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# **DIR25S2\100031**

## **Know your onions: sustainable plant use in Tajikistan**

This project will ameliorate threats to plant biodiversity by reducing unsustainable amounts of wild harvesting. Communities in rural Tajikistan will benefit by developing small-scale agro-biodiversity plots through participatory marketing of selected threatened species leading to increased and more resilient income, access to locally grown produce, and increased capacity to cultivate produce. Awareness of the sustainable use of biodiversity will be raised through a "National Report on Native Plants for Livelihoods", stakeholder and community capacity development, and education and awareness events.

## PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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**Title**

Dr

**Name**

Sophie

**Surname**

Neale

**Tel (Work)**

**Email (Work)**

**Address**

## Section 1 - Contact Details

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### PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

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Title	Dr
Name	Sophie
Surname	Neale
Tel (Work)	
Email (Work)	
Address	

### GMS ORGANISATION

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Type	Organisation
Name	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Phone (Work)	
Email (Work)	
Website (Work)	
Address	

## Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

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### Q3. Project title:

Know your onions: sustainable plant use in Tajikistan

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

DIR25S1/100287

### 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	Tajikistan	Country 2	No Response
Country 3	No Response	Country 4	No Response

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**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

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## Q6. Budget summary

Year:	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Total request
<b>Amount:</b>	£123,305.00	£117,697.00	£120,438.00	<b>£</b> 361,440.00

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

Yes

**What matched funding arrangements are proposed?**

RBGE, FFI and KBG have all contributed in-kind salaries, overheads, and other project costs. The University of Central Asia, Tajik National Academy of Sciences and UK Embassy in Tajikistan have confirmed they will attend workshops and events. The costs depend upon the number of people attending and available resources, and therefore cannot be numerated at this stage. Significant preparatory work has been undertaken through the Global Britain Fund arranged in partnership with the UK Embassy in Tajikistan, including planning, capacity development and ground works at KBG. As these programs are completed, they have not been included in the co-financing detailed.

**Q6b. Proposed (confirmed and unconfirmed) co-financing as % of total project cost** 13

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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](https://www.gov.uk). Please write this summary for a non-technical audience.**

This project will ameliorate threats to plant biodiversity by reducing unsustainable amounts of wild harvesting. Communities in rural Tajikistan will benefit by developing small-scale agro-biodiversity plots

through participatory marketing of selected threatened species leading to increased and more resilient income, access to locally grown produce, and increased capacity to cultivate produce. Awareness of the sustainable use of biodiversity will be raised through a "National Report on Native Plants for Livelihoods", stakeholder and community capacity development, and education and awareness events.

## 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
25019	Antje Ahrends	Enabling sustainable, profitable and equitable community-based forest management in Tanzania
23031	Mark Watson	Science-based interventions reversing negative impacts of invasive plants in Nepal
23025	Anthony Miller	Reducing environmental degradation through sustainable fuel interventions in Afghan communities
19007	Anthony Miller	Building capacity for in-situ conservation in Iraq
15011	David Harris	Building capacity for forest inventory in the Republic of Congo
14026	David Rae	Horticulture and education for conservation in Nezahat Gokyigit Botanik Bahcesi

**Have you provided the requested signed audited/independently examined accounts? If you select "yes" you will be able to upload these. Note that this is not required from Government Agencies.**

Yes

## Section 5 - Project Partners

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## 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.

<b>Lead Organisation name:</b>	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE)
<b>Website address:</b>	www.rbge.org.uk
<b>Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):</b>	<p>The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and its Centre for Middle Eastern Plants have a long standing interest in the flora and vegetation of the Middle East and SW Asia. Institutional experience in the region and expertise in botany, education, horticulture and conservation makes the RBGE uniquely positioned to deliver the effective capacity building required to meet the practical objectives of this project. RBGE has led 17 main Darwin Initiative projects (regionally including Iraq, Yemen, Afghanistan), ten Darwin Fellowships, three scoping awards and two post project awards. CMEP has project management and research experience across Middle East and SW Asia and has recently received funds from sources including The British Council, Leverhulme Trust and UN Environment.</p> <p>RBGE will be responsible for overall project management, coordination of all partner responsibilities and management of UK expert inputs, logistics, meetings and workshops, leading and training on M&amp;E, and reporting to DI.</p> <p>Project activities will include provision of horticulture training, education and awareness raising/interpretation both in communities and at KBG. Coordination of research into plant use, and planning and managing consultation during National Sustainable Use of Plants workshops.</p>
<b>Have you included a Letter of Support from this organisation?</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
<b>Have you provided a cover letter to address your Stage 1 feedback?</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes

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

Yes

**1. Partner Name:** Fauna and Flora International (FFI)

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**Website address:** [www.fauna-flora.org/](http://www.fauna-flora.org/)

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**Details (including roles and responsibilities and capacity to engage with the project):** FFI implements effective community conservation programmes across Asia, Africa, Eurasia and Latin America, including supporting community-led protected area management and facilitating development of equitable governance structures that enable greater involvement in decision making by local women and men. This gives FFI in-depth experience in participatory community conservation approaches, livelihoods, institutional development and equitable governance.

FFI's Central Asia Programme has developed partnerships with government agencies and civil society groups across Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. We have nine experienced staff working on conservation projects in the region, being delivered together with some 20 local partner organisations, and they are well-positioned to lead on project implementation and liaison between partners.

FFI will take responsibility for supporting the community livelihood work with Zam Zam and Ganji Tabiat to deliver community engagement and livelihood improvements in the project area. The FFI team will utilize learning and knowledge from the current Darwin Initiative project 24-006 on market development for the sustainable use of fruit and nut forest products.

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

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**2. Partner Name:** Kulob Botanic Garden (KBG)

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**Website address:** Not applicable

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

Kulob Botanic Garden (KBG) was established in 1985 as a joint initiative between local government in Khatlon District and the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan. The garden holds significant field botany, conservation and community engagement skills, and has undertaken a range of externally funded conservation and community based programmes both directly and through its associated NGO Ganji Tabiat (established 2008).

RBGE scientists and horticulturalists have been visiting KBG for several years, and an MOU was signed in January 2015. Joint work programmes with RBGE have been undertaken to host training with Afghan partners under Darwin Initiative 23-025 and as part of a capacity development and training programme funded by the UK Embassy in Tajikistan.

KBG will host and participate in training, education and awareness events and subsequently deliver horticulture training to communities. It will arrange and undertake all fieldwork, and form a critical contact point for national and local stakeholders thus ensuring wide engagement with the project in Tajikistan. It will directly engage with local and national media in awareness raising campaigns. It will also be responsible for development of the demonstration garden and planning long term upkeep and use of this resource.

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

Yes

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**3. Partner Name:**

Ganji Tabiat

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**Website address:**

[www.ganjitabiat.tj/en](http://www.ganjitabiat.tj/en)

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

Ganji Tabiat was established in 2008 as a Civil Society Organization, and is based at Kulob Botanic Garden. It was designed to engage with communities in Khatlon Province, and increase community engagement in conservation of wild plants and habitats and raise awareness about wild plants of Tajikistan.

Ganji Tabiat has received funds from a variety of donors for community conservation work (The Christensen Fund, Rufford Foundation, UNDP Small Grants Programme) and is a named partner on Darwin Initiative project 24-006 coordinated by Fauna & Flora International. It has extensive experience in the communities of south Tajikistan, and benefits from botanical expertise held at Kulob Botanic Garden.

Ganji Tabiat will coordinate all community work, and its community liaison officers will work with UK and Tajik experts to demonstrate livelihood benefits of the project activities. This will include working alongside communities in participatory market appraisal and engaging with land tenure, gender equality and governance issues. They will report on the practical outcomes of community work for incorporation into the National Report on Sustainable Plant Use. They will be responsible for receiving all project funds in Tajikistan, for financial project management and logistics. They will also coordinate project reporting in Tajikistan.

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

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**4. Partner Name:** Zam-Zam

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**Website address:** Not applicable

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

Zam Zam was established in 2007, and re-established as a Public Women's Organisation in Khatlon Province in 2013. Its remit and main activities include improving livelihoods in communities in Khatlon Province, including social, economic and education development with a focus on food security, women's health and agriculture.

Zam Zam have engaged in several projects in Khatlon District, including the promotion of food security, biodiversity conservation, the importance of seed collections, and developing traditional and cultural practices. They are also partner on Darwin Initiative project 24-006 coordinated by Fauna & Flora International in which they coordinate community work alongside project partners Ganji Tabiat. They are also involved in establishing small commercial enterprises, including a small dairy production company and a small wool production company.

Zam Zam will be responsible for coordinating with project partners on community engagement, development of project activities, and especially on working on participatory market appraisal, land tenure, governance and gender equality issues. They will take responsibility for impact assessment, and will report on community livelihood benefits derived from the sustainable use of plant resources to the National Report workshops.

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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

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


Support letters have been included from additional organizations that are not project partners. These include the University of Central Asia, who are establishing a major campus in Khorog and are active in rural community research in Central Asia, and the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan. We expect both institutes to engage with the National Report on Native Plants for Livelihoods.

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

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 **DIR25S2-100031 RBGE Covering Letter**


 03/12/2018

 16:40:18


 pdf 132.93 KB

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 **DIR25S2-100031 Letter CBD Focal Point**


 03/12/2018


 16:10:18


 pdf 2 MB

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 **DIR25S2-100031 Support Letters**

 03/12/2018

 14:21:03

 pdf 3.82 MB

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## Section 6 - Project Staff

### Q10. Key project personnel

**Please identify the core staff on this project, their role and what % of their time they will be working on the project.**

**Please provide 1 page CVs for these staff, or a 1 page job description or Terms of Reference for roles yet to be filled. Please include more rows where necessary. These should match the names and roles in the budget spreadsheet.**

Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	CV attached below?
Dr Sophie Neale	<b>Project Leader</b>	10	Checked
Helen Anthem	Technical Specialist: Gender, Livelihoods & Governance	5	Checked
Dr Kiran Mohanan	Enterprise Development Manager	10	Checked
Mario Boboev	Project Leader & botanical expert	50	Checked

**Do you require more fields?**


Yes


Name (First name, Surname)	Role	% time on project	CV attached below?
Jovidon Boboev	Project Management (community liaison)	75	Checked
Tojiniso Odinaeva	Director, Zam-Zam Public Women's Organization	75	Checked
Kate Hughes	Horticultural Trainer	10	Checked
Project Officer RBGE	Project Management, M&E, research and reporting	60	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.**


**[DIR25S2-100031 CV Sophie Neale](#)**


 03/12/2018

 13:00:33

 pdf 43.52 KB


**[DIR25S2-100031 CV Jovidon Boboev GT](#)**


 03/12/2018

 11:54:54

 pdf 86.15 KB


**[DIR25S2-100031 CV Mariyo Boboev KBG](#)**


 03/12/2018

 11:54:38

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**[DIR25S2-100031 RBGE Project Manager JOB DESCRIPTION](#)**

 29/11/2018


 17:03:03

 pdf 14.37 KB

**[DIR25S2-100031 CV Kate Hughes RBGE](#)**

 29/11/2018

 13:21:49

 pdf 32.64 KB

**[DIR25S2-100031 CV Kiran Mohanan FFI](#)**

 29/11/2018

 13:19:43

 pdf 328.26 KB


**[DIR25S2-100031 CV Helen Anthem FFI](#)**

 29/11/2018


 13:17:52

 pdf 282.62 KB

**[DIR25S2-100031 CV Tojiniso Odinaeva ZAM ZAM](#)**

 29/11/2018

 13:14:48

 pdf 35.84 KB

**Have you attached all Project staff CVs?**

Yes

## Section 7 - Problem Statement & Conventions

## Q11. Problem the project is trying to address

**Please describe the problem your project is trying to address in terms of biodiversity and its relationship with poverty. For example, what are the drivers of loss of biodiversity that the project will attempt to address? Why are they relevant, for whom? How did you identify these problems?**

The sustainable use of natural resources is embedded within international conventions, and has a significant role to play in conserving biodiversity and improving rural livelihoods. However, biodiversity conservation debates often overlook the importance of local agro-biodiversity and the wide range of non-domesticated species used by people in their day-to-day lives.

Tajikistan is a floristically diverse mountainous country suffering from extreme environmental degradation. Scientists at Kulob Botanic Garden have recognized that while threats to fruit and nut forests are well known, there is a fundamental disconnect between routine harvesting and sale of wild herbaceous plant species and the potentially detrimental amount and methods of that harvesting. For example, in pilot studies, more than 80% of interviewed households were found to collect wild onion bulbs in order to augment their income.

Such poverty and financial insecurity will be compounded if wild plants are collected to extinction locally – as already documented in some areas. While many such species are not globally threatened, they are declining nationally and have been listed in the Red Book of Tajikistan. An alternative method to unsustainable wild harvesting is required. Small scale trials cultivating two species of wild onions in two communities have been successful in reducing wild harvesting by up to 50% and have reported increases in average income by up to 40% by growing wild plants locally. To make a significant difference with concomitant benefits for more communities a wider range of plant species could be cultivated, and markets identified and developed to enable increased financial benefits. Awareness and technical capacity to maintain long term programmes must be gained both in the communities and the organisations that wish to support them.

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

*No Response*

## 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)
- Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)

### 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.**

This project will directly address all three main objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (conservation, sustainable use, equitable benefit sharing), and in particular the following articles:  
7 through identifying species at risk through unsustainable harvesting, and monitoring the effects of interventions designed to improve conservation status;  
8 through proposing interventions to reduce unsustainable use of resources leading to better in-situ

conservation outcomes, especially for threatened species;  
9 through establishment of ex-situ collections (plants and seeds) of taxa threatened through unsustainable harvesting, in Tajikistan and globally;  
10 through establishing sound practices that both ensure sustainable use and also contribute to community livelihoods, while also benefiting target threatened species in their natural habitats;  
The project will also address Article 12 through capacity development of key partners, Article 13 through education and awareness events in communities, schools and other institutes, Article 17 through the exchange of information about threatened plant species, and Article 18 through international cooperation. The project will contribute directly to achieving the following Aichi Targets:  
A1 by increasing awareness of biodiversity values through community, school and stakeholder and media events;  
A2 by integrating biodiversity values into community level planning for livelihood and conservation benefits;  
B5 through a reduction in unsustainable wild harvesting leading to better conservation status for target species and the ecosystem services they provide;  
C12 by actively monitoring improvements in the conservation status of target threatened species;  
C13 through ex-situ collections of target species maintained in active community programs and in appropriate institutions;  
D16 through awareness and discussion with stakeholders about the equitable sharing of biodiversity resources nationally and internationally, and ensuring and trade respects the Nagoya Protocol;  
E18 by respecting the practices of local communities and working with them to ensure the benefits of biodiversity are used sustainably;  
E19 by facilitating workshops and a National Report on Plants for Livelihoods in Tajikistan that will make knowledge about plant use and case studies of sustainable resource use available nationally.  
Project benefits will be documented against each Aichi target.  
The project will be framed within the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, and in particular will address the following targets:  
8 (ex situ collections, in communities as well as in national and international collections);  
9 (socioeconomically valuable plant species and knowledge conserved);  
12 (all wild harvested plant products sourced sustainably, through training in sustainable harvesting and agro-biodiversity plots);  
as well as targets 14 (awareness), 15 (capacity) and 16 (networks and partnerships) all developed as core components of the project.  
Target 12 is especially pertinent as a balance between sustainable harvesting for those with no land to cultivate against agro-biodiversity plots in communities will ensure sustainable resource use alongside benefits for all community members.  
Benefits will be documented against each target.  
The Nagoya Protocol will be fully respected, and additional local and national recommendations developed, to ensure any ex situ collections adhere to the principles and procedures of Access and Benefit Sharing in Tajikistan and with international partners.  
Tajikistan is yet to sign ITPGRFA.

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

Yes

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

A Letter of Support from the CBD Focal Point for Tajikistan has been included (uploaded alongside support letters from partners). The project will maintain regular contact and updates throughout, and will engage directly with the CBD Focal Point when organizing and facilitating the workshops leading to the National

Report on Native Plants for Livelihoods ensuring that reporting and targeting actions for the future are engaged at the highest level.

## 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 address Global Goals for Sustainable Development at the local level in Khatlon Province. Specifically, these are:

SDG1 No Poverty - through ensuring empowerment of the target communities and sustainable livelihoods opportunities, specifically greater and diversified local food production and income;

SDG2 Zero Hunger - through establishing sustainable food provision in agro-biodiversity plots to grow variable food items, thereby increasing food security. The effects will be enhanced through working in tandem with Darwin Initiative project 24-006;

SDG3 Good Health & Well-Being - through food security and diversification maintained throughout the year and under the control and management of local communities;

SDG5 Gender Equality - through inclusiveness of the work programme and women's participation;

SDG12 Responsible Consumption & Production - through the sustainable use of natural resources, taking into consideration wild harvested resources and ecosystem service conservation;

SDG13 Climate Action - through addressing habitat degradation by reducing the unsustainable removal of key habitat species such as *Bunium persicum*;

SDG15 Life on Land - through preventing species loss and conserving ecosystem services. This is very relevant as Tajikistan has a high level of degraded vegetation especially in mountain ecosystems.

Benefits will be monitored and documented against targets set for each SDG.

The above goals will be addressed at the National level by incorporating lessons learnt and benefits accrued through local interventions, through the National Report on Plants for Livelihoods, with recommendations for meeting SDG targets nationally and up-scaling project outcomes.

## 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.**

This project will give local communities the capacity to cultivate target plant species that are currently wild harvested unsustainably, increasing the amount and resilience of derived income.

Six target species have been identified as under threat through unsustainable harvesting, with the potential for small-scale cultivation and sale as food items used in traditional cuisine. These include three species of wild onions (*Allium rosenbachianum* [nationally Endangered], *Allium stipitatum* [nationally Endangered] and *Allium trautvetterianum* [endemic, Critically Endangered]) and members of family Apiaceae (*Bunium persicum* [nationally Endangered], *Ferula violacea* [syn. *F. eugenii*; near endemic, nationally Vulnerable], *Paulita ovczinnikovii* [near endemic; not assessed, collected extensively]). While none have been assessed globally for the IUCN Red List, all are considered to be under threat due to unsustainable harvesting and most have been included in the Red Book of Tajikistan.

Actions will focus on bringing these species into local cultivation in five communities, addressing unsustainable field practices, participatory market appraisal and establishment of producer groups, and increasing availability of locally grown produce for consumption. Project staff at KBG will receive horticultural training through an adapted RBGE Certificate in Practical Horticulture with proven "train the

trainer" content. Communities will be subsequently trained in horticultural techniques and planning, as well as sustainable harvesting, seed collection and storage techniques. Guides to growing the target species will be produced, translated and published and therefore be available to communities outside the project boundaries.

A suite of interdisciplinary research tools and approaches will be used to explore challenges, develop and implement co-constructed solutions with participating communities based on Participatory Market System Development (PMSD) which is a practical, profitable and low risk approach to creating sustainable market niches. Participatory Impact Assessment (PIA) will be used to monitor and evaluate project impacts, through community mapping, daily schedules, well-being profiling, wealth ranking and community interviews. Information gathered will be gender disaggregated ensuring evaluation of gender equality in all impacts. Project staff at Zam-Zam and Ganji Tabiat will be trained in community engagement, PMSD, and gender equality and project monitoring.

Target species will be monitored in the wild, and the effects of harvesting reductions projected. Ex-situ demonstration plots will be established at KBG, as well as protocols for seed collection, germination, record keeping, and field protocols for identifying and monitoring wild populations to demonstrate biodiversity status improvements related to sustainable use interventions. Training in formal conservation assessment will be given.

The project will engage at a national level through the development of a "National Report on Native Plants for Livelihoods" for Tajikistan. This report will be created through a programme of stakeholder engagement and collaborative research into native plants and their uses. Workshops for decision and policy makers will raise awareness of the value of Tajikistan's natural plant resources and the long term benefits for biodiversity and livelihoods through sustainable practices.

All project staff will be involved in planning M&E activities and receive appropriate training from international experts.

A project steering group will convene annually.

## 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.**

A major change will be an increase in awareness of the sustainable use of natural resources across society and the benefits accrued. This will be brought about by practical activities involving schools, communities and a range of institutional and governmental stakeholders. The project will particularly highlight non-forest products.

The threat to biodiversity through unsustainable practices will be reduced in the short and long term, with recommendations for expansion of the methods proposed to achieve significant national and regional outcomes. Measurable reductions for six target species will be documented, with potential for additional species and additional reductions brought about through awareness campaigns that will reach more than 40 communities, and potentially thousands of community members and the public through media and event-based campaigns.

Formal training in conservation assessment will increase monitoring capacity and encourage a re-appraisal and update of the Red Book of Tajikistan, highlighting required conservation actions with stakeholders. There will be a significant increase in horticultural expertise at both Kulob Botanic Garden (at least five staff trained) and in communities (at least 100 individuals trained). This will have short term (training during project) and long term (KBG staff available for future training) benefits). Published guides to the cultivation



of a range of species will be disseminated to at least 40 additional communities representing several thousand people.

In the short and long term, an increase in household finance will be achieved through sales of products and savings through home-produced goods, as well as increased financial resilience. This will apply to 100 households in five communities, directly benefiting at least 800 people.

There will be a long term reduction in the need for dangerous and time-consuming harvesting expeditions, benefiting at least 50 individuals in communities.

Developing and presenting a road map for sustainable use of plant resources will allow further species to be used sustainably giving long term benefits. Adding further plants into the system can further increase benefits and the number of communities and households benefited.

Increasing sustainable income sources from plant product sales will diversify income sources for households, many of whom rely on seasonal or overseas labour which can be irregular. Planning what to grow, what to produce and when to sell will be a long term benefit. As much of this seasonal and overseas work is undertaken by men, training women to establish and manage local and sustainable income sources will empower them to manage their households and integrate within their communities to a greater degree. This will apply to at least 50 women in the five target communities.

## Q15. Gender

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

The project will work directly with a local Provincial Women's Association "Zam-Zam" to develop community capacity and skills in sustainable harvesting and horticulture as well as business and marketing – skills already being developed by Zam-Zam in the dairy and wool sectors. Directly empowering women in communities to develop, manage and govern their own agri-businesses will impact gender inequality through improved status, household income and decision-making powers.

The project will ensure that training and community capacity building will be offered to all socio-economic groupings of the community, by performing a well-being profile of the communities in partnership with Zam-Zam and Ganji Tabiat.

The project will monitor the ratio of trained males and females throughout the project, with at least 50% representing women, and ensure that community liaison workers employed on the project represent both genders. It will also actively encourage the participation and engagement of women at all levels – presenters, participants, steering group members, and local and national stakeholders.

Gender dis-aggregation in data collection and reporting will be used to monitor gender issues. The roles of women in a variety of actions – wild harvesting, growing produce, packaging and selling produce, managing finances – will be collected in detail within all communities. The social status of women – in terms of household income, land tenure, and well-being ranking – will also be established in detail and change monitored throughout the project. Evidence suggests that unmarried women often occupy low well-being status in communities, often without access to forest plots or other leased land for production and income. Improvements for such women through home-grown produce for sale and consumption will be targeted in order to address gender and poverty inequality.

Gender equality impacts have been included as distinct outputs in the log frame.

## 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?**

At a local level, this project will reach an end point whereby local communities are in better control of food security and stable income sources through a series of capacity development and practical outcomes, based around a small number of plant species brought into small-scale cultivation. These horticulture plots are self-sustaining and can last indefinitely, and can be expanded to encompass additional species and markets based upon lessons and skills learned through the life of the project.

The National Report on Plants for Livelihoods in Tajikistan will be a time-bound publication, stating the knowledge base and proposing future developments, activities and their potential to benefit community livelihoods and achieve biodiversity conservation. Stakeholder involvement nationally and internationally will ensure that the report and its recommendations are disseminated widely, so that the opportunity to progress actions is taken.

The capacity developed at Kulob Botanic Garden, Ganji Tabiat and Zam-Zam, and in local communities, will be such that continued training and awareness-raising can continue beyond the life of the project.

**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:**

RBGE has been developing collaborations with institutes in Tajikistan for nearly a decade, resulting in signed Memoranda of Understanding with both Kulob Botanic Garden and the Pamir Biological Institute. These agreements were signed with botanic gardens and were designed to offer technical support, develop common areas of research, and to identify potential joint programmes of work to the benefit of both institutes, and for biodiversity conservation and livelihoods in Tajikistan.

This proposal is a development of small-scale projects identified by Tajik partners and funded externally as pilots. Until now, RBGE involvement has focused on capacity development and identification of expanding joint programmes. We undertook joint training with Tajik and Afghan partners as part of field training funded through Darwin Initiative project 23-025, followed by the establishment of a formal demonstration plot for education and capacity development funded by the UK Embassy in Dushanbe. During these visits, KBG engaged RBGE in discussions about expanding their pilot programmes to have greater impact and outcomes, and to engage more widely locally, nationally and internationally. The initial establishment of a formal demonstration plot at KBG is an example of the expansion of pilot projects through collaboration.

**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.**

Darwin Initiative project 24-006 coordinated by FFI is funded until March 2021, and thus overlaps with this proposal. Its main objectives involve a conceptual overlap with our proposal, in terms of participatory market appraisal and livelihood and biodiversity benefits derived from the sustainable harvesting of plant

products. However, the focus of the projects is different – wild collected forest products versus small-scale cultivation of wild sourced non-forest resources – and as such we have engaged directly with FFI to enable the projects to learn from each other and to explore complementary benefits to communities across both projects.

## Q18. Ethics

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

RBGE is a major international institute that routinely implements good practice in all partnerships with other organisations. This explicitly includes implementing procedures on the Nagoya Protocol and CITES, for example, ensuring that all partners are treated equitably. The collection of plant material will follow all Tajik regulations, and any material collected during the programme will be through prior written agreement with relevant authorities. Duplicate specimens will be deposited in Tajik institutes.

RBGE staff conducting training and fieldwork in Tajikistan will follow standard Risk Assessments and Absence on Official Duty protocols, including provision of insurance and first aid/H&S briefings.

Research and partner collaboration ethics will be embedded at every stage of the project, from project inception to end of project completion. Training will be provided to all project staff on research ethics (eg. participant consent) and the project will collaboratively develop and follow the Structured Ethical Reflection process, where research values and ethics are jointly developed, reflected on and discussed throughout the project. Structured Ethical Reflection is particularly suited to such collaborative and participatory projects. FFI is a founding member of the Conservation Initiative on Human Rights and endeavours to ensure that its conservation activities respect the rights of poor, vulnerable or marginalized people who are dependent upon, or live adjacent to, natural resources. We take a sustainable livelihoods approach to understanding the complexity of people's lives and to working with local stakeholders with an emphasis on local leadership, equitable participation and benefit-sharing. Respect for the right of Free, Prior and Informed Consent guides project development and ensures that activities are informed, understood, and agreed by relevant stakeholders.

## 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 potential worth and value of biodiversity is a core element of this project, at the heart of which is the concept and practice of the sustainable use of natural resources. A two-tiered approach will be adopted –

by raising awareness of sustainable use concepts and practices, and subsequently giving communities and organisations the skills to implement these and recognize the concomitant benefits.

At project inception, awareness about the benefits of sustainable use will be introduced to project staff and communities through a series of workshops. These presentations and workshops will take several formats: the overall concept of sustainable use and its long term benefits, and also practical solutions that will benefit livelihoods as well as biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides. Events will be conducted in the communities themselves as part of the practical solutions training. The demonstration gardens at KBG will also be used to host events targeting school children, students and the general public, engaging with people of all genders and social backgrounds.

In order to reach a wider audience, partners will engage with local media –television, newspapers – in order to publicise the project and its main objectives at the outset, and to highlight outcomes and impact at the end of the project. A website will be established to outline the objectives of the project, to provide updates on progress to stakeholders, and to make outputs available. We will explore methods to increase access to information in isolated communities.

At the national level, workshops developing the National Report will raise awareness with a range of local, national and international stakeholders and decision makers. The report itself will be disseminated widely – both online and in print – bringing the value of Tajikistan’s plant biodiversity into the public eye.

## **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 development will focus on both project partner organizations and on communities.

Horticulture training will be delivered via the RBGE Certificate in Practical Horticulture, adapted for project requirements (including plant care, soil management, seed collection and storage, and explicit “train the trainer” components). KBG staff will also be trained further in field collection and documentation techniques (to populate demonstration gardens), focusing on data collection for species conservation assessments and project monitoring. Throughout the project, informal training on engagement, translating science into livelihood and societal benefits, interpretation and educational content will be provided.

Ganji Tabiat and Zam Zam will continue to develop their community engagement skills through interaction with UK socio-economic and marketing consultants, building upon skills developed with FFI during Darwin Initiative project 24-006. They will learn to consider a wide range of factors to demonstrate community benefits including gender, resource access, land tenure, and finance.

In project communities, stakeholders will receive horticultural training from KBG staff - supported by RBGE experts, and subsequently independently. They will also receive training in sustainable harvesting, and the plant reproductive cycles pertinent to managing a self-sustaining agro-biodiversity system. Communities will be provided with the training, skills and resources (including tools and equipment) to develop and successfully manage niche market agri-businesses. These skills can be further applied to other agricultural and horticultural products.

Staff at KBG and associated institutes nationally will receive formal training in IUCN Red Listing as a means of conservation assessment. These skills will benefit Tajikistan as it prepares a revision of the Red Book of the Republic of Tajikistan.

All partners will receive informal training in the management of major internationally funded projects, to increase their ability to interact with international partners and to demonstrate that they are viable and skilled partners and able to attract funding independently.

## **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 National Report on Plants for Livelihoods in Tajikistan will be a major output, and will contain a large amount of information regarding how people use plants and what can be done to conserve them through sustainable collection and use. This report will be co-constructed, and undergo an informal peer review process before being disseminated widely and made available online and open access as well as in print. A short executive summary document will be translated into both Tajik and Russian for dissemination. Conservation assessments of key species will be made publicly available. Data collected on the distribution of plant species that are threatened or endemic to Tajikistan will be made available to appropriate Tajik authorities.

All project outputs will be made available through a project website, and on the websites of all major partners. For appropriate formats, a Creative Commons license will apply allowing reuse with attribution. Translation and printing costs have been included in the project budget. The project website will be developed at no direct cost to the Darwin Initiative. Dissemination of the National Report will be facilitated through partner networks at no cost to the Darwin Initiative.

## 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:**

Plant diversity is conserved through sustainable use, providing long term enhancement of well-being and livelihoods in local communities.

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<b>Project summary</b>	<b>Measurable Indicators</b>	<b>Means of verification</b>	<b>Important Assumptions</b>
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**Outcome:**

Increased awareness and capacity locally and nationally to use Tajikistan's plant resources sustainably, leading to improved conservation status and enhanced livelihoods for communities.

0.1 BIODIVERSITY: by end of project, five plant species threatened by unsustainable harvesting have better actual and projected conservation status through reduction in wild harvesting.

0.2 AWARENESS & CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT: at least 100 biodiversity stakeholders (from local to national) in Tajikistan more aware of the sustainable use of natural resources and how to implement benefits at local and national scales.

0.3 LIVELIHOODS & HEALTH: agro-biodiversity programmes established benefiting at least 100 households in terms of increased and more resilient household income, direct access to plant products.

0.4 GENDER EQUALITY: at least 50 women skilled in horticultural methods and developing and managing niche agri-businesses.

0.5 SUSTAINABLE PLANNING: national report and roadmap for long term sustainable agro-biodiversity programmes developed, with pilot programmes for six species established and demonstrated to stakeholders.

0.1 Conservation status for at least five species assessed and projected nationally at start and end of project; ex-situ seed and plant collections established in communities, KBG and RBGE.

0.2 Workshop and demonstration attendance lists and photographs, media documented, training schedules and attendances recorded, participants feedback documented.

0.3 Agro-biodiversity programmes established and photographed, benefits documented through community interviews and financial records.

0.4 Involvement and benefits documented through monitoring of project impacts on women

0.5 National Report published and disseminated, pilot programmes established and documented.

SECURITY: Tajikistan remains a secure location to work, with no risks for Tajik or international partners (Khatlon province is currently a safe location, working with known and trusted partners with UK Embassy advice and support);

NATURAL DISASTERS: floods, landslides and poor travel infrastructure may cause access issues (ameliorated through flexible planning and scheduling);

FINANCE: international transfers and exchange rate variation could impact the timing and cost of in country implementation (exchange rates have been estimated conservatively to take account of Brexit, and routine planning with in country partners will ensure banking instability is counteracted);

STAFF RETENTION: continuity of staff at all partner organizations (Tajik partners have provided named individuals for all positions, and have assured these are trusted and respected staff who demonstrate long-term commitment, although if staff did move on there are a number of young graduates already known to the project team who could fulfill

those roles).

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**Output 1:**

BIODIVERSITY: improved conservation status of at least five nationally threatened native plants which are currently over-harvested in the wild.

1.1 Baseline National IUCN Red List status of six species established by end of year 1, and status improved by end of project as a result of a reduction in unsustainable harvesting.  
1.2 By end of project, long term monitoring programme for six species established.  
1.3 By end of year 2, ex situ seed and plant collections of six species established at KBG.

1.1 Conservation status assessed, projected and published by end of project.  
1.2 Project report, monitoring methodology and evidence of first monitoring undertaken.  
1.3 Ex situ collections documented, demonstration plots constructed and planted, photographed.

On the ground, measurable improvements in species numbers will not be feasible with the project, but a direct reduction in a specific threat coupled with ex situ collections will allow a re-assessment of status alongside a future project of persistence.

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**Output 2:**

AWARENESS & CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT: capacity of project partners and local community stakeholders in horticulture and sustainable use of locally used plant species is improved. Awareness of sustainable plant use increased locally and nationally.

2.1 By end of year 1, at least five project staff trained in field collection, documentation, horticulture skills and links between biodiversity and poverty alleviation via adapted RBGE Practical Certificate in Horticulture; staff are co-training at workshops in years 2 and 3

2.2 By end of project, 100 community members (50% women) trained in horticulture skills for agro-biodiversity programmes involving multiple plant species and including sustainable collection

2.3 By end of year 1, at least 5 staff trained in social and rural research and monitoring and PMSD methods; successfully gathering and assessing data in years 2 and 3

2.4 By end of project, at least six awareness raising workshops/events held for stakeholders at KBG and in communities.

2.5 By end of project, at least two media awareness campaigns held highlighting sustainable use of natural resources; project website live.

2.6 By end of project, dissemination of successful project activity summaries to at least 40 communities outwith the project to

2.1 Training materials, courses and workshops documented through photographs, videos and text and publicised online and in print.

2.2 Training attendance records, workshop photographs, training schedules, attendee feedback documented.

2.3 Training schedule, attendance records and photographs, attendee feedback documented; project reports.

2.4 Event reports, attendee lists and photographic documentation.

2.5 Photographic, film and text evidence of campaigns, stakeholder attendees documented and feedback collected, outreach of campaigns documented; website online.

2.6 Dissemination materials translated and published, dissemination locations recorded and delivery documented.

2.7 Training schedule, attendance records and photographs, attendee feedback documented; project reports.

Participation of stakeholders at awareness raising and media events can be dependent on various factors - however KBG have held such events previously, and good relations with the UK Embassy in Tajikistan and the National Academy of Sciences make this a low risk.



raise awareness of practical solutions to unsustainable harvesting that benefit communities directly.  
2.7 By end of project, at least five people trained in formal conservation assessment.

<p><b>Output 3:</b> LIVELIHOODS &amp; HEALTH: livelihoods improved for 100 households through increased and diversified income from sustainable plant product sales, with associated food security and social benefits.</p>	<p>3.1 By end of project, agro-biodiversity plots of six species established in five communities. 3.2 Co-produced solutions to create sustainable market niches identified through five community workshops in year 1 and implemented in years 2 and 3. 3.3 By end of project, participatory well-being impact assessments show evidence of (1) average 10% increase in local income from plant product sales, (2) 20% increase in locally grown produce and concomitant financial saving, and (3) 25% reduction in lengthy and potentially dangerous wild harvesting trips.</p>	<p>3.1 Horticultural guides for six target species, photographs and maps of community plots. 3.2 Workshop reports, photographs and attendance lists, sales records from implementation phase. 3.3 Participatory well-being impact assessments (across multiple indicators of well-being eg. material, freedom of choice and action, social relations) reported and shared with communities; reports on produce grown and financial records from sales.</p>	<p>Community engagement (existing working relations between Tajik partners and several communities make this a low risk); Land tenure (some communities and households may be limited in the availability of land for establishment of agro-biodiversity plots, however existing pilot projects suggest that solutions can be found and are likely to increase as benefits accrue).</p>
<p><b>Output 4:</b> GENDER EQUALITY: increase in number of women in five communities benefiting from involvement in household and community management and budgeting, with increased horticulture and business skills.</p>	<p>4.1 By end of project, at least 50 of 100 people trained in horticulture, managing agro-biodiversity plots and subsequent production methods, access to markets and financial benefits (indicator 2.2) are women.</p>	<p>4.1 Training schedules, attendance registers and photographs, community interviews, feedback documented.</p>	<p>Social and cultural issues (involvement of women in increased responsibility in responsibility for agro-biodiversity plots and benefits has the potential to present cultural resistance).</p>

**Output 5:**

SUSTAINABLE PLANNING: "National Report on Sustainable Use of Plants in Tajikistan" developed to benefit biodiversity and community livelihoods in Tajikistan, including case studies and appropriate governance structures.

5.1 Draft report completed and circulated to national and international stakeholders for review by end of year 2.  
5.2 By end of project, final report completed and disseminated at national launch event.

5.1 Report available online  
5.2 Reports and documentation of workshops.

Inability to engage with all relevant stakeholders (to be ameliorated by early and thorough planning).

**Do you require more Output fields?**

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

No

**Activities (each Activity is numbered according to the Output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)**

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

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

1.1.1 Gather species distribution data

**Activity Details**

Gather and model distribution data for six target threatened species (desk and field study). This will involve assessing collections at several Tajik and international herbaria, online and expert data sources, and discussions with Tajik and international botanists with field experience. Species distribution modeling will be conducted by UK experts and verified with Tajik botanists, with a direct view to incorporation into IUCN Red List assessments. Gathering information on threats to plant species will be undertaken simultaneously.

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

1.1.2 Gather wild harvesting data

**Activity Details**

Gather information about levels of wild harvesting from communities. This will involve community interviews at five target communities, to assess the amount of material gathered, who gathers and processes collections, distances and times associated with harvesting, and both historical and contemporary information about the location and abundance of target species to inform conservation assessment and planning, as well as hitting targets for harvesting and collection

time/distance reductions.

## Activity details

### Activity Number

1.1.3 Conservation Assessment

### Activity Details

Undertake formal conservation assessment of six target species. Following data gathering, a formal training workshop on IUCN Red Listing of Plants (national, regional, global) will be undertaken. This will primarily target KBG staff for use in Khatlon Province, with invited guests from other institutes nationally in order to input into the revision of the Red Book of the Republic of Tajikistan.

## Activity details

### Activity Number

1.2.1 Establish monitoring plots

### Activity Details

Establish long-term monitoring plots for six target species. Following discussions with local experts and communities that routinely harvest the six target species, monitoring plots to assess the impact of harvesting reductions will be established, with protocols established to give evidence of biodiversity status improvements.

## Activity details

### Activity Number

1.2.2 Species monitoring

### Activity Details

Field and community monitoring of six target species. Annual visits to monitoring plots will be undertaken to assess population status of six target species. Changes in levels of harvesting, population status and abundance metrics will be used to assess project impact and conservation status.

## Activity details

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### Activity Number

1.3.1 Ex-situ collection and storage

### Activity Details

Collection and storage of seeds and plants for ex-situ collections. Seed collections of six target species (and additional species at similar locations) will be collected from at least three localities and stored at KBG. These stores will be used as source populations for community agro-biodiversity programmes. Following agro-biodiversity plot establishment, communities will collect and store seed to ensure a sustainable horticulture programme long term. Living plants will be collected and grown in demonstration plots at KBG for horticulture training and for demonstration of the useful plants of Tajikistan. These collections will consider a range of species beyond the six target species.

## Activity details

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### Activity Number

2.1.1 Horticulture training (staff)

### Activity Details

Horticulture training (Certificate in Practical Horticulture, delivered to at least five project staff). RBGE horticulture training experts will adapt the RBGE Certificate in Practical Horticulture and train KBG staff in relevant disciplines. Training will directly apply to further training of communities in the cultivation of useful plants, but will also increase capacity at KBG in general terms with specific benefits for the demonstration and education garden areas.

## Activity details

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### Activity Number

2.1.2 Survey and monitoring training (staff)

### Activity Details

At least five project staff training in field survey, monitoring, documentation and reporting. KBG and associated staff and students will undertake field exercises to collect plants and seeds, to monitor population status of target species, and in documenting and analyzing resultant information.

## Activity details

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### Activity Number

## 2.2.1 Horticulture training (communities)

### Activity Details

Horticulture and sustainable harvesting training (delivered by project staff in communities). KBG staff who have been trained by RBGE staff will undertake horticulture training in five target communities benefiting at least 100 individuals, overseen in the first instance by RBGE advisers and subsequently independently. These skills can be applied beyond the life of the project, with community training delivered in communities or at KBG as required.

## Activity details

### Activity Number

2.3.1 PMSD and PIA training

### Activity Details

PMSD and social research skills training (delivered to project staff). At least five staff at Zam-Zam and Ganji Tabiat will receive further training from FFI experts in a range of socio-economic and market analysis skills, that will be used directly to assess impact and establish agro-biodiversity niche businesses. Skills learned during Darwin Initiative project 24-006 will be built upon. Zam-Zam are already implementing these skills, and Gani Tabiat staff will learn these skills and apply them to the function and outputs from KBG, leading to livelihoods benefits from botanical expertise.

## Activity details

### Activity Number

2.4.1 Awareness workshops (communities)

### Activity Details

Sustainable use awareness workshops held in communities. Raising awareness of the value of biodiversity will be delivered at the same time as practical horticultural training. The benefits of local production, sustainable harvesting, and the value plant species bring to habitats through ecosystem services - as well as direct values - will be addressed, and impacts of awareness campaigns monitored.

## Activity details

### Activity Number

2.4.2 Awareness events (stakeholders, schools)

### Activity Details

Sustainable use events held at KBG (stakeholders, schools, colleges). Following establishment and population of

demonstration plots at KBG with associated interpretation and knowledge products, events will be held targeting the sustainable use of natural resources and the value of plant biodiversity engaging school children, college and university students, and stakeholders and decision makers locally and nationally. Events will be delivered by Tajik project staff.

## Activity details

### Activity Number

2.5.1 Media campaigns

### Activity Details

Media campaigns on sustainable use of natural resources. Local newspapers and television channels will be engaged to cover the project, both at the outset and at the end of the project when outputs and impacts can be documented. At least two events will be held, and routine contact with media sources maintained.

## Activity details

### Activity Number

2.5.2 Website

### Activity Details

Project website online (monitoring of website hits). A project website will be designed, populated and online by the end of year one. Progress towards project goals will be regularly updated, and content shared on social media. Downloads of physical outputs will be made available on the project website, and on other online platforms available in Tajikistan.

## Activity details

### Activity Number

2.6.1 Project reports (communities)

### Activity Details

Produce and disseminate project success reports. At the end of the project, a summary of what can be achieved from the cultivation of useful plants will be produced and disseminated to at least 40 communities outwith the project target areas. This will enable up-scaling of the methods to be encouraged, and supported by the capacity developed at project partners as necessary.

## Activity details

### Activity Number

2.7.1 Conservation Assessment training

### Activity Details

Formal training in IUCN Conservation Assessment (Red Listing) will be delivered by RBGE staff to at least five Tajik partners. Places on this training course will be offered to additional Tajik institutes outwith the project partners.

## Activity details

### Activity Number

3.1.1 Agro-biodiversity plots

### Activity Details

Agro-biodiversity plots established and in production. Five target communities will be engaged and agro-biodiversity plots established by the end of year one in order to grow a range of useful plants. Assessment of available land and potential benefits will be conducted for each participating household.

## Activity details

### Activity Number

3.2.1 Market appraisal workshops

### Activity Details

Market appraisal workshops in five communities. Each community will discuss who the market actors are for each selected useful plant, and develop the establishment of "producer groups" to interact with market actors.

## Activity details

### Activity Number

3.2.2 Market chain analyses

### Activity Details

Market chain analysis workshops (with all actors and stakeholders). Market actors identified by community market appraisal workshops will be invited to attend market chain analysis workshops to identify opportunities and establish systems to benefit households and market actors through participatory planning.

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## Activity details

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### Activity Number

3.2.3 Producer groups

### Activity Details

"Producer groups" established and operating - following from market appraisal and chain analyses these will be established in line with workshop recommendations. A budget has been included as seed funding for producer groups.

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## Activity details

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### Activity Number

3.3.1 Participatory Impact Assessment

### Activity Details

Participatory Impact Assessments. PIA methods (including community mapping and profiling, well-being rating, financial benefits) will be undertaken early during the project and set out targets for impact assessment through a participatory approach.

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## Activity details

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### Activity Number

4.1.1 Horticulture training (women)

### Activity Details

Horticulture training in communities (Activity 2.2.1) will include at least 50% women attendees in order to ensure gender equality.

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## Activity details

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### Activity Number

4.1.2 Sustainable harvesting (women)



**Activity Details**

Training on sustainable harvesting in plots and in the wild will include at least 50% women to ensure gender equality.

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

4.1.3 Production and packaging (women)

**Activity Details**

Training on the harvesting, production and packaging of plant products for sale or use will include at least 50% women to ensure gender equality.

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

4.1.4 Agro-biodiversity business (women)

**Activity Details**

Establishment of "producer groups" will include discussion with both genders, and groups will have representation from at least 50% women in running and managing such groups.

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

4.1.5 Participatory Impact Assessment (women)

**Activity Details**

PIA will specifically address gender dis-aggregated information to ensure that gender equality is improved for women, including those that are currently at the lower end of the poverty scale (as identified through community profiling).

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

5.1.1 Research on plant uses

**Activity Details**

Research and gather data on plant use in Tajikistan. RBGE Project Manager will initiate data gathering on published uses of plants in Tajikistan (and adjacent states as appropriate) and interact with local and international experts to gather additional information. Community plant use data will also be included. All data will be summarized as part of the National Report on Native Plants for Livelihoods and made available online and in print.

**Activity details**

**Activity Number**

5.1.2 National Workshop on sustainable use

**Activity Details**

Following data gathering and establishment of agro-biodiversity plots, a national workshop on plants for livelihoods will engage stakeholders and discuss potential outcomes locally and nationally in order to ensure the National Report is thoroughly researched and discussed and has potential for up-scaling. The workshop will include discussions on how to increase awareness nationally, and what outputs can help to achieve this.

**Activity details**

**Activity Number**

5.1.3 Draft National Report

**Activity Details**

The RBGE project Manager will draft the National Report by the end of year two, and circulate to stakeholders and reviewers for feedback prior to finalization, publication and launch.

**Activity details**

**Activity Number**

5.2.1 Launch National Report

**Activity Details**

The National Report will be published and launched at a national event, with associated media coverage.

## Activity details

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### Activity Number

5.3.1 Steering Committee (International)

### Activity Details

The Steering Committee including all Tajik and international partners and external M&E reviewers will convene annually in Tajikistan. This is essentially an internal M&E exercise to ensure all project partners and associated input into the monitoring and subsequent success of the project.

## Activity details

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### Activity Number

5.3.2 Steering Committee (Tajikistan)

### Activity Details

Tajik project partners will meet at six month intervals in between international committee meetings, in order to evaluate and address project activities locally as necessary.

## Activity details

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### Activity Number

5.3.3 Project Reporting

### Activity Details

RBGE, in consultation with all project partners, will write and submit Half Year and Annual reports to Darwin Initiative.

## Activity details

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### Activity Number

5.3.4 M&E Plan

### Activity Details

A M&E plan will be established at the project inception, with relevant targets against outputs and international conventions set. The importance of continual re-evaluation of project activities against this M&E plan will be stressed, and training in M&E activities given to Tajik staff by UK experts.

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## 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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↓ [DIR25S2-100031 Implementation Timetable](#)

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## 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](#)").

Responsibility for Monitoring and Evaluation lies with RBGE, who routinely receive and manage international funding and have wide experience in working alongside partners to regularly assess and re-evaluate progress towards agreed targets.

A project steering committee will be established. This will comprise all partner organizations and will meet once each year for M&E purposes. Further, Tajik partners on the steering committee will meet 6-monthly for the same purpose, reporting to RBGE as project manager. The steering committees will also contain stakeholders with the ability to assess the project externally, from academia, government research and conservation departments, and communities.

External M&E will be provided by staff from both the UK Embassy in Dushanbe and from the National

Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan, through reviewing project objectives , outcomes and reports annually. All project partners routinely receive funding from international donors and research funding mechanisms, and as such are experienced in reporting and M&E requirements.

Project specific training in M&E will be given at the inception workshop in Tajikistan, with an M&E plan and timeline developed.10% of the 60% position at RBGE will be devoted to M&E management. 10% of each of the KBG, Ganji Tabiat and Zam Zam Project Coordinators will be devoted to M&E, and 25% of the time allocated to FFI will be spent training and assisting with M&E.

At the inception of the project, each indicator and means of verification will be explicitly timetabled to provide a basis for inception training for all those responsible for M&E and to enable a detailed time frame to be established and routinely monitored. This time frame will be aligned with in-country M&E to allow % completion data to be gathered to assess progress against indicators. M&E will also include monitoring procedures and policies with regard to ethics, access and benefit sharing and data availability, undertaken with input from socio-economic expertise in both the UK and Tajikistan.

Outputs against identified targets from CBD, GSPC and SDGs will be identified and monitored by the project partner staff responsible and reported to the steering committee.

Regular Skype meetings between UK project staff and in-country partners will occur to ensure the project is progressing as planned, with input on ongoing monitoring and evaluation by project coordinators. The project steering committee, including members from all project partners and external stakeholders, will regularly review M&E protocols and receive reports on project progress.

**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>	90
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<b>Percentage of total project budget set aside for M&amp;E</b>	6
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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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↓ **DIR25S2-100031 Budget Template**

📅 03/12/2018

🕒 16:13:50

📎 xls 123.5 KB

## Q27. Value for Money

**Please explain how you worked out your budget and how you will provide value for money through managing a cost effective and efficient project. You should also discuss any significant assumptions you have made when working out your budget.**

The project partners believe this proposal reflects excellent value for money. It identifies a significant gap in awareness, capacity and subsequent outcomes, and will deliver sustainable long-lasting skills at key institutes and within communities to better manage plant resources while benefiting their own livelihoods and the conservation of plant species. Further, the National Report will raise awareness and demonstrate solutions to an overlooked but significant conservation concept in Tajikistan, using methods with a potentially wide application in country and beyond.

This programme fulfils basic Darwin Initiative goals, where UK expertise is used to create specific tools and trainings that are implemented both by project staff and by communities to not only raise awareness but also to achieve specific outcomes. The staffing levels included in the budget match these requirements, and will leave considerably increased expertise in Tajikistan at different organisations and in communities. As well as using expertise at RBGE, technical experts at FFI with experience in Tajikistan have been engaged. This is a well-established collaboration with all partners holding regional experience, a combination that is unique and brings significant added value to a plant conservation and development programme.

Salaries and costs in Tajikistan are based upon those communicated by Tajik partners and upon previous experience working in Kulob. Overheads assigned to all partners are within 40% of salary costs incurred. In all transactions budgeted against a foreign currency (USD) we have assumed an exchange rate of 0.8 this being slightly higher than the average exchange rate given by HMRC for 2017. This is against a background of financial uncertainty and the withdrawal of the UK from EU during the time frame of this proposal and the effects this may have on exchange rates.

## 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.**

Very few capital items are required to implement this project.

A modest budget for horticulture equipment is included, to enable horticultural training at KBG and to ensure demonstration plots are kept to the required horticultural standard. Further, some investment in tool and seed storage and labeling facilities will be made. All materials purchased (whether in the UK or Tajikistan) will remain at Kulob Botanic Garden.

Digital voice recorders and cameras will be supplied to partners in Tajikistan for recording information and interviews in communities. These will remain with Ganji Tabiat and Zam Zam.

Following exploration of potential markets, it is anticipated that some seed funding for production equipment in communities will be required – for example salt and bottles for pickling, and storage, drying and packaging equipment. All equipment will remain in communities, and a record kept of location.

All equipment purchased will remain in Tajikistan.

## 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
RBGE		GBP	In kind salaries and overheads
FFI		GBP	In kind costs
KBG		GBP	In kind translation
<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>

## 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
<i>No Response</i>	University of Central Asia	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	Attendance at National Workshop; amount not specified.
<i>No Response</i>	National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	Attendance at National Workshop; amount not specified.
<i>No Response</i>	Natural History Museum Oslo	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	Attendance at National Workshop; amount not specified.
<i>No Response</i>	UK Embassy Tajikistan	<i>No Response</i>	<i>No Response</i>	Attendance at National Workshop; amount not specified.

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.**

RBGE has extensive financial safeguarding mechanisms as per its status as a non-departmental government body in Scotland. Due diligence is a constant consideration, and we only work with partners that are known to us, and whose record matches our expectations for efficiency, quality and ethics. Due to previous experience in Tajikistan, and in other countries where financial management risks must be considered carefully (ongoing projects in Afghanistan, Yemen) RBGE has procedures in place to ensure all project funds are transferred efficiently and are used for project purposes only. This is achieved through cooperation with our bank, and through evidencing all expenditure through documentation and physical evidence of works achieved.

The partners on this project are known to RBGE from previous collaborations. Project Partnership Agreements detailing roles and responsibilities, evidencing and reporting mechanisms, and financial scheduling will be drawn up, agreed and signed with all project partners at the outset of the programme of work.

Our work has been supported in Tajikistan by the UK Embassy, and as such we have direct access to information regarding any issues and controls to be considered during this project.

## 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, written advice

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 **DIR25S2-100031 Support Letter UK EMBASSY**

 03/12/2018

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## Section 16 - Certification

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### Q32. Certification

**On behalf of the**

Trustees

**of**

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

**I apply for a grant of**







£361,440.00

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	Sophie Neale
Position in the organisation	Head of Centre for Middle Eastern Plants
Signature (please upload e-signature)	 <b><u>SIGNATURE S Neale</u></b>  03/12/2018  16:42:07  jpg 18.08 KB
Date	03 December 2018

## Section 17 - Submission Checklist

### Stage 2 Application - Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you read the Guidance (including Guidance for Applicants and Finance for Darwin and IWT Guidance)	Checked
Have you read, and can you meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund?	Checked
Have you provided actual start and end dates for your project?	Checked
Have you provided your budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April - 31 March and in GBP?	Checked
Have you checked that your budget is complete and correctly adds up?	Checked
Has your application been signed by a suitably authorised individual?	Checked

Have you uploaded a 1 page CV for all the Project Staff on this project, including the Project Leader?	Checked
Have you uploaded a letter of support from the main partner(s) organisations?	Checked
Have you included a cover letter from the lead organisation, outlining how any feedback received at Stage 1 has been addressed?	Checked
Have you been in contact with the FCO in the project country/ies and have you included any evidence of this?	Checked
Have you uploaded a signed copy of the last 2 years annual report and accounts for the lead organisation?	Checked
Have you checked the Darwin website to ensure there are no late updates?	Checked
Have you read and understood the Privacy Notice on GOV.UK?	Checked

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

Checked

## Data protection and use of personal data

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

Information relating to the project or its results may also be released on request, including under the 2004 Environmental Information Regulations and the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However, Defra will not permit any unwarranted breach of confidentiality nor will we act in contravention of our obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679).