
DIR25S2\100075

Market-led approach to sustainable management of agrobiodiversity for livelihood outcomes.

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PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title Dr
Name Balaram
Surname Thapa
Organisation Local Initiatives for Biodiversity,
Research and Development (LI-BIRD)
Website (Work) www.libird.org
Tel (Work)
Email (Work)
Address

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Title Dr
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Organisation Local Initiatives for Biodiversity,
Research and Development (LI-BIRD)
Website (Work) www.libird.org
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GMS ORGANISATION

Type Local charity organisation
Name Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research
and Development (LI-BIRD)
Phone (Work)
Email (Work)
Website (Work)
Address

Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q3. Project title:

Market-led approach to sustainable management of agrobiodiversity for livelihood outcomes.

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

DIR 25S1\100354

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	Nepal	Country 2	<i>No Response</i>
Country 3	<i>No Response</i>	Country 4	<i>No Response</i>

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:	£78,945.00	£99,378.00	£61,900.00	£ 240,223.00

Q6a. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?

Yes

What matched funding arrangements are proposed?

A total of £77,000 match fund over the project period has been confirmed, as indicated in the support letters:

- 1) Cash match contribution from LI-BIRD = £X
- 2) Cash match contribution from Pokhara Metropolitan = £X
- 3) Cash match contribution from Rupa Lake Rehabilitation and Fishery Cooperative = £X
- 4) Cash match contribution from Begnas and Rupa Lake Conservation Fund through Bio Resource Conservation Movement = £X
- 5) Cash match contribution from Panchadham Agriculture Development Cooperative = £X
- 6) Cash match contribution from Fewa Watershed Ecosystem Management Board = £X

Q6b. Proposed (confirmed and unconfirmed) co-financing as % of total project cost 24.27%

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 GOV.UK. Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.

The project will generate alternative livelihoods for 3,000 smallholder farmers in a Ramsar site the Lake Cluster of Pokhara Valley through a scalable place-based marketing approach. A Unified Landscape Brand will be used to differentiate agricultural and fishery products from the Ramsar site in local and regional markets to generate income. The project will forge multi-stakeholder partnerships with public and private sectors, cooperatives and communities to mobilize local resources and foster stewardship for sustainable management of agricultural and wetland biodiversity.

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)?

No

If no, please provide the below information on the lead organisation.

What year was your organisation established/ incorporated/ registered?	01 January 1995
What is the legal status of your organisation?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NGO
How is your organisation currently funded?	LI-BIRD is funded on project basis by various bilateral, multilateral and philanthropic foundations through solicited or unsolicited call for proposals. Currently, LI-BIRD has 16 projects funded by SDC, NORAD via The Development Fund, BMZ via Bread for the World, USAID via Save the Children Nepal, US Department of State via Caritas Switzerland, Deutsche Welthungerhilfe, DanChurchAid Nepal, CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CAAFS), USC Canada, GEF/UNEP via Bioversity International, and the International Potato Center (CIP). The audited portfolio of LI-BIRD for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 was £X with the current ratio of 1.21.
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.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes

Please attach the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts.

Annual Report 2016-17 -LI-BIRD

03/12/2018

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pdf 5.82 MB

Annual Report 2015-16 -LI-BIRD

03/12/2018

08:21:12

pdf 4.58 MB

Annual Audit Report 2016-17-LI-BIRD

03/12/2018

08:19:01

pdf 4.6 MB

Annual Audit Report 2017-18 - LI-BIRD

03/12/2018

06:04:48

pdf 5.01 MB

Provide detail of 3 contracts/projects held by the lead 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.

Contract/Project 1 Title

Mobilizing Local Resources and Institutions for Integrated Management, Conservation and Utilization of Watershed Services in the Mid Hills of Nepal

**Contract Value/Project budget
(include currency)****Duration (e.g. 2 years 3 months)**

3 years (April 2014 to March 2017)

Role of organisation in project

LI-BIRD was responsible for project implementation in coordination with multiple stakeholders of Begnas and Rupa Lake watersheds. In partnership with local government and community institutions, LI-BIRD built trust, cohesion and mechanisms for scaling up Payments for Watershed Services (PWS) for the conservation of watershed biodiversity for livelihood outcomes.

**Brief summary of the aims,
objectives and outcomes of the
project**

The objective was to scale up PWS for sustainable biodiversity and watershed management. The outcomes included: (i) development of a multi-stakeholder watershed management strategy; (ii) a functional system of PWS in Begnas watershed; (iii) increased production of diverse crops and aquatic species; and (iv) documentation and dissemination of knowledge products.

**Client/independent reference
contact details (Name, e-mail,
address, phone number)**

Contract/Project 2 Title	Integrating Traditional Crop Genetic Diversity into Technology: Using a Biodiversity Portfolio Approach to Buffer against Unpredictable Environmental Changes in the Nepal Himalayas (Local Crop Project-LCP)
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	
Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)	5 years 8 months (November 2013 to June 2019)
Role of organisation in project	LI-BIRD is a key partner responsible for implementation of project activities on the ground by mobilising communities and stakeholders. LI-BIRD works directly with the community in setting up field trials, generating evidences and engaging locals to national policy discourse for integrating project outcomes in national system for scaling up.
Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project	The objective is to mainstream conservation and use of agrobiodiversity in mountain agricultural landscapes to improve ecosystem services, resilience, and access and benefits sharing. Outcomes include: (i) diversity rich solutions in breeding and technology; (ii) increased access to diverse planting materials; and (iii) enabling environment for access and benefit sharing.
Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail, address, phone number)	

Contract/Project 3 Title	Community based Biodiversity Management in Nepal
Contract Value/Project budget (include currency)	
Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months)	9 Years (January 2008 to December 2016)
Role of organisation in project	LI-BIRD was responsible for overall management of the project that included designing and implementing agrobiodiversity conservation activities in partnership with local community and government extension agency. LI-BIRD's role entailed mobilisation of relevant local institutions and stakeholders, community empowerment through training on agrobiodiversity management approaches, documentation and dissemination of knowledge products.

Brief summary of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the project.

The aim of the project was to enhance biodiversity-based livelihoods of local communities in Nepal. The key outcomes included: (i) increased on-farm/in-situ conservation of genetic diversity; (ii) increased biodiversity based income; (iii) empowered communities to manage agro-biodiversity; and (iv) policies contribution concerning conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources.

Client/independent reference contact details (Name, e-mail, address, phone number)

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

Aims

LI-BIRD is a non-profit making, non-governmental organisation committed to capitalizing on local resources and innovations for sustainable management of natural resources for smallholder farmers' livelihood outcomes. LI-BIRD's mission is to diversify choices and secure livelihoods of smallholder farmers through innovative approaches to research and development in agriculture and natural resources.

Activities

LI-BIRD works along the Research-for-Development continuum through four strategic programmes: Agricultural Innovations for Food and Nutrition Security; Inclusive Economic Growth; Community Resilience to Climate Change and Disaster Risks; and Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for Sustainable Livelihoods, which are supported by three cross-cutting themes: Gender; Policy; and knowledge management.

Achievements

LI-BIRD has released 10 varieties of rice, maize and amaranth through participatory breeding approaches; established 21 Community Seed Banks credited for conserving more than 1,000 landraces of 62 crops; played instrumental role in the formulation of Agricultural Biodiversity Policy 2017; and is a member of National Agrobiodiversity Conservation Committee, Nepal.

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: Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD)

Website address: www.libird.org

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

LI-BIRD will be the overall lead, responsible for project planning, implementation, management and will be accountable to the donor. LI-BIRD will be responsible for the coordination of project activities with key stakeholders, ensure program quality, management of project finances and government and donor compliances, monitoring and donor reporting. LI-BIRD will form and mobilize multi-sectoral Project Advisory Committee (PAC) for providing project oversight and strategic guidance to the project.

LI-BIRD has the technical and financial capacity to lead the project. Since 1995, LI-BIRD has successfully completed more than 170 projects. LI-BIRD is currently implementing 16 projects in parts of 30 districts of Nepal directly reaching out 94,172 beneficiary households. LI-BIRD's annual portfolio in FY 2017-2018 was £X, with the current ratio of 1.21. LI-BIRD has 85 staff, of which, 26 are women and 59 are men, with 3 PhDs, 31 Masters, and 18 Bachelor's degree. LI-BIRD led the design and preparation of concept note and full proposal in consultation with partner organizations.

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: Pokhara Metropolitan City (PMC)

Website address: pokharalekhnathmun.gov.np

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

Pokhara Metropolitan City (PMC) has been identified as a key partner for the project responsible for: providing public sector leadership, and local stewardship for the promotion of Unified Landscape Brand (ULB) in the Lake Cluster of Pokhara Valley (LCPV); leveraging resources for supporting farmers organisations to increase production and productivity of local crops and aquatic species; developing appropriate legal and institutional mechanisms for the management of ULB; and creating enabling policy environment for private sector engagement in ULB.

Following the recent state restructuring in 2017, Nepal has three tier government systems: federal, provincial and local. PMC is the local government with the authority for formulating its own policies, plans and programmes. PMC's agriculture development plan puts emphasis on the conservation of agrobiodiversity, promotion of agro-ecological farming and commercialization of local rice, organic vegetables, coffee and citrus in the region, providing this project avenue to collaborate and leverage resources.

The Head of Agriculture Department of the PMC was consulted during the design and preparation of the concept note and full proposal. The Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer support the project.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

2. Partner Name: Development Voyage - THE BAZZAR

Website address: www.thebazaar.com.np

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

The Development Voyage is a private company established in 2009 in Pokhara to promote sustainable agriculture, food and nutrition, agri-tourism and youth education. THE BAZAAR is a successful venture of the company and a leading sustainable regional food network initiative in Pokhara. It aims to connect organic farms and smallholder farmers to consumers through providing market platform and support services. It manages The Bazaar Agriculture Cooperative with 1,500 smallholder farmers as members. The cooperative runs a weekly farmer's market in Pokhara, and provides technical assistance and credit to members. It has its own learning farm and is providing services for organic production and quality control through a Participatory Guarantee System. The company also collaborates with private schools in Pokhara to increase nutritional awareness.

LI-BIRD has consulted the Company and the Company's CEO supports this project. The Company and the cooperatives will support consumer awareness activities, share space to establish market outlets, and mobilize their networks and services for increased production and efficient marketing of agrobiodiversity products under the Unified Landscape Brand.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

3. Partner Name: Jaibik Shrot Samrakshan Abhiyan

Website address: -

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

Jaibik Shrot Samrakshan Abhiyan (JSSA), literally 'Bio-resources Conservation Movement', will coordinate farmers' groups and cooperatives in the Begnas and Rupa Lake watershed areas for producing agricultural and fishery products, local level collection and marketing through the ULB and promote good agricultural practices amongst the producers.

Established in 2003, JSSA is a local umbrella organisation of two cooperatives and 15 farmer groups, with over 1,200 members. The organisation's goal is to promote conservation of biodiversity of the twin lake watershed areas linking with community livelihoods. It manages a trust fund of £6,800 and mobilises credit for groups and cooperatives, with approximately 100 farmers accessing credit for biodiversity-based income generating activities. JSSA has been managing a local biodiversity information centre at a tourist hotspot of the Pokhara valley, which generates income of about £X annually with 40% revenue going to the watershed conservation fund. In partnership with LI-BIRD, JSSA has given continuity to habitat conservation for wetland birds, wild rice (*Oryza rufipogon*), white lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*), and local sahar fish (*Tor putitora*). JSSA has participated in the preparation of the concept note and full proposal, and will be responsible for linking local agrobiodiversity products to local/regional markets under ULB.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

4. Partner Name: Panchadham Agriculture Development Cooperative

Website address: -

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

Panchadham Agriculture Development Cooperative (PADC) is a women-led cooperative with 105 members, established in 2013 with the support of USC Canada funded "Seeds of Survival" project managed by LI-BIRD. The objective of the cooperative is to increase income of women farmers through increasing production, organizing collection and marketing of ecological farm produces. The cooperative also runs savings and credit schemes for its members, operates a collection centre, and manages community trust fund worth £X. Over the years, the cooperative has developed linkages with local governments, and leveraged resources for establishing collection centre and skill development of its members.

The project will collaborate with PADC to mobilise its members to increase production of selected agrobiodiversity products (green vegetables, coffee, shiitake mushroom, local poultry, hog plum – *Choerospondias axillaris* – typically found only in Nepal). Project will support cooperative to build capacity of its members for piloting Unified Landscape Branding of products from the Bhadaure Tamagi area (in the watershed of Phewa Lake), train producers on good agricultural practices, and facilitate collective marketing.

PADC has been consulted in the design and preparation of this project.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation? Yes

5. Partner Name: USC Canada

Website address: www.usc-canada.org

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

USC Canada will be one of the partners providing match fund for the project. USC Canada will participate in the project to generate synergy in approaches, engage in policy discourse, and participate in co-learning/sharing events.

Seeds of Survival, a USC Canada funded project in Nepal, has emphasized scaling up agroecological farming approaches. Major activities include: strengthening seed security, promoting farm diversity and conservation and use of local plant genetic resources; supporting small farm based enterprises; and promoting women's and youth's leadership in agroecological farming. Since 2015, LI-BIRD has provided overall management for USC Canada's work in Nepal. Kaski is one of the project districts where USC continues to provide small funding to strengthen and scale up on-going ecological farming initiatives.

The proposed project will work closely with USC Canada to leverage resources for the cooperative to increase production, and organise collection and marketing of agro-ecological farm produces under ULB. USC Canada has been consulted and fully supports this project.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

6. Partner Name:

Bread for the World

Website address:

www.bread.org

Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):

Bread for the World (BftW) will be one of the partners providing co-funding to the project. Recently, BftW has awarded a project to LI-BIRD entitled "scaling up climate-resilient agriculture for sustainable livelihood of smallholder farmers in Nepal" for the period of 3 years and is implemented in Sindhupalchok and Kaski districts.

The project aims to address local needs through the adoption of agro-ecological farming to enhance seed security, promote crop diversity, disseminate proven climate resilient farming practices and empower smallholder farming communities towards sustainable economic growth. The BftW project site in Kaski includes Phewa and Begnas Lake watersheds, which overlap with sites for the proposed project. One of the objectives of the BftW project in Kaski is to establish an effective marketing system of agroecological produces in partnership with local government and private sectors. These two projects will collaborate to establish the ULB in Pokhara valley.

Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?

Yes

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

field below.

Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Co-operatives (MLMAC), Gandaki Province - Recent state restructuring has established seven provincial governments in Nepal. The project will collaborate with the MLMAC for policy support and scaling up of successful project outcomes. Specifically, MLMAC will be responsible for formulating policies and legal mechanisms for the establishment of ULB and scaling out ULB approach to other similar landscapes in Gandaki Province. The MLMAC is currently developing Climate and Environment Friendly Model Agriculture Village programme, and has the target to establish at least one model village in each municipality. The project will collaborate with the MLMAC to build synergy with this project to scale up ULB. The letter of support from the MLMAC is attached.

The project will also collaborate with the following partners:

- Fewa Watershed Ecosystem Management Board (FWEMB), Pokhara;
- Ramsar Management Authority, LCPV;
- Lekhnath Chambers of Commerce and Industry (LCCI, website: www.lekhnathcci.org.np); and
- Rupa Lake Restoration and Fisheries Cooperatives


The above partner organisation’s work is supportive and complementary to this project. The project will generate synergies, leverage resources, cross-fertilize learning and avoid duplication at all levels. The letter of support from these partners is attached.

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

 **LI-BIRD Response to Feedback Received at S**


tage 1


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 **Combined letters of support**

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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?
Ram Bahadur Rana	Project Leader	30	Checked
Rita Gurung	Research Officer	100	Checked
Indra Paudel	Research Associate	80	Checked

Do you require more fields? No

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.

📄 **CVs of Key Project Personnels**

📅 03/12/2018

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📄 pdf 153.32 KB

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?

The Lake Cluster of Pokhara Valley (LCPV), a Ramsar Site since 2 February 2016, is endowed with rich agricultural and aquatic biodiversity. Cultivating local agrobiodiversity offers various benefits to farmers, such as nutritious and safe food; resilience to bio-physical shocks and climate change; and promotes local culture. Despite these benefits, loss of agrobiodiversity and wetland habitat, and pollution continue unabated in the LCPV. Some of the underlying causes are: low productivity of local agrobiodiversity crops and fish species; low consumer awareness regarding nutritive values of local agrobiodiversity; limited diversification of marketable agrobiodiversity products; and government policy favouring modern varieties. During 7-11 July 2018, a series of consultation meetings were organized with local communities and cooperative members to identify action points to address the above problems. There was overwhelming demand to link agrobiodiversity products to market to improve people's livelihoods. Communities also proposed that local government must do more to reverse habitat loss. Therefore, the proposed actions are grounded on community needs. We propose scaling up the Unified Landscape Brand (ULB) approach, which has been piloted in Begnas-Rupa Watershed. The ULB is a place-based marketing approach that gives a unique label for diverse agricultural and fishery products and place-based services (e.g., tourism) produced in the landscape. We will increase the consumer demands by building consumer awareness using food vlogging and school programmes. We will engage with local communities and local government in habitat conservation for local fish, migratory birds and wild rice. The project will engage in water hyacinth management in Phewa and Begnas lakes. Awareness raising and capacity building of stakeholders, problem-solving research, and policy advocacy are the integral part of this project. Our interventions are expected to increase production and sale of agrobiodiversity products eventually increasing income and employment opportunities for local people.

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

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)
- International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar)

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 Lake Cluster of Pokhara Valley (LCPV) – Ramsar site is rich in biodiversity and water resources providing foods and drinking water, fishing and irrigation. The region harbour 362 species of plants including 286 terrestrial plants under 83 families and 184 genera; and 61 species of aquatic plants under 22 families and 26 genera. About 128 vertebrate species (including 32 mammals, 140 birds, 24 reptiles and 27 fishes, 11 amphibians) has been reported in the LCPV. The lake basin is rich in agrobiodiversity including 82 species of plants and rich varietal diversity including existence of unique rice landraces with quality traits (e.g. Jethobudo, Rato Anadi, Jhinuwa) and wild relatives of rice (*Oriza rufipogon*) and 21 native fish species (*Tor putitora*, *Monopterusuchia*, *Labeo katla* etc.). Therefore, conservation and management of these unique diversity and habitat would contribute to achieve Nepal's commitments to CBD, ITPGRFA, and Ramsar as following:

CBD:

The project is closely aligned with the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which will be achieved through the application of ecologically sound and scalable market-led approach to sustainable management of agrobiodiversity including fish diversity for livelihood outcomes. The project supports CBD Article 6.b by working with and supporting local government to integrate conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity into development plans and policies. The project further supports CBD Article 8 (i.e., in situ conservation) through conservation and promotion of local crop species (local rice, foxtail millet, local poultry, citrus, local honey bees, taro, yam, hog plum etc.) and local fish species.

ITPGRFA:

The project directly supports the objective of ITPGRFA Article 6.2.d by promoting use of local crops, varieties and underutilized species; Article 9.3 by strengthening local seed system and protecting farmers' rights to save, use, reproduce and sell farm-saved seeds; and Article 9.3 by documenting, disseminating traditional knowledge and food culture. The Unified Landscape Brand strengthens marketing of local agrobiodiversity produce and products at premium price that facilitates access and benefit sharing in favour of smallholder farmers at local level complementing Article 9.2.b of the treaty.

Ramsar:

The project will support to kick-start the implementation of Ramsar management plans in the Lake Cluster of Pokhara Valley (LCPV) and lobby to establish a management unit at the local level, which is not active even after 2 years of the declaration. How project will contribute to specific activities/actions of Ramsar management plan has been discussed in Section Q12c of the proposal.

At strategic level, the project will support the Articles 3.1 and 4.5 of the Ramsar convention. The Unified Landscape Brand will create a visual identity of the Lake Cluster of Pokhara Valley in the marketplace, which is expected to increase publicity and sales. A portion of income generated goes directly into conservation of

the lake ecosystem and biodiversity. The project will engage indigenous fishermen, fisheries cooperatives, conservation committees, and local government through training and conservation awareness activities which supports Article 4.5 of the convention.

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

Yes

Please give details:

In this project, no formal liaison has been proposed with the focal points of CBD, ITPGRFA and Ramsar. However, the project will closely work with all the focal points in terms of implementing joint collaborative project activities and developing status communication reports. LI-BIRD closely works with the focal points of the CBD, ITPGRFA and Ramsar to reflect the works/projects in national progress reports submitted by focal points. The project will liaise with the Ramsar focal point and Pokhara Metropolitan City and support the implementation of strategic activities identified by Integrated Lake Basin Management Plan of LCPV (2018-2023).

Q12d. Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

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

Proposed actions in the project directly contribute to SDGs at the national level. For instance, increased production and sale of local agricultural products (crops, fruits, vegetables, coffee, fish, etc.) by smallholders (rural poor) in local/regional markets results in increased income directly supporting SDG 1 (i.e., no poverty) and SDG 10 (i.e., reducing inequalities). The project's effort directly contributes to Nepal government's effort to reduce poverty gap to 2.8%, reduce income inequality from 0.46 to 0.23, and raise per capita income to USD 2,500 by 2030.

The project supports SDG 2 (i.e., zero hunger) by contributing to maintaining genetic diversity of seeds/planting materials and by promoting sustainable food production systems resulting in increased access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food (target - reduction in undernourishment to 3%). By creating about 200 (60% women) new jobs in rural agro-ecotourism, pack-house and collection centres in the project, contribution to SDG 8 (i.e., decent work and economic growth, resource efficiency). The project focuses on promoting eco-friendly production system directly contributing to SDG 12 (i.e., responsible consumption and production, sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources). Conservation actions in the project directly contributes to SDG 15 (i.e., life on land - by 2020, conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystem and their services in line with obligations under international treaties) by preserving biodiversity in mountain ecosystems. Finally, North-South collaboration, multistakeholder engagement, local resource mobilisation and capacity development, accountability to shared responsibility in conservation and development contribute to SDG 17.

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.

Material and Methods

We will use Unified Landscape Branding (ULB), a place-based marketing approach, to aggregate produce from numerous smallholder farmers to increase agrobiodiversity-based income and employment opportunities (Output 1). The ULB will differentiate the products in the marketplace and communicate high product quality and story behind it (i.e. portion of the profit is reinvested in conservation of biodiversity in Ramsar site). LI-BIRD, Begnas Hotel and Restaurant Association, JSSA and the Municipality initiated a ULB in the Begnas-Rupa watershed in 2017. The project will formally register the brand and promote it aggressively. To ensure quality of the agrobiodiversity products and earn consumer confidence, we will promote good agricultural practices for production and post-harvest management.

To increase consumer awareness about the ULB and the story behind it (Output 2), we will use food video blogs, conduct school programmes, and campaigns to disseminate information thereby increasing demand and loyalty towards the ULB labelled products. Food and travel blogs that capture cooking and eating of traditional foods are increasingly popular. For example, channels such as Grandpa Kitchen (rustic village cooking videos) and Mark Weins (travel food blog) have over three million subscribers on YouTube. The project will partner with young prolific video bloggers in Nepal to rekindle awareness of local food and cuisine.

To enhance local stewardship and capacity (Output 3), the project will strengthen the community managed Biodiversity Information Centre, which also serves as an outlet for agro-products, and build capacity of local government and stakeholders. For promoting habitat conservation for native flora and fauna, the project will collaborate with the Ramsar authority to implement actions identified in Integrated Lake Basin Management Plan of Lake Cluster of Pokhara Valley.

For developing policy and institutional framework (Output 4), we will apply multi-stakeholder platforms, evidence-based policy dialogues and advocacy. We will document the evidences and experiences from the LCPV and share to wider stakeholders and policy makers. We will conduct feasibility study in two other agrobiodiversity hotspots in Nepal and propose scaling up strategies.

Project Management

The project will employ adaptive management through an iterative and reflective planning process and broad stakeholder participation. We will form a Project Advisory Committee (PAC), including representatives from partners and stakeholders, to provide strategic guidance to the project. The project will work with and build the capacity of cooperatives and private sector partners for sourcing produce from smallholders and place-based marketing; mobilize local resources and institutions like government departments, hotels, restaurants, supermarkets and open-air markets. Project will work closely with the Pokhara Metropolitan City to ensure programme synergies, leverage resources, and build local ownership and stewardship. The core project team will include one Project Leader, one full-time Research Officer, one part-time Research Associate and one full-time Research Assistant. The project will be led by Dr. Ram Bahadur Rana (30% Level of Effort), who has extensive experience and knowledge about research in agrobiodiversity and agricultural value chains. The Research Officer will be supported by two Field Researchers in planning and implementing project activities on the ground.

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.

Short-term changes:

1) Farmers adopt good agricultural practices (GAP) including gender-friendly technologies and practices for

production and post-harvest management of selected local crops/fish (rice – 1,100 HHs, 200 ha; fresh vegetables – 800 HHs, 40 ha; foxtail millet – 300 HHs, 15 ha; coffee – 900 HHs, 80 ha; citrus – 150 HHs, 20 ha; honey bees – 600 HHs, 4,800 hives; taro – 300 HHs, 10 ha; mushroom – 200 HHs, 10,000 kg; fish – 900 HHs, 75,000 kg; local poultry – 40 HHs, 3,000 birds). [Target: At least 3,500 farmers adopt GAP practices; by project end, at least 3,000 households (1,500 women-led/managed households) increase agriculture-based income by at least 70% from baseline].

2) The production and sale of local produce through ULB is expected to raise income of 3,000 households (1,500 women-led/managed households). [Target: Transaction of ULB products worth £1 million/year by the end of year 3].

3) Increased area coverage under permanent vegetation will reduce water run-off, siltation and turbidity in major three lakes (reduce pollution) resulting in recovery of three indigenous fish species. [Target: Begnas, Rupa and Phewa Lakes record increased catch of Sahar, Katile and Bam fish by 20% from baseline; increased area of perennial crops (e.g. coffee, citrus by 100 ha)].

4) Local communities take stewardship of conservation and scientific management of habitat for indigenous fish, local and migratory birds, and wild rice. [Target: Designated habitat area increase from around 5 ha now to about 20 ha in year 3].

5) Conservation and management of agrobiodiversity become integral part of local government's development priorities, with increased resource mobilisation. [Target: 50% increase in the budget allocation to biodiversity conservation by local governments].

6) Local governments initiate dialogues on potential of scaling-up ULB in other similar agrobiodiversity hotspots. [Target: At least two local governments start dialogue for establishing ULB in other hotspots].

Long-term expected changes:

1) Increased income and employment opportunities for local communities, market intermediaries and entrepreneurs through their engagement in place-based agricultural marketing. [Target: 200 new jobs (60% women) created in project life, with potential for increase in future].

2) Empowered and self-sustaining local community groups and institutions working together to build social capital and ensure collective action for the management of the Lake Cluster of Pokhara Valley (LCPV) for livelihood outcomes. [Target: Fund in access of £X/year generated locally and used for conservation activities].

3) Unified landscape brand for the LCPV firmly established and recognized by consumers in the regional and national markets. [Target: The LCPV brand is established and known to local and regional consumers by project lifetime with potential to increase coverage in future]

4) Market-led approach to agrobiodiversity management for livelihood outcomes become an integral part of local and provincial government's policies and strategies. [Target: The local government owns and facilitates the mechanism for ULB by project lifetime]

5) Market-based approach to agrobiodiversity management is recognized as important instrument to manage agrobiodiversity hotspots that contributes to inclusive economic growth. [Target: Government mainstream ULB concept for managing agrobiodiversity hotspots]

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.

The project will consider gender both at project design and delivery, and on programme activities, outputs, and outcomes. To ensure that benefits are fairly and equitably distributed among the needy people, particularly women, the project will employ a pro-poor and right-based approach to fairness, equity and inclusion. Few gender related binding targets for the project are:

- At least 50% of staff in the project are women
- At least 50% of direct beneficiary households are women-led

- At least 50% of project beneficiaries for capacity building events (trainings, exposure visits etc.) are women
- Women participation are prioritised in project management cycle
- Attention to identifying women-friendly programme delivery (time, place, process etc.) and promote women-friendly practices

The project will employ a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) sensitive monitoring, evaluation and reporting system that assesses the equity among women, men, and children in terms of their representation, participation and access and benefit sharing. The project will disaggregate data by age, sex, caste/ethnicity, and socioeconomic status, to analyse how project promoted technologies are: (i) benefiting women and men of different age, caste/ethnic and socioeconomic groups differently; (ii) reducing women's workload and drudgery; (iii) creating local employment opportunity to women and men from different age, caste/ethnic and socioeconomic groups; and (iv) increasing socially excluded groups' access to resources and services.

We will use the Longwe gender framework during planning project activities for ensuring proposed activities have 'positive' effects to level of gender equality for welfare, access, conscientisation, participation and control over resources. Projects outputs and outcomes will be recorded and reported in gender disaggregated database. The project will use Fund Flow Analysis (FFA) technique for tracking how much fund is directly expended to women to ensure that benefit is reaching the women and the most vulnerable communities, households, and individuals.

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 project is promoting a self-sustaining market-based approach (Unified Landscape Brand) for conservation of agricultural and aquatic biodiversity, hence the ULB will be operational even after the project end. Project will prioritize locally available materials and promote low-external input based technologies for production ensuring local ownership and sustainability of the investments. Where feasible, project activities will be integrated into the development plans of Pokhara Metropolitan City by aligning project planning and implementation with government's local planning process. This will build local ownership and stewardship.

The project will ensure co-investment from producers, cooperatives and entrepreneurs in developing pack-house, guaranteeing strong ownership. To ensure smooth functioning of supply chains, producer cooperatives will sign contracts with pack-house to link numerous producers to the market. Several farmers groups and cooperatives have firmly committed for the initiative, hence the multi-stakeholder partnership – public, private, cooperatives and non-profit organization – will remain intact even after the project to provide oversight to the mechanism. Project will strengthen local communities, groups, institutions and networks through its interventions so that the groups, cooperatives and market outlets continue to work together even after project phases out.

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

No Response

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 project is designed based on experiences of past projects of LI-BIRD. LI-BIRD piloted the concept of Unified Landscape Branding in Begnas-Rupa Lake Watershed in Kaski with financial support from the Swiss Resource Award (2014-2017). The preliminary results indicate that there is an increasing demand for labelled products in local, regional and national markets. Therefore, the proposed project has been developed to apply the place-based marketing approach of ULB at a larger scale to generate impact at scale, and influence policy at local and provincial level.

LI-BIRD currently has two projects ('Seed for Survival' and 'Promoting Climate-Resilient Agriculture') in parts of the proposed working areas in LCPV. Both these projects are focused on production aspects, whereas the proposed project is focused on marketing thus maximising synergy.

We also plan to harmonize the project with the multi-year Mayor's Agriculture Development Programme of Pokhara Metropolitan City, which focuses on increased production and commercialization of locally grown aromatic rice, coffee, citrus, vegetables and other ecologically grown biodiversity base produce and products. Pokhara Metropolitan has allocated annual budget of £X for the above programme. Through building effective partnership, the project will leverage local resources through government programmes.

Q17b. Are you aware of any other individuals/organisations/projects carrying out or applying for funding for similar work?

No

Q18. Ethics

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

LI-BIRD commits to meet all legal and ethical obligations required for the Darwin Initiatives in following ways:

- 1) Although Nepal does not have access and benefit sharing law, we will ensure that Prior Informed Consent (PIC) is obtained from the communities for research on local genetic materials, and associated traditional knowledge, conducting surveys, and biodiversity conservation and management works. We will follow access and benefit sharing best practices. LI-BIRD significantly influenced Nepal's agrobiodiversity and farmers' rights policy discourse and has the expertise and commitment to ensure PIC.
- 2) The project design process engaged multiple stakeholders – men and women farmers, farmers groups, cooperatives, entrepreneurs, local and provincial governments – to ensure that their perspectives and aspirations are adequately reflected for their active participation and benefit.
- 3) During the inception phase, we will co-design the activities with communities for conservation and utilization of the biodiversity by integrating both the traditional knowledge and practices with scientific knowledge and methods. LI-BIRD has developed and refined community biodiversity registration and diversity fairs to document local biodiversity and traditional knowledge, and their exchange. These will be integral part of the project plans.
- 4) We will organize one public hearing at the beginning to ensure that local stakeholders are informed about the project, while annual social audit will be conducted to maintain financial transparency, good governance, and to ensure people's right to information.
- 5) LI-BIRD has social research guideline which protects the rights and privacy of people while participating in research activities.
- 6) LI-BIRD has adopted the Safeguarding Policy at organizational level, which safeguards the beneficiaries and staffs from any misconducts, intentional or otherwise, which affects their safety and privacy. LI-BIRD has policies and procedures in place to safeguard health and safety of all project staff.

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?

The project has strong awareness raising component targeted to school children, general public and consumers on the value of agrobiodiversity, lake ecosystem health and their linkages with food-based nutrition, livelihoods and people's wellbeing. Several activities under Outputs 2 and 4 are planned to increase awareness on the worth of biodiversity.

Project will conduct conservation education at schools reaching about 3,000 students of Pokhara valley to increase conservation awareness. There is a plan to use mass media, and social media (blogging and vlogging), especially highlighting the value of local food culture. Activity about the promotion of Unified Landscape Brand, label and the story behind it (i.e., how by buying this product, the consumer is contributing to conservation in the Lake Cluster of Pokhara Valley) will be highlighted. The project will support women groups and entrepreneurs to participate in fairs and street food festivals, where cuisines made from local agricultural products will be introduced to visitors, and run awareness videos in exhibition stall. All these efforts will increase awareness of 150,000 general people.

The project will also produce various awareness raising materials regarding pollutions in lake ecosystem and good agricultural practices flyers. These extension materials will be crucial for promoting general awareness about the degradation of lake ecosystem and its effects on conservation of wetland and aquatic biodiversity and the need for affirmative action. We propose to organize local food recipe training to hoteliers, and organise campaigns in schools/colleges so that the value of the local food culture and agrobiodiversity can be imparted to youths.

The project will organise Travelling Seminar in third year of the project engaging political leaders, bureaucrats, private entrepreneurs, and academicians to showcase project results and interact with beneficiaries, which will increase awareness and opportunity for policy influencing.

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.

Capacity building actions in this project will be at different level targeted to different institutions and individuals:

1) Build the capacity of 3,500 individual men and women farmers on the knowledge and skills of good agricultural practices (GAPs) for cultivation of targeted local crops (rice, foxtail millet, taro, honey bees,

mushroom, coffee, and citrus), fishes and poultry. We will use farmer field schools (FFS) approach, which is essentially the experiential learning method successfully used for promoting GAPs. Project staff will co-develop and enhance knowledge and skills of farmers, particularly women, by jointly establishing the research-and-demonstration plots on-farm.

2) Engage with at least 40 farmer's groups and cooperatives to build their capacity to significantly leverage local resources for material and input supports for adoption of GAPs collectively. This may require skill development on institution building and management. The ultimate target will be to capacitate them so that farmers' groups, cooperatives can continue to work together even after project phases out.

3) Engage with private sector, including cooperatives, to strengthen their capacity to utilize and market the ULB products. We will also support entrepreneurs or cooperatives to establish collection centres or pack-house for adding value to the farm produce and market ULB quality-assured products.

4) Build capacity of 50 local hotels, restaurants and home stays to prepare and promote local food products in their menu.

5) Strengthen capacity of at least 30 farmers' groups, cooperatives and conservation committees for them to meaningfully engage in habitat conservation, pollution control and biodiversity conservation in Lake Cluster of Pokhara Valley – Ramsar area.

6) Project will work with and build the capacity of about 100 local political leaders, opinion leaders, academicians, and policy makers to understand CBD, ITPGRFA and Ramsar conventions/treaties and to relate their responsibilities on the context.

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.

LI-BIRD will ensure compliance of Darwin Initiative or DFID visibility and publication guidelines when generating any knowledge products in the project. All the data, information, and knowledge products generated through the project will be put in public domain where every interested person can access these products openly without any charge. LI-BIRD's publication website is already open and free to access any knowledge products generated by LI-BIRD and its partners [<http://www.libird.org/app/publication/results>]. The knowledge products generated through this project will also be uploaded to the website once they are approved by LI-BIRD's internal review and approval process for knowledge products. The video blogs will be uploaded to the respective YouTube channels of collaborating Nepali video bloggers and widely shared through social media. YouTube and social media presence for each ULB will be created and managed. The reports and knowledge products developed by the project will be officially submitted to the focal points of CDB, ITPGRFA and Ramsar so that they can include the outputs in the periodic national communication reports to the convention or treaty secretariat. The results will also be disseminated to wider academic circles by presenting the findings in the workshops, seminars and conferences, and distributing the publications at various national and international forums.

Project also plans to develop peer review journal papers from the research, which will be made available freely and openly through open access publication. For this purpose, a sum of £X publication fee has been allocated for the open access publications.

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:

Smallholder farmers in Nepal have secured livelihoods, improved well-being, and healthy environment through the sustainable management and utilization of agrobiodiversity

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Outcome: Improved livelihoods of 3000 smallholder farmers through application of ecologically sound and scalable market-based solutions to agricultural and aquatic biodiversity management in Lake Cluster of Pokhara Valley	0.1) At least 70% increase in income of 3000 smallholder farmers (50% women-managed households) from the sale of agrobiodiversity products by end of project (Year 1 = 700; Year 2 = 1500; Year 3 = 3000) 0.2) 200 new jobs (60% women) created from the production and marketing of the local crops and species (Year 1 = 70; Year 2 = 150; Year 3 = 200) 0.3) Local government establish mechanism for supporting conservation of biodiversity through their regular plans and programmes	0.1) Baseline and end-line survey 0.2) Project records, records of chambers of commerce, progress report of metropolitan 0.3) Local government /Metropolitan plan and budget	0.1) Newly elected council of metropolitan continues to prioritize 'Agrobiodiversity Heritage Area' programme initiated by previous council

Output 1:

Increased income and employment opportunities to smallholder farmers through the production and sale of agricultural biodiversity-based products at local and regional markets

1.1) At least 50% of the import (from outside LCPV) substitution of food items (vegetables – leafy vegetables, chilies; local rice – Jethobudho, Jhinuwa, Anadi; Coffee; foxtail millet; taro & yam; honey; citrus; mushroom; local fish – Katle, Sahar, Asala; local poultry) by 50+ restaurants, hotels and home stays (Year 1 = 10%; Year 2 = 25%; Year 3 = 50%)
1.2) At least 500 individuals (60% women) increase income through sale of agrobiodiversity products to local hotels and restaurants (Year 1 = 100; Year 2 = 350; Year 3 = 500)
1.3) At least 3500 households increase area under, and productivity of local crops and varieties (Year 1 = 700; Year 2 = 2500; Year 3 = 3500)
1.4) At least 3000 households use 'unified landscape brand' to access regional and national markets (Year 1 = 600; Year 2 = 2500; Year 3 = 3,000), with annual business of £ 1 million/year by project end

1.1) Baseline and end-line survey
1.2) Project M&E database
1.3) Sale records, market survey/assessment report

1.1) Hotels and local business associations continue to cooperate in the conservation efforts
1.2) There is no unexpected high inflation affecting the procurement of project's goods and services

Output 2:

Increased consumers awareness and knowledge about the value of local biodiversity based food products

2.1) Level of pollution and eutrophication to the lake ecosystem in LCPV watershed monitored and communicated to 30,000 users and general people through various means such as school programmes, local FM radio programmes, fairs, flyers and relevant networks (Year 1 = 5,000; Year 2 = 15,000; Year 2 = 30,000)
2.2) 12 episodes of 'unified landscape branding' broadcasted through local FM radios for consumer awareness in local and regional markets (Year 1 = 3; Year 2 = 5; and Year 3 = 4)
2.3) 5 schools implement conservation education and uses agrobiodiversity products produced from project communities linking with hostels/canteens
2.4) Consumers pay at least 10% higher price for the products with 'unified landscape branding' in market place

2.1) Records in local and regional markets, record of producer groups and cooperatives
2.2) Number of episodes
2.3) Sale records
2.4) School reports
2.5) Market outlet price monitoring and snapshot consumer survey report

2.1) Awareness campaigns are able to influence consumers behaviour and decision
2.2) Agrobiodiversity products which are ULB quality-assured are readily available in local and regional markets

Output 3:

Local stewardship and capacity for the conservation and management of biodiversity and lake ecosystem enhanced

3.1) Community managed biodiversity information centre and sale of ULB products generates GBP 12,000 per annum for the conservation fund to support biodiversity conservation and lake pollution control in LCPV (Year 1 = GBP 3,500; Year 2 = GBP 7,000; Year 3 = GBP 12,000)

3.2) At least 100 local leaders and stakeholders (50% women) are aware about the national and international policies provisions of Ramsar, ITPGRFA, CBD and SDG and are able to relate to their roles and responsibilities (Year 1 = 50; Year 2 = 100; Year 3 = 100)

3.3) Designated area protected as habitat increased from 5 ha to 20 ha for native and wild agricultural, aquatic species and native/migratory bird species in LCPV area (Year 1 = 10 ha; Year 2 = 20 ha; Year 3 = 20 ha)

3.4) Local government increased budget allocation and support for conservation of biodiversity by 50% from baseline figure (Year 1 = 10%; Year 2 = 30%; Year 3 = 50%)

3.1) Financial statement of Biodiversity Information Centre

3.2) Conservation fund and its mobilization records of ULB management committee and user's groups

3.3) LCPV management committee report and records

3.4) Budget statement of the metropolitan and provincial government bodies (baseline and end-line data)

3.5) Training report, progress report

3.6) Project M&E database

3.1) Project is able to secure strong buy-in for project supported interventions from local and national government bodies and policy makers

Output 4: Policy framework developed for scaling up market-led approaches for agrobiodiversity management for improved livelihood outcomes	4.1) Feasibility study of expanding 'unified landscape branding' conducted in 2 lake ecosystems (Year 1 = 0; Year 2 = 2; Year 3 = 2) 4.2) Evidence from 'agro-ecotourism' and 'unified landscape branding' generated and shared with at least 200 key local, provincial and national policy makers, researchers and other stakeholders through policy briefs, fact-sheets, video clips and travelling seminars (Year 1 = 25; Year 2 = 100; Year 3 = 200) 4.3) Government endorses the guideline for 'unified landscape branding' (Year 3)	4.1) Published policy /research briefs, fact-sheets and distribution records 4.2) Participants attendance record in travelling seminar 4.3) Endorsed/approved unified landscape branding guideline	4.1) Government policy makers, local leaders, planners and advisors learn and apply new evidences for revision of existing and/or formulation of new policies 4.2) Project attracts additional similar initiatives in and around LCPV creating greater opportunities for programme synergies, resource leveraging, learning, influencing and achieving impacts at scale
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Output 5: No Response	No Response	No Response	No Response
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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.

No

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 to 1.6

Activity Details

- 1.1) Review, identify and, develop Good Agriculture Practice (GAP) and prepare training manual for targeted commodities
- 1.2) Organize Farmer's Field Schools (FFSs) to develop and promote GAPs and build capacity of farming communities to produce safe and healthy foods
- 1.3) Produce and distribute quality seeds and planting materials and establishment of multipurpose nursery to increase local access to quality planting materials

- 1.4) Pilot and promote output based incentive mechanism for commercialization of agrobiodiversity products in partnership with local government
- 1.5) Establish and operationalize ULB mechanism including quality control by engaging local and provincial governments, communities and other relevant stakeholders
- 1.6) Support private entrepreneurs and cooperatives to establish a pack-house for collection, grading, packaging, labelling, and marketing of ULB certified products

Activity details

Activity Number

2.1 to 2.5

Activity Details

- 2.1) Provide training and support to local hotels, restaurants and home stays to promote local food recipes and menu
- 2.2) Conduct school programmes in LCPV areas to increase conservation awareness; engage with school hostels and canteens to promote agrobiodiversity products
- 2.3) Develop and disseminate information and communication materials (FM Radio advertisement, information boards, flyers, and social media) for general people and consumers for promoting 'unified landscape brand'
- 2.4) Organize/participate in the local food campaigns (Fairs, Street Food Festivals) and consumer awareness programme to promote agrobiodiversity base products and 'unified landscape brand'
- 2.5) Online marketing system for LCPV branded food products

Activity details

Activity Number

3.1 to 3.7

Activity Details

- 3.1) Collaborate with local, regional and national market-outlets for increasing availability of LCPV branded products to consumers
- 3.2) Form and operationalize multi-stakeholder Project Advisory Committee (PAC)
- 3.3) Establish and strengthen Collection Centres or Biodiversity Information Centres in LCPV area for conservation awareness, and serving as outlets for selling agrobiodiversity products
- 3.4) Conduct training/workshops for local leaders and stakeholders on national and international policies provisions particularly on Ramsar convention, CBD, ITPGRFA and SDGs
- 3.5) Monitor the level of pollution (eutrophication, toxicity, sedimentation, and invasive species) in selected lakes in LCPV and utilize the findings to inform public to galvanise support for conservation efforts in Ramsar areas
- 3.6) Support lake management committees, women groups and lake cooperatives to conserve the habitat of local fish, wild rice and wetland/migratory birds
- 3.7) Support local initiative for control and management of lake pollutions, and utilize water hyacinth for handicraft and compost making thereby generating income for women groups

Activity details

Activity Number

4.1 to 4.6

Activity Details

- 4.1) Support multi-stakeholder working group to identify institutional mechanisms (independent clearing house) and develop operational guideline to implement ULB
- 4.2) Produce and disseminate policy brief, fact-sheets, video and journal paper from the outcome of the piloting work of market led agrobiodiversity conservation and its integration in government policies, plans and programmes
- 4.3) Organize travelling seminars for the political leaders, policy makers, academicians and other stakeholders
- 4.4) Liaise with Ramsar focal unit of the government and support to establish mechanism and implementation of Lake Cluster of Pokhara Valley (LCPV) plan
- 4.5) Conduct a feasibility study of 'unified landscape branding' in other 2 biodiversity rich ecosystems
- 4.6) Organize result sharing and lesson learnt workshop

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.

↓ [Activity and Implementation Timetable](#)

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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").

We will employ adaptive management through an iterative and reflective planning process with broad stakeholder participation. Hence, the project's M&E system is designed to provide necessary data and information to make informed decision at various levels.

Project outcomes will be assessed through regular review of the M&E plan, which will be finalized at the end of project inception phase. Project will define key indicators which will be used for monitoring and reporting progress. The key M&E instruments that will be used in the project are as follows:

Baseline and endline surveys: Project will conduct a baseline survey (first 2-6 months) to establish the benchmark for the project's M&E indicators. An endline survey of the beneficiary households will be conducted at the end of the project to evaluate and quantify the changes.

Activity-to-output monitoring: There will be quarterly meetings of project staffs to record and assess progress on the activities and outputs of the project. Two multi-stakeholder joint-field monitoring visits will be organized each year to monitor project targets. Project staffs, collaborators, stakeholders, media personnel will be invited to joint-field visits.

Output-to-outcome monitoring: Annual review and planning meeting (ARPM) will be the platform for assessing whether the project outputs are contributing to achieve anticipated outcomes of the project. An Outcome Monitoring Survey will be conducted in yearly basis by the project staffs to evaluate the progress under each project indicator before the ARPM and the results will be presented on the ARPM. Project staffs, collaborators and stakeholders will come together and discuss about projects progress and outcomes.

Budget-variance monitoring and Fund Flow Analysis (FFA): The project budget will be disaggregated to monthly budget at the time of preparing annual plan. LI-BIRD's finance team will analyse monthly expense of the project against the planned budget and inform the project team if significant deviations are observed. LI-BIRD finance team will use FFA tool to disaggregate fund flow to beneficiaries by gender, caste, and socio-economic status for better targeting of actions.

Public Hearing and Social Audit (PHPA): Project will conduct public hearing in the project inception phase to inform beneficiaries about objectives and actions. Annual social audit will be conducted to ensure value for money is achieved.

The project will be endorsed by the Social Welfare Council (SWC), which is a mandatory requirement in Nepal. We will form a multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral project advisory committee, which will meet annually to provide strategic guidance and monitor project outcomes. A project review by SWC is planned for the third year of the project.

One full time M&E person is excess to the requirement of the project. Therefore, LI-BIRD will assign 20% time of Programme Operation Director (POD) who will oversee the M&E functions of the project. The POD will lead the project's outcome monitoring survey (questionnaire design, data collection, analysis and reporting), ARPM, SWC – project advisory committee meetings, evaluations, and monitor data collection and analysis. This arrangement is made to ensure that the project M&E is conducted by a team independent of the implementation team.

Total project budget for M&E (this may include Staff and Travel and Subsistence Costs)

Number of days planned for M&E	159
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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 Finance for Darwin/IWT Guidance 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.

 [Budget St2 - Darwin R25 IWT R5 LI-BIRD](#)

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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 are committed to maximize the value for money (VfM) by meticulously analysing the project cycle management to find right balance for economic gain, efficiency, effectiveness and equity outcomes from the investments by applying DFID's Approach to VfM. It employs VfM indicators to each of the 3Es of economy of scale, efficiency and effectiveness. The fourth 'e', equity, is addressed through the introduction of equity-focused indicators superimposed across other three categories. The VfM indicators for each Es will be developed during the inception phase.

We have already realized that good amount of resource leveraging through government and private funding for scaling up of the project's good practices can be achieved, which will maximize the impacts of each pound spent by project to improve people's lives in the region. The outcome of the project (i.e. established ULB) has immense potential for scaling up in the region, with high VfM for investing in this project.

We will try to maximize efficiency by sourcing the best materials at the best price by following LI-BIRD's procurement policy which include comprehensive supplier vetting and competitive bidding. When resourcing the research team, we carefully considered the requirements of project and our understanding of context while remaining focused on delivering VfM.

Project has clearly proposed expected results (outputs and outcome) and the costs by results. For ensuring efficiency and effectiveness, project proposes a clear activity-to-output and output-to-outcome monitoring

tools in M&E framework.

LI-BIRD has institutionalised fund flow analysis (FFA) tool for tracking invested resources are reaching to intended target groups. We will be using FFA in the project.

LI-BIRD's internal control system, internal auditor and Programme Operations Director will carry out the internal scrutiny and make the staff take responsibility to maximize the VfM in all aspects of their works.

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.

The project will purchase a motorbike required for field movement to be used by project team. Project will also buy two laptops required for data collection, analysis and reporting.

The ownership and custodianship of the above mentioned capital items will be handed over to the Ramsar Site Management Committee towards the end of the project amid a public event to ensure transparency and accountability in our operations.

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
LI-BIRD (BftW and USC Canada)		GBP	LI-BIRD signed a three-year project with BftW starting October 2018, hence we are able to leverage £ 20,000 instead of £ 15,000 proposed in Concept Note stage (Contract can be provided on request). USC Canada has been LI-BIRD's long term donor, and we have received assurance letter from USC Canada indicating their willingness to support the initiative (Support Letter included).

Fewa Watershed Ecosystem Management Board	GBP	New source of co-funding identified during full proposal development process (Support Letter included).
Pokhara Metropolitan City	GBP	During Concept Note stage Pokhara Metropolitan City had confirmed £ 10,000 co-funding but have since increased their co-funding to £ 25,000 (Support Letter included).
Farmers Organizations and Cooperatives	GBP	Co-funding included from three partner organizations - Rupa Lake Restoration & Fisheries Cooperatives, JSSA & PADC (support letter included)

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.

LI-BIRD has a well-structured financial risk management system in place. LI-BIRD carries out periodic internal and external audits at organizational and project level. The management prepares the audit action plans based on audit findings, with clear assignment of roles and responsibilities for action and follow up. The progress against the audit action plans are monitored regularly. In order to further strengthen its internal control system and to reduce/mitigate potential fiduciary risks, LI-BIRD has a full-time Internal Auditor since FY 2017/18.

To manage financial risk in procurement, LI-BIRD has a dedicated procurement person, conversant with compliance requirements of various donors; and a well-defined Procurement Policy applied by all staff across the mission. The organization has a well-defined zero tolerance policy against financial misappropriation and staff are required to sign the code of conduct including organization’s anti-corruption commitments.

There is system of probation evaluation and performance appraisal of all staff which re-assess the technical competence and suitability, financial integrity and personal attitude traits annually. There is the ‘conflict of interest’ policy, which is signed by all staff, including Board members, for identifying and managing conflict of interest issues in organization.

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.

Yes (no written advice)

Section 16 - Certification

Q32. Certification

On behalf of the

Company

of

Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD)

I apply for a grant of

£240,223.00



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	Balaram Thapa
Position in the organisation	Executive Director
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 <u>Balaram E-Signature</u>  03/12/2018  08:03:46  jpg 21.61 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).