



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 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 result will be by email to the Project Leader in Question 7)

Applicant Organisation Name:	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Address:	The Lodge
City and Postcode:	SANDY, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL
Country:	United Kingdom
Email:	
Phone:	

2. Stage 1 reference and Project title

Ref 2753	Title (max 10 words) Sustainable management of an Ethiopian rangeland for biodiversity and pastoralists
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3. Project dates, and budget summary

Start date: 01 April 2015		End date: 31 March 2018		Duration: 3 years
Darwin request	2015/16 £ 131,436	2016/17 £ 80,250	2017/18 £73,804	Total request £ 285,490
Proposed (confirmed and unconfirmed) matched funding as % of total Project cost: 20%				
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.

<p>(max 30 words)</p> <p>Sustainable management of the Liben Plain enhances livelihoods and food security for 10,000 pastoralists, prevents mainland Africa's first bird extinction and integrates biodiversity conservation into Ethiopian rangeland recovery</p>

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: Ethiopia	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 Programme 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 integrate poverty alleviation on the Liben Plain with actions to prevent the global extinction of the critically endangered Liben Lark. It therefore supports Ethiopia's NBSAP, which aims to address '*interlinked issues comprising biodiversity protection and management for food security (poverty reduction), health and livelihood improvement of the Ethiopian population especially farmers and pastoralists whose survival depends on the use of natural resources*'. The project will contribute to all strategic objectives of the NBSAP, particularly:

- Objective 2. *By 2020, all remaining natural ecosystems outside protected areas are under sustainable management*
- Objective 3. *The costs and benefits of biodiversity conservation are equitably shared through a range of public, private, community/CBO and NGO partnerships*
- Objective 4. *The rich agro-biodiversity of Ethiopia is effectively conserved*

This project will develop sustainable management systems for a degraded rangeland, building upon indigenous knowledge and traditional systems. It will provide a model for the sustainable management of rangelands elsewhere in Ethiopia. Consequently this project will contribute to CBD articles 8, 10 and 11 and the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity. It will inform the UNESCO-SCBD programme on linking biological and cultural diversity, and Aichi Targets 1, 7, 12-14 and 18.

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

Yes No if yes, please give details:

The CBD Focal Point sits within the Ethiopian Institute of Biodiversity (EIB), an organisation with close links to the project partner EWNHS. The project has been discussed with EIB and has received their full support.

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	Donald	Dellelegn Abebe	Ndang'ang'a
Forename (s)	Paul	Yilma	Paul Kariuki
Post held	Principal Conservation Scientist	Project Manager	Team Leader, Science and Information Management
Organisation (if different to above)		Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society	BirdLife International
Department	RSPB Centre for Conservation Science	n/a	Africa Partnership Secretariat
Telephone			
Email			
Details	Project Partner 3	Project Partner 4	Project Partner 5
Surname	Dinku	Bennett	Lloyd
Forename (s)	Lemma	James	Huw
Post held	Programme Manager, Borana Zone	Senior Lecturer in Environmental Studies	Lecturer in Wildlife Ecology
Organisation (if different to above)	SOS Sahel	Coventry University	Manchester Metropolitan University
Department	Borana Programmes	Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience.	School of Science and the Environment
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
2031	Nicolas Tubbs	Enhancing habitat connectivity through sustainable development around the Gola Rainforest.
19-011	Ian Barber	Conserving the critically endangered Bengal Florican - a Terai flagship species
19-012	Dr Rob Sheldon	Saving the critically endangered spoon-billed sandpiper from global extinction
19-028	Dr Richard Cuthbert	Addressing the threat of invasive species in Pitcairn Overseas Territory
18-008	Dr Juliet Vickery	Trans-boundary solutions to the Asian vulture crisis
18-017	Dr Richard Cuthbert	Developing knowledge to eradicate house mice from UK OT islands

9. This question has been deleted due to our 'YES' answer in 8 above.

10. Please list all the partners involved (including the Lead Institution) and explain their roles and responsibilities in the project. Describe the extent of their involvement at all stages, including project development. This section should illustrate the capacity of partners to be involved in the project. Please provide written evidence of partnerships. Please copy/delete boxes for more or fewer partnerships.

<p>Lead Institution and website:</p> <p>RSPB Website: http://www.rspb.org.uk/watwedo/international/</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)</p> <p>RSPB is Europe's largest conservation NGO and engages in the conservation of globally threatened species in a wide range of countries. RSPB has extensive expertise in research, project management, species recovery and integrated conservation and development projects. RSPB has been heavily involved in research on the Critically Endangered Liben Lark and other threatened species in southern Ethiopia since 2007 (e.g. Donald et al. 2010 Bird Conservation International, 20: 1-12), and has extensive experience of conservation in agricultural systems. RSPB has worked closely with EWNHS throughout this time, and is linked to EWNHS through the partnership of BirdLife International. RSPB will act as overall project manager and will provide the necessary advice, training and support needed by other partners throughout the project. RSPB will manage the financial, monitoring and reporting elements of the project and support all scientific monitoring and evaluation. RSPB undertook a project planning visit to Ethiopia in November 2014, together with staff of EWNHS and BirdLife Africa, to collect socio-economic data and to build partnerships with local and national stakeholders to gain a consensus on the project's aims and methods. RSPB has extensive experience of successfully delivering Darwin-funded projects.</p>
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<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>Ethiopian Wildlife Natural History Society (EWNHS) Website: http://ewnhs.org.et/</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)</p> <p>EWNHS is the BirdLife International Partner in Ethiopia and has long experience of conservation work in the country. Legally established in 1966, EWNHS is the oldest non-governmental environmental conservation organization in Ethiopia. The organisation has extensive experience of undertaking conservation through livelihood improvement, for example through its involvement in the Debre Birhan Land Restoration and Food Security Project and the Ethiopian Sustainable Tourism Alliance (ESTA). EWNHS has worked on the Liben Plain for seven years, most recently as the national manager and primary implementer of a three-year project on southern Ethiopia's threatened endemic birds, funded by the UK Birdfair. EWNHS has a local staff member based on the Liben Plain and has been very influential in establishing three Liben Lark Conservation Committees and a community-based Site Support Group on the Plain. These have greatly increased the awareness of local people of the plight of the Liben Lark and have engendered trust between EWNHS and relevant stakeholders on the Liben Plain, at all levels of government and among all strata of traditional community governance. EWNHS will be the main in-country partner and national project manager, working with other stakeholders to deliver the main outputs of the project.</p>
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<p>Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?</p>	<p>Yes/No</p>
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<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>BirdLife International Africa Partnership Secretariat Website: http://www.birdlife.org/africa</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)</p> <p>BirdLife International is a global Partnership of NGOs striving to conserve birds, their habitats and biodiversity, working with people towards the sustainable use of natural resources. In Africa, the partnership is a growing network of 24 NGOs, with a combined total of over 500 staff and 84,000 members. The BirdLife African Partnership Secretariat (BLAPS), based in Kenya, supports and coordinates the work in Africa. BLAPS provides Partners with technical, fundraising, capacity building and scientific support while also raising their profile and connections to deliver biodiversity conservation. BLAPS, through Partners, has extensive experience of empowering local communities to conserve national sites, including in Ethiopia, by building their confidence, skills, knowledge, resources and rights, and includes improving their livelihoods (http://www.birdlife.org/africa/programmes/local-empowerment-africa). BLAPS has been involved in work on the Liben Plain since 2007. In this project, BLAPS will provide technical guidance and capacity building in community-based conservation, communications, fundraising and advocacy. A particular role for BLAPS will be to manage the legacy of the project, for example by raising funding for further community grassland reserves (kallos) beyond the end of the project and by disseminating the lessons of the project to all key stakeholders in the pastoralist belt of Africa.</p>
<p>Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?</p>	<p>Yes/No</p>

<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>SOS Sahel Website: http://www.sahel.org.uk/ethiopia.html</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)</p> <p>SOS Sahel is an international development NGO working in Mali, Niger, Kenya, Sudan and Ethiopia, where it is a legally registered National Charity. It aims to improve the living standards of smallholder farmers and marginalised pastoralists, through better management of their environment and improved access to fair and sustainable agricultural markets. Central to SOS Sahel Ethiopia's development interventions is empowering poor pastoralists to exercise environmental, social, civil, cultural and economic rights. SOS Sahel Ethiopia has extensive experience of using Participatory Rangeland Management (PRM) to support the creation of community grasslands ('kallos') of the type that this project will create, and in this project will lead the development of community agreements and consultations necessary to develop sustainable and equitable management of the outputs that will be produced. SOS Sahel has published guidelines for Participatory Rangeland Assessment and Management based upon its experience in southern Ethiopia and has published a Rangeland Improvement and Rehabilitation Field Guide for the rangelands of Oromia (within which the Liben Plain falls). SOS Sahel have positive experiences of community grassland management, with no failures of the kallos they have established over the last seven years. SOS Sahel also empowers women's groups and cooperatives to generate alternative income.</p>
<p>Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?</p>	<p>Yes/No</p>

<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>Coventry University (CU), Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience (CAWR)</p> <p>Website: http://www.coventry.ac.uk/research/areas-of-research/agroecology-water-resilience/</p> <p>http://www.coventry.ac.uk/research-bank/research-archive/environmental/agroecology-and-food-security/about-us/our-team/dr-james-bennett/</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)</p> <p>The Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience (CAWR) is driving innovative, transdisciplinary research on the understanding and development of resilient food and water systems internationally. Through its focus on food and water, the Centre's research develops and integrates new knowledge in social, agroecological, hydrological and environmental processes, as well as the pivotal role that communities play in developing resilience. Working through CAWR, Dr James Bennett will support the project by undertaking a mid-project assessment of the extent to which grassland is recovering in terms of the quantity, quality of forage production and grassland species diversity in reserves one year after kallo establishment. He will also train project staff on grassland assessment methods. Dr Bennett has undertaken extensive research on the collective management of rangelands in Africa and is familiar with the situation on the Liben Plain through visits undertaken in 2010 and 2011.</p>
<p>Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution? Yes/No</p>	

<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>Manchester Metropolitan University, School of Science and the Environment</p> <p>Website: http://www.sste.mmu.ac.uk/default.asp</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)</p> <p>The Conservation, Evolution and Behaviour (CEB) Research Group at the School of Science/Environment, MMU, work at the interface of conservation biology, evolutionary biology and animal behaviour. CEB members work on population assessments of birds, mammals, amphibians and plants in forests, grasslands, wetlands and other ecosystems in the UK, China, Philippines, Indonesia, New Guinea, Tonga, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia. The CEB group has a special interest in developing evidence-based habitat restoration strategies for threatened species, including the restoration of salt marshes in the UK, determining the responses of waterbird populations to natural-restored wetland landscape mosaics in China, and designing forest restoration strategies for threatened montane species in Tanzania and Peru. Dr Lloyd has been working with the RSPB, BirdLife International and the EWNHS in Ethiopia since 2012, examining the response of Liben Lark to current land-use practices and ongoing grassland degradation across the Liben Plain. He will be responsible for assessing the responses of grassland biodiversity and the Liben Lark population to scrub clearance and the management of kallos.</p>
<p>Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution? Yes/No</p>	

<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>Other local organisations who will be involved in the project</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)</p> <p>Although they will not receive project funding, we will also work closely with a number of local organisations with whom we have already developed relationships during our work in the region. The Liben Woreda (district government) offices of Pastoralism and of Culture & Tourism strongly support the project. The Pastoralist Office in particular will be very important to this project, as it has considerable experience of kallo creation and management and holds all the official statistics pertaining to the pastoralism of the Liben Plain, including herd size and household size. It is also responsible for implementing regional government strategies for improving pastoralist livelihoods. We have worked successfully with this office since 2007. Overseeing the work of the woreda Pastoralism and Culture & Tourism offices is the Woreda Administration Office, which also strongly supports this project. We will also work closely with the Liben Plain Site Support Group (SSG), recently established by EWNHS. The SSG is a legally recognised NGO made up of mostly young pastoralists with the aim of protecting the Liben Lark. We will work closely with the SSG to help improve their livelihoods. All these bodies have provided letters of support, which are attached to this application.</p>
<p>Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?</p>	<p>Yes/No</p>

<p>11. Have you provided CVs for the senior team including the Project Leader?</p>	<p>Yes/No</p>
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12. Problem the project is trying to address

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

<p>(Max 200 words)</p> <p>Pastoralism is potentially the most effective system for managing dry grasslands, combining sustainable resource management with poverty alleviation. The Liben Plain supports c.10,000 pastoralists with usufruct property rights. Designated an Important Bird Area and part of the South Ethiopian Highlands Endemic Bird Area, the Plain holds one of only two populations of Liben Lark <i>Heteromirafr archeri</i>, and important agro-biodiversity (a strategic priority in Ethiopia's NBSAP), including c.50 grass species and the unique Boran cattle. Poverty and drought have led to overgrazing, soil erosion, scrub encroachment, conversion of grassland to crops and severe degradation, with just 7,500 ha of degraded grassland remaining (30% of its extent 20 years ago).</p> <p>Consequently, the Liben Lark is listed as Critically Endangered and is likely to become mainland Africa's first bird extinction. Our research suggests that habitat degradation is the biggest threat. Degradation is also causing pastoralists to suffer from declining livestock productivity, reduced income and increasing food insecurity (including a three-month dry season hunger gap). This results in poor child nutrition and increased drought vulnerability. Driven by the declining fortunes of pastoralism, some pastoralists are turning to cultivation, which, due to unpredictable rainfall and poor soils, is unsustainable and accelerates grassland and biodiversity loss.</p>

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)

A 2014 site visit to collect socio-economic data and build partnerships found strong consensus for project aims and activities from all levels of government and civil society. Liben Larks and other grassland biodiversity have exactly the same resource requirements as pastoralists, so this is a rare example of a project that can deliver significant biodiversity benefits solely by helping local people address their self-assessed needs.

Using Participatory Rangeland Management (PRM), a technique established by SOS Sahel, local people will be supported to create communally managed grassland reserves ('kallos') across c. 1000 ha of the Plain. Kallos allow the rapid re-establishment of lush grassland.

The PRM process will involve project partners, local/village administrations, community elders and rangeland managers and includes:

1. Participatory Rangeland Resource Assessment (including baseline/end-of-project surveys of household food security using stratified sampling)
2. Stakeholder meetings to agree kallo locations, formulate by-laws and develop equitable-benefit sharing agreements
3. Establishment of Kallo Management Committees (comprising community/civil society/Government representatives, ensuring appropriate gender representation) to regulate management agreements

To create kallos, up to 500 ha of encroaching acacia scrub will be cleared from sites surrounding the core plain, extending the open grassland area for livestock foraging. Cut acacia will be transported to construct kallo fences and underplanted with non-invasive euphorbia, which grows into permanent 'living fences' as the acacia biodegrades. Kallos will provide c.2,000 households (c.10,000 people) with hay in the dry season, enabling cattle to produce milk for people, so closing the dry season hunger gap. Following Borana custom, hay will be distributed preferentially to female-headed and/or poorest households, who are recognised as most vulnerable.

Kallos will be sited in areas identified through research as hotspots for Liben Larks; because the birds are aggregated, the new kallos will contain at least 50% of all territories. The increased productivity of birds nesting in tall grass is expected to result in a rapidly detectable population increase. Annual surveys of vegetation height/diversity, and bird density/productivity, inside and outside kallos will allow us to monitor impact on grass growth and biodiversity.

In parallel, we will help 70 people (at least 35 women) to establish three Community-Based Organisations (CBOs), whose purpose will be to help vulnerable households who are being driven to abandon pastoralism to develop/diversify their livelihoods and so reduce their need to plough grassland for crops. This will include participatory assessment to finalise capacity/infrastructure priorities, establishing/developing three CBOs, including a women's group, to manage capacity building/livelihood initiatives and the financing of them and enabling CBOs to provide basic literacy/numeracy and financial/business training to enable community engagement, and to develop business plans. We will train CBOs in participatory wellbeing assessment so that they can monitor the future impact of their initiatives.

Partners will develop a post-project business plan to restore the historical extent of Liben Plain, and will guide government/other stakeholders on using PRM to integrate grassland biodiversity conservation into the Oromia Regional Pastoralist Development Strategy and the Oromia Regional State Program: Adaptation to Climate Change.

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)

By project end, expected changes include:

Creation of around 1,000 ha of new kallos which:

- provide fodder for 4,500 cows in the dry season, which as a result produce enough milk for household consumption, closing the dry season hunger gap for around 10,000 pastoralists (including c.2,000 women and 7,000 children)
- restore species-rich, high quality grassland for biodiversity and pastoralists and restore the seed bank over a wider area
- increase the population of the Liben Lark, greatly reducing the species' risk of imminent extinction
- increase open grassland area outside kallos by 500 ha through scrub removal

Establishment of three new Community-Based Organisations, including a women's group, which aim to help vulnerable households who are being driven to abandon pastoralism to develop/diversify their livelihoods and so reduce their need to plough grassland for crops. By end of project they will have developed business plans for livelihood development/diversification; be approaching donors for funding with partner support; be able to engage communities in initiatives by providing basic literacy, numeracy, financial and business training; and be able to monitor impact of the initiatives on community wellbeing.

Greater integration of biodiversity conservation in rangeland restoration projects in southern Ethiopia through:

- promotion of the project to relevant government and NGO stakeholders involved in the current push towards reviving pastoralism in southern Ethiopia
- funding bids to expand the restoration of grasslands and clearance of encroaching scrub on and around the Liben Plain to the benefit of people and birds

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

Enclosed communal kallos are a recent development in Borana rangeland management but have rapidly gained support in response to increasing grassland degradation and drought frequency. They are now recognised as essential to preserving pastoralism and are being promoted and supported at all levels of government and community, from Zonal administration to traditional community leadership. However, there is limited funding to support their implementation. Several large community kallos have been successfully established near the Liben Plain by SOS Sahel and the local pastoralist office (funded by World Bank), but not on the Liben Plain, and not with the additional aim of supporting biodiversity conservation. The project therefore represents both an extension of ongoing development work and its novel application to biodiversity conservation.

Through work being undertaken by EWNHS since 2011, 190 ha of scrub on Liben Plain has already been cleared to create more open grassland and EWNHS has supported the establishment of small trial grassland enclosures. The project has helped gain support from government and community stakeholders for larger scale grassland conservation on the Liben Plain. In addition, partners have undertaken and published research on the habitat requirements of the Liben Lark.

15b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects/ carrying out or applying for funding for similar work?

Yes No

Other grassland restoration initiatives are in place in the region but not on the Liben Plain. We are not aware of other organisations working to develop additional sources of income for pastoralists on the Liben Plain. Dr D. Layne Coppock (Utah State University) has been researching methods to improve pastoralist livelihoods, particularly through empowering women, in the Borana rangelands for the past decade. The current research project (2012-2015) (funded by the USAID Livestock and Climate Change Collaborative Research Support Program (LCC-CRSP) will focus on the opportunities to diversify herds and better manage the rangelands to improve the trajectory of livestock production. Attention will be given to building capacity among Ethiopian researchers, policy makers, and the pastoralists themselves to promote sustainability of range livestock systems. We will ensure that our project builds on lessons learned from these programmes (e.g. how the empowerment of women can be achieved to improve household welfare) but this work has not attempted to ensure that improvements in livestock production are sustainable nor to generate the co-benefits of biodiversity conservation. This is the key to securing sustainable development for the pastoralists of the Liben Plain and the survival of the Liben Lark, and is the focus of this application.

15c. Are you applying for funding relating to the proposed project from other sources?

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 the mutual benefits:

16. Value for money

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

(Max 250 words)

The creation of kallos is extremely cost effective. The cost of kallo establishment is mainly in labour and transport of cut scrub and euphorbia for fencing. As the cost of kallo establishment is entirely in the creation of the perimeter fence, we will aim to establish a small number of very large kallos; this will be more cost effective and will bring more benefits to Liben Larks, which avoid boundary structures. Establishment labour is provided by local pastoralists, providing them with direct income and engendering a sense of ownership. The creation of kallos both clears encroaching acacia scrub from one part of the Plain, thus improving pasture there, and uses the cut scrub to create kallos elsewhere. The cut scrub fences are under-planted with non-invasive euphorbia so that by the time the fences biodegrade, a permanent hedge is established in its place. Management costs are therefore very low. The pastoralist community will maintain the established kallos as part of the Management Agreements overseen by Grassland Reserve Management Committees, as has proved successful elsewhere. Each 100 ha of kallo produces hay to the local value of around £25,000 annually, so the costs of kallo establishment and management are recouped by the local community in the first year of hay production (generally 2 years after establishment; thereafter, each kallo is cropped annually). The entire cost of this project will therefore be recouped by local pastoralists in just two years of hay production.

17. Ethics

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

(Max 300)

RSPB, BirdLife International, EWNHS and SOS Sahel are legally registered NGOs of charitable status. The RSPB is audited by the UK Charity Commission and annual accounts comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities'. This project is the product of a long-term collaboration between RSPB, EWNHS and BirdLife. EWNHS is a strong NGO with long-standing relationships with local government and local pastoralist associations and already employs a project officer who is from the Liben Plain, who will provide

locally relevant guidance and advice to project partners to ensure the project is implemented sensitively. All partners have Health and Safety (H&S) policies that require staff to complete risk assessments. Local labour will be paid at or above the usual daily rate.

Sustainable grassland management is the fundamental concept within pastoralism and traditional knowledge of the grasslands is critical to informing the project aims and activities. The project aims to ensure pastoralists benefit from sustainable management, and this depends on benefits being equitably shared. Project activities will be implemented using current methodologies, developed in the region, that ensure equitable benefit-sharing and avoid elite capture. Customary Borana pastoralist practices and systems are founded on supporting the most vulnerable households first when sharing benefits. Beneficiary representatives will participate in monitoring, evaluating and directing the project (see Section 27) to ensure that we take full account of traditional knowledge, and the wellbeing of the different beneficiary groups is increased as equitably as possible by the project.

Prior informed consent will be obtained from all communities involved in assessments and consultations, so that they are fully aware of the purpose of and context for these activities. The Participatory Rangeland Resource Assessment is by definition a stakeholder-led, participatory process and will be carried out in an entirely objective manner.

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)

Pastoralism supports millions of Ethiopians, but is in long-term decline. Recognising this, all levels of government are now moving towards restoring pastoralism, as it is a highly effective system for reducing poverty and increasing climate change resilience for people in dry grassland environments. This project contributes to this wider programme of grassland restoration and will provide a model of how such development can deliver biodiversity conservation. The project will identify priority areas for rangeland biodiversity and provide guidance to rangeland management stakeholders on integrating biodiversity conservation into grassland development, including the Oromia Pastoralist Development Strategy.

The project aims to increase food security of around 10,000 people at the most critical period of their year. Because kallos are highly profitable for fodder production, and Borana culture has a strong tradition of communal grassland management, their use is unlikely to cease when the project ends: all kallos established in southern Ethiopia over the past 7 years by SOS Sahel are still functioning well.

The project will support the establishment of three CBOs and provide them with training to develop and implement business plans to help vulnerable households who are being driven to abandon pastoralism to develop/diversify their livelihoods and so reduce their need to plough grassland for crops. This has the potential to improve the wellbeing of the most vulnerable households on the plain beyond project end.

Due to the complete alignment of the needs of the local people and Liben's grassland biodiversity, it is likely that once kallos are established and people are provided with long-term support for livelihood development, no further external support will be needed to maintain the kallos or secure this population of the Liben Lark from extinction. The project is therefore a rare example of a sustainable 'win-win' situation for livelihood development and biodiversity conservation.

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)

This project will improve the quality and extent of grasslands through creation of communal kallos, providing the population of the Liben Plain (c.10,000 people) with access to fodder in the long dry season, so that cows produce milk for human consumption as well as for calves. This will increase food security and close the current dry season hunger gap by project end.

This in turn will lead to improvements in health and nutrition, security of assets (i.e. through the increased survival, health and productivity, and therefore sale value, of cattle), cultural enhancement (preservation of the pastoralist lifestyle) and increased resilience to climate change, although these will not all be measurable within the lifetime of the project. The considerable labour and transport costs of creating kallos will be paid directly to local pastoralists of the Liben Plain, not only providing a source of income but also engendering a sense of ownership of the kallos.

Communities are also keen to develop and diversify livelihoods to reduce poverty, which is a major driver of grassland conversion to unsustainable cropping. Initiatives already suggested by the community to project partners include provision of veterinary advice, visitor services and storage/transportation of livestock products to market, ecotourism, and community owned service infrastructure. The project will assist people to meet these aspirations by helping CBOs to identify the most profitable and sustainable initiatives through feasibility studies and business plans; identify donors to finance initiatives; provide basic literacy/numeracy and financial/business training to households so that they are in a position to engage in these initiatives when they begin, and monitor the impact of their work and initiatives through participatory community wellbeing assessments.

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.

Ethiopia is 173rd of 187 countries on the UNDP Human Development Index, with 27% of the population living below the poverty line and suffering from malnourishment. Smallholder farmers and pastoralists make up the largest group of poor, and are extremely vulnerable to drought, which is increasing through climate change. The restoration of sustainable pastoralism has been identified by the Government of Oromia as a key component of their strategy to increase climate change resilience in this drought-prone part of the world. A high proportion of pastoralists struggle to produce enough food to feed their households and face months of hunger (the 'hunger gap') during the long dry season (approx. January-April).

On the Liben Plain, around 10,000 pastoralists are dependent on communally managed grasslands for their livelihoods and wellbeing. Intensive overgrazing, scrub encroachment and drought have reduced the rangeland to just 7,500 ha of severely degraded grassland. The Plain can no longer support pastoralists or biodiversity, with livestock productivity in decline and the Liben Lark close to extinction. Livestock are essential to pastoralists as assets, food, income, symbols of social status, savings, and protection against drought, and are therefore central to pastoralist wellbeing and way of life.

Grassland loss and degradation affects pastoralist households by reducing incomes and food security, increasing vulnerability to drought and climate change and negatively impacting wellbeing. During the dry seasons, cattle currently produce barely enough milk to support calves, with no surplus for people, and in most households at this time of year children are given sugar mixed into water in place of milk.

Impacts of kallo construction and management by end of project

Each 100 ha (1 km²) of kallo grassland supports 900 milking cows through the critical dry season. An average household (comprising 5-8 persons) currently has three milking cows. Thus 1 km² of kallo will benefit approximately 300 households x 7 = 2,100 people. Around 1000 ha (10 km²) of kallos will be created and by the end of the project will provide, under normal wet season rainfall scenarios, enough fodder to support 3 milking cows for each of the c. 2,000 households on the Plain during the challenging dry season, when food insecurity levels are at their peak. As 1 km² of kallo produces hay to the local value of around £25,000 (depending on rainfall), and as the project aims to create up to 10 km² of kallo, local pastoralists will benefit from hay to the local value of £250,000 in each year after the first cut. This value will be passed on directly in the form of milk production and the improved health and weight, and hence monetary value, of their cattle. The 2,167 households on and immediately around the Liben Plain include 1,664 male-headed households and 303 female-headed households (c. 7,000 children and c. 2,000 women).

Kallos are communally managed under a set of customary pastoralist by-laws (the 'gedaa') and are self-regulated by the community, with formalised documented agreements. Infractions of community benefits are self-policed and punishable by fines, and so are very rare. A customary benefit-sharing mechanism recognises that female-headed households and the poorest households are the most vulnerable and are therefore given priority in benefit sharing. This will ensure that the most vulnerable and poorest households will have milk throughout the dry season. The creation of the kallos from cleared scrub will have the added benefit of increasing the area of open grassland on the Plain, although the positive effects of scrub clearance on rangeland production are difficult to predict.

We will measure the direct impact of the kallos on c. 2,000 pastoralist households by comparing the results of a baseline and end-of-project stratified sample surveys of milk production and food security as part of the PRM process.

Impacts of support to CBOs to facilitate livelihood development/diversification by end of project

Enhancing the governance and business skills of c. 70 CBO members (at least 35 women) will in time directly benefit their households through their increased ability to engage with livelihood initiatives. Particular efforts will be made to include in these CBOs members of the relatively small number of poorer households known to be engaged in grassland conversion to cropland.

The work to support 3CBOs to help vulnerable households who are being driven to abandon pastoralism to develop/diversify their livelihoods and reduce their need to plough grassland for crops, will, post project, lead to poverty benefits such as: increased household ownership of key assets, improved quality of housing, increased resilience to drought, increased levels of food security, improved wellbeing and reduce the need for further grassland conversion.

We will measure the increase in CBO capacity from a comparison of baseline and end of project CBO capacity needs self assessments, and the production of governance documents, business plans and approaches to donors. We will train CBOs to use wellbeing assessment techniques to monitor the impact of their work on the communities.

Post-project impacts on the communities of:

The Liben Plain: we will develop a strategy to double the extent of kallos on and around the Liben Plain after the end of the project. This will increase the benefits received by the c. 10,000 pastoralists targeted by this project and bring benefits to a wider group of pastoralists.

The Oromia Region: the project partners will promote the use of PRM to implement the Oromia Regional Pastoralist Development Strategy in areas of high biodiversity to ensure it delivers sustainable benefits for people and grassland biodiversity cross the Oromia region and Ethiopian grassland biodiversity.

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 individual receive advances training, for example, what will happen should that individual leave?

(Max 200 words)

Due to the high commercial value and low management costs of kallos, and because of the strong Borana culture of sustainable community grassland management, their use is unlikely to cease with the end of the project. SOS Sahel report 100% retention rates after seven years on kallos elsewhere. The kallos created should therefore bring substantial benefits to local people long after the project ends.

The project will support the development of three CBOs, train them to develop business plans for livelihood development and diversification and support them to seek funding for their implementation. In-country partners plan to continue to work in the Liben Plain post project and will continue to support for CBOs to build on this work, with the aim of implementing the business plans beyond the project term.

Due to the complete alignment of the needs of pastoralists and Liben Larks, once the kallos are established and livelihoods are enhanced, nothing further will need to be done to secure the kallos or the bird from extinction. The post-project plan to create further kallos on and around the Liben Plain should increase the population of the Liben Lark such that it could be considered for down-listing from Critically Endangered.

21. Raising awareness of the potential worth of biodiversity

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

(Max 300 words) The regional government of Oromia has recently set a target of increasing pastoralist wellbeing and restoring 35,000 ha of grassland in the region annually through scrub clearance and the creation of kallos, but there are no resources available to support this ambition and no consideration is given to the potentially positive impacts of rangeland restoration on biodiversity. The project is completely aligned with, and intends actively to implement, current Government policy on pastoralist and rangeland development in areas of key importance for biodiversity. This project thereby contributes to a wider programme of grassland restoration across the region and will provide an exemplar of how rangeland restoration can be aligned with biodiversity conservation, seeking to direct this alignment within the implementation of the Oromia Pastoralist Development Strategy.

This project will build on the recent impetus at all levels of Government and within civil society and the pastoralist community to reverse the declining fortunes of pastoralism. It will seek opportunities to promote the importance of investment in the pastoralist sector and the important benefits pastoralism can also provide for biodiversity conservation. Such promotion will include the dissemination of a report including technical guidance and lessons learned on delivering sustainable Participatory Rangeland Management and detailing the benefits and importance of integrating biodiversity conservation into pastoralist development. This will be targeted at relevant national stakeholders involved in rangeland management policy formulation, including Federal Government staff, and rangeland management implementation, including International development NGOs, through direct communications with these stakeholders and through a dedicated workshop at the end of the project.

The workshop will focus on presenting a map of priority sites for rangeland biodiversity to stakeholders involved directly or influencing management of these sites and the promotion of

Participatory Rangeland Management and importance of mainstreaming biodiversity into management operations.

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)

All information collected by the project will be made publicly available and freely accessible, with the proviso that personal information on income and food security will only be available anonymously and if consent is provided by the individual. Project information will be available in a variety of methods including:

- 1). Online media – centrally available via partners websites, project reports, photographs and communications will be uploaded for wider public access. Partners will also use social media including facebook and blogs to promote project progress and achievements in relation to their organisations involvement specifically for their supporters.
- 2). Data on the location and size of kallos and scrub clearance will be publicly available through free-to-view satellite imagery.
- 3). All data on methods and impacts of activities on grassland quality, biodiversity and aspects of pastoralist livelihoods (contingent on consent and support from pastoralists) will be published in peer-reviewed scientific papers that will be made available to anyone who requests them.

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)

Grasslands are among the world's most threatened and least protected ecosystems. Many have been ploughed up for agriculture and a high proportion of grassland species are globally threatened. Sustainable pastoralism is perhaps the only system that allows both people and grassland biodiversity to flourish, yet the rangelands of southern Ethiopia, formerly among the most productive globally and home to a wealth of endemic taxa, have declined greatly in area and quality. The Liben Plain is one of the few fragments of open grassland surviving in this region. In southern Ethiopia, the international community has understandably focused on providing emergency aid to drought stricken pastoralist communities. This investment has reduced the numbers of people living in poverty and hunger, as shown by improvements in poverty indices. However, far less has been invested in building long-term sustainability into pastoralism and almost nothing into integrating biodiversity conservation with sustainable land management, despite their interdependency and the Ethiopians Government's interest in doing so (see section 6b). This is both unfortunate and surprising, since sustainably managed rangelands are one of the few agricultural systems that support high human populations and rich endemic biodiversity.

This project will implement actions to alleviate food insecurity at the most pressured time of year and simultaneously prevent the extinction of a critically endangered and endemic bird, which is known to occur only at one other, equally small and threatened, site. As such, it will provide a rare exemplar of how biodiversity conservation and livelihood development can be perfectly aligned.

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, donation, trusts, fees or trading activity.

Confirmed:

£7,580 confirmed in first year of project, as part of the BirdFair funded project, led by EWNHS, which finishes at the end of 2015, and aims to undertake research and deliver conservation for endemic threatened birds of Southern Ethiopia, including the Liben Lark.

£10,000 confirmed funding in first year of project supporting an Ethiopian PhD student at MMU, to undertake a socio-economic survey of pastoralist expectations of the changes to the Liben Plain, in order to provide a spatial assessment of changes to the Plains to underpin Participatory Rangeland Resource Assessment.

£61,150 confirmed funding, spread across the project, provided by the RSPB, in terms of staff time, overheads and international travel.

Total = £78,730, which is 20% of the project total

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 transported 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 seeing to tackle the complex and every-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)

The sustainable management of rangelands throughout Ethiopia increases the resilience of 12 million pastoralists and conserves grassland biodiversity

Outcome

There can only be one Outcome for the project. The Outcome should identify that 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 to question 14.

(Max 30 words)

Sustainable management of the Liben Plain enhances livelihoods and food security for 10,000 pastoralists, prevents mainland Africa's first bird extinction and integrates biodiversity conservation into Ethiopian rangeland recovery

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).

<p>Indicator 1</p>	<p>By end of project, around 2,000 pastoralist households (10,000 people, including c.2,000 women and 7,000 children) on and around the Liben Plain have access to milk during the dry season, reporting a closure of the current hunger gap</p> <p><i>Annual progress indicators:</i></p> <p>Nov 2014 Baseline: 2,000 pastoralist households experience a three-month hunger gap in the dry season</p> <p>By end Yr 1, socioeconomic surveys quantify dry season milk production and food shortage</p> <p>By end Yr 1, communities have agreed locations of 10km² of kallos, have developed by-laws and benefit sharing agreements to govern their use and at least 5km² of kallos have been created</p> <p>By end Yr 2, kallos completed, grass species richness and diversity, and proportion of high fodder value species within kallos are increasing in line with the harvest target of a 50% increase, and fodder biomass within kallos is increasing in line with a harvest target of 1000% increase over surrounding grassland.</p>
<p>Indicator 2</p>	<p>By end of project, three CBOs (70 people, >35 women) have the capacity to support communities to implement livelihood development/diversification initiatives.</p> <p><i>Annual progress indicators:</i></p> <p>Nov 2014 baseline: Local communities (e.g. the site support group) wish to be proactive in developing livelihood opportunities but lack the resources and experience to do so.</p> <p>By end Yr 1: three CBOs established and are developing business plans for most feasible livelihood development and diversification schemes.</p> <p>By end Yr 2: Business plans developed; training of CBO committees in progress.</p>

Indicator 3	<p>By end of project, the precipitous population decline of the Critically Endangered Liben Lark has been halted or reversed</p> <p><i>Annual progress indicators:</i></p> <p>Nov 2014 baseline: The number of Liben Larks on the Liben Plain is fewer than 150 individuals</p> <p>By end Yr 2, surveys undertaken after kallo creation indicate strong selection of kallo grassland by birds and nesting density is higher inside kallos than outside</p>
Indicator 4	<p>By end of project, the potential for integrating biodiversity conservation with pastoralist development is understood by at least 10 key government and civil society stakeholders.</p> <p><i>Annual progress indicators:</i></p> <p>Nov 2014 baseline: The potential benefits that Participatory Rangeland Management can provide to Ethiopian rangeland biodiversity are not appreciated by national or local stakeholders</p> <p>By end Yr 1, kallos established on the Liben Plain provide a demonstration of how biodiversity and development can be delivered through Participatory Rangeland Management</p> <p>By end Yr 2 other priority areas for using PRM to deliver biodiversity conservation in Ethiopia's rangelands are being identified.</p>

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	<p>Reports of baseline and end-of-project participatory community milk production/hunger gap assessment surveys</p>
Indicator 2	<p>We will monitor CBO capacity through comparative analysis of baseline and end of project self-assessment reports of capacity needs and by the generation and quality of business plans for livelihood initiatives and approaches made to donors.</p> <p>We will also monitor how CBOS are using their training to set up an ongoing M&E process to measure the impact of their activities on the well being of the communities in the long term. This will be done through verbal reports of discussions the CBO committees, and the sharing of source materials such as data sheets and monitoring plans.</p>
Indicator 3	<p>Biological transect surveys will quantify the use made by kallos by Liben Larks, and their distribution and population will be compared with baseline transect data going back to 2005. Population size will be estimated using distance sampling. Results will be published in the peer-reviewed literature.</p>
Indicator 4	<p>The aim of the stakeholder visits and multi-stakeholder workshop held in year 3 will be to encourage stakeholders from other priority sites for rangeland biodiversity in Ethiopia to adopt the PRM approach at their sites. At the end of the workshop/stakeholder visits we will ask participants to provide feedback of the event, which will include indicating whether they intent to promote PRM at their priority site. We will provide a summary report of these statements as part of the final project progress report.</p>

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	Ethiopian Government continues its current drive to restoring sustainable pastoralism
Assumption 2	Political stability in the project area does not decline
Assumption 3	Drought levels do not greatly increase above expectation

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	Participatory Rangeland Management process facilitates development of an institutional framework for managing community grassland reserves ('kallos')
Output 2	Grassland restoration increases dry season food security for pastoralists equitably and restores grassland quality and Liben Lark habitat
Output 3	Pastoralist communities have the capacity to develop livelihoods without reducing grassland area
Output 4	Project partners maintain and build on the outcome of the project and promote Participatory Rangeland Management to conserve biodiversity across Ethiopia's rangelands in the long-term
Output 5	Project management, monitoring and evaluation structures and processes ensure that the project objectives are achieved on schedule and within budget

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	
Indicator 1	By end of Month 4, Kallo Management Committees are established with equitable representation from all stakeholder groups (including women)
Indicator 2	By end of Month 4, stakeholders, including communities, Government and civil society have agreed locations for kallos, and developed management, and equitable benefit-sharing agreements for them, upheld through by-laws
Indicator 3	By end of project, Kallo Management Committees are distributing dry season forage under agreed management and equitable benefit sharing approaches

Output 2	
Indicator 1	By end of Yr1, scrub cleared from 500 ha adjacent to areas occupied by Liben Larks, increasing the size of the open Liben Plain by 7%
Indicator 2	By end of Yr1, fences made using cut scrub (underplanted with non-invasive euphorbia to create permanent living fences) demarcate community kallos covering around 1000 ha, located to capture >50% of the core area occupied by Liben Larks
Indicator 3	By end of project, grass species richness and diversity, and proportion of high fodder value species, are 50% higher and forage biomass is 1000% higher within kallos than outside
Indicator 4	By end of Yr3, 50% of the population of Liben Larks have responded to improved grassland quality by breeding in kallos and areas cleared of scrub, and having nest survival rates greater than 30% (the average for larks in degraded habitats)
Indicator 5	By end of project, all 2,000 pastoralist households (including at least 5,000 women and girls and over 300 households headed by women) have cows that produce milk for calf rearing and human consumption during the dry season (Yr1 baseline likely to be 0-5% based on stakeholder discussions in Nov 2014)

Output 3	
Indicator 1	By end Month 6, three CBO's baseline capacity needs self-assessments complete and opportunities for equitable livelihood development are identified and prioritised by communities
Indicator 2	By end of Yr1, three community based organisations (CBOs) are established to manage livelihood development and diversification initiatives
Indicator 3	By end of Month18, three CBOs have developed business plans for sustainable development initiatives, potentially including resource centre for visitors and local people, communal vehicles, milk collection and storage point (all are ideas suggested by local people during visit in November 2014)
Indicator 4	By end of Yr 2, 70 pastoralist (35 male heads of household and 35 female heads of household) household heads are receiving training in basic numeracy and literacy skills and business and financial management to facilitate community engagement in livelihood initiatives
Indicator 5	By end of project, at least two of the three CBOs are in discussions with donors or applying to microfinance schemes to secure funding for livelihood initiatives

Output 4	
Indicator 1	By end of Yr 1, priority areas for biodiversity in Ethiopian Borana rangelands are identified for establishing Participatory Rangeland Management, linked to the Oromia Regional Pastoralist Development Strategy
Indicator 2	By end of Yr 2, regional stakeholders managing priority biodiversity areas (Indicator 1) that could benefit from Participatory Rangeland Management processes and from integration of biodiversity conservation into

	management practices are identified
Indicator 3	By end of project, partners and stakeholders agree a business plan for expanding the area of community kallos on the Liben Plain
Indicator 4	By end of project, SOS Sahel and EWNHS staff submit two proposals for funding to donors and supporting CBOs in implementing business plans and monitoring project interventions
Indicator 5	By end of project, partners have promoted Participatory Rangeland Management and biodiversity mainstreaming to 50 stakeholders managing other grassland sites of high biodiversity importance in Ethiopia, through a workshop in Yr3

Output 5	
Indicator 1	By end of month 2 project partners have signed partnership agreements and confirm their respective roles and responsibilities
Indicator 2	By end Yr 1, Baseline surveys complete: 1. milk production level/ hunger gap assessment survey (stratified sample of the 10,000 households – part of PRRA); 2. Three CBO capacity needs self assessments; 3. Height and diversity of vegetation in kallos, from freely available aerial photographs and field visits; 4. Liben Lark distribution and productivity surveys
Indicator 3	Project partner Steering Committee meets twice annually; Project Implementation Committee (local stakeholders) meets quarterly to project progress (enables local stakeholder involvement in M+E)
Indicator 4	By end of Yr 2, mid-term review of vegetation recovery and Liben Lark responses to management
Indicator 5	By end of project, repetition of all baseline surveys complete
Indicator 6	All financial and progress reports submitted to the project manager and project donor on time

Verifying Outputs

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

Output 1	
Indicator 1	Records of stakeholder meetings and Kallo Management Committees meetings, ToR for Committees and lists of representatives
Indicator 2	Kallo management and equitable benefit-sharing agreements and by-laws
Indicator 3	Kallo Management Committees forage distribution records
Output 2	
Indicator 1	Before-and-after geo-referenced photographs showing extent of scrub clearance
Indicator 2	Satellite images showing extent and quality (based on NDVI – see section 27) of new community kallos

Indicator 3	Published analysis of the vegetation survey reports
Indicator 4	Published analysis of surveys of Liben Larks comparing densities and breeding behaviour inside and outside kallos
Indicator 5	Comparative analysis report of the baseline/end of project milk production level/ hunger gap assessment surveys
Output 3	
Indicator 1	Baseline capacity needs self-assessments /livelihood prioritisation report
Indicator 2	Community-Based Organisation (CBO) constitution documents and records of CBO meetings
Indicator 3	Business plans
Indicator 4	Training materials, training workshop list of attendees, training workshop photographs
Indicator 5	Funding proposals, records of meetings
Output 4	
Indicator 1	Map of identified sites for inclusion within Oromia Regional Pastoralist Development Strategy
Indicator 2	List of land management stakeholders in Ethiopian Borana rangelands to be invited to workshop (activity 4.5)
Indicator 3	Business plan for kallo sustainability assessment report
Indicator 4	Project proposals and CBO records
Indicator 5	Workshop presentations, attendance lists and minutes, scientific papers and technical guidance publications
Output 5	
Indicator 1	Copies of signed partnership agreements
Indicator 2	Baseline survey reports of: 1. Milk production level/ hunger gap assessment survey (stratified sample of the 10,000 households); 2. CBO capacity needs self assessments 3. Published analyses of changes in height and diversity of vegetation in kallos, including analysis of freely available satellite photographs; 4. Published analyses of Liben Lark distribution and productivity
Indicator 3	Records of Steering Group and Project Implementation Committee meetings
Indicator 4	Report of mid-term review
Indicator 5	Comparative analysis report of baseline and end of project surveys; scientific papers
Indicator 6	Report submission records; Darwin feedback on annual and 6-month 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	Existing Borana mechanisms for enforcing by-laws and distributing fodder to the most needy members of society are applied to new kallos
Assumption 2	Drought does not disrupt normal grassland management processes
Assumption 3	Illegal conversion of grassland to crops by external investors does not increase
Assumption 4	Local CBOs remain viable and engaged
Assumption 5	Other grassland stakeholders external to the Liben Plain are interested in learning from the project

Activities

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

Output 1	
Activity 1.1	Undertake a Participatory Rangeland Resource Assessment
Activity 1.2	Support customary institutions and Government bodies to establish joint Kallo Management Committees to oversee community kallos through the Participatory Rangeland Management process
Activity 1.3	Facilitate a series of stakeholder-led workshops, engaging communities, Government and civil society to identify locations for kallos and develop management, by-laws and benefit-sharing agreements for them through the Participatory Rangeland Management process

Output 2	
Activity 2.1	Committees identify and establish local teams to build the kallos
Activity 2.2	Remove acacia scrub from 500 ha of grassland, outside kallos, adjacent to existing Liben Lark populations, to encourage range expansion and grassland restoration (increasing the size of the open plain by 7%)
Activity 2.3	Use cut acacia scrub, underplanted with euphorbia, to create at least four kallos of around 250 ha each (total 13% of remaining Plain) in key sites for Liben Larks

Output 3	
Activity 3.1	Support CBOs to undertake a self assessment of their capacity needs and prioritise needs for enabling equitable livelihood development and diversification
Activity 3.2	Support local communities to develop/establish three Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) to manage and oversee livelihood and infrastructure development initiatives
Activity 3.3	Support CBOs to develop business plans that potentially could include: a resource centre for visitors and local people, communal vehicles, milk collection/storage point and local commodities shop (ideas suggested by local people during visit in November 2014)
Activity 3.4	Provide training in numeracy and literacy skills and business and financial management to CBO committees (70 people, 35 women) to enable them to facilitate community engagement in livelihood development and diversification initiatives

Output 4	
Activity 4.1	Identify priority areas for rangeland biodiversity and regional stakeholders that could benefit from Participatory Rangeland Management in Ethiopian Borana Rangelands, to direct implementation of Oromia regional Pastoralist Develop Strategy to inform Activity 4.5
Activity 4.2	Assess current use of the kallos on the historic (240km ²) extent of the Liben Plain and develop strategy to support the expansion of kallos across the Liben Plain
Activity 4.3	Provide training in fundraising, communications and monitoring impacts of interventions to in-country partners and CBOs to enable them to build on project outcome in the long-term
Activity 4.4	Facilitate transfer of skills and expertise between EWNHS and SOS Sahel project staff eg the value of biodiversity conservation in development and participatory processes for rangeland management
Activity 4.5	In Yr3, hold stakeholder visits to demonstration kallos and national level multi-stakeholder workshop at Liben Plain, including to raise awareness and promote integration of biodiversity conservation into sustainable grassland management systems for application at other priority grassland sites in Ethiopia

Output 5	
Activity 5.1	Formalise roles and responsibilities, including project management and implementation structure in project partnership agreements
Activity 5.2	Collect baseline data on current milk production levels and hunger gap assessment (stratified sample of the 10,000 households);
Activity 5.3	Analyse CBOs capacity needs self assessments (done under activity 3.1)
Activity 5.4	Collect baseline survey of vegetation height and diversity of vegetation

	and Liben Lark distribution and productivity inside and outside kallos
Activity 5.5	Facilitate 6-monthly Steering Committee (SC) and quarterly Project Implementation Committee (PIC - including local stakeholders) meetings to evaluate project process towards impact
Activity 5.6	Monitor project progress on a monthly basis through liaison with all partner staff
Activity 5.7	Undertake a mid-term vegetation recovery and Liben Lark survey
Activity 5.8	<p>Undertake repeats of baseline surveys and produce comparative analysis reports on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Milk production level/ hunger gap assessment survey (stratified sample of the 10,000 households); 2. CBOs capacity needs self assessments 3. Changes to height and diversity of vegetation in kallos, including freely available satellite photographs; 4. Liben Lark distribution and productivity

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 Participatory Rangeland Management process facilitates development of an institutional framework for managing community grassland reserves ('kallos')													
1.1 Undertake Participatory Rangeland Resource Assessment	4												
1.2 Establish joint Kallo Management Committees	4												
1.3 Identify locations for kallos/develop management, by-laws and benefit-sharing agreements	4												
Output 2 Grassland restoration increases dry season food security for pastoralists equitably and restores grassland quality and Liben Lark habitat													
2.1 Committees identify and establish local teams to build the kallos	2												
2.2 Remove acacia scrub from 500 ha of grassland, outside kallos	2												
2.3 Create at least four large kallos	4												
Output 3 Pastoralist communities have the capacity to develop livelihoods without reducing grassland area													
3.1 CBOs to undertake a self assessment of their capacity needs and prioritise livelihood development and diversification	4												
3.2 Establish three Community Based Organisations	6												
3.3 Facilitate CBOs to develop business plans	4												
3.4 Provide training to CBOs	12												
Output 4 Project partners maintain and build on the outcome of the project and promote Participatory Rangeland Management to conserve biodiversity conservation across Ethiopia's rangelands in the long-term													
4.1 Identify priority areas for rangeland biodiversity and regional stakeholders	6												
4.2 Develop strategy to support the expansion of kallos across the	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 managements. 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)

Partners will adopt an M&E strategy as part of the partnership agreements at the start of the project. Project impact at outcome level will be evaluated by the changes in three indicators:

- **The proportion of pastoralist households that experience a dry season hunger gap at the start compared to the end of the project.** SOS Sahel will measure this change through baseline/end of project stratified sample surveys of the milk production/hunger gap in households of the Liben Plain (baseline as part of the Participatory Rangeland Resource Assessment).
- **The capacity of 3CBOs to develop and diversify sustainable livelihoods.** We will monitor CBO capacity through comparative analysis of baseline and end of project self-assessments of capacity needs and by the generation and quality of business plans for livelihood initiatives and approaches made to donors. CBOs will be trained to implement an ongoing M+E process to measure the impact of their activities on the wellbeing of the communities in the long term. Communities will identify wellbeing indicators and are likely to include levels of food security, household assets, income and resilience to drought.
- **The change in the conservation status of the Liben Lark population on the Liben Plain.** Baseline, mid-term and end of project field surveys of the distribution, population and productivity of the Liben Lark within and outside Kallos will be used to assess the biodiversity impact of scrub clearance and kallo creation

Progress towards impact (i.e. in the development of institutional framework for Kallo management, grassland recovery, capacity of CBOs to develop livelihoods, and promoting the use of PRM for biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation across Ethiopia) will be evaluated through meetings of the Project Implementation Committee (PIC – including representatives of all stakeholders) and Steering group meetings: These meetings will be informed by:

- Verbal reports and source material from the Kallo Management Committees
- Results from baseline field surveys undertaken by project staff to measure the quality and quantity of grassland before and after kallo creation, and within and outside kallos, to quantify grassland recovery. The University of Coventry will also carry out a mid-term assessment of grassland recovery including an assessment of the forage quality and forage species composition
- Satellite images will be used to assess the extent, integrity and quality (using the Normalised Difference Vegetation Index, NDVI) of the kallos.
- Verbal reports and source material from CBOs dedicated to livelihood development.
- Verbal reports and source material from project team promoting PRM for biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation further across Liben Plain and the Oromia region

The attendance and contributions made by stakeholders at the PIC meetings will enable us to monitor how our assumptions are changing throughout the project. For example, if government or CBO representatives fail to attend the PIC meetings this may indicate a change of attitude to the project goals. If illegal conversion increases, more than one of the stakeholders are likely to know and report it.

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)

Most of the Darwin grant will be spent in Ethiopia, with much of it going direct to local people. BirdLife international staff based in Kenya will provide much of the technical guidance and capacity building support to EWNHS, allowing the RSPB UK based staff to reduce the frequency and duration of visits to Ethiopia to a minimum, reducing travel and subsistence costs. RSPB costs covered by the grant will be restricted to 50% of staff costs for the project manager's time and travel and subsistence costs.

EWNHS have been working in the Liben Plain for 7 years and already have a good knowledge of the Plain and have established good relations with the local communities, including the pastoralist associations, and government representatives. Consequently, project start-up costs will be minimal and EWNHS staff employed by the project will be able to 'hit the ground running' and commence core project activities immediately.

Key project staff will be based in the area, reducing travel costs and EWNHS already have a vehicle that can be used by the project, avoiding the need to purchase a vehicle and reducing travel costs to running and maintenance costs.

We believe that the impact of the project on biodiversity and people will provide excellent value for money. We will use a grant of less than £300,000 to prevent mainland Africa's first recorded bird extinction, enable stakeholders to conserve the biodiversity that underpins the livelihoods of ca.10,000 pastoralists, and provide a model for the sustainable management of rangelands throughout Ethiopia.

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 you Foreign Ministry or the local embassy or High Commonwealth (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 the **Royal Society for the Protection of Birds**

(*delete as appropriate)

I apply for a grant of **£285,490** 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: <http://www.rspb.org.uk/about/run/reportaccounts.aspx>

Name (block capitals)	DR PAUL F. DONALD
Position in the organisation	Principal Conservation Scientist

Signed



Date:

30 November 2014

Stage 2 Application – Checklist for submission

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

Once you have answered the questions above, please submit the application, not later than midnight GMT on Monday 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.