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# **DIR25S2\100015**

## **Enhancing wetland resilience for improved biodiversity and livelihoods in Cambodia**

This project will conserve two internationally important protected areas in the Cambodian Lower Mekong Delta (CLMD), and enhance their connectivity to a healthier wider wetland landscape. We will promote resilient sustainable livelihoods, restore wildlife habitat and establish multiple-use zoning schemes in the protected areas, safeguarding endangered species and improving livelihood security and wellbeing for 6800 people. We will also enhance understanding of the surrounding seasonally inundated wetland system and promote more effective and harmonised wetland management across the region.

## PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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**Title** Ms  
**Name** Olivia  
**Surname** Wordsworth  
**Organisation** The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust  
(WWT)  
**Website (Work)** [www.wwt.org.uk](http://www.wwt.org.uk)  
**Tel (Work)**  
**Email (Work)**  
**Address**

## CONTACT DETAILS

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**Title** Mr  
**Name** Tomos  
**Surname** Avent  
**Organisation** The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust  
(WWT)  
**Website (Work)** [www.wwt.org.uk](http://www.wwt.org.uk)  
**Tel (Work)**  
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**Address**

# Section 1 - Contact Details

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## PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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**Title** Ms  
**Name** Olivia  
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**Title** Mr  
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**Tel (Work)**  
**Email (Work)**  
**Address**

## GMS ORGANISATION

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Type	Organisation
Name	The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT)
Phone (Work)	www.wwt.org.uk
Email (Work)	
Website (Work)	
Address	

## Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

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### Q3. Project title:

Enhancing wetland resilience for improved biodiversity and livelihoods in Cambodia

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

DIR25S1\100049

### 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	Cambodia	Country 2	Viet Nam
Country 3	<i>No Response</i>	Country 4	<i>No Response</i>

### Do you require more fields?

No

### Q5. Project dates

#### Start date:

01 April 2019

#### End date:

31 March 2022

#### Duration (e.g. 2 years, 3 months):

3 years

### Q6. Budget summary

Year:	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Total request
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<b>Amount:</b>	£108,717.00	£108,208.00	£103,547.00	<b>£</b>
				320,472.00

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**Q6a. Do you have proposed matched funding arrangements?**

Yes

**What matched funding arrangements are proposed?**

The total budget for the project will be £X leaving a match funding requirement of £X. Match funding already secured totals approximately £X. We will continue to apply to grant and other funders as part of our plan to raise the additional £X to fully fund this project. We have one application pending, and a list of funding prospects, some of whom have funded our work in the past.

**Q6b. Proposed (confirmed and unconfirmed) co-financing as % of total project cost** 41

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## Section 3 - Project Summary

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### 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](http://GOV.UK). Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.**

This project will conserve two internationally important protected areas in the Cambodian Lower Mekong Delta (CLMD), and enhance their connectivity to a healthier wider wetland landscape. We will promote resilient sustainable livelihoods, restore wildlife habitat and establish multiple-use zoning schemes in the protected areas, safeguarding endangered species and improving livelihood security and wellbeing for 6800 people. We will also enhance understanding of the surrounding seasonally inundated wetland system and promote more effective and harmonised wetland management across the region.

## Section 4 - Lead Organisation Summary

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### 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
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22-007	Robert Shore	Establishing Sustainable Management of the Lake Sofia Catchment Madagascar
21-007	Tomos Avent	Livelihoods in the Balance - Protecting Cambodia's Remaining Seasonally-inundated Grasslands
15-014	Sebastian Buckton	Managing Wetlands for Sustainable Livelihoods at Koshi Tappu, Nepal
11-012	Mark O'Connell	Monitoring Biodiversity for Site Management Planning in Eastern African Wetlands
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>
<b>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.</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 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:** The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT)

**Website address:** [www.wwt.org.uk](http://www.wwt.org.uk)

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

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) is one of the world's leading conservation organisations dedicated to saving wetlands. Our mission is to conserve, restore and create wetlands for the wildlife and people that rely on them; we have over 70 years' experience of doing so around the globe, through combining policy, practice and scientific research.

WWT was recently endorsed as one of only six International Organisation Partners by the 170 countries that are signatories to the Ramsar Convention, demonstrating the expertise needed for integrated wetland conservation and development projects.

WWT has led integrated community-based conservation projects in Cambodia since 2010, in partnership with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. We have a local team based in Cambodia, with technical support and oversight provided by a team in the UK.

As project leader, WWT has led the project development process and will be responsible for overall project management, including convening the Project Steering Committee. WWT will lead on the research, vulnerability assessment, habitat restoration and management effectiveness components. WWT will also support sustainable business planning for community natural resource management groups.

WWT will disseminate project results and learning through national and regional fora including the Sustainable Rice Platform and Indo-Burma Regional Ramsar Initiative.

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

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**Have you provided a cover letter to address your Stage 1 feedback?**  Yes

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**Do you have partners involved in the Project?**

Yes

**1. Partner Name:** BirdLife International, Cambodia Programme

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**Website address:** [www.birdlife.org](http://www.birdlife.org)

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

BirdLife International's involvement in Cambodia dates back to the mid-1990s, when it was among the first international conservation NGOs invited to work in the country.

BirdLife has had a permanent presence in Cambodia since 2001. It has a Memorandum of Understanding and a close working relationship with the Cambodian Ministry of Environment. In the last decade, BirdLife has supported the Cambodian government to designate five important bird and biodiversity areas as national protected areas. BirdLife builds the capacity of rangers and communities in these protected areas to conduct effective law enforcement and maintain regular biodiversity monitoring.

BirdLife has collaborated with WWT in the CLMD since 2010, and has built strong transboundary networks with stakeholders working at Vietnamese delta sites. BirdLife has played a key role in designing this project and will coordinate activities related to biodiversity monitoring, capacity strengthening for ranger teams and wider regional cooperation. It will also provide staff development support to NatureLife Cambodia (see below) to help organisational growth and sustainability.

BirdLife has a good relationship with the Cambodian CBD government focal point, and through this relationship, BirdLife will ensure the project contributes to the Cambodia National Biodiversity Strategy and Aichi targets of CBD.

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

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**2. Partner Name:** Department of Freshwater Wetland Conservation (DFWC)

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**Website address:** N/a

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

The Department of Freshwater Wetland Conservation (DFWC) is a department of the Cambodian Ministry of Environment (MoE), which has worked closely with WWT and BirdLife International on previous projects. This included the endorsement of national wetland wise-use guidance and support for our site-based work at Anlung Pring (AP) and Boeung Prek Lapouv (BPL) Protected Landscapes after the transfer of protected area management from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to the MoE in 2015.

DFWC has assisted us in working with regional departments to develop new community ranger groups at AP and BPL that will align with the new management systems. DFWC has also played an instrumental role in developing multi-stakeholder coordination meetings for community natural resource management and initial zonation consultation. It co-facilitates Liaison Panels at both sites, which meet annually to review all activities. The Director of DFWC is the Cambodia Ramsar Focal Point.

DFWC's role in this project will be to provide permits and support for ecohydrological and ecosystem services research; oversee the zoning of the Protected Landscapes; provide legal oversight of protected area management and facilitate partnership working between provincial and regional government agencies; endorse catchment assessment training; and coordinate with WWT as project lead.

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

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**3. Partner Name:** NatureLife Cambodia (NL)

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**Website address:** <http://naturelifecambodia.org>

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

NatureLife Cambodia is a national conservation organisation, registered with the Ministry of Interior in February 2017. It was established with technical support from BirdLife International and financial support from the IUCN. NatureLife was founded with 12 members, of whom 10 came from BirdLife Cambodia. It has a governing board of four experienced and well-known Cambodian conservationists.

NatureLife has worked with WWT and its partners since its establishment, and has led environmental awareness campaigns at the two project sites, including hosting the national celebration for World Migratory Waterbird Day in 2018. NatureLife has also coordinated the Asian Bird Fair and Cambodia's International Vulture Day event.

A curriculum-based environmental education schools programme created by WWT and Mlup Baitong has now been formally handed over to NatureLife due to their growing specialist capacity in this area. In this project, NatureLife will lead this programme, as well as broader awareness and behaviour-change schemes, including multi-media events and waste management.

A member of the Liaison Panels at AP and BPL, NatureLife has participated in integrated conservation planning for both sites. This proposed project provides an excellent opportunity for NatureLife to gain further experience of community-based wetland conservation, helping to build local capacity in this area.

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

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**4. Partner Name:** Cambodian Rural Development Team (CRDT)

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**Website address:** [www.crdt.org.kh](http://www.crdt.org.kh)

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

Founded in 2001, CRDT is a Cambodian NGO, which provides sustainable livelihood development through community organisation, business growth and environmental protection. CRDT has a long track record of working alongside other environmental NGOs to meet joint conservation and development objectives. Examples include projects with the Wildlife Conservation Society and Birdlife International in Siem Pang, Cambodia. CRDT has also been instrumental in the development of Wildlife Friendly Rice accreditation in Cambodia and works to the standards set by the Sustainable Rice Platform throughout its programme portfolio.

CRDT has advised on the project design and will lead the sustainable agriculture component of this project, promoting profitable environmentally-sensitive alternatives to the current high-polluting rice farming practices. CRDT will support the establishment of sustainable rice farming groups in the highest polluting areas around the protected zones and improve the market value chain for these products. As at all of CRDT's sites, staff will be embedded within the communities, offering continual support and building capacity within the local farming associations to operate independently in the future.

Through their community links, CRDT will also support NatureLife to develop a waste reduction strategy.

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

Yes

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**5. Partner Name:**

*No Response*

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**Website address:**

*No Response*

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

*No Response*

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

Yes

No

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**6. Partner Name:**

*No Response*

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**Website address:**

*No Response*

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

*No Response*

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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.


 **WWT Cover Letter**


 03/12/2018

 16:09:17

 pdf 1.56 MB

 **Letters of Support**

 01/12/2018

 21:56:28

 pdf 1.88 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?
Tomos Avent	<b>Project Leader</b>	20	Checked
Vorsak Bou	National Advisor (BirdLife)	15	Checked
Or Channy	CRDT Project Lead (CRDT)	10	Checked
Taing Porchhay	Education Lead (NatureLife)	30	Checked

Do you require more fields?

Yes

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	CV attached below?
Saber Masoomi	Cambodia Country Coordinator (WWT)	73	Checked

Ly Sophanna	Manager for Protected Wetlands (BirdLife)	66	Checked
Meas Viphou	Livelihood Program Manager (CRDT)	20	Checked
Holly Pal	Project Admin & Finance Officer	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.**

**↓ Core Project Team CVs**

📅 03/12/2018

🕒 17:05:32

📄 pdf 3.32 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?**

The CLMD supports the livelihoods of 3 million people and is within a global biodiversity hotspot. Rapid unsustainable development has led to the loss of over 60% of the region's wetlands, causing habitat fragmentation and leaving those most dependent on natural resources, who are also the poorest (1.5mn are classified as poor), worse off than ever.

AP and BPL Protected Landscapes are two of the last remaining seasonally-inundated grasslands in the CLMD. These Key Biodiversity Areas host numerous globally threatened species, including the Critically Endangered bengal florican and 70% of the Southeast Asian population of the Vulnerable sarus crane, the tallest flying bird and flagship species of Cambodia's wetlands. They also provide ecosystem services supporting the livelihoods of 6800 people, predominantly based on fishing and rice farming.

Recent changes to Protected Area management systems have temporarily prohibited natural resource management groups from using AP and BPL until new zonation models are agreed. This has weakened patrolling and government legal enforcement, leaving the sites vulnerable to increasing pressures from agricultural conversion and unregulated resource use.

At BPL, a 2018 WWT/IUCN Vulnerability Assessment identified agricultural encroachment into biodiversity habitat, a legacy of unclear land rights, as the main threat, compounded by upstream development and climate change. A published study by project partners found that unsustainable farming around AP is creating high levels of pollution, which is now the primary threat to biodiversity habitat and ecosystem services.


Wetland degradation in the Lower Mekong Delta is threatening local livelihoods, health and food security,


and having a devastating impact on biodiversity. The regional sarus crane population has halved over the past decade (the 2018 survey counted only 253 birds), and without urgent action to conserve its last remaining feeding sites, it faces extirpation. This is indicative of a wider decline in Lower Mekong Delta biodiversity.


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

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 **Note on Project Team CVs**


 03/12/2018

 17:24:16


 docx 11.47 KB

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 **Core Project Team CVs 2**

 03/12/2018

 17:10:47

 pdf 3.38 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)
- 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.**

CBD. The project will support the objectives of the Inland Waters Biodiversity thematic programme of work of the CBD (Decision VII/4), by:

- Restoring degraded wetland ecosystems through habitat restoration, including invasive species removal, and supporting the recovery of threatened waterbirds (1.3, 1.4).
- Generating increased understanding and appreciation of wetland biodiversity in local communities and government departments through education, awareness-raising and capacity building (2.4, 3.1, 3.2).
- Promoting full and effective participation of local communities in the development and implementation of Protected Area Management Plans, through a participatory multiple-use zoning process, ongoing consultation and awareness raising (2.5).

The project will also contribute to the following Aichi Targets:

1. Environmental awareness and education for schools and communities, and direct involvement of community members in zoning and management planning, will raise awareness of biodiversity values and sustainable natural resource management.
2. Enhanced understanding of ecosystem services and ecohydrological connectivity in the CLMD will feed into local development plans and MoE prioritisation strategies.
4. New government-endorsed zonation models will support sustainable natural resource use, with management plans in place for regulation.
5. Zoning informed by participatory land tenure reviews will resolve controversies around land use at BPL, preventing ambiguity from legitimising encroachment into key biodiversity habitats.
7. 200 farmers in highest polluting areas will convert to sustainable agriculture.

8. Environmental degradation from pollution will decrease through sustainable farming practices and waste reduction strategies.

11 & 12. Two protected wetlands of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services will be more effectively and equitably managed, resulting in improved conservation status for key indicator species.

14. Improvements to water quality and fairer access to natural resources as a result of zoning will mainly impact upon the poorest and most vulnerable in the CLMD.

Ramsar. The project will support Strategic Goals (SG) 1-3 of the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan (RSP, 2016-24), as well as the Indo Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative Draft Strategic Plan (IBRRI DSP, 2019-24), by:

RSP SGs 1 & 3: researching the ecosystem benefits of the CLMD wetlands, ensuring the benefits are understood by a wide range of stakeholders, and using them to inform strategies and plans that address the drivers of wetland loss and degradation across a network of sites.

RSP SG2 & IBRRI DSP Objectives 2.1 and 2.2: supporting the expansion of the Ramsar Site network. DFWC plans to designate AP as a new Ramsar Site by 2020, and the planned research at AP will provide important evidence to support this process. A Vulnerability Assessment at AP will contribute to a multi-country IBRRI initiative to assess and enhance the resilience of wetlands and their surrounding communities in the region.

The project will train Ramsar Site managers to assess the status and management effectiveness of their sites, generating evidence and strengthening capacity to support the effective management of Ramsar Sites. It will also promote harmonised use of Ramsar wetland assessment and management tools across Ramsar and non-Ramsar sites, and showcase best practice local adoption of Ramsar recommendations and tools.

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

Yes

#### **Please give details:**

The Ramsar Focal Point, Dr Srey Sunleang, is the Head of the DFWC, one of the project partners. The DFWC is the government department responsible for managing Protected Areas, and has a staff member dedicated to supporting NGOs with conservation at AP and BPL. WWT will work closely with Dr Sunleang to ensure that project activities support implementation of the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan (see Letter of Support).

WWT and BirdLife will also liaise with CBD Focal Points at the MoE, Mr. Chay Samith and Ms. Somaly Chan, to ensure the project makes the greatest possible contribution to CBD targets.

### **Q12d. Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)**

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

The project will support the SDGs by helping to secure wetland ecosystem services of critical importance for poverty reduction. It will contribute to the following SDGs, and their respective targets, by:

SDG 1 (1.4, 1.5). Improving the livelihoods and food security of vulnerable wetland-dependent households by conserving valued ecosystem services (e.g. fish populations, water regulation/soil fertility for rice

farming), and building their resilience to climate-related events.

SDG 2 (2.3, 2.4). Restoring fish stocks through habitat restoration, establishing secure and equitable access to natural resources through zonation, and promoting climate-resilient agricultural technologies.

SDG 3 (3.9). Improving water quality through reduced pollution.

SDG 5 (5.5). Supporting women's full and effective participation in decision-making through community natural resource groups (e.g. community fisheries).

SDG 6 (6.3, 6.6). Reducing pollution through sustainable agriculture and improved waste disposal methods, and promoting recycling through community-based waste recycling schemes. Protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems by reducing anthropogenic threats, enhancing understanding of the optimal ecohydrological conditions to inform management strategies, and strengthening capacity for wetland management.

SDG 13 (13.1). Conserving wetlands, which mitigate flooding, prevent droughts and store carbon, and promoting climate-resilient agricultural technologies.

SDG 15 (15.1, 15.5, 15.8, 15.9). Supporting the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of inland freshwater wetland ecosystems. Taking targeted action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats and prevent the extinction of threatened species, specifically by restoring Eleocharis grassland, the main habitat and food source of biodiversity at AP/BPL, including the highly threatened regional sarus crane population, which is facing imminent extirpation.

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

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### 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.**

AP and BPL are isolated protected pockets within the highly degraded CLMD landscape. The project aims to enhance the resilience of these sites, and create the foundations for better informed and coordinated conservation of the wider Lower Mekong Delta wetland network. Our method takes an integrative approach, working alongside communities and government to harness long-term sustainable solutions replicable in the wider region. Focusing on Cambodia, the project also draws comparisons, and builds transboundary civil society networks with wetlands across the border in Vietnam.

#### Output 1

In the wider CLMD wetland landscape, the project will use Ramsar's Rapid Assessment of Wetland Ecosystem Services (RAWES) tool and data from the Satellite-based Wetland Observation Service (SWOS) to analyse the ecosystem service value and ecological character of CLMD wetlands. This will culminate in a 'State of CLMD Wetlands' report to inform DFWC conservation prioritisation and planning. Multi-stakeholder Ramsar Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (R-METT) workshops will be held in Cambodia and Vietnam to identify management gaps and prioritise actions through a transboundary network. A toolkit, and associated training, will promote the assessment process to Ramsar Site Managers, National Ramsar Committee members and in the Indo-Burma region.

At AP and BPL, in-depth ecohydrological analysis will determine their desired optimal states for Management Planning.

#### Output 2

The project will incorporate results of Vulnerability Assessments and community zoning consultations to finalise MoE-endorsed multiple-use zonation models and Management Plans, promoting sustainable



resource management and protection of core biodiversity habitat. Management Plans will be implemented alongside public awareness campaigns, community resource management association support, and ranger capacity building.

### Output 3

The project will support local people at AP/BPL to pursue profitable sustainable livelihood options which also reduce wetland degradation.

Farmers in priority pollution reduction areas at AP (identified under Output 1) will be supported to convert to techniques adhering to Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) standards. Based on recommendations from a local SRP Value Chain Analysis, farmers will be provided with seeds, training and cooperative equipment to provide access to mills buying high quality rice at higher prices.

Community fishery groups (CFis) previously using BPL will have legal rights to do so again as a result of zonation (Output 2). A CFi Business Plan published in 2017 will be adapted to adjust to the new MoE Protected Landscape framework, and the CFis will be supported to incorporate sustainable financing mechanisms proposed in the Business Plan (waterway restoration and rental schemes), enhancing their financial resilience. CFis will also benefit from fish nursery habitat restoration and Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) removal (Output 4).

Three small-scale recycling businesses will be developed to support community groups to link to large-scale recycling facilities.

### Output 4

Optimal ecohydrological states will be agreed (Output 1) and incorporated with vegetation mapping to identify habitat restoration schemes to be included in Management Plans. This will include INNS removal programmes at BPL, and experimental approaches to improve conditions for the native *Eleocharis* grasslands and re-plant inundated forests, with successful trial plots enlarged in the final year of the project.

## 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

- The extent and quality of priority biodiversity habitat at AP and BPL will improve, resulting in increased populations of key indicator species. *Eleocharis* grassland, a key habitat and food source for much of the sites' important biodiversity, will increase by 15%. The proportion of the Southeast Asian population of sarus cranes using AP and BPL to feed during the non-breeding season will increase by 15%. By conserving two of the last remaining feeding sites for this highly threatened sub-species, we will ensure the birds are sufficiently healthy to breed successfully at other sites, helping to maintain a viable regional population.
- 5100 people will have more secure legal access to the natural resources upon which they depend, as a result of the establishment of government-endorsed sustainable multiple-use zoning across 8300 hectares at BPL, informed by community consultations and participatory land tenure reviews. Illegal encroachment into wildlife habitat and illegal fishing will decrease as a result of the effective enforcement of zonation

scheme regulations by skilled rangers.

- The levels of key pollutants at AP will reduce, restoring habitat quality for threatened biodiversity, and bringing health and livelihood benefits for 1700 people living in the surrounding areas.
- 200 farmers at AP, at least 50% of them women, will increase profits by 30% and reduce chemical inputs by 70% through the adoption of sustainable rice farming in areas where threats to ecosystem services are most acute. The benefits of converting to sustainable agriculture will be widely showcased. WWT has proven these results are possible through trials in the region.
- 1500 people will be benefitting from well-managed, self-financing CFIs with legal rights to fish in the designated sustainable use zones. Core costs of CFIs will be secured into the long-term, creating no direct cost for membership, removing the main driver for poor short-term membership retention.
- Wetland Site Managers and Ramsar Committee members will demonstrate measurable improvements in capacity to assess and enhance site management effectiveness.

Long-term changes

- Protected Landscape Management Plans for AP/BPL, incorporating multiple-use zoning, will provide a long-term framework for the sustainable and adaptive management of the sites, enabling them to provide valued ecosystem services for 6800 people, and healthy biodiversity habitat without which populations of threatened species would become extinct.
- AP and BPL will be formally recognised as internationally important wetlands, and benefitting from greater long-term protection and investment, as a result of their designation as a Ramsar Site (AP) and an East Asian Australasian Flyway Site (BPL).
- The wider CLMD ecosystem will be better understood, more highly valued and given greater priority in conservation planning, abating habitat decline for thousands of bird, fish, amphibian and plant species, and improving the security of ecosystem services that underpin the livelihoods and wellbeing of millions of wetland-dependent people.
- Ramsar wetland assessment and management tools promoted through the project will be rolled out across Indo-Burma, paving the way for a more harmonised and effective approach to wetland management in the region.

## 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.**

Cambodia is a hierarchical society with strong traditional norms. Despite women's key role in food production and provision, disparities persist regarding their access to, and control over natural resources. This project will seek to promote gender equality, whilst being sensitive to cultural values and traditions.

The project design has been informed by consultations with both women and men in AP/BPL to gain an understanding of their different roles, responsibilities and needs. It will support equal participation in community planning and decision-making by ensuring that women are proportionately represented on community natural resource groups (e.g. CFIs), Liaison Panels and working groups, and supporting them to participate meaningfully in group proceedings.

Women will have equal opportunity to benefit from sustainable livelihoods activities such as CFI and sustainable rice farming training (min. 50% women). The partners will seek to address some of the social and cultural barriers to women's participation, for example by holding training events at times and venues suitable for women, and ensuring that training materials/methods are accessible for those with limited formal education.

The planned research will be informed by gender considerations, for example, involving female students in data collection, holding women-only groups as part of the AP Vulnerability Assessment during management planning, and analysing the different ways in which women and men use and benefit from wetland resources as part of the ecosystem services assessment.

The partners will routinely collect gender-disaggregated data on various issues, both to inform and adapt project interventions (e.g. data on training participants, membership of natural resource groups, participation in environmental awareness activities) and to assess project impacts on women and men (e.g. data on agricultural income, understanding of zoning regulations).

On an organisational level, WWT and its partners will adhere to equal opportunities policies when hiring for all positions created by the project.

## 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?**

This project forms part of WWT's long-term strategy for Cambodia, which takes a progressive approach to building local, regional and national capacity for the sustainable management of wetlands.

Within this framework, the project exit strategy centres on strengthening local capacity and networks, and working with local partners committed to providing ongoing support to community-based conservation in the CLMD after the project ends.

Certain activities will be completed within the project life-time, providing the foundations for long-term effective wetland management. The ecological research and multiple-use zoning will be completed and used to inform the development and implementation of Management Plans in AP/BPL. Landscape connectivity and management effectiveness of CLMD wetland sites will be assessed, with a catchment assessment toolkit shared for regional roll-out, and training provided on its use. Training will be structured and delivered in such a way that MoE managers can transfer knowledge if key site management are replaced.

Whilst some activities may require support beyond the project lifetime, WWT is committed to maintaining a long-term presence in the CLMD to ensure that project approaches are fully integrated into local structures, plans and policies. We will use the achievements of this project to leverage additional funding for future work.

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

*No Response*

## Section 9 - Existing works, Ethics & Safeguarding

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### 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 will build on and extend the work undertaken by WWT and partners in the CLMD over the last 8 years.

It will develop the partnership's site-based work at AP/BPL, introducing new activities to respond to emerging opportunities, and developing wider transboundary civil society networks. Taking advantage of new MoE zonation regulations, we will establish a fairer, more sustainable land-use model at BPL which reduces habitat encroachment. We will build on our past work establishing CFIs and sustainable rice farming initiatives, by supporting the CFIs to integrate sustainable financing mechanisms which enhance their long-term viability, and by replicating sustainable rice farming technologies successfully piloted at BPL in the highest polluting areas at AP.

More widely, the project will use the work at AP/BPL as the catalyst for improving wetland planning and coordination across the CLMD. Localised research will be expanded to include wider landscape connectivity assessment, facilitating the identification of priority corridors to inform district and provincial level planning. National wetland wise-use guidance developed under a previous project will be complemented by new wetland landscape assessment toolkit, establishing a best practice model that will be showcased through regional networks such as IBRRI.

**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.**

Wildlife Conservation Society and Sansom Mlup Prey are working on sustainable rice farming initiatives at other locations through the Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP). WWT will continue to work with them, ensuring that project approaches are informed by the most recent work in this area, and will share project results through SRP and Better Rice Initiative Asia.

WWT has collaborated with International Crane Foundation and WWF to coordinate our respective work to conserve key sarus crane sites at different locations in Cambodia and Vietnam, and support work to develop and implement a Species Action Plan for the regional sarus crane population.

**Q18. Ethics**

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

WWT has over 70 years' experience of conservation science, research and action, and strives in all its work to adhere to the highest legal, ethical and human rights standards, both in the UK and the countries involved in our projects. We have a range of established policies and procedures (e.g. safeguarding, data protection, health and safety) designed to protect the rights, privacy and safety of project workers and participants, which are adhered to across all projects.

WWT will work closely with the MoE to ensure that all activities under this project are properly endorsed and comply with legal and ethical standards in Cambodia. As project lead, we will ensure that all partners adhere to the same standards. BirdLife International is a founding member of the Conservation Initiative on Human Rights and will advise the partnership on rights-based approaches.

WWT has been working at AP/BPL since 2010, establishing good relationships with all key stakeholders. The

majority of work will be delivered by staff based in-country and partner organisations who have local expertise, cultural knowledge and community relationships. Local people will be consulted and involved in decision-making at all stages of the project, through structures including the community natural resource management groups and Liaison Panels. We will adhere to the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent.

Ecological data and research reports will be made freely available (see Q22) and socio-economic data will only be collected with informed consent of the individuals involved, with their right to anonymity assured. The research will be overseen by an Expert Working Group, which will assess the proposed methodologies to ensure they meet ethical standards and recognise and respect traditional knowledge. All those involved in research design and data collection will receive training on ethical principles, such as the independence and integrity of the research process.

## 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

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### 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 aims to demonstrate the value of CLMD wetlands, their biodiversity and the ecosystem services they provide, focusing on two main audiences.

1. The 6,800 people living around AP/BPL, who depend upon wetland resources for their livelihoods. We will work with local communities to raise awareness of the linkages between wetland biodiversity and ecosystem services essential for livelihoods and wellbeing, with the aim of promoting behaviour change in relation to sustainable natural resource use.

Environmental awareness activities will be held in local villages, including interactive multimedia events, competitions and celebrations of international environmental days (e.g. World Migratory Bird Day and World Wetland Day). Expected result: local people understand the importance of healthy wetlands to secure valued ecosystem services, and are using natural resources more sustainably.

An environmental education programme will be held in local schools, using curriculum-based materials previously piloted by project partners. Expected result: the next generation of wetland-users appreciate wetland values and play an active role in environmental stewardship.

Community consultations and workshops will be held on the new zoning scheme, with information points

and boundary markers installed. Expected result: wetland-users understand the rationale and regulations of the scheme, and are complying with its provisions.

A waste reduction scheme, linked to community recycling business ventures, will be promoted through community meetings and posters at focal points. Expected result: local people are increasingly reusing and recycling household waste.

2. MoE staff/wetland managers. WWT will engage with MoE at national and sub-national levels through meetings, training and workshops, using materials developed through the project - such as research and R-METT reports - to influence conservation prioritisation and planning, and promote wider use of Ramsar-endorsed tools. Expected result: MoE understands the multiple benefits provided by wetlands and adopts a more effective and harmonised approach to wetland assessment and management nationwide.

## **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 is integral to the success and sustainability of project interventions, taking place at various levels.

At the individual level, the project will build the capacity of rice farmers at AP to adopt more sustainable and profitable rice farming techniques conforming to SRP standards. Rice farmers will form farmer groups, receive technical training and participate in exchange visits to learn from existing BPL pilot farmers. They will be linked to agricultural extension services and viable markets to enhance their growth and sustainability.

Wetland site rangers will be given training and support on using the Spatial Monitoring & Reporting Tool (SMART), enhancing their capacity to monitor, evaluate and adaptively manage conservation initiatives. Local students will be given the opportunity to complete research projects alongside the CLMD research programme.

At the community level, the project will build the capacity of CFIs, farmer groups and waste management businesses to operate independently, providing technical support and training on finance and administration. The CFIs will be supported to establish sustainable financing mechanisms to cover the ongoing costs of education, patrolling, monitoring and management.

At the institutional level, the project will focus on strengthening local and national capacity to assess and manage wetlands. Wetland Site Managers in the Lower Mekong Delta and National Ramsar Committee members will be trained on wetland assessment, and will participate in study tours, with opportunities to participate in R-METT assessments in order to promote knowledge exchange.

Capacity will be secured through a range of measures, including: holding refresher training on key topics to ensure knowledge is embedded and applied; identifying and training focal points responsible for passing on knowledge, such as CFI/farmer group leaders or senior MoE staff; promoting exchange of information and best practice through networks; and making training and guidance materials freely accessible to support future work.

## **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.

The project will develop a number of outputs, which will be made accessible as follows:

- The State of CLMD Wetlands Report, AP/BPL ecohydrological research reports and raw R-METT and RAWES reports will be freely available on the WWT website, through the MoE and on the Open Development Cambodia web portal. All research outputs will be submitted to the R4D DfID repository.
- The catchment assessment toolkit will be published in an open-access journal and shared with the IBRRI to be distributed to all members for wider sharing through their networks (£1000 requested from Darwin for open-access publication).
- The AP Vulnerability Assessment will be shared with the IBRRI and the IUCN Mekong WET project for publication.
- Original mapping and rules and regulations promotional material for final zoning will be provided to communities and publically displayed through awareness campaigns and signage (£3,400 requested for printing and signage for demarcation and awareness).
- Reports on biodiversity numbers/distributions will be made publically available online on NatureLife's webpage.
- Education materials in Khmer and English to support the environmental awareness activities will be shared through the Wetland Link International network (<https://wli.wwt.org.uk>) for wider regional use.
- M&E data will be freely available upon request.

WWT will present the project's progress at regular community meetings, quarterly Project Steering Committee meetings and annual Liaison Panel meetings. Lessons learnt and best practice will be disseminated at annual meetings of the IBRRI and through WWT's participation in international fora.

## Section 11 - Logical Framework

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### 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:

A network of wetlands within the Cambodian Lower Mekong Delta (CLMD) is providing connected habitat for biodiversity and resilient ecosystem services for local people.

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Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
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**Outcome:**

AP and BPL provide enhanced, resilient habitat for threatened biodiversity, secure and productive ecosystem services for 6800 people, and are the catalyst for more connected wetland networks in the CLMD.

0.1 The proportion of the South-east Asian population of sarus crane (*Grus antigone sharpii*) using AP and BPL is 15% higher than 2018 census data by 2022 (Baseline: based on max counts at BPL of 75.3% and at AP of 48.9%).

0.2 Extent of 'good' quality seasonally inundated grassland habitats in AP and BPL increases by at least 15% by 2022 (Baseline to be collected at start of project during phase one of ecohydrological research).

0.3 Levels of Ammoniacal Nitrogen (NH<sub>4</sub>-N) and Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) in AP reduced by 20% compared to baseline analysis in 2017 by 2022 (Baseline: NH<sub>4</sub>-N 0.89 mg/l and BOD 6.82 mg/l).

0.4 By 2021, 5100 people have legally secured access to wetland resources managed through plans agreed by multi-Stakeholder Liaison Panels at BPL (Baseline: No zonation scheme granting legal community usage rights and no associated Management Plan in place).

0.5 Percentage of the 1,700 local people

0.1 Annual sarus crane Census reports.

0.2 Vegetation surveys conducted at start and end of project. 'Good' quality defined by independent specialists at Institute for Environment and Natural Resources (IER), Vietnam National University using similar approach to UK Common Standards Monitoring.

0.3 Annual independent analysis by Kampot Provincial Department of Water Resources and Meteorology.

0.4 Zonation maps endorsed by government, BPL Protected Landscape Management Plan, Liaison Panel meeting minutes.

0.5 Analysis of responses to start and end of project social surveys.

Project partners' relationship with the Department of Freshwater Wetlands Conservation (DFWC) in the Ministry of Environment (MoE) remains strong (WWT and BirdLife have been working closely with the DFWC for over ten years. The DFWC are partners in this project and have enclosed an endorsement letter).

The regional population of cranes does not experience massive fluctuations due to external factors (e.g. weather events) and the increase in proportion of cranes at AP and BPL is not due to the collapse of another individual site (Annual data from a population-wide census will be used, and will help to identify anomaly years, as well as helping to determine if the population at another single feeding site has collapsed). NB: population numbers are not used for this project as declines in this migratory species are known to be partially affected by threats to breeding sites outside of the project geographical scope.

Local farmers and communities will engage with the project (The project partnership have built strong



around AP classified as 'Poor' in the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) decreases by 10% (baseline to be established) by 2022 (based on a representative sample, disaggregated by sex).

relationships with the local community, and are known to be the main driver for community involvement in an otherwise government zonation process. The project has strong evidence from a previous pilot sustainable farming project that demonstrates significant increases in profitability. Farmers from this pilot scheme will visit new farmers to relay benefits).

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**Output 1:**

AP, BPL and the wider CLMD wetland landscape are better understood and showcasing best practice local adoption of Ramsar recommendations and tools.

1.1 Optimal ecohydrological states, informed by research findings, agreed by AP and BPL Liaison Panels by Oct 2020 (Baseline: no agreed optimal state and limited understanding of ecohydrological requirements to sustain wetland biodiversity and ecosystem services).

1.2. State of CLMD Wetlands Report published by project partners and presented to the MoE by end of Year 2. Priority nodes and corridors around AP and BPL identified and incorporated into district planning by end of Year 3 (Baseline: no landscape-wide research previously conducted).

1.3 All Cambodian wetland Site Managers, National Ramsar Committee and IBRRI members are aware of R-METT, RAWES and SWOS approaches by end of Year 2 and R-METT has been completed at four Protected Areas in Lower Mekong Delta by end of Year 3 (Baseline: capacity/knowledge baseline to be collected in Y1).

1.1. Working Group minutes, research proposals, research reports and Liaison Panel meeting presentations and minutes.

1.2 State of CLMD Wetlands Report, Provincial government meeting minutes (Takeo Province and Kampot Province), review of District Plans.

1.3 Capacity assessment surveys of Site Managers and committee members at the start and end of project. R-METT information sheets. Cambodian and Vietnamese reports to Ramsar CoP 14.

Local community members engage with the project and support assessments.

MoE has sufficient resource and capacity to participate in this work and provide a timely response (The level of support required will not grow from previous years and the project can be run relatively autonomously assuming the MoE still has the resources to approve the work on paper).

Civil society groups in Vietnam engage with the project (WWF and ICF, the main stakeholders involved in management of Phu My and Tram Chim, have already accepted our approach and are members of the IBRRI, the strategy of which promotes this transboundary exchange).

**Output 2:**

Protected Area Management Plans informed by a participatory zoning process are developed, endorsed by government, and implemented at AP and BPL, with local communities understanding and adhering to their regulations.

2.1 Protected Landscape Management Plans, informed by ecological research and multiple land-use zonation plans and Vulnerability Assessments, are finalised and being implemented at AP and BPL by end of Year 3 (Baseline: outdated and no-longer relevant Management Plans based on previous management system from Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries).

2.2 At least 80% of local people (disaggregated by sex) have an understanding of the newly adopted rules and regulations, and reasons for them, by end of Year 3 (Baseline: n/a – regulations not yet in place).

2.3 Number of recorded incidents of illegal fishing within BPL decreases by 20% from baseline by end of Year 3 (Baseline being collected currently and available prior to start of project).

2.4 No hectares of land are encroached within BPL in final year of project.

2.1 Final Management Plans, minutes of Liaison Panel meetings, photographs and field reports.

2.2 Attitudes and awareness survey at end of Year 3.

2.3 Monthly ranger patrolling reports.

2.4 Satellite imagery and ranger reports.

There are no Ministerial level changes to the management of wetland protected areas and we continue to have the support of regional and national government representatives (As the recent transfer of management from Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries was only in 2016, it is unlikely that the government, which has recently been re-elected, will wish to make further changes. The project has strong support from MAFF and MoE, as well as an excellent relationships with the DFWC. District government is represented on the Project Liaison Panel and has had input into this project's design).

No major increase in the number of commercial Vietnamese fishing vessels (WWT hosts a transboundary illegal fishing committee with representatives from governments on either side of the border. This has been effective in curbing illegal itinerant fishing and will continue throughout this project).

Community belief in the value of the process remains strong.

**Output 3:**

1700 local people in AP and BPL are directly profiting from sustainable livelihood ventures that also reduce wetland degradation.

3.1 200 farmers (at least 50% women) in AP are averaging an increased profit of 30% after transitioning to sustainable rice farming by end of Year 3 (Baseline to be collected at start of project).

3.2 Average quantities of pesticide and fertilizer decrease by 70% amongst the 200 farmers in the sustainable rice scheme by end of Year 3 (Baseline to be collected at start of project).

3.3. 100% of community fishery groups (CFIs) at both sites, benefiting 1500 people, are covering their core operation costs through sustainable financing mechanisms by end of Year 3 (Baseline: CFIs established and implementing business plans where financially possible but no sustainable financing mechanisms in place and all costs supported by external partners).

3.4 Three commercially viable community recycling businesses are operating independently and generating sustainable income to cover all operational costs by end of Year 3 (Baseline: no recycling businesses in place).

3.1 Independent consultancy report, rice farming group records, community-based monitoring programme (results collated at annual harvest festival), case studies.

3.2 Farmer diaries, project monitoring scheme report.

3.3 CFI operating and financial records, USAID capacity assessments.

3.4 Group operating and financial records, USAID capacity assessments.

Farmers transitioning to sustainable rice are able to achieve 30% profit increases (The project has proven that this is achievable in this region. A pilot of 60 farmers has been consistently reporting this increase over the last three years, a combination of lower input costs, higher yields and higher value seed. CRDT have also achieved similar profit increases at other sites throughout Cambodia).

The market for Sustainable Rice remains strong (Discussions with Sansom Mlup Prey – the national leaders in this field – suggest the market is showing year on year increases in demand).

CFI financial sustainability is achievable within the project period (The CFI Business Plan was originally proposed over a three year period. Several alternative mechanisms were proposed for this, and if we feel that our primary/preferred option is not reaching expectations then we will manage the project adaptively and explore a combination of options, keeping Darwin informed at all times).

There is an ongoing demand for recyclable

materials in the area  
(The concept of reduce,  
reuse, recycle is growing  
in popularity in  
Cambodia. The  
emergence of a new  
recycling facility in  
Kampot province is  
evidence of this growth  
and the business  
opportunity it creates.  
An ecotourism  
programme in AP has  
expressed a need for  
increased recycling  
capacity).

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<p><b>Output 4:</b> The extent and quality of biodiversity habitat and productivity of natural resources are increased at AP and BPL through community-based wetland restoration in core protection and sustainable use zones.</p>	<p>4.1. Indications of Eleocharis regeneration (measured by increase in density, or presence of new, shoots) are recorded in at least 50 hectares of protected wetland at AP and BPL.</p>	<p>4.1. Vegetation Assessments at start and end of project in target regeneration areas.</p>	<p>External threats to habitat (e.g. fire and transboundary incursions to collect firewood) can be managed and controlled by good transboundary cooperation and effective ranger teams.</p>
	<p>4.2 Less than 15% of the 180 hectares of wetland cleared of invasive non-native plant species (including Mimosa pigra and Eichhornia crassipes, Ipomoea rubens, Nelumbo nucifera) are showing signs of INNS regrowth by end of Year 3 (Baseline: n/a).</p>	<p>4.2 Annual Invasive Non-Native Species monitoring reports of BPL.</p>	<p>INNS removal activities are factored into Management Plans and maintained as part of routine management activities (It is acknowledged that INNS removal is a component of ongoing management. Eradication from seasonally flooded sites is unrealistic for a project of this scale, but control is an essential part of restoring fisheries and creating an environment for other native species to outcompete invasives. To this end, INNS clearance will be combined with eleocharis regeneration plots wherever possible).</p>
	<p>4.3 Five hectares of inundated forest restored at BPL by end of Year 2, through community-based restoration and protection programme, and ecoschool nursery showing at least 75% tree survival at end of Year 3 (Baseline: n/a).</p>	<p>4.3 End of project habitat survey, eco-school nursery records.</p>	
	<p>4.4 Recordings of black headed ibis and oriental darter using BPL and AP increase by 100% from baselines of six and 15 respectively by end of Year 3.</p>	<p>4.4 Community field monitoring reports.</p>	

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<p><b>Output 5:</b> No Response</p>	<p>No Response</p>	<p>No Response</p>	<p>No Response</p>
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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**

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**Activity Number**

1.1

**Activity Details**

Use Satellite-based Wetland Observation Service (SWOS) to generate information on current condition, landscape connectivity and historical trends in wetland systems.

## **Activity details**

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**Activity Number**

1.2

**Activity Details**

Conduct fieldwork to complete Rapid Assessment of Wetland Ecosystem Services (RAWES) throughout the landscape.

## **Activity details**

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**Activity Number**

1.3

**Activity Details**

Hold multi-stakeholder R-METT assessment workshops at protected wetland sites at AP and BPL (Cambodia) and Tram Chim National Park and Phu My (Vietnam).

## **Activity details**

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**Activity Number**

1.4

**Activity Details**

Produce State of CLMD Wetlands report and present at workshop with MoE.

## Activity details

### Activity Number

1.5

### Activity Details

Deliver training courses on catchment assessment to Ramsar Site Managers and National Ramsar Committee members to reinforce Ramsar tools and promote landscape level planning.

## Activity details

### Activity Number

1.6

### Activity Details

Present wetland landscape assessment approach and local use of Ramsar tools at a side-event at IBRRI Annual Meeting in 2021.

## Activity details

### Activity Number

1.7

### Activity Details

Establish Optimal Ecohydrological State Expert Working Group for AP and BPL and agree research methodology.

## Activity details

### Activity Number

1.8



**Activity Details**

Implement applied research programme at AP/BPL, including surface water flow models, ecological assessments of key habitats and water quality analyses.

**Activity details****Activity Number**

1.9

**Activity Details**

Hold Liaison Panel meetings at AP and BPL to agree the sites' optimal ecohydrological states required to sustain benefits for people and biodiversity.

**Activity details****Activity Number**

1.10

**Activity Details**

Present research findings at District meetings in both Takeo and Kampot Provinces and work with government to influence district plans.

**Activity details****Activity Number**

2.1

**Activity Details**

Hold workshops for Land Tenure Review Committee to agree final decisions for all claims to land within BPL Protected Landscape.

**Activity details**

**Activity Number**

2.2

**Activity Details**

Conduct Vulnerability Assessment (aligned to methods agreed by the IBRRI) at AP, including workshops in all local villages.

**Activity details****Activity Number**

2.3

**Activity Details**

District and provincial government and Working Group approve the final draft of AP Vulnerability Assessment.

**Activity details****Activity Number**

2.4

**Activity Details**

Complete final zonation mapping of BPL, review with local communities and gain approval of village chiefs.

**Activity details****Activity Number**

2.5

**Activity Details**

Government endorses BPL zonation scheme.

**Activity details**

**Activity Number**

2.6

**Activity Details**

Install signs and markers clearly stating the rules and regulations within each zone.

**Activity details**

**Activity Number**

2.7

**Activity Details**

Hold awareness raising events at AP and BPL for communities on rules and regulations.

**Activity details**

**Activity Number**

2.8

**Activity Details**

Train BPL and AP rangers on Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) and develop anti-corruption policy.

**Activity details**

**Activity Number**

2.9

**Activity Details**

Ranger & Field Monitoring Team patrolling at AP and BPL.

**Activity details**

**Activity Number**

2.10

**Activity Details**

Project Steering Group drafts Management Plans for AP and BPL, informed by applied research and participatory zoning process.

**Activity details**

**Activity Number**

2.11

**Activity Details**

Present Management Plans to AP and BPL Liaison Panels to secure approval.

**Activity details**

**Activity Number**

2.12

**Activity Details**

Provide data and supporting information for designation of AP as a Ramsar Site and BPL as an East-Asian Australasian Flyways Partnership Site.

**Activity details**

**Activity Number**

2.13

**Activity Details**

Upgrade WWT environmental education programme materials, train NatureLife staff and deliver the course alongside local teachers in the CLMD.

**Activity details**

**Activity Number**

2.14

**Activity Details**

Hold multi-media awareness events including presentations, films and competitions in communities around AP and BPL.

**Activity details****Activity Number**

3.1

**Activity Details**

Conduct catchment analysis of pollution inflows around AP to identify priority target sites for sustainable rice farming.

**Activity details****Activity Number**

3.2

**Activity Details**

Deliver advocacy campaign for farmers to voluntarily join the sustainable rice farming scheme.

**Activity details****Activity Number**

3.3

**Activity Details**

Hold pollution awareness workshops and an exchange visit for new farmers to meet and learn from existing BPL pilot farmers.

## Activity details

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### Activity Number

3.4

### Activity Details

Train selected farmers on sustainable farming methods, compost fertiliser making, land preparation, seed sowing and transplanting, Integrated Pest Management, harvesting and post-harvest management.

## Activity details

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### Activity Number

3.5

### Activity Details

Support monitoring to confirm compliance with Sustainable Rice Platform standards.

## Activity details

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### Activity Number

3.6

### Activity Details

Develop and implement cooperative equipment scheme for farmers based on Value Chain Analysis, including rice drying ovens, de-huskers and storage areas.

## Activity details

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### Activity Number

3.7

### Activity Details

Consultancy to review and provide recommendations for current fishery waterway restoration and rental scheme based on existing CFI Business Plan. Provide ongoing technical support.

## Activity details

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### Activity Number

3.8

### Activity Details

Launch call for applications on micro-grants for local community members for recycling scheme start-up and initial operating costs.

## Activity details

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### Activity Number

3.9

### Activity Details

Train community fisheries, farming groups and waste management businesses on financial management and administration.

## Activity details

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### Activity Number

4.1

### Activity Details

Optimal Ecohydrological State Expert Working Group identifies habitat restoration areas.

## Activity details

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### Activity Number

4.2

### Activity Details

Design and implement community-based invasive non-native species (INNS) scheme, with focus on *Mimosa pigra* and *Eichhornia crassipes*, *Ipomoea rubens* and *Nelumbo nucifera*.

## Activity details

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### Activity Number

4.3

### Activity Details

Develop and implement community-based and ecoschool inundated forest restoration programme.

## Activity details

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### Activity Number

4.4

### Activity Details

Create and monitor experimental eleocharis regeneration plots over 50 hectares including re-planting areas, fire management plots and water retention features.

## Activity details

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### Activity Number

4.5

### Activity Details

Develop proposal for large-scale hydrological management features to create long-term water security around BPL, based on results of water management trials.

## Activity details

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### Activity Number

4.6

### Activity Details

Share proposal with DFWC for escalation to the MoE.



## Section 12 - Implementation Timetable

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### 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.

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↓ [Darwin R25 - Stage 2 - Implementation Time table](#)  
📅 03/12/2018  
🕒 18:53:11  
📎 xlsx 15.31 KB

## Section 13 - Monitoring and Evaluation

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### 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").**

M&E will be embedded into all elements of the project and M&E systems and tools will be overseen and regularly reviewed by the Project Steering Group, with external stakeholders where specific expertise is sought. Community fora will be held every six months to receive input and feedback from local stakeholders. Annual multi-stakeholder Liaison Panel meetings at AP and BPL will create opportunities for wider review of project progress, whilst also gauging levels of support and understanding. Project management will be adapted to ensure issues raised are addressed and new opportunities explored.

In order to monitor the project's impact on biodiversity, a dedicated BirdLife Technical Officer will oversee a ranger and community group monitoring programme, including surveys of birds (as an indicator taxa) and vegetation condition and coverage. The ranger programme also collects data on human use of the sites,

providing information on changes on the levels of illegal use.

Project partners contribute to an ongoing multi-organisational regional sarus crane population survey, data from which will be used to assess the project's impact on the key indicator species.

GIS mapping from satellite imagery has been completed for the early stages of the zonation process at BPL, and annual updates will allow the project to measure potential encroachment, alongside changes to habitat extent.

Specialist independent vegetation surveys conducted at the start and end of the project will be used to monitor the extent and quality of Eleocharis grassland. Additional vegetation monitoring will be led by the WWT Research Officer to adaptively assess the efficacy of habitat restoration trials and INNS removal.

Annual water quality analysis will use the analysis facilities of the Kampot Province Department of Water Resources and Meteorology, providing a tool to measure ecosystem health improvements as a result of changed behaviours such as reduced pesticide use and improved waste disposal practices.

Social surveys at the start and end of project will be used to evaluate changes in key metrics of multi-dimensional poverty and to; assess people's perceptions of their rights to access resources, take up of sustainable resource use methods, understanding of rules and regulations, views on future resource security and the socio-economic benefits of sustainable land use.

Through the IBRRI network – and as a contribution to the IBRRI Strategic Plan – WWT will conduct an emailed regional stakeholder capacity analysis. This will also be sent to a wider group of wetland stakeholders in Cambodia.

Farmer yields and profitability will be measured through individual farmer diaries and CRDT standard performance reporting, with data collected on input costs, price at sale and chemical use. Operating and financial records, plus USAID's 'Organizational Capacity Assessment for Community-Based Organizations' toolkit will be used to assess farmer, waste management and fishery groups' organisational management capacity, facilitating the development of capacity building strategies tailored to meet self-assessed needs.

The Wetland Environmental Education Programme has built in regular monitoring and evaluation by NatureLife. This will assess retention of knowledge over time, impacts on behaviour, and teacher capacity to independently deliver the material.

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

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<b>Number of days planned for M&amp;E</b>	230
<b>Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&amp;E</b>	8

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## Section 14 - Funding and Budget

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### 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.**

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↓ **Budget St2 - Darwin R25 IWT R5**

📅 03/12/2018

🕒 17:02:53

📄 xls 156 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.**

The budget has been developed by WWT and its partners, who have worked in the project area for several years and have a good understanding of the costs involved in working there, as well as the staff time required for different activities. Travel, subsistence, consultants and overheads costs are based on recent actual costs, salary costs are based on current rates, and equipment costs are derived from current market prices.

The project design has been informed by lessons learnt from past work and analysis of the different possible options to achieve the planned outcome, to ensure that it delivers the best results with the available resources. It will build on existing partnerships and infrastructure to maximise efficiency. WWT will provide considerable in-kind funding in the form of staff time to support the project.

Local staff will be used wherever possible, and local students will support the data collection, helping to minimise costs and build capacity.

WWT has well-established financial management systems to ensure that funds are used efficiently, and will take steps to manage financial risks (Q30). When purchasing goods and services, project partners will adhere to rigorous procurement procedures to ensure best price and quality.

Community feedback mechanisms and robust M&E systems will facilitate continual review and adaptation of project approaches to ensure the project remains effective in achieving its planned outcome.

In addition to conserving two internationally important protected areas, the project will generate research and tools with wider application than these sites, strengthen capacity for wetland management and assessment across the CLMD, and promote transboundary cooperation through regional networks such as IBRRI, enabling it to benefit significantly higher numbers of people and species than will be targeted during the project lifetime.

## 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 capital items to be purchased are IT and office equipment, and farming equipment for community groups.

The computers purchased at the start of the project will have little residual value following depreciation during the project. As we will continue to work in the project areas after the end of the project, the computer equipment will remain in situ for the use of in-country staff, and may be transferred to local community groups when capacity is built in due course.

The small amount of other office equipment bought for the project will remain for the use of local partner CRDT. Farming equipment will be provided to the rice farming groups and will be transferred to these registered cooperatives at the end of the project.

## 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
European Outdoor Conservation Association (EOCA) & Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)		GBP	We have secured grants from the EOCA for habitat restoration and environmental education work, and from the CEPF for work with the CFIs.
Nagao Wetland Fund (NWF) & Ramsar Regional Centre – East Asia (RRC-EA)		GBP	We have secured grants from two wetland funds (NWF and RRC-EA) to support the ecohydrological and ecosystem services research.

Woodspring Trust	GBP	We have secured a grant from The Woodspring Trust to support the environmental education and sustainable rice farming work.
WWT	GBP	WWT will provide in-kind support via staff time and financial contributions to overheads.

### 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
17 October 2018	Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund (DWCF)		GBP	DWCF has previously funded WWT's work, as well as similar projects in Cambodia. Stage 1 decision expected January 2019.
01 October 2019	Anderson-Rogers Foundation, Inc.		GBP	The Foundation has funded similar work in the past and the project is well aligned with its interests.
01 December 2019	Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF)		GBP	KNCF has funded WWT's Cambodia work in the past. Decision likely by March 2020.

15 January 2020	Coca Cola Foundation (CCF)	GBP	CCF has supported WWF on similar initiatives, including work in the Mekong Delta. Decision likely within 3 months.
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**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.**

WWT has an established project approval process, through which inter-departmental committees analyse all risk factors and complete a project risk register.

All projects are subject to WWT’s established financial management policies and procedures. For this project, WWT has budgeted for internal audits and spot checks undertaken by a member of the UK team. The key financial risks include:

Corruption. WWT takes a zero-tolerance approach to bribery and corruption and has a clear Anti-Bribery Policy. We will clearly stipulate zero tolerance in all contracts, sub-grants and agreements and continue to monitor/enforce this tightly.

Exchange rate fluctuations. Exchange rates will be carefully monitored and budgets adjusted accordingly. Most expenditure is pegged to the US dollar; the fact that the majority of funding secured and planned applications are dollar-based or in currencies closely linked to the US dollar mitigates foreign exchange exposure.

Insufficient MoE budget to engage with the project. Our partnership has worked extensively with the MoE for several years. The MoE recognises the importance of this project and has indicated that it will be a budget priority.

Current and emerging risks will be monitored quarterly by the Project Steering Committee, with adjustments made to mitigate their impact.

**Section 15 - FCO Notifications**

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**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

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### Q32. Certification

**On behalf of the**

Company

**of**

The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

**I apply for a grant of**

£320,472.00

**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** James Robinson

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**Position in the organisation** Director of Conservation

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**Signature (please upload e-signature)**  **James Robinson Signature**  
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**Date** 03 December 2018

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## Section 17 - Submission Checklist

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## 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).