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:	**Wildlife Conservation Society c/o Joe Walston**
Address:	**2300 Southern Boulevard**
City and Postcode:	**Bronx 10460**
Country:	**USA**
Email:	
Phone:	

2. Stage 1 reference and Project title

Ref 2662	**Title (max 10 words)** Conserving biodiversity by improving farming practices and livelihoods in Hoima

3. Project dates, and budget summary

Start date: 1 April 2015		**End date:** 31 March 2017		**Duration:** 2 years
Darwin request	**2015/16** **£99,732**	**2016/17** **£101,828**	**2017/18** **£99,551**	**Total request** **£301,111**
Proposed (confirmed and unconfirmed) matched funding as % of total Project cost: 19%				
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) The threat of critical forest and wetland habitat destruction is mitigated by training Hoima district farmers in conservation farming and providing them access to more profitable markets.

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: Uganda	**Country 2:**
Country 3:	**Country 4:**

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)

This project will address the underlying drivers of unsustainable natural resource use causing the loss of biodiversity in the Murchison-Semliki Landscape, which directly contributes to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The project will raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity across local government and rural society at district level and stimulate policy reform (Aichi Targets 1-4) on how to reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use based on lessons learned from the project (Targets 5,7). We will show that improving the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity (Targets 11, 12) will reduce their vulnerability to climate change. In addition, the project, through its REDD+ activities, is creating the opportunity for rural communities to receive payments from ecosystem services, enhancing the benefits to all from biodiversity (Targets 14, 15). Through the process of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), the project will implement participatory planning, incorporate indigenous knowledge, and include management and capacity building incentives to protect the forest estate (Targets 19 and 20).

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

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

The project partners are in regular contact with Xavier Mugumya, the REDD+ focal point, and Francis Ogwal, the national CBD focal point. We will continue to keep them updated about the larger REDD+ project, and will invite them to participate in meetings and provide advice on how to mainstream the outcome of 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 - Main	Project Partner 2
Surname	Leal	Blom	Ajarova
Forename (s)	Miguel E.	Jaap	Lilly
Post held	REDD+ Programme Manager	Chief of Party, Conservation Agriculture Program	Executive Director

Organisation (if different to above)		Cooperation League USA (CLUSA)	Chimpanzee Trust (CT)
Department	Uganda	Uganda	Uganda
Telephone			
Email			

Details	Project Partner 3
Surname	Kasoma
Forename (s)	Panta
Post held	Executive Director
Institution	Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) - Uganda
Department	Uganda
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
2292	Lilian Painter	Sustainable Ranching and Participatory Land Use Planning in Bolivia and Paraguay
1969	Tom Clements	Conserving biodiversity and reducing poverty through wildlife-friendly farming in Cambodia
2114	Nyawira Muthiga	Strengthening the capability of Kenyan communities to conserve coral reefs
1970	Roan Balas McNab	Evaluating community-based conservation agreements in Guatemala´s Maya Biosphere Reserve

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)

9b. DO NOT COMPLETE IF YOU ANSWERED 'YES' TO QUESTION 8.

Provide detail of 3 contracts previously held by your organisation 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.

9c. DO NOT COMPLETE IF YOU ANSWERED 'YES' TO QUESTION 8.

Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of your organisation. (Large organisation please note that this should describe your unit or department)

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)**
Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) www.wcs.org	In 2010, Dr Miguel E. Leal started developing the Murchison-Semliki REDD+ (MS REDD+) project in collaboration with five other conservation NGOs: Jane Goodall Institute (JGI), Chimpanzee Trust (CT), ECOTRUST, Nature Harness Initiatives (NAHI) and Fauna and Flora International (FFI). Collectively, WCS and these five partners formed the Northern Albertine Rift Conservation Group (NARCG) in order to mitigate climate change and conserve forests and wildlife in the region. Dr Leal has led this group and served as its liaison with Government of Uganda (GOU) for four years. Dr Leal is currently overseeing the implementation of REDD+ preparation activities, such as developing implementation frameworks, setting up a monitoring system and establishing value chains with the private sector. Moses Nyago, also of WCS, has been implementing Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), liaising with district authorities and working closely with JGI and CT field staff. For this Darwin project, Dr Leal will be responsible for day-to-day management, monitoring and reporting of overall project performance against the M&E framework, providing backstopping and troubleshooting solutions. Moses Nyago will be responsible for coordinating with the senior field staff (Timothy Akugizibwe from JGI and Paul Hatanga from CT) for training activities provided by CLUSA.

Partner Name and website where available:	Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)
National Cooperative Business Association Cooperation League United States of America (NCBA CLUSA) Main website: http://www.ncba.coop Uganda: http://www.ncba.coop/uganda-ucfi?highlight=WyJ1Z2FuZGEiXQ	The Cooperative League United States of America (CLUSA) has over 50 years of experience working in Africa and established a country office in Uganda in 2011. CLUSA has been interacting with members of NARCG since its arrival in Uganda. In each of the last two years, CLUSA has trained 60,000 households and numerous district officers in conservation farming techniques and approaches, and has analysed markets for the crop-based enterprises. CLUSA will train staff of JGI and CT in the district of Hoima in conservation farming techniques that focus on minimum soil disturbance, soil cover, and crop rotation to sustainably increase yield, nutrition, and productivity. CLUSA will also trai these staff on how best to setup plots that will demonstrate the benefits of conservation farming, and will then oversee the general implementation of conservation farming techniques in all 13 parishes. This will include supervising progress, troubleshooting issues, and providing each household with two intensive follow-up trainings and one-to-one guidance during the growing season. Finally, CLUSA will also ensure that produce is qualified for sale to private sector partners.
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)**
Chimpanzee Trust (CT) http://ngambaisland.com	Formerly known as the Chimpanzee Sanctuary Conservation Wildlife Trust, the Chimpanzee Trust (CT) was established in 1998 and is also a NARCG member. CT began by providing shelter to orphan chimpanzees on Ngamba Island and, since 2005, has worked with Private Forest Owners (PFOs) in Hoima and Kibaale where the orphans originated through education, research, and community development. CT has been the host country partner for other Darwin Initiative projects and the Project Management Unit for the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) with funding from Global Environmental Facility (GEF). Since 2006, CEO Lilly Ajarova has been leading the establishment of Private Forest Owners Associations (PFOAs) in Kibaale and Hoima, creating benefits through improved livelihoods opportunities. Additionally, she has managed the implementation of a Payment for Ecosystem Services Study. Led by Lilly Ajarova, Paul Hatanga will work closely with Moses Nyago (WCS) to mobilise the PFOs and the community-based forest monitors. Meetings will be held to explain and inform the PFOs (and forest monitors) about conservation farming and setting up production contracts with agribusiness. He will also liaise with the CT forest monitors in SE Hoima and communicate back to WCS about the performance of the activities, problems and issues.
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)**
Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) http://www.janegoodall.org	The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI), a member of NARCG, has been active in Uganda since 1991 and has worked with smallholding farmers in the project area since 2005. JGI has been promoting chimpanzee welfare and the conservation of natural forest habitat on private land through conservation education and providing alternative, sustainable livelihood options to Private Forest Owners (PFOs), who are farmers with natural forest on their land. Led by Dr Panta Kasoma, JGI has overseen establishment of Private Forest Owners Associations (PFOAs) exceeding 1500 PFOs in northwest Hoima and Masindi. In return for conserving and restoring their forests, JGI helped map their land, apply for customary land title certificates, and explore livelihood options such as beekeeping to animal husbandry. Timothy Akugizibwe of JGI has worked with rural communities in the region since 2005. In this project, he will collaborate with Moses Nyago (WCS) to mobilise the PFOs and community-based forest monitors. Meetings will be held to explain and inform the PFOs (and forest monitors) about project activities, such as conservation farming, and setting up production contracts with agribusiness. He will also liaise with the JGI forest monitors in NW Hoima and communicate to WCS about activity performance, problems and issues.
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

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)

As a result of poor soil management and climate variability, agricultural yields are decreasing and food insecurity is increasing in Hoima. In response, farmers are slashing and burning more forest for farmland to grow the same amount of food and cash crops. They are also planting more crops in wetlands to overcome increasing water shortages. In our 13 focal parishes, 90% of the 16,000 hectares of forest is degraded and will all be converted to farmland in less than 10 years if the current deforestation rate of 2,044 hectares per year remains unchecked. These 13 parishes contain critical wildlife forest corridors and wetlands, and if these remaining forests and wetlands are cleared, habitat connectivity across the district will be seriously compromised. Increased isolation due to habitat fragmentation will limit gene flow between animal populations and ultimately result in local extinction of species such as chimpanzees, grey crowned cranes and other unique Albertine Rift endemics. Farmers recognize that forests act as safety nets during droughts and hunger periods, and that their forested areas are getting smaller, but increased poverty makes it difficult for them to avoid using resources that also provide critical habitat for unique and threatened species.

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)*

*Extensive changes have been made to this section in order to address reviewer comments; we have not highlighted the entire section for ease of reading.

This project will introduce conservation farming and provide farmers with direct access to end-user and wholesale agribusinesses, resulting in increased income and other benefits. In doing so, the need for farmers to use forest and wetland resources that provide habitat for several endangered or endemic species will be reduced. We will introduce these changes to 13 parishes within Hoima District, using a staggered implementation approach to focus on seven parishes during the first year and six parishes during the second year.

NARCG will enter into *conservation contracts* with Private Forest Owners (PFOs) in which parties agree that NARCG will provide monetary and non-monetary benefits to the PFOs in exchange for their commitments to conserve their forest and not encroach on wetlands and public forests.

The conservation farming approach, led by CLUSA, is critical for reducing food insecurity and lack of reliable cash income, two problems that often lead PFOs to clear forest for additional agricultural land. CLUSA will train JGI and CT staff who will select lead farmers and set up plots to demonstrate the advantages of conservation farming to PFOs. With backstopping support from CLUSA, JGI and CT staff will also train other PFOs in conservation farming techniques. These techniques use minimal tilling, mulching, and other methods to improve crop yields and increase surplus that can then be sold for income. Previous experience has shown this method to increase yields between 25 and 40% while being less labor-intensive than traditional farming methods. Through *production contracts* negotiated by WCS with agribusinesses such as the Joseph Initiative, farmers will then be able to sell this surplus at a premium to end-user and wholesale agribusinesses in order to increase cash income.

Project partners will work with a service provider, Village Enterprise, which will set up village banks, organize PFOs into business saving groups, and offer training in business and record keeping. The village banks will also function as mobile money agencies, providing the entire community access to capital. As part of the conservation contract, PFOs can draw credit from

the village banks to start forest-friendly enterprises such as beekeeping or fruit tree cultivation. The signed conservation contract will allow the PFO to get trained in conservation farming by CT and JGI staff and buy the necessary equipment, and will repay the village bank in instalments at the time of harvest or product sales. PFOs will also be allowed to draw emergency loans to avoid cutting trees for cash.

To be able to monitor compliance with conservation contracts, NARCG will use and expand its existing Monitoring, Verification and Reporting (MRV) system. This system will track compliance through parish-level forest and wetland land cover maps created by WCS from remote sensing data available online (15-30m resolution). Remote sensing analyses will be verified through analysis of ground truthing data collected by JGI and CT using portable GPS devices to map PFO farmland and forests. As an additional way of monitoring compliance with conservation contracts, local JGI and CT field staff will act as forest monitors, setting up a network to quickly detect infractions and violations of the contract.

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)

NARCG aims to create a win-win situation for poor households and biodiversity by promoting an ecosystem-based adaptation strategy which will result in:

<u>Reduced rates of deforestation and habitat conversion</u>

The current rate of deforestation on private lands is detrimental for both PFOs and wildlife in the region, including chimpanzees, grey crowned cranes, and other endemic species that have been experiencing population declines. This project aims to drastically reduce rates of deforestation, helping to conserve 16,000 ha of forest and wetland in Hoima that include crucial corridors integral to the well-being of humans and biodiversity.

<u>Increased climate change resilience</u>

Resilience to climate change will increase through the introduction of climate-smart conservation farming techniques that will lead to more reliable crop yield, as well as through the conservation of forests and wetlands that act as buffers to help mitigate extreme weather events.

<u>Poverty reduction and improved livelihood security</u>

Poverty will be reduced among residents of the 13 focal parishes through new conservation farming techniques that will increase yield, thereby reducing food insecurity and providing surplus for sale. This surplus will help increase cash income, especially as stronger and more direct links to end and wholesale buyers is established.

<u>Better access to capital</u>

Connecting rural farmers to microcredit opportunities will allow them to develop additional sources of income through activities such as beekeeping and fruit tree cultivation. It will also allow them to borrow emergency money in order to meet basic economic needs, which will in turn reduce the tree cutting.

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

This project is part of a larger 30-year REDD+ initiative collaboratively developed by the

members of NARCG and launched with GEF funding through a REDD+ feasibility study in 2010. With additional funding from the Waterloo Foundation in Wales, we have finished the preparation phase of the REDD+ project and have put in place and carried out REDD+ safeguards, such establishing the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process in the District of Hoima and carrying out a Strategic Environment and Social Assessment (SESA) for the entire Landscape. We have received an additional 46,250 GBP from the Waterloo Foundation for conservation farming training for PFOs in two out of the 15 parishes, and another 20,000 GBP from Tullow Oil in London as matching funding. With this proposed funding from Darwin, we could truly scale up our activities across the remaining 13 parishes and start making an impact at the district level, creating an economy of scale and clearly demonstrating the scalability and benefits of this approach.

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:

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**.**

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 has made long-term, on-the-ground commitments in Uganda, and leverages them through established in-country partnerships and by applying contextual knowledge and lessons learned to plan culturally-appropriate, efficient projects. WCS is an established partner of the Government of Uganda and is an integral leader in the conservation community, positioning us to deliver positive results and have substantial impact. At the broadest level, this project is designed to ensure maximum efficiency in farmer livelihood practices, increase their return on investment, and ensure long-term sustainability, while securing critical habitat for endemic and threatened species in the Northern Albertine Rift. Our interventions will impact a relatively large number of people for the money invested, and will teach rural farmers skills that will be useful for the long-term and which can be spread to neighbours, a practice that has occurred in other regions where conservation farming has been implemented.

More specifically, this project will use several strategies to ensure good value for the money invested: 1) Introducing rural financial services to PFOs will open the door for them to develop additional livelihood options such as beekeeping and charcoal production from 2) NARCG partners will continue to leverage established relationships with communities and with each other in order to have maximum impact, 3) field staff will provide feedback and communicate potential challenges in a timely way so that we may adapt our approaches immediately if necessary; 4) the project also aims at developing a scalable and replicable model for other districts to implement.

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)

1) The proposed project does not involve the use of indigenous genetic resources.

2) Members of NARCG, such as the Chimpanzee Trust and the Jane Goodall Institute country program, are run by Ugandan staff who have worked with the local communities since 2006

and who will help design and implement the project. Participation by the communities is completely voluntary, pro-poor and pro-women, and communities have had the opportunity to veto project plans, per REDD+ FPIC protocol, though all focal PFOAs have consented to participate. Before the project is implemented, we will organize community meetings to share information and receive feedback on the project.

3) Through the pre-implementation input and feedback meetings, we will weave local traditional knowledge and communities' suggestions into the project's design and activities accordingly, as we did during the initiation of the REDD+ project.

4) Project participation is voluntarily and we respect participants' rights, privacy and safety, per REDD+ project protocol.

5) The proposed project activities are part of the larger REDD+ initiative discussed elsewhere. REDD+ projects are required to obtain consent from the "project affected people" who have the right to veto the project. We completed the process of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) at the Private Forest Owners Association (PFOA) level, and we are currently rolling out the village FPIC component for people indirectly affected by the project. The PFOA FPIC was completed over six months in 2013, and 13 of the 15 PFOAs involved gave their preliminary consent for the project.

6) Each NARCG member has internal rules and regulations on health and safety for permanent and temporary staff. Over the last 10 years, no incidents have been recorded.

7) WCS, a science-based organization founded in 1895, relies on solid research for all of our conservation action.

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)

In our project area, the chimpanzee population has decreased from 1036 to 676 individuals between 1999 and 2010, while endemic forest bird species have experienced a 77% reduction in densities between 2003 and 2010. To ensure animals have a viable network of forests to move through, which will prevent local extinction and increase resilience to climate change, this project will introduce conservation farming practices that will reduce the need for farmers to transform forests and wetlands into additional agricultural land. These techniques will also benefit poor farmers by improving yields, increasing income, shortening the amount of time required for cultivation of crops, and connecting them directly to microcredit opportunities and wholesale buyers. This is particularly helpful for women, who tend to the fields, allowing them time to pursue other income-generating opportunities that will have long-term impact through empowerment and livelihood improvement. Conserving intact forests and biodiversity may lead to other currently unexplored development opportunities for rural people (for instance, through ecotourism projects focusing on chimpanzees and other wildlife).

The results of this project will go beyond benefits to those farmers participating in contracts. As household wellbeing of participating farmers improves, we expect conservation farming to be adopted by other farmers nearby, a trend demonstrated in previous projects. Additionally, we will demonstrate to district authorities how conservation farming can transform the agricultural sector into a productive and forest-friendly sector, how the local economy can be stimulated by strengthening cooperation between farmers and end- and wholesale buyers, and how climate change mitigation and adaptation are co-benefits to adopting conservation farming on a regional scale. This project's implementation will allow the central government to see the benefits and begin incentivizing these practices, ultimately promoting a low emission development pathway across the wider Murchison-Semliki Landscape.

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)

As part of a larger REDD+ initiative, this project utilizes a pro-poor and pro-women approach, acknowledging that the rural poor and women are heavily engaged in and dependent upon farming and are therefore especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Through a 2010 socio-economic survey, project partners concluded that a lack of knowledge about alternative farming practices and lack of capital available to set up alternative livelihood operations were the most immediate reasons why people remain trapped in poverty in Hoima. Based on this analysis, we designed the intervention outlined in this application and presented it to PFOAs during FPIC information sharing meetings. The 13 PFOAs involved in this project all gave their consent and support for proposed activities. Additionally, WCS participated in the field mission of the National Climate Smart Agriculture Taskforce, which assessed the benefits and potential national scale implementation of the conservation farming approach. Women interviewed during this field trip were very positive about conservation farming as it is less labour- and capital-intensive than traditional farming methods.

These proposed activities will lead to poverty alleviation in several ways. Through increased yields associated with the adoption of conservation farming techniques, food insecurity among farmer households will decrease and the increase in crop surplus can be used to improve income once farmers are connected to better buyers. Additionally, capacity will be built among both male and female farmers, allowing them to gain skills in new, more climate-resilient farming techniques and in business skills that will help them manage resources and take advantage of new financial opportunities. As part of our focus on gender, project partners will ensure that women are encouraged and welcomed to participate by including female trainers in conservation farming trainings. In addition, some village banks will be designated women-only.

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.

CLUSA will train one field staff person (from WCS and partners) per PFOA in conservation farming. Each trained staff member will be responsible for training PFO households (PFO-HHs) in their PFOA. Past experience from CLUSA projects suggests that 90% of PFO-HHs will adopt conservation farming within two growing seasons, or two year, from start of project. **Based on the total number of PFO-HHs in all 13 PFOAs, we expect around 980 PFO-HHs to adopt conservation farming techniques within the first year of the project. On average, each household has six people, and we therefore expect that a total of about 5,880 people to benefit from increased income due to improved yields.** Additionally, the working members of those households will benefit from the less labor intensive methods of farming introduced. In general, male household members clear the forest for land and then female members cultivate the land; men are often engaged in cash crops, while women focus on subsistence crops. Older children usually also work in the fields. Depending on household composition (age and sex of members), between two and four members would additionally benefit from the agricultural improvements that will reduce time and effort spent on farming. Taking an average of 3 HH members working in the field, **we therefore expect approximately 3000 people (2000 women and 1000 men) to experience additional benefits through decreased labor and time spent tending crops.** Toward the end of the life of this project and beyond, based on WCS's work in Zambia and CLUSA's experience elsewhere, **we also anticipate non-participating farmers or Non PFO-HHs to adopt conservation farming practices through neighbour-to-neighbour transmission of knowledge and skills (approximately 500 additional Non-PFO HHs).**

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)

After three years of offering conservation contracts, training in conservation farming, technical support for farmers, and connections to wholesale buyers through production contracts, we expect this project to be at a stable and sustainable end point. At this point, farmers should have the necessary knowledge, skills and connections to continue this practice without outside assistance and with the support of other farmers within their PFOAs. In addition, the production contracts with the private sector will last for five years, two years beyond this project.

The Darwin project is also part of a progressive approach where discrete groups of new PFOAs, each being trained similarly to those in the Darwin project, will be added to the larger long-term REDD+ initiative. In five years, the implementation phase will have been completed and all participating farmers with corridor forest on their land will have been incorporated into the REDD+ initiative.

From this point on, the REDD+ initiative will become entirely self-sustaining through linkages with the private sector. In addition, as PFOs halt greenhouse gas emissions from their land through forest conservation, they become eligible to receive carbon income from REDD+. NARCG anticipates that the national REDD+ payments will begin in a few years.

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)

We will communicate, share knowledge and disseminate project implementation and lessons learned with the district authorities of Hoima and particularly the District Natural Resources Officer through regular meetings on a quarterly basis. We hope that they will use our experiences and lessons learned from project implementation and use it to reform their policy on agriculture and natural resource management. WCS will also help the district of Hoima draft their District Development Plan, promoting sustainable natural resource use through improved farming and hopefully leveraging funding from the central government to replicate the project model across the entire district.

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)

Project reports will be accessible through WCS's existing Uganda and Albertine Rift Program website (www.albertinerift.org) and the Murchison-Semliki REDD+ project website (www.msreddplusproject.org) where documentation will be made available on project implementation, strategies and approaches. For the REDD+ initiative, project proponents have established an online Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV) database system which is accessible for third parties to verify project performance with safety features that protect private information (www.msreddplus.org/login).

NARCG consortium members have already been engaged with district authorities to ensure that the project serves their needs and will contribute to their development strategies and plans. In addition, we envision that district officers from forestry, natural resources and agriculture will participate in the project activities so that they can learn by doing to build their capacity to implement similar activities elsewhere in their district. In addition, NARCG members are part of the national REDD+ working group and collaborate with the Climate Change Department. Providing feedback and updates will help these two institutions to promote and scale up successful approaches across the country through policy reforms and adoptions.

For grassroots information sharing and exchange of lessons learned in Hoima and adjacent districts, NARCG members rely on existing networks with other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the district community officers during quarterly meetings.

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)

The Murchison-Semliki Landscape has received limited attention in Darwin's portfolio, as well as in conservation more broadly. The Murchison-Semliki Landscape is a priority landscape of the six key landscapes identified by WCS for conservation in the Albertine Rift, itself the most biodiverse region in Africa. The Murchison-Semliki Landscape is the only landscape in the northern half of the Albertine Rift where there are still natural forests outside of protected areas with viable populations of many species, such as the chimpanzee, crowned eagle, golden cat, Nahan's francolin, together with the many smaller endemic species that are unique to the Albertine Rift.

In addition, the Murchison-Semliki Landscape is one of the only landscapes left where forest corridors essential for climate change adaptation for animals are still intact. These corridors allow for movement and provide critical habitat resources that must be conserved in order to populations to avoid decline. For instance, in Uganda's Bwindi National Park, the mountain gorillas are locked in and their numbers will likely fall as increased drought stress due to climate change causes their forest to die back. If we cannot conserve the forest corridors in the Murchison-Semliki Landscape, there will be an increased risk that wildlife populations will become trapped inside shrinking forests and eventually become locally extinct.

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:

The Waterloo Foundation: £46,250 for the same activities in two parishes outside the 13 parishes

Tullow Oil: £24,027 for the same activities in 1 parish outside the 13 parishes

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

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) Biodiversity is conserved, and livelihoods and food security are improved in rural communities by implementing a scalable and easily replicable model that focuses on sustainable conservation farming approaches.

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) The threat of critical forest and wetland habitat destruction is mitigated by training Hoima district farmers in conservation farming and providing them access to more profitable markets.

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	A 75% reduction in deforestation rates over three years compared to the 2010 baseline
Indicator 2	A 50% increase in income for the participating farmers over three years compared to the 2010 baseline
Indicator 3	Number of households no longer experiencing food scarcity more than twice a year over three years compared to the 2010 baseline
Indicator 4	Number of chimpanzee nest counts and grey crown cranes sightings showing stabilized populations over three years compared to the decreasing trend shown in estimates from 2000 and 2010

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	Land use change maps for the 13 parishes showing agricultural fields, forests, and wetlands based on remote sensing data
Indicator 2	A case study measuring the effect of the interventions improving the livelihoods of the households based on a socio-economic survey
Indicator 3	Farmer surveys measuring the increase in in yields
Indicator 4	Parish survey reports based on data field collected for chimpanzees and grey crowned cranes

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	Extreme weather events and subsequent disasters will not emerge and occur during the project lifetime (this will limit the success of creating a surplus from the newly adopted conservation farming techniques)
Assumption 2	Farmers understand the benefits of the project and sign the conservation contract
Assumption 3	Agribusinesses continues to show interest in signing production contracts and paying farmers a premium price for their harvested crops
Assumption 4	Based on the experimental Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) study carried out by CT within the project area, 80% of PFO households will stop deforestation within two years of the study.
Assumption 5	Similar to results seen by CLUSA in other areas, the switch from traditional farming technique to conservation farming techniques will result in a 50% increase in yields

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	Project benefits in return for forest and wetland conservation clearly understood and agreed upon by the Private Forest Owners and formalized through a conservation contract
Output 2	Rural financial services established in all the 13 parishes providing capital for sustainable forest friendly and agricultural enterprises
Output 3	PFO households linked to profitable markets and agribusinesses that buy their farming surplus, resulting in increased income
Output 4	Agricultural intensification and improved yield achieved through conservation farming, reducing farmers' need to clear new forests and wetlands

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: Project benefits in return for forest and wetland conservation clearly understood and agreed upon by PFOs, and formalized through conservation contract	
Indicator 1	90% of Private Forest Owner – Households (PFO-HHs) in the 13 focal parishes, about 980 households, have signed a conservation contract by the end of year 2;
Indicator 2	By the end of year 3, 80% of PFO-HHs who have signed the conservation contract remain in compliance by not cutting trees or encroaching onto wetlands
Indicator 3	80% of the PFO-HHs stopped cutting trees on their land by the end of year 3.

Output 2: Rural financial services established in all the 13 parishes providing capital for sustainable forest friendly and agricultural enterprises	
Indicator 1	All 13 parishes have microfinancing institutes set up by the end of year 2;
Indicator 2	100 GBP of working capital sits in each microfinancing institution by the end of year 3.
Indicator 3	90% of PFO-HHs in the 13 parishes have joined the newly-introduced microfinancing institutions by the end of year 3

Output 3: PFO households linked to profitable markets and agribusinesses that buy their farming surplus, resulting in increased income	
Indicator 1	900 PFO-HHs have signed the production contract with agribusiness at the end of year 2;
Indicator 2	900 PFO-HHs have increased their income from sales to agribusiness by the end of year 3;
Indicator 3	A minimum increase of 50% sold surplus created through conservation farming at the end of year 3 compared to their previous harvest volume before practising conservation farming.

Output 4: Agricultural intensification and improved yield achieved through conservation farming, reducing farmers' need to clear new forests and wetlands	
Indicator 1	6 CT and 7 JGI staff each per parish have been trained by CLUSA in conservation farming techniques and demonstration by the end of year 1;
Indicator 2	900 of the PFO-HHs have adopted conservation farming by the end of year 2;
Indicator 3	90% of the existing agricultural fields of PFO-HH are under conservation farming land use management at the end of year 3.
Indicator 4	500 Non-PFO-HHs adopt conservation farming 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	Semi-annual reports on the performance of the conservation contracts in terms of compliance
Indicator 2	Semi-annual reports on the agribusiness performance in terms of amount of produce traded and payments
Indicator 3	Semi-annual reports on the performance of the microfinancing institutions in terms of capital flows
Indicator 4	Semi-annual reports on the adoption and performance of conservation farming by the farmers

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	Farmers are willing to comply with the conservation contract
Assumption 2	Minimum increase of surplus of 50% through conservation farming
Assumption 3	Availability of pioneer farmers willing to become a lead farmer and set up demonstration plots
Assumption 4	Farmers willing to join the microfinancing institutes

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 Project benefits in return for forest and wetland conservation clearly understood and agreed upon by the PFOs and formalized through a conservation contract	
Activity 1.1	WCS, CT and JGI review existing conservation contracts and develop a contract model appropriate to the context of the project
Activity 1.2	WCS, CT and JGI organise two meetings with PFOs grouped at parish level to introduce and explain the conservation contract and incorporate their input and feedback until an agreed final version has been reached
Activity 1.3	WCS, CT and JGI conduct meetings to sign contract between farmers and the NARCG partners
Activity 1.4	WCS, CT and JGI organise annual verification mission to measure and monitor farmers' compliance
Activity 1.5	WCS carries out a biodiversity base and endline survey to measure species occurrences and updates its existing land use maps.

Output 2 Rural financial services established in all the 13 parishes providing capital for sustainable forest friendly and agricultural enterprises	
Activity 2.1	Village Enterprise trains CT and JGI field-based staff in setting up micro-financing institutes and trains them in record keeping and business skills;
Activity 2.2	Trained CT and JGI staff organise a meeting and explain to PFOs about the benefits of micro-financing institutes and to whom they provide access to capital;
Activity 2.3	Trained CT and JGI staff organises training for PFOs and trains them in principle of microcredits, governance and business skills;
Activity 2.4	Trained CT and JGI staff supervise the management and operation of the micro-financing institutes and measure and monitor capital flows with backstopping from Village Enterprise;

Output 3 PFO households linked to profitable markets and agribusinesses that buy their farming surplus, resulting in increased income	
Activity 3.1	WCS identifies potential agribusiness partners in the region and other opportunities in Kampala;
Activity 3.2	WCS starts negotiating production contracts with participating agribusiness partners;
Activity 3.3	WCS holds a meeting with CT and JGI to discuss the initial production contract and incorporates their input and feedback;
Activity 3.4	WCS, CT and JGI organize a meeting with the PFOs in each parish to present and discusses their input and gather feedback;
Activity 3.5	WCS organizes a meeting with agribusiness partners and finalizes production contract;
Activity 3.6	WCS, CT and JGI organizes a meeting between PFOs and agribusiness partners to sign the contract

Output 4: Agricultural intensification and improved yield achieved through conservation farming, reducing farmers' need to clear new forests and wetlands	
Activity 4.1	CLUSA trains 13 field-based staff from CT and JGI in conservation farming and assigns each staff member to a parish
Activity 4.2	CT and JGI trained staff train the PFO-HHs in conservation farming in their parish.
Activity 4.3	Meetings are held in each parish to share experiences and potential issues with conservation farming among PFO-HHs; meetings are also open for non-PFO-HHs.
Activity 4.4	CT and JGI trained staff collect data on yields from PFO-HHs

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
			Growing season		Growing season		Growing season		Growing season		Growing season		Growing season	
Output 1	*Project benefits in return for forest and wetland conservation clearly understood and agreed upon by the PFOs and formalized in a conservation contract*													
1.1	WCS, CT and JGI review existing conservation contracts and develop a contract model appropriate to the context of the project	2	x				x							
1.2	WCS, CT and JGI organise two meetings with PFOs grouped at parish level to introduce and explain the conservation contract and incorporate their input and feedback until an agreed final version has been reached	4	x				x							
1.3	WCS, CT and JGI conduct meetings to sign contract between farmers and the NARCG partners	4	x				x							
1.4	WCS, CT and JGI organises annual verification mission to measure and monitor farmers' compliance	12				x				x			x	x
1.5	WCS carries out a biodiversity base and endline survey to measure species occurrences and updates its existing land use maps	6	x				x			x			x	x
Output 2	*Rural financial services established in all the 13 parishes providing capital for sustainable forest friendly and agricultural enterprises*													
2.1	Village Enterprise trains CT and JGI field-based staff in setting up micro-financing institutes and trains them in record keeping and business skills;	2		x				x						
2.2	Trained CT and JGI staff organise a meeting and explain to PFOs about the benefits of micro-financing institutes and to whom they provide access to capital;	2		x				x						
2.3	Trained CT and JGI staff organises training for PFOs and trains them in principle of microcredits, governance and business skills;	6		x	x			x	x					
2.4	Trained CT and JGI staff supervise the management and operation of the micro-	5				x		x		x		x		x

	Activity	No of Months	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	financing institutes and measure and monitor capital flows with backstopping from Village Enterprise													
Output 3	*PFO households linked to profitable markets and agribusinesses to sell their farming surplus to and increase their income.*													
3.1	WCS identifies potential agribusiness partners in the region and other opportunities in Kampala;	2	x											
3.2	WCS starts negotiating production contracts with participating agribusiness partners;	2	x											
3.3	WCS holds a meeting with CT and JGI to discuss the initial production contract and incorporates their input and feedback;	4	x											
3.4	WCS, CT and JGI organize a meeting with the PFOs in each parish to present and discusses their input and gather feedback;	4		x				x						
3.5	WCS organizes a meeting with agribusiness partners and finalizes production contract;	4		x				x						
3.6	WCS, CT and JGI organizes a meeting between PFOs and agribusiness partners to sign the contract	4		x				x						
Output 4	*Agricultural intensification through conservation farming to stop the need to clear new forests and wetlands*													
4.1	CLUSA trains 13 field-based staff from CT and JGI in conservation farming and assigns each staff member to a parish	6			x									
4.2	CT and JGI trained staff train the PFO-HHs in conservation farming in their parish.	9			x		x		x		x			

	Activity	No of Months	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
4.3	Meetings are held in each parish to share experiences and potential issues with conservation farming among PFO-HHs; meetings are also open for non-PFO-HHs.	4			x		x		x		x		x	
4.4	CT and JGI trained staff collect data on yields from PFO-HHs	4			x		x		x		x		x	

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)

For Output 1 indicators, WCS (with assistance from CT and JGI) will develop conservation contracts, present them to PFOs, and keep track of which PFOs sign contracts. Compliance monitoring will be performed in several ways. CT and JGI field staff and community-based monitors will report on forest and wetland conservation and contract infractions. CT and JGI will annually monitor the status of forests at household level. If farmers are incompliant, we will organize village meetings to understand why, and develop mitigation measures to improve performance. To monitor impacts on biodiversity (Outcome Indicator 4), WCS will carry out a baseline and endline survey on biodiversity target species in all 13 parishes.

For Output 2, we will record how many farmers participate in the Business Saving Group (BSG) trainings (including the number of women), the number of microfinancing institutes set up, the amount of cash in these institutes, transactions, loans and repayment performance. Village Enterprise is responsible following up and monitoring these village banks, their governance and accountability. CT and JGI will interview farmers for feedback on the management of the BSGs, and NARCG partners and Village Enterprise will meet quarterly to discuss village bank performance and potential improvements.

For Output 3, WCS will lead on negotiating production contracts, presenting them to farmers, and recording signed agreements. After each harvest, PFOs will record how many bags have been produced, and CT and JGI staff will weigh these bags. This will provide information on production increases, surplus sold to buyers, and increase in income. We can then calculate how much more farmers are producing, how much they are selling to the buyers and how much income is received from sales (since we know how much buyers pay per weight). WCS will follow up with agribusiness partners quarterly, who will provide information to WCS on how much they have bought from each PFO. Once harvesting ends and information is collected, we will arrange a meeting to discuss the results of the intervention and how lessons learned can improve the process for the following harvest.

For Output 4, WCS will verify that all 6 CT and 7 JGI staff members are trained in conservation farming. These staff will then report how many famers they each train (including women). CT and JGI will record how much of each PFO property is managed using conservation farming (PFOs might first want to see the effect before they completely convert to conservation farming). They will also record whether other farmers not directly trained by the project have adopted conservation farming. To measure improvements in yield, trained CT or JGI staff will record PFO crop production before and after conservation training (which will feed into Output 3 indicators).

WCS will continuously monitor performance of interventions and analyse information related to indicators, evaluating results quarterly and adapting our approach if necessary to improve implementation and results.

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)

The most significant project costs are associated with implementing the conservation farming component. CLUSA is following a new approach with lessons learned from its previous programme in northern Uganda which has resulted in a 70% increase in cost-efficiency. The existence of the institutional framework of PFOAs further reduces costs when recruiting and developing participating farmer groups. Finally, as trained farmers pay back into their village banks, the money used to train them is returned to CT and JGI to train other farmers groups, increasing the impact of this project at no additional cost for Darwin.

The overall approach used in this project, in which CLUSA and Village Enterprise train and support local CT and JGI staff, ensures that knowledge and capacity remain embedded in the parishes. Implementation by local-field based staff will also minimize the costs of setting up an extensive service network managed by CLUSA and Village Enterprise.

Several other aspects of this project increase cost-effectiveness. By agreed policy, project partners are not compensated for transportation and their time participating in quarterly meetings held in Entebbe. Travel costs will be kept to a minimum by coordinating field trips and facilitating coordination through field-based offices in Hoima.

Additionally, we will primarily be using existing equipment purchased with other funds, so there will be minimal equipment costs. Office costs for all partners are shared across a variety of funding sources and will be a relatively small cost for this project. Finally, because we already have established baselines for socio-economic indicators, we will not need to spend additional resources for this aspect of M&E.

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/company* of Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

(*delete as appropriate)

I apply for a grant of £301,111 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 applicant institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)*

- 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:

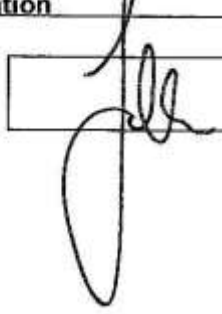
2014 Audit:
http://www.wcs.org/about-us/~/media/Files/pdfs/Audited%20Financial%20Statements%202014%20WCS.pdf

2013 Audit:
http://www.wcs.org/about-us/~/media/Files/pdfs/F_180473_13_Unsecured_WildlifeConservationSociety_Subsidiaries_CFSS.pdf

2013 Annual Report:
http://www.wcs.org/files/pdfs/2013-WCS-Annual-Report.pdf

2012 Annual Report:
http://www.wcs.org/files/pdfs/2012-WCS-Annual-Report.pdf

Name (block capitals)	JOE WALSTON
Position in the organisation	Vice President for Field Conservation; Global Conservation Program

Signed  **Date:** 11/24/14

Stage 2 Application - Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you **read the Guidance Notes**?	X
Have you provided **actual start and end dates** for your project?	X
Have you indicated whether you are applying for DFID or Defra funding. NB: you cannot apply for both	X
Have you provided your **budget based on UK government financial years** i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP?	X
Have you checked that your **budget is complete**, correctly adds up and that you have included the correct final total on the top page of the application?	X
Has your application been **signed by a suitably authorised individual**? (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable in the email)	**X**
Have you included a **1 page CV for all the Principals** identified at Question 7?	X
Have you included a **letter of support from the main partner(s) organisations** identified at Question 10?	X
Have you **been in contact with the FCO** in the project country/ies and have you included any evidence of this?	n/a
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.	X
Have you **checked the Darwin website** immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	X

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 (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.