



Submit by Tuesday 1 December 2015

DARWIN INITIATIVE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FOR ROUND 22: 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. Blank cells may render your application ineligible

ELIGIBILITY_g**1. Name and address of organisation**

(NB: Notification of results will be by email to the Project Leader in Question 6)

Applicant Organisation Name:	BirdLife International
Address:	David Attenborough Building
City and Postcode:	Cambridge, CB2 3QZ
Country:	United Kingdom
Email:	
Phone:	

2. Stage 1 reference and Project title

Stage 1 Ref:	Title (max 10 words): Implementing a model for sustainable forest management in Cambodia
---------------------	---

3. Project description (not exceeding 50 words)

(max 50 words)

This project will conserve five Critically Endangered species and 130,000 ha of Western Siem Pang Forest by implementing a model for an existing, but poorly executed policy for sustainable forest management. Seven villages will be facilitated to participate in linked wildlife-friendly, sustainable livelihood initiatives, enhancing food security and biodiversity values.

4. Country(ies)

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

Country 1: Cambodia	Country 2:
Country 3:	Country 4:

5. Project dates, and budget summary

Start date: 01/04/2016		End date: 31/03/2019		Duration: Three years	
Darwin request	2016/17 £ 96,939	2017/18 £ 102,285	2018/19 £ 86,099	Total request £ 285,323	
Proposed (confirmed & unconfirmed) matched funding as % of total Project cost					48
Are you applying for DFID or Defra funding? (Note you cannot apply for both)			DFID		

6. Partners in project. Please provide details of the partners in this project and provide a CV for the individuals listed. You may copy and paste this table if necessary.

Details	Project Leader	Project Partner 1	Project Partner 2	Project Partner 3
Surname	Eames	Masphal	Soun	Hach
Forename (s)	Jonathan	Kry	Sakmay	Chhorn
Post held	Senior Technical Advisor	Site manager	SMP Project Manager	CRDT Project Manager
Organisation	BirdLife International	Forestry Administration	Sansum Mlup Prey	Cambodia Rural Development Team
Department	Cambodia Programme	Department of Wildlife and Biodiversity	Organic Rice Team	Livelihoods support
Telephone				
Email				

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

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
21-2665	David Thomas	Mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into community forestry in Nepal
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

8a. If you answered 'NO' to Question 7 please complete Question 8a, b and c.

If you answered 'YES', please go to Question 9 (and delete the boxes for Q8a, 8b and 8c)

8b. DO NOT COMPLETE IF YOU ANSWERED 'YES' TO QUESTION 7.

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

8c. DO NOT COMPLETE IF YOU ANSWERED 'YES' TO QUESTION 7.

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

9. 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>BirdLife International</p> <p>www.birdlife.org</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to lead the project): (max 200 words) 200 words</p> <p>BirdLife International is the world's largest network of national conservation NGOs and has globally-respected expertise in biodiversity science, civil-society engagement and local livelihoods.</p> <p>BirdLife led on the development of this proposal through extensive consultation with project partners. BirdLife will be responsible for overall project coordination, biodiversity and livelihood project monitoring using well established methods, for which well-defined baseline data is already in place, lead sustainable development training and liaison with the Darwin Secretariat.</p> <p>BirdLife has been working in collaboration with the Forestry Administration (FA) at Western Siem Pang since 2004 developing a foundation of national capacity in biodiversity monitoring and livelihood development. Evidence of BirdLife's effectiveness to deliver practical conservation-development gains at the site includes the establishment of a Protected Forest at the site in 2014¹ and the successful lobbying of national government to cancel a large economic land concession (ELC) in January 2015 that would have destroyed the biodiversity value of the site^{2,3}.</p> <p>The cancellation of the ELC means that at this particular point in time a unique opportunity exists to develop a sustainable management paradigm for a further Protected Forest that the government plans to establish for the area of forest formerly under the ELC⁴.</p>
<p>Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

¹ <http://www.birdlife.org/asia/news/cambodian-jewel-protected>

² <http://www.phnompenhpost.com/post-weekend/hidden-wonder-cambodia-revealed>

³ <http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/ngo-data-shows-wholesale-sell>

⁴ <http://www.manilatimes.net/cambodia-declares-siem-pang-as-protected-forest/81007/>

<p>Partner Name and website available:</p> <p>Forestry Administration of Cambodia</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)200 words</p> <p>The Forestry Administration (FA) has been working with BirdLife International for more than 10 years at Siem Pang. Both national and local FA staff have been consulted on this application to develop locally appropriate methods in keeping with national legislation and local needs.</p> <p>The Forestry Administration is the governing body responsible for the management of Protected Forests in Cambodia. Evidence of the FA's commitment to the sustainable management of Western Siem Pang Forest includes the establishment in 2014 of Western Siem Pang Protected Forest and commitment to establish a second Protected Forest for the southern portion of the site (see map 1) by 2017.</p> <p>Evidence of FA commitment to supporting participatory forest management at the site includes FA's role in facilitating the establishment of local conservation group institutions at Siem Pang, building community support for conservation and enabling the strengthening of community institutions.</p> <p>In this Darwin proposal FA staff will be responsible for hosting the Siem Pang Stakeholder Forum and developing a management plan for the new protected forest, a recognised national priority and requirement for all protected forests. Alignment of this project activity with FA institutional priorities will ensure strong FA participation in project and harmonisation between NGO-government goals.</p>
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?	Yes

<p>Partner Name and website available:</p> <p>Sansom Mlup Prey</p> <p>www.smpcambodia.org</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words) 199 words</p> <p>Sansom Mlup Prey (SMP) is a Cambodian civil society organisation that works with farmers living in protected areas to reduce poverty in ways that are consistent with biodiversity conservation. SMP was a partner in the successful Darwin project 20-014, utilising its skills to market rice for local communities at a premium price.</p> <p>Building on this experience, SMP will oversee the project output of this Darwin application to gain wildlife friendly, organic rice certification for at least one village in Western Siem Pang. Certification will be granted in exchange for all rice growers within the community that join the scheme, collectively signing conservation agreements. These agreements are developed by local community members and agreed by government. By this mechanism communities gain a financial reward for halting forest destruction within the protected forest.</p> <p>Once communities achieve wildlife friendly, organic rice certification, SMP guarantees to purchase the rice at a premium price from farmers that comply with the conservation agreements. Households engaging in the scheme will thereby receive financial benefit of significantly elevated rice sale value within the lifetime of the project. Demonstrating these financial benefits within a short time frame will encourage other villages to join the programme in the future.</p>
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?	Yes

Partner Name and website available:	Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words) 177 words
Cambodian Rural Development Team www.crdt.org.kh	<p>The Cambodian Rural Development Team (CRDT) is a Cambodian NGO which aims to lift communities out of poverty in support of conservation through participatory community based approaches. It undertakes community development, natural resource management, and social enterprise projects throughout northeast Cambodia.</p> <p>CRDT's mission is to sustainably improve food security, incomes, and living standards of poor rural communities in support of environmental conservation in Cambodia. Since its inception in 2001, CRDT has grown to an organization of some 50 staff and has experience supporting organic rice production training for local communities from a recent project undertaken in Preah Vihear Protected Forest in collaboration with the Wildlife Conservation Society.</p> <p>CRDT undertook a scoping visit to Western Siem Pang in April 2015 in preparation for developing a collaborative project with BirdLife International. Food security concerns were identified as the top priority from village interviews and meeting these needs forms the basis for this project concept. CRDT have been involved in this project proposal development and will be responsible for providing household training and ensuring communication in wildlife-friendly organic rice production.</p>
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?	Yes

10. Key Project personnel

Please identify the key project personnel on this project, their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project. Please provide 1 page CVs for these staff, or a 1 page job description or Terms of Reference for roles yet to be filled. Please include more rows where necessary.

Name (First name, surname)	Role	Organisation	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached?
Jonathan Eames	Project Leader	BirdLife International	29	CV
Robin Loveridge	Project Technical Advisor	BirdLife International	67	CV
Vorsak Bou	Programme manager, specific input on livelihood and financial monitoring	BirdLife International	25	CV
TBC	Community Outreach Manager	BirdLife International	100	Job description
Kry Masphal	Site manager	Forestry Administration	33	CV
Soun Sakmay	Rice sales manager	SMP	20	CV

Hach Chorn	Rice production and training and community engagement	CRDT	20	CV
-------------------	--	-------------	-----------	-----------

11. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of biodiversity and (essential for DFID projects) its relationship with poverty. For example, what are the drivers of loss of biodiversity that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems?

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.

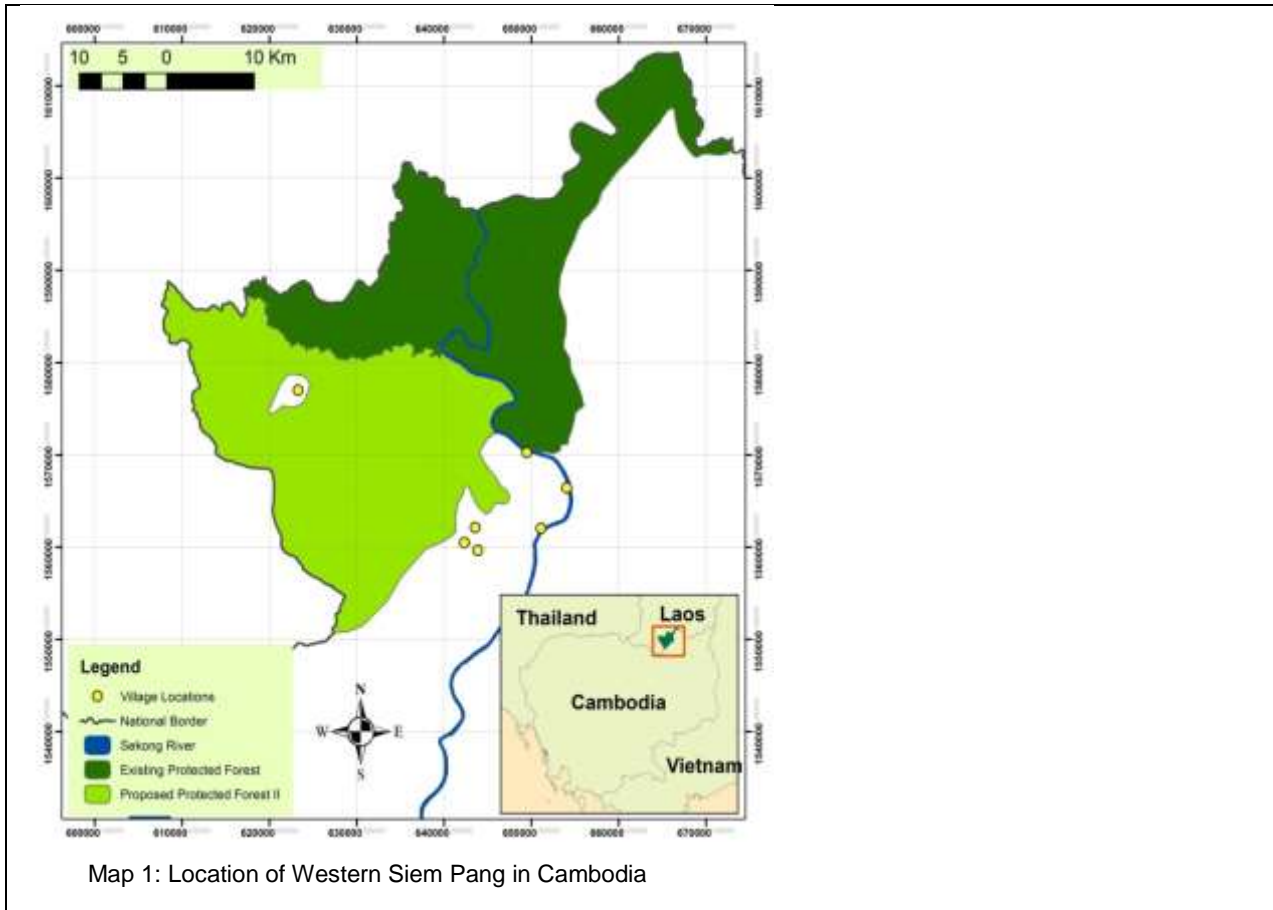
(Max 300 words)300 words

Western Siem Pang (WSP) contains globally significant populations of five Critically Endangered bird species, including Cambodia's national bird (featured in [Land Of The Giants](#)) and three vulture species. These species depend on large tracts of undisturbed forest, on the wallowing behaviour of domestic buffalo and traditional animal husbandry techniques to maintain key habitat features (^{5,6}). Building on BirdLife International's 10 year engagement with the Forestry Administration at WSP, the government is now committed to establishing a second protected area (WSP Protected Forest II) of 73,000 ha (Map 1). This Darwin project application will implement an existing, but to date, poorly executed management model for Protected Forests, to "contribute to sustainable economic development through participatory management and forest resource use by local communities⁷.

⁵ Wright, H. L., Lake, I. R. and Dolman, P. M. (2012) Agriculture—a key element for conservation in the developing world. *Conservation Letters* 5: 11–19.

⁶ Wright, H. L., Collar, N. J., Lake, I. R., Vorsak, B., and Dolman, P. M. (2012). Foraging ecology of sympatric White-shouldered Ibis *Pseudibis davisoni* and Giant Ibis *Thaumatibis gigantea* in northern Cambodia. *Forktail*, 28: 93-100.

⁷ Royal Government of Cambodia. (2014). Article 2, Chapter 1 in Prime Ministerial Decree (Sub Decree) On Establishment of Protected Forest for Genetic Conservation of Plants and Wildlife Siem Pang, Stung Treng Province. No 77 Or No Kro Bor Kor.



In WSP 38% of households have sufficient food for only five months of the year⁴. 97% of households farm rice and communities have a reliance on exploiting natural resources and recently illegal logging to support their livelihoods, presenting high personal risks in fines and imprisonment⁸. These communities do not hold formal land title so risk being forced off traditionally held lands⁹. This insecure tenure contributes to the present paradigm of short-term, unsustainable exploitation resulting in piecemeal expansion and forest loss.

This project will support seven target villages of 6,630 people to participate in an integrated programme of sustainable forest management and livelihoods development. Providing opportunities for land title registration around the newly proposed WSP Protected Forest will reduce encroachment. It will also provide communities with greater economic security and sense of permanence required to underpin their facilitated participation in longer-term land management. Coupled with training and incentives for sustainable land management, rice farming and animal husbandry that promote habitat for key species, the project will contribute to species recovery and greater food security.

12. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Which of the conventions supported by the Darwin Initiative will your project support? 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

⁸ Bou, V. and Yam, D (2014). Social economic and natural resource use of local communities in and around Siem Pang Protected Forest. Report submitted to Macarthur Foundation.

⁹ Phak, S. (2015, January 26). Villagers want ELC revoked. *Phnom Penh Post*. Available: <http://www.phnompenhpost.com/villagers-want-elc-revoked>
R22 St2 Form

12b. Biodiversity Conventions

Please detail how your project will contribute to the objectives of the convention(s), treaties and agreements your project is targeting. You may wish to refer to Articles or Programmes of Work here. Note: No additional significance will be ascribed for projects that report contributions to more than one convention

(Max 200 words) 187 words

The project supports CBD Aichi biodiversity targets 12, 14 and 19. A meaningful contribution will be made towards target 12 as Western Siem Pang supports globally significant populations of five Critically Endangered species at high risk of extinction. This project will contribute to securing subpopulations of these species.

The project will contribute to target 14 by safeguarding the access of poor and vulnerable rural communities to essential ecosystem services. Through the projects strong focus on communicating the project's findings to national decision makers, international conservation professionals and the wider scientific community the project will enhance knowledge on the links between conservation and development in order to develop novel approaches, thereby contributing to target 19.

The project also contributes to the Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity goal 1.4, promoting sustainable use of forest biological diversity. This will be achieved as the policy brief will present Western Siem Pang Forest as a case study demonstrating how forest management structures have been applied to ensure equitable access to ecosystem services for local stakeholders. Whilst the project's efforts to clarify land tenure also contribute to this programme of work.

12c. Is any liaison proposed with the CBD/ABS/ITPGRFA/CITES focal point in the host country?

Yes. Ms. Chan Somaly, Deputy General Director of Ministry of Environment is the CBD focal point for Cambodia. She has been consulted on the design of this project and is supportive of its objectives. She will be invited to comment on the policy brief and participate in the national workshop, coordinated with World Biodiversity Day, an event she is partially responsible for.

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 – this may be a repeat from Stage 1, but you may update or refine as necessary. Tracked changes are not required.) 500 words

Project management

Project Leader: Senior Technical Advisor (STA) - Project oversight, liaison with government institutions.

Project Management Team: STA, Programme Manager, Project Technical Advisor – project implementation, financial reporting.

Development of a government endorsed sustainable management plan for WSP Forest is the central initiative uniting the different project elements. The management plan will be developed through a participatory approach with technical support from BirdLife to the Forestry Administration, strengthening community institutions:

- **Village Forums:** Seven village forums will be established - acting as community training centres, disseminating information on the management planning process. Forums will expand on existing Local Conservation Groups established by BirdLife's outreach team.
- **WSP Stakeholder Forum:** will include nominated representatives from each village, provincial government, civil society and enterprises. This forum will be responsible for agreeing management plan regulations.

'Conservation agreements' will be developed with local communities, detailing sustainable use regulations on forest-use for inclusion in the management plan. This will ensure that traditional rights of communities are maintained, whilst encouraging a paradigm shift towards agreed sustainable-use limits. In exchange for compliance, communities will have access to a diverse programme of livelihoods support:

- **Animal husbandry training:** In WSP buffalo ownership is a major household asset⁴. Buffalo also play an important ecological role (see question 21). Communities will receive training in sustainable livestock harvesting and stock breeding. Building on successes of BirdLife's pilot vaccination scheme, communities have requested, and this project will vaccinate the buffalo of 300 households against haemorrhagic septicaemia and foot and mouth disease.



Fig. 1: BirdLife staff providing buffalo vaccinations and ear tag in Khet Svay village

- **Land management support:** 52% of households in WSP undertake subsistence fishing from forest waterholes (*trapeangs*)⁴. *Trapeangs* are also key foraging habitat for both CR Ibis species. In a pilot initiative in 2015, BirdLife supported communities to deepen

two *trapeangs*, to increase water retention, fish and frog stocks, benefiting subsistence fishers and wildlife¹⁰. In this Darwin project 10 further *trapeangs* will be deepened within the territories of seven target villages, providing both direct payments and food security benefits.



Fig. 2: Photo of community led habitat modification.

Land registration and organic rice production: Community land-use plans will be developed for four target villages, mapping all existing rice fields outside the boundary of WSP Protected Forest II. Household land tenure certificates held at provincial level will provide greater land tenure security.

SMP will undertake an assessment of current farming practices to develop a strategy for wildlife-friendly, organic rice certification, provide safe access for local communities to markets, guaranteeing a premium sale for rice produced by farmers adhering to the Protected Forest boundary and do not clear land for rice production within the Protected Forest. CRDT will facilitate community participation in the scheme.

Developing a model of sustainable forest management in Cambodia: A policy brief “linking biodiversity and food security in sustainable protected forest management” will be produced, highlighting the management paradigm of WSP as a model for sustainable resources management across Cambodia. This will be presented at a national workshop coordinated with World Biodiversity Day to maximise publicity and share findings with national decision-makers.

Monitoring and evaluation framework: Detailed in answer to question 25.

14. Change Expected

Detail the expected changes this work will deliver. You should identify what will change and who will benefit a) in the short-term and b) in the long-term.

- 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. Q15 provides more space for elaboration on this.

(Max 300 words)

Short-term biodiversity changes by the end of the project:

- 1) Forest conversion reduced by 50% within the boundary of WSP Protected Forest II.
- 2) Populations of five CR species are stable compared with 2015 baseline data.

All target species depend on large tracts of intact deciduous dipterocarp forest. Forest conversion in WSP is largely due to piecemeal encroachment of rice fields. Through the holistic, livelihoods support programme, including land registration, animal husbandry training and wildlife-friendly, organic rice certification, target communities will receive access to a suit of

¹⁰ Gray, T. N., McShea, W. J., Koehncke, A., Prum, S., & Wright, M. (2015). Artificial deepening of seasonal water-holes in eastern Cambodia: impact on water retention and use by large ungulates and waterbirds. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, 7(6), 7189-7195.

livelihood benefits such as a guaranteed 10% premium on their rice sales, in exchange for developing conservation agreements. These will include behaviours such as agreeing not to clear additional forest for rice production within the Protected Forest. In this way wildlife-friendly behaviours will be incentivised.

WSP Forest is a seasonally dry forest, with extreme seasonality and water scarcity during the dry season, with *trapeangs* becoming increasingly important water and food resources for both people and wildlife. Both Critically Endangered Ibis species forage primarily at *trapeangs* during the dry season^{11,12}. By deepening 10 *trapeangs*, the project will ensure *trapeangs* support larger fish stocks in support of people and wildlife.

Additionally, the project will provide training and institutional strengthening, empowering local communities with greater decision making power through participation of the WSP Forest management plan. These linked biodiversity-development initiatives will culminate in a reduction in households with sufficient food for less than five months of the year from 38% to 25%¹³.

In the long-term WSP Protected Forest will become a model for sustainable forest management of Cambodia's Protected Forests. The policy brief will make recommendations for practical steps for Protected Forests to better meet their policy mandate for sustainable development and natural resource use "through participatory management" with local communities¹⁴.

15. Pathway to poverty alleviation – ESSENTIAL FOR DFID PROJECTS, OPTIONAL FOR DEFRA PROJECTS

Please describe how your project will benefit poor people living in low-income countries. Give details of who will benefit and the number of beneficiaries expected to be impacted by your project. The number of communities is insufficient detail – number of households should be the largest unit used. If possible, indicate the number of women who will be impacted.

(Max 300 words) 287 words

Seven village forums will be established and strengthened, securing the traditional land-use rights and customary practices of 6,630 rural people. These forums will be empowered to act as farming collectives, increasing the market power of rice sellers within villages to resist exploitation by travelling rice traders. Specifically SMP will guarantee rice producers in target villages have safe and equitable access to markets, obtaining a fair price for their produce and importantly, increased income.

By the end of the project, at least two target villages will be certified as organic, wildlife-friendly rice producers. Budgeted within this project is a subsidy for rice purchase that adheres to wildlife-friendly regulations, providing an incentive for compliance and participation in the scheme and guaranteeing a minimum 10% income premium benefitting 200 households (1000 people).

The pilot land titling programme will enable 800 Households from four target villages to gain land tenure certificates outside the protected forest boundary, approved by provincial government ensuring increased land tenure security.

The sustainable livelihoods support programme will be targeted to improve the food security of the most vulnerable rural poor, resulting in a reduction in the percentage of households with sufficient food for less than five months of the year from 38 % to 25 %. Additionally:

- a) 1000 beneficiaries (50% female) will have increased knowledge in sustainable agriculture practices
- b) 300 households and 50% of buffalo benefit from vaccination and animal husbandry training

¹¹ Keo, O. (2008). Ecology and conservation of the Giant Ibis *Thaumatibis gigantea* in Cambodia. *BirdingASIA* 9: 100-106.

¹² Wright, H.L., Buckingham, D.L., Dolman, P.M. (2010). Dry season habitat use by critically endangered white-shouldered ibis in northern Cambodia. *Animal Conservation* 13: 71-79.

¹³ See question 15 for more detail on beneficiaries.

¹⁴ Royal Government of Cambodia. (2014). Article 2, Chapter 1 in Prime Ministerial Decree (Sub Decree) On Establishment of Protected Forest for Genetic Conservation of Plants and Wildlife Siem Pang, Stung Treng Province. No 77 Or No Kro Bor Kor.

scheme

c) 200 direct beneficiaries (40% female) from seven target villages actively engaged in sustainable land management through assisting digging of 10 waterholes (*trapeangs*)

d) 10 *Trapeangs* have increased water retention for an extra two months compared with 2015 baseline data, providing 6,630 indirect beneficiaries with access to increased fish and frog stocks.

16. 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) 199 words

The project will reach a sustainable end-point, with local institutions established and fully capable of future participation in the sustainable management of Western Siem Pang Forest (WSPF).

The development of a management plan for WSPF is a major output. The FA will be responsible for overseeing the management plan implementation, ensuring that project outputs are embedded in a national management body, mainstreaming site management into ongoing FA activities.

The *trapeang* management forms part of a long-term habitat restoration programme to maintain the productivity of WSPF. *Trapeang* intervention will provide an immediate increase in fish stocks and incorporation of this activity within the site management plan and community conservation agreements will ensure these benefits are sustained.

This project forms part of a long-term commitment by BirdLife to support the Forestry Administration and local communities to sustainably manage WSPF. This Darwin project aims to strengthen collaboration with local communities by providing tangible food security benefits. This is an essential step to encourage community participation in the sustainable management of Western Siem Pang's natural resources in support of biodiversity and local livelihoods. Therefore this discrete project represents a key step towards achieving the project's long term impact (see logframe).

17a. Harmonisation

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

The land tenure certification and security to be delivered by this project is entirely new for the district. A proposal to the Macarthur Foundation has now been approved that allocates funding to assess the legal process for obtaining land tenure certificates and in 2016 will begin the process of government engagement to map individual land tenure claims, providing co-funding and laying the foundation for the present application to the Darwin Initiative.

The next steps in this planned intervention are being applied for through this Darwin Initiative application:

- 1) Undertaking of participatory land-use plans that enable community-land-tenure certificates to be issued,
- 2) Establishing wildlife-friendly, organic rice sales that directly link land-tenure and livelihood benefits to conservation-friendly behaviour.

This crucial link between conservation-friendly behaviour and increased value of rice sales will be achieved through the technical input of local partners SMP and CRDT, whose involvement will be solely funded through this Darwin initiative.

In 2015 two *trapeangs* were experimentally dug by one local community. Based on the success of this and at the request of neighbouring communities, this new request to the Darwin Initiative aims to expand this pilot into a landscape-scale land management intervention that will benefit all seven target villages.

17b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work? 200 words Yes

If yes, please give details explaining similarities and differences 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.

BirdLife International is the only international conservation organisation operating in Siem Pang district. However, local NGOs Save Cambodia's Wildlife and Youth With A Mission also have small-scale community initiatives which focus on the provision of health and education facilities.

BirdLife's approach aims to draw-upon best practice from elsewhere in Cambodia. WCS Cambodia has provided useful discussion on the most appropriate methods to develop conservation agreements with local communities. Building on the wildlife-friendly, organic rice certification process, this project aims to incorporate three new elements to strengthen the links between livelihood improvement and conservation in a holistic project design:

1) Animal husbandry training and vaccinations will be specifically offered to communities that choose to develop conservation agreements. This provides an additional early incentive, with tangible benefits in year one of the project linked to conservation-friendly behaviour.

2) White-shouldered Ibis roost communally in rice field-forest mosaic habitat. Due to this close association between the species and rice fields, conservation agreements developed will include community responsibility for protecting these key roosting trees located in proximity to rice fields.

3) Conservation agreements will be detailed in the site management plan, embedding community ownership of wildlife-friendly management within a government endorsed structure, ensuring long-term sustainability.

18. Ethics

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

(Max 300 words) 299 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.

The project design follows a participatory approach, promoting gender equality. These principles will be applied through the strengthening of local institutions with a specific focus on incorporating the traditional knowledge, perspectives and needs of community institutions in the Protected Forest management plan. Established village forums will have equal representation of women and men (50% women, 50% men). Facilitating community institutions to develop their own conservation agreements that are agreed at village meetings ensures that principles of Free Prior Informed Consent are followed from the outset of the project.

Baseline socio-economic surveys of target communities have established that 97% of households are rice farmers, with both women and men responsible for its production and harvest. Since rice farming is an almost ubiquitous livelihood activity among target communities, this Darwin project aims to provide a premium on rice sales. Targeting of this common livelihood activity enables wide, equitable access to project benefits.

In terms of surveys and data collection, 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.

Partner organisation staff to be involved in this project have undertaken training such as “Rights Based Approach to Development” (see CV of Hach Chhorn – CRDT) and these principles will be applied throughout the project.

19. 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) 300 words

Seven target communities

Workshops will be undertaken in seven target villages about improved sustainable forest management with the goal of increasing recognition of the decreasing trend of local wildlife and understanding of the practical steps that individuals can take to reverse this trend. Workshops will be conducted through Village Forums established by this project. The Village Forum concept builds on previously established Local Conservation Groups, which have proven to be successful ‘information dissemination hubs’ and means of galvanising support for conservation.

National decision-makers

1,000 copies of the policy brief will be disseminated to senior government staff at the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, conservation professionals and the national press at a national workshop coordinated with World Biodiversity Day. This high-profile event provides an excellent platform to showcase the outputs of this Darwin project as one of the major efforts made by Cambodia to meet its obligations under CBD. This event will target national decision-makers in an evidence-based discussion on how to manage the national protected area network more sustainably. The workshop will promote a paradigm shift in protected area management towards a model that recognises the importance of equitable, participatory decision-making and benefit sharing of natural resources for mainstreaming into national policy.

International conservation professionals

A presentation will be delivered to the BirdLife Asia Partnership at the next regional meeting. The presentation will share lessons learnt among conservation professionals working in similar regional contexts, with the goal of further refining BirdLife’s approach to project design with a progressive and explicit consideration of the links between biodiversity and human-wellbeing. Finally the biodiversity outcome of the project intervention will be documented in a research paper and case study to ensure that lessons learnt are captured and shared with the wider conservation-development community (explained in detail in question 21).

20. Capacity building

If your project will support capacity building at institutional or individual levels, please provide details of what form this will take and how this capacity will be secured for the future.

(Max 300 words) 295

Working through close collaboration government (FA) and local NGOs (SMP, CRDT) will ensure that institutional capacity development through this project will remain in Cambodia.

BirdLife's role in providing technical input to the WSP Protected Forest management plan will provide clear guidelines to be used as a management template for adaption to other protected areas in Cambodia. As such this forms a useful learning document that will have English and Khmer versions made available for dissemination and capacity building among government protected area managers and conservation organisations.

The methodology of all CRDT training follows a 'learning by doing' approach so that participants can learn technical implementation of activities on-site. The strategy builds vital sustainability components, increasing cooperation and knowledge sharing among group members from the outset. In particular, supporting participating communities with improved information on rice-growing methodologies is designed to empower beneficiaries with the skills needed to help pull themselves out of poverty.

Training delivered by the BirdLife outreach team in sustainable land management and animal husbandry methods is designed to enable communities to understand and actively participate in maintaining a productive landscape, diverse livelihood options and greater resilience against food security challenges. This will follow a 'training of trainers' approach, ensuring that Village Forum representatives are able to act as local trainers, continuing to build the capacity of their respective communities after project completion. Finally, the exchange visit for representatives from participating communities to neighbouring Preah Vihear province to visit an organic rice production programme will enable villagers to learn from the experience of other rice farmers from a similar rural and economic background. This provides an excellent opportunity for rice farmers to learn from their peers and see for themselves how the scheme can benefit their lives and how the farming methods are applied.

21. 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) 241 words

Literacy in target communities is approximately 20%. Therefore project findings will be communicated through aural presentations located centrally within target communities, so accessible to all community members.

All document outputs will be made publicly available. This will include a project case study, including the policy brief shared on the BirdLife International (www.birdlife.org) and Capacity for Conservation websites (<http://capacityforconservation.org>), with 2000 and 100 views respectively. Regular project updates on both BirdLife International (196,700 followers) and BirdLife Cambodia (1,200 followers, more than 60% Cambodian nationals) facebook pages will also be produced. This information will be publicly available.

The project findings will also result in a scientific paper that discusses the links between rural livelihoods and biodiversity for dissemination among conservation professionals in an appropriate open access format. The paper will feature the traditional animal husbandry methods of rural communities in WSP, where domestic water buffalo are allowed to range freely throughout the forest. It has been hypothesised that the grazing and wallowing behaviour of buffalo at *trapeangs* helps to create soft, exposed muddy substrate, which is the preferred foraging habitats of Ibis species^{1,2}.

The biodiversity monitoring element of this project includes data collection on the number of domestic water buffalo visiting *trapeangs*, as well as endangered species visiting these same *trapeangs*. This will help increase our understanding of the role that traditional animal husbandry activities play in maintaining key biodiversity. Co-funding from the MacArthur Foundation is available to cover journal open access costs.

22. Match funding (co-finance)**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:

MacArthur Foundation £XXX - co-funding covering core staff salaries and related technical assessments for developing the site management plan.

Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund £XXX - biodiversity monitoring costs.

US Fish and Wildlife Service - Critically Endangered Animals Conservation Fund £XXX – funding secured for the manual digging of two *trapeangs*.

22b) 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

22c) None

If you are not intending to seek matched funding for this project, please explain why.

(max 100 words)

BirdLife International has recently been successful in three funding applications (detailed in 22a) for related project activities. Therefore this project now has significant co-finance and we currently have no unsecured applications pending. We intend to await the outcome of this Darwin application before seeking alternative International funding sources. However the Forestry Administration of Cambodia is also committed to this project (see letter of support) and discussions are underway to allocate additional local FA officials as in kind staff support that would enable the project to expand its reach to additional villages in the surrounding area.

PROJECT MONITORING AND EVALUATION**MEASURING IMPACT****23. 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.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: The 130,000 ha of Western Siem Pang Forest are managed sustainably, supporting biodiversity and the livelihoods of 6,630 people, acting as a model for sustainable forest management in Cambodia (Max 30 words)			
Outcome: Demonstration land management structures in place enabling local people to benefit from the sustainable management of Western Siem Pang Forest, enhancing biodiversity and supporting local livelihoods in an agreed framework.	<p>0.1 increased food security in seven target villages (6,630 people), with a reduction in the percentage of households with sufficient food for less than five months of the year from 38% of households to 25% By end of Yr.3.</p> <p>0.2 Stable populations of five Critically Endangered species within Western Siem Pang Forest by end of Yr.3</p>	<p>0.1 Participatory Rural Appraisal undertaken 2018 compared with 2014 (pre) and 2016 (start of project) baselines.</p> <p>0.2 BirdLife biodiversity team led species census results compared with 2016 baseline.</p>	<p>Government support and socio-economic conditions nationally remain favourable to implementation</p> <p>Critically Endangered species populations depend on large tracts of un-degraded habitat. Community compliance with conservation agreements reduces rate of habitat degradation.</p>
Outputs: 1. Local consultation structures established at village and district level, equitably representing the views of constituents	<p>1.a Seven village forums established with equal representation of women and men (50% women, 50% men)</p> <p>1.b Western Siem Pang Forest Stakeholder Forum established and working effectively</p>	<p>1.a.1 Meetings are held regularly and attendance list shows equitable participation of women and men, evidenced by equal sex ratio of women : men attending meetings</p> <p>1.a.2 Dialogue in village meetings show enhanced understanding of management planning process over the three year project implementation period, evidenced by meeting minutes and participatory learning assessment survey at end of Yr.3</p> <p>1.b.1 List of attendees at stakeholder meetings includes representatives from</p>	<p>Local communities and local authorities continue to be interested in engaging and contributing to these forums</p>

		<p>all relevant interest groups including representatives from village forums.</p> <p>1.b.2 Requests from village forum representatives on traditional-use are included in the Western Siem Pang Management Plan regulations, evidenced by forum minutes and management plan document.</p>	
<p>2. Land titles, community land-use plans and conservation agreements finalised within at least four villages neighbouring Western Siem Pang Forest</p>	<p>2.a By the end of year two village land-use maps complete.</p> <p>2.b By the end of year three the remaining two village land-use maps are complete (total of four complete) resulting in 800 households in four target villages with land title certificates registered at provincial level.</p> <p>2.c Four villages endorse conservation agreements</p>	<p>2.a Commune chiefs endorse maps of land tenure.</p> <p>2.b Land tenure certificates.</p> <p>2.c Village meeting minutes.</p>	<p>Local government especially department of land management continues to be cooperative and supportive</p> <p>Local communities continue to be interested and engaged</p>
<p>3. Management plan of Western Siem Pang Forest is developed in consultation with local communities</p>	<p>3.a Management plan is endorsed by seven village forums and the stakeholder forum by end of Yr.3</p>	<p>3.a Meeting minutes. List of signatories endorsing management plan.</p>	<p>Local communities and local authorities continue to be interested and engaged in supporting the WSP Forest Management Plan</p> <p>Local authorities continue to respect Protected Forest policy permitting the right of local communities to participate in Protected Forest management.</p>
<p>4. Improved food security in seven target villages (6,630 people) through improved local capacity in agriculture, increased income from wildlife-friendly rice sales, natural resource management and direct natural resource interventions.</p>	<p>4.a 1000 beneficiaries (50% women) attend training in sustainable agriculture (300 in year 1, 400 in year 2, 300 in year 3).</p> <p>4.b Local communities demonstrate greater knowledge and commitment to sustainable <i>trapeang</i> management</p>	<p>4.a Registration taken at training events.</p> <p>4.b Compare knowledge and attitudes of training beneficiaries through a participatory learning assessment undertaken at start and end of project.</p> <p>4.c Vaccination report updates in Darwin reports Yr 1, 2 and 3.</p>	<p>Buffalo owners can make the buffalo readily available for vaccination</p> <p><i>Trapeang</i> water availability and water bird visits are indicative of the availability of fish and frogs.</p> <p>Communities remain engaged in organic, wildlife-friendly rice certification</p>

	<p>4.c 300 households and 50% of buffalo benefit from vaccination and animal husbandry training scheme.</p> <p>4.d 200 direct beneficiaries (40% female) from seven target villages are actively engaged in sustainable land management through the digging of 10 waterholes (<i>trapeangs</i>).</p> <p>4.e 10 <i>trapeangs</i> retain water for an additional two months during the dry season, providing 6,630 indirect beneficiaries with increased access to larger, more reliable fish and frog stocks</p> <p>4.f At least two villages certified as organic, wildlife-friendly rice producers</p> <p>4.g 200 households (1000 people) involved in wildlife friendly rice production programme gain a minimum 10% income premium on rice sales.</p>	<p>4.d employment agreements and receipts for work carried out digging <i>trapeangs</i>.</p> <p>4.e <i>Trapeang</i> habitat monitoring data shows that <i>trapeangs</i> retain standing water for an additional two months during the dry season and the number of bird visits increased comparing Yr 1 and Yr 3 <i>trapeang</i> monitoring data.</p> <p>4.f organic and wildlife-friendly rice certificates.</p> <p>4.g Sale of rice receipts.</p>	<p>scheme for the duration of the project.</p>
<p>5. Between 2018 and 2019 the area of forest converted to rice fields within the boundary of Western Siem Pang Protected Forest II has halved compared with the area converted between 2016 and 2017.</p>	<p>5.a Ground truthed maps of rice fields shows</p> <p>5.b Landsat images show that the area of Western Siem Pang Protected Forest II converted to rice fields between 2018 and 2019 is half the area converted between 2016 and 2017.</p>	<p>5.a Community land-use plans, ground truthed maps of rice fields.</p> <p>5.b Landsat image analysis, final project report.</p>	<p>Maps are produced with sufficient precision.</p> <p>Landsat continues to produce multiple images taken over different days in case cloud cover on a particular day impairs the image quality and ability to carry out the analysis.</p> <p>Community compliance with conservation agreements reduces rate of habitat degradation.</p>
<p>6. Project findings, policy brief and journal article shared with target audiences achieving increased awareness of the links between</p>	<p>6.a Comparison of workshop participatory learning results in Yr 1 and Yr 3 show target communities have greater awareness and commitment to</p>	<p>6.a Workshop minutes, project reports.</p> <p>6.b.1 Workshop minutes, event photographs.</p>	<p>Government remains committed to co-hosting research outputs of project</p> <p>Data is a sufficient quality for publication</p>

<p>biodiversity and human-wellbeing and support for mainstreaming participatory forest management into sustainable protected forest management policy.</p>	<p>sustainable forest management.</p> <p>6.b National workshop minutes show questions and discussion following presentation on policy brief with 1000 copies disseminated.</p> <p>6.c Meeting minutes of BirdLife Asia meeting shows debate and evidences learning through questioning from regional partners.</p> <p>6.d Project case study shared on BirdLife International website 2000 views</p> <p>6.e Project case study shared on capacity for conservation website and accessed more than 100 times by conservation professionals</p> <p>6.f Scientific paper submission receipt email</p>	<p>6.b.2 Policy brief document supplied to Darwin and Workshop minutes.</p> <p>6.c. Meeting minutes.</p> <p>6.d Google analytics.</p> <p>6.e Capacity for conservation webpage access information available on website.</p> <p>6.f email from journal editor acknowledging paper submission.</p>	
<p>Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)</p> <p>Output 1 Local consultation structures established at village and district level, equitably representing the views of constituents</p> <p>1.1 Meetings to establish village forums in 7 target villages</p> <p>1.2 Elect Village Forum representatives with equal representation of women and men and endorsement of forum institutional regulations by communities</p> <p>1.3 Establishment of Western Siem Pang Stakeholder Forum including representatives from all target villages, local civil society, private interests and government</p> <p>Output 2 Land titles, community land-use plans and conservation agreements finalised within at least four villages neighbouring Western Siem Pang Forest</p> <p>2.1 Land titling launch event: Consultation with provincial authority and local communities to share information and agree the process for gaining formal land title</p> <p>2.2 Mapping of land claims</p> <p>2.3 Meetings to develop land-use plans, incorporating land claims and conservation agreements</p> <p>2.4 Meetings held between villagers and commune chief to endorse land-use plans.</p> <p>2.5 Meetings held between village forums representatives and provincial department of land management to register land claims.</p>			

Output 3 Management plan of Western Siem Pang Forest is developed in consultation with local communities

- 3.1 Consultation meetings
- 3.2 Meetings to agree sustainable use regulations
- 3.3 Management plan endorsement by all stakeholders

Output 4 Improved food security in seven target villages through improved local capacity in agriculture, natural resource management and direct natural resource interventions

- 4.1 Cattle vaccinations and animal husbandry training provided to at least 300 households
- 4.2 Sustainable land management training and digging of 10 trapeangs
- 4.3 Target villages informed about the requirements for wildlife-friendly, organic rice certification,
- 4.4 Training sessions for at least 1500 people in wildlife friendly agricultural techniques
- 4.5 Study tour exchange visit for villagers from Siem Pang to learn about wildlife friendly rice production in Preah Vihear.
- 4.5 Processing of wildlife-friendly, organic rice certification in at least two villages.
- 4.6 At least two 200 households selling wildlife-friendly rice to SMP at a 10% premium price

Output 5 Between 2018 and 2019 area of land conversion within the boundary of Western Siem Pang Protected Forest II has halved compared with area of conversion between 2016 and 2017.

- 5.1 Ground truth mapping of all existing rice fields in four target villages.
- 5.2 Map production and remote sensing study to assess forest encroachment

Output 6 Project findings, policy brief and journal article shared with target audiences achieving increased awareness of the links between biodiversity and human-wellbeing and support for mainstreaming participatory forest management into sustainable protected forest management policy.

- 6.1 Community participatory learning workshops
- 6.2 Drafting of policy brief
- 6.3 Review by government counterparts
- 6.4 National workshop and policy brief dissemination
- 6.5 Drafting and submission of journal article
- 6.6 Posting of project case study on BirdLife and capacity for conservation website
- 6.7 Presentation to BirdLife Asia Partnership

24. 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 (Q1 starting April 2016)

Activity	No of months	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Project management													
0.1 Recruitment of staff and contractual arrangements	3	■	■										
0.2 Verification of project baselines	4	■	■	■	■								
0.3 Project inception workshop	1		■										
0.4 Quarterly project meetings	12	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
0.5 Project monitoring, review and reporting	6		■		■		■		■		■		■
Output 1 Local consultation structures established at village and district level, equitably representing the views of constituents													
1.1 Meetings to establish village forums in 7 target villages	3		■										
1.2 Elect Village forum representatives with equal representation of men and women and forum institutional regulations endorsed by community	2			■	■								
1.3 Establishment of Western Siem Pang stakeholder forum including representatives from all target villages, local civil society, private interests and government	3			■	■	■							
Output 2 Land titles, community land-use plans and conservation agreements finalised within at least four villages neighbouring Western Siem Pang Forest													
2.1 Land titling launch event: Consultation with provincial authority and local communities to share information and agree the process for gaining formal land title	1			■									
2.2 Mapping of land claims	6				■	■	■						
2.3 Meetings to develop land-use plans, incorporating land claims and conservation agreements	6						■	■	■				
2.4 Meetings held between villagers and commune chief to endorse land-use plans.	6								■	■	■		

2.5	Meetings held between village forums representatives and provincial department of land management to register land claims.	6																	
Output 3	Management plan of Western Siem Pang Forest is developed in consultation with local communities																		
3.1	Consultation meetings	4																	
3.2	Meeting to agree sustainable use management regulations	2																	
3.3	Management plan endorsement by all stakeholders	6																	
Output 4	Improved food security in seven target villages (6,630 people) through improved local capacity in agriculture, increased income from wildlife-friendly rice sales, natural resource management and direct natural resource interventions.																		
4.1	Cattle vaccinations and animal husbandry training provided to at least 300 households	6																	
4.2	Sustainable land management training and digging of 10 <i>trapeangs</i>	3																	
4.3	Target villages informed about the requirements for wildlife friendly, organic rice certification, conditional agreements signed	9																	
4.4	Training for at least 1000 people in wildlife friendly agricultural techniques	5																	
4.5	Study tour exchange visit for villagers from Siem Pang to learn about wildlife friendly rice production in Preah Vihear.	1																	
4.5	Processing of wildlife-friendly, organic rice certification in at least two villages.	3																	
4.6	At least 200 households selling wildlife friendly rice to SMP at a 10% premium price	3																	
Output 5	Between 2018 and 2019 no further land conversion within the boundary of Western Siem Pang Protected Forest II																		
5.1	Ground truth mapping of all existing rice fields in four target villages.	6																	

5.2	Map production and remote sensing study to assess forest encroachment	3												
Output 6	Project findings, policy brief and journal article shared with target audiences achieving increased awareness of the links between biodiversity and human-wellbeing and support for mainstreaming participatory forest management into sustainable protected forest management policy.													
6.1	Community participatory learning workshops	4												
6.2	Drafting of policy brief	6												
6.3	Review by government counterparts	6												
6.4	National workshop and policy brief dissemination	1												
6.5	Drafting and submission of journal article	9												
6.6	Posting of project case study on BirdLife and capacity for conservation website	1												
6.7	Presentation to BirdLife Asia Partnership	1												

25. 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 project's 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) 500 words

Monitoring and evaluation framework

Project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) will follow the "theory of change" approach, with indicators selected to assess progress towards project outcome and long-term impact¹⁵. The project technical advisor will take overall responsibility for M&E and directly oversee assessment of biodiversity indicators. The community outreach manager will be recruited with specific expertise in poverty reduction M&E and take responsibility for this monitoring.

At the project inception workshop, an M&E plan will be developed to further refine SMART indicators. Baseline poverty reduction and biodiversity data will be collected in year one of the project to complement existing baseline data from previous socio-economic and wildlife surveys.

Adaptive management

Quarterly project meetings will be held to assess progress against the project M&E plan and determine any necessary adjustments to project implementation. These meetings will include inputs from all project partners and be chaired by the project technical advisor. Prior approval will be sought from Darwin for any project changes.

Biodiversity monitoring

Biodiversity indicators focus on the combination of change in forest cover, key habitat features and monitoring species populations. This multi-scale approach provides a holistic assessment of biodiversity change. Monitoring of Critically Endangered Ibis and Vulture species will be carried out by the BirdLife biodiversity team, adding to long-term datasets that allow the assessment of population trends^{16,17}.

Monitoring conservation agreement compliance

Change in forest cover will be assessed remotely at annual intervals. This regularity supports an iterative approach to project implementation by enabling the project team to follow-up with particular communities based on performance. This will be complemented by field teams mapping rice field boundaries to check compliance with conservation agreements at the start and end of the project, with the intention to repeat this mapping at three year intervals thereafter. By this means farmers can be temporarily excluded from the sales premium if they break the conservation agreements, but have the opportunity to re-join the scheme again in the future, allowing for a flexible system, adapting incentive rewards to behaviour. Mapping will be undertaken with the assistance of rice field owners to ensure transparency and shared understanding.

Poverty reduction monitoring

Following recent research into appropriate assessment methods for evaluating the impact of conservation-development interventions on human well-being, this project will use a mix of income, food-security and perceived knowledge change indicators that provide a balanced view of project impact¹⁸. Assessment of change in community food security will be guided by participatory rural appraisal methods found to be locally appropriate in a pilot survey undertaken in 2014, repeated at the start and end of the project⁴. Throughout the project participatory learning exercises will be undertaken at the end of each workshop to continually refine the training provided based on

¹⁵ Kapos, V., Balmford, A., Aveling, R., Bubb, P., Carey, P., Entwistle, A., Hopkins, J., Mulliken, T., Safford, R., Strattersfield, A., Walpole, M., and Manica, A. (2009). Outcomes, not implementation, predict conservation success. *Oryx*, 43(03), 336-342.

¹⁶ Clements, T., Gilbert, M., Rainey, H. J., Cuthbert, R., Eames, J. C., Bunnat, P. and SETHA, T. (2013). Vultures in Cambodia: population, threats and conservation. *Bird Conservation International*, 23(01), 7-24.

¹⁷ Wright, H. L., Collar, N. J., Lake, I. R., Norin, N., Vann, R., Ko, S and Dolman, P. M. (2012). First census of the white-shouldered ibis *Pseudibis davisoni* reveals roost-site mismatch with Cambodia's protected areas. *Oryx*, 46(02), 236-239.

¹⁸ Woodhouse E, Homewood KM, Beauchamp E, Clements T, McCabe JT, Wilkie D, Milner-Gulland EJ. 2015 Guiding principles for evaluating the impacts of conservation interventions on human well-being. *Phil. Trans. R. Soc. B* 370: 20150103.

community needs. An assessment of rice yield and income sales will be undertaken with target communities at project start and end to assess the project's economic benefit. Indicators will be disaggregated by sex so that the impact on women and men can be assessed separately.	
Total budget for M&E	£ 12,153
Percentage of total budget set aside for M&E	4 %

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. You should also ensure you have read the 'Finance for Darwin' document and considered the implications of payment points for cashflow purposes.

NB: The Darwin Initiative cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.

26. Value for Money

Please explain how you worked out your budget and how you will provide value for money through managing a cost effective and efficient project. You should also discuss any significant assumptions you have made when working out your budget.

(max 300 words) 256 words

How we worked out the budget

- Staff, national travel and partner costs are based on existing rates, partner quotes and known costs in Cambodia.
- Workshop costs are based on BirdLife's experience of organising similar events, in Western Siem Pang and national events such as the Giant Ibis national workshop.
- The costs of printing publications are based on recent quotes (for similar materials) from suppliers in Phnom Penh
- Inflation included as 0.5% annually.

How we will provide value for money

- Most of the key project staff are already employed by BirdLife and extensive consultation has already been undertaken with project partners. Therefore project start-up costs will be minimised.
- By mainstreaming sustainable management regulations into government structures, through the FA administered site management plan, the project will capitalise on existing systems, thereby delivering sustainable solutions, maintained into the future and a long-term return on investment.
- The design of this project has been such that the indicators used to measure progress against meeting biodiversity outcomes will be measured through ongoing key species census and habitat change methods, with significant co-funding from an ongoing grant from the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund. This cost-effective approach requires a minimum of project fund investment in monitoring activities, enabling a high percentage of funds to be used to directly implement project activities, maximising on-the-ground impact.
- 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 GBP-USD exchange rate remains approximately stable during the project period.

27. Capital items

If you plan to purchase capital items with Darwin funding, please indicate what you anticipate will happen to the items following project end.

(max 150 words)118 words

Capital items to be purchased for this project include two laptop computers and motorbikes to support their travel and work in the remote location in Western Siem Pang. Other lower cost items include GPS and field equipment deemed necessary to ensure staff safety.

Given the remote field conditions at Western Siem Pang and daily use of field equipment, we may expect field equipment to have a functional life expectancy of around three years. It is anticipated that equipment that is still functional after the end of the project will continue to be used to support ongoing field operations at Western Siem Pang as we anticipate project activities will continue after the end of this three year project phase.

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. **We have checked the FCO Travel Notifications for Cambodia and there are currently no travel restrictions in place.** The FCO Summary (updated on 15th November and still current on 1st December states that political tensions have increased and it is possible further protests may take place; you should avoid all public gatherings and monitor local media closely.

BirdLife International and the Cambodia Programme staff will check the FCO updates and security situation within Cambodia on a regular basis.

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. **Not been able to reach the Foreign Ministry, but have reviewed FCO Travel Notifications for Cambodia.**

CERTIFICATION

On behalf of BirdLife International

I apply for a grant of £ 285,323 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 key project personnel and letters of support.
- I enclose our most recent signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual reports (if appropriate)

Name (block capitals)	PATRICIA ZURITA
Position in the organisation	CEO

Signed**



Date:

1ST December 2015

If this section is incomplete or not completed correctly the entire application will be rejected. You must provide a real (not typed) signature. You may include a pdf of the signature page for security reasons if you wish. Please write PDF in the signature section above if you do so.

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)	YES
Have you included a 1 page CV for all the key project personnel identified at Question 10?	YES
Have you included a letter of support from the <u>main</u> partner organisations identified at Question 9?	YES
Have you been in contact with the FCO in the project country/ies and have you included any evidence of this?	YES
Have you included a signed copy of the last 2 years annual report and accounts for the lead organisation?	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 2359 GMT on Tuesday 1 December 2015 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.