Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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

1. Name and address of organisation

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

Applicant Organisation Name:	The WILD Foundation
Address:	**717 Poplar Avenue**
City and Postcode:	**Boulder, CO 80304**
Country:	**USA**
Email:	
Phone:	

2. Stage 1 reference and Project title

Stage 1 Ref:	**Title (max 10 words):** Developing Long-term Stakeholder Capacity for Elephant Conservation in Mali

3. Project description (not exceeding 50 words)

(max 50 words) The project will build on existing work in empowering communities across the elephant range to implement and monitor a successful, "war-tested", model of community-based natural resource management that protects elephants through halting and reversing degradation, habitat (and biodiversity) loss; while improving livelihoods and several types of human security.

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: Republic of Mali	Country 2:
Country 3:	Country 4:

5. Project dates, and budget summary

Start date: 1 April 2016	End date: 31 March 2019		Duration: 3	
Darwin request	2016/17 £100,000	2017/18 £100,000	2018/19 £100,000	Total request £300,000
Proposed (confirmed & unconfirmed) matched funding as % of total Project cost				59%
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
Surname	Canney	Ganame	
Forename (s)	Susan Mary	Nomba	
Post held	Project Leader	Field Manager	
Organisation (if different to above)			
Department			
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
19-010	Dr Susan Canney	Developing Long-term Stakeholder Capacity for Elephant Conservation in Mali

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.

Lead institution and website:	Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to lead the project): (max 200 words)
WILD Foundation www.wild.org	The WILD Foundation began the project in 2002 and it has been leading it successfully ever since. It is responsible for the overall direction and co-ordination, financial accounting and management. At the heart of the global wilderness community for over 40 years, the WILD Foundation protects wilderness while meeting the needs of local communities, working across cultures and boundaries by collaborating with local peoples, organisations, the private sector, and governments to create dynamic practical projects and communications initiatives. The WILD Foundation has extensive experience at board and executive level to: - Provide specific national and international policy formulation and political liaison. - Source and co-ordinate required and relevant technical assistance. - Effectively administer grants. - Implement communications and public relations strategies.
Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution?	This is the organisation submitting the proposal

Partner Name and website where available:	Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)
The Mali Government: Ministry of the Environment, with its Direction Nationale des Eaux et Forets (DNEF) as the principle contact; plus other Ministries as appropriate. http://www.environnement.gov.ml/index.php?page=direction-nationale-de-la-conservation-de-la-nature-dncn	The DNEF is the government agency responsible for nature conservation, and their authorisation is required to allow the project to operate. They have however, since 2007, gone beyond this and engaged closely as a partner by showing strong support, both verbally and in kind whenever possible, for example by easing the way for project activities and in making key personnel available to support project activities such as drafting legal texts to formalise the operation of community-forester patrols. The Secretary Generals and Ministers of the Environment have demonstrated strong engagement by visiting the project to show top-level support, bringing the elephants to the attention of the Cabinet of Ministers and financing repairs to boreholes sabotaged by fleeing jihadists to enable the relocation of the community from Lake Banzena to leave it for elephant use only. Other ministries are also highly engaged. The Chief of Defence ordered a military air and ground mission to work with community brigades to track and arrest 4 poachers responsible for 7 elephant killings in 2014; as well as 3 military anti-poaching patrols after the massacres of December-January 2015. The Minister of Regional Administration, decentralisation and Land Management is a partner for reconciliation work.
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 US Embassy to Mali http://mali.embassy.gov/	The US Embassy has provided political, financial and logistical support from the beginning. The partnership began in 2002 and has provided the foundation for: - the project's first grant of $300,000 provided directly from the Assistant Secretary of State with the full endorsement of the US Ambassador Michael Rannenberger. - 2003 donation of two Toyota Land Cruiser double-cab pick-ups provided directly by the US Ambassador Vicki Huddleston, and housed and maintained by the US Embassy until 2009. - Embassy receptions, personal meetings with Presidents Konare and ATT; workshop openings. - a DOD donation of $100,000 in 2010 to fund a critically needed borehole that triggered the Malian government to provide $200,000 for the two remaining boreholes required for the relocation of the population around Lake Banzena. - planned repair of a critical dam/bridge whose rupture has drained a chain of lakes over 100km reducing the pasture and habitat available for use by people and elephants, concentrating them in other areas including (most crucially) Lake Banzena. This is an initiative co-ordinated by AFRICOM and involving USAID-OTI.	
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 British Embassy to Mali https://www.gov.uk/government/world/.../british-embassy-bamako	The British Embassy has (since its arrival in Mali) provided advice and support since its arrival in Mali, providing and facilitating contacts within Mali, generating ideas, and being readily accessible.	
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?
Susan Canney	**Project Leader**	**WILD Foundation**	**50**	**Yes**

Nomba Ganame	Field Manager	WILD Foundation	80	Yes
Idrissa Ganame	Administrative assistant & IT manager	WILD Foundation	50	Yes
Ibrahima Maïga	Accountant (Mali)	WILD Foundation	50	Yes
Louis Phipps	Programme Assistant	WILD Foundation	70	Yes

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)

Malian NBSAP (2014) identifies the Gourma as one of four areas of great significance for biodiversity. Chief among its threatened species is the northern-most population of African Elephants that represents 12% of all West African elephants. It is classified as "vulnerable", listed on Appendix II of CITES, and protected by a regional MoU.

The elephants undertake the longest annual migration of all elephants to find food, water and refuge over an area the size of Switzerland. 85% of the 233,000 human inhabitants rely on subsistence livelihoods, but increasing human pressure is resulting in desertification, biodiversity and habitat loss, reduced environmental and social resilience, and impoverished livelihoods.

Human population density is increasing sharply (1.9% and 4% per annum in rural and urban areas respectively), while "free-for-all" access to natural resources has led to their over-exploitation and degradation; and local livelihoods have suffered. National statistics show that local livestock ownership has declined for over two decades, while "prestige" herds belonging to distant, wealthy, urban-dwellers have mushroomed and make up around 96% of the livestock using the area. Anarchic habitat clearance blocks the migration route and increases human-elephant, and human-human, conflicts.

The armed conflict of 2012-2013 and subsequent insecurity pose a serious threat both to the elephants (from international trafficking networks), and people. It has opened up social wounds and reversed some project gains; however CBNRM promotes solidarity, and requires unified communities.

The project is the only organisation that continued to operate throughout, demonstrating the resilience of its "war-tested" model, but outsiders currently profit from local efforts, and systems need to be established whereby communities can charge for access to natural resources.

The government is ill-equipped to deal with these mutually reinforcing factors and full local community empowerment is the only hope to sustain the elephants, habitats and people of the Gourma.

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)	Yes

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)

In Mali government capacity to halt the ongoing degradation of its ecosystems remains limited, and anarchic development and natural resource use continue to threaten the 40,000 km^2 elephant range, due to a "tragedy of the commons"..

This project is based on 12 years of field studies, and government and community engagement and outreach. This phase addresses the three main objectives of the CBD by conserving biodiversity (community-forester patrols and habitat protection initiatives); sustainable use (community based NRM, and habitat regeneration for fuel, pasture, and NTFPs); and equitable benefit-sharing (transparent consensus-based community structures).

The Gourma elephants are important as they are one of two desert populations; represent 12% of the West African population; are the most northerly in Africa; make the longest migration of all elephants; function as an umbrella species; and contain important genetic information. The project's habitat protection activities favour the Gourma's biodiversity rich habitats that are key for ecosystem services and resilience.

The project will increase the capacity for the national government and local communities to prevent further illegal elephant killings by ensuring that all participating parts of the community benefit from the conservation of the elephants and their habitats, thus addressing the CITES Appendix I listing.

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

Yes   **if yes, please give details:**

The CBD/ CITES focal point lies within the lead host country partner organization (DNEF) and is involved with project activities where appropriate through the well-established partnership with the Ministry of Environment of the Mali Government.

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)

Working from a "whole system" perspective, the project will intensify its "war-tested" approach developing existing successful methods to increase several types of security while actively promoting community reconciliation in 52 groups of communities spread across the elephant range (CBNRM requires unified communities, and NRM is an excellent way to bring people together) by:

a.   improving livelihoods through empowering the local population in sustainable resource management while protecting habitats and biodiversity.

b.   establishing a community-government response through training and equipment that protects elephants and apprehends poachers.

c.   providing an occupation for young men that has status, enables progression, and prevents radicalisation.

d.   engaging partners and allies for in-kind support, collaboration and co-ordination of activities to achieve greater goals than acting individually.

APPROACH - The strategy is to protect the elephant migration route whilst promoting locally adapted livelihoods; through extending consensus-based community NRM systems throughout the 40,000km^2 elephant range. By preventing habitat destruction, controlling fire and overexploitation, these systems lead to more resources being available for the local population, and habitats that yield useful products such as wild foods in addition to pasture and water. By putting "the commons" under local community management, communities are empowered to better their lives, rather than become victims of resource degradation, much of which emanates from the impact of distant urban centres. This model was originally developed at Lake Banzena - the only accessible water for elephants at the end of the dry season and the lynch-pin of the migration – and was so successful and popular that it is being extended throughout the elephant range, adapted to local conditions.

METHODS - Initial consultative socio-economic and/or ecological studies collect the data required to inform the debate. Community meetings bring clans together to discuss the need for CBNRM. Once there is agreement on the problems and solutions (this may take a series of meetings), the community structures are elected: a management committee of respected elders and "Brigades" of younger men who work with government foresters to enforce local and national laws, and protect natural resources. Training is given in such activities as fire-break construction and management; forestry law; communication; charging outsiders for access to water and pasture to control the influx of large migratory "prestige" herds belonging to distant, wealthy, urban middle classes. Respected occupations are created locally. A range of Malian legislation is used to uphold local resource management. However with the conflict, the priority was the widespread establishment of brigades, and community adoption of CBNRM occurred haphazardly.

MANAGEMENT – the field team consists of a Field Manager, an Administrative Assistant, an Accountant, an anti-poaching co-ordinator, plus a network of trainers and facilitators employed as required. The Field Manager reports to the Project Director every day (when possible) by phone to discuss progress and issues arising. WILD is responsible for financial administration according to reports supplied by the field team and Director. Current security issues prevent the Director travelling to the project zone and so she meets the team and community representatives at the nearest safe town.

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.

The whole elephant migration route is, in principle, protected through intercommunal conventions, and community CBNRM operates to some degree throughout the elephant range, however the effectiveness locally needs to be developed and deepened to achieve :

- Community cohesion, collaboration and solidarity strengthened through the continued development and implementation of local NRM plans with 8 least performing and least socially cohesive communities showing an improvement in both.

- Women's poverty reduced in four key zones through revenue in harvesting and selling NTFPs.

- Youth unemployment reduced through occupations provided in natural resource management as an honourable alternative to joining armed groups.

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- Habitat degradation, water conflict, and human-elephant conflict are significantly reduced through:
  - The re-establishment of the pre-conflict NRM systems at Lake Banzena.
  - The boundaries of the elephant reserve redrawn and legislation revised to support local NRM conventions and designate Lake Banzena and hinterland as a protected core area.
  - Human-elephant conflict in the conflict hotspot of Wami-Masi reduced through introduction of NTFP harvesting instead of gardens on cleared elephant habitat.
  - The Gogoro forest protected from degradation and clearance through introduction of NTFP harvesting
  - Reduction of tree-cutting for charcoal in four key test areas and forest regeneration.

  Local livestock quality and pastoralist livelihoods improved though better provision of pasture and water especially during the driest months of the year (March-June).

- Poverty of agriculturalist communities reduced through NRM increasing access to natural resources and avoided crop destruction.

- Government capacity enhanced to protect elephants and work effectively with local communities through training and joint action with local community structures.

- Improvement in security as increased government presence works with local information to deter banditry.

- Elephants protected from the threat of poachers seeking "blood ivory" through increased community vigilance, and reduction in conflict.

- Monitoring systems developed to evaluate the impact of project activities.

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)

The project improves the livelihoods, well-being and security of the 165,650 population of the elephant range. Livelihoods have been diminishing while impacts from adjacent river towns have been increasing exponentially. Environmental degradation has resulted from a lack of commonly-agreed and respected systems of resource management.

The project's impacts impacts are mutually interlinked and synergistic:

- Improved livelihoods – a model of revenue generation appropriate to forest resources is developed in four test zones comprising 394 households, 1,897 people of which 778 are children, 592 are women and 527 are men.

- This improves gender equity by favouring women's NTFP collection over male charcoal production; improves income as NTFP sale produces more income than charcoal; halts and reverses degradation and loss of forest and its attendant biodiversity; resolves conflict in the most acute zone of Wami-Masi. There is increased incentive for reforestation and the creation of sustainably harvested woodlots thereby improving energy security.

- It provides a complement to the model of revenue generation from the management of pasture resources developed under the previous Darwin project that reverses habitat degradation and improves environmental resilience.

- Improved food security – sustainable use of pasture and forests means that food for both animals and people is available at the end of the dry season, the most difficult time of year, and can be sold to others, while impacts from adjacent urban populations can be controlled by CBNRM systems.

- Improved youth employment – the brigades patrol and work with government foresters to enforce community NRM rules, providing an occupation with local status, reducing radicalisation and improving physical security

- Improved social cohesion as CBNRM brings communities together in a common cause which in turn promotes physical security and social resilience.

- Improved water security and reduction of water-borne disease for the 730 people at Banzena/Tinsabara

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)

The end-point is when elephant conservation is the automatic result of the population's day-to-day activities, and the whole of the elephant range is under functioning CBNRM systems, reinforced by protected area legislation and government rangers. The project will accompany local communities in establishing these systems until the benefits are evident and the practices become habitual. This has already begun to happen. The conflict and post-conflict insecurity has significantly set back the rate of progress, but with the imminent deployment of 50 rangers working initially with the Malian military and local community brigades, past experience suggests that security will improve. In the medium term the project has acquired GEF funding for 5 years from 2017 that will allow it to make significant progress. In 2022 it has been suggested that follow-on support is likely to be available. Supporting the youth with an occupation that carries status, protects elephants and habitats, and prevents radicalization, produces future community leaders with vision. Indeed the project has already witnessed one of its best brigade members become the chief of his clan at Banzena, greatly facilitating project work there. Creating "esprit de corps" between the youth sows the seeds for the future healing of social tensions.

17a. Harmonisation

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

This initiative is a development of existing work. The project began in 2002 with the first grant of $300,000 from the US Secretary of State for Africa, and a donation of two vehicles from the US Embassy for scientific studies completed in 2006 by Save the Elephants. These were followed by 3 years of community engagement and outreach at local and national levels to understand the social dimensions, funded by USFWS. Working with local communities to protect resources and resolve human-elephant conflict began at Lake Banzena in 2009, and subsequently extended across the elephant range at the request of local communities, thanks to the partnership with ICFC and funds from the Darwin Initiative (£240,510), US Embassy ($100,000), USFWS (£65,000) and the Mali government ($200,000). Smaller partners included Save-our-species, Tusk Trust, and others. This strong foundation enabled the project to continue working with communities throughout the conflict when the elephant range fell under the control of jihadist groups, and throughout the post-conflict insecurity. The local community were able to protect the elephants until December 2014 when they were aggressively targeted by international trafficking networks. The project mobilised an anti-poaching response in collaboration with the Malian government and a range of donors.

17b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work?   No – there are none

If yes, please give details explaining similarities and differences explaining how your work will be additional to tis work and what attempts have been/will be made to co-operate with and learn lessons from such work for mutual benefits.

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)

The project has always worked with DNEF as partners, supporting committed individuals, including them in project achievements so that over the years they have risen through the ranks to occupy the top leadership positions.

The project's approach in engaging with local communities is always to listen first, to understand local problems and preoccupations, always valuing local knowledge, and developing solutions built on it. The project acts as facilitator to help bring together the diverse clans and ethnicities to achieve unity by first discussing their experience and agreeing on the problem, and then find an equitable and transparent solution together.

At the same time the local communities have to demonstrate their engagement and contribution if project activities are to go ahead. An example is the contribution of donkeys or camels to help build fire-breaks.

The project team inform themselves as to the state of the security situation throughout the elephant range and plan activities accordingly

A particular pre-occupation is the safety of the brigade members. For this reason they are not armed and are trained in what to do if apprehended. The project does not post on the internet pictures or videos of interviews (despite requests) or anything that might lead to their identities as informants becoming known.

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)

NATIONAL LEVEL MALI

The project uses communications to influence policy makers. It maintains continual contact with key people within government and visits frequently to provide updates and work together in developing solutions, currently in anti-poaching and in creating a protected area to cover the elephant range; formulating national Elephant Management Plan; supporting Mali in joining the Elephant Initiative; and in preparing the concept note and project proposal for the GEF project. As well as supporting community work and anti-poaching in the elephant range this will support the creation of a dedicated protected areas and biodiversity conservation agency.

LOCAL LEVEL MALI

The project is in continual contact with local populations and community structures through workshops and meetings that lead to the establishment of CBNRM. In the past it has produced information brochures and a schools education programme on living with elephants that entered the national curriculum.

INTERNATIONALLY

The project leader communicates with existing/potential project partners through frequent reports, updates, briefing papers and meetings.

Information is disseminated through a quarterly e-newsletter and regular blogs as well as other social media. Project outputs such as reports, maps and photos will be posted on the website http://www.wild.org/mali-elephants/.

The project will communicate with the international conservation and development community through at least two journal publications, and takes every opportunity to give talks and present at workshops, conferences, and lectures (usually around 4-6/year).

Other means of communication include articles in newspapers, magazines and newsletters: press releases, photos, little films and radio & TV programmes whenever there is an opportunity.

The project has been approached by many film makers (including BBC and National Geographic) but up to now the security situation has been too prohibitive.

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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)

- Government foresters will be trained in working with local communities, particularly the brigades.
- Communities are trained in establishing structures to manage natural resources, and charging outsiders for access rights, particularly those of Lake Banzena in restoring the pre-conflict situation and the 8 least socially cohesive and least performing communities in poaching hotspots
- Brigades are trained in NRM, forestry legislation, habitat and wildlife protection, organisation of patrols, working with government foresters, intelligence gathering and elephant data collection, with the ultimate aim of developing a career pathway for the best performing brigade members as auxiliary foresters within DNEF.
- Women are trained in establishing functioning women's associations, income generation and benefit sharing from the gathering and marketing of NTFPs.

This capacity will be secured for the future through the adoption of these practises delivering benefits, and the project will support communities until these practises become habitual. At the same time the new legislation designating the elephant range as a protected area will support local CBNRM systems, providing added incentive for the uptake of the models developed to generate revenue from water, pasture and forests resources.

The government has agreed not to affect the members of the anti-poaching force to other parts of Mali but keep them as a dedicated force for the elephant range.

The engagement of the former National Director of Eaux et Forets as special adviser to the Minister will provide a highly respected and skilled champion for the elephants within government, of sufficient seniority to direct the National Director and build capacity through example and advice to key players; as well as providing continuity within government.

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)

All project outputs will be freely available and posted on the website.

The project plans to write at least one open access journal article.

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.

The following funding only covers the part of the project engaged in CBNRM and community solidarity (although the CBNRM activities support the anti-poaching activities and vice versa)

Confirmed:

International Conservation Fund of Canada £150,000 in 2016/7 £100,000 in 2017/18 and £ 50,000 in 2018/19

Global Environment Facility. The project has been awarded ¾ of Mali's allocation to cover community work and anti-poaching activities in the elephant range, amounting to 3.75 million USD over 5 years. This is planned to start in 2017 at the earliest with the CBNRM work amounting to around £217,500/year ie a total of £435,000 over the project period

Unconfirmed

- Tusk Trust has been giving £30,000/year

IN-KIND:

- USAID – well with manual pump at Banzena £110,000
- AFRICOM repair of Gossi dam £120,000

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
Apply in 2016	USFWS	£32,500	

22c) None

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

(max 100 words)

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: (Max 30 words) Social and environmental resilience is restored to the Gourma region, through wise resource management that protects elephants, habitats, biodiversity and human livelihoods, enabling peaceful co-existence with humans for mutual benefit.			
Outcome: Deeper deployment of locally adapted sustainable resource management that protects habitats, elephants and biodiversity, enhances local livelihoods and well-being, with a focus on four critical zones in the Malian Gourma.	1 The relative progress in CBNRM by 52 communities representing 24,700 people across the elephant range increased as measured by their advancement through the 5 levels of management quality, with the 8 least cohesive and least performing communities (580 households) in the poaching hotspots rising at least one level in implementation of resource management systems (baseline = 1), and improves level of social cohesion among brigades, raising social cohesion score by one category (baseline = 1). Area covered to be determined at start of project. 2 Pre-conflict situation re-established at Lake Banzena (lynch-pin of elephant migration) by April 2018, indicated by: • Zero human presence • Proportion of women and children suffering from ill-effects of water-borne disease reduced from baseline of 54% to 25% by 2018 and 15% by 2019.	1 Project database and maps showing the location and recording relative level of CBNRM quality in relation to the elephant migration route as measured by quantifiable indicators e.g. number of brigade members, existence of management committee, local conventions, maps, protected zones and features, resource management activity such as firebreak construction 2 Project reports, household and revenue survey (2018 and 2019) and field surveys (Jan-July each year for people and cattle), photos and databases	The security situation does not deteriorate and allows the free movement of project staff and local people as well as the use of cameras and GPS without fear of attack and robbery. Hypothesis to test: • Legislation provides added incentive for local communities to adopt NRM systems and embrace additional income generation activities demonstrated by the project with test communities, particularly by the least cohesive societies. • Increased NRM improves the level of social cohesion in the least cohesive communities

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	• All 12 clans (approximately 730 people) have pasture at the end of the dry season; livestock fetches 30% higher prices; and revenue received from charging outsiders for access rights and sale of hay (target = £600 by April 2019) • 1.6 Livestock numbers reduced at Lake Banzena and immediate hinterland from "several thousand head of cattle" in 2015 to 1,000 by April 2019 3 Poverty of women reduced in four key test-zones through NTFP gathering and sale, in place of the less profitable and more destructive tree cutting for charcoal , aiming for an income of £100-£200/year per household, and establishing a model of revenue generation from protected and sustainably managed forests developed as additional and complementary to revenue generation from pasture resources 4 Forest degradation and loss halted, at four key zones by 2017 (baseline tbd at beginning of project) 5 Crop destruction at the human-elephant conflict hotspot of Wami-Masi reduced to zero by April 2019 from a baseline of 5 incidents/year 6 Reduced elephant poaching from a baseline of 57/year in 2015 to 6/year in 2019 7 Biodiversity monitoring established in 4 key zones and controls to measure impact of CBNRM systems	3 Revenue records held by associations 4 Biannual tree-cutting surveys 5 Project reports based on data collected by project brigades 6 Number of elephant illegally killed as registered by community brigades and DNEF records 7 Analysis of sand trap counts (photos) at same time as forest-cutting surveys (four times per year)	Funds/in-kind support are found to sink a well with manual pump to allow the Banzena population to relocate without fear of sabotage of water resources; plus the dam/bridge at Gossi is repaired to relieve livestock pressure on Lake Banzena (negotiations are underway with USAID and AFRICOM). Anti-poaching operations are covered by a separate set of activities but the community work ensures the grass-roots engagement that is crucial to the success of anti-poaching operations

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Outputs: **1**. Revision of existing "Partial Elephant Reserve" text and boundaries re-drawn to cover the whole of the elephant range with Lake Banzena as a core protection zone. Legislation gives government foresters the authority to help the people of the elephant range (population = 165,650) enforce existing CBNRM conventions throughout the elephant range.	1.1. Legislative text validated at local level through community meetings throughout the elephant range (draft text developed prior to the project start date) 1.2 Legislation passed and enters law by April 2017 1.3 Communities aware of provisions within the legislation through a series of meetings with government, DNEF, local community leaders (elected and traditional) in every commune. 1.4 Radio emissions to inform population and transhumants of the zone	1.1 Project reports, photographs of validation meetings 1.2 Legal designation documents 1.3 Project reports, photographs of information and awareness meetings 1.4 Text and recordings	Progress of text development and community engagement occurs as foreseen, with no surprise obstacles
2. Training provided to improve capacity in habitat protection, natural resources management and benefit sharing	2.1 Workshops and training for: • 320 people from 8 least performing communities in key poaching areas • Representatives from 12 clans (at least 48 people) occupying Lake Banzena to re-establish pre-conflict NRM systems 2.2. 50 new DNEF foresters trained in working with community RM structures	4.1 – 4.2 Project reports on workshops and training courses, photos, and maps	Least performing communities wish to improve their resource management
3. Women's associations created to manage and nurture NTFPs in the four test zones, thereby developing a model for sustainable revenue-generation from forest resources. The zones are:	3.1. Number of women attending the three NRM and training meetings a year for the active women of 394 households in the four test zones (20% i.e. 78 households engaged in year 1 rising to 50% ie 197 households by year 3). Area covered to be determined participatively at the beginning of the project)	2.1 Project reports, photos and database.	Markets for NTFPs remain buoyant and continue to bring in between 67% and 88% more than cutting wood for charcoal. This is an unknown, but the products can also be easily transported to markets further afield (the river towns) where the prices are higher (reflecting the cost of transport).

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
• **Banzena/Tinsabara** – supporting the solution to secure Lake Banzena for elephant use only. 161 households. • **Gogoro** – a key forest north of the Porte des Elephants where elephant collect for a month before passing south, under threat of clearance. 74 households • **Wami-Masi** – highest human-elephant conflict due to gardens tended by women on cleared elephant habitat. 85 households • **Kazey-Kazey** – the most advanced community in the management/ revenue-generation from pastoral resources. 75 households	3.2 Number of women's associations created to gather and market NTFPs (4 in year 1 rising to 12 by end of year 3)	2.2. Number of women's associations registered with the project	Willingness on the part of individual households to disclose revenue. If not, calculations can be made if quantities harvested can be determined, using local market rates. Demonstrated value of NTFPs reduces tree cutting from charcoal
4. Habitat, elephant and biodiversity loss and degradation halted and reversed	4.1 Livestock pressure reduced at Lake Banzena 4.2. Tree cutting in four test zones reduced compared to 4 adjacent control zones. Control zones will also determine the degree to which wood cutting has been displaced to adjacent areas. (Baseline areas to be determined participatively at beginning of project, and baseline level of tree cutting also to be determined at beginning of project.) 4.3 Density of rodent tracks as an relatively rapid response indicator of biodiversity in four test-zones and their controls carried out at same time as tree cutting surveys (baseline tbd at beginning of project) **4.4** Project elephant mortality/poaching database	4.1 Monthly cattle surveys Jan-Jul each year 4.2 Biannual tree-cutting surveys 4.3 Sand trap data from quadrats along a degradation gradient conducted at the same time as tree cutting surveys 4.4 see 7	Security situation allows free movement of project surveyors and/ or brigade members can be trained in field survey – anti-poaching activities are aimed at increasing security situation

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
5. Research outputs developed and shared with target audiences: local and national stakeholders/ communities; DNEF foresters and officials; local, regional and national government; international conservation and development community.	5.1. Briefing reports about project progress presented orally at least three times per year at meetings with local, regional and national government representatives; and to project partners bi-annually. 5.2. Newsletter (at least 4 times per year) and blog updates (via the Mali Elephant Project website and Nat Geo blog) about project developments to reach the wider international community. 5.3. Two journal papers submitted by end year 3 (both open access) 5.4. Conference presentations and general talks (at least two per year)	5.1. Project reports, briefing papers and photos. 5.2 Web-links. 5.3 Journal confirmation of receipt 5.4 Presentation/talks & conference agenda	

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)

1.1 Local community validation meetings

1.2 Text finalised

1.3 Text passed through Parliament and enters law

1.4 Community meetings in each commune to ensure that all are aware of the new protected area and its provisions

1.5 Radio emissions support community meetings and reach transhumant herders

2.1 Workshops for least performing communities

2.2 Workshops for Banzena communities

2.3 Workshops for foresters in working with the communities

3.1 Preliminary meetings held with interested women from four test-zones; associations formed; and donkey and carts purchased

3.2 Meetings and training workshops for the women

3.3 Monitoring of revenue received from NTFPs

4.1 Livestock and people surveys at Lake Banzena

4.2 Tree-cutting and rodent surveys in four test-zones

4.3 Maintenance of database recording elephant killings (MIKE data)

5.1 Briefing reports to government and partners

5.2 Newsletter, blog updates, articles, talks and conference presentations

5.3 Journal papers

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
Output 1													
1.1 Local community validation meetings	3	X											
1.2 Text finalised	2		X										
1.3 Text passed through Parliament and enters law	3			X									
1.4 Community meetings in each commune to ensure that all are aware of the new protected area and its provisions	3				X								
1.5 Radio emissions support community meetings and reach transhumant herders	3				X								
Output 2													
2.1 Workshops for least performing communities	27			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2.2 Workshops for Banzena communities	9						X	X					
2.3 Workshops for foresters in working with the communities	1	X											
Output 3													
3.1 Preliminary meetings held with interested women from four test-zones; associations formed; and donkey and carts purchased		X											
3.2 Meetings and training workshops for the women			X	X			X	X			X		
3.3 Monitoring of revenue received from NTFPs							X						X
Output 4													
4.1 Livestock and people surveys at Lake Banzena	18	X	X							X	X		
4.2 Tree-cutting and rodent surveys in four test-zones	3												
4.3 Maintenance of database recording elephant killings (MIKE data)	36	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Output 5													
5.1 Briefing reports to government and partners	12	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
5.2 Newsletter, blog updates, articles, talks and conference presentations	12	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
5.3 Journal papers	12	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

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.

Overall responsibility for the maintenance of monitoring databases rests with the Project assistant in the UK, while the administrative assistant in Mali is responsible for collecting the information to populate it.

The collection of monitoring data has been severely hampered by the insecurity and high frequency of attack and robbery that limits travel. This also limits the use of GPS and cameras for fear of theft preventing the precise definition of areas protected etc. It is hoped that with the imminent deployment of government foresters, this situation will improve.

The project monitors its impact at several different levels combining a whole system perspective with more localised activities that are tested at a small scale and used to demonstrate approaches that deliver clear benefits (e.g. reserve pasture protected with fire-breaks). These can then be taken up by communities across the range.

WHOLE ELEPHANT RANGE IN SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT - The scientific studies of the elephant migration showed that the migration route must be considered in its entirety because actions in one area impact other areas. Interventions in one sector or area risk being overwhelmed by forces elsewhere, and unless impacts from outside the elephant range are accounted for, together with the links between areas within the elephant range, any interventions at more local levels will fail. It is also vital to understand the impact of the context, as for example in the impact of the river towns on the environment of the elephant range, and the solutions this knowledge presents.

The project has therefore developed a suite of indicators to evaluate the progress of CBNRM systems across the elephant range, so that communities engaging in project activities can be monitored in terms of engagement and progress. Although it is difficult to precisely define a community, it is useful for measuring relative progress because the community attached to a name will stay more-or-less constant over the project lifetime (in terms of area covered and people involved).

Monitoring of the passage of legislation to designate the whole of the elephant range as a protected area is straightforward and will increase the incentives for communities to adopt CBNRM.

LOCAL INITIATIVES - First among these is to restore the pre-conflict situation at Lake Banzena whereby the local population had moved to the relocation area and begun to charge "prestige herds" from the river towns for access to water and pasture and cattle numbers at Banzena had dropped dramatically. This process will be monitored in the same way as all project community activities including the 8 poorest performing communities (project reports, photos, agreements) with the administrative assistant responsible.

The same thing applies to the test case of empowering women to develop associations for marketing NTFPs, thereby reducing forest clearance and degradation, as detailed in the log-frame.

FIELD DATA COLLECTION - Data collection on the number of cattle at Banzena, monitoring the level of tree cutting, and biodiversity indicators will be the responsibility of the administrative assistant and extension agent working with competent and trusted brigade members.

Total budget for M&E	£5,000 (not including salaries of monitors)
Percentage of total budget set aside for M&E	5% of Darwin project and 3% of total budget

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)

The project delivers extreme value for money for the following reasons:

- Its systemic approach and shared vision mean that every action has multiple impacts and contributes to several goals compared to a more sector-based vision. The links reinforce each other so that the combined impact is much greater than the sum of a series of individual impacts.
- The systemic vision allows for creative solutions through finding alternative pathways to tackle apparently intractable problems.
- It has been able to engage many communities and help them find solutions, by unifying their diverse clans and ethnicities around a common perspective. Through discussion and workshops they arrive at a common understanding of how their challenges and those of the elephants are linked together and relate to social, political and environmental factors. Once this unified perception is arrived at, the communities are empowered to find solutions, rather than accept solutions and processes determined by the project. They therefore take ownership. This makes it difficult to predict exactly what will happen, and how, but it means that the end result is adapted to local conditions and more resilient to social and environmental impacts.
- It combines local bottom-up action with government top-down support and creates a mutually beneficial synergy between the two. Everyone gains.
- It is rooted in local systems that it helps develop further. This aids take-up.
- Elephants provide a key unifying factor on which to attach sustainable resource management (reconciliation and the rebuilding of social cohesion is another) because this aim provides a common vision that applies to all (rich and poor, powerful and powerless alike) and is agreed by all. CBNRM is then a tool to achieve this vision. It harnesses the power of all types of value, not just monetary.

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).

Capital items consist of a donkey and cart for the women's associations created to promote the marketing of NTFPs which serves to control abusive tree cutting and clearance. This is because NTFPs are currently in high demand and bring more income than wood and charcoal (results of socio-economic study from the first Darwin project. These will remain the property of the women's associations, managed by local committee.

FCO NOTIFICATIONS

Please check the box if you think that there are sensitivities that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise the project's success in the Darwin competition in the host country.

Please indicate whether you have contacted your Foreign Ministry or the local embassy or High Commission (or equivalent) directly to discuss security issues (see Guidance Notes) and attach details of any advice you have received from them.

Yes (no written advice)   √   **Yes, advice attached**   **No**

CERTIFICATION

On behalf of the trustees of WILD Foundation

I apply for a grant of £ 300,000 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.
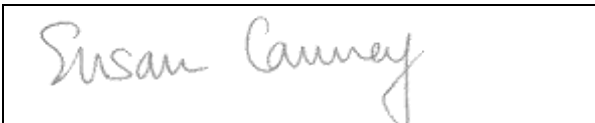
I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the project schedule should this application be successful.

(*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)	DR SUSAN CANNEY
Position in the organisation	Project Director/Leader

Signed**	*Susan Canney*	Date:	1 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**?	√
Have you provided **actual start and end dates** for your project?	√
Have you indicated whether you are applying for DFID or Defra funding? **NB: you cannot apply for both**	√
Have you provided your **budget based on UK government financial years** i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP?	√
Have you checked that your **budget is complete**, correctly adds up and that you have included the correct final total on the top page of the application?	√
Has your application been **signed by a suitably authorised individual**? (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable)	√
Have you included a **1 page CV for all the key project personnel** identified at Question 10?	√
Have you included a **letter of support from the <u>main</u> partner organisations** identified at Question 9?	√
Have you **been in contact with the FCO** in the project country/ies and have you included any evidence of this?	√
Have you included a **signed copy of the last 2 years annual report and accounts** for the lead organisation?	√
Have you **checked the Darwin website** immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	√

Once you have answered the questions above, please submit the application, not later than 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.