNC will provide the use of a vehicle for activities in the villages and surrounding areas, greatly reducing the potential travel costs. International travel will cover the cost of ZSL staff for training and M&E visits.

Operating Costs*.* Costs of workshops/trainings are based on past experience and where possible, venues will be provided in-kind by project partners. Veterinary supplies have been estimated based on the costs of the Chitwan clinics. Livestock programme costs were determined in consultation with sector experts.

Capital Equipment**.** Capital costs will be sourced in-country when possible to avoid shipping/customs charges and standard procurement procedures followed.

Other Costs. Modest amounts have been requested for printing costs and the Social Welfare Council/Government of Nepal evaluation.

300 words

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 your Foreign Ministry or the local embassy or High Commission (or equivalent) 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** ☐

CERTIFICATION

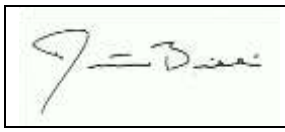
On behalf of the trustees of
Zoological Society of London,

I apply for a grant of £**284,390** 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 signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report are also enclosed/can be found at: http://www.zsl.org/about-us/zsl-annual-reports

Name (block capitals)	PROF. JONATHAN E.M. BAILLIE
Position in the organisation	Conservation Programmes Director

Signed  **Date:** December 1st, 2014

Stage 2 Application - Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you **read the Guidance Notes**?	
Have you provided **actual start and end dates** for your project?	
Have you indicated whether you are applying for DFID or Defra funding. NB: you cannot apply for both	
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 **been in contact with the FCO** in the project country/ies and have you included any evidence of this?	
Have you included a signed **copy of the last 2 years annual report and accounts** for the lead organisation? An electronic link to a website is acceptable.	
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 1 December 2014 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 (e.g. 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.