



2/4326



Submit by 2359 GMT on Monday 29 January 2018

Darwin Initiative Application for Grant for Round 24: Stage 2

Before completing this form, please read both the Fair Processing Notice on pages 17 and 18 of this form and the [Guidance](#). 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:	RIPPLE Africa
Address:	Whiteleaf Business Centre, 11 Little Balmer
City and Postcode:	Buckingham MK18 1TF
Country:	UK
Email:	
Phone:	

2. Stage 1 reference and Project title

Stage 1 Ref:	Title (max 10 words): Fish for Tomorrow – Community sustainable fisheries management, Nkhotakota District, Malawi
---------------------	--

3. Summary of Project

Please provide a brief summary of your project, its aims, and the key activities you plan on undertaking. Please note that if you are successful, this wording may be used by Defra in communications e.g. as a short description of the project on [GOV.UK](#). Please bear this in mind, and write this summary for a non-technical audience.

(max 80 words)

A community-led conservation initiative protecting endangered, vulnerable and economically important fish species in Lake Malawi, preserving biodiversity and sustaining livelihoods and food security in Nkhotakota District.

The project teaches local communities about natural resource management, family and financial planning and how to reduce the environmental impact of harmful fishing practices. Community members are empowered to work in partnership with government fisheries staff to conserve fish through local bylaws. Women are active participants, reflecting their key role in the value chain.

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: Malawi	Country 2:
Country 3:	Country 4:

5. Project dates, and budget summary

Start date: July 2018		End date: March 2021		Duration: 2 years 9 months	
Darwin funding request (Apr – Mar)	2018/19 £86,987	2019/20 £111,223	2020/21 £116,059	Total £314,269	
Proposed (confirmed & unconfirmed) matched funding as % of total Project cost					34%

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	Furber	Makwinja	
Forename (s)	Geoffrey	Rodgers	
Post held	CEO	District Fisheries Officer	
Organisation (if different to above)		Department of Fisheries, Malawi	
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

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)

What year was your organisation established/ incorporated/ registered?	RIPPLE Africa was incorporated 7 th July 2003 and registered with the UK charity commission on 16 th April 2004 – registration number 1103256 and SC043082 (Scotland). We are also members of CONGOMA (Council for Non Governmental Organisations in Malawi) - registration number C267/2005 and are registered with the NGO Board of Malawi – registration number NGO/1/16/095
What is the legal status of your organisation?	NGO Yes Government No University No Other (explain)
How is your organisation currently funded?	(Max 100 words) RIPPLE Africa currently receives no public or government funding. Our funding comes from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one off and regular donations from individual supporters • grants from Trusts and Foundations • regular donations from corporate donors

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • small elements of community fundraising • donations towards the costs of running the RIPPLE Africa base in Malawi from visitors and volunteers.
Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts?	Yes

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.

1. Title	Genesis Charitable Trust
Value	£336,539
Duration	3 years (from 1 August 2016 to 31 July 2019)
Role of organisation in project	Provision of funding for scaling up of the Fish for Tomorrow conservation project.
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the contract/award.	<p>This funding has enabled RIPPLE Africa to introduce Fish for Tomorrow into the northern part of Nkhata Bay District and into Nkhotakota District. It is funding a full version of the project in the two southern fisheries strata of Nkhata Bay District and a more limited version of the project in the remainder of Nkhata Bay District and in Nkhotakota District, including the key Chambo breeding area of Chia Lagoon.</p> <p>This funding will be reallocated if we are successful in this round of the Darwin Initiative which will allow us to focus more of our Genesis funding on extending our activities in those strata where we are currently only able to offer a limited service.</p> <p>The Darwin Initiative funding will be allocated to Nkhotakota strata where we are currently only able to offer a limited service and will fund all project activities in these strata.</p>
Client/ independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail, address, phone number).	Tom Hoyle

2. Title	Fruitful Office
Value	£195,460
Duration	5 years – monthly donations
Role of organisation in project	Corporate Donor
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the	Fruitful Office pay RIPPLE Africa a contribution towards tree planting for every fruit box that they sell. This has enabled us to fund our tree planting and forest conservation project over a number of years.

contract/award.	While not directly relevant to this project, this successful partnership demonstrates RIPPLE Africa's ability to successfully run long term conservation initiatives to our funder's satisfaction.
Client/ independent reference contact details	Mr Vasco de Castro Unit 2 Burgess Business Park Parkhouse Street London SE5 7TJ United Kingdom

3. Title	Fondation Eagle
Value	£171,012
Duration	5 years – funding different project applications
Role of organisation in project	Regular Funders
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the contract/award.	<p>Fondation Eagle have been a long term supporter of RIPPLE Africa. They have supported various environmental projects, including a new vehicle for the environmental team and supporting fish conservation in Chia Lagoon. They also funded the construction of 2,500 fuel efficient cookstoves which was the start of the Changu Changu Moto project and enabled RIPPLE Africa to seek further investment and move towards registering the project under the UN Clean Development Mechanism Carbon Credit Scheme.</p> <p>In addition, they have supported many of our educational and healthcare projects including training new primary school teachers, building new classrooms and making infrastructure improvements at our local hospital.</p> <p>Only some of the funding received has been towards this project, but our repeated success in securing funding for projects from this trust in a very competitive environment demonstrates that we deliver agreed outcomes and satisfy funders' expectations.</p>
Client/ independent reference contact details	Ms Bhavna Dziurzynski Fondation Eagle

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)

Aims (50 words)

RIPPLE Africa strategically empowers local communities to manage their natural resources sustainably, to understand how their livelihood activities impact on the natural environment and how they can secure a better future by making simple, cost effective long term behavioural changes. We provide a hand UP not a handout!

Activities (50 words)

RIPPLE Africa's runs large scale conservation projects – community forest conservation supported by the provision of fuel efficient cook stoves and tree planting, and community-led conservation of fisheries through protection of nursery and breeding areas, and regulating fishing practices. Smaller and more local education and healthcare projects are also run.

Achievements (50 words)

- helping 43,000 people build fuel efficient cookstoves, saving 86,000 bundles of firewood each week
- 96 active forest conservation committees
- 6 million trees planted
- 139 fish conservation committees actively protecting fish in Lake Malawi
- 15 schools, 3 clinics and a hospital supported
- Runner Up, St Andrew's Prize for the Environment 2015

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>RIPPLE Africa</p> <p>www.rippleafrica.org</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to lead the project): (max 200 words)</p> <p>Joyce Banda, Fish Conservation Project Manager, has led RIPPLE Africa's fish and forest conservation projects for eight years. Joyce has developed strong working relationships with District Fisheries staff and fishing communities in Nkhosokota District</p> <p>Force Ngwira, RIPPLE Africa's Country Director, will be responsible for project delivery. He has worked for RIPPLE Africa since 2004 and has successfully led the Fish Conservation Project since its inception.</p> <p>Geoffrey Furber, RIPPLE Africa's Founder and CEO provides strategic guidance and business development for all projects. Geoff spends time each year in Malawi, monitoring activities to ensure project outcomes are achieved</p> <p>Claire Mollatt is responsible for project monitoring and evaluation and is based in Malawi, spending time with communities to ensuring accurate data collection. Sam Manda supports Claire with data collection and supports Joyce with community engagement.</p> <p>Pam Haigh, RIPPLE Africa's UK General Manager, co-ordinates project reporting and contract management, ensuring financial, quality and technical compliance.</p> <p>John Balarin RIPPLE Africa Fisheries Advisor, has a 35 year history in aquatic resource management for sustainable livelihoods. He has worked with national and local governments, fishing communities and donors eg USAID, UNDP and World Bank and is acting in a voluntary capacity as expert advisor.</p>
<p>Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution? If not, why not?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

<p>Partner Name and website where available:</p> <p>Nkhotakota District Fisheries Office</p>	<p>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project): (max 200 words)</p> <p>Rodgers Makwinja, District Fisheries Officer - overseeing all fisheries staff activities in Nkhotakota, strategic decision making and coordination between district government and village leaders to enforce bylaws.</p> <p>Enforcement officer (Charles Mandala) – enforcing fisheries rules and regulations backing up community bylaws for sustainable fishing, supporting patrols and inspections.</p> <p>Human resource officer (Kenneth Kalembo) – general administration duties relating to fisheries staff.</p> <p>Technical assistants – carry out extension work, mentoring communities on data collection, reporting to District Fisheries Officer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratum 5.3 - Macfillard Ching'ani, Joyce Guma • Stratum 5.4 - Judith Chulu, Samson Chipala • Stratum 5.5 - Kennedy Gabriel (currently on transfer) <p>Malawi's Department of Fisheries pays the salaries of all these fisheries staff. However, the Fish for Tomorrow project is providing funding to enable the technical assistants to be able to travel to fishing communities and undertake their role as partners in fish conservation. Without this funding, the Fisheries Department cannot afford to operate or maintain vehicles and the support enables these activities to be done effectively.</p>
<p>Have you included a Letter of Support from this institution? If not, why not?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

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. These should match the names and roles in the budget spreadsheet.

Name (First name, surname)	Role	Organisation	% time on project	1 page CV or job description attached*?
Geoff Furber	Project Leader	RIPPLE Africa	20% - donated as in kind contribution	Yes
Force Ngwira	Country Director	RIPPLE Africa	35%	Yes
Joyce Banda	Project Manager	RIPPLE Africa	70%	Yes
Claire Mollatt	M & E Manager	Consultant	35%	Yes
Sam Manda	M & E Coordinator	RIPPLE Africa	70%	Yes
Pam Haigh	Compliance and Quality Assurance	RIPPLE Africa	20% - salary not paid through this project	Yes
Rodgers Makwinja	Partner	Nkhotakota District Fisheries	70% - salary not paid through the project	Yes
*If you cannot provide a CV, please explain why not.				

11. Problem the project is trying to address

Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of biodiversity and 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?

(Max 300 words)

70% of people in Malawi, one of the world's poorest countries, live in poverty. Malawi's population has grown from 5 million in 1975 to over 18 million and this growth is identified in the National Fisheries Policy as the main driver contributing to poverty, environmental degradation and unemployment. There is 80% livelihood and food security dependency on natural resources contributing to biodiversity loss - particularly noticeable in Lake Malawi, home to over 800 fish species.

In the 1970s, fish provided 70% of animal protein, but consumption has declined dramatically from 14kg/capita/year, to less than 6kg with serious nutritional implications for pregnant and lactating women, children and HIV sufferers. This also means a decline in economic benefits along the fish value chain and allied industries estimated at \$1 billion/year.

Certain species have become over-exploited and fishers have changed effort, using longer and smaller meshed nets to catch Usipa (a freshwater sardine) – including anti-malaria mosquito nets. This indiscriminate use of undersized mesh means fish are caught before they have a chance to breed. Two of the most common species, *Oreochromis karongae* and *Oreochromis lidole* (known as Chambo) are now classified as endangered on the IUCN Red List. The problem has been exacerbated by a lack of government enforcement of regulations due to chronic underfunding of fisheries, and previous failed top-down attempts to introduce participatory fisheries management. Without action, Usipa stocks will also soon diminish.

Fish for Tomorrow educates government, local leaders and lakeshore communities that the whole beach livelihood, associated value chains and nutritional well-being depend on sustainable fisheries behaviour. Women are actively engaged to stop illegal fishing that is damaging their family livelihoods. The nutritional benefits of the project benefit the broader Malawian population and those in neighbouring countries who rely on fish in their diets.

12a. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Your project must support the objectives of one or more of the agreements listed below. Please indicate which agreement(s) will be supported and describe which objectives your project will address and how. Note: projects supporting more than one will not achieve a higher score.

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

12b. Biodiversity Conventions

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

(Max 500 words)

This project supports the following CBD articles:

8 – in Situ Conservation

(b) management of areas needing special measures to conserve biological diversity (fish nursery and breeding areas in one of the world's most biodiverse lakes)

(d) promoting protection of species in their natural surroundings

(i) educating fishers about the impact of their actions on biodiversity, empowering them to seek sustainable solutions through their inclusion in Fish Conservation Committees

10 - Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity

(d) supporting implementation of remedial action where biological diversity has been reduced, through the introduction of by-laws, regulation of mesh sizes and protection of breeding and nursery areas

(e) contributing to the development of efficient strategies for sustainable use of fish through partnership with local government and Fisheries

13 - Public Education and Awareness

(a) promoting and encouraging understanding of the need to conserve fish - through community activities, newspaper, TV, radio and public awareness meetings

The project supports Malawi's CBD targets as follows:

Target 4

- integrating biodiversity values into national, sectoral and local development policies and plans, through development of local bylaws with relevant stakeholders and national and district Fisheries offices

Target 7

- managing aquatic biodiversity through harvesting within ecological limits – establishing the baseline of ecological limits through monitoring Chambo fish catches and nursery and breeding area conditions
- Maintaining closed seasons during breeding times for endangered species

Target 11

- minimising anthropogenic pressures on the vulnerable lake ecosystems by protecting fish nurseries and breeding areas, encouraging plant growth and minimising damage caused by drag nets

Target 12

- increasing mesh sizes and protecting breeding and nursery areas will help prevent extinction of known threatened species

Target 15

- ensuring important ecosystems are safeguarded and restored. The project empowers members of fishing communities in Nkhotakota to take ownership of their fish resource, diversify their livelihoods, access family planning services and manage fish stocks sustainably. The project encourages women to become active project participants

The project addresses the following AICHI targets:

Target 1

- ensuring that residents of Nkhotakota understand the value of biodiversity to economy and food security, and how they can conserve and use fish stocks sustainably

Target 4

- supporting government departments and stakeholders to achieve or implement plans for sustainable production, marketing and consumption of resources

Target 6

- ensuring fish stocks in Lake Malawi are harvested sustainably through implementing restrictions on fishing effort allowing fish to reach breeding age before being harvested

- ensuring fish stocks are harvested legally through providing resources to support District Fisheries and communities to enforce bylaws.
- managing fish stocks using ecosystem based approaches e.g. tracking condition of protected areas and amounts of target fish caught
- contributing to national recovery plans, due to our strongly collaborative working relationship
- encouraging communities to fish in ways that have limited impact on threatened species or vulnerable ecosystems
- ensuring impact of fisheries is within safe ecological limits, by having protected breeding areas, by enforcing gear limits that only catch mature fish, and by encouraging fishers to have smaller families to reduce overall pressure on natural resources.

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

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

Force Ngwira, RIPPLE Africa's Country Director, has met with Dr Lilian Chimphepo, Principal Environmental Officer and Christopher Manda, CBD representatives in Malawi, part of Malawi's Environment Affairs Department. They are excited by the project and we will be liaising regularly with them to update them on progress and provide input to CBD planning and the Malawi National Environmental Report. They have referenced RIPPLE Africa in country reports.

We are also working in partnership with Fisheries Department and regularly meet with Alex Bulirani, Malawi's Director of Fisheries. A letter of support from him will be provided.

12d. Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Please detail how your project will contribute to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs).

(Max 250 words)

The project addresses the following Sustainable Development Goals:

1 End Poverty – improving income security for those who rely on fishing for their livelihood by ensuring that fish are better protected and numbers of endangered species increase. This will benefit fishers, their families and those who service the fishing industry, including women - the main fish sellers.

2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture – sustaining fish as an important animal protein available for all Malawians. Fish contains valuable micronutrients of particular benefit to pregnant and lactating women, children and those with suppressed immune systems.

5: End Gender Inequality – empowering women to become active members of Fish Conservation Committees thereby influencing fishers' behaviour and educating both men and women about family planning, as rapid population growth is a key reason for the overfishing. Blue Ventures found that using this approach in Madagascar increased women's participation in community activities, possibly due to the fact that they feel they have more control over their futures. <https://blog.blueventures.org/ten-years-providing-communities-freedom-choose/>

14: Life below water – despite the fact that this goal refers specifically to marine rather than freshwater fish, the project will improve life below water in Lake Malawi through introducing and enforcing fish conservation by-laws and managing on-shore fish nursery sanctuaries.

17: Partnerships for the goals –building the capacity of Malawi's Department of Fisheries, supporting them with resources, skills and expertise, as well as working closely with them in co-design of policies for sustainable use and protection of Lake Malawi's fish resources.

13. Methodology

Describe the methods and approach you will use to achieve your intended Outcome 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.)

RIPPLE Africa has run a community-based fish conservation initiative in Nkhata Bay District since 2011. 119 fish conservation committees actively operate in partnership with District Fisheries staff here, engaging all levels of the community to ensure commitment to sustainable fishing practices. This includes Traditional Authorities, Chiefs and District Fisheries staff as well as fishers and other community members. Local bylaws have now been signed in Nkhata Bay. This project will see the full introduction of the project into the three northerly fishing strata of Nkhotakota District.

RIPPLE Africa and Nkhotakota District Fisheries staff will tackle the project aims by:

- working with the District Executive Council to ensure commitment to the project at the highest political level within Nkhotakota District
- educating all levels of communities about the dangers of overfishing and catching fish before they are able to breed
- educating men and women on the impact of family size on demand for fish and on family income
- identifying and protecting Chambo breeding and nursery areas
- helping fishing communities run Fish Conservation Committees (FCCs) in the project area (concentrating first on those in Chambo nursery/breeding areas). Some have already been set up and training is now taking place. FCCs comprise non-fishers (60%) and fishers (40%) to ensure that all members of the community benefitting from sustainable fishing practices are represented. We aim for 30% of members to be women to ensure gender inclusivity. FCCs are also trained in management and the use of funds from fishing permits and fines
- empowering FCCs to issue local fishing permits, conduct patrols, and confiscate illegal fishing gears
- mobilising FCCs to protect breeding and nursery sanctuaries and educate other community members about the value of protecting baby fish
- enabling FCCs to enforce a 3 month closed fishing season on gill nets. This will protect Chambo and benefit other species caught as bycatch
- establishing minimum net sizes for the freshwater sardine (Usipa) and respecting breeding seasons
- offering advice on family planning to fishing community members and signposting them to health support.

RIPPLE Africa environmental team and Fisheries staff lead the project and will monitor FCC activity to ensure that the project is on track to achieve its aims. They will also work with key stakeholders such as traditional authorities, chiefs, councillors and other government officials to ensure that there is commitment to, and ownership of, the approach from all community levels.

Reporting will be done through FCC data monitoring and analysis using an Access Database system. Catch data for Chambo and Usipa is being collected and RIPPLE Africa's Monitoring and Evaluation Manager will supervise and provide feedback. The Fish Project Manager and Malawi Country Director will track project activities and tasks against work plan and manage expenditure through local systems already well established for the project. RIPPLE Africa's Chief Executive and UK General Manager in the UK will oversee these systems and ensure quality is maintained. Accounts will be checked monthly by Geoff Furber as Project Leader and will be audited as part of this project.

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 (i.e. during the life of the project) and b) in the long-term (after the project has ended). Please describe the changes for biodiversity and for people in developing countries, and how they are linked. When talking about people, please remember to give details of who will benefit and the number of beneficiaries expected. 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 500 words)

By protecting fish breeding areas and banning mosquito nets, literally millions of young Chambo (and Usipa) will grow larger and breed. As only larger Chambo fish are caught, more remain in the lake to breed. This, combined with protection of breeding areas and seasons, will help to increase Chambo fish stocks (and other fish using these areas as nursery grounds or hideaways) improving biodiversity in the long term. The same will apply to Usipa.

Where the project has been working for a number of years, Chambo fishers are reporting that they are catching more and larger Chambo and other species of fish as bycatch - some of which have not been seen for years. They are making more money because larger fish fetch higher prices, increasing their overall income. We have some preliminary findings which support this and are now gathering further data to verify this.

Fishing communities will benefit from the project in both the short and long term as they will have more available household income from fish products, resulting from healthier and more resilient fish stocks. The increased amount of larger fish available in markets will provide more animal protein, and the micronutrients essential for pregnant and lactating women, young children and those with compromised immune systems, improving the health status of many along the market path.

By extending the project's reach into new areas of Nkhotakota District, the expected changes of this next phase are:

- Continued increases in stocks of two species of endangered Chambo fish
- Increased community understanding of the negative impact of continuing current fishing practices
- Reduction in the use of illegal fishing gear, and a ban on mosquito nets
- Increased community understanding of family size impact on natural resources and household income and how to control this
- Increases in the average sizes of fish being caught, especially of Chambo and Usipa
- Increase in monthly income for fishers
- Income generation for FCC operations through collection of local permit fees (this will eventually lead to the project becoming self-financing)
- Effective long-term operation of 62 FCCs, protecting all fish species along Lake Malawi's shoreline and inland lagoons in Nkhotakota district. 42 of these will be in the Darwin project area.

Beneficiaries will be:

short-term (i.e. during the life of the project)

- Approximately 4,200 fishers and 17,500 fisher family members experience increased household income and understanding how their activities affect biodiversity
- A further 40,000 community members, such as shopkeepers, benefit from fishers' increased income
- 120 women actively participate on conservation committees and experience higher levels of wellbeing
- District Fisheries Officer and his team empowered and better able to perform their duties

long-term (after the project has ended)

- 404,000 total population of Nkhotakota District have more availability of animal protein from fish and those who service the fishing industry benefit from the increase in fish and in the income of fishers and processors
- if the project successfully extends over the whole of Lake Malawi, the total population of Malawi (currently 18 million) have additional access to animal protein.

15. Gender

All applicants must consider whether and how their project will contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender. Explain how your project will collect gender disaggregated data and what impact your project will have in promoting gender equality.

(Max 300 words)

Women will form 30% of Fish Conservation Committee membership to reflect the important role of women in fishing communities and ensure that their voices are heard. Although most fishers are male, women are the main processors and sellers of fish locally. Therefore any project which increases fish stocks will benefit the women that sell the fish.

Wives and daughters of fishermen will benefit from increased household income. In Nkhata Bay District, we know that more fishers' children are able to attend secondary as their fees can now be paid. We will be gathering data on the impact of the additional funds on women and girls as part of our quarterly socio-economic surveys.

The project will send a clear message to both men and women that the current uncontrolled level of population growth is unsustainable and has an adverse effect on livelihoods and natural resources. We are including the impact of large family size on natural resources in our training and signposting communities to health clinics for contraceptive advice. We are following the approach of Blue Ventures in Madagascar where they are reporting greater engagement of women in their community and believe that it is because women feel that they have more control over their future through control of their family size.

We will collect data on the number of women who are members of Fish Conservation Committees as part of our data reporting process. We will carry out quarterly socio-economic surveys of women to assess their wellbeing and their involvement levels. These will identify any issues that we need to address which undermine women's role in the project. Detailed case studies will be produced to encourage women in other communities to engage with the project and to demonstrate to men the important role that women play in fish conservation.

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)

Our intention is that RIPPLE Africa will eventually be able to step away and pass the responsibility for the project over to the communities, mentored by District Fisheries staff. However, this will take time as the government currently has insufficient funding to be able to do this. Once the project is operating effectively, and fishers are seeing increased revenue and we are getting accurate daily records of fish catches, we will be able to introduce local fishing permit charges. Properly managed, these can be used to continue to support the activities and contribute to the national fisheries budget, enabling Fisheries staff to be better funded long

term.

In partnership with the Director of Fisheries RIPPLE Africa are also seeking funding to extend the reach of the project into districts not currently benefitting from Fish for Tomorrow or PACT's project (see 17b). Empowering communities to work in partnership with local leaders would allow them to lobby for district budgets to provide the financial means to sustain this approach. RIPPLE Africa would then be able to eventually reduce their input and phase out as communities become self funding.

17a. Harmonisation

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

(Max 200 words)

The project is an extension of RIPPLE Africa's work in Nkhata Bay, funded so far through a combination of awards, donations and grants from charitable trusts. RIPPLE Africa over the years has fine-tuned its approach, simplified education materials and 119 FCCs are now protecting 25 fish breeding / nursery areas and educating other community members at 169 beach landing sites. District Councilors have signed new bylaws on fish conservation in Nkhata Bay District and Police and Judiciary assist in cases where the FCC are unable to effect change by arresting offenders and imposing higher fines.

Malawi's Director of Fisheries is keen to work with RIPPLE Africa to replicate the approach along the lakeshore as more and more communities are interested in adopting this community led initiative. We have already started the introduction of the project in Nkhotakota District, concentrating first on the area around Chia Lagoon in the south of the district, one of Malawi's main Chambo breeding areas. This project will enable us to introduce the project in a more intensive way in the three northern strata of Nkhotakota District, where educational activity has already begun and some conservation committees have been established but are not yet trained.

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

If yes, please give details explaining similarities and differences. Explain 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.

We are aware of:

- the USAID funded Malawi Fisheries Integration of Society and Habitats (FISH). This is a five year project launched in September 2014 in the very southern district of Lake Malawi, Mangochi, and the three small lakes to the south, namely Malombe, Chiuta and Chilwa. We are working closely with the partnership running this project, led by PACT and the Mangochi District Fisheries Officer, Thomas Nyasulu. Mr Nyasulu was previously the DFO in Nkhata Bay District and our project partner here. We have since met regularly with him about the project.
- We presented our project to TAs and Senior Chiefs from Mangochi at the start of their project and much of their methodology has been developed based on the work that we have done in Nkhata Bay District.
- The USAID project also links with a 5 year FAO project, jointly working on Lake Malombe

18. Ethics.

Outline your approach to meeting the Darwin Initiative's key principles for research ethics as outlined in the [Guidance](#).

(Max 300 words)

We work closely with local officials to ensure that we meet all legal obligations in both Malawi and the UK and provide accurate data for use in Malawi's national Fisheries policy and for research programmes.

RIPPLE Africa has data protection policies in place and will not publish personal information without the agreement of those concerned. By involving local people so closely in the project, we can directly assess the impact of the project on the well-being of those it is supporting and this will be measured through our evaluation process.

We will always follow best practice where there is no legislation and are both a UK registered charity and a member of CONGOMA (Council for Non-Governmental Organisations in Malawi) and therefore follow their guidelines and reporting requirements.

We have many years of experience of running projects with local communities in Malawi and a strong track record of successful outcomes of community and government partnership approaches to conservation issues.

We are always conscious of health and safety safeguards and offer training and support on this to all our staff and work closely to improve conditions for the communities where we work. One of the add on projects that we are introducing is to encourage fishers to use lifejackets made locally from plastic bottles and grain sacks to improve safety of fishers.

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 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)

Education and communication sharing underpin this project.

- RIPPLE Africa work closely with Fisheries Officers to explain the scheme and its impact on biodiversity and to lobby the District Government to establish fisheries bylaws.
- We jointly meet with all levels of community members – Group Village Headsmen (Senior Chiefs), Chiefs and community members to explain the project's impact on biodiversity and future household income and food security, gain their commitment to the project and sign local bylaws to restrict the use of illegal fishing tackle and protect breeding areas and sanctuaries.
- Conservation Committee members are recruited and trained by RIPPLE Africa using our very simple, visual education tools (see below) –this information is then passed to fishers and other community members. We work closely with FCCs to help them continue to communicate effectively with local people and address concerns raised.



- RIPPLE Africa visit local primary and secondary schools to explain biodiversity in Lake Malawi and the project to the fishers of tomorrow - we organise school visits to breeding areas to demonstrate the project's impact and stress the importance of not fishing with mosquito nets.
- RIPPLE Africa also liaise with the District Executive Committee, District Councilors, District Education Officer and District Environmental Officer to share knowledge of the project and how it can support local policies.

Data about the project and its impact on biodiversity and poverty alleviation will be shared extensively via Malawi's CBD and fisheries network. It will also be shared publically through RIPPLE Africa's website (www.rippleafrica.org) and through partnership activities with other organisations such as SmartFish, USAID and FAO projects and our other funders.

We also regularly issue press releases to national newspapers about the project and its impact on fishers in our area and have strong links with national and local newspapers and radio and television stations.

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)

Through the project, RIPPLE Africa are developing the capacity of local people along the lakeshore to become custodians of the lake for themselves and future generations. By empowering them to work in partnership with District Fisheries officers we have created a successful integrated matrix approach to fish conservation. The project strongly encourages women to become more active participants in environmental conservation, in recognition of the important role of women in the value chain. By including education on family planning, we are adopting a similar approach to Blue Ventures in Madagascar, who have found women with more control over spacing of pregnancies are more active in community activities and more confident.

We are also building the capacity of District Fisheries staff by training them to work in partnership with fishers to improve biodiversity in the lake rather than concentrating solely on enforcement. We will also be collecting data on fish catches on a more regular basis than Fisheries are currently able to do, enhancing their knowledge of biodiversity, fish catches and fishing gear in their area. Travel and subsistence support also helps Fisheries carry out their

work more effectively.

This approach is also being used to address other environmental issues, such as forest conservation and tree planting and our fuel-efficient cookstove project. RIPPLE Africa partners with local community members at all levels, particularly women, and with District Forestry officials who benefit from the support that local communities are able to give their overstretched teams to meet Government CBD.

All of our projects are long term – it is very difficult to change patterns of behaviour over a two or three year period, but the success of our approach will be demonstrated by increased knowledge of biodiversity and its potential impact on poverty alleviation.

21. Access to project information

Please describe the project's open access plan and detail any specific funds you are seeking from Darwin to fund this.

(Max 250 words)

We strongly believe in sharing all information about our projects with others. There will be open access to the data gathered during the project and to the project evaluation results through links on our own website and we will also share results through social media and our links with partners such as The St Andrew's Prize for the Environment (we were Runners Up in 2015 and are through to the second round in this year's Award). We are also happy to share details of the project through previous funders such as Mohammed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund and SmartFish, part of Commission de l'Océan Indien.

In addition, our monitoring and evaluation findings will be shared with the CBD focal point and through them with international universities specialising in fisheries and biodiversity - raw data can be made readily available for others to use.

RIPPLE Africa will also seek other opportunities to share the success of the project (and any problems faced and how we have overcome these) through links with other conservation organisations to spread knowledge about our approach and its results.

Because we are working so closely with District Fisheries staff, there will be open access of all findings for other fisheries department staff along the lakeshore and we will also publish results in national and local press, TV and radio.

Darwin support will part fund our M&E Manager and data collection focal points, and help upgrade our IT hardware for data handling.

Project Monitoring and Evaluation

Measuring Impact

22. Logical Framework

Darwin projects will be required to report against their progress towards their expected Outputs and Outcome if funded. This section sets out the expected Outputs and Outcome 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) Lake Malawi fishing communities manage fish resources sustainably and improve biodiversity through protection of endangered species, breeding areas and regulation of fishing gears thereby securing their livelihoods and improving nutrition.			
Outcome: (Max 30 words) Fishing communities, supported by Fisheries Department in Nkhatakota District are empowered and take ownership of managing sustainable fishing methods, reducing illegal practices and protecting breeding/nursery sanctuaries for Chambo and Usipa.	0.1 420 Fishers and community members are trained and active members of 42 Fish Conservation Committees by July 2019. Of these 125 will be women 0.2 All Chambo breeding / nursery areas in Nkhatakota District will be identified by September 2018 and will be protected by FCC members by March 2019 0.3 Fishers earnings stabilised by catching larger Chambo and Usipa and therefore earn a higher income from April 2019 until project end compared with baseline (to be established)	0.1 Database of FCC membership and fishing gear used, training records, minutes of meetings and surveys of FCC activities 0.2 Mapping of Chambo breeding areas and assessment of natural habitat, quarterly tracking of FCC activities, such as net confiscations and awareness training 0.3 Catch quantities and income from fish sales per month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish Bylaws for Nkhatakota District are signed off by District Councillors and Executive Committee before the project start date • Traditional Authorities, Senior Chiefs, Village Headsmen, community members and District officials are fully supportive of the project and its introduction into the new areas • Catch data systems developed in Nkhata Bay District can be replicated in Nkhatakota District and we are able to find fishers who can be trusted to give accurate data on a daily basis.
1. Establish and train 42 fish conservation committees in Fishing Strata 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5 and local leaders and support them in managing fishing practices in their beach areas	1.1 42 Fish Conservation Committees each containing 10 members - 30% of whom are female and 60% of whom are non fishers - established by Dec 2018. All member details and details of fishers and fishing gears used at the landing sites where they will operate entered	1.1. Details on database of FCC membership and date established 1.2 Record of training and post training questionnaires to ensure that members understand their roles and responsibilities, their understanding of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community members, particularly women, agree to join Fish Conservation Committees • Data collected is accurate • Baseline survey is done to

	<p>onto database by March 2019.</p> <p>1.2 Training of all FCCs will cover fish management and conservation, impact of family size and other family lifestyle choices on the natural environment, finance issues and committee management. Priorities for training committees will be in the Chambo nursery and breeding areas, but all FCCs will be fully trained by July 2019</p> <p>1.3 All FCCs will be encouraged to actively patrol their beach area, confiscate nets and train other members of their community – from when they are fully trained until March 2021. This FCC led training will mirror the training that the FCC received, including the importance of fish as a natural resource and of sustainable fishing as a means of improving nutrition and household income. It will also highlight the impact of continued human population growth on future prospects for both fisheries and livelihoods.</p> <p>1.4 More than 125 female FCC members feel that they are empowered and fully involved in the project and fish value chain by December 2019</p>	<p>the project and their understanding of how lifestyle changes will positively impact on natural resource availability and income that they can generate</p> <p>1.3 Record of FCC activities including net confiscations, questionnaire and survey results, photos, case studies and feedback from extension workers</p> <p>1.4 Survey of female FCC members to measure their involvement levels and wellbeing, case studies</p>	<p>enable us to identify increased understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCC members are active and effective • Men are fully prepared to involve women in committee activities and family decisions • Socio-economic survey developed is effective in assessing women's views • Minimal political interference
<p>2. Identify all Chambo breeding and nursery areas and ensure that protection measures and sanctuaries are in place for all of these</p>	<p>2.1 Survey Strata 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5 between July and September 2018 to identify and map Chambo breeding areas</p> <p>2.2 Provide more in depth training on Chambo and Usipa breeding cycle, seasons and need for protection of</p>	<p>2.1 Accurate map of all breeding areas</p> <p>2.2 Training record of FCCs in breeding areas and photos</p> <p>2.3 FCC activity logs, case studies, questionnaires to test understanding of this issue with FCC members and other</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chambo breeding areas are easy to identify • Community members are willing to become members of the Fish Conservation Committees in breeding areas and understand

	<p>breeding areas. Particularly the importance of preserving natural vegetation such as reeds in shoreline areas, which offer protection for the Chambo fry. Also the importance of using larger mesh and closed season for Usipa. Targeting those FCCs who will be closest to the sanctuaries and responsible for their protection by November 2018.</p> <p>2.3 Ensure that FCCs stop all fishing activities in breeding areas, respect the closed season and confiscate all mosquito nets (used for Chambo and Usipa) as a priority by February 2019</p> <p>2.3 FCC members will train non FCC community members on the importance of protecting fish breeding areas and respecting closed seasons by July 2019</p>	members of the community	<p>their responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish Conservation Committees in the breeding areas are active and effective at carrying out their protection duties • Community members understand the need for the project and the importance of natural vegetation in breeding areas • Political support for establishing nursery sanctuaries • Climate change does not cause lake to recede exposing sanctuaries
<p>3. Measurement systems for Chambo and Usipa catches and income of fishers are developed and introduced, collecting accurate data to measure the success of the project and feedback to community management</p>	<p>3.1 Develop the catch monitoring system to operate in this project area by Dec 2018</p> <p>3.2 Data collectors are selected and trained by April 2019</p> <p>3.2 From April 2019, collect data on a daily basis for selected data collection fishers and establish economic value chain that the catch will generate segregated for Chambo and Usipa</p> <p>3.3 Fisher's income generated by catches of larger Chambo and Usipa will increase by an average of 20% per annum against the baseline figure from April 2019 until project end.</p>	<p>3.1 Details of fishermen on the database and written details of how the monitoring system will operate</p> <p>3.2 Training records</p> <p>3.3 Records of daily catches – quantity of fish caught and their size - entered onto monitoring database, lifestyle questionnaire results, case studies</p> <p>3.4 Income earned by catch data monitors, survey responses from non catch data monitors to establish validity of measurement system</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The monitoring system being used in Nkhata Bay District can be easily replicated in Nkhotakota District • Fishers selected as data collectors are honest and provide accurate data • Baseline assessment of income is available to measure impact of the project on household income

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)

Agree with District Council and Department of Fisheries the issuance of By-laws for Nkhotakota District, modelling on Nkhata Bay

- 1.1 Agree with Department of Fisheries which staff will work in the chosen areas – reassign staff as required
 - 1.2 Meet with Fisheries extension workers, Traditional Authorities, Group Village Headmen and Village headmen to launch project and agree where the FCCs will be located in communities where this has not already been done. Share by-laws.
 - 1.3 Meet with community members to launch the project, discuss how the project will benefit community members and seek volunteers to join the FCC where this has not yet been formed. Particular focus on encouraging women to participate
 - 1.4 Generate an FCC register and enter details of all fishers at beach landing sites onto RIPPLE Africa database
 - 1.5 Adapt current training materials to include training on how population increase affects natural resources and on family planning with reference to local support available
 - 1.6 Train newly formed FCCs in management - priority to be given to those located near breeding areas
 - 1.7 Monitor and support all FCCs to ensure that they are following local bylaws and spreading the message to other community members on the project
 - 1.8 Develop socioeconomic survey to assess women's wellbeing and involvement and carry out initial survey to establish baseline
 - 1.9 Carry out quarterly surveys to compare results against baseline
-
- 2.1 Carry out survey with District Fisheries to identify all Chambo nursery and breeding areas and develop simple management plans
 - 2.2 Produce map of breeding and nursery areas of Chambo
 - 2.3 Work with Fisheries to identify the breeding cycle and seasons of different sizes of Usipa
 - 2.4 Provide additional training to FCCs in nursery and breeding areas on protection of their breeding Chambo population, in particular the need to protect reeds and other protective vegetation
 - 2.5 Explain the biology of the fish and the need to allow juveniles to grow, and initiate a program to confiscate all mosquito nets for Chambo and Usipa
 - 2.6 Monitor activities of FCCs in breeding areas to ensure that the lagoons etc are being adequately protected
 - 2.7 Develop community survey in key breeding areas to assess knowledge of all community members on need to protect breeding areas
 - 2.8 Carry our quarterly surveys to assess community knowledge, including baseline survey to monitor effectiveness of training
-
- 3.1 Agree with partners how the catch monitoring system will work in Nkhotakota District
 - 3.2 Select and train the fishers who will collect the data and the extension workers who will monitor the data collection process
 - 3.3 Train the administrator in Nkhotakota to input the catch data onto the spreadsheet system already developed for Nkhata Bay District
 - 3.4 Collect the data and monitor to ensure that it is accurate
 - 3.5 Collect prices of different sizes of fish from the market to enable income assessment to be kept up to date
 - 3.6 Collect family income data through socio-economic survey to measure change in impact of fish caught on households

23. 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 (starting from Q2 July 2018)

Please add/remove columns to reflect the length of your project. For each activity (add/remove rows as appropriate) indicate the number of months it will last, and shade only the quarters in which an activity will be carried out. The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

Activity	No. of months	Year 1			Year 2				Year 3			
		Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1												
1.1 Agree with Department of Fisheries which staff will work in the chosen areas – reassign staff as required	2											
1.2 Meet with Fisheries extension workers, Traditional Authorities, Group Village Headmen and Village headmen to launch project and agree where the FCCs will be located in communities where this has not already been done. Share by-laws.	6											
1.3 Meet with community members to launch the project, discuss how the project will benefit community members and seek volunteers to join the FCC where this has not yet been formed. Particular focus on encouraging women to participate	6											
1.4 Generate an FCC register and enter details of all fishers at beach landing sites onto RIPPLE Africa database	6											
1.5 Adapt current training materials to include training on how population increase affects natural resources and on family planning with reference to local support available	1											
1.6 Train newly formed FCCs - priority to be given to those located near breeding areas	5											
1.7 Monitor and support FCCs to ensure that they are following local bylaws and spreading the message to other community members on the project	33											

Activity	No. of months	Year 1			Year 2				Year 3				
		Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
1.8	Develop socioeconomic survey to assess women's wellbeing and involvement and carry out initial survey to establish baseline	1											
1.9	Carry out quarterly surveys to compare results against baseline	11											
Output 2													
2.1	Carry out survey with District Fisheries to identify all Chambo nursery and breeding areas and develop simple management plans	1											
2.2	Produce map of breeding and nursery areas of Chambo	1											
2.3	Work with Fisheries to identify the breeding cycle and seasons of different sizes of Usipa	3											
2.4	Provide additional training to FCCs in nursery and breeding areas on protection of their breeding Chambo population, in particular the need to protect reeds and other protective vegetation	5											
2.5	Explain the biology of the fish and the need to allow juveniles to grow, and initiate a program to confiscate all mosquito nets for Chambo and Usipa	5											
2.6	Monitor activities of FCCs in breeding areas to ensure that the lagoons etc are being protected and to monitor fish numbers	33											
2.7	Develop community survey to assess knowledge of all community members on need to protect breeding areas	1											
2.8	Carry out quarterly surveys to assess community knowledge	11											
Output 3													
3.1	Agree with partners how the catch monitoring system will work in Nkhotakota District	1											

Activity	No. of months	Year 1			Year 2				Year 3			
		Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
3.2 Select and train the fishers who will collect the data and the extension workers who will monitor the data collection process	4											
3.3 Train the administrator in Nkhotakota to input the catch data onto the spreadsheet system already developed for Nkhata Bay District	1											
3.4 Collect the catch data and monitor to ensure that it is accurate												
3.5 Collect prices of different sizes of fish from the market on a quarterly basis to enable income assessment to be kept up to date	11											
3.6 Collect family income data through socio-economic survey to measure change in impact of fish caught on households	11											

24. 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)

The key indicators that we are tracking are as follows:

Social indicators

- Number and kind of community awareness activities – including meetings, training sessions etc
- Number and composition of fish conservation committees – with contact details, information about number of female members and non fishers
- Training of FCCs – how many sessions have been held and post training impact
- Participation / activities of FCCs (effectiveness) – minutes of meetings, records patrolling, confiscated nets, details of awareness activities with other members of their communities
- Assessment of wellbeing of women in fishing communities – whether they feel fully involved in the project, their attitudes to family planning and understanding of the impact of the project on the environment and family income. This will be collected for both female FCC members and other women in fishing communities to assess the impact of being on the FCC on wellbeing
- Awareness of biodiversity and human impact on the environment for male community members, to include their knowledge of the impact of family size and attitudes to family planning.

Fishing Effort and compliance indicators

- Numbers of gear owners and fishing crew members
- Gear types and sizes – tracking progress in adoption of gears permitted under the new district bylaws
- Tracking payment of national permit fees and where local fees have been introduced, the amounts being paid.
- Confiscations of illegal fishing gears and fines issued

Catch and Protected Area indicators

- Quantities of Chambo and Usipa fish caught by fishers
- Changes in average size of fish caught – assessed using standard measurement systems for small, medium and large Chambo and Usipa
- Progress on protecting Chambo breeding areas (condition, activities carried out by FCCs etc)
- Respect of the closed seasons for Chambo and Usipa

Economic indicators

- Average prices for small, medium and large Chambo and Usipa being sold in local markets
- Fishers daily and monthly income based on numbers of small, medium and large fish caught multiplied by the current average prices
- Household income surveys – this will enable us to see whether fishers are able to save

money to tide them over the closed season for Chambo and Usipa fishing

- Fishers saving activities – in areas of Nkhata Bay District we now have fishers opening bank accounts and able to pay secondary school fees.

RIPPLE Africa and Fisheries extension workers are responsible for gathering all data, under the supervision of Sam Manda and Claire Mollatt. This data is then fed to the project management team. We will select trusted fishers at a number of landing sites to collect daily catch data which will give us data on catch sizes.

We have developed an Access Database to record all details of fishers. We have also recently developed a catch data monitoring system, based on an Excel spreadsheet, which we are currently using in Nkhata Bay District to sample catch information for Chambo and Usipa in Nkhata Bay District. Socio-economic data collection systems are currently being developed.

Number of days planned for M&E	M&E is on-going for the length of the project with daily catch data being collected and input and quarterly surveys carried out.
Total project budget for M&E	£32,588
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E	6%

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 and Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund’](#) document and considered the implications of payment points for cashflow purposes.

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

25. 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)

Our budget is based on our experience of running the project in Nkhata Bay District and in the south of Nkhatakota District. We have developed a methodology for the project, which is extremely cost effective – for example training is carried out in situ wherever possible to minimise costs. However, the distance covered by the project in Nkhatakota District is over 200 km and fishing villages are often accessed via dirt tracks, making access difficult – we have had to allow for this in our travel and subsistence costs.

District Fisheries Department staff costs do not form part of this budget. However the funding that they receive for travel from national government is extremely low and they are only able to make limited visits to fishing communities for data collection and enforcement activities. Through this project, we are enabling Fisheries staff to actively support fishing communities to improve biodiversity and increase income from fishing, improving their relationship with fishers.

We do not allocate funding directly to Fisheries Department – RIPPLE Africa’s Fish Project Manager authorises fuel and other travel and subsistence payments for Fisheries staff. This ensures that all expenditure is under RIPPLE Africa control and we have longstanding, audited accounting procedures in place for costs in Malawi managed through our Country Director in Malawi and CEO in the UK.

The total project cost covers the introduction and project management in the whole of Nkhotakota District but Darwin funding will be used to run the project only in the three fishing strata in the north of the district. Matched funding will be used to run the project in the rest of the district and all costs have been allocated proportionately to reflect this. We have assumed an exchange rate of 950 Malawian Kwacha to the pound and an increase in costs of 3% per annum.

26. 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)

The only capital items that we are purchasing with Darwin funding are three motorcycles for use by the RIPPLE Africa extension workers supporting the project and three which will be owned by RIPPLE Africa but allocated to Fisheries Extension Workers. These are essential to enable them to reach the fishing communities to carry out their work as most of these are not accessible via public transport and the long dirt roads between fishing villages and the main road mean that pushbikes cannot be used.

At the end of the project, these motorcycles will be reallocated to other RIPPLE Africa environmental team members if funding constraints mean that we are no longer able to run this project. However, we are confident that we will secure sufficient funding to enable us to continue to support the FCCs after the Darwin funding ceases.

27. 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:

- We have secured funding for the project from Genesis Charitable Trust, which will fund part of the project over the first two years as the funding was awarded in 2016 for a three year period. The funding was for the introduction of the project on a limited scale over the whole of Nkhotakota District but the trust are happy for us to reallocate the money if we are successful in obtaining funding from the Darwin Initiative so that we are able to operate the project more intensively in the south of Nkhotakota with their funding and use Darwin funds in the three northern strata.
- We have also secured funding for three years from the Yorkshire Wildlife Foundation (letter of support from their Chair is attached) for the project
- We have three years funding for the project from a corporate sponsor, the Good Little Company.

Geoff Furber and Pam Haigh's salaries will not be allocated to the project at all – Geoff is an unpaid volunteer and Pam's salary will be funded from income from other projects.

27b) 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
Dec 2017	Conservation Food and Health Foundation	\$XX,XXX	We have previously applied for this in the past and been unsuccessful so have not included it in our budget sheet
Jan 2018 (second round application)	St Andrew's Prize for the Environment	\$XXX,XXX First Prize \$XX,XXX Runners Up	We will hear in March if we have been selected as one of the three finalists – we were a runner up in 2015. Also not included in our budget sheet
January 2018	Vimiti	£XX,XXX	We are confident that this funding will be obtained so this is included in the budget sheet

27c) None

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

(max 100 words)

28) Financial Management Risks

Explain how you have considered the risks and threats that may be relevant to the success of this project, including the risks of fraud or bribery.

(max 200 words)

Risks include:

- Due to climate change, Lake Malawi's level drops, exposing Chambo nursery grounds. FCCs in breeding areas are trained to relocate juvenile fish to deeper water and provide on-going protection.
- Mass distribution of mosquito nets by donors has previously led to nets being illegally used for fishing rather than malaria prevention. Future mosquito net distribution in the district will be accompanied by education on their proper use.
- Lack of support from national, district and local governance. We have the support of the Director of Fisheries and District Government and work closely at all levels to secure ongoing support
- Fishers see conservation as a government responsibility and won't engage with the project. Simple messages and educational aids communicate the benefits of involvement.
- NGOs in Malawi are seen as an opportunity for communities to make money through the payment of large 'allowances'. RIPPLE Africa has a strict policy of funding only essential project expenditure.
- Corruption - transparent accounting procedures ensure that corruption is prevented and all items of expenditure have to be authorised by RIPPLE Africa's project manager.
- Fraud - accounts are checked by Geoff Furber and Pam Haigh to guard against possible fraud and are externally audited.

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) 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 RIPPLE Africa,

I apply for a grant of £314,269 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 last two sets of signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual reports

Name (block capitals)	Geoffrey Furber
Position in the organisation	CEO

Signed**

Date:

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 ?	Yes
Have you read and can you meet the current Terms and Conditions for this fund?	Yes
Have you provided actual start and end dates for your project?	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 6 and Question 10?	Yes
Have you included a letter of support from your <u>key</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 Monday 29 January 2018 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 - Fair Processing Notice

The purpose of this Fair Processing Notice is to inform you of the use that will be made of your personal data, as required by the Data Protection Act 1998.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is the data controller in respect of any personal data that you provide when you complete your application, the grant acceptance and the supplier forms.

Defra will use your personal data primarily for the purpose of processing your application for Darwin Initiative funding. By submitting an application, applicants have agreed to any disclosure of the information supplied (including the content of a declaration or undertaking) which Defra considers necessary for the administration, evaluation, monitoring and publicising of the Funds (as detailed in the paragraphs below).

A completed application form signifies agreement to place certain details of successful applications (i.e. name, title, total grant value, project summary, lead organisation and location of project work) on the Darwin Initiative websites listed below. A completed application form also signifies agreement to send data on the project proposals during the application process to British Embassies and High Commissions outside the UK, including those outside the European Economic Area.

<http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk>;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/the-darwin-initiative>;

Application form data will also be processed by Defra contractors dealing with Darwin Initiative administration, monitoring and evaluation (working within relevant data protection rules).

Defra may be required to release information, including personal data and commercial information, on request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 or the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However, Defra will not permit any unwarranted breach of confidentiality nor will we act in contravention of our obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998. The Grantee shall assist and co-operate with the Department (at the Grantee's expense) to enable the Department to comply with its disclosure obligations under these enactments.

We may use information, including personal data, to test computer systems to ensure that they work effectively and efficiently and to develop new systems in order to improve efficiency and the service that we provide to you and other persons. Any use of information for testing or developing computerised systems will be conducted in a secure manner in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 to safeguard the privacy of the information that you have supplied.

Defra's Personal Information Charter, which gives details of your rights in respect of the handling of your personal data, is on the Defra section of Gov.uk. If you don't have access to the internet, please telephone the Defra helpline 08459 33 55 77 and ask to speak to the Data Protection Officer for a copy of the Information Charter.