Applicant: **Dixon, Richard**
Organisation: **Royal Society for the Protection of Birds**

DIR25S2\100072

Linking food security and forest conservation under REDD+.

The Gola REDD+ project protects Gola Rainforest National Park (GRNP) by helping forest-edge people sustainably increase crop yield, keeping annual deforestation of their community forests (CF) <2.5%. However any deforestation risks losing High Conservation Value (HCV) CF, which provides habitat for globally-threatened species and connects GRNP with protected Liberian forest. We will identify the most important CF for biodiversity and empower communities to protect it through tailored training to increase food security, linking it with zero-deforestation in HCV areas.

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title Mr
Name Richard
Surname Dixon
Organisation Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Tel
Tel
Email
Address

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title	Mr
Name	Richard
Surname	Dixon
Organisation	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Tel	
Tel	
Email	
Address	

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Organisation
Name	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Phone (Work)	
Email	
Website (Work)	

Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q3. Project title:

Linking food security and forest conservation under REDD+.

What was your Stage 1 reference number? e.g. DIR25S1\100123

DIR25S1\100186

Q4. Country(ies)

Which eligible country(ies) will your project be working in? Where there are more than 4 countries that your project will be working in, please add more boxes using the selection option below.

Country 1	Sierra Leone	Country 2	*No Response*
Country 3	*No Response*	Country 4	*No Response*

Do you require more fields?

⊙ No

Q5. Project dates

Start date:	End date:	Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):
01 April 2019	31 March 2022	3 years

Q6. Budget summary

Year:	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Total request
Amount:	£127,142.00	£87,867.00	£132,749.00	£ 347,758.00

Q6a. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?

⊙ Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

Total project costs are £X with partners providing a total of £X.

Of this RSPB will provide £X, GRC will provide £X, CSSL will provide £X and USAID (USAID grant - already confirmed) will provide £X.

Partners matched funding will be provided in the form of staff costs.

Q6b. Proposed (confirmed and unconfirmed) co-financing as % of total project cost	23%

Section 3 - Project Summary

Q7. 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 <u>GOV.UK</u>. Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

The Gola REDD+ project protects Gola Rainforest National Park (GRNP) by helping forest-edge people sustainably increase crop yield, keeping annual deforestation of their community forests (CF) <2.5%. However any deforestation risks losing High Conservation Value (HCV) CF, which provides habitat for globally-threatened species and connects GRNP with protected Liberian forest. We will identify the most important CF for biodiversity and empower communities to protect it through tailored training to increase food security, linking it with zero-deforestation in HCV areas.

Section 4 - Lead Organisation Summary

Q8. Lead organisation summary

Has your organisation been awarded a Darwin Initiative award before (for the purposes of this question, being a partner does not count)?

⊙ Yes

If yes, please provide details of the most recent awards (up to 6 examples).

Reference No	Project Leader	Title
24-013	Chris Magin	Balancing water services for development and biodiversity in the Tana-Delta
22-015	Nicolas Tubbs	Enhancing habitat connectivity through sustainable development around the Gola Rainforest.
19-011	Ian Barber	Conserving the critically endangered Bengal Florican a Terai flagship species
19-012	Dr Rob Sheldon	Saving the critically endangered spoon-billed sandpiper
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*
No Response	*No Response*	*No Response*
Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts? If you select "yes" you will be able to upload these. Note that this is not required from Government Agencies.	⊙ Yes	

Section 5 - Project Partners

Q9. Project partners

Please list all the partners involved (including the Lead Organisation) 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 Letters of Support for each partner or explain why this has not been included.

N.B. There is a file upload button at the bottom of this page for the upload of a cover letter (if applicable) and all letters of support.

Lead Organisation name:	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Website address:	https://www.rspb.org.uk/about-the-rspb/at-home-and-abroad/international/
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	RSPB will have overall responsibility for the project with GRC/CSSL staff responsible for day-to-day project implementation. Richard Dixon, Greater Gola Landscape Programme Manager will manage the project. Richard and Bjorn Horvath (Technical Supervisor for Livelihoods) have considerable agricultural expertise and will lead agricultural work. Benjamin Barca (Technical Advisor for Research) will lead biodiversity work. RSPB's Centre for Conservation Science (CCS), will provide technical support with biodiversity monitoring/HCV identification, led by Fiona Sanderson. CCS wants to increase its capacity in Social Science and will recruit a Social Scientist in Year 3 to monitor impact of the project on HCV awareness raising within the communities, helping improve GRC/CSSL capacity in this area, and on Food Security/Diet Diversity. The RSPB social scientist will be supported by Professor Andreas Kontoleon, Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge. Andreas has been closely involved in monitoring the impact of the REDD+ project since its launch. His CV is attached.
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⊙ Yes
Have you provided a cover letter to address your Stage 1 feedback?	⊙ Yes

Do you have partners involved in the Project?

⊙ Yes

1. Partner Name:	Gola Rainforest Conservation (GRC)
Website address:	www.golarainforest.org/
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	GRC implements the Gola REDD+ project. Directors (one from each partner and the communities (the Paramount Chief) guide implementation. GRC have staff trained in agricultural development, community development and ecological monitoring, who will work in partnership with the RSPB technical staff. GRC are still developing financial monitoring/ reporting capacity and will be supported by RSPB's international finance unit and receive training as part of this project.
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⦿ Yes

2. Partner Name:	Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL)
Website address:	www.birdlife.org/africa/partners/sierra-leone-conservation-society-sierra-leone-cssl
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	CSSL are a partner in GRC and as such have a Director on the board. The board makes managerial and strategic decisions for GRC. One aspect of the Gola strategy over the next 5-10 years is to increase direct involvement of CSSL in the implementation of newly funded projects, thus reducing the role of RSPB in direct implementation and management and building the capacity of CSSL to take over that role. CSSL's main expertise is in community development and research. CSSL has a portfolio of projects in other parts of the country with a livelihood and research focus and have worked to save the Gola forest for over 20 years, through the civil war and Ebola crisis. As part of the Darwin project CSSL will begin to take up supervision and fieldwork roles with guidance from RSPB/GRC technical and managerial staff. Over the first year of the project the GRC will train and build capacity of CSSL staff, so that they can gradually take over responsibility for the Community Development and have greater involvement in research activities by year three.
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⦿ Yes

3. Partner Name:	The National Protected Area Authority (NPAA)
Website address:	Not presently operational

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	The Minister of Agriculture and Forests is a GRC board member and the National Protected Area Authority (NPAA) is a GRC partner. It has a Director on the GRC board and is central to decision making and capacity building. They have expertise in GIS mapping, which assists GRC in forest monitoring. The NPAA will not have staff on the ground involved in direct implementation of this project or receive Darwin grant but will provide political support for the project and ensure the experience from the project is fed into the developing Community Forest legislation/policy/guidelines and jurisdicational REDD process, and that the project is kept informed of developments in those processes, to maximise project impact.
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⊙ Yes

4. Partner Name:	Malema communities
Website address:	Not applicable
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	Each GRNP chiefdom has a Gola Community Development Committee ("GCDC"), which, in consultation with Project staff, approve REDD+ activities being implemented in the Chiefdom. Staff working for GRC are hired from the seven forest edge chiefdoms, including Malama. Community leaders, farmer associations, producer and women's groups have all expressed an interest in participating in the project. A letter from the Paramount Chief, Head of the GCDC for Malema Chiefdom is provided. In addition, a letter of support from the elected representative of the seven Chiefdoms Paramount Chief Kanneh, a director on the GRC board is attached.
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	⊙ Yes

5. Partner Name:	*No Response*
Website address:	*No Response*
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	*No Response*
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	○ Yes ○ No

6. Partner Name:	*No Response*
Website address:	*No Response*
Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):	*No Response*
Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?	○ Yes ○ No

If you require more space to enter details regarding Partners involved in the Project, please use the text field below.

No Response

Please provide a cover letter responding to feedback received at Stage 1 if applicable and a combined PDF of all letters of support.

⤓ **RSPB answers to reviewers comments 1001 86 RSPB**
🗓 03/12/2018
🕘 12:26:15
🅿 pdf 520.12 KB

⤓ **Darwin R25 St 2 - 100186 RSPB Letters of Su pport**
🗓 03/12/2018
🕘 11:42:19
🅿 pdf 1.01 MB

Section 6 - Project Staff

Q10. Key project personnel

Please identify the core staff 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	% time on project	CV attached below?
Richard Dixon	**Project Leader**	10	Checked
Fiona Sanderson	RSPB Lead Research (UK)	20	Checked
Benjamin Barca	RSPB - Lead Biodiversity conservation (Sierra Leone)	30	Checked
Bjorn Horvath	RSPB – Lead livelihood development (Sierra Leone)	15	Checked

Do you require more fields?

⊙ Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	CV attached below?
Jeneba Menjor	GRC -Agricultural Extension Officer	60	Checked
9 positions in all see CV pdf file	GRC- Community Development and Reserch Technicians	60	Checked
Abdulai Dauda	CSSL - Biodiversity officer	33	Checked
To be recruited	CSSL Community Development coordinator	100	Checked

Please provide 1 page CVs (or job description if yet to be recruited) for the Project staff listed above. Ensure the file is named clearly, consistent with the named individual and role above.

⤓ **Darwin R25 St 2 - 100186 RSPB CVs final 2**

🗓 03/12/2018

🕓 12:00:07

🗎 pdf 1.3 MB

Have you attached all Project staff CVs?

⊙ Yes

Section 7 - Problem Statement & Conventions

Q11. 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?

GRNP (68,515ha of the Upper Guinea biodiversity hotspot, Map1) supports 60 globally threatened species (GTS), including the regionally important western chimpanzee (CR)population, the largest known pygmy hippo (EN) population, forest elephant (EN), white-breasted guineafowl (VU) and white-necked picathartes (VU).

The first REDD+ project in West Africa protects GRNP and surrounds by working with forest communities. A 4km leakage-belt encompasses 122 settlements. Inhabitants are amongst the poorest in Sierra Leone (average annual household income $150). 77% rely on subsistence agriculture; 85% derive income from one livelihood. Only 4% produce enough rice to meet their annual needs. Problems include: low yields, storage losses, poor market-access and gender-inequality (Of the 19% female-headed households, only 42% have access to land). Increasing population/poor soil fertility drives agricultural encroachment into community forest which has no formal protection, but provides vital habitat for GTS and may link blocks of GRNP and Gola Forest National Park (GFNP) in Liberia.

Currently, communities receive REDD+ payments in exchange for not encroaching on GRNP. Under MOUs (2015-2021), communities also receive agricultural training designed to improve livelihoods/reduce the need to exploit community forest. However, MOUs lack targets, and since 2015, deforestation-rates in community forests have risen relative to baseline.

Whilst some deforestation is inevitable, identifying and protecting High Conservation Value Community Forest (HCV-CF) would reduce negative impacts. Linking HCV-CF protection to tailored support to increased yields on existing farmland through revised MOUs (Conservation Agreements) could benefit livelihoods and GTS. Embedding HCV-CF into Community Forest Management Plans (post-project) would secure an effective mechanism for reducing deforestation.

Project communities (Map2), are 'squeezed' between GRNP and GFNP, threatening to encroach important GTS habitat. This project will enable communities to demonstrate how the REDD+ project can help them conserve HCV-CF while meeting livelihood needs.

If necessary, please provide supporting documentation e.g. maps, diagrams etc., using the File Upload below:

⤓ **Map 1 Project Area in country**	⤓ **Map 2 project Area**
📅 03/12/2018	📅 03/12/2018
🕒 12:02:21	🕒 12:01:09
📄 docx 63.6 KB	📄 pptx 1.24 MB

Q12. Biodiversity Conventions, Treaties and Agreements

Q12a. 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)

Q12b. 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.

The second National Biodiversity Action Plan (2017-2026) lists Gola (http://www.golarainforest.org/) as one of 4 major in-situ projects implemented in response to the first NBSAP. Government, NGO and community commitment to this project is demonstrated by these partners role (as directors) in the GRC – whose mission is to protect the GRNP. This Darwin project will contribute to Strategic Output B1 of the second NBSAP.

The UNFCC and CBD have collaborated to encourage parties to both Conventions to ensure that activities at national level including REDD+ projects are mutually supportive. The CBD is working to advise Parties on the application of (i) safeguards for biodiversity and (ii) indicators to assess the contribution of REDD+ to the objectives of the CBD and (iii) monitor impacts of REDD+ projects on biodiversity.

GRNP, and the use of the REDD+ voluntary carbon project (the first for West Africa) to fund park protection

is viewed by the Sierra Leonean government as a test case for managing forested protected areas. It has been awarded the CCB (Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance) Double Gold Standard for both Climate Change Adaptation and Biodiversity.

The project MOUs/Conservation Agreements with communities living around the protected area will be key to forest protection as well as to community wellbeing. Working out how these can be developed/refined to maximise benefits to communities' and forest biodiversity will determine the REDD+ project's success. Lessons from this project relevant to safeguarding, monitoring the impact of REDD+ projects on biodiversity will be available to the CBD Secretariat and can help guide future REDD+ projects nationally and regionally.

Q12c. Is any liaison proposed with the CBS/ABS/ITPGRFA/CITES/CMS/Ramsar focal point in the host country?

⦿ Yes

Please give details:

We have shared the project documents with the CBD focal point in Sierra Leone, Mr Momodu Alrashid Bah (Director, Environment Protection Agency) who has said he would like to support the project. He has invited project staff to meet him to discuss the project in detail, but this will happen after the application deadline. We will forward a report of the outcome of this meeting as soon as it is available.

Q12d. Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

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

The Gola REDD project contributes to eight of the SDGs (for full details see https://climatecare.org/gola-rainforest-protection/

The two main SDGS this project contributes to are:

Two: End Hunger, achieve food security/improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

Fifteen: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Relevant targets and how we will achieve them:
Target 2.3 Double agricultural productivity/incomes of small-scale food producers.

The target group are some of the poorest people in Sierra Leone (average annual household income is $150)). We believe (based on existing work) that it is possible to improve (at least double) agricultural productively sustainably so that by EOP 70% of target households are food secure and have increased diet diversity.

Target 2.4 Ensure sustainable food production systems/implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity/production.

We will incentivise sustainable food production (on existing farmland) to reduce deforestation in the REDD+ buffer zone to below 2.5% and in Community Forest of High Conservation Value (HCV) to zero.

Target 15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests, and increase afforestation use of terrestrial ecosystems,

sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems (halt deforestation).
We will support communities to identify areas of HCV community forest for conservation and farms to be intensified for increased agricultural production. These areas can (post-project) be included in Community Forest Management Plans when communities engage in the National Community Forest process.

Section 8 - Method, Change Expected, Gender & Exit Strategy

Q13. 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.).

This may be a repeat from Stage 1, but you should update or refine as necessary.

With communities, we will review (Y1) impact of their MOU with GRC on food security and deforestation in CF (using REDD+ project baseline data). We will raise target communities' awareness (output 2) of the importance of HCV-CF and help them identify priority interventions for transforming yields on existing agricultural land. Using Free Prior Informed Consent, we will secure their agreement to trial the 'protecting forest for increased food security' concept (the concept).

Also in Y1 we will (output 1) identify potential HCV-CF most under threat of deforestation in the target area, using freely available satellite data (Global Forest Watch/Landsat) to model threat as a function of e.g. population pressure and topography. Existing biodiversity data (species records, community knowledge of HCV-CF and/or conflict with biodiversity - gathered through participatory mapping) will be used to identify potential HCV-CF to be surveyed to confirm presence/assess relative abundance of globally-threatened species (GTS). We will use a stratified sampling design, and standardised methods developed for GRNP, to conduct camera trapping, chimpanzee nest survey transects, forest-dependent bird point-counts and community-led field sign surveys for GTS including pygmy hippo, forest elephant and chimpanzee. Joint species distribution/abundance will be modelled in relation to habitat variables and spatially overlaid with deforestation threat, CF patch size and connectivity data to identify areas most important for biodiversity/most threatened.

With communities, we will develop Village Land Use Plans (output 3) that identify HCV-CF to be protected i.e. 'Zero deforestation zones' and areas for sustainable agricultural intensification (output 3). (Village boundaries/use areas will be mapped via participatory consultation/on-the-ground GPS collection).

In Y2/3 we will trial the concept (output 4) in target villages. Farmers will be trained (through Farmer Field School system established in project area) in practices to meet agricultural targets by end Y2. Meanwhile communities will develop bylaws/forest patrols to protect HCV-CF and engage in the national CF Process so, post-project, HCV-CF sites can be included within CF Agreements (output 5).

By EOP the impact of trials will have been evaluated and results fed into the MOU revision process (2021-2022). Revised MOU (Conservation Agreements) will commit GRC to delivering tailored agricultural support for 5 years in return for communities continuing to protect HCV-CF.
We will monitor/evaluate impact on:
1. HCV-CF by assessing deforestation rates for 5 years pre-project/at EOP in project/matched control areas in a Before-After-Control-Intervention design using GLAD alerts (http://data.globalforestwatch.org/datasets /194662b1470e4c5f81aa370395c75485_8) and ground truthed to identify causes of deforestation using methods developed under Darwin 23-029.
2. Food security by comparing baseline/EOP sample household surveys on food-insecurity/dietary-diversity (using Food Insecurity Access Scale/Household Diet Diversity Score).

3. On communities' support for the concept through an EOP assessment in control/ intervention villages of local communities' knowledge of the importance of maintaining HCV-CF to the REDD+ project.

We will share results throughout Malema chiefdom (using context-specific approaches, e.g. radio/roadshows/demonstration farms) and with GRC directors/Paramount chiefs through the GRC governance framework. By EOP GRC will commit to use Conservation Agreements to roll-out the concept across Malema chiefdom and pilot it in 3 other chiefdoms (output 6).

Q14. 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.

By EOP target communities (182 households, 1,494 people, 778 men, 716 women,) in Malema chiefdom will have demonstrated that food-security can be improved sufficiently to allow them to protect as 'Zero-deforestation zones' ca. 25% (1000-1,500ha) of High Conservation Value Community Forest (HCV-CF) i.e. habitat for globally-threatened species.
In addition, a commitment will have been made to roll-out this demonstration across the remaining 19 villages (2,017 people, 1,050 men, 967 women) of the Malema chiefdom, and in the long term the entire leakage-belt (22,000 people, 11,440 men, 10,560 women).

Changes for biodiversity:

Sixty globally-threatened species (including western chimpanzee, pygmy hippo, forest elephant, whitebreasted guineafowl and white-necked picathartes) will benefit from habitat conservation:
By EOP deforestation rates will fall to zero in 1000-1,500ha of HCV community forest (ca.25% of the target area) and remain below 2.5% (REDD+ threshold) in the rest.

Changes for people:

We expect to close the hunger gap experienced by the target population:
By EOP 70% of the 182 target households (i.e.127 households, 1,045 people, 50% Female, 50% male) are food secure (have a HFIAS score of <11) compared to the 2017 baseline of 4% and have increased diet diversity (Diet diversity HH (Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) to at least 0.33 by EOP.

In the long term

Expected outcome:
70,000ha of Upper-Guinea rainforest and food-security of 22,000 people secured by REDD+ payments which incentivize protection of HCV-CF through tailored agricultural support which transforms yields.

Our pathway to impact will be through Conservation Agreements funded in perpetuity by the REDD+ project. The REDD+ project is already deriving income from voluntary carbon units, but at present sales are relatively low and income is supplemented by grants/RSPB. By 2020 we expect VCU sales to increase, reducing our reliance on grants/RSPB. For more detail see section on exit strategy. A key indicator that we are on course is, by EOP, that GRC holds a Darwin review meeting at which they agree to a) roll out the

'forest-protection for increased food security' concept across the Malema chiefdom and pilot the concept across 3 other chiefdoms.

Q15. 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.

Achieving gender equity remains challenging in Sierra Leone. Women have limited access/control over resources and little involvement in decision-making processes. Food insecurity is often more prevalent in women-headed households. GRC/CSSL are committed to reducing gender-based inequality and are developing institutional gender policies to mainstream gender into all activities and develop a framework for
integrating gender concerns into organizational development. The objective
is to create equal opportunities and a conducive environment for women and men in the work place and to increase women's participation in decision making.

The Gola REDD+ project believes women's empowerment is key to achieving gender equality. Gender equality can only be achieved through equal partnership among and between women and men. Equal partnership goes beyond numbers. It involves women's equal right to articulate their needs and interests as well as their vision of the GRC to shape the decisions that affect their lives. We are already engaged with the Malema communities and know women are keen to participate in agricultural activities.

This project will reduce gender equality by finding ways to:

1.Enable women as well as men to provide information to guide project activities e.g. in collating women's knowledge of forest used by threatened species and areas of wildlife conflict. Enable women to have equal say in determining agricultural targets, community land use plans and conservation agreements.

2.Enable women to take an equal part in training and hold significant leadership positions in community decision-making bodies – e.g. conservation agreement committees, loan scheme committees, food for work schemes. By doing so, we expect women's views to be increasingly incorporated in both livelihoods and forest management and conservation.

3.Support women to develop women-led agricultural enterprises

All data collected that can be gender-disaggregated will be gender-disaggregated. This applies to baseline/end-of-project surveys as well as all meeting, workshop and training records.

Q16. 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?

The Conservation Agreements established through this project will be funded long-term through income from VCU sales generated by the REDD+ project.

We are confident that after 2020 VCU income will sustainably finance forest conservation in Gola. The

project has received independent validation of the quality of its programs by the Verified Carbon Standard and the Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance Standard (GRC were awarded Double Gold levels for Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation) verified carbon units (VCUs) for 2012-2014.

In July 2017 RSPB facilitated a 2-year exclusivity agreement between GRC and ClimateCare and GRC has currently sold a total of $X in credits. Although this is not yet sufficient to secure financial sustainability, ClimateCare have advised us that the Paris agreement and the IATA agreement that airlines offset emissions is set to increase demand in the carbon market and that after 2020 we should except a rise in VCUs sold.

GRC and community governance bodies set up by the project will ensure Conservation agreements evolve as livelihood/conservation targets are refined. At project end GRC will plan to replicate the project in the other chiefdoms around the GRNP.

In the long-term HCV-CFs will be protected through Community Forestry Management Agreements.

Please provide supporting documentation e.g. maps, diagrams etc., using the File Upload below:

⬇ **Darwin stage 2 References 100186 RSPB**

📅 03/12/2018

🕐 12:34:34

📝 docx 18.25 KB

Section 9 - Existing works, Ethics & Safeguarding

Q17a. Harmonisation

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

◉ Development of existing work

Please give details:

This is a new initiative that builds on existing work. The REDD+ project was established in 2015, with benefit sharing agreements set up with communities to protect the GRNP and MOUs to support sustainable livelihoods in the leakage belt. But the MOUs are very general, and contain neither targets for livelihoods nor conservation.

Since 2015 the GRC teams understanding of a) communities' needs and b) conservation priorities has increased (surveys show that both poverty and deforestation are higher than expected). We need to revise the MOUs to better meet needs of communities' while increasing forest protection.

In Liberia, Conservation International (CI) sign "Conservation Agreements" with communities in which the communities agree to conserve identified areas and CI agrees to fund community development work. While CI's approach depends on ongoing external funding, our plan is that the agreements are sustainably financed by REDD+.

Our vision is to embed the MOUs in the Community Forestry Management approach as a way of empowering communities to conserve HCV-forest while improving livelihoods. The Sierra Leonean government is currently consulting the Liberian government in establishing a CF process and so it is likely to be similar to the Liberia process (see answer to Q17b).

Q17b. 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.

In Liberia we work with in-country partners to support communities around Gola Forest National Park to establish Community Forests (the communities progress through nine steps culminating in the signing of a community agreement). We add value to that process by helping them identify conservation targets for their forests.

However, in Liberia there is no REDD+ project and so we are investigating ways of sustainably financing protection of Community Forest using interest generated by small loan schemes, seeded by donor funds. If successful, schemes like this could be set up in Sierra Leone, seeded by the REDD+ project.

Q18. Ethics

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

This project is the product of long term collaboration among RSPB, GRC, CSSL, the FDA and the Malema Clans.

The principle of strong Sierra Leonean leadership and participation underlies all the work that RSPB, CSSL, the Government and communities do together under the umbrella of the GRC. This project will be implemented mainly by GRC staff with technical support from CSSL and RSPB. GRC staff have a long-standing relationship of trust with the FDA and local communities and all field staff are from the local area.

GRC places a high priority on strong community engagement both in day-to-day work and in the governance of the project. Staff will engage with community members in many different ways and different fora to ensure all sections of the community are aware of/have the opportunity to participate in project activities. The choice and design of activities, especially livelihoods activities, will be determined through community input. Monitoring by participatory methods e.g. focus group discussions/individual questionnaires ensures community feedback informs evolution of these activities.

RSPB's Centre for Conservation Science will ensure research methods (e.g. sensitive questioning techniques) are credible. Household surveys will comply with ethical norms/regulations and respect principles of the Helsinki Declaration on research. For example, informed written consent will be obtained from all participants and interviews conducted as privately as possible. Interviewers will explain to potential participants that they (i) may chose not to answer questions/stop participating at any time, (ii) information collected will not be shared outside the study and will be destroyed after evaluation, (iii) they will not receive material renumeration for participating (iv) non-participation will not impact their access to other initiatives.

RSPB has strong health and safety policies which apply to all staff engaged in the project. In addition, we are supporting CSSL and GRC to develop appropriate safeguarding measures.

Q19. Safeguarding

(see Guidance Note 3.8)

Projects funded through the Darwin Initiative must fully protect vulnerable people all of the time,

wherever they work. **In order to provide assurance of this, we would like projects to ensure they have the appropriate safeguarding policies in place. Please tick the box to confirm you have relevant policies in place and that these can be available on request.**

Checked

Section 10 - Biodiversity & Project Information

Q20. 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?

We will target four main audiences: local communities, Sierra Leone conservation/forest policy actors, the Africa/Global conservation and development community and the general public in UK and Sierra Leone.

Literacy rates of Malema communities are very low so we will engage them through radio programmes, road shows and community meetings using visual materials and oral presentations. Expected products/materials will include: radio programmes, leaflets and photographs. By end of project we expect communities to have an increased understanding of the value of conserving High Conservation Value Community Forest to the REDD+ project which will promote a culture of biodiversity conservation.

We will engage Sierra Leone's conservation/development and forest policy actors (e.g. Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry (MAF) and the National Protected Area Authority (NPAA); through telephone conversations, one-to-one meetings, visits to Darwin communities in Malema and by working collaboratively on a 'lessons learned' paper. We will input to the MAF/NPAA National Agricultural Transformation Strategy (NATS). Expected products/materials will include media articles, presentations and a joint paper on lessons learned for Community Forestry in Sierra Leone. By end of project we hope MAF will have incorporated the project concept into the NATS and that the NPAA will have incorporated the approach into the management of other PAs.

We will engage with the wider Africa/Global conservation community through presentations at the Africa Regional meeting of the BirdLife partnership and other BirdLife/external meetings, project partner websites, newsletter and website articles. By end of project we hope that our 'model' agreements influence/are adopted in REDD+ projects in Sierra Leone, Africa and worldwide. We expect to have prepared scientific papers for submission to peer reviewed journals.

We will engage with the UK/Sierra Leone general public through Social media: Websites, Facebook, Twitter, blogs, news updates and newspaper articles that feature stories of farmer success and species habitat conservation.

Q21. 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.

The project will strengthen management, coordination and technical capacity of our local partners GRC and CSSL. Crucially it will allow us to accelerate the recently agreed strategy to begin to hand over the role RSPB

plays in providing technical assistance to CSSL.

This project will benefit from and enhance capacity building achieved through a previous Darwin project. Darwin project (20-022) allowed RSPB to train a Sierra Leonean research technician to the standard of being able to conduct bird surveys independently. He has now secured a highly competitive internship funding from Cambridge University to learn data analysis techniques and will be employed during this project during which his skills will be consolidated and further developed. Other Research technicians, trained 'on the job' by Benjamin Barca (based in GRNP) and CSSL's biodiversity officer will also be employed by this project and by GRC/CSSL post-project, which means the training they will receive e.g. in survey design, GIS techniques and collection of social science data, will be embedded in GRC and CSSL.

Finally, the RSPB social science team will build their own capacity, in diet diversity/insecurity assessment, by working with Prof Kontoleon. This will improve our ability to evaluate the impact of future projects on the welfare of people.

Q22. Access to project information

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

All information collected by the project will be made publicly available and freely accessible, except for personal information which will only be available anonymously and if consent is provided by the individual (for example in the sharing of case studies). Project information will be made available through several methods including:

Online media: Progress reports, lessons learned workshop reports, photographs and communications will be made available through partner websites. Partners may also use social media to promote project progress, lessons learned and achievements in relation to their involvement. This may be tailored specifically for the audience they are trying to reach.

Journals: We would expect this project to result in several peer-reviewed publications in high impact journals detailing: 1. spatial distributions and habitat correlates of target species; 2. Methods of detecting deforestation; 3. impact of work to increase biodiversity awareness amongst forest-edge communities. In order to make these accessible to scientists in developing countries who often do not have access to institutional journal subscriptions but might be the most likely to benefit from this work, we are requesting £X for open access publishing.

We plan to share the biodiversity data we collect from the Gola project area through the Wildlife Insights portal https://wildlifeinsights.org/
We will need to consider data protection and sensitive species, but this will be a common concern to most camera trap projects and we will ensure a mechanisms are in place to deal with this.

Section 11 - Logical Framework

Q23. 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.

Impact:

70,000ha of Upper-Guinea rainforest and food-security of 22,000 people are secured by REDD+ payments which incentivize protection of High Conservation Value Community-Forest (HCV-CF) through tailored agricultural support which transforms yields.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions

| **Outcome:**

Communities in Malema Chiefdom demonstrate food security can be improved sufficiently to allow them to protect High Conservation Value Community Forest and commitment made to roll-out demonstration across Malema chiefdom. | 0.1 By EOP deforestation rates fall to zero in 1,000-1,500ha of HCV community forest (ca.25% of target leakage belt area) and remains below 2.5% (REDD+ threshold) in the rest.

0.2 By EOP 70% of 182 target households (127 households, 1,045 people, 50% Female, 50% male) are engaged in forest-protection activities.

0.3 By EOP 70% of 182 target households (127 households, 1045 people, 50% Female, 50% male) are food secure (have a HFIAS score of <11.) compared to the 2017 baseline of 4%.

0.4 By EOP 70% of 182 target households (127 households, 1,045 people, 50% Female, 50% male) have increased the diversity of their diet (Diet diversity HH (Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) is 3.3 by EOP.

0.5 By EOP 70% of 182 target households (127 households, 1045 people, 50% Female, 50% male) are aware of the 'forest protection for increased food security' concept and wish to continue forest protection through the REDD+ project. | 0.1/0.2 BACI (before-after-control-intervention) comparison of CF deforestation rates, comparing annual rates at beginning/end of project in intervention and control areas using freely available Landsat and Global Forest Watch data ground-truthed with field surveys

0.3/0.4. Baseline and EOP sample household surveys of food security and diet diversity (using the Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS) and Household Diet Diversity Score (HDDS).

0.5 Report from end of project survey to assess project impact on local communities' knowledge of the importance of maintaining HCV-CF to the REDD+ project.

0.6 Copies of minutes from GRC meetings, copy of MOU. | Malema communities willing to engage in this project.

We think this will hold true because we have worked in the area for the past 5 years and target communities are now requesting more tailored livelihood support from the REDD+ project.

Agricultural yields can be increased enough to enable communities to protect 25% of their forest.

We think this will hold true because our work so far with communities suggests that yields are so low that they can be transformed with sustainable methods.

Exchange rates do not devalue the grant/cofunding available such that the project cannot meet its objectives.

We think this will hold true because the general pattern (2015-2018) is that the value of the Leone in respect to GBP has fallen. This means an underspend is more likely but we have costed our budget conservatively.

No external influences on deforestation – e.g. immigration, external development pressures. |

0.6 By EOP GRC directors (including the Paramount Chief representative) hold a Darwin project review meeting at which they agree to a) roll out the 'forest-protection for increased food security' concept across the remaining 19 villages in Malema chiefdom. b) pilot the concept across 3 other chiefdoms.

We think this will hold true because the forest across the Liberian border is comparatively sparsely populated. In addition, the governments of Sierra Leone and Liberia recently signed a MoU to mark their intention to collaborate to patrol transboundary forest.

GRC and Malema communities willing to revise MoUs.

We think this will hold true because the current programme of agricultural support ends in 2021 (Y2) This provides a natural point at which GRC and communities will evaluate and revise the MoUs.

Output 1:			
Areas of community forest of High Conservation Value (HCV-CF) in target area are identified and current rate of loss quantified and future deforestation risk modelled. . (HCV-CF provides vital habitat for globally threatened forest species outside the protected area and potentially connective habitat between protected areas in Sierra Leone and neighbouring Liberia.	1.1. Target area (4,000-6,000 ha of CF in the leakage belt) mapped. Environmental variables such as patch size, proximity to protected forest and presence of globally threatened species (GTS) from existing species records used to 'short-list' potential HCV-CF sites by end Q1 Y1. 1.2 Deforestation rates in potential HCV-CF and in control area assessed and future deforestation risk modelled by end Q2 Y1. 1.3 Surveys of forest birds and GTS of mammals (in particular chimpanzee, pygmy hippo, elephant) and habitat surveys in potential HCV-CF sites conducted to identify final set of at least 10 HCV-CFs accounting for at least 25% of leakage belt forest linked to the 14 target communities. Completed by end of Y1. 1.4 Local communities' knowledge of globally threatened species in target area captured and participatory mapping of globally threatened species/community conflict 'hotspots' completed by end Y1. 1.5 Camera trapping study of probable activity hotspots, (identified during	1.1 Report showing location of and presence/absence of GTS across target area to identify potential HCV-CF sites. 1.2 Report of baseline deforestation survey of potential HCV-CFs derived from remotely sensed data 1.3/1.4 survey reports 1.5 Report and maps showing HCV-CF areas in project target areas and their priority for conservation and those to be targeted by the project in the trial (output 3).	Survey methods/equipment are appropriate to terrain. We have already trialled survey techniques and equipment in as part of REDD+ monitoring and under Darwin Initiative project 20-022 (e.g. chimpanzee nest counts, camera trapping, pygmy hippo surveys, bird point counts)

	activities 1.3/1.4), along the Malema/Liberian Gola Rainforest border undertaken to establish pygmy hippo areas of activity and potential elephant and chimpanzee migration routes by end of Y2.		
Output 2: Malema communities are aware of the importance of maintaining forest and biodiversity for the REDD+ project and take an active role in their conservation and monitoring as a tool for long-term sustainability.	2.1 Local communities' knowledge of the importance of maintaining HCV-CF to REDD+ project is assessed between control and intervention villages in year 3. 2.2 Two Education roadshows/ 5 radio broadcasts held annually in target area. 2.3 Two Champions for globally-threatened species (Pygmy Hippo, Forest Elephant or Western Chimpanzee depending on species present) trained per village by end Y1 and leading community surveys for species signs including mid-term and EOP surveys by end Y2. 2.4 HCV-CF patrols led by HCV-forest champions (1 per village) are established to identify any deforestation in HCV-CF areas. Forest patrol efficacy tested against satellite-detected deforestation and GRNP spot-checks at end of Y2 and EOP.	2.1 Copy of assessment report. 2.2 Copies of progress reports/photos. 2.3. Copies of Community survey reports 2.4 Copies of Community forest patrol efficiency reports	Community members willing in engage in awareness raising and conservation/monitoring activities. We think this will hold true because We have trailed the Champion approach successfully in other chiefdoms and community surveyors will be paid a stipend (for 3-4 days per month. Stipends form part of the conservation agreement. We recognise that improving knowledge is only one tool that can change behaviour. None the less, it is it essential for the long-term sustainability of the REDD+ project that communities continue to link REDD+ agricultural support with forest and biodiversity conservation.

| **Output 3:** Communities in target area develop village community land use and agricultural training plans to regulate natural resource use in HCV-CF areas whilst increasing yields in existing farmland to meet community food needs and prevent encroachment on community forests. | 3.1 General Agreements to develop provisional Village Land use plans made by with the 14 villages in the target area by end Q2 Year 1 using Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC).

3.2 Community boundaries and land use zones (including potential HCV-CF areas) mapped for the 14 communities via participatory rural appraisal and GPS data collections by end Q2 Y1.

3.3 14 Village specific Agricultural targets (e.g. yield increases, improvements to processing) set by farmers through focus groups by end of Q2 Y1.

3.4 14 Village specific Land use plans (including potential HCV-CFs to be protected and farms to be intensified) completed through a participatory, inclusive gender sensitive process by end Y1.

3.5 14 Village level Agricultural training plans developed through a participatory, inclusive process by end Y1. | 3.1 Copies of agreements for each target community

3.2 Copies of draft maps.

3.3 Copies of targets

3.4 Copies of land use plans

3.5 Copies of agricultural training plans | Inputs provided by project e.g. rice mills can be replaced with no further donor funding

We think this will hold true because we will have supported communities to establish Village Loan Scheme Associations – we will provide equipment to the Associations who will lend out equipment in return for a small share of the processed harvest, which will be sold to fund repair/replacements of equipment.

Training can be maintained i.e. passed on to other farmers in community
The Farmer Field School model and particularly the role of master farmers promotes this approach. |

Output 4:	4.1. 14 community demonstration/on-farm research plots established and inputs provided through Farmer Field Schools (FFS) by end Yr1.	4.1-4.3, 4.5-4.6 Farmer Field School reports.	Security does not deteriorate significantly and the rural population maintains access to land.
Target communities trial implementation of land use and agricultural training plans which regulate natural resource use in HCV-community forest whilst increasing crop production/diversification in existing farmland to meet community food needs and prevent encroachment on HCV-community forest.		4.4 Village Savings and Loan scheme reports	We think this will hold true because the political situation is stable.
	4.2.farmers from 182 target households (50% men, 50% women) trained in improved agricultural production/marketing techniques, and skills through (gender sensitive Farmer Field School training), and have put into practice at least two of these techniques on their own farms by end Yr2.		
	4.3 At least one new or diversified forest-based livelihood being implemented in each target village by end Yr2.		
	4.4 A savings and loan scheme running in each village to fund new enterprises with participation of men and women, with at least two women in leadership roles by end Yr1.		
	4.5. Small-scale improvements to access trails for each of 14 villages completed through 'food for work' schemes (by end Yr1) allowing the number of HHs selling goods in local markets to increase by 20% on baseline by EOP.		

4.6 75% of target villages have met their specific Agricultural targets on agricultural land adjacent to protected HCV-CF by EOP

Output 5:

14 Target communities have committed to protect HCV-CF in return for tailored agricultural training/ equipment to increase yields sustainably provided by the GRC REDD+ project through Conservation Agreements (revised MOUs) which will be embedded, post-project, in Sierra Leone's Community Forest Laws.

5.1 Community bylaws protecting HCV-CF agreed by 14 villages by end Y2.

5.2 In each village a HCV-CF Committee with representation from all forest user groups elected to support bylaws, protection of HCV-CF and Conservation Agreement.

5.3 Five-year Conservation Agreements between the 14 target communities and GRC signed by end Y3. In these, GRC will commit to deliver agricultural support tailored specifically to community's needs, as well as support for community protection of HCV-CF through the REDD+ project, in return for communities protecting i.e. ensuring zero deforestation in HCV-CF.

5.4 Communities engaged in developing Community Forest process as it develops, for example , forming and registering Community Forest Associations (by EOP), with a view to developing Community Forest Management Plans (with project HCV-CF sites included as 'zero deforestation zones) post-project.

5.1 Copies of by-laws for each target community.

5.2 TOR and minutes of forest management committee meetings.

5.3 Copies of documents relating to target communities' engagement in the developing Community Forest Process, e.g. CFA registration documents, CF Management plans.

5.4. Copies of Conservation Agreements for each target community.

5.5 Copy of paper and dissemination report

Communities respect by-laws.

We think this will hold true because we will have made communities aware of the importance of HCV-CF to the REDD+ project and they are already supportive of the REDD+ project.

Communities are willing to and have the opportunity to engage in the Community Forestry process as it develops in Sierra Leone.

We think this will hold true because RSPB and the Society for Nature Conservation in Liberia have been working (with EU funding) to support Liberian communities to engage in the new Liberian Community Forest Management process. We have found communities are keen to engage in the CF process as it protects their traditional rights over their land. In addition, we are already working with one community in Sierra Leone to develop a pilot community forest management plan funded by the USAID funded WABiCC) programme (2017-2020). Lessons from this work will guide the Darwin project.

5.5 A paper submitted to the FDA which shares lessons learned from this project to inform Community Forestry Policy across Sierra Leone.

Do you require more Output fields?

It is advised to have less than 6 Outputs since this level of detail can be provided at the Activity level.

⊙ Yes

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Output 6: The GRC (proponent of the Gola REDD+ project) reviews/refines their model for providing livelihood support to communities in the REDD+ leakage belt to deliver greater impact for biodiversity and livelihoods.	6.1 Community representatives (including paramount chiefs) from all 6 neighbouring chiefdoms visit Darwin project villages by end Q1 Yr. 3. 6.2 By EOP GRC directors (including the Paramount Chief representative) hold a Darwin project review meeting	.1 Reports of interviews with chiefs post-project 6.2 Minutes of GRC meeting	Weather conditions allow visits between chiefdoms. We will arrange for visits to take place in the dry season before the end of project
Output 7: *No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*
Output 8: *No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*	*No Response*

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)

The word count for each individual activity should be no more than 25 words.

Activity details

Activity Number

1.1 Use existing species records and landcover data to map and assess target area (4,000-6,000 ha) to identify potential HCV-CF sites used by globally-threatened species

Activity Details

Results will be presented in a baseline report of potential HCV-CF sites.

Activity details

Activity Number

1.2 Use remote sensing data (gathered under activity 1.7) to assesses deforestation rates in potential HCV-CF sites in target area.

Activity Details

Results be presented in a deforestation survey report.

Activity details

Activity Number

1.3 Conduct surveys of Globally threatened birds,mammals and other forest indicator species in target area (chimpanzee, pygmy hippo, elephant) and habitat surveys.

Activity Details

This will allow us to quantify distribution of GTS and identify which sites support most GTS and model species-habitat relationships to help guide prioritisation of HCV-CF. Results presented in a species report.

Activity details

Activity Number

1.4 Capture local communities' knowledge of globally threatened species in target area and emgage them in participatory mapping of globally threatened species/community conflict 'hotspots'

Activity Details

Activity details

Activity Number

1.5 Undertake a camera trapping study of key biodiversity hotspots along the Malema/Liberian border.

Activity Details

This will allow us to identify pygmy hippo areas of activity and potential elephant and chimpanzee migration routes - vital for connectivity and assess the extent to which individuals move across the border. We will present results in a migration report.

Activity details

Activity Number

1.6 Use joint species distribution modelling to combine biodiversity and habitat data, deforestation risk data and data on HCV-CF patch size and connectivity.

Activity Details

This will allow us to identify and map potential HCV-CF areas in the project target area and their priority for conservation and hence those to be targeted by the project in the trial (output 3) This will be further refined with additional data from 1.5 when it becomes available.

Activity details

Activity Number

1.7 Assess deforestation rates in HCV-CF targeted by the project 5 years pre-project (baseline)/at EOP in project/matched control areas in a Before-After-Control-Intervention design

Activity Details

We will use GLAD alerts (http://data.globalforestwatch.org/datasets/194662b1470e4c5f81aa370395c75485_8) and groundtruth data to identify causes of deforestation.

Activity details

Activity Number

2.1 Run 2 education road shows and 5 radio broadcasts' in project area annually.

Activity Details

Activity details

Activity Number

2.2 Train 2 Champions for globally-threatened species in each village and support them to lead community surveys for species/species signs including mid-term and EOP surveys

Activity Details

The species to be 'championed' will depend upon the species present in that village but could be , for example, Pygmy Hippo, Forest Elephant or Western Chimpanzee. We have trialled the 'champion' approach in the past and found it to be effective.

Activity details

Activity Number

2.3 Support HCV champions to establish and run HCV-CF patrols to identify any deforestation in HCV-CF areas.

Activity Details

A patrol will involve 2 people. They may be organised in groups between communities to help each other patrol. This would allow for knowledge exchange and increase accountability

Activity details

Activity Number

2.4 RSPB Forest cover analyst tests forest patrol efficacy against satellite-detected deforestation and GRNP spot-checks at end of Y2 and EOP.

Activity Details

Activity details

Activity Number

2.5 Perform EOP assessment in control/intervention villages to assess project impact on local communities' knowledge of the importance of maintaining HCV-CF to the REDD+ project.

Activity Details

Activity details

Activity Number

3.1 Use Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) to develop General Agreements in the 14 villages in the target area to develop provisional Village Land Use Plans.

Activity Details

14 villages occur in the target area in which we want to identify (and protect)1,000-1,500 ha of HCV-CF. We will work with all of the villages, but it might be that some villages are close to more HCV-CF that others. However, it is important to engage with all the villages because in the long term, we expect these villages to group together to engage in the National process to develop CF management agreements, and the HCV-CF areas will become embedded in these agreements - encompassing the lands of more than one village.

Activity details

Activity Number

3.2 Map community boundaries and land use zones using PRA and GRP in 14 villages

Activity Details

While land zones will be decide on a village basis and captured in village plans, in the long term national community forest process groups of 4-5 villages will come together to form a larger official 'community forest' and manage their land under a community forest agreement.

Activity details

Activity Number

3.3 Facilitate focus groups in each village to set specific agricultural targets.

Activity Details

Activity details

Activity Number

3.4 Facilitate development of village land use plans (including potential HCV-CFs to be protected/farms to be intensified)

through a participatory, inclusive gender sensitive process

Activity Details

Activity details

Activity Number

3.5 Facilitate development of Village level Agricultural training plans through a participatory, inclusive process.

Activity Details

Plans will vary from village to village depending on location (i.e. access to rivers for fish) previous training and willingness to vary their diet.

Activity details

Activity Number

3.6 Carry out baseline/end of project sample household surveys on food insecurity/dietary diversity (using the Food Insecurity Access Scale and Household Diet Diversity Score).

Activity Details

Baseline data will be gathered by Andreas Kontoleon and GRC Research technicians as part of scheduled REDD+ monitoring. EOP surveys will be led by the RSPB Social scientist with guidance from Andreas.

Activity details

Activity Number

4.1 Establish 14 community demonstration/on-farm research plots (1 per village) and provide inputs (e.g. quality seeds for target value chains through Farmer Field Schools (FFS)

Activity Details

Target value chains include rice, cassava groundnuts, vegetables and cocoa

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Activity details

Activity Number

4.2 Train farmers from target households (50% men, 50% women) in improved agricultural production/marketing techniques and skills

Activity Details

Training will be gender sensitive and provided through farmer field schools. Training will be followed with support to help farmers put at least two of these techniques into practice on their own farms.

Activity details

Activity Number

4.3 Train farmers in new forest-based livelihoods and supports implementation (at least one in each target village)

Activity Details

Activity details

Activity Number

4.4 Establish a savings-loan scheme in each village to fund new enterprises with participation of men and women and >2 women in leadership roles.

Activity Details

Activity details

Activity Number

4.5 Establish 'food for work' schemes in each village.

Activity Details

Food for work schemes are an established way of facilitating completion of tasks that benefit the whole community. See the World Food Programme (WFP)'s Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) initiative. This addresses immediate food needs through cash, voucher or food transfers, while at the same time promoting the building or rehabilitation of assets that will improve long-term food security and resilience.

Activity details

Activity Number

4.6 Run Food for work schemes that improve access trails allowing local goods to reach markets

Activity Details

Activity details

Activity Number

5.1 Support village communities to develop bylaws to protect HCV-CF

Activity Details

Activity details

Activity Number

5.2 Support village communities to establish a HCV-CF committee with representation from all forest user groups.

Activity Details

These will act as management groups for the CFs. We will assist in putting gender action learning systems ino place.

Activity details

Activity Number

5.3 Facilitate development and agreement of 5 year conservation agreements between the 14 target communities and GRC

Activity Details

Activity details

Activity Number

5.4 Facilitate communities engagement in the Community Forest process.

Activity Details

This might include, for example, forming and registering community forest associations with a view to developing Forest Management plans (with project HCV-CF sites included as 'zero-deforestation zones) post project.

Activity details

Activity Number

5.5 Write and disseminate paper to the FDA and other relevant audiences.

Activity Details

Activity details

Activity Number

6.1 Facilitate visits by representatives from all 6 neighbouring chiefdoms to Darwin project villages.

Activity Details

Activity details

Activity Number

6.2 GRC organises and hold a Darwin project review meeting to review/refine their model for providing livelihood support to communities in the REDD+ leakage belt.

Activity Details

This model refinement will deliver greater impact for biodiversity and livelihoods.

Section 12 - Implementation Timetable

Q24. Provide a project implementation timetable that shows the key milestones

in project activities

Please complete the Excel spreadsheet linked below to describe the intended workplan for your project.

Implementation Timetable Template

Please add 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 fill/shade only the quarters in which an activity will be carried out. The workplan can span multiple pages if necessary.

⤓ **DarwinR25Stage2ImplementationTimetable 100186 RSPB**
📅 03/12/2018
🕑 12:19:00
🗎 xlsx 15.54 KB

Section 13 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Q25. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan

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. Additionally, please indicate an approximate budget and level of effort (person days) to be spent on M&E (see "Finance for Darwin and IWT Guidance").

The project manager will lead on ensuring the project is delivered to schedule and budget. He will be assisted by Fiona Sanderson who will monitor and evaluate progress on research, and by in-country RSPB staff: Benjamin Barca for biodiversity work and Bjorn Horvath for livelihood development.

Community involvement will be key in evaluating the success/value of activities and guiding their evolution to ensure they are on track to deliver the desired impact. For example, communities will provide information on forest used by threatened species and areas of wildlife conflict to guide identification of HCV-CF and agricultural targets will be set by the communities. We will facilitate development of community decision-making bodies – e.g. conservation agreement committees, food for work committees, savings and loan scheme committees to facilitate feedback from communities to project staff.

We will monitor/evaluate project impact on biodiversity by assessing deforestation rates in HCV-CF 5 years pre-project (baseline) and at EOP in project/matched control areas in a Before-After-Control-Intervention design using GLAD alerts (http://data.globalforestwatch.org/datasets

/194662b1470e4c5f81aa370395c75485_8) and ground truthed to identify causes of deforestation using methods developed under Darwin 23-029.

We will monitor/evaluate project impact on food security by comparing baseline/EOP sample household surveys on food insecurity/dietary-diversity between villages inside and outside of the project (using Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS)/Household Diet Diversity Score (HDDS)).

We will carry out a baseline in Yr1 but present data suggests only 4% of farmers produce enough rice to meet their annual family's needs, demonstrating that nearly all farmers are producing below subsistence levels.

The HFIAS, developed by Food and Agriculture Organization, uses nine questions to assess whether households have experienced problems with food access during the preceding 30 days. Scores range from 0-27; higher values indicate greater food insecurity. A score of <11 indicates a household is food secure. A score of 12-16 indicates a household has a moderate level of food insecurity. Households with scores >17 are highly food insecure. We will aim for at least <11 depending on baseline.

The HDDS is an indicator of quality of diet and socio-economic standing. The HDDS asks which of 14 food groups were eaten by household members in the last 24 hours. Foods are categorized into groups based on nutritional content. Scores range from 0-1; lower values indicate less dietary diversity. We will aim for an average of at least 0.33 depending on baseline.

For the baseline, questions on food insecurity/dietary diversity will be included in the scheduled REDD+ project's repeat baseline for Malema. Andreas Kontoleon will oversee the new RSPB social scientist who will lead the repeat survey, to ensure quality and comparison between baseline and final.

We will monitor/evaluate project impact on communities knowledge of the importance of maintaining HCV-CF to the REDD+ project through an EOP assessment of awareness among villagers, relative to control villages, of the concept of HCV- CF, of the most important HCV-CFs for them to protect, and of how maintenance of their HCV areas will help support the case for agricultural interventions to improve food security.

Total project budget for M&E (this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)	
Number of days planned for M&E	492
Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&E	13

Section 14 - Funding and Budget

Q26. Budget

Please complete the Excel spreadsheet linked below, which provides the Budget for this application. Some of the questions earlier and below refer to the information in this spreadsheet.

Darwin and IWT Budget Template

Please refer to the <u>Finance for Darwin/IWT Guidance</u> for more information.

NB: Please state all costs by financial year (1 April to 31 March) and in GBP. The Darwin Initiative cannot agree any increase in grants once awarded.

Please upload your completed Darwin Budget Form Excel spreadsheet using the field below.

⤓ **Darwin R25 St 2 - 100186 RSPB Budget final**
📅 03/12/2018
🕐 12:04:16
📄 xls 132.5 KB

Q27. 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.

We have been working in Gola for some time, so costs are actual costs rather than estimates. RSPB's general approach with international work is to use its own permanent staff time to lever donor funding for BirdLife partners (in this case CSSL but also for this project GRC). Most of the RSPB costs are included as cofunding. An exception here is the social scientist we wish to recruit for the final year of the project. We are requesting this as we are trying to grow our social science capacity (to help us deliver projects that have greater conservation and development impacts). We expect that the involvement of the social scientist in the project will also build capacity in GRC and CSSL.

This project builds on previous work and makes use of an already established team in Sierra Leone. This will allow us to start activities promptly and minimise start-up costs. Many of the research methods and existing data that will be employed in the project was developed/obtained under a previous Darwin (ref 20-022).

Q28. 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.

We plan to purchase a motorbike and a 4x4 vehicle, camera traps, a PA system and computing equipment. At the end of the project these will stay with in country partners and will be used to further the long term objectives of the Darwin project, i.e. the conservation of the Gola forest and the food security of its people.

Q29. Match funding (co-financing)

Are you proposing co-financing?

◉ Yes

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, as well as any your own organisation(s) will be committing.

Donor Organisation	Amount	Currency code	Comments
USAID WABiCC		GBP	This grant is secured
RSPB		GBP	This is staff time of permanent staff and travel.
CSSL		GBP	This is staff time of permanent staff
GRC		GBP	This is staff time of permanent staff

Unsecured

Provide details of any co-financing where an application has been submitted, or that you intend applying for during the course of the project. This could include co-financing from the private sector, charitable organisations or other public sector schemes.

Date applied for	Donor Organisation	Amount	Currency code	Comments
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response

Do you require more fields?

⊙ No

Q30. Financial Risk Management

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.

The most significant financial risk to the success of this project is exchange rate fluctuation, but over the last few years the pattern has been for the value of the local currency in Sierra Leone to fall with respect to the pound, which is more likely to lead to an underspend that short-fall in project funds. We have taken this into account in our budgeting. As the partners are already working together we have already dovetailed our organisational financial management systems and financial staff have good relationships. RSPB finance staff are involved in building financial capacity of both GRC and CSSL through visits and by phone and email.

Regarding project financial management, RSPB/GRC/CSSL use normal financial practices to avoid misuse of

funds e.g. separating expense approval from preparation; two signatures on cheques; regular external audits. Normally these would avoid significant fraud or bribery but Sierra Leone has a reputation for corruption. We address this by gradually building trust, entrusting individuals with small sums before incrementally increasing amounts; by scrutinising expense justification documents in Sierra Leone and in UK; by ensuring community-based transactions are carried out in public fora (e.g. materials/equipment are handed to communities in front of full community meetings.)

Section 15 - FCO Notifications

Q31. FCO Notifications

Please put an X in 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.

Unchecked

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.

◉ No

Section 16 - Certification

Q32. Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

I apply for a grant of

£347,758.00

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 have uploaded CVs for project principals and letters of support.**
- **I have uploaded our most recent signed audited/independently verified accounts and annual report.**

Checked

Name	Emily Woodfield
Position in the organisation	Head of Tropical Forest Landscapes
Signature (please upload e-signature)	⬇ **Emily W signature** 📅 03/12/2018 🕐 12:24:07 🖼 png 5.04 KB
Date	03 December 2018

Section 17 - Submission Checklist

Stage 2 Application - Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you read the Guidance (including Guidance for Applicants and Finance for Darwin and IWT Guidance)	Checked
Have you read, and can you meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund?	Checked
Have you provided actual start and end dates for your project?	Checked
Have you provided your budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP?	Checked
Have you checked that your budget is complete and correctly adds up?	Checked
Has your application been signed by a suitably authorised individual?	Checked
Have you uploaded a 1 page CV for all the Project Staff on this project, including the Project Leader?	Checked
Have you uploaded a letter of support from the main partner(s) organisations?	Checked
Have you included a cover letter from the lead organisation, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed?	Checked
Have you been in contact with the FCO in the project country/ies and have you included any evidence of this?	Checked
Have you uploaded a signed copy of the last 2 years annual report and accounts for the lead organisation?	Checked
Have you checked the Darwin website to ensure there are no late updates?	Checked
Have you read and understood the Privacy Notice on GOV.UK?	Checked

We would like to keep in touch! Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant (Flexi-Grant Account Holder) and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current application rounds under the Darwin Initiative and our sister grant scheme, the IWT Challenge Fund. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share our quarterly project newsletter. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in this application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the latest copy of the Privacy Notice for Darwin, Darwin Plus and the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund available **here**. This Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information, but not personal data, may be used when publicising the Darwin Initiative including project details (usually title, lead organization, location, and total grant value) on the GOV.UK and other websites.

Information relating to the project or its results may also be released on request, including under the 2004 Environmental Information Regulations and 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 General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679).