Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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:	BirdLife International
Address:	Wellbrook Court, Girton Road
City and Postcode:	Cambridge, CB3 0NA
Country:	UK
Email:	
Phone:	

2. Stage 1 reference and Project title

Ref: 2665	Title (max 10 words)
	Mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into community forestry in Nepal

3. Project dates, and budget summary

Start date: 1st April 2015		End date: 30 March 2018		Duration: 3 years
Darwin request	2015/16 £72,209	2016/17 £93,342	2017/18 £97,399	Total request £264,951
Proposed (confirmed and unconfirmed) matched funding as % of total Project cost: 16%				
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)
Through capacity development, tools, policy and process, biodiversity conservation is mainstreamed into Community Forestry (CF) in Nepal, alongside livelihood improvement, creating conditions for poverty alleviation and resilience among community forest-users.

5. Country(ies)

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

Country 1: NEPAL	Country 2:
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

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(Max 200 words)

Nepal's NBSAP includes the objective: 'By 2020, all community managed forests to include a biodiversity chapter in their management or Operational Plan and respective user groups to effectively implement those plans' (FB-C1). The project will directly support this aim.

The NBSAP also recognises that CFs can make a significant contribution to biodiversity and ecosystem services (ES) conservation, whilst contributing to health, livelihoods and wellbeing. This project will help achieve these twin aims, and therefore Aichi Targets [AT] 11 &14, plus:

AT1 - Integrating biodiversity and ES into forest officer training and CF guidelines will raise awareness of the values of biodiversity and how to conserve and use it sustainably.

AT2 - Tools developed through this Darwin Initiative project will ensure integration of biodiversity and ES into local-level forest management plans, whilst implementation will ensure CFs are managed sustainably, to greater biodiversity and livelihoods benefit (AT7).

AT15 - Supporting Community Forest Management (CFM) which values and manages for biologically-diverse habitats (rather than a few, high value species) will help strengthen ecosystem resilience to climate change.

AT18 - The operational processes for CF and biodiversity developed by the project will promote recognition, respect for and integration of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.

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

X Yes ☐ No   if yes, please give details:

In-country project partner, BCN, have met with the CBD focal point, Mr Braj Kishor Yadav, Chief of the Environment Division at the Ministry of Forests, who is fully supportive of the project (see attached letter of support) and the contribution that it will make to achieving the targets contained in the NBSAP, and to fulfilling Nepal's commitment and reporting requirements to the CBD.

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	Project Partner 3
Surname	THOMAS	THAPA	DAHAL	SHRESTHA
Forename (s)	David	Ishana	Nabaraj	Gobinda Kumar
Post held	Head, Communities & Livelihoods	Senior Conservation Officer	Programme Coordinator	Forest Officer
Organisation (if different to above)	BirdLife International	Bird Conservation Nepal	FECOFUN	Department of Forests
Department	Partnership, Capacity & Communities Department	Conservation		Community Forestry Division
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
20-024	Dr Mark O'Brien	Delivering sustainable forest management for Fiji's people and wildlife
19-022	Melanie Heath	Ecosystem conservation for climate change adaptation in East Africa
18-005	Alison Stattersfield	Understanding, assessing and monitoring ecosystem services for better biodiversity conservation
18-011	David Wege	Building a future for Haiti's unique vertebrates
17-026	Steve Cranwell	Restoration of priority Pacific Island ecosystems for people and biodiversity
EIDPO029	Muhtari Aminu-Kano	Building on Success – turning capacity-building advances into conservation gains.

9a. If you answered 'NO' to Question 8 please complete Question 9a, b and c.

If you answered 'YES', please go to Question 10 (and delete the boxes for Q9a, 9b and 9c)

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

Lead institution and website:	Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)
BirdLife International **www.birdlife.org**	BirdLife International is the world's largest network of national, membership-based conservation NGOs. The UK-based Secretariat has led, or participated in, many large-scale and multi-national conservation projects worldwide and BirdLife has globally-respected expertise in biodiversity science, civil-society engagement and local livelihoods. Capacity and skills development at national, local, and individual level is a key component of BirdLife's strategic mission. Recent innovations and partnerships include the collaborative development of the CapacityforConservation web portal (http://capacityforconservation.org/). BirdLife has worked with BCN, the BirdLife Partner in Nepal, for over 18 years, collaborating on capacity-building, biodiversity surveys and prioritisation, national and international policy, ecosystem service assessments and local-level development projects. For the proposed project, BirdLife will contribute particularly to objectives 1, 2 and 5 - through its communications expertise and regional networks; experience drawn from its global Forest of Hope conservation programme; its experience in capacity needs assessment, skills and capacity development and training design; expertise in biodiversity and ecosystem services assessment and monitoring, including ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA); and through sharing project results and tools via its regional and international networks. With its extensive experience of leading Darwin projects, BirdLife will also provide overall project coordination, and lead on reporting and liaison with the Darwin Secretariat.

Partner Name and website where available: **Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN)** **www.birdlifenepal.org**	**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)**
	BCN is the oldest and largest CSO in Nepal dedicated to bird and habitat conservation. BCN will lead on project implementation in Nepal and contribute expertise in participative biodiversity and ES monitoring, and working with local communities (including Community Forestry User Groups - CFUGs) to achieve livelihood development and biodiversity conservation. Experience includes:
	2003: '*Development of Participatory Biodiversity Monitoring Concept and Methodology'* - working with 21 CFUGs 2010-2013: Darwin Project 18-005 '*Understanding, Assessing and Monitoring of ecosystem services for better biodiversity conservation'* – building capacity to collect/use site-level ES information and apply to policy. 2013-2014: '*Integrating livelihoods development and biodiversity conservation at priority sites for biodiversity'.* Developing sustainable livelihoods/biodiversity conservation at three Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (Ghodaghodi Lake, Bardia and Rara National Parks)
	Current: "*Support to Rural Livelihoods and Climate Change Adaptation in the Himalayas Project*" Rauta Village Development Committee - to assess significance and values of ES and demonstrate solutions for improved ecosystem management. BCN mainly works with the Dumrithumka women CFUGs, supporting sustainable forest management through improved cooking stoves, agroforestry, managed grazing and forest restoration.
	BCN were a key contributor to Nepal's NBSAP and will facilitate the project's access to key government and institutional stakeholders through established relationships.
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)
The Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN) http://www.fecofun.org.np/	FECOFUN is an autonomous, national federation of over 8 million forest users, which advocates for the rights of Community Forestry User Groups and works to reduce poverty through sustainable forest and natural resource management and participative decision-making. This includes providing support to CFUGs in the preparation and revision of constitution and operation plans, NTFP development and income generation, empowerment of women and disadvantaged groups, and advocacy on issues related to community forestry. FECOFUN will play a critical role in representing the needs of CFUGs during project development and implementation; in outreach to CFUGS within, and beyond, the pilot project sites; and in achieving continuous capacity development. FECOFUN members and staff will be trained in integrating biodiversity and ES into CF planning and application of the biodiversity supplement to the CF guidelines. They will apply this training in supporting CFUGs to revise and implement their OPs and in maximising the benefits to communities from forest biodiversity. Through their district offices, FECOFUN, in conjunction with the DoF, will lead on the roll out of the biodiversity supplement in line with the timetable for revision of all OPs. Their participation in the project will therefore, help to sustain and expand the project impact.

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)
Department of Forests (DoF) – Community Forestry (CF) Division http://dof.gov.np/dof_community_forest_division	DoF is the Nepalese government agency with responsibility for the sustainable management, utilization, protection and development of forest resources outside protected areas. The CF Division has responsibility for guiding and coordinating CF development nationally, with 74 District Forest Offices (DFO) responsible for field level implementation, operations and administration. The Division will have input to project development and will play a key role in: co-ordinating the compilation and publication of the Biodiversity Supplement (to be published under their name); promotion of the supplementary guidance to key government stakeholders and integration of its content in FO training and future policy and guidance; and the local application of tools and guidelines through DFOs and FOs. DoF will also provide a critical link within the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation and to the CBD focal point – the Chief of the Environment Division. DoF's institutional commitment to the project and the contribution that it can make to achieving Nepal's NBSAP objectives, and their ownership of key project components, will help to achieve the project's principal aim of mainstreaming biodiversity and ES into CF in Nepal – and sustain its impact.

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)

Community Forestry in Nepal is considered successful (improving livelihoods, strengthening institutional capacity), attracting significant support for expansion. However, existing guidance and planning frameworks largely focus on forest productivity/silviculture without addressing wider biodiversity or ES values[1], of which people are often unaware[2].

Whilst examples of positive biodiversity outcomes exist[3], an institutionalised focus on limited forest products (e.g. fuelwood, timber) and lack of knowledge and capacity has caused biodiversity declines[4]. There is evidence of long-term socio-economic consequences including reductions in: resilience to climate change; ES health and provision (water; soil formation; pollination); equity; and pest/disease resistance of trees[5]. With 1.7 million ha under CF, involving 2.24 million households, consequences are significant.

CF is a strategic pillar within Nepal's NBSAP. However, linked conservation and development will only be achieved (contributing to Aichi Targets cited above) if communities and CF agencies can understand and assess biodiversity and ES values and have capacity and tools to mainstream them into CFM[6], through inclusive, participatory processes, such that communities benefit[7].

These problems and solutions were identified through: BCN's work with CFUGs; discussion with DoF and FECOFUN; expert review and analysis (cited) including Darwin project 11021; reference to national policies (NBSAP).

13. Methodology

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

(Max 500 words – repeat from Stage 1 with changes highlighted)

The main changes are to the underlined ordering of the objectives listed below (3 and 4 have been reversed) and the production of a biodiversity supplement to the CFM guidelines (No. 4) - discussion with DoF identified this as a more appropriate approach than revising the

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[1] Oliver Springate-Baginski, Om Prakash Dev, Hari Dhungana, Shankar Dahal and IC Dutta (2007) *Community-based forest biodiversity management: concepts and tools*. Unpublished report, Kathmandu, Nepal.

[2] Gautam et al (2010) *Assessment of Role of Community Forests (CFs) in CO2 Sequestration, Biodiversity and Land Use Change*. Project Reference Number: ARCP2009-10NSY-Gautam, Final Report submitted to Asia Pacific Network.

[3] Persha, L., Agrawal, A. and Chhatre, A (2011) Social and Ecological Synergy: Local Rulemaking, Forest Livelihoods, and Biodiversity Conservation. *Science* 331, 1606. DOI: 10.1126/science.1199343.

[4] Shrestha *et al*, 2010.

[5] Shrestha, U. B, Shrestha, B.B and Shrestha, S. (2010) *Biodiversity conservation in community forests of Nepal: Rhetoric and reality*. International Journal of Biodiversity and Conservation Vol. 2 (5), pp. 98-104
Acharya, K.P. (2003) Conserving biodiversity and improving livelihoods: The case of community forestry in Nepal. *Paper presented at The International Conference on Rural Livelihoods, Forests and Biodiversity,* 19-23 May 2003, Bonn, Germany

[6] Community Forest Management

[7] Acharya, U., Petheram, R.J., and Reid, R. (2004) Biodiversity in community forestry – perceptions and attitudes in Nepal. In: Baumgartner, D.M. (ed) *Proceedings of Human Dimensions of Family, Farm, and Community Forestry International Symposium*, March 29 – April 1, 2004. Washington State University, Pullman, WA, USA.

Operational Planning framework.

This project aims to mainstream biodiversity and ES protection more effectively into CF in Nepal, to benefit people and wildlife. It will be integrated with, and complementary to, other CF initiatives (e.g. Multi Stakeholder Forestry Programme) including those addressing REDD+ and ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) to climate change (CC) (e.g. Hariyo Ban Programme). Plans have been discussed with relevant institutions (planning visit, June 2014).

The project has 5 objectives:
1. To demonstrate the value of integrating biodiversity/ES into CF (and inform tools and guidance) through collating case studies from the region, and identify entry points and operational structures to facilitate mainstreaming.

2. To raise awareness, improve understanding and strengthen capacity of key staff of DoF, FECOFUN, CFUGs and NGOs/programmes involved in CF.

3. To pilot new approaches to biodiversity mainstreaming by updating Operational Plans (OPs) and monitoring procedures for >14 CFs (across Nepal's administrative zones), creating conditions for enhanced biodiversity conservation, socio-economic benefits and resilience of participating communities.

4. To produce an official Biodiversity Supplement to national CFM Guidelines, providing appropriate tools, guidance, training and awareness materials on ES and biodiversity within forest management in the context of sustainable use and resilient livelihoods.

5. To ensure that lessons learned on capacity building, awareness and integration of biodiversity into forest management inform CF approaches throughout Nepal and Asia.

We will achieve **Objective 1** by engaging partners and relevant stakeholders – (e.g. local researchers, (I)NGOs) in evaluating experience of mainstreaming biodiversity/ES into Nepal's CFM, including: evaluating impacts and identifying good practice (case studies); analysis of how biodiversity and ES are understood by different stakeholders, particularly women, so that materials reflect cultural, social, gender and institutional differences; and identification of mainstreaming entry points.

Objective 2 will be achieved by integrating biodiversity/ES modules into the Forest Officers' (FOs) training programme, through training workshops, led by project Partners, and web-based materials. A key strategy will be 'training the trainers' (FOs at Regional DoF Training Centres, FECOFUN members and staff, CFM programmes, NGOs).

The project will work with post-trainees and local communities to pilot the supplementary guidance and integrate dual biodiversity-poverty alleviation objectives into the OPs of at least 14 CFs (**Objective 3**). This will test materials, consolidate learning, and provide the medium/long-term basis for biodiversity and livelihoods benefits at these sites. Participatory community monitoring of biodiversity, ES and livelihoods benefits will build awareness, knowledge and ownership.

Project partners' experience and understanding of communities will ensure that guidance materials and frameworks are appropriate to audiences and landscape zones (**Objective 4)** and introduce biodiversity and ES in ways which are non-technical, simple to administer and low cost, and which demonstrate how integrating ES and biodiversity can enhance cultural, social, economic and resilience-building values of forests. Complementarity with REDD+ and EbA objectives of CF will be ensured through national project partners and engagement with relevant programmes.

Objective 5 will be achieved by sharing project experience and outputs through: existing forest networks in Nepal (e.g. www.forestrynepal.org), regionally (through a regional workshop) and internationally.

Roles and responsibilities are summarised under Section 10.

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)

Nepal has 18,133 CFs, covering 1.7 million ha (28% of forest area), and benefiting 2.24 million households. Government policy promotes CF for all accessible mid-hills and high mountain forests and some Terai districts; an estimated 3.5 million ha[8] has potential to become CF. These forests are home to much endemic and threatened biodiversity[9]. CF communities and biodiversity will be the beneficiaries of this project.

By addressing CF policy and process; developing and testing practical tools and mechanisms to support biodiversity conservation as part of sustainable forest use; and building awareness and capacity of key stakeholders, this project will plug a significant gap in forestry policy.

Using guidance developed by the project, 14 CFs (including at least 8 IBAs) will have updated their OPs (benefitting c. 22,500 people and Critically Endangered wildlife including vultures [3 spp], Red Panda, Lesser Adjutant, Red-crowned roofed turtle and Nilgai, among many others) and will be monitoring the impact on biodiversity and livelihoods. As a policy-focussed project, the immediate measurable impacts on the ground will be limited during the three year timeframe; however the longer term impact will be significant.

CFUGs revise OPs every 5 years. Through more effective integration of ES and biodiversity into the guidance they receive, the entire CF sector's contribution to biodiversity conservation will be increased, and thousands more households will benefit from biodiversity-based goods and services.

Given the scale of CF in Nepal, and the numbers of people involved, the cumulative impact will be substantial, representing significant value for money.

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

This is a new initiative, however components build on BCN/BirdLife experience and complement current and planned programmes:

- BCN works with CFUGs across Nepal (see 15c), strengthening community-based organisations and supporting community enterprise, generating enhanced incomes from the sustainable use of biodiversity. Eight of these sites will be included within the 14 pilots for Operational Plan (OP) revision to capitalise on existing relationships: Pulchoki CF; Rara NP; Mai Valley; Ghodaghodi Lake Area; Bardia NP, Reshunga Forest; Nawalparasi; and Rupandehi.
- In Rara National Park's buffer zone, BCN is supporting communities with CFM Operational Planning, giving a detailed knowledge of issues, challenges and opportunities for mainstreaming biodiversity.
- In 2003, BCN developed a participatory biodiversity monitoring methodology (funded by the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and implemented in collaboration with DFID's Livelihoods and Forestry Programme). This methodology will be reviewed in the

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[8] Currently government-managed forest within these areas
[9] Government of Nepal, Ministry Of Forests and Soil Conservation (2014) *Nepal National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2020.* HMGN.

context of the CF and adapted for use in the guidance materials and training.

- At strategic/national level, the project builds on BirdLife/BCN experience of ES scoping and assessment at priority sites for biodiversity (Darwin project Ref 18-005)[10].

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

There are various site-based initiatives across Nepal which aim to support community forestry, or conserve forest biodiversity. However, none of these (including those outlined below) take a strategic, nation-wide approach which seeks to build capacity and institutionalise biodiversity mainstreaming in community forestry.

The most relevant project is the Hariyo Ban Program (HBP), a five-year initiative in two geographical areas (the Terai Arc Landscape and the Chitwan-Annapurna Landscape) that aims to reduce the adverse impacts of climate change and threats to biodiversity in Nepal. Implemented by WWF, Care, FECOFUN and NTNC (with government partners) the biodiversity component of HBP aims to strengthen governance in natural resource management and improve local stewardship in conserving natural resources. This proposed DI project is entirely complementary to the site/region specific approach of HBP and will work at three sites[11] within the HBP project area to pilot revising the OP using the Biodiversity Supplement, working with HBP staff. This will enable the project team to work closely with HBP to ensure close integration and maximum synergy as well as provide continuity of some of the work work (the project is phasing out in July 2016).

Other relevant and complementary programmes include:

- The Multi Stakeholder Forestry Programme (MSFP) which aims to develop the contribution of Nepal's forestry sector to economic growth, poverty reduction, and tackling climate change.

- The Nepal Swiss Community Forestry Project (NSCFP), implemented by Intercooperation, which is working on the sustainable management of forest resources; pro-poor enterprise development; and the establishment of good forest governance. We have discussed our proposal with both the above initiatives to ensure complementarity and to identify opportunities for integration and collaboration.

- The Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) project (due for completion Dec 2014) is a collaboration between the Nepalese and Finnish governments. This project focuses on providing baseline data on forest cover and resources in support of REDD+ and on building monitoring/inventory capacity. The proposed project is complementary to this work.

- The Ecosystem Based Adaptation in Mountain Ecosystems project implemented by IUCN Nepal and Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, includes assessment of impacts of climate change on water resources, agriculture and biodiversity. The pilot project area comprises of the Panchase Hill and the17 adjoining Village Development Committees. BCN has been contracted by this project to conduct bird surveys in the Panchase Hill – methods and capacity developed will be complementary to this project.

- A collaborative research project led by the University of Adelaide, and coordinated in Nepal

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[10] Thapa, I, Butchart, S.H.M., Gurung, H., Stattersfield, A.J., Thomas D.H.L and Birch, J.C. (2014) Using information on ecosystem services in Nepal to inform biodiversity conservation and local to national decision-making. *Oryx*, 1–9 (doi:10.1017/S0030605314000088)

Birch, J.C., Thapa, I., Balmford, A., Bradbury, R.B., Brown, C., Butchart, S.H.M., Gurung, H., Hughes, F.M., Mulligan, M., Pandeya, B., Peh, K.S., Stattersfield, A.J., Walpole, M., and Thomas, D.H.L. (2014) What benefits do community forests provide, and to whom? A rapid assessment of ecosystem services from a Himalayan forest, Nepal. *Ecosystem Services* 8: 118–127

[11] Bardia, Ghodaghodi and Nawalparasi

by IUCN and Forest Action, includes an objective to improve the functioning of CF systems to enhance the livelihoods and food security of CFUG members. The research sites are in only two districts: Kabhre Palanchok and Lamjung which do not coincide with this proposed project. BCN (an IUCN member) works closely with the IUCN country office (e.g. see above), facilitating sharing of lessons and experience.

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

An application has been submitted to the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation - Norad (via Norsk Ornitologisk Forening [NOF] the BirdLife Partner in Norway). Their support has been requested for complementary, but distinct, site-based work at three sites within the Mid- and Far-western Development Regions of Nepal (Ghodaghodi Lake Area and Bardia National Park in the Terai, and Rara National Park in Mugu and Jumla districts in the north-west of the country), linking conservation to the development of natural-resource-based sustainable livelihoods. It will also address conservation, development and resource management by Local Conservation Groups (including some FUGs) at IBAs nationally, through networking, capacity development and biodiversity monitoring.

An application has also been submitted to Danida (via Dansk Ornitologisk Forening - BirdLife Denmark) for natural resource management initiatives at targeted sites in Kenya, Uganda and Nepal. Danida's support in Nepal will focus on Reshunga Forest (3,400 ha), which is surrounded by predominantly poor forest-dependent communities and the outer area of which is managed by more than 18 CFUGs covering 24,871 people. Danida-funded work at this site will focus on enhancing the contribution of participatory forest management to improving the livelihoods of local communities, based on the sustainable management of ecosystems and biodiversity. If approved, funding from Norad and Danida will contribute to the implementation of the proposed project, at site level (these same sites/Districts are included in this proposed project); by informing the knowledge base for the CF guidance of this proposed project; and by helping to build local CSO and community capacity for participatory management. A response is expected from both applications in February 2015.

The proposals have been developed in partnership with Danida/Norad staff and we are confident the funding will be approved. In the event that it is not, we will work with the agencies to address any issues and resubmit the proposals.

The proposed DI project could be implemented without this co-funding, but with a reduction in the number of pilot sites (mainly as a consequence of the shared implementation budget for fieldwork and travel), and, therefore, reduced impact at site level. A reallocation of the budget would be required accordingly.

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)
- BCN is well networked nationally with good working relationships with FECOFUN and DoF, reducing the need for significant start up time/events.
- BCN is active at eight of the proposed pilot sites enabling them to commence project activities immediately, building on existing relations with CFs/CFUGs. Moreover, the location of BCN and project partners' staff in these areas will help to keep travel and subsistence costs low.
- There will be a significant overall 'return on investment' from the project, especially through the multiplier effect from initial capacity building and mainstreaming of biodiversity into policy and process. By 2018, the project will have:
  - Trained 500 forest officers and 50 FECOFUN outreach staff (training the trainers)

and integrated biodiversity and ES into the annual training programme
  - o Prepared14 OPs with management actions aimed at securing biodiversity and livelihood co-benefits at 14 pilot CFs, covering 2700 ha, involving 22,500 CFUG household members.
  - o Longer-term, the project will have a major influence on Nepal's CF management by a significant proportion of the 18,000 CFUGs (1.7 million ha of forest), as procedures are adopted and trained forest officers support communities to integrate biodiversity conservation objectives into OPs.
- The project's outcomes will add significant, long-term value to other policies/initiatives including the NBSAP (sec. 14); programmes and projects concerning forests and livelihoods (see 15b); initiatives addressing climate change adaptation (e.g. Local Adaptation Plans of Action); and those concerning ES (improved forest conservation will improve water regulation and reduce soil erosion downstream – issues reported from poorly managed CFs).

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)

The project will meet all relevant legal obligations, follow ethical principles of respect for persons, beneficence and justice, and apply social safeguards principles in accordance with BirdLife's social assessment framework for projects. The project context is the sustainable management of forests by communities, and a key consideration for project partner, FECOFUN, is addressing issues of tenure, rights and access to the benefits forests provide. This project supports that objective.

Nepalese organisations, with representative stakeholder engagement, will lead project implementation in country. FECOFUN is a federated body representing community-based organisations (CFUGs) and BCN has a long history of working closely with communities (Local Conservation Groups – LCGs). This will help ensure that the needs of the people affected are properly solicited and addressed.

Through close collaboration with communities (LCGs and CFUGs) we will ensure that full account is taken of traditional knowledge (TK). The project will begin with a review of management practices which help conserve forest biodiversity, recognising the value of TK. Training materials will include guidance on utilising TK.

FPIC will be obtained from all communities involved in the project as a matter of process, to ensure they are fully aware of the purpose and context, undertaking collective decision-making and giving their consent and views throughout. The project will adopt participatory approaches and promote gender inclusivity.

Regarding any research, as a benchmark we will refer to the ethical guidelines of the Social Research Association (http://the-sra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/ethics03.pdf).

BirdLife has policies relevant to UK legal and ethical obligations, including staff behaviour and conduct; data protection; risk; hospitality and bribery; and equal opportunities. The BirdLife Partnership (including BCN) is committed to a rights-based approach to conservation and has an agreed position on conservation and human rights (http://www.birdlife.org/worldwide/programme-additional-info/conservation-and-rights). BirdLife has a health and safety policy, including a risk assessment procedure which project staff will follow.

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)

By building individual and institutional capacity for the holistic assessment of CF's biodiversity value and for the widest range of user-groups, and refining the management processes that promote CFs sustainable use, this project will enhance Nepal's long-term capability to alleviate poverty and meet its CBD obligations.

Poverty alleviation in forest communities, by promoting their effective participation in management of forest resources, is already a core CFM objective in Nepal. For many communities, sustainable forest management is critical to their livelihoods and recognised as an opportunity for alleviating poverty through ES provision, job creation and regular, sustained cash benefits. This project supports that objective, by providing the institutions that have responsibility for effective and inclusive CF management with the tools and procedures required to ensure that, through effective assessment and planning, CFs can deliver ongoing, diverse, climate-resilient benefits. [AT14].

Biodiversity and ES will be integrated into the curriculum of national training programmes for forestry professionals and procedures for CF operational plans (OPs), leaving a legacy of knowledge and capacity in a cohort of DoF and FECOFUN staff. Staff turnover within DoF is fairly low and the policy of rotating staff between offices will facilitate knowledge transfer. Embedding training into established training institutions will ensure that new FOs also receive appropriate training. [AT1].

By the end of the project, biodiversity and ES will be integrated into the OPs of at least 14 CFs. CFUGs should revise their OPs every 5 years, so the new guidance on biodiversity integration has potential to be rolled out across >18,000 CFs by 2020, helping deliver a legacy of healthy, resilient ecosystems. [AT7/15].

By ensuring project impacts – on capacity, awareness, conservation and livelihoods – are monitored and recorded in ways relevant to the Aichi targets and Nepal's NBSAP, the project will feed into Nepal's CBD reporting mechanism.

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)

For CFM in Nepal to realise its potential for biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation, a change is required to the way in which the natural assets and values of CFs are assessed, monitored and managed for maximum shared benefit. This, in turn, requires additional skills on the part of those responsible for supporting CFUGs in this process, and the procedures that ensure the adoption of best practice.

By institutionalising community-based forest biodiversity management, this project will create an enabling environment for tackling the dual objectives of biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation through CF.

Nepal is ranked 145 out of 187 in the HDI, and 80% of poor people are rural (IFAD) with high dependence on natural resources. This project will empower people, with information, tools and support structures, to actively manage local forest biodiversity for positive outcomes for

livelihoods and biodiversity – and to make informed decisions about how best to manage for multiple benefits. Examples[12] show that, depending on specific contexts, managing forest biodiversity can alleviate poverty by: preserving cultural values; creating employment and incomes (e.g. ecotourism); maintaining water supplies; enhancing resilience (diverse ecosystems and economies are more resilient to environmental shocks and climate change); conserving traditional medicines; enhancing equity; and empowering women (through fairer distribution of more diverse goods and benefits).

Key interventions to achieve the necessary mainstreaming will include:

- reviewing, documenting and disseminating positive experiences of managing forest biodiversity for improved and more inclusive livelihoods;

- building capacity of FOs, FECOFUN and CFUGs for biodiversity and livelihood assessment, management and monitoring (including participatory monitoring);

- publication, by DoF, of an official supplement to the CF guidelines and OP process, focused on biodiversity, and its livelihood benefits, within CFM.

At 14 CFs the project will support communities to review and revise their OPs, integrating biodiversity for long-term livelihoods and biodiversity benefits.

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.

During the lifetime of the project we will train 500 FOs (through training of trainers), 50 extension staff from FECOFUN, and build capacity among members of 14 CFUGs, with an emphasis on encouraging women's participation, benefitting approx. 4,500 households. We will mainstream biodiversity into the management plans of 14 CFs, which provide goods and services to over 22,500 people (Section 16). However, as noted in the stage 1 application, a key objective of the project is to institutionalise the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the CFM process, so that project benefits and impacts reach far beyond this initial set of participants (and any short-term poverty alleviation impacts that can be expected during the project's lifetime). There are 18,113 CFs in Nepal, covering 1.7 million ha[13], and involving 2.24 million households – all of whom could be impacted by the project long term.

Women are the primary users of forest products in Nepal, therefore any activity relating to access and/or improvement in the condition and diversity of forest resources will have a bearing on women. However, only about 24% of CFUG members are women. In part this reflects culturally defined spheres of activity in Nepal, where women's work domain is considered inside-work or "Bhitra-fera", although fetching water, fuel and fodder (all key forest-related resources) are their responsibility. The evidence suggests that their participation in CFUG decision-making is also constrained by factors such as their heavy workload and social expectations regarding participation in meetings[14]. Yet there is evidence that when extension workers involve women, the door is often open to their greater inclusion (there is also evidence that women's involvement in CFUGs leads to better governance (including management of financial resources))[15]. Reflecting women's important role in forest resource use, this project sees women's involvement – as participants and beneficiaries – as vital. Training, guidelines and

[12] See references in section 12. See also:
Ojha, H., Persha, L. and Chhatre, A. (2009) *Community Forestry in Nepal: A Policy Innovation for Local Livelihoods.* IFPRI Discussion Paper 00913.
Government of Nepal (2009) *Persistence and Change: Review of 30 years of community forestry in Nepal.* Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation.

[13] Government of Nepal, Ministry Of Forests and Soil Conservation (2014) *Nepal National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2020.* HMGN.
[14] Chhetri, G. (2001) *A social and cultural perspective of women and community forestry in Nepal.* Research Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies.
[15] Acharya, K. P. 2005. *Improving the Effectiveness of Collective Action: Sharing Experiences from Community Forestry in Nepal.* CAPRi Working Paper No. 54. International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, D.C.

tools concerning mainstreaming of biodiversity into CFM will include specific content which helps raise awareness of women's role, and creates a process for women's participation and empowerment as managers, users and beneficiaries of forest biodiversity. Application of these principles at the 14 pilot sites will inform the content of the guidance and tools.

20. Exit strategy

State whether or not the project will reach a stable and sustainable end point. If the project is not discrete, but is part of a progressive approach, give details of the exit strategy and show how relevant activities will be continued to secure the benefits from the project. Where individuals receive advanced training, for example, what will happen should that individual leave?

(Max 200 words)

The project will reach a sustainable end point; however, it will also contribute to an ongoing, national CF programme and be implemented by institutional partners with a mandate or mission to continue the work beyond the project. The integration of biodiversity into CFM is an NBSAP objective (2014-2020, CC-B2) and has the support and commitment of project partners, demonstrated by their letters of support.

Project outputs which will contribute to continuing impact include: integrating biodiversity into the annual FO training curriculum; developing an official Biodiversity Supplement to the CFM guidelines including the role of biodiversity in achieving improved livelihoods, sustainability, equitable benefit-sharing and resilience; and providing open access tools to support implementation. DoF's ownership of the Supplement will give them a strong interest in its sustained implementation.

The project will reach out to other community forestry, livelihoods and poverty reduction programmes (see 15b), to build awareness and a strategic approach to biodiversity mainstreaming. BCN and FECOFUN will work at policy level to demonstrate the importance of biodiversity in achieving CFM poverty reduction objectives through integration with REDD+ and EbA to CC, under the framework of Nepal's forest and CC strategies – helping to ensure continuing adoption through mainstreaming across these sectors.

21. Raising awareness of the potential worth of biodiversity

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

(Max 300 words)

The project will involve the following communication and knowledge sharing:

Audience	Engagement	Product/Materials	Results
Forest Officers (FOs)	Integration of biodiversity-livelihoods linkage into training courses	Revised curricula Teacher training and trainee materials Case studies	FOs, FECOFUN field staff and communities with appropriate level of knowledge and skills for biodiversity-livelihoods-CFM integration
FECOFUN extension staff	Training workshops led by DoF/project staff	Handbook, practical guidance materials on biodiversity, livelihoods and CFM (printed and on-line)	
CFUGs/local communities	Training and awareness during piloting and roll-out	Practical guidance materials for	

	of CF guidelines supplement FECOFUN and FOs' support	communities on biodiversity and CFM	
National government (sector ministries)	Face-to-face meetings Project participation in national workshops & conferences Publication in government journals and national press	Policy briefs Workshop presentations Journal, press articles Project reports and analysis	Key government ministries' staff aware of the importance of biodiversity in delivering development objectives, NBSAP and CBD obligations
NGOs, agencies and CFM programmes in Nepal	Face-to-face meetings Project participation in national workshops & conferences Inclusion on Advisory Committee Sharing manuals/guidance	Workshop presentations Case studies	Staff of national projects and programmes aware of the project, have access to the materials and guidelines, understand poverty-CFM-biodiversity linkages, and integrate into their initiatives
CFM programmes/ NGOs regionally/ internationally	Regional workshop (including Asian BirdLife Partners) Publication in regional/international newsletters and websites Forestry websites, newsletters and networks, eg: • Poverty and Conservation Learning Group • ICCA Consortium • www.forestrynepal.org • CIFOR • The Center for People and Forests	Review paper on biodiversity, livelihoods and CFM in Nepal (submitted for peer-review) Published case studies Materials on-line	CFM professionals, programme leaders and policy makers informed by lessons (on CFM-biodiversity-poverty linkages) from Nepal
General public (national/inter-national)	Mass media – including BirdLife & BCN websites - and social media	News stories, case studies, profiles, Tweets	Increased public awareness of the value of biodiversity Public support for development assistance

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)

Drawing on local partner experience of working with CFUGs, guidance materials and documentation for local communities will be audience-appropriate (in both language and reflecting local levels of literacy) and introduce biodiversity and ES in ways which are non-technical and accessible. Print costs (£6667) and video production (£5357) are included in the budget.

All the project's outputs (training materials, manuals, tools, presentations and workshop reports where they are of wider interest) will be made freely available through a number of existing websites and other portals. The main ones will be the websites of forestryNEPAL (http://www.forestrynepal.org/), FECOFUN (http://www.fecofun.org.np/) and the DoF Community Forests Division (http://dof.gov.np/dof_community_forest_division). Materials will also be made available through other websites (subject to permissions), such as those of CGIAR, the ICCA Consortium, PCLG and RECOFTC.

The project will conduct an in-depth review of biodiversity and livelihoods linkages in community forestry in Nepal. The full report will be published on-line (websites as above and in Section 21). Peer-review publication will also be sought in an appropriate Open Access journal (£1500 sought from Darwin to fund publication).

Project results and lessons will be shared regionally through a regional workshop and regionally/internationally through BirdLife partners and the Partnership's communication channels, including, specifically, where outcomes can help inform BirdLife's Forests of Hope global conservation programme. The budget includes £4000 for an end-of-project workshop, and £1340 for travel to allow Nepalese project staff to attend a regional meeting to share results.

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)

CF was initiated in Nepal in 1978 with twin objectives of forest conservation and poverty alleviation; by 2009, around one third of the population were involved. However, CF protocols and practices focused on forest productivity – with limited research-based evidence of equitable distribution of benefits or a sustainable approach to biodiversity conservation in relation to livelihood resilience.

Shrestha et al[16] highlighted that Nepal's mid-hills region has high species diversity but limited protection and the highest concentration of CFs; necessitating CF management which avoids significant biodiversity loss and associated ES and livelihood impacts.

The NBSAP notes: "Not enough attention is being given to biodiversity and NTFPs during the development of community forest operational plans…" Proposed activities therefore, include: "effective mainstreaming of biodiversity in community forestry and other forest management regimes" (CC-B2); "Organizing training to trainers … community groups, NGOs, CSOs … on different aspects of biodiversity management" (CE-A2); and "By 2020, all the community managed forests to include a biodiversity chapter in their management or operational plans…" (FB-C1).

This is particularly critical given the NBSAP's plans for CF expansion (FB-A3: By 2020, at least 10% of the remaining government-managed forests to come under community-based management), equating to c.400,000 hectares.

Darwin project 11-021[17] identified the lack of a policy programme to promote biodiversity management in CFs and began to address this; however, mainstreaming into policy and

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[16] Shrestha, U. B, Shrestha, B.B and Shrestha, S. (2010) *Op. cit.*
[17] Institutionalising Participatory Integrated Forest Management Assessment in Nepal (2002-5)

> processes nationally was constrained by civil war. The project team are in contact with the project leader to ensure that this project builds on their achievements.

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:**
>
> RSPB (£XXX) – Grant from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, supporting core operations of BCN, including the salary of Ishana Thapa, some of whose time will be spent on this project.
>
> DoF (£XXX) – In-kind support for training (meeting rooms)
>
> FECOFUN (£XXX) – In-kind support for community meetings (meeting rooms, facilitation)

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
31 October 2014	Norad (through NOF)	£22,000 (total grant application £193,548)	Response due February 2015 - see 15c for further detail
31 October 2014	Danida (through DOF)	£20,000 (total grant application £171,432)	Response due January 2015 - see 15c for further detail

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)

Community forestry across Nepal delivers for both nature and people: sustaining vital ecosystem services, improving livelihoods and wellbeing, achieving greater resilience to climate change, and safeguarding globally important biodiversity.

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) Note: the Outcome has been revised from Stage 1

Through capacity development, tools, policy and process, biodiversity conservation is mainstreamed into Community Forestry in Nepal, alongside livelihood improvement, creating conditions for poverty alleviation and resilience among community forest-users.

29 words

Measuring outcomes - indicators

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

Indicator 1	A 'state of knowledge' and good practice review documents how CF management can maximise biodiversity and ES benefits while protecting or enhancing livelihood diversity and resilience; findings of review inform development of training materials and guidelines; by end of Year 1
Indicator 2	FOs, and other forestry professionals targeted by the project (including FECOFUN) have the capacity to support and advise CFUGs in developing Operational Plans that integrate (and measure) biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services in order to improve livelihood diversity and resilience in community forest management, by end Year 2
Indicator 3	CFUGs from 14 community forests distributed across Nepal's administrative zones have developed, through an inclusive participatory process (involving women and men), Operational Plans that incorporate biodiversity and ecosystem services conservation objectives for enhanced, more equitable and sustainable livelihoods, and have monitoring systems to measure and record biodiversity and livelihood outcomes, by end of Year 3.
Indicator 4	A DoF-produced supplement to the national CFM Guidelines (that govern CF management across Nepal) that provides guidance, manuals and tools for FOs and CFUGs on integrating biodiversity and ES into CF (e.g. covering biodiversity survey/inventory; biodiversity monitoring; integration of ITK; gender and forest use) is integrated into national policy by end of Year 3.

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	Reports of reviews; case studies printed and published on-line; peer reviewed paper; number of downloads of publicly available documents; records of meetings with DoF/FECOFUN/MoFSC and training institutions

Indicator 2	Pre- and post-training surveys conducted among FO trainees to assess the understanding, impact and application of course content and key principles; training schedules and reports on training carried out by FOs and surveys of participating CFUGs
Indicator 3	Reports from planning meetings; operational plans from targeted CFs; monitoring plans and gender disaggregated baselines of biodiversity and livelihood indicators
Indicator 4	Documentation and guidance related to the biodiversity supplement to the CFM Guidelines, is available on line and within offices of key forest institutions (DoF/FECOFUN); report of survey of availability, awareness and use of materials among DoF District Offices and Forest Officers and FECOFUN; note on official endorsement and communication of the biodiversity supplement etc. provided from DOF to all FOs.

Outcome risks and important assumptions

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

Assumption 1	Nepal remains politically stable throughout the project period
Assumption 2	National policies remain supportive of Community Forestry as an approach to forest management, benefit sharing, local empowerment, and biodiversity conservation
Assumption 3	Key institutions, programmes and projects remain receptive to development of a biodiversity supplement to the CFM guidelines, and to integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services modules in training programmes.
Assumption 4	The OP process with CFUGs/communities recommended in the biodiversity supplement can overcome any barriers to equitable participation from women, minority ethnic groups and low castes, to support poverty alleviation goals.

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	Information and knowledge on ecosystem service and biodiversity linkages to livelihoods and wellbeing, in the context of community forestry (including cultural, social, gender-based and institutional differences in understanding, interpretation, practice and impact) are compiled, documented and shared with state and civil society forest management stakeholders; entry points for mainstreaming biodiversity into pro-poor CFM identified.
Output 2	Training courses for forestry professionals revised to include modules relating to the integration of ES and biodiversity into CFM planning (that also addresses issues of equity, indigenous knowledge, gender) and, through training of trainers, 500 FOs and 50 FECOFUN staff trained; with appropriate tools, guidelines, and awareness materials available for use in guiding CFUGs.
Output 3	CFUGs in a minimum of 14 community forests have the understanding and

	capacity for inclusive planning, integration and monitoring of biodiversity and ES in their forests for combined and balanced livelihoods-resilience-conservation outcomes that benefit women and men; and have revised and adopted Operational Plans accordingly.
Output 4	National biodiversity supplement to the CF guidelines (integrated with CF initiatives concerning REDD+ and EbA), published by DoF and in use, with high level of awareness of its existence and relevance among key CFM stakeholders and practitioners.
Output 5	CFM stakeholders nationally and regionally aware of the lessons learned from the project.

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	Source list and key stakeholders for consultation drawn up by end of Quarter 1, Year 1
Indicator 2	Desk top research of published material, site visits and consultation meetings completed with CF practitioners and policy makers (to understand entry points) and database of case studies compiled on CF, biodiversity and ecosystem services by end of Quarter 2, Year 1
Indicator 3	Case studies and report on community forest management practices enhancing biodiversity conservation and livelihood development published and submitted to DoF/FECOFUN/MoFSC by end of Year 1
Indicator 4	Review of CFM, biodiversity and livelihoods in Nepal published in peer reviewed journal by end of Q1, yr 2

Output 2	
Indicator 1	Course content reviewed with course administrators to determine how and where to integrate modules relating to biodiversity and ES conservation by end of Year 1
Indicator 2	Training materials developed based on case studies and good practice [as documented in Output 1] and in consultation with course administrators by Quarter 2 of Year 2
Indicator 3	Training of trainers completed, pilot training courses held with 28 Forest Officers, and 14 FECOFUN staff with training materials revised as necessary, by end of Year 2
Indicator 4	Through trained-trainers, training completed of 500 Forest Officers and 50 FECOFUN staff using revised course module, by end of Year 3.
Indicator 5	Awareness materials for CFUGs produced and disseminated via DoF, FECOFUN and projects and programmes, to all 14 administrative zones, from middle of year 2

Output 3

Indicator 1	Workshops on biodiversity and ES values in CF, led by the targeted FOs, held with communities & CFUGs at the 14 target CFs and at least 14 biodiversity and ES assessments carried out at target CFs by Q1 of year 3
Indicator 2	Participative planning workshops held at the 14 target CFs for revision of CF operational plans, ensuring gender inclusive attendance/participation, held by Q2, Year 3
Indicator 3	Operational plans and monitoring regime drafted by 14 CFUGs (supported by project partners) and accepted and endorsed by DoF, by end of Year 3

Output 4	
Indicator 1	Consultation workshop organised by DoF, and involving FECOFUN, Institute of Forestry, NGO stakeholders etc. to review experience and agree content of Biodiversity Supplement to CF guidelines, by end of Q2, Year 2
Indicator 2	Biodiversity supplement to CFM Guidelines drafted by DoF (with support from project partners), through an iterative process involving early experience from pilots, and shared for comment by Quarter 1 of Year 3
Indicator 3	Biodiversity supplement to CFM Guidelines, tools and guidance disseminated to all DoF and FECOFUN District Offices, IoF, forest projects and programmes and INGOs/NGOs working in the CFM sector and made available on-line through appropriate forestry networks, with high level of awareness among forestry personnel; by end of Year 3.
Indicator 4	DoF integrates learning from the project into the CBD reporting process and preparation by end of Year 3

Output 5	
Indicator 1	Project partners share lessons learned at relevant national and regional forestry meetings of DoF (District Forest Officers' annual national seminar and 5 annual regional meetings) and FECOFUN (National community forestry workshop, FECOFUN annual general meeting and 75 district chapter meetings) (each year, especial years 2 and 3)
Indicator 2	Lessons shared at 1 regional workshop by end of year 3
Indicator 3	Project materials, lessons, case studies etc. shared through appropriate channels (websites, networks etc.), by end yr 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	Published report on CF management practices that enhance biodiversity conservation and livelihood development; records of meetings held with policy makers; list of relevant policy entry points; journal
Indicator 2	Training materials, both printed and on-line and reports and evaluations from training workshops held with FOs; no. of downloads of online materials; FO training course content
Indicator 3	Reports of training workshops held with CFUGs; gender disaggregated reports of biodiversity benefits in each targeted CF and written monitoring plans.

Indicator 4	Reports of Biodiversity Supplement planning workshops; programme and attendee list for development workshop and report on workshop outcomes and agreements; published version of Biodiversity Supplement either in print and/or on line; survey of DoF District office staff before and after to gauge awareness of Biodiversity Supplement; reports from national meetings
Indicator 5	Attendee lists, programme, presentations, and reports/minutes from national and regional workshops and meetings; websites; records of downloads and web page visits..

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	That good practice recorded through the review of CFs can be translated into training and guidance to achieve replication.
Assumption 2	Key institutions, programmes and projects remain receptive to development of a biodiversity supplement to the CFM guidelines, and to integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services modules in training programmes.
Assumption 3	The policy entry points that have been identified for the outputs of the project remain valid
Assumption 4	Forest Officers and FECOFUN staff that attend training courses apply what they have learned about biodiversity and ecosystem services in supporting revision of OPs, and staff turnover remains low
Assumption 5	CFUGs have the capacity to update their OPs in the timeline of the project

Activities

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

Output 1	
Activity 1.1	Hold workshop and meetings to start collating case studies and link to networks of organisations and individuals working together on CFM and biodiversity in Nepal
Activity 1.2	Conduct a comprehensive and up-to-date review of CFM, ES, biodiversity and livelihoods in Nepal, including social dimensions, and drawing from case studies provided through the network under 1.1
Activity 1.3	Publish results of the review in an open-access peer reviewed journal or other appropriate format

Output 2	
Activity 2.1	Hold expert consultative meeting to agree and design content of training materials, tools and guidelines (and drawing from Output 1); and develop approach for integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services training modules into curricula and content of existing training courses of DoF and FECOFUN
Activity 2.2	Produce training materials in appropriate formats (brochures, PowerPoint presentations, videos, course modules etc.) and distribute to relevant/targeted

	individuals and institutions.
Activity 2.3	Provide training to DoF and FECOFUN staff to enhance their knowledge and capacity on biodiversity and ecosystem services in the context of CFM (including through training of trainers)
Activity 2.4	Produce awareness materials for CFUGs and disseminate throughout the country to support integration of ES and biodiversity in community forestry

Output 3	
Activity 3.1	Hold community level meetings for piloting the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in CFM
Activity 3.2	Through participatory process, prepare revised Operational Plans for 14 selected CFs considering the contribution of biodiversity and ecosystem services conservation in sustainable livelihoods development and resilience
Activity 3.3	Follow and support the process of approval of the revised OPs by the relevant government body
Activity 3.4	Support implementation of OPs and establishing of monitoring of biodiversity, ES and livelihoods outcomes

Output 4	
Activity 4.1	Hold meetings with experts (including communications/educators) and DoF to agree content and format of biodiversity supplement
Activity 4.2	Design, write and produce biodiversity supplement and any accompanying materials (e.g. video, poster, leaflets) in appropriate formats
Activity 4.3	Distribute materials through appropriate channels and conduct outreach activities (meetings, websites, local radio, CFM networks) to ensure wide awareness

Output 5	
Activity 5.1	Organise national level awareness and lesson-sharing events at meetings of relevant government bodies and other key CFM stakeholders
Activity 5.2	Organise regional lesson-sharing workshop (associated with BirdLife Asia Region partnership meeting)
Activity 5.3	Disseminate and share all project materials and lessons learned through appropriate channels (websites, networks etc.)

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	*Information and knowledge review*													
1.1	Hold workshop and meetings to start collating case studies and link to networks of organisations and individuals working together on CFM and biodiversity in Nepal		■											
1.2	Conduct a comprehensive and up-to-date review of CFM, ES, biodiversity and livelihoods in Nepal, including social dimensions, and drawing from case studies provided through the network under 1.1		■	■										
1.3	Publish results of the review in an open-access peer reviewed journal or other appropriate format				■	■	■							
Output 2	*Training courses for CF professionals*													
2.1	Hold expert consultative meeting to agree and design content of training materials, tools and guidelines (and drawing from Output 1); and develop approach for integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services training modules into curricula and content of existing training courses of DoF and FECOFUN				■	■								
2.2	Produce training materials in appropriate formats (brochures, PowerPoint presentations, videos, course modules etc.) and distribute to relevant/targeted individuals and institutions.						■		■		■			
2.3	Provide training to DoF and FECOFUN staff to enhance their knowledge and capacity on biodiversity and ecosystem services in the context of CFM (including through training of trainers)							■	■	■		■		■
2.4	Produce awareness materials for CFUGs and disseminate throughout the country to support integration of ES and biodiversity in community forestry						■	■	■	■	■			
Output 3	*Operational Plans for 14 community forests*													
3.1	Hold community level meetings for piloting the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in CFM						■	■	■					
3.2	Through participatory process, prepare revised Operational Plans for 14 selected CFs considering the contribution of biodiversity and ecosystem services conservation in sustainable livelihoods							■	■		■			

	development and resilience										█	█	█						
3.3	Follow and support the process of approval of the revised OPs by the relevant government body										█	█	█		█	█		
3.4	Support implementation of OPs and establishing of monitoring of biodiversity, ES and livelihoods outcomes														█		█
Output 4	***National biodiversity supplement to the CF guidelines***																
4.1	Hold meetings with experts (including communications/educators) and DoF to agree content and format of biodiversity supplement						█	█									
4.2	Design, write and produce biodiversity supplement and any accompanying materials (e.g. video, poster, leaflets) in appropriate formats										█	█	█	█			
4.3	Distribute materials through appropriate channels and conduct outreach activities (meetings, websites, local radio, CFM networks) to ensure wide awareness												█	█	█		█
Output 5	***Dissemination and wider awareness***																
5.1	Organise national level awareness and lesson-sharing events at meetings of relevant government bodies and other key CFM stakeholders				█					█						█	█
5.2	Organise regional lesson-sharing workshop (associated with BirdLife Asia Region partnership meeting)															█	
5.3	Disseminate and share all project materials and lessons learned through appropriate channels (websites, networks etc.)					█					█						█

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)

M&E will be overseen by Dr. David Thomas (Head, Communities and Livelihoods), supported by Ishana Thapa (Senior Conservation Officer, BCN); and Jennifer Merriman [née Birch] (Ecosystem Services Officer). Between them they have many years of experience of managing projects (including DI projects), and bring different areas of expertise, experience and knowledge – including in relation to monitoring biodiversity (IT), ecosystem services (JM) and socio-economics (DT).

Project implementation progress will be monitored using the Gantt chart (above) and project outputs and impact will be monitored using the Logframe's 'Impact Indicators'. Systems will be put in place to gather information on indicators at appropriate intervals. Mixed methods (including quantitative and qualitative methods - such as group interviews, household surveys) will be used at key stages in the project (e.g. survey to assess awareness and uptake of biodiversity mainstreaming approaches). Where required we will obtain baseline data at the project start to determine changes resulting from project implementation.

A Project Advisory Committee will be established and will meet every 6 months to review project progress and advise on strategy, implementation and partnerships. This will have representation of appropriate experts from key stakeholder groups in Nepal not directly involved in project management (e.g. academia, INGOs, NGOs) to ensure wider perspectives are contributing to the project. The committee will conduct a mid-term review to assess the project's strategic approach and impact and to advise on the need for changes.

The project management team will analyse findings from M&E (including the MTR) on a continuous basis, and adjust project delivery as necessary, tracking progress against outputs and towards outcomes in order to inform adaptive management and check whether activities have been implemented as planned. For example, we will include regular consultation and piloting of materials, tools and approaches to capacity building with both the target group and other stakeholders, and respond to their feedback by revising training materials etc. as appropriate. The project will inculcate a culture of outcome-focused 'adaptive management' among all core staff.

The project's focus is on capacity development and developing and institutionalising a mechanism for effectively integrating biodiversity into CFM in a way which brings benefits for local communities. However, we recognise that changes in the way natural resources are managed can benefit some people, whilst disadvantaging others. The training provided (to FOs, FECOFUN technicians and CFUGs) will allow trainees to assess and adapt management plans to minimise this risk and ensure equitable outcomes. The proposed OP process will also be designed to take this into account. Monitoring measures within OPs (and training to FOs) will provide simple guidance on how CFUGs and FOs can assess positive and negative impacts on biodiversity and people.

The project will enable DoF and FECOFUN to establish long-term monitoring of the 14 CFUGs and revised OPs together with simple, high-level indicators on social and biodiversity impacts, in order to support reporting to the CBD against Aichi Targets (as referenced in the NBSAP).

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)

How we worked out the budget
- Staff, national travel and consultancy costs are based on BCN's existing rates and known costs in Nepal.
- International travel costs are based on current market rates.
- Workshop costs are based on BCN's experience of organising similar events, locally and nationally
- The costs of producing and printing publications etc. are based on recent quotes (for similar materials) from suppliers in Kathmandu

How we will provide value for money
- Most of the key project staff are already employed by BirdLife and BCN; BCN has established links with FD and FECOFUN; BCN are already working with a number of CFUGs that will be included among the pilot sites (and FD and FECOFUN have formal links with all CFs/CFUGs). As a result of these factors, project start-up costs will be reduced.
- By mainstreaming into existing institutional process, the project will capitalise on existing systems and processes, and hence will deliver an impressive overall 'return on investment' (see section 17).
- An advisory committee (of volunteers, apart from travel costs) will be established, with members drawn from key projects, programmes, networks and organisations which this projects seeks to reach. This will help to ensure that the project learns from cost-effective implementation undertaken elsewhere, avoids replication, and maximises synergy.
- Wherever significant purchases are required, the project will adopt standard financial practice of getting at least three quotes from reputable suppliers.

Significant assumptions
The project budget assumes that the GB-NRs exchange rate remains approximately stable during the project period, and that there is no hyper-inflation which significantly affects prices. If the value of the Rupee increases significantly during the next 3 years we will need to review the budget/activities accordingly. (In recent years the reverse has been true, with exchange rates either being stable, or the pound strengthening against the Nepal Rupee).

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   BirdLife International

(*delete as appropriate)

I apply for a grant of £264,951 in respect of **all expenditure** to be incurred during the lifetime of this project based on the activities and dates specified in the above application.
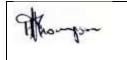
I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the project schedule should this application be successful.

(*This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the 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:

Name (block capitals)	HAZELL THOMPSON
Position in the organisation	INTERIM-CEO

Signed   *[signature]*   **Date:** 28/11/2014

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 <u>main</u> 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?	X
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.